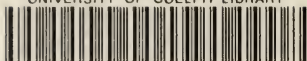




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The Aberdeen

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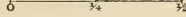




# PLAN OF ABERDEEN

to accompany  
COUTTS' DICTIONARY OF DEESIDE

Scale of Half a Mile





# Dictionary of Deeside

A GUIDE TO THE CITY OF ABERDEEN AND THE  
VILLAGES, HAMLETS, DISTRICTS, CASTLES,  
MANSIONS AND SCENERY OF DEESIDE, WITH  
NOTES ON ANTIQUITIES, HISTORICAL AND  
LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BY  
JAMES COUTTS, M.A.

*WITH PLAN OF CITY, MAP OF COUNTRY AND TEN  
ILLUSTRATIONS*

"The Dee is a beautiful river"  
—BYRON

ABERDEEN  
THE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
1899

49098

## PREFACE.

THE spirit that prompted the question—"Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?"—still survives. Sir Walter Scott has commented on the "reverence which . . . the Scotch usually pay to their distinguished rivers. The Clyde, the Tweed, the Forth, the Spey are usually named by those who dwell on their banks with a sort of respect and pride, and I have known duels occasioned by any word of disparagement." It would be vain for me to attempt to settle the exact position of the Dee in the order of merit of Scottish rivers, and, though myself a native of Braemar, I have not knowingly introduced any local partialities. Even to strangers Deeside is attractive, as is proved by the thousands who every season pass through the country, or make a longer or shorter stay there, for health or holiday or recreation. To them, as well as in some degree to the inhabitants, a Guide Book may be of use.

But, while this may be admitted, some may question whether another Guide Book is needed. Without directly contradicting this view, I may say that one who has lived a long time in a district can hardly fail to know some things—and these not always useless or uninteresting—in a manner in which they can scarcely be known to those who are only occasional visitors. I may also explain that I had become pretty familiar with most of the localities of the country, and had acquired an appreciable amount of historical and miscellaneous information about them, without ever intending to submit a book on Deeside to the public. The idea of doing so afterwards sprung up in my mind, and I must abide the result of the wisdom or folly of the venture. Whatever may be the fate of the book, it has been a pleasure to me to revisit the old familiar scenes and to look up those with which I was previously not so well acquainted. There are few places comprised in the work that I have not visited and inspected for myself.

There are precedents in the case of the Forth and Clyde for throwing such a work into the form of a Dictionary, prefixing to it a general but condensed account of the whole country to be described, after mastering which the reader may take up in greater detail the localities that interest him. I have inserted a smattering of Geological notes, as many readers now expect such information ; and

also an article on "Shootings and Fishings," since these make up (whether wisely or not) "the chief end of man" on Deeside at certain places and seasons. These two articles will be found in their alphabetic order.

I am indebted to my friend, Mr. Albert Morrison, for the illustration on the cover.

JAMES COUTTS.

GLASGOW, 19th June, 1899.





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#### CORRIGENDA.

Page 94, line 10, *for* "Dardamus" *read* "Dardanus".

Page 97, line 25, *for* "great" *read* "greater".

Page 204, line 31, *for* "Crondavon" *read* "Corndavon".

Page 270, line 31, *for* "forests" *read* "forest".

## GENERAL SKETCH OF DEESIDE.

A BRIEF sketch of the whole valley of the Dee may fitly precede the detailed paragraphs in alphabetic order concerning the various places and objects of interest on Deeside; and, though it reverses the geographical order, it will be convenient to proceed from the mouth of the river upwards, the direction which almost all travellers take when visiting the country. The great city at the mouth of the Dee, with its thronging population, and passengers and merchandise always coming and going by land and sea, contrasts strongly with the vast solitude of Braeriach and Ben Macdhui where the river has its headstreams, a region so outlandish that it is scarcely seen by one in a hundred of those who visit the Highlands of Deeside. Aberdeen is in many ways the metropolis of the northern half of Scotland—the great centre of industry and communication, of production and distribution. Among Scottish cities it is one of the most ancient, and though only fourth in point of population, it scarcely yields to any for enterprise and vitality. The light grey granite of which the houses are built gives a characteristic appearance of purity and robustness to the town, which is popularly known as the “Granite City,” and sometimes as *Bon-Accord*, from the motto accompanying the town arms. Castle Street, Union Street and Union Terrace are much admired for their stately buildings, and they are also adorned by a number of statues; while some of the recently formed residential streets, as in the neighbourhood of Queen’s Cross, though the houses are only

of moderate size, have a very pleasing and attractive appearance. The Municipal Buildings in Castle Street, and Marischal College (Aberdeen University) in Broad Street, are the finest buildings. The Palace Hotel and the Grand Hotel are very extensive and elegant establishments, and there are numerous other well-equipped hotels. In some quarters of the town there are large mills, factories and works, and though placed at a disadvantage by its distance from the seats of coal and iron industry, Aberdeen has a notable amount of shipbuilding and a large amount of shipping. Great efforts have been made to improve the harbour by the formation of extensive breakwaters, the diversion of the lower part of the channel of the Dee, and the formation of docks and quays. The large fishmarket near the docks bears witness to the magnitude of the fishing industry. There is a large and recently fitted up bathing station, with a beach of the smoothest sand, and the extensive links between the town and the mouth of the Don serve for golfing and other recreations. The Victoria Park at the north side of the town and the Duthie Park at the south side, next the Dee, are well laid out, and greatly enhance the amenity of the place.

Within the last few years the western parts of the town have extended rapidly, the extension being very noticeable about the Great Western Road, from which the Deeside road is continued, as if there were a natural tendency on the part of Aberdonians to go up Deeside. Villas and cottages are dotted along the heights on the north side of the Dee, with some little interruptions, as far as Culter, seven and three-quarter miles from Aberdeen, condensing to form a village there and at Cults, about half-way between Culter and Aberdeen, while clusters of houses occur at other parts. The Deeside railway has a double line of rails to Culter, and

the suburban service of trains has nine stations in less than eight miles. Culter has large paper mills situated in a hollow traversed by Culter burn, and about a mile to the south-west there are remains of an extensive Roman camp, probably formed by the Emperor Severus, *circa* 208-210.

When Aberdeen is left behind Deeside soon assumes the general character which it bears throughout—a valley, generally of no great width, cultivated in the lower part next the river, the cultivation reaching a variable distance up the hillsides, while the higher parts of the hills are divided between wood and heather, both occurring in variable amount on the low ground as well. A change is noticeable after passing Banchory and becomes more marked as one advances, cultivation dwindling and the hills becoming wilder, while from their greater height their upper portions are bare even of woods. The greater mountains do not, however, force themselves much on the view till Ballater is neared, great precipices and spots of snow visible late in summer marking out the “Caledonian Alps” as Byron called them.

Both the road and the railway, especially the former, separate some distance from the river above Culter Station till after Drum Station is passed, when they remain in close company till Banchory is reached. The tower of Drum, believed to be as old as the time of William the Lion (1165-1214), with its flagpole appearing above the trees on the high ground to the north, may be seen from Drum Station. The Irvines of Drum are among the most ancient and historic families on Deeside, the castle and lands having been granted to their founder by King Robert the Bruce. From Crathes Station a few miles further west, the castle of the same name, a quaint old turreted building, may be seen “bosomed high in

tufted trees" on the rising ground to the north-west. It has been held by a family of Burnetts since the days of Bruce. Three miles westward from Crathes and seventeen miles by rail from Aberdeen, Banchory-Ternan, the largest of Deeside villages is reached. It has a population of over 1400, and is situated on a bold rising ground to the north of the river, being mostly formed into streets, but diversified by gardens, trees, and in some places fields between. The closest aggregation of buildings is at the west end furthest from the station, where there are two or three hotels, as well as the Town Hall and several churches. There is a pleasant outlook towards wooded hills on the south side of the river, through an opening between which the Feugh flows down to meet the Dee. Near its mouth there is a rocky linn crossed by a bridge and shaded with trees, and though the fall is not very high it is highly thought of in the locality. Whoever wishes to gain favour in Banchory should speak well of the Bridge of Feugh. A road from Banchory along the lower part of the Feugh leads by the little village of Kirkton of Strachan southward over the Cairn O'Mount (a notable highway in old times) to the Howe of the Mearns and Forfarshire.

There is a good road along the south side of the river from the old Bridge of Dee at the outskirts of Aberdeen to Banchory-Ternan (Banchory-Devenick being in the neighbourhood of the old bridge itself), keeping pretty close to the river most of the way and sometimes affording a better view of the ground on the north side than can be obtained from the railway or the north road. A bus runs three times a day to Blairs, five and a half miles from Aberdeen, but there is no regular conveyance beyond this, though there are sometimes driving excursions by this route in summer. Banchory House, Ardo, Kingcausey, and Durriss House are passed in succession.

About five miles from Aberdeen, in a hollow among low hills and sheltering woods, is Heathcot Hydropathic establishment, and not far from the same locality Blairs College, an institution where students are trained for the priesthood of the Catholic Church. About seven miles from Aberdeen is the Mill Inn of Maryculter, the only establishment of its kind on the south road between Aberdeen and Banchory, and opposite the inn there is a bridge giving access to Milltimber Station, while other bridges span the Dee near Park and Crathes Stations, and there is a foot-bridge at Cults. The small village of Kirkton of Durris, fourteen miles from Aberdeen, stands on the banks of the Sheeoch burn which here flows through a deep wooded defile. For two or three miles at the upper part, the south road traverses thick woods; three quarters of a mile from Banchory it crosses the bridge and linn of Feugh, and then inclines downward to cross the Dee by the Suspension Bridge opposite the west end of Banchory, further progress along the south bank of the river being barred by the private grounds of Blackhall.

Above Banchory the railway separates a considerable distance from the river, passing along the north side of the hills behind Kincardine O'Neil to reach Lumphanan, ten miles from Banchory, and then turning sharply southward to regain the neighbourhood of the Dee a little above Dess Station. For some miles after leaving Banchory the line has a steep ascent through dense woods which confine the view, but about Glassel and the rising village of Torphins there is some extent of open undulating ground under cultivation, with woods and low hills disposed around. Macbeth, pursued by victorious enemies, was slain at Lumphanan in 1057, and the place has the remains of an old fort, now called the Peel Bog, with an encircling moat, which may have been in

existence even at that far-off date. From Dess onward to Aboyne the ground is mostly moorland, though reclaimed in some parts.

The turnpike from Banchory follows a different course from the railway, keeping near the bank of the river, except for about a couple of miles westward from Invercanny, where two low hills covered with wood, Cairnton (427 feet) and Trustach (587 feet), intervene. A little below Invercanny, Inchmarlo House and Blackhall Castle almost face each other north and south of the Dee, and at Invercanny there is a large reservoir connected with the water supply for Aberdeen, which is led in from the Dee about a mile to the westward. At Potarch, about seven miles above Banchory, there is a substantial stone bridge over the river, and about seventy yards above this the channel is narrowed by some rugged ledges of rock, so that the waters sweep along by the bridge with a deep and forcible current. There is an inn at the south end of the bridge, and a road passes over the ridge between the valleys of the Dee and the Feugh, connecting with the Cairn O'Mount road and leading to Mearns and the south—an important highway in old times. This was Dundee's route to the Highlands in 1689, and more recently it was much frequented by drovers and smugglers, the inns on the route, including that at Potarch, having doubtless sheltered strange companies and looked on strange scenes. About eight and a half miles from Banchory, Kincardine O'Neil is reached, a place of great antiquity, pleasantly situated as regards natural surroundings, and possessing a good sized inn; but "left lamenting" because the railway has passed by on the other side of the hill, depriving it of travelling and other facilities. Westward from Kincardine O'Neil the road ascends to a considerable elevation near Desswood House from which a good



extent of country is visible, the south side of the river presenting a great stretch of woodland where dark green firs meet the eye mile after mile.

