

THE COMPLETE SCOTLAND

PERTH TO INVERNESS.

(The Great North Road.)

THIS is the finest road in a country noted for good roads. For the first 30 miles the hurrying waters of the Tay and Tummel are close at hand and provide views of unceasing interest; then, beyond the Pass of Killiecrankie, the scenery begins to open out. Struan is near the beginning of the long and splendid climb through Glen Garry and the Pass of Drumochter (1,504 feet) by which the Grampians are crossed. For the next 25 miles we run down to and along broad Strathspey, with grand views of the Cairngorms on the right and a succession of attractive villages beside the river; for the final 30 miles the road is concerned with crossing the Monadhliath mountains - wild scenery which forms a splendid preface for the picture of Inverness, backed by the soft beauty of Beaulieu Firth, which is the feature of the final stage of the journey.

Road and railway (L.M.S.) use the same route, and each, in its turn, provides features of interest for the other, as by good engineering it overcomes gradients or surmounts sharper natural difficulties.

Perth (*see a previous chapter*) is left by the Dunkeld road, beside the North Inch. A mile or so out a glimpse may be caught, across the river, of Scone Palace (*see a future chapter*). Then, between the river and our road, comes the field of *Luncarty*, whereon Kenneth II defeated Danish invaders.

Legend has it that the Danes, contrary to practice, determined upon a night attack, but that the alarm was given by the involuntary cry of one of them who trod with bare foot upon a thistle. Hence the elevation of the humble weed to the proud position of national emblem. In actual fact, however, the thistle does not appear as a national emblem until very much later, and the battle itself is something of a myth.

The river now makes a wide bend to eastward, but the road cuts across the intervening promontory by Bankfoot to regain the valley near **Murthly Castle** and at the entrance to the **Pass of Birnam**, to which the railway arch forms a gateway. High on the left rises Birnam Hill, with the ruins of Duncan's Castle (*see Macbeth*), and then a bridge crosses the river to Dunkeld (15 miles from Perth).

Dunkeld and Birnam.

Hotels. - **Birnam** (40 rooms; R. & b., fr. 10s. 6d.), *Royal, Atholl Arms* (29 rooms; R. & b., fr. 10s.).

Sports. - Tennis, bowls, angling, golf (9-hole course: 1s. 6d. per day; 6s. per week; 15s. per month). (Visitors at the Birnam Hotel can fish 1½ miles of the Tay for salmon and its tributary, the Bran, for trout. There are also waters open to visitors at the Atholl Arms Hotel, Dunkeld.)

Dunkeld and **Birnam** are charmingly situated on opposite banks of the Tay and are the centre of many delightful walks and drives. Dunkeld (i.e. Fort of the Culdees; according to others, Hill of the Caledonians) was an early seat of Scottish sovereignty and of Celtic Christianity. The first turning to the left beyond the Bridge leads to the **Cathedral**, the earliest portion of which dates from the thirteenth century. It is a venerable ruin in lovely grounds, overlooking the river. It was wrecked by the Reformers in 1560, and lay in ruins until 1600, when Stewart of Ladywell repaired and re-roofed the choir. In 1691 the Cathedral was repaired by the Atholl family, and fitted as the Parish Church. In 1908 the choir was restored after the original design through the munificence of Sir Donald Currie. The building was, in 1927, handed over to the nation by the Duke of Atholl (*open daily; 6d.; tickets must be obtained from the custodian*). The roofless nave is now a burial-ground: in the Church is the tomb, with effigy in armour, of "the Wolf of Badenoch." A curiosity of the west front is the west window, which is considerably out of line. One of the bishops of Dunkeld was the Scottish poet, Gawain Douglas (c. 1474 - 1522), son of Archibald Bell-the-Cat, who in *Marmion* declares

"Thanks to St. Bothan, son of mine,
Save Gawain, ne'er could pen a line.
So swear I, and I swear it still,
Let my boy-bishop fret his fill."

To many, however, Dunkeld Cathedral is chiefly memorable for its lovely situation amid shaded lawns beside the Tay.

Adjoining the Cathedral are the grounds of **Dunkeld House**, the seat of the Duke of Atholl. Among many fine trees within the park is a remarkably fine larch, one of two that grew side by side and were known as "the mother larches," as they were said to be the first of the kind grown in Britain. They were brought from Tyrol in 1783. (The tree is near the churchyard. Admission to grounds on Sunday afternoons except during shooting season. Entrance on Blairgowrie road.)

EXCURSIONS FROM DUNKELD AND BIRNAM.

1. Birnam Hill (1,324 feet). - Easily ascended by a path starting from a lane at the north end of the railway station.

From the summit the view extends to Ben Lawers and Schiehallion 25 miles away in a direction rather north of west - the latter recognizable by its conical peak, and the former presenting a broken ridge to the left of it. Still more to the left the top of Ben More may be descried in the distance. Northward Ben Vrackie is not more than a dozen miles distant. Behind it rise Ben-y-Gloe and the other heights of Glen Tilt, and farther to the east are Mount Blair and the mountains which separate the Dee from the Tay basin (Glas Maol, etc.). A group of lakelets on the Blairgowrie road is a pleasing feature in the prospect to the north-east; and just over

Dunkeld, whose cathedral, bridge, and couple of streets appear as in a bird's-eye view, Craigie-Barns, the guardian rock of Dunkeld, shows its abrupt yet graceful outlines, softened by their head-to-foot covering of trees. Turning more to the east and south-east, the eye ranges over the rich plain of Strathmore (the "great flat") to the Sidlaw Hills, on the right of which lies Perth. Due south are the Ochils.

2. Craigie-Barns, a rocky height clothed with woods through which are beautiful walks. The entrance is at Cally Lodge on the Blairgowrie road.

3. The Hermitage Bridge. Follow the Aberfeldy road to Inver Bridge and take the road to the left just before reaching the bridge. After crossing the railway go through a gate on the right and take a rough track across the fields. Where this dips down to some low ground keep straight on by a faint path which soon improves and affords fine views of the Hermitage Bridge. This is a delightful spot and on the far bank of the river is a large summer house known as *Ossian's Hall*. Beyond it the path on the left bank of the stream is joined.

4. The Rumbling Bridge and the Falls of Bran (2½ miles) and **Inver** (1 mile).

(a) By path from Inver. Take the Aberfeldy road to Inver (*see below*) and about ¼ mile beyond the last house take a path which strikes off to the left. This path follows the left bank of the stream, passes close to the Hermitage Bridge, latterly becomes a grassy track across some fields, and finally joins a road at a point about ¼ mile from the Rumbling Bridge.

(b) By road. Follow the main Amulree road for 2½ miles and then take a branch road to the right which leads down to the Bridge. The return to Dunkeld may be made by either of the routes mentioned above. **Inver** was the birthplace of Neil Gow, the celebrated Scottish violinist (1727-1807), whose cottage is pointed out. (His grave is at Little Dunkeld, at the south end of the bridge.) In the same house was born Charles Mackintosh (1839 - 1922), the "Perthshire Naturalist."

From the northern end of Dunkeld a road goes off eastward to **Blairgowrie**, 12 miles (*see future chapter*), a romantic and interesting route following for the greater part of the way the river Lunan and passing several lochs. An island on **Loch Clunie** contains the ruined Castle of Clunie, the reputed birthplace of "The Admirable Crichton."

DUNKELD TO PITLOCHRY VIA ABERFELDY.

The direct route for Ballinluig and Pitlochry follows the left (eastern) bank of the Tay; but those who wish to visit Aberfeldy *en route* for the North may do so with hardly any loss of scenery and at the cost of not more than 20 extra miles, by taking the road along the western bank of the river. The main route is rejoined at Ballinluig. This route passes Inver, Dalguise, Balnaguard and *Grandtully* (*hotel*), the last-named village adjoining, some say, the original of Tullyveolan, the Castle of Bradwardine in Scott's *Waverley*.

Another route to Aberfeldy is via Strath Bran and **Glen Cochill**, which strikes up to the north about 8 miles from Dunkeld. A little farther up Strath Bran is Amulree, whence are routes to Kenmore and to the **Sma' Glen** and Crieff (*see a previous chapter*).

DUNKELD TO PITLOCHRY BY BALLINLUIG.

Swinging left at the far end of Dunkeld's main street we pass beneath the wooded slopes of Craigie-Barns and make northward for Ballinluig. Below the road, on the left, is the Tay, and beyond that the hills arrange and rearrange themselves in ever-interesting formation.

Ballinluig is important as the meeting-point of the Tay and the Tummel and of the roads and railways which accompany those rivers over this part of their courses. It stands at the junction of the Great North Road with the very fine road to the west coast at Oban by Kenmore and alongside Loch Tay to Killin, and on by Crianlarich to Dalmally, Loch Awe and the Pass of Brander as described on other pages.

From Ballinluig rail and road follow the east bank of the Tummel, which except after continued rain occupies but a small part of its wide and stony bed. On the lower spur of a hill on the left is a monumental Celtic cross to the sixth Duke of Atholl. *Moulinearn* is 1¾ miles from Ballinluig, an important inn in pre-railway days, but now a farm. Here, in the rebellion of 1745, Prince Charles breakfasted when northward bound, and almost a century later (1844) Queen Victoria partook of "Atholl brose" (a mixture of oatmeal, honey and whisky) while on her way to Blair Castle.

BALLINLUIG TO ABERFELDY AND KENMORE.

From Ballinluig a road and a railway run west along the north side of the Tay to Aberfeldy. **Logierait**, a mile west of Ballinluig on the Aberfeldy road, was the seat of a Court of Regality in which the Lords of Atholl administered feudal justice. The ancient prison once held that famous outlaw Rob Roy. A statue of the sixth Duke of Atholl (died 1864) marks the site of a Royal Castle (the Rath) which was used by Robert III as a hunting lodge. In the *Hotel* garden a hollow oak-tree, estimated at a thousand years old, is used as a tea-room. Opposite the village there is a ford across the Tay, which is also crossed by a chain-boat.

Aberfeldy.

Angling - Visitors at the Breadalbane Arms Hotel may have salmon and trout fishing on the Tay and trout fishing on Loch-na-Craige, 3 miles distant. The local Angling Club issues permits for its waters (5s. for season; 1s. per day for trout fishing). Salmon and trout fishing on the Tay is offered by the Weem Hotel, a mile from Aberfeldy Station.

Distances - Perth, 32 m.; Crieff, 23 m.; Dunkeld, 17 m.; Gleneagles, 31 m.; Killin, 22 m.; Tummel Bridge, 13 m.

Early Closing - Wednesday.

Golf - A 9-hole course along the banks of the river. Visitors: 1s. 6d. per day; 5s. per week; 7s. 6d. per fortnight; 10s. per month; 15s. two months. The 18-hole course at Taymouth Castle Hotel is also open to the public.

Hotels - *Palace* (18 rooms; R. & b., fr. 8s. 6d.), *Breadalbane Arms* (20 rooms; R. & b., 8s. 6d.), *Station* (12 rooms; R. & b., 8s.), *Crown*.

Sports - Angling and golf (*see above*); bowls, tennis, cricket, etc.

Aberfeldy, pleasantly situated amid good scenery, is a very convenient centre. Robert Burns was here in 1787, having come over the hills from Crieff by Amulree and Glen Quaich. Of the lovely scenery in the neighbourhood he sang in his *Birks of Aberfeldy*. The song is to the air of an older lyric, "The Birks of Abergeldie." The birches at the latter place, on Deeside, are famous, but curiously there are very few at the Falls of Moness.

The Bridge (1733) is one of the best examples of the work of General Wade: note the inscription relating to its erection. Near the bridge a Monument to the Black Watch marks the place where that gallant regiment was originally enrolled.

The three **Falls of Moness**, which inspired Burns's song, are a short distance south of the town. The entrance to the path leading to them is opposite the *Breadalbane Arms*. About two hours are required in making the circuit of the falls. The lowest fall is a mile from the entrance, and is inferior to the others. The next is a quarter of a mile farther, and the third half a mile beyond that. A rustic bridge, a little above the last fall, leads back by a gentle descent. Admission is free.

From Aberfeldy a road runs south by **Loch na Craige** and Glen Cochill to Kinloch Lodge, and then down Strath Bran to Dunkeld (*see above*) or via Amulree (*see a previous chapter*) to Crieff.

From Aberfeldy to Kenmore (6½ miles) the road is a fine avenue passing through park-like scenery, of which the climax is reached opposite the grounds of Taymouth Castle Hotel. A little short of this, looking up the glen of the *Keltney Burn* on the right, we obtain a fine glimpse of Schiehallion. Then, after passing a stone circle on the left, we obtain from the *Fort*, a mile or so before Kenmore is reached, a justly celebrated view of the Castle and surrounding scenery, including a portion of Loch Tay and Ben Lawers. For **Kenmore** and Loch Tay, *see previous chapter*. Thence to Killin, Crianlarich or Callander, etc., *see previous chapter*.