Aboyne is a thriving village, pleasantly situated on a comparatively wide plain, with "brown heath and shaggy wood," and bits of farm-land interspersed, enclosed at some distance by hills of no great height, one of which (Mortlach) to the north-east is crowned by a monument to a former Marquis of Huntly. For six or seven hundred years, with some intervals, Aboyne has had a castle of great local importance, which during most of the time has been in the hands of the Gordons—the Earl or Marquis of Huntly or his connections. The castle was held by Edward I. in the evil times following the death of Alexander III., was garrisoned by General Mackay after Killiecrankie, and was the scene of some of the earlier meetings for organising Mar's rebellion in 1715. On the opposite side of the Dee, Glentanner, a long woody glen stretching from Aboyne to Mount Keen, has been for some time in possession of Sir William Brooks, a wealthy baronet, who has extended the area under deer, and introduced numerous and costly innovations.

Besides the bridge across the Dee at Aboyne, there is another at Dinnet about five miles westward, where there is the beginning of a village with two small temperance hotels. Dinnet is the most convenient station for Cromar, a wide agricultural district embracing five parishes in whole or in part, and traversed by a road leading to Strathdon near Newe Castle, as well as by roads connecting Tarland, the principal village of Cromar, with Dinnet, from which it is five miles northward, and with Aboyne. To the west of Cromar is the high and broad mountain of Morven (2862 feet), and nearly facing it to the south of the Dee, but obscured by lower

hills in front, is the pointed peak of Mount Keen (3077 feet). To the north-west of Dinnet is Loch Kinnord, finely margined with birch and bearing some tree-clad islets on its bosom. On one islet there are remains of a castle, once a stronghold of the Gordons and with traditions going back to the days of Malcolm Ceanmore (1057-93), while remains of canoes and other antiquities that have been fished up out of the loch seem to show that the islet had been inhabited and used as a kind of fortress in much more remote times. Other Pictish remains have been found in the neighbourhood, some of them quite recently, and the adjacent Loch Davan is thought to preserve in a corrupted form the name of the old Pictish town of Devana mentioned by Ptolemy. To the north-west of Loch Kinnord is Culbleen (1567 feet), a projecting spur of Morven, and near its base a battle was fought in 1335 between Sir Andrew Moray acting as Regent in the minority of David II., and the Earl of Athole, who had sided with the English under Edward III. in their attempts against Scotland, and was deservedly defeated and cut off in this battle.

The Muir of Dinnet, an extensive barren plain, stretches from a mile or two below Dinnet Station westward to Cambus o' May, which some would make the boundary between the Highland and Lowland parts of Deeside, while others draw the line through the moor itself. The monotony of the moor is diversified by some young plantations, which show on what an unpromising soil Scots firs will grow, by the village of Dinnet and by Dinnet House, recently built as a mansion for this portion of the dismembered Aboyne estates. At the small station of Cambus o' May the railway runs close to the river's edge, and the bare granite rock peeps through the thin soil, while on the opposite side of the river is the farm of Ballaterach, where Byron spent

some weeks or months when a boy of about nine years old. Above Cambus o' May the valley widens somewhat, and near the middle of the open space, on the banks of the impetuous burn of Tullich which descends from Morven, is the ancient hamlet of Tullich, now dwindled to a few cottars' houses and a mill, with one or two neighbouring farms. The ruins of the church of Tullich (formerly a separate parish) stand on a hillock close by, surrounded by the churchyard, and the locality has rather incredible traditions about St. Nathalan, a saint of the fifth century, whose name the Ballater fraternity of Freemasons have assumed—"St. Nathalan's Lodge of Tullich in Mar". Ballater is in sight from Tullich, and there is a good view towards the dark precipices of Lochnagar. By the road through the narrow rocky Pass of Ballater at the back of Craigendarroch, the distance to Crathie and Braemar is about a mile shorter than by the turnpike through Ballater.

As already mentioned, the road along the south side of the Dee is interrupted opposite Banchory by the private grounds of Blackhall, but a detour may be made by the Feugh for about half a dozen miles past Kirkton of Strachan to Whitestone (Feughside Inn), from which a road crosses the intervening ridge of hills to reach Deeside at the bridge of Potarch; or, if the traveller pursue his way through the Birse portion of the Feugh valley, he may cross the ridge further up by a road passing the little village of Marywell, and thence onward by the church and manse of Birse (which are near the Dee). The bridge at Aboyne and the opening into Glentanner will afterwards be passed, the old churchyard and remains of the church of Glentanner being some distance westward near the river. Some miles farther on is Dee Castle (Cean-na-Coil), an old seat of the Gordons, while a little beyond, near the Pollagach

burn, is Ballaterach, already mentioned as associated with the boyhood of Byron. About half-way from this to Ballater are the mineral wells and hotel of Pannanich, on a steep bank overlooking the Dee.

Craigendarroch (Oak Craig, 1250 feet) is a bold rock covered with wood, the oaks, from which it has its name, growing on the southern slope, while firs crown the summit and the ridge stretching eastward behind Monaltrie House. Ballater itself occupies a plain between the Dee and the base of the eastern part of the hill, and sends an offshoot of villas embowered among trees along the side of the Braemar road as it climbs the southern face of Craigendarroch. Where the road reaches its highest point on the hill it is overlooked by Morven House, recently built to accommodate the new owner of the Morven portion of the Aboyne estates. The ruins of Knock Castle, formerly held by the Abergeldie Gordons, crown a prominent knoll on the south side of the Dee, almost opposite Morven House. From the western outskirts of the village, near the Free Church, Glenmuick House may be seen across the river, a large granite building erected about twenty-five years ago by Sir James T. Mackenzie, who purchased the portion of Glenmuick formerly belonging to Invercauld. The western half of the glen now belongs to the Royal Family, and besides the small country house of Birkhall in the lower part, the Queen has two shielings at the back of Lochnagar, near Loch Muick. The road to Lochnagar, from the Ballater side, lies through Glenmuick, and there is a picturesque waterfall on the Muick about six miles from the town. Ballater, which has been rapidly growing of late, has something over 1000 inhabitants, a large hotel beside the bridge over the Dee, a town hall, and barracks erected about thirty years ago to accommodate the Queen's Guard of Honour. The railway

company have recently acquired power to build and carry on a hotel at the station, and when they do this the station will no doubt be extended and improved.

Whatever may be said about fixing the Highland boundary at Cambus o'May or Muir of Dinnet, the traveller who passes Ballater may bid farewell to the Lowlands. The hills become higher and steeper, and their bases approach the river's bank, while the great mountains of the background—not a very distant background now—become more conspicuous and impressive. In Braemar large patches of snow are visible on the mountains till late in summer, and they sometimes persist all the year through; herds of deer may be seen by the roadsides, and occasionally eagles proudly soaring over mountain and glen. "Gay landscapes" and "gardens of roses" cannot rival the purple glow of the heather in August. The contrast of light and shade on the hills—whether motionless or following the shadows of driving clouds or the gleams of sunshine darted through momentary openings in the fleecy curtain—is often very striking. Not less striking is the contrast between a dry day and a wet, the former presenting hill and valley bathed in sunlight, and the latter obscuring them more or less with mist and drenching them with rain; causing the flooded river, widely overflowing its banks, to sweep along with resistless current in the mid channel, and the hoarse and swollen torrents to rush headlong from the hills, lines of white spray marking their descent.

Westward from Morven Lodge the turnpike meets the other road from Tullich through the Pass of Ballater, and descends to the bridge over the Gairn. Rising in Benavon, the Gairn, which is the largest tributary of the Dee, flows through a long glen with two or three shooting lodges, and in its lower part, some farms and a good deal of birch wood. From the lower part of Glengairn there

is a road northward by Glen Finzie to Strathdon at Tornahaish, and farther up at Loch Bulig a hill path leading to Tomintoul in Banffshire, from which Granttown-on-Spey and other parts may be reached. Two or three miles to the west of Bridge of Gairn the road rises to a considerable height at Coilacreach Inn, from which there is a good length of the river valley in view, reaching to within about half a mile of Balmoral. The hills on the south next the river are mostly covered with fir wood; while on the north for some miles westward from Coilacreach birches are plentiful along the lower parts of the hill slopes, and there are some farms in the opener ground towards Micras, nearly opposite Abergeldie. On the south side almost opposite Coilacreach, the Girnock burn enters the Dee after traversing a rather bare glen with some scattered farms. The rugged old Castle of Abergeldie, nearly opposite the forty-eighth milestone, is close to the southern bank of the river, over which a small suspension bridge of galvanised iron has recently been erected. Abergeldie has been owned by the Gordons for 400 years and is still their property, though for the last half-century it has been held on lease by the Royal Family, during which time it has accommodated, among others, the Duchess of Kent, the Prince of Wales and the Ex-Empress of the French. After the Revolution, Mackay placed a garrison of about seventy men in the castle, who were besieged and hard pressed by Inverey and others. Mackay succeeded in relieving them when on the point of capitulation, and wreaked his vengeance by burning twelve miles of the country and at least twelve or fourteen hundred houses. A mile or so farther on at Tomiedhus, a rather bleak piece of moorland with some stunted birches has recently been improved by the erection of a Free Church and Manse, the new Public School being near them on the opposite side of the road. On a

hillock by the roadside a slight distance ahead stands the new Parish Church of Crathie—a good building, except the spire.

Just beyond this the approach to Balmoral crosses an iron bridge over the Dee, overlooked at the south end by a statue of the Queen, and the tower of the castle appears above the trees. Being situated near the south bank of the river and on lower ground than the north road, the castle would be very fully in view if it were not screened by a thick growth of wood. However, by climbing some of the braes on the north, the scene may be taken in almost at a glance. The graceful little hill of Craig Gowan covered with birches faces the castle to the south, and the river makes a sweep round to the north, so as to leave a small plain between its channel and the base of the hill. This plain is mostly covered with wood, but there is a strip of lawn reaching from the castle to the river, as well as to the west of the castle, and about the front, which faces the south. In all seasons the white granite walls stand out clearly, and both buildings and grounds are beautiful. The hills on the Balmoral side of the Dee are closely covered with wood, and cairns have been built on their summits to commemorate important events in the domestic annals of the Royal Family.

A mile or so above Balmoral the valley contracts on the north side, leaving only a narrow pass between the river and the steep woody hill which borders it, and a cairn by the riverside among some larch trees, Cairnaquheen (Carn na Cuimhne, remembrance cairn), was in old times the war-cry of the Farquharsons. A little farther on, the Fearder enters the Dee after traversing Aberarder, a glen with some houses and farms and a profusion of birches. From the bridge over the Fearder a good view of Balmoral is obtained. A few hundred yards westward is Inver Inn, near which there are quarries of light grey

granite, excellent both in quality and appearance. For the six miles from Inver to Mar Castle there are no farms or crofts, and only three houses by the roadside. The valley and hillsides are covered with dense fir woods, interspersed with occasional sprinklings of larch and birch, but there is some opener ground near Invercauld, including stretches of pasture formerly under cultivation. From Invergelder nearly opposite Cairnaquheen, the plantations of Garmaddie extend westward to meet the natural pine forest of Ballochbuie, which stretches three or four miles along the south side of the river, reaching as far as Invercauld bridge, midway between the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth milestones, and less than three miles from Braemar. At the north end of the bridge the main approach to Invercauld and the western approach to Balmoral diverge from the turnpike, the latter crossing a quaint, old, high-backed, military bridge dating from the middle of the last century, and traversing the forest of Ballochbuie, in the rear of which Lochnagar overlooks the scene. Beyond Invercauld bridge, Craig Cluny, an almost perpendicular rock, partly stripped of its trees and bereft of half its beauty by the storms of recent winters, overhangs the road and presses it to the edge of the river, but there is a little more room at the Lion's Face rock, opposite Invercauld House, which occupies a conspicuous site on the north. Hitherto Lochnagar has been the highest mountain the eye encounters, but Benavon and Beinn a' Bhuid, higher in altitude if not in fame, now come well into view. The road is again pressed close to the river's edge by the steep, woody rock of Craig Choinnich, and after passing the rugged old Castle of Braemar with its ramparts and turrets, sweeps through some fields and ascends a steep incline to enter the village of Braemar.

In respect of altitude above sea-level, Braemar is third





*Wilson, Aberdeen.*  
WEeping BIRCH AT INVERCAULD BRIDGE, BRAEMAR.



among Scottish villages, coming after Wanlockhead and Leadhills, but its position in the centre of the mainland, surrounded by the chiefs of the Grampians, gives it a character and climate altogether different from them. The ground is hillocky and irregular, and the arrangement of the buildings—which comprise substantial villas, neat cottages, two large hotels, four churches and two public halls—shows as much variety as method. The water of Clunie intersects the village, dividing it into a Castleton portion on the east side, flanked by the woody hill of Craig Choinnich, and an Auchendryne portion on the west, partly flanked by the barer and higher hill of Morrone, but some of the Auchendryne houses stand on lower ground and reach nearer to the Dee than those of Castleton. Near the bridge over the Clunie are the remains of an ancient castle, said to have been occupied by Malcolm III. (1057-93). From the village the broad summit of Benavon (3843 feet) may be seen to the north-east, with some of its corries, gulleys and castellated masses of projecting granite; while from the Glenshee (Cairnwell) road at the outskirts of the village, Ben Macdhui with its comrade mountains are in view. The road up Glen Clunie leads over the Cairnwell Hill into Perthshire, Glenshee being first reached, fifteen miles from Braemar, while Blairgowrie, the nearest railway station in that direction, is twenty miles farther off.

The road up Deeside for some distance above Braemar keeps near the river, but is separated from it by a high and steep bank, and soon enters thick plantations. On the north side there is a good deal of flat, swampy ground at Allanmore and Allanquoich. The Quoich burn has a long, sinuous course from Benavon, and a fall at its lower part, near the edge of the wood. There is a finer fall close to the south road at Corriemulzie, a little over three miles from Braemar, though the volume of water is not

so great as in the Quoich. At Corriemulzie there was a wooden mansion of the Duke of Fife's, known as New Mar Lodge, but it was burned down in 1895. A little farther on, a private bridge gives access to the northern side of the river at the low extended haugh of Dalmore, on which old Mar Lodge stood, and where the third and newest of the Mar Lodges now stands. One of its predecessors having been burned down and the other demolished, the new mansion—a red-roofed granite building, with a long front and no great height—is called simply Mar Lodge. The pine-clad hill of Craig Bhuilg stretching for some miles from the Quoich to the Lui, with a comparatively even summit line and uniform slope, forms a fine background. On the south side of the river stretching westward towards the Linn of Dee, is the Clachan of Inverey, consisting mainly of a line of houses along the roadside, with crofts attached to them covering the plain between the road and the river. The water of Ey descends from Gleney, and intersects the Clachan lands as it passes on to meet the Dee. There are some remains of a castle or mansion of the Farquharsons of Inverey, an old fighting, Highland family, who took part in the wars of Montrose and Dundee, and whose castle was burned down after the Revolution. A mile or so above Inverey is the Linn of Dee, one of the most notable sights of the district, not on account of the fall, which is rather insignificant, but of the narrow, rocky gorge, seventy or eighty yards long, and in some places scarcely four feet wide, through which the waters rush and tumble. The Linn is crossed by a granite bridge of a single Gothic arch, and there are some sturdy old Scots firs of natural growth about the banks. One or two of them, gnarled, withered and without bark, seem to have stood in that state for a generation or more, taking as much time to decay as other trees do to come to maturity.

The Lui enters the Dee on the north a little below the Linn. Its upper part, above the confluence of the Derry, is known as Lui Beg, and issues from Lochan Uaine on the southern spur of Ben Macdhui, 3142 feet above sea-level, while the Derry traverses a long glen on the east side of Carn Crom (2847 feet), Cairn Gorm of Derry (3788 feet) and Ben Macdhui, issuing from Loch Etchan, 3100 feet above sea-level, on the eastern slope of the last mountain. Glen Derry has a shooting lodge in its lower part, to which there is a good road, and from the lodge a hill path leads to Nethy Bridge on the Spey, thirty-two miles from Braemar. Glen Lui had some crofts and inhabitants formerly, and in it, as well as in Glen Derry, there are some veteran pine trees. In the latter narrow glen there are also the remains of an embankment used to produce an artificial flood when floating of timber down the Dee to Aberdeen was formerly attempted. The path for the ascent of Ben Macdhui runs through Glen Derry, and there is a path from Derry lodge, following the course of the Lui Beg for some distance, and leading into Glen Dee between Carn-na-Mhaim (3328 feet) and Devil's Point (3303 feet)—a rather shorter route to the upper part of Glen Dee than that following the course of the Dee itself.

When we turn to trace the upper part of the Dee, we find that wood ceases a little above the Linn, and the glen itself is uninhabited save for a small shieling eight or ten miles farther on, where a gamekeeper lives in summer; but the Geldie, which joins the Dee three or four miles above the Linn, has a gamekeeper's house and a shooting lodge on its own banks, and on one of its tributaries there is a small shooting lodge at Bynack. Between the Linn and the mouth of the Geldie, some burns fall over high ledges of rock on the north, but there is hardly enough water to make the falls impressive

except in time of flood. There is some flat ground in the bottom of the glen mostly covered with heather, but in a few places signs of former cultivation appear, especially at Dalvorer, a mile or so above the Linn, where a grassy plain beside the river, with remains of buildings shaded by some aged rowans, marks the spot where some hardy Highland family formerly carried on the struggle for existence. The road up the glen, destined for Bynack and Geldie lodges, crosses the Dee by White Bridge at the mouth of the Geldie, and beyond this travellers up Glen Dee must bid farewell to roads. From White Bridge (or rather from Bynack, for there is a road so far), a path leads through Glen Tilt to Blair Athole, thirty miles from Braemar; while another route up Glen Geldie, over the border into Inverness-shire, and down the upper part of Glen Feshie, leads to Kingussie (thirty-two miles); and the distance by the Larig path up Glen Dee and through Rothiemurchus to Aviemore is also about thirty-two miles. Where there are so many partings of the way, one might almost expect an inn, but the travellers are few though the ways are many and long.

At the mouth of the Geldie there is a sharp turn in the course of the Dee; above this its direction being south with a slight inclination east, while below the direction is east with a slight inclination north. The Larig path, such as it is, leads along the north side of the Dee, keeping generally pretty close to it, and from the brae above White Bridge a good view may be obtained of Ben Gloe (3671 feet), an extended and peculiarly shaped mountain, with many corries, to the north of Blair Athole. As one proceeds up Glen Dee, Sgor Mor (2666 feet) and Carn-na-Mhaim (3328 feet) will be passed on the right before reaching Ben Macdhui (4296 feet); while on the left Ben Bhrotain (3797 feet) is separated by a deep rugged glen traversed by the Geusachan burn

from the next hill—the Devil's Point (3303 feet), a precipitous, bare, granite rock, forming an offshoot from Cairn Toul (4241 feet) opposite Carn-na-Mhaim. Some miles farther up the deep glen, the Garchory joins the Larig burn at an elevation of 1976 feet to form the Dee.

The confluence of these two burns is in the bottom of a tremendous gorge, nearly opposite the summit of Ben Macdhui, facing which on the west is a deep rocky corrie, traversed by the Garchory burn, and separating Cairn Toul on the south from Braeriach (4248 feet) on the north. Ben Nevis (4404 feet) alone of Scottish mountains overtops Ben Macdhui, but nowhere else in Scotland are so many lofty mountains grouped together as at “the infant rills of Highland Dee” on the confines of Aberdeen and Inverness. The scenery is magnificent and solitary, outrivalling Glencoe in savage grandeur. Deep gulleys separate the mountains, and impetuous torrents have scoured and furrowed their sides, which are strewn with sand and fragments of stone, worn down by frost, storms and running water from the rocky masses. Piles of *débris* have accumulated in the lower parts, and reddish white sand, formed from disintegrated granite of the same colour, covers the hillsides and the rounded or comparatively flat spaces near their summits, while in some parts huge bare precipices present themselves. There are no trees, vegetation is scanty, and the meagre heather and alpine plants which occur form but a thin veil, through which the reddish grey sand or rock forces itself on the eye. Several small lochs occur at great altitudes, the two Lochan Uaines and Loch Etchachan, all drained by the Dee, ranging from 3000 to 3142 feet above sea-level. About a mile above its confluence with the Garchory, the Larig burn rises near the Inverness-shire border, at an elevation of about 2700 feet, in the neighbourhood of some pools resting in stone

basins in the bottom of the defile. Beyond this, rather over the Inverness border, a small burn descends the side of Ben Macdhui, and at the lower part loses itself among the stones. It seems probable that this burn supplies the pools and that the pools supply the Larig burn, but the continuity has not been proved, nor has it been proved that the pools communicate with each other. The Garchory burn by one of its branches drains Lochan Uaine on the northern side of Cairn Toul, but its longest branch descends from Braeriach, making a headlong leap over a great precipice. Above the precipice twin streamlets are traceable to what are called the wells of Dee, towards the western part of the ridge of Braeriach, at an altitude of 4060 feet. The two wells are perennial, but the streams issuing from them are reinforced during the greater part of the year by other wells which dry up in summer. There has been much discussion about the real source of the Dee, but the balance of authority seems to be in favour of the Garchory burn rather than the Larig burn with its continuations, if continuations they be.



## ALPHABETIC ARTICLES.

AAN, or AVEN, the, a tributary of the Feugh, rises to the north-west of Mount Battock, near the meeting-point of the Counties of Aberdeen, Forfar and Kincardine, from the miniature Loch Tennes, 1700 feet above sea-level, and has a course of nearly ten miles between the parishes of Birse and Strachan and the counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine, to join the Feugh a little above Whitestone (Feughside Inn). This stream gives name to the parish of Strachan, locally pronounced Stra'an (Strath Aan, Stra' Aan).