ABERFELDY TO TUMMEL BRIDGE (14 miles).

From the far end of Aberfeldy Bridge an avenue of poplars leads to the village of **Weem** (*Weem Hotel*), behind which rises the **Rock of Weem** (800 feet), a fine view-point. Nearly half-way up is **St. David's Well**, the original stonework of which, a memorial of the Menzies family, is now in the mausoleum of Sir Robert Menzies.

From the Weem Rock the walk may be extended to the top of **Farragon** (4 miles; two and a half hours from Weem; 2,559 feet) by an obvious route. Fine all-round view - Schiehallion very prominent, with the "Sugar-loaves" of Glencoe over its north slope; Ben Nevis (far away to the right of it) and Ben Alder, and to the left Ben Lawers (south-west), Ben More (far away), Ben Chonzie (south), Ochils, Sidlaws (south-east), Braemar Mountains, Ben Vrackie, the Cairngorms, Ben-y-Gloe, etc. A fine extension of the walk takes one over **Ben Eagach** (2,259 feet) to the east end of Loch Tummel.

A little beyond Weem village the road passes **Castle Menzies**, a fine old baronial mansion bearing date 1571. Hence the road follows the green Strath of Appin past Dull and the ruins of Comrie Castle (on the far side of the river Lyon just above its junction with the Tay), and so to *Coshievile Inn*, where the road to Fortingall and Glen Lyon goes off westward (*see*

previous chapter) and that to Tummel Bridge strikes up to the right beside the Keltney Burn (*see previous chapter*).

Pitlochry.

Distances by road. - Inverness, 88½ m.; Kingussie, 44½ m.; Perth, 27 m.; Blair Atholl, 7 m.; Dunkeld, 13 m.; Aberfeldy, 13 m.

Early Closing. - Thursday.

Hotels. - *Atholl Palace* (147 rooms; R. & b., fr. 12s. 6d.), **Pitlochry Hydro** (80 rooms; R. & b., fr. 11s.), *Moulin* (15 rooms; R. & b., fr. 8s. 6d.), *Scotland's* (50 rooms; R. & b., 10s. 6d.), *Fisher's* (75 rooms; R. & b., fr. 10s. 6d.), *McKay's* (temp.) (14 rooms; R. & b., 8s.), *Dundarach*.

Population. - 2,241.

Sport. - Good fishing for trout and salmon in Loch and River Tummel. Tennis (a feature of the *Atholl Palace Hotel* season is the Highland Lawn Tennis Championship Meeting). Bowls. Golf (18-hole course on high ground, with good turf: 2s. 6d. per day; 10s. per week; 15s. per fortnight; 25s. per month. There is a private 9-hole course in Atholl Palace Hotel grounds). Highland Amateur Golf Championship 3rd week in August. Recreation Ground with putting green; boating on Tummel. The Pitlochry Institute has billiards, reading - and refreshment-rooms, and baths.

Pitlochry is situated on the sunny slopes of the Grampians, on the north bank of the river Tummel, and is one of the most attractive and convenient resorts in the Highlands. It has a bracing air. The vicinity is exceedingly lovely, the valleys of the Tummel and the Garry affording some of the finest examples of glen scenery in Great Britain, and within a short distance are a number of excellent mountain excursions. The village is a good centre or starting-point for walkers.

The main street forms part of the road made by General Wade to the Northern Highlands across the Grampians. Near "the Bridge" is the old mansion of the Pitlochry property, now commonly known as *Prince Charlie's House*, as it was occupied by the Prince on his way to Culloden.

Pitlochry is the centre of fine grouse moors and deer forests, and many neighbouring streams offer excellent trouting. In the season motor excursions are run in all directions, and throughout the year buses connect Pitlochry with Kinloch Rannoch, with Aberfeldy, with Perth and other places of interest.

Nestling at the foot of the hills about a mile north of Pitlochry is the charming little village of **Moulin**, with a delightfully situated hotel. Moulin Church, reconstructed in 1874, stands on what has been a sacred site from time immemorial. In the churchyard are several curious tombstones, and an ash-tree to which culprits were chained while waiting sentence by the Council of Lairds, the old-time administrators of justice. Kinnaird Cottage, 1 mile east of Moulin, was the residence of Robert Louis Stevenson in 1881, when he wrote *The Merry Men* and *Thrawn Janet*.

The walk to Moulin may be combined with a visit to the *Black Spout*, a picturesque waterfall in a densely wooded ravine about a mile south-east of Pitlochry. Follow the road past Moulin Church and keep to the right. Half a mile beyond the Blairgowrie turning a path goes off on the right and follows the burn to the Spout and on to the main road a few hundred yards

beyond the railway bridge.

Above Moulin is **Craigower** (1,300 feet); one of the loveliest viewpoints in Scotland. To reach it turn left behind the hotel at Moulin and, a furlong farther, left again between iron railings. Avoid the first turn up to a farm on the right, and presently, after a turn in that direction, you pass through another farmstead, from which, bending right again, you reach by path the highest cottages visible. Craigower - a steep knoll, fir-clad on its western side - is now seen in front, and a pleasant path leads to the summit.

The knoll commands a glorious prospect. Eastward it is limited, but westward it extends over the entire length of Strath Tummel, including the lake, beyond which the graceful peak of Schiehallion forms the southern flank of the valley, and Beinn a' Chuallaich the northern. Nearer to hand, and a little to the left of Schiehallion, is Farragon Hill. If the weather be clear, the vista is continued over Loch Rannoch to the far-off hills of Glencoe, the "Shepherds of Etive." Southwards the valley is seen almost as far as Dunkeld, the Tummel and the Tay uniting their waters about half-way down it. Close at hand, to the north, are the steep wooded slopes flanking the deep-cut Pass of Killiecrankie.

Ben Vrackie (2,757 feet).

From Pitlochry, three and a half to four and a half hours, up and down.

This excursion may be turned into a tour by descending to Killiecrankie and returning to Pitlochry through the Pass of Killiecrankie, an easy walk of five or six hours.

Take the left-hand turn behind the hotel at Moulin, and continue along the road, which soon degenerates into a rough cart-track, till trees and cultivation are left behind (three-quarters of an hour; 1,000 feet). The cart-track continues, but corners are cut off by climbing alongside a broken-down wall to a depression a mile farther, in which there is a gate. Here take a track to the left, which enables you, without descending, to gain the top by a steep green hollow just south of it.

The strong points of the **view**, which is exceedingly delightful, are the Garry valley up and down, and the vista up the Pass of Tummel - the latter, however, not so perfect as from Craigower (*see above*) - to Loch Tummel, Loch Rannoch, and, in clear weather, the Buachaille Etives. Schiehallion rising on the left, above Strath Tummel, is a fine object; and some way to the left of it is Ben Lawers with the twin peaks of Ben More peeping over its left shoulder, and the Loch Earn Ben Vorlich still more to the left. The two masses of Ben-y-Gloe block a deal of the northward prospect, but between them one of the Cairngorm group may be detected. To the right of them Lochnagar and Glas Maol are the chief heights, and southward, in clear weather, Arthur's Seat may be seen just left of the Ochils.

The descent to Killiecrankie is due west, and rather steep at first. The distance is nearly 3 miles, and another 4 from Killiecrankie to Pitlochry (or 3 to Blair Atholl).

A road going off from the left side of the high-road to Killiecrankie, and crossing the Tummel by Clunie Bridge, about a mile from Pitlochry, leads very pleasantly beside the river to the **Falls of Tummel**, one of the finest cascades in Scotland. The height is not great, but the whole river takes the plunge. (A salmon pass, including a tunnel, enables fish to proceed upstream.) A short way below the falls the Tummel is joined by the Garry, issuing from the Pass

of Killiecrankie.

The road may be followed westward to Loch Tummel (*see shortly*).

PITLOCHRY TO KINLOCH RANNOCH.

In no other part of Scotland is there a high-road, of equal length (21 miles) to that between Pitlochry and Kinloch Rannoch, passing through scenery more beautiful or more varied.

The first 3 miles lead north to the entrance to the Pass of Killiecrankie (*see later in this chapter*). Here the Rannoch road turns sharp down to the left, under the railway, to the **Old Bridge of Garry**, with grand views along the Pass and down the valley. (Entrance to walks through Pass a short way above the Bridge.) Beyond the bridge, the road climbs above the north bank of the *Tummel*, passing the mansion of Bonskeid (used as a Y.M.C.A. holiday home), situated among magnificent trees. Across the road beside the school is the mouth of the little **Glen of Fincastle**. At the far end of this charming Glen of Tummel the road has been widened to form a parking place for the cars of those visiting the **Queen's View**, a lofty projecting rock, reached through a wicket, that affords a magnificent prospect over Loch Tummel.

Loch Tummel is about 3 miles long by half a mile broad, and contains pike and large trout, which "run like salmon."

From the Queen's View the road runs parallel with the lake, with fine views across its colourful shores and waters to Schiehallion, rising ever gracefully ahead. Ten miles from Pitlochry is *Loch Tummel Hotel*, a favourite resort of anglers. Three and a half miles beyond the hotel is **Tummel Bridge**, from the southern end of which a rebuilt road (*see end of previous chapter*) strikes off to Fortingall, Aberfeldy and Kenmore. Pedestrians and cyclists bound for any of these places may save a couple of miles by using the foot-bridge at *Bohally Ferry*, rather more than a mile eastward of the Bridge. Formerly rather remote, the vicinity of the Bridge has been selected as the site of a power-house in connection with the Grampians Electricity Scheme (*see below*).

The high-road to Kinloch Rannoch does not cross the Bridge, but continues along the northern bank of the river. A short mile from the Bridge the road from Trinafour and Struan comes in (*see later*), and 3½ miles farther is the western fork of the same route. *Dunalastair House* stands on a lovely stretch of the Tummel, opposite to the base of **Schiehallion**, and near by it is *Lochgarry House*, the residence, in 1745, of McDonnell of Lochgarry, a zealous supporter of Prince Charlie.

Kinloch Rannoch is a flourishing little village situated - despite its name - at the lower end of **Loch Rannoch**. (*Hotels: Bunrannoch (25 rooms; R. and b., 9s. 6d.), Dunalastair (35 rooms; R. and b., 8s. 6d.), Loch Rannoch*. Nearest station - Struan, 13 miles. Motor-buses daily to and from Pitlochry; and also to and from Rannoch Station (18 miles) on the West Highland Line (L.N.E.R.). Nine-hole golf course, 1s. per day; 17s. 6d. per month.)

Loch Rannoch is a fine sheet of water, 1 mile wide and 9½ miles long. It is bordered by gently sloping hills in regular and unbroken outline, on the north; on its southern side the hills

are higher and steeper. The main road runs along the north side of the loch, but a secondary road skirts the southern shore, passing the **Black Wood of Rannoch**, famed for its grand Scots pines. On the shores are some beautiful shooting lodges.

The water is famous for *salmo-ferox* of large size; it also contains small trout in abundance. Upon it are boats belonging to the landlords of the three hotels at Kinloch Rannoch. The guests have the privilege of fishing the loch and also part of the Tummel which flows from it. Near its western extremity (the better end for trout) is the mouth of the *Ericht*, which comes from the loch of the same name. Into the head of Loch Rannoch flows the *Gaur*, which has its origin in Loch Laidon or Lydoch (*see shortly*), in the Moor of Rannoch; it is one of the best trouting lochs in the country.

Loch Rannoch has become the centre of an ambitious hydro-electric project in connection with the Grampians Electricity Scheme. The power-house near the western end of the loch is operated by water drawn (through a great tunnel) from a dam on the River Ericht a little below its outlet from Loch Ericht. The scheme involved, amongst other things, the creation of dams and reservoirs on the Tummel, between Loch Rannoch and Loch Tummel, and the erection of a power-house at Tummel Bridge.

ROUTES FROM KINLOCH RANNOCH.

1. To **Struan** (*see later in this chapter*), 13 miles by road.

2. The ascent of the sharply pyramidal peak of **Schiehallion** (3,547 feet): from two to three hours. Variety may be had by ascending from Tummel Bridge (on the bus route) and descending to Kinloch Rannoch, or *vice versa*. The ascent from the Bridge takes about an hour longer. From Kinloch Rannoch follow the road on the south side of the river for 2 miles to the farmhouse of *Tempar*. Hence ascend by the *Tempar Burn* until you are below the cone, and then climb to the summit. The last part is fairly but not awkwardly steep. From Tummel Bridge. - (a) Follow the Aberfeldy road for 4 miles until the road from Kinloch Rannoch converges beyond *Loch Kinardochy*. The White Bridge is a quarter of a mile farther; hence proceed due westward, skirting the north side of Dun Coillich, close at hand, and climb by the ridge all the way to the top.