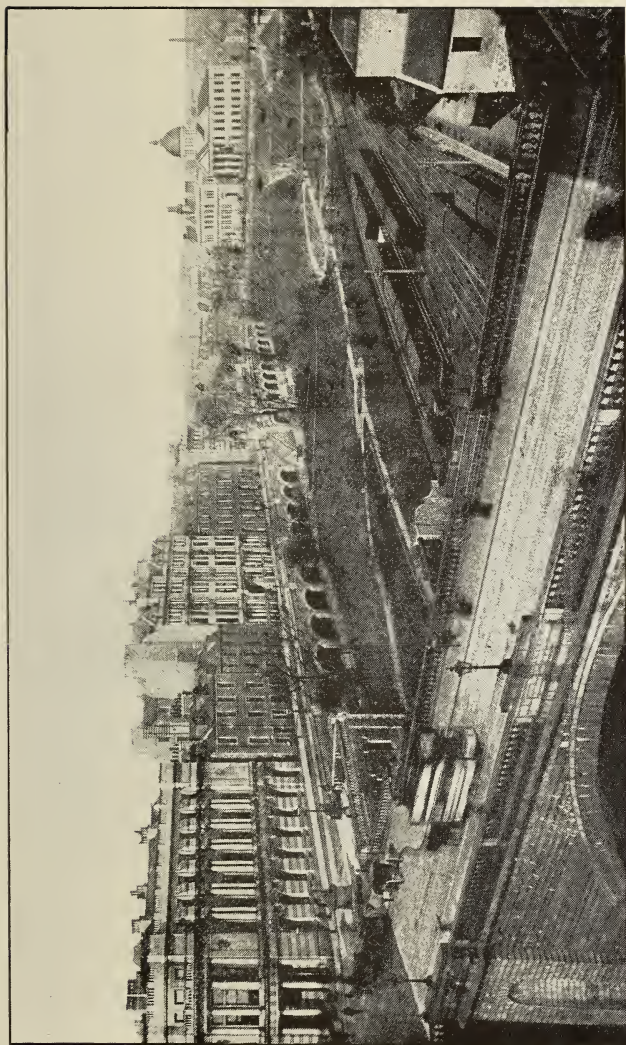
ABERARDER is the glen of the Fearder, reaching from Deeside at Inver up to Culardoch. Natural birch wood covers the braes in great part, while the Balloch hills and those between the Aberarder road and the Dee are covered by fir and larch plantations. There are some farms near the Fearder, and at various openings among the birches, Auchtavan, which is the highest one, bordering with Invercauld deer forest. Tullochcoy on the brae side facing Inver, till about 1770 was a separate property (the last of a number of such) with a line of lairds all to itself, but they have left little behind except their house (hardly a mansion), dating from 1693, and now forming part of the farm steading. At the lower part is the Mill of Inver with a small post office beside it, and Inver Inn a few hundred yards to the west. There is a Free Church meeting-house at Knockan, also used as a school, and remains of an old burying ground at

Balmore, across the fields nearly opposite, as well as faint traditions of a chapel. The Felagie burn flowing through a low moss bordered by a long bare moor, joins the Fearder from the west. At its upper part is the decayed clachan of Felagie, and across the moss, green slopes, fringed with birches, in a hollow among the Balloch hills, show where half a dozen farms existed formerly. Felagie and Balloch are in Braemar, the rest of Aberarder in Crathie. The Aberarder road diverges from the Deeside road at Mill of Inver, and passes by Knockan and Felagie, to rejoin it at Invercauld Bridge ; and there is a hill road from Balnoe to the upper part of Glengairn at Loch Bulig. Aberarder has no old castles for antiquaries to ponder or puzzle over, but there are considerable remains of private distilleries, otherwise called smuggling bothies.

ABERDEEN. Montrose in one of his covenanting visits described Aberdeen as "the London of the North," and the saying is not altogether out of place yet, for nearly half of Scotland lies to the north of the Dee, and in this great district there is no other town at all approaching Aberdeen, which thus forms a sort of northern capital. Within its extended boundaries, now including Torry, Ruthrieston, Woodside and Old Aberdeen, the present population is estimated at slightly over 140,000, and in that respect Aberdeen is the fourth town in Scotland, while in point of general importance it is sometimes spoken of as the third, though Dundee would hardly admit the claim. Aberdeen has strongly marked characteristics, none of which impresses the visitor more immediately than the fact that it is "The Granite City"—the long lines of greyish-white granite which compose the buildings, giving an appearance of robustness and purity which age cannot wither nor custom stale.

Though it requires some time and travelling to get a full view of all the districts within the wide bounds of the city, there are few towns that offer to the traveller's inspection within a small compass so large a portion of the chief buildings and objects of interest, so that in half an hour's walk he may see most of them. If the visitor starts from the Railway Station and walks along Guild Street, he passes the Theatre and the Waverley Hotel, with the Imperial Hotel a few yards above it in Stirling Street, and may turn to the left up Market Street. From the corner of Market Street, he may view eastward the docks and shipping, and southward across the Victoria Bridge which spans the Dee, the rising suburb of Torry. Proceeding up Market Street, he passes the Post Office (about to be removed to a site in Crown Street not much approved by the citizens), the Douglas Hotel, the Mechanics' Institute, and at the upper end of the street, the extensive Market Buildings; while in front across Union Street at the opening of St. Nicholas Street, there is a bronze statue of the Queen. A short distance eastward one reaches Castle Street, adorned by the Municipal Buildings, the old Market Cross, the Salvation Army Buildings, partly imitating the architecture of Balmoral, and a granite statue of the last Duke of Gordon. Opening off from the end of Castle Street at one side is King Street, with a number of elegant buildings, while by turning a corner at the other side into Castle Terrace, one immediately comes upon the Barracks, hidden from Castle Street by the showy Salvation Army Buildings. Retracing Castle Street, one may note on the left the Shiprow, presenting several interesting specimens of houses as they were built in Aberdeen two or three hundred years ago—more interesting, perhaps, to look at than to live in—and taking a short turn to the right up Broad Street, one reaches Marischal College, the principal

buildings of Aberdeen University, with a fine quadrangle and a magnificent tower and hall. Near the college entrance at 64 Broad Street, the house where Byron and his mother lived about a hundred years ago is passed. Returning to Union Street, the visitor may proceed westward towards Union Bridge, passing as he goes some of the best shops and offices in the city, besides an ornamental façade screening St. Nicholas Church and graveyard from the street. Instead of crossing the bridge let him turn to the right up Belmont Street and he will soon be in Schoolhill, where the old Grammar School which Byron attended formerly stood, close to the present School of Art and the entrance to Gordon's College and grounds. In front of the entrance there is a statue of General Gordon, but the founder of the College was a totally different man, who lived a century and a half before the general. Proceeding westward to Rosemount Viaduct the visitor may survey on one side the handsome granite arch of Union Bridge spanning the Denburn and giving passage to the railway, while Union Terrace Gardens adorn the western bank of the ravine; and on the other side, to the north, he may see at a little distance in Woolmanhill the massive buildings of the Royal Infirmary. Crossing the Viaduct and turning to the left down Union Terrace to Union Street, he may note in his progress, the new Free South Church, with its dome and pillars, the Free Library, the Savings Bank, the head office of the Northern Assurance Company at the corner of Union Street, a decidedly notable building, the Grand Hotel (in the Terrace) and the Palace Hotel (in Union Street), the largest and most elegant hotels in the city; as well as three statues, namely those of Wallace (a gigantic and commanding effigy on a pedestal of unhewn granite blocks), Burns, and the Prince Consort. Burns is represented in the knee-breeches costume of last



UNION TERRACE AND GARDENS, ABERDEEN.

*Wilson, Aberdeen.*



century, with a plaid over his shoulder and a daisy in his hand, meditating, as we may suppose, on the "wee, modest, crimson-tipped flower" and giving vent to the "thick coming fancies" that even so simple and familiar an object can suggest to him. Union Bridge overlooks the Joint Station, and has at its east end Trinity Hall, belonging to the Incorporated Trades, and having stained glass windows and portraits of notable citizens connected with the various trades. To those who are pressed for time this short circuit will give a good introduction to the city.

Though a certain amount of walking is essential to a thorough survey of any town, yet three or four runs on the car, starting from the head of Market Street, and arranged somewhat as follows, will afford a passing view of the main districts of Aberdeen. 1. By Union Street, Alford Place, and Albyn Place to Queen's Cross, giving a view of the whole length of Union Street with its many fine buildings, and of the west-end residential quarters. Those who wish to see the newest design and execution in dwellings for well-to-do citizens may turn to the north from Queen's Cross into Fountainhall Road. 2. By Union Street, as before, continuing onward by Holburn Street to Bridge of Dee, the scene of one of Montrose's battles in 1639. 3. By St. Nicholas Street, George Street and other streets in continuation, to Kittybrewster, passing along thoroughfares that are tolerably busy but not notable for elegant or stately buildings. This run may be extended by car to Woodside and the Don. 4. By King Street, passing along near the Links on the right (seaward), and having the Old Town of Aberdeen on the left in the outer part, with the grey old buildings of King's College and St. Machar's Cathedral, and reaching the new Bridge of Don at the extremity of the run, about 500 yards below the quaint "Auld Brig" at Balgownie.

Castle Street and Union Street (1516 yards long, including Union Place) run along or near to the summit of the rising ground from which most of the other parts of the town branch out. In the eastern part the streets leading off to the south (Marischal Street, Market Street, etc.), have a pretty steep incline, and in a few places there is so much difference of level that newer streets are carried over lower and older ones. This is especially the case at Union Bridge, which crosses the ravine of the Denburn and overlooks the Joint Station, the north-going trains emerging from which pass under the bridge and through the ravine on their way to Kittybrewster. The bridge, designed by Telford, and erected in 1800-3, at a cost of £13,342, has three concealed and one visible arch, the latter forty-four yards in span and very lofty. The roadway above is narrower than Union Street, and both the traffic and the view are somewhat limited in consequence, and among other projects of municipal improvement, the citizens sometimes talk of widening Union Bridge. Union Terrace, already mentioned, at the west-end of the bridge, almost rivals Castle Street in its objects of interest; and if allowance be made for the different architectural effects of granite and sandstone, it might almost be looked upon as a bit cut out of Princes Street in Edinburgh, there being in both cases a line of stately buildings on one side of the street, and gardens adorning the sloping ground which borders the other side. Opposite the terrace, Bridge Street, tortuous and rather steep, leads down to the station, but most of the traffic is conveyed into the city by Guild Street and Market Street. The station is none too commodious, and has more need of widening than Union Bridge, while the iron railings which fence in the train platforms, whatever purpose they may serve to the railway companies,



are rather vexatious to the public. The extra traffic on a popular holiday brings out the inadequacy of the station, and in September, 1897, a great company of excursionists from Glasgow, about to start on the return journey, overpowered the railway officials and made a great hurly-burly.

On the north side of Union Street, a little to the west of the bridge, are the Music Hall buildings. They comprise assembly and various other rooms erected in 1820, at a cost of £14,500, presenting a flight of steps towards the street with a Grecian portico above; with the Music Hall proper, a later building opened by the Prince Consort in 1859, erected in the rear of the other buildings, seated for about 2000 and provided with a fine organ. A little farther along near the lower end of Huntly Street is the Roman Catholic Cathedral, an elegant granite building with a graceful spire, 200 feet high. A short distance farther up Huntly Street is the Asylum for the Blind, with its range of workshops beside it. The west-end of Union Street is known as Union Place, and from it Alford Place and Albyn Place are continued to Queen's Cross. In Alford Place are the somewhat modest-looking buildings of the Free Church College, where students who have previously gone through a university course in Arts are trained for the ministry of the Free Church. About twenty years ago Professor Robertson Smith, a young man of great ability, who, amongst other things, edited the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, held one of the chairs. He went through several trials and was ultimately relieved from the duties of his chair on account of the "dangerous and unsettling tendency" of his opinions. At the time the case excited greater interest in the North than probably anything that has happened since the Disruption.

There are large and elegant residences in Albyn Place and the neighbouring terraces, some of them walled in

within their own grounds and embowered among trees and shrubbery. Queen's Cross is at the west-end of Albyn Place, where the latter is joined at an acute angle by Carden Place. At their junction is Queen's Cross Free Church, a granite building of rather curious design, arched, buttressed and somewhat accommodated to the shape of the ground on which it stands, with a spire changing from approximately square to octagonal, and from octagonal to conical. From Queen's Cross, Rubislaw granite quarries are about a mile away on the outskirts of the city, and may be reached from Queen's Gate at the extremity of Queen's Road. The quantity of granite quarried and the depth from which it is raised are alike astonishing. Taking an easterly direction from Queen's Cross along Carden Place, Carden Terrace and Skene Street, one reaches the head of Union Terrace near Rosemount Viaduct. In Carden Place there is a large recently built U.P. Church with a tall steeple—one of the best churches belonging to the U.P. denomination in the city. Standing within extensive grounds off Skene Street, is the new Grammar School, a handsome granite building in the Scottish baronial style. The Grammar School claims to be almost the oldest of Aberdeen institutions, its history going back to about the middle of the thirteenth century, before the days of Wallace and Bruce. From Queen's Cross the visitor, noting as he goes the comfortable and attractive new houses which line the ways, may continue his course by the car along Fountainhall Road and Beechgrove Terrace, which crosses the former, to the corner of Argyll Place, from which a short walk will bring him to the Victoria Park. The lands of Stocket in this neighbourhood were granted to the town by King Robert the Bruce.

From the west-end of Union Street, Holburn Street has a long descent to the Bridge of Dee, bordered in its

course by buildings of various ages, styles and sizes, rather irregularly grouped in some parts, till in its lower portion it runs mostly through open ground. Great Western Road (from which the Deeside road is continued), is an offshoot from the upper end of Holburn Street, and in the angle between them is Nellfield Cemetery. The profusion of mitres carved on the piers of the bridge is suggestive of bishops, and prepares us to learn that the bridge was begun by Bishop Elphinstone about the close of the fifteenth century, and completed by Bishop Dunbar in 1525. The structure has, however, been renovated since then, the seven ribbed arches, with a total length of over 430 feet having been rebuilt about 1720, and ten or twelve feet added to the width of the bridge in 1842. The 18th of June has since been made memorable all the world over as the day of the battle of Waterloo, but in the local history of Aberdeen it became famous nearly two centuries earlier as the first day of the battle of Bridge of Dee, in which Montrose, at the head of the army of the Covenant, overcame the Gordons and their allies. The generalship on the part of the latter was not good, but the Aberdeen women are said to have behaved heroically in bringing up supplies and necessaries to the defenders. Montrose pushed forward his cannon during the night, so that on the second day they swept the bridge from a nearer and more destructive position; and by a pretended attempt at fording the river above the bridge with his cavalry, he drew off part of the defenders and disconcerted the rest. In old times the road from the south, after crossing the Bridge of Dee and the open ground beyond, lay through the Hardgate, Langstane Place, Windmill Brae, and across the *Auld Bow Brig* by which the Green was reached from Windmill Brae—a rather twisted and irregular route. At the junction of Hardgate and Bon-Accord Terrace is a boulder called the

Craibstone, marking the site of a clan battle in 1571 between the Gordons and Forbeses, in which victory declared for the Gordons, who slew three hundred and lost only thirty. The visitor who does not object to walk a couple of miles or so should make his way back to the city from the bridge by the north bank of the river, the Allenvale Cemetery, the Duthie Park, the railway bridge over the Dee, the Wellington Suspension Bridge and the Esplanade, to Victoria Bridge in the line of Market Street.

An excursion on foot, or by cab if the visitor dislikes walking, should be made to Torry and the south side by Wellington Suspension Bridge (opened in 1831) when Torry hill (161 feet) will be reached. On it new streets and buildings are rapidly springing up, and new engineering works on the western outskirts show that Torry is becoming a seat of industry. Near the summit there is a conspicuous building whose small, grated windows and high-surrounding walls but too surely proclaim it to be a prison. The older part of Torry, mostly inhabited by fishermen, is on the low ground near the river to the east; and seaward from this towards the mouth of the Dee the ground rises again. Girdleness Lighthouse, is on a rocky prominence between Greyhope Bay on the north and the larger Nigg Bay on the south. There is a small battery at Torry point near the Lighthouse, and from this neighbourhood the breakwaters, the mouth of the Dee and the tidal harbour may be surveyed, though a better view of the city as a whole may be had from Torry hill. From this latter position the eye may wander from Girdleness Lighthouse to the shipping in the harbour, the Esplanade along the Dee, the various bridges crossing the river, the Duthie Park with its lawns and groves margining the river almost opposite, and the Allenvale Cemetery with its forest of tombstones. On the

higher ground above, the long panorama of white granite walls is spread out, with towers, spires, and less ornamental chimney stalks rearing themselves at intervals—conspicuous among them being the tower of the Salvation Army Barracks, which keeps its red flag high even on Sunday, and the tower and spire of the Municipal Buildings and of Marischal College.

At this stage a view of the quays, docks and harbour may be taken. The part of the river below Wellington Suspension Bridge has been diverted from its natural channel into a new one more to the south, excavated for it in 1869-72 at a cost of over £50,000. Approaching the Upper Dock from Market Street, one reaches Trinity Quay, which is succeeded by Regent Quay and Waterloo Quay, opposite Victoria Dock, whilst further on, opposite the Tidal Harbour, are the shipbuilding yards. A tongue of land projects from Market Street to the Tidal Harbour, separating the Upper Dock and Victoria Dock on the north from the Albert Basin on the south, and having near its outer extremity the Graving Dock; while another tongue of land, narrower and more elongated, extends between the Albert Basin and the new channel of the Dee, its wedge-shaped extremity being called Point Law. These tongues of land and the ground in the vicinity are known as the Inches, and afford additional quay accommodation, as well as sites for the large fish-market, numerous fish-curing establishments, cooperages, wood-yards, sheds for storage, etc., the buildings, mostly of wood, brick and corrugated iron, being naturally designed more for utility than elegance. It may be noted that the change from land to water carriage, or *vice versâ*, is made as easy as practicable by the close proximity of the railway to the docks—rails being laid down on the quays so that trucks may be run alongside vessels loading or unloading. Between the shipyards

and the beach is Footdee (Fittie), a locality inhabited by fishermen and their families, a hardy folk, but said to be like Jews or Gipsies in marrying within their own race and keeping apart from others.

The route along St. Nicholas Street, George Street, and the streets in continuation, is not lined by public buildings or stately edifices, so that the sights by the way are not so remarkable as in some other districts, but it runs through densely populated and busy parts of the town till the neighbourhood of Kittybrewster is reached. The Church of Scotland Training College for teachers is in George Street, while the similar institution belonging to the Free Church is in Charlotte Street near the same locality. Kittybrewster has a hotel and a large auction mart, but is chiefly notable for its station, whose large extent of sheds and shunting space show it to be mainly for goods traffic. Looking towards the coast from this neighbourhood one sees the double spire of St. Machar's Cathedral and the arched tower of King's College, the two most notable buildings in Old Aberdeen. George Street, it may be mentioned, runs through the middle of a space which down to about the close of the eighteenth century was covered by a loch margined by swampy ground. From the corner of Hutcheon Street the Victoria Park may be visited, and after passing Kittybrewster, when opener ground is reached, another digression may be made to the newest of Aberdeen Parks—the Stewart Park. Cars run all the way to Woodside on the Don—not inappropriately named, as there are woods at various places shading the river and its banks. A number of paper and other mills are situated on the lower reaches of the Don near Woodside, some of them propelled by water, but the Dee, strange to say, never condescended to drive a mill.

King Street extends in a long line from Castle Street

to the New Bridge of Don, beginning with stately and tolerably symmetrical buildings, as if intended to rival Union Street, but dwindling by-and-by to houses of small dimensions and plain design. In the outer third or fourth of the distance buildings have not yet been erected, excepting a public-house and a few other buildings close to the Bridge of Don, still labelled with the name of King Street. At the corner of King Street and Castle Street is the North of Scotland Bank. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the North Parish Church are a little farther on—the former having a statue of Bishop Skinner, son of the Reverend author of *Tullochgorum*, and the latter a Grecian portico and pillared belfry, the last being an Aberdonian reproduction of Demosthenes' Lantern. The hall of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, with a large meeting room, a library and other equipment, and the Educational Trust Schools, carrying on, among other educational agencies, a Girls' Home and a School of Domestic Economy, are notable institutions in King Street. Towards the outer part of the street are the Militia Barracks—a large plain building, enclosing a quadrangular court—the headquarters of the third battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, formerly the Royal Aberdeenshire Highlanders. Some thirty years ago that delightful dramatist W. S. Gilbert served in the regiment and may have picked up some of his humour in Aberdeen. The author of *The Mikado* and *The Gondoliers* had doubtless appeared as a "gallant, braw John Highlandman" in those days,

Wi' his philabeg and tartan plaid  
And guid claymore down by his side.

The Links extend from Footdee to the mouth of the Don, separated from King Street in the southern part by a considerable amount of streets and buildings, though these almost come to an end when the Bathing Station

and Epidemic Hospital (with the Golf Club House in line between them) are passed. There is a Lifeboat Station at Footdee and another a little to the south of the Bathing Station, with the Battery about midway between. The Gallow Hill, with Trinity Cemetery on the sloping ground below, is almost opposite the Militia Barracks, and seaward from Gallow Hill is Broad Hill. Gravel and sand are now being dug out of the bowels of the latter and carted away, so that in course of time it may be no longer a hill. Northward from Broad Hill are the Gunpowder Magazine and Rifle Ranges, and beyond them a long stretch of open ground extending to the mouth of the Don. The Links, notwithstanding Broad Hill and Gallow Hill and various sand hillocks scattered about, are tolerably flat for the most part, and form a great natural park for all classes of citizens, affording ample space for golf, cricket, football and other exercises. The beach is, as one might say, upholstered with the finest sand, and at the Bathing Station (to which in summer conveyances run from the end of Union Street) swimming and bathing in the open sea are rendered as safe and convenient as practicable, and handsome salt-water baths and accessory accommodation have been fitted up ashore for the benefit of those whose disposition is not so enterprising.

At the outer end of King Street is the new Bridge of Don, completed in 1835 and therefore not very new, though it is so called to distinguish it from the old bridge to be presently described. The new bridge is a substantial granite structure of five arches, crossed by the road leading to Peterhead, Ellon, etc. It was built from accumulations of funds destined for the maintenance of the old bridge. The latter structure about 500 yards higher up the Don, consists of a single Gothic arch with a span of about 67 feet, carrying the narrow roadway



across the river at a considerable height. It dates from about the time of King Robert the Bruce, and some would fain believe that it may have been built by the good king. Above the bridge, the Don is confined within high and steep wooded banks, matted with ivy in some parts, while elsewhere the bare rock peeps through. On the open heights in the neighbourhood, or embowered among trees, irregularly disposed houses (some of them covered with red tiles) are scattered about. Byron was familiar with this scene in his youth, and retained a vivid recollection of it, as appears in a note to "Don Juan" in which he says: "The Brig of Don near the 'auld toun' of Aberdeen, with its one arch and its black, deep, salmon stream, is in my memory as yesterday". And then he tells how he leaned over it with childish delight, but feared to cross it, being an only son by the mother's side, and remembering the awful prophecy:—

Brig o' Balgownie, wight's thy wa'!  
 Wi' a wife's ae son and a mare's ae foal,  
 Down thou shalt fa'!