3. The circuit of **Loch Rannoch** (22 miles).- The road is almost level and is shaded by trees for a great part of the way.

4. To **Rannoch Station** on West Highland Line (L.N.E.R.) (18 miles: public motor). The road along the north side of the lake affords fine views of Schiehallion. A mile short of the western end of the lake, beyond the power-house, it crosses the Ericht at **Camasericht**, so called from its situation at a "bend of the Ericht." At the head of the lake *Rannoch Lodge* is passed, and a mile westward, on the Gaur River, *Dunan Lodge*. Beyond. is bare moorland to Rannoch Station. (*Small hotel.*)

A very rough and indistinct track runs from Rannoch Station by the north shore of Loch Lydoch to **Glencoe** (*King's House Inn*), 15 miles, right across the Moor of Rannoch from east to west. The path is, however, very indistinct in places and is frequently very wet. The route is emphatically one for hardy walkers only, and then only in clear weather. The route crosses the vast and desolate **Moor of Rannoch**, a vast area of peat, bog and old forest, covered with lochans of "black moss water," intersected by a chain of larger lochs, and surrounded on all sides by grim, boldly shaped mountains. The uninitiated and superficial person may call it "dreary," but it has a power and a charm all its own, and every season of the year brings to it its own peculiar beauty.

In winter the Moor is simply 20 miles square of a study in sepia; but in summer the brilliance of the colouring is marvellous. The purple heather, the green mosses, the yellow grasses, and the rich brown of the peat-hags, with here and there the delicate azure of the harebell - by itself, all but unseen - combine to form a luminous mass of lovely tints. The whole Moor appears to be covered with one colossal Turkey carpet, so rich and oriental is the colouring.

Great difficulty was found in constructing the railway across the Moor. No firm bottom could be got until the ingenious device was adopted of laying on the soft peat a thick layer of brushwood, upon which the permanent way was built, making one of the most satisfactory stretches on the line.

On reaching **Loch Laidon**, or **Lydoch**, a quarter of a mile west of the Rannoch station, gradually leave the shores of the loch, but do not get too high up on the right unless you find the lower ground very swampy. After an hour's walk you may hit a regular track about half a mile above the loch. This track soon passes a shepherd's hut, 7 miles from King's House. Hence there is a fair narrow track all the way, keeping a western arm of the loch and the stream by which several other moss-water lochs are connected with it, from half a mile to a mile on the left, and in 4 miles passing a shooting lodge, from which the *King's House Inn* is reached by an indifferent road in about an hour. The scenery for the last 10 miles is the acme of desolation, only enlivened by the towering masses of *Buachaille Etive* and other wardens of Glencoe in front.

On the far side of the mountains to the north of the track is the great Blackwater Reservoir (*see an earlier chapter*), supplying the aluminium works at Kinlochleven.

5. To **Glen Lyon** (Innerwick, 12 miles), by Dall, on the south side of the loch, and thence afoot by a glorious hill path through the Lairig Chalbath (1,650 feet). There is no inn at Innerwick, but a public motor runs from there to Fortingal and Aberfeldy (*see previous chapter*).

PITLOCHRY TO BLAIRGOWRIE (24 miles) AND THE SPITAL OF GLENSHEE (32 miles).

This route forms a very convenient link between Pitlochry and the Eastern Highlands and Deeside.

Pedestrians may reduce the distance to Spital of Glenshee by striking north-eastward across the hills to the Spital from the road at Ennochdhu, 3 miles short of Kirkmichael. The path climbs to over 2,000 feet, thence dropping sharply down to Glenshee just opposite the hotel. The path is not so good as it looks on the map, and strangers should not attempt the walk in misty weather or if there is the slightest prospect of being overtaken by night.

The beauty of this excursion is mostly retrospective. Leaving Pitlochry by the Moulin road (*earlier*), we enter an avenue at that village and soon bend to the right. In another mile a farm-road to the left and then right cuts off a corner. Hence the road continues to climb for a mile or so till it gains an elevation of 1,250 feet. It then descends Glen Brerachan to Straloch,

about 1½ miles beyond which the foot-route to the Spital strikes off to the left at Enochdhu, a few yards short of a burn. **Kirkmichael** (*Hotels: Kirkmichael, Aldchlappie*) is 3 miles farther. Hence the descent of Strath Ardle to Bridge of Cally calls for no description. For Bridge of Cally and the rest of the road, *see a later chapter*.

PITLOCHRY TO BLAIR ATHOLL.

Main Route Resumed.

Three miles north of Pitlochry the road begins to run high above the famed **Pass of Killiecrankie**, and from openings among the trees on the left one can look down to where the river rushes along its rocky bed. The railway viaduct is prominent at the end of the vista, and beyond rises the pointed peak of Ben-y-Gloe.

The walks along the hill-side may be entered near the Bridge of Garry (*see earlier*) - (pedestrians from Pitlochry may cut off a corner by the footbridge across the railway, a little way beyond Tynateid at the south end of the Pass) - or by the gate near the refreshment hut at the road-side towards the far end of the Pass. Here, too, is a motor parking place. So excellent is the road that many motorists doubtless hurry northward without realizing the presence of the Pass, but, to quote Macaulay: "In the days of William III Killiecrankie was mentioned with awe by the peaceful and industrial inhabitants of the Perthshire lowlands. It was deemed the most perilous of those dark ravines through which the marauders of the hills were wont to sally forth. The sound, so musical to modern ears, of the river brawling round the mossy rocks and among the smooth pebbles, the dark masses of crag and verdure, the fantastic peaks, suggested to our ancestors thoughts of murderous ambushes and of bodies stripped, gashed and abandoned to the birds of prey. The only path was narrow and rugged; a horse could with difficulty be led up; two men could hardly walk abreast."

Through this dark defile, General Mackay led the royalist force which encountered the rebellious Highlanders under Claverhouse (Viscount Dundee) on the plain about half a mile north of Killiecrankie Station, July 27, 1689. It will be remembered that while King William's soldiers were routed, Dundee fell mortally wounded, and his death was the ruin for the time of the Jacobite cause.

Opposite Killiecrankie Cottage, at the top of the Pass, is the **Soldier's Leap**. A fugitive royalist, pursued by one of Dundee's Highlanders, is said to have cleared the river here at a bound - a feat emulated by an English visitor in 1912.

From opposite the railway station a path goes off on the right for the ascent of **Ben Vrackie** (2,757 feet; *later chapter*).

Angling. - The *Atholl Arms Hotel* has 3 miles of salmon and trout fishing on the River Garry, a tributary of the Tummel.

Golf. - 9-hole course at Invertilt. Gentlemen: 2s. per day; 7s. 6d. per week; 15s. per month. Ladies: 1s. 6d., 5s. and 10s. respectively.

Hotels. - *Atholl Arms* (30 rooms; R. & b., 10s.), *Tilt* (18 rooms; R. & b., 8s.).

This pleasant village affords excellent headquarters to tourist and sportsman. It stands

450 feet above the sea, and has a climate even more bracing than that of Pitlochry.

Blair Castle (*open to the public June 1 - Sept. 30 on weekdays from 10-6*), the principal residence of the Duke of Atholl, is old and has many historic associations. In 1644 it was garrisoned by Montrose; stormed by a Cromwellian soldier, Colonel Daniel, in 1653; occupied by Claverhouse in 1689; besieged and taken by the Jacobites in 1746. It was afterwards dismantled and deprived of its battlements and upper storeys. In 1869 it was restored. Queen Victoria was more than once a guest within its walls, and her *Journal* contains an account of her first visit in 1844. The grounds, which comprise some 300,000 acres, are beautifully laid out, and contain fine larch and other trees, though the woods were sadly depleted during the Great War.

About a mile south-west of Blair Atholl is the **Hill of Tulloch**, or **Tulach**, "The Knoll" (1,541 feet).

Blair Atholl to Braemar by Glen Tilt.

This is the easiest route across the Eastern Grampians, being 2 miles shorter, 1,200 feet lower, and not nearly so rough as the alternative route from Aviemore to Braemar. There is a fairly good road as far as the *Forest Lodge* (8 miles), and a rough bridle-path thence to the upper waters of the Dee at *Bynack Lodge* (18 miles from Blair), from a mile beyond which a very poor road (hardly suitable for motors) leads to the Linn of Dee and the beginning of the good road to Braemar (30 miles).

Turn out of the main road opposite the *Glen Tilt Hotel*, and follow the course of the stream for half a mile to the *Old Bridge of Tilt*. Pedestrians should not cross the Bridge, but continue upwards and cross the Fender Bridge, about 300 feet above the Tilt, descending again and rejoining the road about a mile beyond the point where it has recrossed the stream. Hence the two routes are identical. For 1½ miles farther they keep the stream on the left, and then cross it a little beyond the *Marble Lodge*. (So far the road has been narrow, well-wooded, and very picturesque.) Hence is a straight course with green mountains of a pastoral "Lowland" character on both sides, and the river below for many miles. The bridle-path begins at *Forest Lodge*, the principal shooting-box of the district, and pursues an almost straight course as far as the bridge over the Tarf. The stream in descending from the desolate mountain wilderness on the left leaps over a ledge of rock. In conjunction with another burn which comes down from Glas Tulaichean on the right, a little farther on, it forms the main waters of the Tilt, which, considerably reduced in volume, is itself crossed about 2 miles farther on in its descent from Loch Tilt. The highest part of the route is now reached, and the track passes into Aberdeenshire. In 2 miles *Bynack Lodge* is reached, and farther on, after crossing the Geldie Burn, the rough road to Braemar commences. In front Ben Macdhui and its dependent summits, almost equal in height, appear. Prominent amongst them, and dropping precipitously into Glen Dee, is the Devil's Point. A mile beyond the Geldie Burn the River Dee is crossed by the White Bridge and 3 miles farther the Dee is again crossed at the **Linn of Dee**, a narrow rock-ravine through which the river tumultuously plunges. Here the track from Aviemore converges, and the road, now excellent, continues along the south side of the river to Braemar, passing *Inverey* and the picturesque, richly wooded *Linn of Corriemulzie* (*see later chapter*).

Ben-y-Gloe (*Beinn a' Ghlo*) (3,671 feet). - From Blair Atholl, 7 - 8 hours up and down. The Ben-y-Gloe (the "mountain of the mist") group attains a greater height than any other in

the Eastern Grampians, except that of which Ben Macdhui is the culminating point, and the double peak of Lochnagar. Consequently it commands an uninterrupted view to the south and east, and in other directions a prospect only obstructed by the hills above-named, and by Ben Alder and Ben Lawers in the west and south-west respectively. The ascent from Blair Atholl, which is itself 400 feet above sea-level, is long and somewhat complicated, but not difficult. In outline, as seen from a distance, Ben-y-Gloe is the boldest of all the Eastern Grampians.

Follow *Glen Tilt* as far as the *Fender Bridge* (*see above*). Instead of crossing this, proceed by the road which ascends the right-hand side of the burn, and after passing through a wood about a mile long, turn up a track on the left opposite Loch Moraig to *Monzie* (pronounced *Monee*) *Farm*, 3 miles from the *Glen Tilt Hotel*. The route now lies up past the old shooting-lodge to the *bealach* between Carn Liath (3,193 feet) and the unnamed peak marked 3,505 feet. You now contour along the east side of this latter peak to the second *bealach* between it and the true summit of Ben-y-Gloe, from which the said summit is easily reached.

Another and probably better route is to continue for nearly 2 miles up the road beyond the divergence for Monzie Farm, and thence climb to the summit of Carn Liath and then along the ridge to the *bealach*. The distance from Monzie Farm to the top of Ben-y-Gloe is about 6 miles.

The ridge of Ben-y-Gloe continues northwards till it drops into Glen Tilt, a mile short of the point at which the Tarf is crossed. Those who wish to vary the descent in any way should satisfy themselves as to the manner in which this can be done before starting. It is a "far cry" to the nearest place of entertainment on the other side of the mountain.

In descending you may make almost due south for Loch Valican as far as the bed of the stream, down which, after the first tributary, a track can be found, gradually enlarging into a peat-road (capital bathing-pools down this valley).

BLAIR ATHOLL TO NEWTONMORE.