From the old Bridge of Don the return journey may be made on foot through Old Aberdeen, whose narrow, twisted streets and quiet, sequestered appearance seem to show that it is but little affected by the high tide of traffic and activity prevailing in the new town. St. Machar's Cathedral (now the Parish Church), situated in Chanonry on the northern confines, and King's College nearly half a mile further south, are the two most notable buildings in the old town. There were earlier cathedral buildings, but they were cleared away when the twelfth Bishop of Aberdeen, Alexander Kinninmonth (1356-80), towards the end of his episcopate built what was then the new cathedral dedicated to St. Mary and St. Machar—the latter reputed to be a disciple of St. Columba.

Subsequent bishops enlarged and embellished the structure which was at its best about 1532. In 1560, at the time of the Reformation, a deputation from the Mearns removed some of the costly ornaments; and the central tower having, as is asserted, been undermined by Cromwell's soldiers, fell in the Revolution year (1688) and crushed the transepts, though fragments of their walls still remain, enclosing the tombs and mouldering effigies of Bishop Dunbar (who completed the Bridge of Dee) and one or two other bishops. At the west-end two square towers, with a large window between and tapering spires above, reach a height of  $113\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The nave was renovated in 1869-71 under the direction of Sir George Gilbert Scott, and shows a panelled oak ceiling emblazoned with the arms of benefactors, and a number of stained glass windows, the western one to the memory of the last Duke of Gordon and another to the memory of three Aberdeen painters—Jamieson, Phillips and Dyce. Though not beautiful externally, this ancient historic building has many interesting associations. A star cut on a stone in the wall near a gate of the cathedral cemetery is said to mark the spot where one of the limbs of Wallace, sent to Aberdeen by the remorseless Edward to be exhibited as a symbol of his vengeance, was buried by some loving and pious hands. If this story is true, we are indeed on hallowed ground.

King's College was founded by a Bull of Pope Alexander VI. obtained in 1494 on the application of that popular monarch, James IV., who in turn was prompted by Bishop Elphinstone. The building—now fronting a street known as College Bounds, containing official residences for a number of the professors—seems to have been begun in 1500, and teaching commenced about 1505. The new institution was modelled to some extent on the University of Paris, and its original constitution provided

for the teaching of Theology, Canon Law, Civil Law, Medicine, and the liberal arts; and authorised the granting of degrees. James IV. (from whose patronage it came to be known as King's College) and Bishop Elphinstone bestowed considerable endowments, but these were in great part alienated in the time of Mary by grants to royal favourites and courtiers. The buildings, which enclose a neat quadrangle, are not of great extent and are mostly modern, but the remnant still preserved of the ancient structure—the chapel and one of the three old towers—is very quaint and interesting. The tower is 100 feet high, buttressed nearly up to the battlements, above which four rib arches crossing each other support an imperial crown with a small cross on its summit, the whole tower presenting an appearance of antique Gothic grace which stamps itself on the memory. Hector Boece was the first principal, and from his Latin History Holinshed derived the story of Macbeth on which Shakespeare founded his great tragedy, and which, strangely enough, Milton had in his mind for some time as a probable subject for a drama or epic.

One may turn to the left from College Bounds along University Road into King Street to catch a car, but if one has patience for a little pedestrian exercise, a walk down the narrow and somewhat winding old streets—Spital, King's Crescent, Mounthooly and Gallowgate—may be recommended. But if the visitor wishes to see only fine sights and aristocratic localities, he had better not take this route, as it will introduce him to some of the older and poorer parts of the town. Gallowgate was the route by which in old times those condemned to capital punishment were led forth to meet their final doom on Gallow Hill, which has been already noticed in connection with the Links. In Gallowgate, nearly opposite Innes Street, there stood till lately a quaint

old building, with a circular stair, a crow-stepped and corbelled gable, and small square slits for windows, bearing date 1494, rather doubtfully described as a Castle of the Earl of Mar. In the course of city improvements this time-worn edifice has recently been removed.

The lower end of Gallowgate leads into Broad Street, which is adorned by the stately buildings of Marischal College. Founded in 1593 by George Keith, fifth Earl Marischal, and extended or renovated at various times, the college was rebuilt in 1837-41 in the Gothic style of architecture after designs by Simpson, and is now undergoing extensions (in great part completed) which will more than double its accommodation and greatly add to its beauty. The present enlargements are from plans by Mackenzie of Aberdeen, who has developed and extended Simpson's design in a very happy manner. Conspicuous in the new buildings are the Mitchell Tower and Hall, the funds for which were contributed by the late Dr. Mitchell of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The lofty and graceful tower is officially described in the *University Calendar* as "the pride of the citizen and the admiration of the stranger"; while the hall, which can accommodate fully 2000, is a noble structure both internally and externally. Before entering the hall one traverses a gallery with a numerous and most interesting collection of portraits, and there is also a valuable museum. Marischal College suffers much from want of space and from incongruous surroundings. The entrance from Broad Street to the quadrangle, though partially opened up, is still much obstructed by inferior buildings, and the gable of the Mitchell Hall, with a beautiful window, projects into West North Street, overlooking a crowd of insignificant buildings. In the quadrangle there is a red granite obelisk to the memory of Sir James McGrigor, Director of the Army Medical Department for a long period,

formerly Rector of the University, and in his early days one of the founders of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, whose buildings in King Street he greatly helped to erect. The obelisk, though tasteful enough in itself, rather encumbers the quadrangle. Marischal College is the main building of Aberdeen University, accommodating the classes in the Faculties of Science, Medicine and Law, while the classes in Arts and Divinity meet in King's College in Old Aberdeen, which also accommodates the University Library. Down to the end of the eighteenth century, though there were numbers of medical students in Aberdeen, they were mostly obliged to pick up their knowledge under the guidance of general practitioners, gaining further experience no doubt in the Infirmary (founded 1742) and the Public Dispensary (founded 1786). Several attempts to establish University Classes in Medicine proved rather unsuccessful, but in 1818 regular classes—taught till 1839 mostly by lecturers appointed alternately by King's and Marischal College—were started in the latter. From this beginning, a well-equipped and flourishing Medical School has been developed, and Aberdeen degrees in Medicine have a high reputation all over the country.

Till 1860 the University and King's College of Aberdeen and Marischal College and University of Aberdeen were two separate and independent teaching and degree granting institutions. The Universities Act of 1858 provided for their union, leaving the date to be fixed by the Commissioners under the Act. The proposed union was very unpopular in Aberdeen, and was opposed in Parliament and afterwards before the Commissioners, who made an Ordinance appointing 15th October, 1859, as the date for the union to take effect. Among others, the following petitioned Her Majesty to withhold the sanction required to bring the Ordinance into force: the Provost,

Magistrates and Council of the City of Aberdeen; the landholders, Commissioners of Supply and Justices of the Peace for the County of Aberdeen; the Convener Court of the Seven Incorporated Trades of the City of Aberdeen; the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the Synod of Aderdeen; and the Presbyteries of Garioch, Alford and Strathbogie. The opposition was strenuous but unsuccessful, and after some delay the sanction of the Queen in Council was given to a later Ordinance fixing 15th September, 1860, as the actual date of union, since which time Aberdeen has been forced to content itself with one university.

A few words must be added about some buildings and institutions not yet noticed or only barely mentioned, and among them the Municipal Buildings which adorn Castle Street deserve to come first. These comprise the Council Chambers, Banqueting Hall, Sheriff and Circuit Court rooms, and offices for City and County officials. Designed by Peddie and Kinnear of Edinburgh, in the Scottish baronial style of architecture with some modifications, the buildings, which have a frontage of 225 feet to Castle Street and 109 feet to Broad Street, and a height of 64 feet, with a turreted clock tower, where the two streets intersect, surmounted by a spire and vane 190 feet high, were completed in 1873 at a cost of about £80,000. Though the structure is, in Horatian language, *simplex munditiis*, yet its fine site and its massive and symmetrical proportions render it the most commanding edifice in the city, with the possible exception of Marischal College. In the vestibule is a marble statue of the Queen by Brodie, which formerly stood in the street, but had to be taken inside to protect it from the severity of the climate, which threatened to disintegrate the marble. In the vestibule is also shown the armour worn by Provost Davidson at the Battle of Harlaw in 1411; and the

apartments are adorned by portraits of the Queen and the Prince Consort (the latter in Highland costume), the Earl of Aberdeen (Prime Minister in 1852), and of former Lord Provosts and prominent citizens. Visitors should avail themselves of the permission to go up the tower, the ascent being made through a variety of apartments with discontinuous wooden stairs between, but in the upper part there is a turret stair with stone steps. The caged-in machinery which propels the clock will be noticed in mounting the stairs. From the top an excellent view may be obtained on a clear day, the visitor looking down on chimneys, steeples, shipping, crowded thoroughfares, and open country beyond. Lodge Walk, at the eastern end of the Municipal Buildings, leads through an archway from Castle Street to the rear, where there are some remains of the old Tolbooth (town prison), the present tower, though not the spire, being part of the original. The Society of Advocates (first chartered in 1774) have a hall with a valuable law library behind the County Buildings. Advocates in Aberdeen, whose professional work corresponds with that of a law-agent or solicitor, but who reckon themselves of higher status in virtue of the designation, are to be distinguished from advocates pure and simple (if there be any advocates of that description) who practice before the Court of Session ; and so much stress is laid on the distinction that in the schedule for making the census return members of the Aberdeen Society are directed to designate themselves "*Advocates in Aberdeen*".

Towards the east end of Castle Street the Market Cross is conspicuous, from a distance looking somewhat like a fountain, and having done duty as a post office for some time about 1822. Erected in 1686 in front of the old Tolbooth, and removed to its present site in 1842, it is the work of a mason of Old Rayne, named Montgomery.

The basement is an open arched hexagonal structure, eighteen feet high, surmounted by a column twelve and a half feet additional, topped by a unicorn. Medallions of the ten Scottish monarchs from James I. to James VII. appear on the cornice, as well as the royal arms and those of the city.

The Royal Infirmary, a large granite building in Woolmanhill, may be seen from the Rosemount Viaduct at the head of Union Terrace, from which it presents a squarish and compact appearance, though on nearer approach it is found to consist of several wings, slightly cramped by the nature of the ground on which they stand. This beneficent institution has been greatly extended within the last ten or twelve years, to enable it to meet the ever-growing needs of the city and of the wide range of country which it serves, as well as to provide the means of clinical instruction to the medical students attending Aberdeen University. The Royal Lunatic Asylum, under the same management as the Infirmary, is situated in the northern part of the town amid grounds forty-five acres in extent. Numerous and extensive additions have from time to time been made to the small original building of 1800, and since 1862 there has been a supplementary Asylum at Elmhill, not far from the same locality. The Epidemic Hospital on the Links has already been mentioned, the Sick Children's Hospital is in Castle Terrace, and there is a Dispensary, Lying-in, and Vaccine Institution in Guestrow.

Shiprow has been mentioned as affording characteristic specimens of Aberdonian architecture some centuries old, but perhaps Guestrow, which is nearly parallel with Broad Street and extends between the two old thoroughfares of Upperkirkgate and Netherkirkgate, is still more deserving of notice in this respect. Lined by very old and in some cases quaint buildings, Guestrow is some-



what twisted and very narrow, conforming to Burns' description—

. . . A street

Where twa wheelbarrows tremble when they meet.