(*Main Route Resumed.*)

Three miles beyond Blair Atholl a wide parking place in a bend of the Great North Road marks the proximity of the **Falls of the Bruar**, the path to which leaves the road just beyond the bridge and passes under the railway. A little way up the stream are the lower bridge and one of the falls, and from this spot there is a good path on each side of the burn to the upper bridge, which is about a mile from the main road, and just beyond the highest and best of the three falls, which consists of three cascades, having a combined height of 200 feet.

The banks of the Bruar are clothed with fir plantations, thanks to the "Humble Petition of Bruar Water to the noble Duke of Athole," penned by Burns.

A mile westward of the Bruar Water the road crosses the railway to **Calvine**, a small hamlet at the foot of Glen Garry (*below*). To the left is **Struan** (*hotel*), whence a rough road goes off by *Glen Errochty* to Kinloch Rannoch (*see earlier*), climbing to over 1,000 feet beyond Trinafour and providing grand views over the Tummel Valley.

For the next 20 miles the main route is concerned in crossing the Grampians. It is a grand road, through scenery that so increases in its impressiveness as the summit is approached that even the electric cables on their striding pylons are dwarfed into insignificance. Between Struan and Dalwhinnie - some 20 miles - is neither hotel nor garage,

hardly, indeed, any permanent habitation. The first 12 miles are through **Glen Garry**, railway, road and river travelling side by side.

From *Dalnacardoch Lodge* (6 miles beyond Struan) a rough road runs 6 miles over the hills to the south to Trinafour and so to Kinloch Rannoch (*see above*); while, on the north, a private road follows the Edendon Water, and is continued, as a footpath, along a chain of lochs, to the secluded **Gaick Forest**, noted for its deer, at the head of the *Tromie*, whence there is access to the valley of the Spey at Kingussie (20 miles from Dalnacardoch).

The old right of way route by the **Minigaig Pass** from Blair Atholl to Kingussie makes an almost straight line across the hills. From Old Blair the route lies up Glen Banvie and over into **Glen Bruar**, which is followed to its head. From here the route lies slightly west of north over the hills (summit level 2,750 feet) and then descends along the Allt Bhran to join the Glen Tromie Road 2 miles north of Loch an t-Seilich. This route is, however, not so interesting as the Gaick Pass described above.

Loch Garry is now impounded for the Grampian Electric Power station on Loch Rannoch. A delightful footpath runs from Dalnaspidal, via Loch Garry, over to Loch Rannoch, about a dozen miles to the south. Just beyond **Dalnaspidal** station (51 miles from Perth), the summit level of the railway is reached. This is 1,484 feet above the sea, the highest level attained by any ordinary type of railway in the British Isles. The point coincides with the boundary between the counties of Perth and Inverness, and is marked by a notice-board giving the height of the pass. Dalnaspidal means "the field of the spital or hospice," and the name is thought to indicate that the spot was once the site of a hospice - a feature which many weary travellers have wished to revive, for now the place is uninhabited, bleak - the reverse of hospitable. Snow lingers late on the neighbouring mountains, and the stoutly built fences which protect the railway and road from snow-drifts in winter add further to the wildness of the scene.

Beyond Dalnaspidal, road and rail run in close company through the **Pass of Drumochter** ("the upper ridge"), a narrow gap in a long range of hills. On the west are two mountains, the Atholl Sow and the Badenoch Boar (2,422 feet). Running down to Dalwhinnie the views open out and there is a grand panorama of the Monadhliath mountains. Just before reaching **Dalwhinnie** (58 miles from Perth, and 1,169 feet above sea-level) the War Memorial is conspicuous on the right, and a little short of it is a concrete dam (with salmon ladder) in connection with the hydro-electric schemes. Dalwhinnie itself consists of little more than the hotel, a shop and a cottage or two.

There is a track across the hills from Dalwhinnie into **Strath Mashie** (7 miles), entering the Fort William road 4 miles beyond Drumgask and 3 east of Loch Laggan (*see shortly*).

Dalwhinnie lies near the head of **Loch Ericht**, 15 miles long, and situated partly in Perth and partly in Inverness. It is one of the wildest and most solitary lakes of Scotland. In many places it is extremely deep. Its water, though very cold even in the hottest days of summer, seldom freezes. Loch Ericht is now being used in connection with the Grampians Electricity Scheme (*see earlier chapter*). **Cluny's Cage**, where Prince Charlie sheltered in

1746, is on the west side, towards the foot of the loch, where it is over-shadowed by **Ben Alder** (3,757 feet). Loch Ericht is the home *par excellence* of the bull trout (*salmo-ferox*), and therefore a great attraction to anglers. Small trout also abound. It may be fished by visitors at the *Loch Ericht Hotel*, Dalwhinnie, which has boats (row and motor) upon it, and experienced boatmen.

From Dalwhinnie to Newtonmore by **Glen Truim** the road is downhill practically all the way, and the mountain views are extremely fine. Shortly after leaving Dalwhinnie and crossing the railway a rough branch road leads due north and joins the Fort William road at Drumgask near Laggan Bridge - a useful short cut. The Monadhliath range is in front; to the right the Cairngorms come more and more clearly into view; and as the road enters Strathspey, 8 - 9 miles below Dalwhinnie, a glimpse may be caught of Ben Nevis, far away in the west. The country nearer at hand, too, takes on a different character; after miles of stern, boulder-strewn mountain-sides, we look with renewed pleasure on plantations of trees and green fields, among which cattle browse.

Newtonmore (*Balavil Arms* (38 rooms; R. and b., 9s. 6d.), *Main's, Craig Mhor*) borders the highway for some distance and makes a very attractive touring centre. It has numerous apartments besides boarding-houses and hotels. There is a good golf course of 18 holes (2s. 6d. per day, 8s. per week, £1 per month). Angling is another attraction, there being good trout fishing in the Spey and smaller streams. Situated not far below the junction of the *Truim* with the Spey - the scene of a famous clan battle between Camerons and Mackintoshes in 1386 - it has nearer access than Kingussie to the scenery of the Upper Spey.

Among the best short excursions are the walk over **Craig Dhu** (*Creag Dhubh*) (*see shortly*) and that to **Falls of Truim** (5 miles south-west). Follow the Dalwhinnie road till, 3 miles from Newtonmore, you turn on to a road to *Mains of Glen Truim*, beyond which another road leads to the falls, close to which you recross the river, returning by road to Newtonmore.

From the Mains of Glentruim a track leads in 5 miles to Drumgask and Laggan Bridge.

Calder River to Loch Dubh, Cairn Mairg (3,087 feet) and back to the river by the Bhealaich path (Glen Balloch), 16 miles in all. This is a fine wild walk. From Newtonmore there is first a road, and then a distinct track past two blocks of cottages to the isolated cottage Dalballoch (5 miles), where it is better to ask the way as to which stream to follow for the loch. The loch is not seen till you are quite on it, as, just before reaching it, you have to R8C6nd out of a hollow in which you think the loch should be. Once at it, you Find yourself in a scene of striking impressiveness and solitude. Hence it is easy to ascend on to the ridge north-west of the loch, and so on to Cairn Mairg (Care Ban) (3,093 feet), whence is a very fine view, especially in the Loch Laggan (south-south-west) direction. The return may be made east by the side of the ridge, hugging the slope of the hills to the cottages, and so into the road again.

NEWTONMORE TO SPEAN BRIDGE (35 miles) AND FORT WILLIAM (46 miles).

This road forms a most important connecting link between the Central and Western Highlands. The scenery around Loch Laggan is very fine, and the views of the distant mountains are most impressive. A characteristic Highland run.

From Tulloch the railway accompanies the road.

The route is along the north side of the river. On the right are **Craig Dhu** (*Creag*

Dhubh) (2,350 feet), the "black crag," whose name was the gathering cry of the Macphersons, and **Cluny Castle** (9 miles), the seat of Cluny Macpherson. Chiefs of the Macphersons have contested with The Mackintosh the headship of the Clan Chattan, whose pipes, preserved in the Castle, are said to be those used in the battle on the North Inch at Perth.

Two miles beyond the Castle is the hamlet of **Laggan Bridge**, whence a hilly but motorable road runs to Dalwhinnie (8 miles; see above).

A mile west of the Bridge a rough road crosses the Mashie and ascends beside the Spey past Loch Crunachdan. This is the beginning of the wildly magnificent route to Fort Augustus (24 miles) which goes over the **Corrieyairack Pass** (2,507 feet). The route is dignified by the name of "General Wade's Road," but most of it is a rough track. Prince Charlie marched from Invergarry to Dalwhinnie by this route, August 27 - 29, 1745. There is no inn on the way, and the route is for strong walkers only.

Westward of Laggan Bridge the main valley of the Spey is left for that of the *Mashie*, one of its tributaries. In the angle between the rivers are the remains of the British fort of **Dundalair**, having thick walls of slate and said to be one of the most perfect British strongholds in Scotland. Strath Mashie, in its turn, is soon left, and then the road attains its greatest height near a point where the river Pattack, flowing northwards from the wild inhospitable regions of Ben Alder and Loch Ericht, describes an acute angle and turns south-westwards to Loch Laggan, thus forming the head-waters of the Spean.

Loch Laggan is a beautiful sheet of water 820 feet above the sea, and some 7 miles long, by $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile wide, but lengthened by $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles artificially at the west end as part of the Lochaber Water Power Scheme (*see an earlier chapter*). It contains an abundance of small trout and a great many *salmo-ferox*, fishing for which is free. Boats may be obtained from the *Loch Laggan Hotel* at its eastern end. Around the lake are lofty, well-wooded mountains, and on its surface are two small islets, named respectively *King's Isle* and *Dog's Isle*, from the tradition that Fergus, "the first of the Scottish kings," lived on one and kept his dogs on the other.

From the hotel a track runs in a north-easterly direction to the Corrieyairack road to Fort Augustus (21 miles; *see above*), which it strikes at the end of 3 miles; and running in a south-easterly direction there is a wild track to Dalwhinnie.

Four and a half miles beyond Moy Lodge is the great **Laggan Dam** across the Spean, by which the waters of the Spean and Loch Laggan are impounded and led by a $2\frac{3}{4}$ mile tunnel into Loch Treig as part of the Lochaber Power Scheme. The dam is constructed of concrete and is 700 feet long with a height of 130 feet. At the road-side is a relief model of the surrounding district.

A grand mountain ramble begins about half-way along Loch Laggan, at *Aberarder*. Follow the path up the right hand of the stream to **Coire Arder**, where at its head, at the Lochan a' Choire Arder, a scene of wild and massive grandeur presents itself. The rocks descend into the loch almost perpendicularly for 1,000 feet, several vertical black gullies dividing up the cliff face, locally known as the "posts" of Coire Arder. From the loch go due west up to the prominent V-shaped gap in the main ridge. This is *The Window*, an old pass and right of way. Prince Charlie twice passed through this "Window" in his wanderings after

Culloden on his way from Lochaber to Badenoch. From the Window the way is easy by the ridge to the summit of Creag Meaghaidh (3,700 feet), from whence a descent can be made south, rejoining the road at Moy.

At **Tulloch** the Spean is joined by the Treig, running down from **Loch Treig**, one of the most remote lochs in Scotland - a deep trough 5½ miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide, through steep bare mountains, with a house or two at its head. For the "harnessing" of the Treig, *see an earlier chapter*. From Tulloch a track crosses the Treig just below the foot of the loch and makes a wide sweep eastward around Cnoc Dearg (3,433 feet) to Loch Ghuilbinn, and thence by Strath Ossian to **Loch Ossian**, 1,269 feet above sea-level, and one of the highest lochs in Scotland.

Tulloch to Fort William, *see an earlier chapter*,

Kingussie.

Distances by road. - Inverness, 44 m.; Pitlochry, 44½ m.; Perth, 71¾ m.

Golf. - An 18-hole course. Visitors: 2s. 6d. per day; 6s. 6d. per week; 10s. 6d. per fortnight; 20s. per month; £1 15s. per season.

Hotels. - *Duke of Gordon* (50 rooms; R. & b., 9s. 6d.), *Royal* (30 rooms; R. & b., 8s. 6d.), *Star* (27 rooms; R. & b., fr. 4s. 6d.).

Population. - 1,067.

The name (pronounced *king-yew-sie*) is derived from the Gaelic equivalent of "the end of the pine-wood."

Kingussie is the centre of a wide district of great beauty. It is situated at a height of 764 feet above sea-level, and is a capital point from which to explore some of the most magnificent Highland scenery.

Near the far end of the bridge crossing the river are the ruins of **Ruthven Barracks**, which supplanted the residence of the Comyns, lords of Badenoch. They were erected in 1718 to overawe the Highlanders. In February, 1746, they were captured by a band of Highlanders under Gordon of Glenbucket. After Culloden a number of the adherents of Prince Charles rallied at Ruthven, and remained there till commanded by the Prince to disperse.