No. 45 is a notable building, dating from 1580, and having served long ago as the town house of the Skenes of Fintray. On emerging from the close, one comes upon an edifice of some size, with a paved courtyard, a turret, and mouldering remnants of carved armorial bearings and inscriptions. Here, in the spring of 1746, that high and mighty prince, the Duke of Cumberland, lived for six weeks before the battle of Culloden, and is said to have helped himself freely to all the good things he could reach, his lieutenants and henchmen zealously imitating their leader's example. But 45 Guestrow is no longer a royal residence, and other tenants frequent its courts and dwell in its chambers. Travellers are now entertained in the place at the rate of fourpence a night, and above the doorway we may read: "Elizabeth Pirie. Registered Lodging House." As Hamlet says: "To what base uses we may return!" In an odd corner at the lower part of Netherkirkgate there is an old building with a small round turret and a niche, the latter having a very in-artistic human effigy with a naked sword reaching up to the chin. This rude figure is traditionally said to represent Wallace, and so the place has come to be called Wallace Nook. Byron, twenty-one years after leaving Aberdeen, met at Venice a school-fellow from Aberdeen Grammar School, and talked freely of the haunts of his childhood, particularly mentioning Wallace Nook.

The earliest mention of Aberdeen occurs in a charter granted by the Mormaer of Buchan early in the reign of David I. (1124-53), witnessed by Nectan, Bishop of Aberdeen, though there are references to *Aþardion* in Snorro's *Icelandic Heimskringla* and in the *Orkneyinga Saga* only

a few years later. These early notices seem to indicate not a newly developed city, but one whose origin had been much earlier. The most ancient charter of the burgh that has been preserved was granted in 1179 by William the Lion (1165-1214), who hunted on Deeside, and had a palace and a mint in Aberdeen. It confirmed the trading privileges of the burgesses, who were to exercise them as freely as they had done in the time of William's grandsire, David I. Alexander II. (1214-49) came to spend his yule in Aberdeen in 1222 after subduing an insurrection in the West, and showed his interest in the spiritual and temporal affairs of the burgh by founding a Monastery of Blackfriars and authorising the holding of a market on Sunday. In the time of Alexander III. (1249-86) a castle was built about the site of the present barracks, and in the troubles that ensued after his death it fell into the hands of Edward I., who visited Aberdeen in 1296, and found "a fair castle and good town upon the sea". There are uncertain legends about Wallace campaigning in the district, and after his execution one of the limbs of the mangled patriot was sent to be exposed at Aberdeen, as already mentioned in the account of the cathedral. This did not deter the citizens from doing their best for Bruce and the cause of Scottish independence, and in his happier days he remembered and rewarded their services, granting a new charter to the burgh in 1319, and making over to the community the extensive royal forest of Stocket for an annual payment of something less than £18 sterling, as well as valuable fishings on the Dee and Don. Aberdeen was partially burned by the English in 1333, and more thoroughly in 1336, so that when rebuilt it was called New Aberdeen. The battle of Harlaw occurred during the minority (and captivity in England) of James I. Donald, Lord of the Isles, ravaged Ross, the earldom of

which he claimed, and at the head of 10,000 Highlanders marched southward to plunder Aberdeen. Alexander Stewart, the usurping Earl of Mar, to protect Aberdeen and prevent the Lord of the Isles from usurping the Earldom of Ross, then held by Stewart's father, collected what forces he could, and encountered the Highland host at Harlaw near Inverurie. After a sanguinary battle, the Highlanders retreated, but Sir Robert Davidson, Provost of Aberdeen, and other stout burgesses were among the slain. In the time of James IV. (1488-1513), a defensive work called the Blockhouse was erected at the entrance to the harbour. In the minority of Mary "our auld enemies of England" invaded the northern kingdom, and at the ill-starred battle of Pinkie (1547) which ensued, a body of Aberdonians fought with great valour, and Farquharson of Invercauld (Finlay Mor) fell in the battle.

In 1559, the year of Knox's return to Scotland, the Reformation extended to Aberdeen. Its doctrines were soon generally accepted in the city, and the monks mostly escaped abroad, while Adam Heriot was settled as the first minister. In 1562 Queen Mary spent some days in Aberdeen, while her half-brother and chief minister, Lord James Stuart (Earl of Mar and afterwards of Moray), subdued the turbulent Gordons at Corrichie, some miles north of Banchory. Huntly fell in the battle or pursuit, and his son, Sir John Gordon, was taken prisoner and executed at Aberdeen two or three days later. It is said that Mary wept to see the fall of this rebellious subject, who would fain have aspired to be a suitor for her hand. After Corrichie there was rankling jealousy and hatred between the Gordons and some other northern clans, and this led in 1571 to the clan battle, at Craibstone, in which the Gordons defeated the Forbeses. James VI. (1567-1625) was too often in Aberdeen, and caused great expense to the

citizens in gifts and entertainments. During a visit in 1594, James was occupied in settling the affairs of the North after a formidable revolt by the Earl of Huntly, who had won the battle of Glenlivet over the king's forces commanded by the youthful Argyle, but was afterwards deserted by his allies and dependents, and obliged to seek refuge in flight. James was much to blame for the witch persecutions which disgraced this period, and which in Aberdeen led to the death of many persons in prison and to the burning of twenty-two women and one man on the Castle Hill in 1596-97. In 1605 a memorable General Assembly was convened in Aberdeen by Melville and others in opposition to the wishes of the king, who disliked the Assembly and went on proroguing it from time to time. The attendance was limited and the business formal, but the king was greatly incensed. In 1616 and again in 1640 the General Assembly met in the city.

Aberdeen, which at first was inclined to support the royalist cause, suffered much at the time of the Covenanted struggles, both from warfare and the exaction of fines. In July, 1638, a Commission under the Earl of Montrose, including several noblemen and three covenanted ministers—Henderson, Dickson and Cant—was despatched by the Edinburgh Government to bring over Aberdeen. The three Covenanted divines offered to preach in the Aberdeen pulpits on the Sunday for the enlightenment of all objectors, but the local divines (usually styled "Aberdeen Doctors") would not agree to this, and so the invading evangelists preached to a large open-air meeting in Marischal's Close. Eventually the Commission procured a considerable number of signatures to the Covenant in Aberdeen and the neighbourhood. In March, 1639, Montrose was back in Aberdeen at the head of an armed force, and having left Lord

Kinghorn in command, he set forward to confer with Huntly, managing matters so persuasively that the great northern lord, though he held a commission as the king's lieutenant-general, was induced to sign a modified version of the covenant, and agreed not to restrain any of his vassals who might be willing to sign. Notwithstanding this, Huntly was in a little time requested to meet the Covenanters at Aberdeen, and he and his two sons were taken south as prisoners. After this Huntly distrusted Montrose, and when the latter turned royalist, Huntly held aloof from him, and permitted his vassals and retainers to give only a wavering and intermittent support. Various excursions and skirmishes followed, leading up to the battle of Bridge of Dee on the 18th and 19th June, 1639. On the second day Montrose carried the bridge without much loss of life, and entered the city, and next day news came of the pacification of Berwick, under which the king agreed to refer Church and State affairs to the settlement of a free Assembly and Parliament. Aberdeen had accepted the Covenant and Montrose had become a royalist when he next entered the city in 1644, after having routed the Covenanters between the Craibstone and the Justice Mills. This time Montrose discarded clemency, and there was great slaughter, especially in the pursuit. In 1650, Charles II., after landing in Scotland, lodged some days in a merchant's house in Aberdeen facing the Tolbooth, on which one of Montrose's hands was fixed—a ghastly spectacle. In the same year, 1650, Alexander Jaffray, Provost of Aberdeen, a member of the Scots Parliament, was one of 10,000 Scots prisoners taken after Cromwell's victory at Dunbar. A trooper's sword had been uplifted to despatch him, but on some one calling out that he was a wealthy man for whom a large ransom might be expected, the trooper desisted, preferring

ransom to butchery. Jaffray was the first of Scots quakers, and by-and-by was much reconciled to Cromwell and became a member of Barebone's Parliament. In 1651 Monk led a Cromwellian garrison to Aberdeen. The Aberdonians welcomed the Restoration and disliked the Revolution, but were averse to the Earl of Mar's rising, when the Earl Marischal proclaimed James VIII. at the Cross. The rising for Prince Charlie may have had sympathisers, but for the most part the citizens seem to have wished to keep out of the scrape. Sir John Cope's forces encamped on the ground now covered by Union Terrace, and embarked from Aberdeen to be disastrously beaten at Prestonpans, from which Sir John was the first to make off, bearing tidings of his own defeat. Lord Lewis Gordon occupied the city some days in the Jacobite interest, and afterwards the Duke of Cumberland lived six weeks in Guestrow, as already related. Gordon's Hospital was garrisoned for a time, and the conduct of the local militia was highly praised, especially the part they took in the celebrations of the Duke of Cumberland's birthday, when, as it is recorded, they "fired better than the regulars".

Burns (who narrowly escaped being an Aberdonian himself, his father being a Kincardineshire man) visited Aberdeen in 1787, and pronounced it a "lazy town," a description for which there was little warrant, for the city had already begun to bestir itself and was entering on a long course of expansion and improvement. About the end of the eighteenth century George Street was formed, running through the reclaimed ground formerly occupied by the loch, and early in the nineteenth century two grand new outlets from the old congested town were formed, namely, Union Street, crossing the Denburn by Telford's bridge, and King Street leading northward, the works

greatly exceeding the estimates and temporarily involving the Town Council in bankruptcy. Telford extended the northern pier and formed the first southern breakwater in 1810-16; the Victoria Dock was formed in 1840-48; and under an Act passed in 1868, the Dee was diverted, a new south breakwater constructed, and the north pier further extended. Between 1810 and 1872 harbour improvements cost over a million and a half. Gas lighting began in 1824, and the works near the Links of the second gas company, dating from 1840, were acquired by the corporation in 1871 for £120,000. A beginning has now been made with electric lighting. In 1766 a cistern was formed at the head of Broad Street, fed by the Fountain-hall and other streams, capable of supplying 187,000 gallons of water daily, and in 1830 a pumping station was established near Bridge of Dee, with two engines capable of raising a million gallons daily to a granite reservoir at the west end of Union Street. This supply proved inadequate in turn, and in 1866 works (costing ultimately over £160,000) for supplying the city with water taken from the Dee above Banchory were opened by the Queen. Aberdeen being built on heights has good natural draining facilities, which for a long time were not turned to adequate account, but within the last thirty or forty years great improvements have been made. The mean temperature is about forty-six degrees, the average annual rainfall from thirty-one to thirty-two inches, and the death-rate is not so high as the average of the other large towns in Scotland. The Victoria Park (1872) and the Duthie Park (1883) are important from a sanitary as well as from an æsthetic point of view, and the Stewart Park would become important if close-built streets should arise in its vicinity. Tramways for street cars were introduced in 1873, and in the summer of 1898 were taken over by the Municipality from the Tramway Company.

Aberdeen has many and varied industries, including the largest comb works and granite polishing works in the kingdom, several large paper mills in the city or its neighbourhood, and an appreciable amount of printing. There are also chemical works, distilleries, breweries, woollen, linen and cotton mills, engineering works and shipbuilding, although, since iron ships came into use, Aberdeen, owing to its distance from the source of coal and iron, is at a disadvantage compared with the times when her wooden clippers ranked high among the merchantmen of the country. There is a considerable amount of shipping communication with other ports in the United Kingdom, and some foreign trade as well, the exports including textile fabrics, combs, granite, paper, grain, preserved provisions (for which Aberdeen has long been noted) and fish. For centuries the fishing industry has been an important one, and Aberdeen, with its fleets of fishing boats and steam trawlers, is now the great centre of the fish trade in Scotland. The population of Aberdeen in the beginning of the nineteenth century was about 27,000, and before its close the number exceeds 140,000. This remarkable development is no doubt largely due to the general progress of the century, but also in great part to the enterprise and caution of the inhabitants. Before 1832, Aberdeen united with Arbroath, Brechin, Bervie and Montrose to return a member to Parliament, from 1832 to 1885 by itself it returned one member, and since 1885 it returns two.