Creag Bheag (1,593 feet; 1½ miles). - This is a good short walk, starting from the west side of the burn that runs through the village, and ascending through the wood. The view extends to Braeriach, just visible over the nearer and almost equally lofty range beyond Glen Feshie; farther north are Cairn Gorm and a wide tract of the Spey valley. In descending the wood may be avoided by bearing south into the Newtonmore road.

There is a splendid mountain-view from a hill called **Croidh-la** (2,099 feet). The most direct route to it is across the hill to *Glentromie Lodge*, 3 miles south-east from Kingussie, whence, after crossing the stream by an iron bridge, you reach the summit, due south, in ¼ miles, after a rise of 1,130 feet. Another way is by Tromie Bridge, as in the route to Glen Feshie (*below*).

Glen Feshie. - A pleasant circular drive or walk of 14 to 16 miles may be made into this romantic glen, and a good walker may cross the *col* (nearly 1,800 feet), between it and Glen Geldie, entering the Blair Atholl and Braemar route (*see earlier in this chapter*), 3 miles short of Linn of Dee and 9 of Braemar.

Cross the line at the station and then the river, and bear left. Two miles farther the road crosses the *Tromie* at a remarkably pretty spot, the stream rushing through a romantic rocky channel below. From the bridge go a few yards to the right, and cut off a corner by a path through the wood. Re-entering a road, you come to some cottages, and going straight on emerge on to open moor, over which there is a good road as far as the farm of *Baileguish* (1,000 feet above sea-level), where cross the burn by a footbridge. Proceed over a slight ridge into **Glen Feshie** (7 miles) opposite Achlean.

For the route through Glen Feshie to Braemar, *see a future chapter*.

To vary the return to Kingussie, take the road down Glen Feshie, and in 1½ miles, just after crossing a tributary stream - the one previously crossed at Baileguish - enter a path that goes straight ahead across a pleasant open country, with a wood on the left, and so to the little village of **Insh** (*inn*). Hence back to Kingussie is 5½ miles by good road.

Insh Church is said to be one of the oldest in Scotland, a place of worship since the sixth century. An old bell preserved inside passes as one of the finest relics of Culdee worship. Dedicated to St. Adam Columnare, biographer of St. Columba, Abbot of Iona, 679.

Glen Tromie, 3 m.; **Gaick Lodge**, 12 m.; **Edendon Lodge**, 17½ m.; **Dalnacardoch Lodge**, 22¼ m.; **Dalnaspidal Station**, 28 m. Ten to eleven hours.

From Tromie Bridge (*see above*) it is 11 miles up **Glen Tromie** to *Gaick Lodge*, half a mile beyond *Loch an t-Seilich*, a lake 1,400 feet above the sea, and enclosed by precipitous cliffs.

The upper part of Glen Tromie is very lonely, the way being completely shut in by surrounding hills. Two miles short of the Loch, the Allt Bhran is crossed by an iron bridge.

After leaving Gaick Lodge *keep to the path*, which bears round to the left, and so on to *Loch Bhrodainn*. The walking now becomes rough, and the scenery is very wild. The path is well defined, and skirts the east side of Loch Bhrodainn, winding on till it reaches *Loch an Duin* (1,700 feet), which it skirts on the west side. The view across this loch is, perhaps, the best bit of wild scenery along the whole route.

After leaving the loch, keep on the east side of the stream to **Edendon Lodge** (17½ miles). From the lodge a cart-track leads southward beside the Edendon Water to the main road at Dalnacardoch Lodge (22¼ miles; no accommodation), whence it is 5 miles to Dalnaspidal, and 6 miles to Struan railway station. Kingussie may then be regained either by motor or rail (but before setting out from Kingussie enquire time of last train back to guard against disappointment).

A very pleasant excursion from Kingussie is to take motor or train to Aviemore and walk back by **Loch an Eilean** (16 miles all told). On reaching the shore of Loch-an-Eilean (*see shortly*) keep the water on the left, and at the far end of it turn to the right. Very soon you come to a gate and, practically, the end of the road. Bear to the left and pass, on the same side,

a ruined cottage. Half a mile or so beyond the gate you come into the road that leads from Aviemore to Kingussie. A very picturesque spot on this road is **Feshie Bridge**, 3 miles from the point at which you enter it.

To **Struan** or **Blair Atholl** across the mountains.

From the iron bridge in Glen Tromie (2 miles short of Loch an t-Seilich; *above*), take the hill-path for Glen Feshie, but instead of going to Feshie, take the south track (the Minigaig Pass) and walk past Bruar Lodge to Struan. This is a hard walk of about 30 miles. The **Minigaig Pass** is about 2,750 feet up, and half-way. The route passes Bruar Lodge (1,500 feet), whence one may follow the Bruar to Struan, or cross the hills by the right of way path to Glen Banvie and Blair Atholl (*see earlier*).

Tromie Bridge, 3 m.; **Glen Feshie**, 7 m.; **Carn Ban** (3,443 feet), 11 m.; **Sgoran Dubh** (3,658 feet), 12¼ m. A bracing walk with a grand mountain view. Fine weather essential. For route as far as Glen Feshie, *see above*.

Cross the Feshie by a footbridge just opposite the neat farmhouse of *Achlean*. Hence a pony-track leads due east right up to the top of the **Carn Ban** ridge. Half-way up you strike another path - *take the higher one* (both are rough walking) - and after a stiff one and a quarter or one and a half hours' climb you get to the top, and it is plain sailing by map and compass to **Sgoran Dubh** (3,658 feet), whence is a very fine view of the Cairngorms. The look down into Loch Einich, 2,000 feet below, is also very fine. West and south-west, too, there is a fine mountain prospect, Ben Nevis being visible a little south of west; Ben Alder, Ben Lawers and Schiehallion more south; while south of Cairn Toul you look through a gap to Lochnagar and others of the Braemar Highlands. The top of the ridge about Carn Ban is a vast grassy plateau.

From Carn Ban it is a long but quite practicable walk of 6 to 7 miles round the cliffs that overlook Loch Einich to **Braeriach** (4,248 feet; *see shortly*).

KINGUSSIE TO AVIEMORE.

(*Main Route continued from above.*)

Looking across the strath from Kingussie, we see the Glen Feshie mountains, which hide the loftier Cairngorm group until they come into view 3 miles beyond Kinraig - a most magnificent panorama - Braeriach to the right, Cairn Gorm to the left, with the plateau of Ben Macdhui between them. These heights are all more than 4,000 feet above the sea-level, and together constitute the loftiest group of mountains in the kingdom. As, however, the part of the Spey valley which we are now traversing is itself 700 feet up, and there is a considerable breadth of strath for a foreground, they do not present so imposing an appearance as many others of less elevation - notably those which rise with unbroken steepness from the sea on the west coast.

Two miles from Kingussie, in a small larch plantation on the left, is a *Monument to James Macpherson* (1736 - 96), the translator or compiler of the ancient Gaelic poems attributed to Ossian.

In 1730 Macpherson published *Fragments of Ancient Poetry* and followed this book with "translations" of *Fingal* and *Temora*, poems which he attributed to an ancient bard, Ossian. Dr. Johnson challenged the authenticity of the poems in characteristic manner, and controversy became hot. The final blow was struck when a subscription was raised to print the originals, and no originals were forthcoming. Many will consider

that the point was of relatively minor importance, and in any case Macpherson was buried in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey.

Close by is *Balavil House*, occupying the site of the old Castle of Raits, originally a stronghold of the Comyns, and for a time in the possession of "Ossian Macpherson," and afterwards of his son-in-law, Sir David Brewster.

About a couple of miles farther on, we pass on the right **Loch Insh**, a beautiful sheet of water - an enlargement of the Spey - roughly a mile long by three-quarters of a mile wide. Its pike are noted. (*Fishing by permit.*) Just beyond the lake is **Kincraig** (*Suie Hotel*), the nearest station for Feshie Bridge and Glen Feshie. (Nine-hole golf course: 1s. 6d. per day; 7s. 6d. per week; £1 10s. per season.)

Three miles beyond Kincraig, the road skirts pretty **Loch Alvie**, and opposite is **Tor Alvie**, or the Hill of **Kinrara**. Upon it are two monuments - a lofty pillar in memory of the last of the old Dukes of Gordon, and a cairn in memory of Highland soldiers who fell at Waterloo. The summit of the hill commands a magnificent view of Strathspey. *Kinrara House*, at the foot of the Tor, was the favourite residence of the mother of the fifth and (before the re-creation of the title in favour of the Duke of Richmond) the last Duke of Gordon. She was the beautiful Jean Maxwell, the friend and hostess of Robert Burns.

So past the clachan of **Lynwilg**, in which is a comfortable hotel that may serve as headquarters for pedestrians wishing to explore the Grampians. On the left is the Rock of **Craigellachie** (pronounced *craig-ell-achy*), the trysting-place of the Grant clan, whose slogan or war-cry was "Stand fast, Craigellachie."

Aviemore.

Distances. - Carr Bridge, 7 m.; Grantown, 15 m.; Inverness, 30 m.; Kingussie, 12 m.; Perth, 83 m.; Pitlochry, 54 m.

Hotels. - *Aviemore* (85 rooms; R. & b., fr. 11s. 6d.), *Cairngorm* (30 rooms), *MacLaughlan's* (*temp.*) (14 rooms; R. & b., 5s.).

Recreation. - Bowling, tennis, golf, boating, fishing.

Railway. - Junction of L.M.S. main line to Tomatin and Inverness and to Grantown and Forres.

Aviemore is an excellent centre for tourists. It is a good starting-place for the summits of the Cairngorms, and also has attractions of its own, including a Stone Circle and other archaeological remains. Previous to the opening of the direct route to Inverness, via Carrbridge (*later chapter*), it consisted mainly of a general shop, a post office, and an old inn, in which Burns had stayed. Now it boasts many attractive houses and several hotels.

Loch an Eilean ("Loch of the Island," 3 miles south of Aviemore station) is the gem of this neighbourhood, and decidedly the loveliest of all the little lochs of Strathspey. To reach it, cross the river by the bridge a quarter of a mile south of the station, and three-quarters of a mile farther, where the road forks at *Inverdruie*, just beyond a modern new church, take the right-hand branch. Gradually bending to the right, you will reach the loch in a short 2 miles. It lies secluded in a forest of pine and birch-clad hills, with a picturesque castle, once a stronghold of the "Wolf of Badenoch" (Alexander, Earl of Buchan), the scourge of the northern counties in the later fourteenth century. He was a son of Robert II and burned Elgin Cathedral

in 1390. The ruin is the home of a fine echo. **Loch Gamhna**, a small loch at the upper end of Loch an Eilean, is adorned with water-lilies, which visitors must leave untouched. **Polchar** was for many years the summer and autumn residence of Dr. Martineau, in memory of whom a road-side column was erected 1913.

The **Doune** is the ancestral home of -

"The Grants of Rothiemurchus,
Every one as proud's a Turk is."

An interesting 15-mile road excursion is round by Boat of Garten (*see shortly*) and Coylum Bridge. The return is made by the eastern side of the river, passing **Kincardine Church**, an old building with a "squint" or leper window, and a rude stone font. Two miles short of Aviemore, after leaving Loch Pityoulish behind, the route passes over **Coylum Bridge**, the centre of very picturesque scenery.

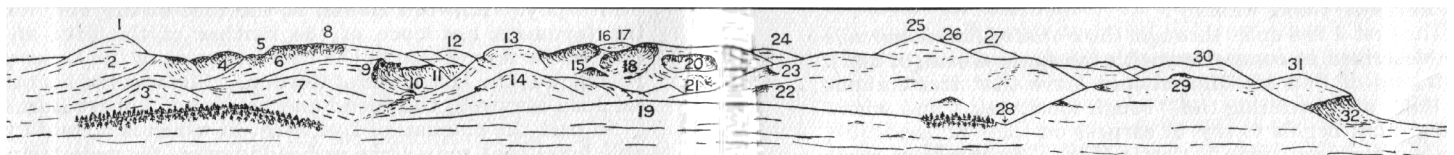
To **Loch Einich**. - The route is via Inverdrue, and, if on foot, the return journey may be made via Loch an Eilean. Loch Einich is a long, narrow sheet of water about 9 miles from Aviemore. It is 1,900 feet above sea-level. Above it tower the rocky ridge of **Sgoran Dubh** (3,658 feet) and the lower slopes of **Braeriach** (4,248 feet). The loch contains char, *salmo-ferox*, and trout.

Glen Einich is the best starting-point for the ascent of Braeriach, Cairn Toul (4,241 feet), and Sgoran Dubh (*see below*).

CAIRN GORM AND BEN MACDHUI.

For the ascent of Cairn Gorm (14 miles to the summit, 4,084 feet), vehicles can proceed by a rough road as far as Glenmore Lodge and the shore of Loch Morlich, from which the summit is only 4 or 5 miles. Glenmore is now in the hands of the Forestry Commissioners and Cairn Gorm itself belongs to the nation.

The easiest excursion is up and down Cairn Gorm by Glenmore Lodge. For the best circular route we recommend the ascent of Ben Macdhui; then the plateau walk to Cairn Gorm - one of the finest high-level walks in Britain - whence descend to Glenmore Lodge, 6½ miles by road from Aviemore. The whole round is one of about 30 miles, and will take a full day. It is best taken in this direction, because you thus have the easiest part last. A careful study of the



THE CAIRNGORMS FROM AVIEMORE.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. CAIRN GORM, 4,084 feet ; 8½ miles. | 9. CREAG AN LETH-CHOIN. [LUR-
CHER'S CRAG.] | 16. BRAERLACH, EAST CAIRN. | 25. CLEAG DHUBH. |
| 2. COIRE CAS. | 10. LARIG GHRU. | 17. BRAERLACH, 4,248 feet ; 8½ miles. | 26. CLACH MHC CAILLEIN. [ARGYLE
STONE.] |
| 3. AIRGOD MEALL. | 11. MARCH BURN. | 18. TULLOCHGRUE. | 27. SCORAN DUBH MOR. |
| 4. COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA. | 12. BEN MACDHUI, 4,296 feet ; 10 miles. | 19. COIRE RUADH. | 28. LOCH AN EILEAN. |
| 5. FIACAILL COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA. | 13. SRON NA LAIRIG. | 20. COIRE AN LOCHAIN. | 29. ORD BAN. |
| 6. COIRE AN LOCHAIN. | 14. CARN ELRICK. | 21. GLEN EINICH. | 30. GEAL CHARN. |
| 7. CAISTEAL SGROBACH. [CASTLE
HILL.] | 15. COIRE BEANAIDH. [CORRIE BEN-
NIE.] | 22. CADHA BEAG. | 31. CREAG MHIGEACHAIDH. |
| 8. CAIRN LOCHAN. | | 23. CADHA MOR. | 32. GLEN FESHIE. |
| | | 24. BRAERLACH, EINICH CAIRN. | |

map and good local advice should be added to the following instructions.

From Aviemore cross the river and by Inverdrue proceed to *Coylum Bridge*. The Nethy Bridge road goes off on the left and the Larig Ghru track on the right; our route is straight

ahead. **Loch Morlich** is skirted about 3 miles beyond the bridge and at the far end the road finishes at Glenmore Lodge. From near the Lodge go off to the right and ascend beside the Allt Mor by a well-defined path all the way to the summit of Cairn Gorm.

Aviemore to Ben Macdhui (13 miles, 6½ hours); **Cairn Gorm** (17 miles, 8½ hours); **Glenmore Lodge** (22 miles, 10 hours); **Aviemore** (29 miles, at least 12 hours). Good walking.

The first 5 or 6 miles through the *Forest of Rothiemurchus* are described in connection with the Larig Ghru (*see below*). Climbers of Ben Macdhui should leave that track about 1½ miles after entering the "rough foot-track," and where the ground begins to rise in earnest on the left hand, just beyond the first summit, Castle Hill. The finer but more difficult route is by ascending along the edge of the crag of the Lurcher's Rock, and following its ridge to its southern end. This route gives admirable views into and along the Larig Ghru, and across it to the east face of Braeriach. An easier, but longer, route is obtained by turning eastward from the Larig Ghru path to the south of Castle Hill and of the notch that separates it from the Lurcher's Rock; this notch or "Eag" is a remarkable bit of wild rock scenery, by the way. We thus reach the east slope of the Lurcher's Rock, and get easy foot-tracks ascending the valley of the Allt Creag an Leth-choin. At the head of this valley these two routes converge, and the summit-cairn is in view, 2½ miles away to the south. The way is tiresome, and it is 6 long miles from the beginning of the steep part of the climb, at the edge of the forest, to the top of **Ben Macdhui** (4,296 feet). The summit of the mountain is a vast wilderness of red granite. The highest point is marked by a large cairn near which is a Cairngorm Club view-indicator.

The view cannot be gained all at once, the wide extent of almost level ground on nearly every side of the actual summit hiding the depression which would otherwise form the foreground. A short walk to the west, however, enables us to look down into the depths of the Larig Pass, on the other side of which the towering forms of Braeriach, Cairn Toul and the Devil's Point together constitute the most imposing mountain spectacle in the Eastern Grampians. The wild Garbh Choire between Braeriach and Cairn Toul is specially fine and is reputed to contain a patch of perpetual snow in one of its inner recesses. Westward, over the expanse of Strathspey, the Monadhliath range - high moorland - between that valley and the Caledonian Canal is seen. Northwards over Cairn Gorm, the prospect *may* extend to Morven (a cone), in Caithness, and the Sutherland hills, while in the southwest lies Ben Nevis. Due south Ben-y-Gloe is the commanding height, and south-eastwards Lochnagar rises pre-eminent among the Braemar Highlands. A portion of the Dee and its tributary valleys are included in the panorama.

The easiest walk between Ben Macdhui and **Cairn Gorm** involves a dip of only a few hundred feet. The two peaks lie almost due north and south, but the ridge trends somewhat to the west, skirting the head of several depressions which converge at the south-west end of **Loch Avon**, or *A'an*, where, near the stream, is the *Clach-Dhian*, or "**Shelter Stone**," the only possible protection against wind and rain for miles round. It is formed of three blocks of granite, the largest of which has tumbled on the top of two smaller ones. It is worth while to diverge a little to the east so as to look down upon Loch Avon and the Shelter Stone, especially fine from a "chimney" overlooking the most westerly point of the loch just north of the Feith

Bhuie burn. This stream descends in a succession of cataracts to Loch Avon and alongside it lies the best route to the Shelter Stone from the plateau. As a resting-place for tourists travelling the route we are now describing, the stone suffers from the disadvantage of involving an extra up-and-down journey of 1,500 feet each way, or a circuit of several miles by the foot of Loch Avon, and into the track from Glen Derry to Nethy Bridge (*see shortly*). The "Stone" is best reached from Cairn Gorm by going in a south-west direction from the summit down into the corrie, which lands you at the shores of Loch Avon about half a mile from its western end.

The **view from Cairn Gorm** is obstructed southward by Ben Macdhui, but Cairn Toul and Braeriach are visible south-west, to the right of "Dhui," though the Larig Pass is hidden by the great plateau. As compensation Cairn Gorm offers a much fuller prospect northwards and over Strathspey. Ben Rinnes is a conspicuous figure north-east, as is the far-off cone of Morven, in Caithness, due north. Loch Avon, south-east, is not seen from the summit-cairn.

Descents from Ben Macdhui. - (1) *For Braemar by Glen Derry.* From the summit strike off a little south of due east, past the ruin of the Sappers' Bothy, for half a mile to near a rocky top, at the edge of the precipice overlooking the Coire Sputan Dearg, where a well-marked path will be joined which leads in a north-easterly direction to the foot of Loch Etchachan and thence down Coire Etchachan to Glen Derry and on to Derry Lodge, 8 miles from the summit. Or alternatively from the top mentioned above strike south (no path) by the Sron Riach down into the Luibeg glen, where a path will be found leading to Derry Lodge, 6½ miles from the summit.

(2) For *Aviemore* keep along the ridge parallel to and above the *Larig Pass* till well beyond the summit of the Lurcher's Rock and then drop down easy slopes to join the Larig Ghru path. For the rest of the way, see below.

Aviemore to Braemar by the Larig Ghru.

This is about the longest day's march (30 miles) in the Highlands, and the only one which displays the full grandeur of the Eastern Grampians. Height of Pass, 2,733 feet. There is no house of entertainment on the way, but at Luibeg Cottage, near Derry Lodge, 10 miles short of Braemar, light refreshment may be had. Between Coylum Bridge, 2 miles from Aviemore, and Derry Lodge there is no regularly occupied habitation whatever (*see shortly*). The path is good, bad, and indifferent by turns. From Derry Lodge there is a road to Braemar (10 miles).

It is better to make the journey in this than in the reverse direction, because in the latter case, should the traveller by any chance get belated, he will have some difficulty in extricating himself from the mazes of Rothiemurchus forest during the last part of the walk, whereas the last 10 miles of the road to Braemar are quite unmistakable. The middle portion of the route is excessively rough, but there can be no real difficulty about finding the way, except in the forest, through which the cart-tracks and paths twist about in a manner which makes it impossible to form any judgment as to the destination of any one of them. The walk should not be attempted when there is any possibility of mist.

From Aviemore to Coylum Bridge (2 miles) as already indicated. Turn to the right at a finger-post just short of the bridge, and proceed for one-third of a mile by road to a cairn,

beyond which on the left in front of you a wooden house can be seen. Leave the road and take the path past this house, and then by a narrow and, in places, almost overgrown footpath, follow the stream for another 2 miles, at the end of which, at another guide-post, cross an iron footbridge.

Two deep depressions in the huge mountain-barrier now appear before us. The left-hand one is our route, the right-hand one being Glen Einich. Beyond the footbridge the path crosses a greensward in front of a tenant-less building (*Alltdruie*); a little farther on it breaks off into two cart-tracks, which must be avoided. Close to the diverging point there is a guide-post, from which a rough foot-track bears away to the right through the heather, parallel to and some distance above the stream. This is our path, and here the rough walking begins, but the difficulty of finding the way ceases. We are about half-way to the top of the Pass, and the mountain-walls on both sides prevent our straying any distance from the path until we are far down the other side of it.

From the summit of the **Larig Ghru** one looks upon a scene of such rude grandeur and wildness as is hardly to be surpassed in Scotland. The *col* forms the division-line between the counties of Inverness and Aberdeen. The prospect extends far away in both directions - northwards to the lone moorland between the Spey and Loch Ness, and southward to the lofty heights which separate the basin of the Dee from that of the Tay. The vista in the latter direction is decidedly the finer of the two, and, as we descend, it becomes still more striking. Ben Macdhui occupies the whole of the eastern side of the valley, but opposite to it Braeriach and Cairn Toul, with its two flanking peaks, the Devil's Point and Sgor an Lochan Uaine ("Angel's Peak"), have all separate claims on our admiration, the outline of the two last-named being very bold; in fact, it is only by thus plunging into the very heart of the Eastern Grampians that we can fairly appreciate their vast proportions. In the interstices of the boulders about here the beech fern and other polypodies find a congenial home.

A short distance beyond the summit are the **Pools of Dee**, a succession of icy-cold pools between which the water, as in limestone countries, finds its way beneath the surface of the ground. Near the lowest pool is a good halting-place, but the pedestrian should not forget that he has still some six hours' walking before him. Beyond the Pools, the path, which is henceforth fairly marked, crosses this headwater of the Dee.

On the right-hand side, a little farther on, the *Garrachorry Burn*, which is really the main source of the Dee, comes down a desolate valley between Cairn Toul and Braeriach.

For 4 miles or so after leaving the Pools of Dee the path keeps along the valley. Below **Devil's Point**, on the right, is the *Corrou Bothy*, a small, untenanted hut which has more than once been a welcome harbour for the night. Beyond it **Glen Geusachan**, short but deep, opens on the same side. From opposite this glen are two tracks: one continuing down Glen Dee, and the other bending to the left round the southern shoulder of Carn a' Mhaim, and dropping into *Glen Lui Beg*, as it is called to distinguish it from the more important division of the valley lower down. The *Glen Dee* route is at the best a sheep-track, the commencement of which, at all events, is quite undiscoverable. Care, too, is required in quitting the valley for the Glen Lui route, which, however, though far from obvious at first, very soon develops into an excellent track of white granite, and continues so till it reaches the bottom of the valley, a couple of

miles farther. If the traveller fails to see the track he is probably too low down for it. It keeps a stream and a lakelet or two at a considerable distance on the right, and crosses the *Lui Beg Burn* by a wooden bridge. From this point the actual summit of Ben Macdhui is nearly but not quite visible at the head of the glen, on the left. Our path now keeps the stream on the right as far as **Derry Lodge**, a shooting-box, just short of which the path crosses the *Glen Derry Burn* and, passing to the right between the grounds of Derry Lodge and the stream, enters the road close to the south lodge-gate. From here a private road leads down Glen Lui to a gate (locked) at the public road along the north bank of the Dee, half a mile east of the Linn of Dee. Note: - The keys of the above gate may be had, on payment of a small charge, at the Lodge at the Victoria Bridge and this arrangement enables one to order a car from Braemar to meet walkers at Derry Lodge.

Aviemore to Nethy Bridge by the Revoan Pass (17 miles).

As far as Glenmore Lodge the route has already been described. Beyond the lodge the track ascends the pretty **Revoan Pass** at the head of which is the charming little *Green Loch* (the colour is due to fine mica in suspension). There is a grand view of Speyside from the height to the west of the Pass, known as **Meall a' Bhuachaille** (The Shepherd's Hill; 1,400 feet above the Pass, 2,654 above sea-level). From the Pass an undulating course brings us to Rynettin, a keeper's lodge, and so to Forest Lodge. Here turn left, and in half a mile to right, and so through Abernethy Forest to **Nethy Bridge** (*Hotel: 64 rooms; R. and b., 11s. 6d.*).

At the **Revoan Pass** a cart-road leads eastwards to a small bridge across the Nethy. From this point **Loch Avon** may be reached in 5 rough miles by tramping straight up the glen and over the watershed known as the **Saddle** (2,707 feet). The first part is tiresome and very marshy. After that there is a broken track.

A well-marked path begins at the little bridge that spans the stream, and ascends steeply to the ridge of Bynack (2,536 feet), crossing it diagonally. The ascent of **Ben Bynack** (3,574 feet), which has two peaks - the greater and less, separated by a shallow depression - is obvious. About the summit are groups of castle-like rocks. The finest group, the *Barns of Bynack*, are about half a mile south-east from the summit, from which they are not visible. They are quite remarkable and worth visiting. From it you may proceed to Loch Avon, or by a steepish descent rejoin the Braemar route without going back to the point at which you left it. The only risk about here arises from the utter absence of accommodation for many miles.

By the **Larig an Laoigh** (the Pass of the Calves) to Braemar. The route from the bridge over the Nethy is the same as for Ben Bynack till near the foot of the peak, but it then strikes off towards the south-east, descends a little and skirts the east slopes of Ben Bynack, with the Barns well seen high up on the right, and runs through a narrow pass between Ben Bynack and Creag Mhor to the River Avon, which is reached at a place known as Avonford. Loch Avon lies 1 mile to the west. Even here the Avon, so near its source, is a considerable stream from 10 to 15 yards wide, and at times unfordable. This is the best place for a halt for refreshments. The height above sea at which we cross is about 2,250 feet, and beyond it, continuing due south, we ascend a rough valley, passing to the left of two lakelets and between the towering heights of Bienn Mheadhoin and Ben a' Chaoruinn. From the watershed (about 2,450 feet), 2 miles beyond the Avon, the path, not always very clear, descends, with Corrie Etchachan, up which runs the path to Ben Macdhui, on the right, and we are now on the route up that mountain described in a later chapter.

Braeriach and Cairn Toul.

From Aviemore Braeriach (4,248 feet) is 12 miles, and Cairn Toul (4,241 feet) 16 miles. A hard and full day's work.

The access to these heights is by road, marked "private," and during the shooting and stalking season the tenants not unreasonably object to promiscuous wandering.

Follow the Glen Einich road, which turns south just short of Coylum Bridge, to the first bothy (7½ miles), where the Allt-na-Beinne Beg comes down on the left to join the Beinne Mor. The road crosses the Beinne Beg by a bridge, and the bothy is immediately beyond the bridge and on the west of the road. Right opposite the bothy turn to the east, keeping on the north side of the stream and gradually bearing away from it on the higher ground, which will be drier and less boggy than close to the stream. The north face of **Braeriach** has three great corries, separated from each other by two buttresses. Our way is up the western of these buttresses, and when we have reached a point due north of this western buttress, we cross the stream and follow the ridge of the buttress. This is decidedly rough, but quite safe. In a mile from the stream we look down on our right on to the loch in the western corrie, and shortly after arrive on the general plateau of the mountain. Rising ground to our left, at the head of the middle corrie, hides the summit, but by working to the south round this we see the summit to the east-south-east, and less than half a mile away.

The cairn marking the summit of Braeriach stands close to the edge of the Garrachorry, and this edge or the ridge may be followed round to **Cairn Toul**, the real source of the Dee being passed on the way.

Alternative (a). - Start from the first bothy as directed above, but follow the Beinne Beg to its source, high up on the left, crossing to the south side of the stream opposite to the eastern buttress. The Coire Beinne is a delightful open stretch of greensward, frequented by red deer. From its eastern corner a steep and rough but easy track leads up to the ridge of Sron na Lairig, which can be followed southwards and then westwards on to the main mass of Braeriach. The views into and across the Lairig and the Garbh Choire during the latter part of the walk are very fine. The reversal of this route makes an easy and pleasant descent from Braeriach.

Alternative (b). - Follow the Glen Einich driving-road to the first bothy. Looking along the western side of the near corner of Braeriach, a long somewhat flat shoulder is seen dropping from the west side of the western corrie towards the mouth of the Beinne Beg. By following the course of the Beinne Beg for nearly half a mile the lower end of this shoulder may be reached, and the shoulder itself followed southwards for about a mile. This will bring us to an altitude of about 2,500 feet, and we may get on to the zigzag path, which we see in front of us. This leads to the plateau, above and a little west of the western corrie containing the loch. The summit may then be reached by crossing the plateau due east for about a mile.

Cairn Toul, direct, 15 miles. - A long and hard day's work. The view is similar to that from Ben Macdhui, except that the two mountains are mutual "obstructives," south-west and north-east respectively. While the north-east and east is blocked by Ben Macdhui from Cairn Toul and Braeriach, the south comes out much more strongly.

(a) Follow the Glen Einich road to the *upper* bothy (9½ miles), which is within a quarter of a mile of Loch Einich. The road ends a little farther on, but at the bothy a path leaves it and

ascends on the left, crossing several streams, and gradually bearing off into the eastern corrie, *Coire Dhondail*. This path is rough and steep, but perfectly plain, and at the top of the corrie rises by a very steep but easy scramble to the plateau. Then a walk of just under a mile due east will bring us to the edge of the southern scallop of the Garrachorry. The view of the corrie is very striking, coming as it does so suddenly and unexpectedly. In mist the approach must be made with care, as we *rise* to the edge of the corrie. This edge may now be followed to the right as far as the summit of Cairn Toul. This involves the ascent and descent of the **Angel's Peak**, which gives 250 feet additional up and down, but is very well worth doing, as the view from it of Braeriach, Cairn Toul, Lochan Uaine and the Garrachorry is fine. But both it and the upper part of Cairn Toul are piles of granite blocks, and the going is *very* rough and heavy. **Cairn Toul** has two cairns, about a furlong apart, the northern one, which we first reach, being the higher.

Alternative. - At the head of Coire Dhondail two streams unite, falling together over the rock that is ascended by the steep but easy scramble just mentioned. The northern of these two streams may be followed to its source. Half a mile more of very easy walking in the same direction, north-east, will take us over the low ridge and down to the real "**Wells of Dee**," the true sources of that river at a height of 2,000 feet above sea-level. These are small well-eyes rising from the granite detritus with which the great plateau is covered. About a quarter of a mile to the east is the edge of the *Garrachorry*, and this may be followed either way to **Cairn Toul** or **Braeriach**, the summits of which are in full view. In going to the latter the head of the great fall of the Dee is passed.

AVIEMORE TO INVERNESS VIA CARRBRIDGE.

The Great North Road takes this direct route from Aviemore to Inverness (33 miles), running now on one side of the railway, now on the other, and making straight for Inverness across Drum Mossie Moor from Daviot without any detour such as the railway is obliged to make.

The village of **Carrbridge** (*Hotel: 36 rooms; R. and b., 7s.*) is a thriving health resort, 850 feet above sea-level, 25 miles from Inverness by road. It is surrounded by pine-clad hills and is built on a subsoil of gravel, and the climate is particularly salubrious. Some fifty yards above the road bridge over the Dulnan are the carefully preserved remains of an old arch built by the Earl of Seafield of two hundred years ago to facilitate access to Duthil churchyard across the often-swollen Dulnan Water. The bridge is seen to best advantage when viewed from below.

Duthil, 2 miles eastward, was known in ancient times as Glencarnie, or Glencharnoch ("Glen of Heroes"), from the number of illustrious dead who were laid to rest under cairns, many of which remain. The churchyard has been the burial-place of families of Grant for three hundred years. The history of the church goes back to the thirteenth century. From Duthil a road with grand views runs northward into the pretty country around **Lochindorb** (*see shortly*); a haunt of anglers.

For a charming walk the right bank of the river should be followed above Carrbridge. Within 2 miles is **Sluggan Bridge**, in a pretty spot. A little farther along the Dulnan there come into view, on the shoulder of the hill at the upper end of the dell, the ruins of

Inverlaidnan House, which in its days of grandeur gave a night's shelter to the Young Pretender.

From Carrbridge (7 miles) we begin to ascend the southern slope of the Monadhliath mountains. At the deep **Pass of Slochd Mor** (railway, summit, 1,315 feet) there is a remarkable echo. Emerging from the Pass, we reach an open, trackless expanse of furze and heather. In excavating the enormous railway cutting on this portion of the route, there were discovered at a depth of 25 feet below the surface three successive crops of pine-trees, showing that in prehistoric times the region was tree-clad, although now there is not a twig to be seen. From about the summit there is a grand retrospect of the Cairngorms, including Ben Macdhui, while in front the elephantine form of Ben Wyvis soon comes into view. A viaduct, a quarter of a mile in length, carries the line across the *Findhorn*, a river that has always been famed for its salmon and trout fishing. On 2 miles of the stream, visitors at the *Freeburn Hotel* at **Tomatin**, the very heart of the Mackintosh country, have the privilege of fishing both for salmon and trout. Three miles farther is **Moy Hall**, the princely mansion of The Mackintosh of Mackintosh, who claims to be Chief of *Clan Chattan* - that great confederacy of the fourteenth century, whose battle with a rival clan before King Robert III, on the North Inch at Perth, forms such a thrilling episode in Sir Walter Scott's *Fair Maid of Perth*. The Hall stands at the northern end of **Loch Moy**, in which is an island, the site of the old castle which was the residence of the chief from 1337 to 1655. The grounds of Moy Hall are beautifully laid out and contain some of the finest ornamental trees to be seen anywhere in the country. As a rule, visitors are not admitted, and there is no public or private accommodation for them in the neighbourhood. The Mackintosh owns 124,000 acres in Inverness-shire.

In February, 1746, Prince Charles arrived at Moy Hall in advance of his army and was entertained by The Mackintosh's Lady, who had raised the Clan for the Chevalier and was consequently known as "Colonel Anne." Only a few servants and retainers were within call, and one of these, Donald Fraser, a blacksmith, realizing the Prince's peril, posted himself with a few companions on the road along which danger was to be feared. On the approach of Lord Loudoun's force, the hidden men fired their muskets as quickly as possible and raised the slogan of various clans. Darkness concealed their number, and the royalists, thinking they had come upon a strong body of the Prince's supporters, retreated to Inverness. In this curious engagement, which is known as the *Rout of Moy*, only one man was killed. The unfortunate individual was McCrimmon, the hereditary piper of McLeod of Skye, some of whose clansmen were with Lord Loudoun. Before he left home he had a presentiment of his fate and composed the famous pipe tune known as *McCrimmon's Lament*.

Living Man's Glen is so called from the tradition that a living man was buried in it, the supposed grave being marked by a small cairn. According to the story, there was a dispute between The Mackintosh and MacGillivray of Dunmaglass respecting the boundary of their lands. Dunmaglass undertook to produce a man who would declare on oath the exact boundary under the penalty of being buried alive if he swore falsely. The man, on being brought to the spot, swore by the head under his bonnet and the earth under his feet that he stood on Dunmaglass's land. Inspection of his shoes and headgear showed that he had partly filled the former with soil from the acknowledged property of Dunmaglass and that he had a cock's head in his bonnet. The Mackintoshes adjudged him guilty of perjury and indicted the penalty agreed upon.

On approaching **Daviot**, a glorious panorama of mountain scenery comes into view. Beyond Daviot, the Great Glen of Scotland opens on the left, and far away in the north-west rises the huge mass of Ben Wyvis (3,429 feet). From Daviot the road climbs over Drum Mossie

Muir, and then comes the grand view of Inverness, backed by the waters of the Beaully Firth. Soon there may be seen towards the north, across the River Nairn, a lofty ridge, a site of great historic interest, for it is the battlefield of Culloden. From Daviot the railway swings northward in a wide detour, giving glorious views, and crosses the Nairn river by a very fine stone viaduct of 29 arches and a third of a mile in length.

AVIEMORE TO GRANTOWN.

The Grantown road leaves the main road 4 miles north of Aviemore and in about a mile provides another road leading to the village known as **Boat of Garten** (*Station, 36 rooms; R. and b., 9s.*), a very popular little resort near the river. The name commemorates the ferry which preceded the bridge which now crosses the Spey. 18-hole golf course; tennis, fishing, etc. Boat of Garten is of some importance to railway travellers as the junction of the L.M.S. Highland Line (Forres branch) with the Strathspey branch of the L.N.E.R. Between the railways and the river about 2 miles beyond Boat of Garten is the farm of **Tullochgorum**, a name familiar to Scots as that of a celebrated "reel," and of the Rev. John Skinner's verses, which Burns declared to be "the best Scotch song that Scotland ever heard." At Dulnan Bridge the road via Carrbridge (*see above*) is joined. So to -

Grantown.

Access. - By the L.N.E.R. or by the L.M.S. The L.N.E.R. station is across the Spey, 1¼ miles from the centre of the town; the L.M.S. station is about half as far away, on the same side of the river as the town.

Through carriages on some of the trains to and from the South.

Angling. - The Strathspey Angling Improvement Association has. 13 miles of fishings on the Spey and the Dulnain. Salmon and trout tickets are issued by the Secretary (The Square, Grantown). Free trout fishing in some tributaries of the Spey, and there are many streams and lochs within easy reach.

Bowls. - A green adjoins the golf course.

Distances. - Aberlour, 2¾ m.; Aviemore, 15 m.; Ballindalloch, 13 m.; Boat of Garten, 8 m.; Carrbridge, 10 m.; Forres, 22 m.; Inverness, 33 m.; Nairn, 23 m.; Nethy Bridge, 6 m.; Tomintoul, 14 m.

Early Closing. - Thursdays.

Golf. - An 18-hole course and a putting course. Visitors: day, 2s. 6d.; week, 7s. 6d.; fortnight, 12s. 6d.; month, £1 1s.; season, £1 15s.

Hotels. - *Grant Arms (80 rooms; R. & b., 10s. 6d.), Palace (70 rooms; R. & b., 9s.), Craiglynn (50 rooms; R. & b., 10s.), Strathspey (10 rooms; R. & b., 7s. 6d.).*

Population. - 1,660.

Tennis. - Tournaments are held in August. Visitors' fees: week, 7s. 6d.; month, £1 5s.; season, £2 10s. Juniors (under 16) half price.

Grantown, or Grantown-on-Spey, to distinguish it from Granton, near Edinburgh, stands in Morayshire, upon a plateau having an elevation of 712 feet above sea-level. It is an exceptionally neat and attractive town, with a population of less than 2,000.

To the south, the grandest feature of the landscape is the Cairngorm range, the nearest height about 12 or 14 miles distant in a direct line, while to the right and left the valley of the Spey is seen for many miles, with all its varied sylvan and romantic scenery.

The town takes its name from its founders, Sir Ludovick Grant and Mr. Grant of Grant, and is a comparatively modern place, the first houses having been erected in 1766.

Grantown is an excellent centre for sport, walks, drives and railway excursions. It has a bracing climate, the salubrity of which is increased by the presence of extensive pine-woods. It stands on gravelly soil, and has an abundant supply of good water. With its many advantages as a place of residence, there is no room for wonder that as a Highland health and pleasure resort it rivals Ballater and Braemar.

Queen Victoria called **Castle Grant**, in her *Journal*, "a very plain-looking house, like a factory," and that description exactly fits it. The oldest portion is a picturesque tower bearing the name of Babie's Tower (after some old-time Barbara), and dating from the fifteenth century.

The Castle is the ancient seat of the chiefs of the Clan Grant, the Earls of Seafield, but the seventh Earl and his son, who succeeded him, broke the entail, and the eighth Earl, who died in 1884, left the estates to his mother. Since then there have been landless chiefs of Grant and Earls of Seafield, but the Dowager Countess justified her long possession by planting extensive woods and in other ways improving the territory. She died in 1911, and left the estates in trust, ultimately to revert to the holders of the Seafield Earldom. The eleventh Earl, James Ogilvie Grant, was killed in action in 1915 and was succeeded in the Seafield title by his daughter Nina, who came of age in 1927.

Lord Huntly's Cave (3½ miles). - Follow the Forres road past the Castle Grant gateway until just beyond the third milestone. A footpath on the right leads to the glen, at the bottom of which, on the left-hand side, is a cave. It derives its name from a tradition that it was the hiding-place of the second Marquis of Huntly, who espoused the cause of Charles I, but fled at the approach of his brother-in-law, the Earl of Argyll, commander-in-chief of the Scottish forces.

The return to Grantown may be made by following the path down the glen for about a mile and then taking a by-road on the right that joins the main road some 2 miles north of the town.

Grantown to Bridge of Brown (10 miles) and Tomintoul (14 miles).

Cross the river by the fine new bridge and turn to the left along the Cromdale road. The Tomintoul route goes off on the right just beyond the railway. The scenery is very interesting and a Pass of nearly 1,500 feet is scaled. The **Bridge of Brown** is in a most romantic spot, where the water flows through a rocky channel some 2 feet wide at the surface of the stream, and 8 or 10 feet wide at the upper surface of the rocks some 40 feet above the water. This part of the stream is known as the **Linn of Brown**. The road then climbs up over the hills to the east and crosses the Avon by the Bridge of Avon and there joins the road, via Strath Avon, from Ballindalloch to Tomintoul. For **Tomintoul**, *see shortly*.

Lochindorb, to the north-west of Grantown, may be reached by tramping across the moor, or by a road (10 miles) or by rail to Dava station on the L.M.S. line to Forres, and thence by road (3 miles). The loch is a fine sheet of water. On an island is a castle that in 1303 was captured by Edward I of England. Forty years later it became the prison of William Bullock, a favourite of David Bruce, who, being suspected of tampering with the English, was starved to death in its dungeon. Still later it was a stronghold of the Wolf of Badenoch. A causeway connecting it with the shore is now submerged. On the eastern side is **Craig Tiribeg**

(*Cheerepeck*), 1,586 feet, one of the heights on which bonfires are lighted to celebrate great events in the Grant family.

Cromdale Hills (over 2,000 feet). - Cross Spey Bridge, turn to the left, and follow the road running parallel with the railway. In about 2 miles, take road on right by the edge of a wood, leading to Burnside farm, from which it is 2 miles south-east to the summit, *Creagan a' Chaise* (2,367 feet), on which there is a large cairn. Magnificent view.

On these hills, after the battle of Killiecrankie, the Jacobites were surprised and routed (1690). The affair was made the subject of a ballad commencing -

" As I cam' in by Auchindoun,
A little wee bit frae the toun,
To view the Haughs o' Cromdale,
I met a man in tartan trews;
I speered at him what was the news.
Quo' he, 'The Heilan' army rues
That e'er they cam' to Cromdale.' "

Grantown to Forres (22 miles) and **Nairn** (23 miles). - From Grantown the route is past the entrance to Castle Grant and the glen containing Lord Huntly's Cave. The road soon rises to the summit level of 1,097 feet, and the views become extraordinarily good. A little short of the road-fork at Dava (left for Nairn (*as on later chapter*); straight on for Forres; Dava station is 200 yards to right of road here) a road on left leads to **Lochindorb** (*see above*).

Beyond Dava the road runs alongside the lovely **Findhorn Glen**, as described in a later chapter.

Grantown to Ballindalloch (13 miles). - Road and railway pass through the choicest portion of **Strathspey**, the "thundering Spey" rolling wide and deep through a circumscribed valley, abundantly wooded and backed by softly swelling hills and high mountains. Road and railway follow the course of the river with its multitudinous twinings, at many places running on its very brink, and innumerable stretches of the stream are disclosed to view. The **Spey** is one of the most rapid rivers in Scotland, and the third of Scottish rivers in point of length (110 miles), and, next to the Tay, it is the grandest river in the country. It ranks high as a salmon stream, and on that account most of it is preserved. Trouting is not permitted in those parts that are let for salmon fishing. It also contains finnock. (*See under Grantown, above.*)

The main road leaves Grantown by the new bridge and winds above the southern bank; less used is the road turning out of the Forres road near the Golf Links and running along the northern side of the valley, the Spey being crossed at Cromdale or Advie.

As far as Advie, the "Haughs of Cromdale" (*above*) are on the right bank. Beyond Advie the scenery closes in upon the road and is particularly fine.

Near **Ballindalloch** the Spey is joined by the Avon (or A'an), a river so pellucid as to give rise to the couplet:

"The water o' A'an it rins sae clear,
' Twould beguile a man o' a hunder year."

On the right bank of the Avon is **Ballindalloch Castle**. The picturesque entrance gate

fills the space between a steep rock and the end of the parapet wall of a bridge over the river. Over the keystone of the arch above it are the family arms and the motto, "Touch not the cat bot a glove," i.e., without a glove.

The castle, which has been added to and modernized, is considered one of the finest specimens of Baronial architecture in the north of Scotland.

Ballindalloch guards the Avon, alongside which a road goes past Dalnasheugh Inn, Drumin Castle ruins, the mouth of the *Livet* and the entrance to **Glenlivet**, and the Bridge of Avon (*above*) and so to **Tomintoul**.

The road ascends the pleasant wooded valley of the *Avon*, to the entrance to Glenlivet, where is a choice of routes. One crosses the *Livet* and follows the *Avon* closely to Tomintoul while the other follows the *Livet* for several miles, passes the *Pole Inn* and crosses the moor in a south-westerly direction to Tomintoul. **Glenlivet**, best known for its distillery, is of historical interest as the scene of a fierce battle in 1594 between two Scottish forces, one being commanded by the Earl of Huntly, the other by the Earl of Argyll. The Earl of Huntly having caused the murder of the "Bonnie Earl of Moray" and entered on an attempt to overthrow the Protestant cause, the King commissioned Moray's brother-in-law, the young Earl of Argyll, to bring him to account, but the avenging army was defeated with a loss of 500 men, while the loss on the other side was trifling.

From Glenlivet a road runs down to Dufftown (*see below*) by way of **Glen Rinnes**, skirting the southern base of **Ben Rinnes**.

Tomintoul is the chief centre of population in the extensive parish of Kirkmichael, in Banffshire. The highest village in the Highlands (1,150 feet), it has bracing air; the district abounds with trout streams, and the place is making a name for itself as one of the holiday resorts of the North. (*Hotels: Richmond Arms (20 rooms; R. and b., 7s. 6d.), and Gordon Arms (24 rooms; R. and b., fr. 7s. 6d.).*)

Motor service between Tomintoul and Ballindalloch (16 miles) (L.N.E.R.), the journey occupying fully 1½ hours. In summer a public motor connects Tomintoul with Dufftown. For routes between Tomintoul and Dee-side by the rebuilt Lecht Road, *see later chapter*; between Tomintoul and Grantown, *see above*; between Tomintoul and Strathdon, *see later chapter*.

At Dalnasheugh the main road turns very sharp to the left, and for several miles road-travellers see little of the river, but from the train there are some very fine glimpses of the water rushing between rugged, tree-clothed walls. **Blacksboat** derives its name from a ferry, now replaced by a bridge across the Spey.

At **Craigellachie** (accent on second syllable) (*hotel*) the Fiddich joins the Spey, which farther north makes a grand sweep round the base of **Ben Aigan** (1,544 feet).

The road crosses the Spey by a fine cast-iron bridge (Telford) and then the way is cut along the face of the lofty precipitous rock called **Craigellachie**, which forms the boundary in this direction of Strathspey, as the more famous Craigellachie Rock, near Aviemore, marks the southern end of this section of the Spey valley. In both directions the valley is extremely lovely.

For the routes northward from Craigellachie to Elgin, Forres, Nairn and Inverness, *see later chapter*.

From Craigellachie, **Glen Fiddich** winds very charmingly to **Dufftown** (*Fife Arms (8 rooms; R. and b., 5s. 6d.), Commercial*), famous for its distilleries. It has benefited by the generosity of Lord Mount Stephen (born here in 1829), and is in high favour with visitors on account of its bracing climate - its altitude is over 600 feet - the charming walks and drives in the vicinity, and the number of ancient castles within easy reach. (Nine-hole golf course - 5s. per week; fishing - tickets through the two hotels; tennis, etc.) Between the town and the station is the old **Castle of Balvenie** (*open weekdays 10 - 4, 6 or 7; Sundays 11 - 3 or 4; 3d.*).

Ben Rinnes (2,755 feet). - The summit is 7 miles from Dufftown. The ascent presents no difficulty. The descent may be made to Aberlour, 7 miles from the top, or to Ballindalloch, 8 miles. The two **Convalls** offer nearer and easier ascents.