ABERGELDIE is an old castle, with some modern additions, on the south bank of the Dee, forty-eight miles from Aberdeen, six and a half from Ballater, and about two miles below Balmoral, noted not for its size or architectural features, but rather for its antiquity and the associations old and new that have gathered round it.



Standing on a bank of moderate height within a few yards of the river, a square tower makes up the main part of the old building, which has very small windows (though one or two larger have recently been added), some diminutive turrets, and a clock tower entangled more or less among high old chimneys. In days when watches and clocks were less common than now, the country people depended greatly on the Abergeldie clock. The main entrance fronts the south and has a wooden portico, with a horseshoe nailed to the door. There is a fine old ash tree near the entrance, and a sturdy larch, with bent stem and bushy downcast branches, near the curved road crossing the lawn in front, and a garden close under the eastern wall. The curved road just mentioned is the main approach from the east, and the approach from the west leaves the south Deeside road about a mile away, and inclines downward past the dwindled hamlet of Clachinturn through a wood of firs and larches, some of which are shaggy with lichens, while heather, blaeberreries and juniper grow under their shade, and ant-hills show themselves at intervals. The small burn of Geldie, from which the place has its name, flows through the grounds to enter the Dee about 200 yards to the west, the lower part of its channel being paved. To the south is the fir-clad hill of Craignaban (1736 feet), not directly facing the Dee or the castle, but approaching much nearer the river at its eastern, steeper part than towards the west, where the Geldie burn comes down through parks and fields, with birches and other hardwood trees about its banks and on the braes and hillocks. Hill and wood and river all lend some charm to the scene on which the robust old castle for hundreds of years has looked forth.

For fully four centuries the Abergeldie lands have been held by Gordons, ancestors of the present owner.

Before the Gordons for a short time Mowats had possession, who were at feud with the Camerons of Brux, and extinguished the male line of that family, leaving an only daughter as heiress. She naturally thirsted for retribution, and gave her wooers to understand that her favour would light on the man who slew the laird of Abergeldie, a feat soon afterwards accomplished by a son of Lord Forbes, who won his bride by putting an end to the last of the Abergeldie Mowats. The lands were afterwards granted, as is said, by James III. to Alexander Gordon, a kinsman of the Earl of Huntly; and we can understand why the king might be willing to show favour in that quarter, for he looked to the North and the Gordons for support against his rebellious southern nobles and his own undutiful son. The laird of Abergeldie and his son fought at Glenlivet in 1594, and helped the Earl of Huntly to gain a rebellious victory, Abergeldie's son being among the slain. The castle and lands of Knock were subsequently added to the Abergeldie possessions, when the Gordons of Knock came to an end through their feud with the Strathgirnock Forbeses. Gordon of Abergeldie took some part in the civil war towards the end of the reign of Charles I. He was present at "the trot of Turriff," where the first blood was shed, and his lands in common with other parts lower down Deeside were plundered by Argyle's men in 1644. In 1683 a Perthshire man named Duncan Menzies, who had finished his course in philosophy in King's College, Aberdeen, was employed as tutor in the Abergeldie family, from which he went to be schoolmaster at Moulin, and had for one of his scholars Adam Ferguson, afterwards minister of Crathie (1700-14). After the Revolution Abergeldie was garrisoned by Williamites and besieged by Jacobites; but though much is heard of the place, little is heard of the owner, who seems to

have kept discreetly out of the way. The clansmen of the Braes of Mar pressed hard on the garrison, and Mackay (the general so signally defeated at Killiecrankie) was obliged to turn aside next summer to raise the siege, and was so exasperated by the opposition he encountered that he burned twelve miles of the country, at least twelve or fourteen hundred houses, in the latter half of August, 1690. Men "of credit and renown" are still found among the Abergeldie Gordons, the predecessor of the present laird having been an admiral.

Since 1848 Abergeldie has been held on lease by the Royal Family, who also purchased Birkhall. The Duchess of Kent in her later years spent some weeks of the autumn at Abergeldie; the Prince of Wales made it his residence in the shooting season for a number of years; the Ex-Empress of the French and other distinguished visitors have been among its inmates; and the Duke of York spent some time at Abergeldie Mains in the spring of 1898 recreating himself with salmon fishing. A light iron suspension foot-bridge was thrown across the Dee beside the castle about ten years ago. Previously the river was crossed by a contrivance locally known as "the cradle"—a cage suspended from pulley-like wheels which ran on two stout ropes attached to wooden pillars on the north and south banks. The weight of the cage and passengers carried them a little beyond the middle of the river, after which the passenger completed the journey by pulling on the ropes with his hands. "The cradle" was in operation for a very long time, and seventy or eighty years ago a bride and bridegroom were drowned by the breaking of the rope, which some thought had been cut or tampered with. Abergeldie was formerly famed for its birks, which gave rise to song and wine; for wine has been made from birks and highly praised as a beverage, though the making of it is now one of the lost arts.

Burns transformed the old and not very stirring song about "The Birks o' Abergeldie" and put new life into it, but the revised version celebrates "The Birks o' Aberfeldy"—or rather the birks of the bard's imagination, for Aberfeldy had none.

ABOYNE. Aboyne village (about 430 feet above sea-level) is pleasantly situated on a plain of some extent, which has formerly been a heathery moor but is now partly under cultivation, the distance from Aberdeen being about thirty-one miles by road and thirty-two and a half by rail. It has the river Dee in front, that is, to the south, and to the north the old castle of Aboyne, with its wooded grounds traversed by the Tarland burn, which pursues a very slanting course to enter the Dee some distance farther down. If first impressions of a place were to be taken from the railway station, which is the traveller's first point of contact, Aboyne would come off very favourably, handsome new granite buildings having been erected and the platforms extended and improved, so that the station is now the finest on Deeside, Aberdeen alone excepted. A little to the westward of the station the railway traverses the only tunnel, and that a short one, which exists on the Deeside line. A number of houses and buildings, including a hotel of some size, the Huntly Arms, are clustered about the neighbourhood of the station, and the rest are mostly disposed along the roadways—eastward and westward along the Deeside road, and south-westward along the road to the bridge over the Dee giving access to Birse and Glentanner. By the side of this latter road stands the Free Church, and to the west across the green the Parish Church and churchyard, as well as the Public School, may be seen nestling in the edge of a wood. The old church of Aboyne stood near the eastern shore of the loch, at the foot of the hill of Mortlach, and the walls

of the old manse may still be seen near the same spot. The village green is a smooth, flat space of no very regular shape—a sort of compromise between a square and a triangle—where markets and open-air meetings are held as well as games and sports. For golf it is none too large, but Aboyne is ahead of most Deeside villages in providing an arena for that bracing and enjoyable sport.

The bridge over the Dee, replacing an earlier one built in 1828 and carried away by the flood of next year, bears an inscription announcing that it was built in 1830 by George, Earl of Aboyne, though it has since undergone extensive repairs. The main part of the structure is an iron suspension span of about 230 feet, but on the south side there are two stone arches with an intervening iron span, to afford additional passage to the river when in flood. Across the bridge, there is a line of houses on the braeside facing the river, the beginning of a southern suburb. Viewed from this point the country shows fields and flat spaces next the river, gradually swelling up to heathery or woody hills, which seem to enclose the landscape on all sides. To the north-west the distant Morven (2862 feet) rears its huge bulk, spotted with snow till the summer is well begun; while to the north-east is the hill of Mortlach (1248) feet, with its rounded summit rendered more conspicuous by a granite monument sixty feet high, erected by the Aboyne tenantry in memory of the tenth Marquis of Huntly who died in 1863. On the top of this hill there are some remains of an old encampment, the origin and purpose of which cannot now be made out. There are other antiquarian remains in the neighbourhood—the dim relics of “old forgotten far-off things, and battles long ago”.

The scenery in the vicinity of Aboyne, though not magnificent, possesses considerable variety, the brown hue of the heather and the dark green sylvan shade being

relieved at intervals by pleasant cornfields. The air is fresh and inviting, and works have recently been formed for supplying the village with water, though some questions remain to be adjusted between the local authority and Sir William Brooks, the proprietor. Within the last year or two a rural fever hospital, to serve for the upper parts of Deeside, has been erected on a rising ground beyond the Tarland burn, some distance to the south-east of the village. By withdrawing from the general community patients suffering from fevers, and placing them in the most favourable accommodation, with efficient nursing and medical attendance, this institution may be expected still further to promote the health of an already healthy district. Yet, strange to say, the County Council authorities, who carried out this improvement, had to encounter a quite unnecessary agitation on the subject.

Aboyne, after being cut off from the ancient Earldom of Mar, was held for some generations by an imported family of Bissets, who were at feud with the Earl of Athole. In 1242 Athole was burned in his house at Haddington, and though Bisset was at the time entertaining Queen Joanna at Aboyne, he was generally believed to have instigated the crime. The Bissets were loudly condemned by public opinion, and at length, probably with some reluctance, Alexander II. pronounced the estates of Walter and William Bisset forfeited, and required them to repair to Palestine for the rest of their lives to pray for the soul of the murdered earl. Instead of this, Walter Bisset repaired to the English Court and tried to stir up the English king against Scotland. Notwithstanding the sentence pronounced against them, Bissets seem to have held Aboyne for some time longer, and Alexander III. (1249-86) is said to have paid it occasional visits ; while during the troubles following on his death,

Edward of England placed a garrison in the castle, and with a view to produce as much confusion as possible, ordered all the charters and documents that could be found in the place to be carried off.

In 1328 the thanage of Aboyne is mentioned as being held by Sir Alexander Fraser, husband of the Bruce's sister, and twenty years later the rents of the thanage, amounting to £100, were drawn by the queen. From Frasers Aboyne passed to Keiths, and Elizabeth Keith (not the immediate heiress) married Sir Adam Gordon, while their daughter, Elizabeth Gordon, married Sir Alexander Seton, father of Alexander, first Earl of Huntly—the earl and his descendants being usually styled Gordon rather than Seton. The Gordons were a border family who from the twelfth century possessed Huntly in Berwickshire, a place associated with Thomas the Rhymer, an old ballad representing him as being there visited by the queen of fairyland:—

True Thomas lay on Huntly bank,  
 A ferlie he spied wi' his e'e,  
 And there he saw a lady bright  
 Coming riding down by the Eildon tree.

Robert the Bruce granted the lordship of Strathbogie to Sir Adam Gordon, but the Gordons do not seem to have obtained actual possession till 1376, when Robert II. made a new grant to Sir John Gordon. The first Earl of Huntly, himself a grandson of Lady Elizabeth Keith, about 1408 married Lady Jane Keith, and with her obtained the lands of Cluny, Tullich, Aboyne, Glentanner and Glenmuick. Lady Jane died childless, but Huntly stuck to the lands, and by a second marriage with Elizabeth Crichton the family was continued. The rapacious and unruly Gordons for many generations were the dominant family in the north-east of Scotland, where they had great power and possessions.

One Earl of Huntly rebelled in the time of Mary, and was defeated at Corrichie on the Hill of Fare in 1562. Another earl, who had been in correspondence with the Spaniards at the time of the Armada (1588), rebelled against James VI., gained a victory at Glenlivet in 1594, and greatly incensed the king by describing as a "gowk's storm" (a cuckoo's storm) an expedition which the king was preparing to lead in person to the north. Though he had gained a battle, Huntly was soon obliged to seek refuge in flight, and in 1595 escaped abroad; but James had almost unbounded clemency for him, and his estates were not forfeited, though the king meanwhile arranged to collect the revenues. Becoming desirous to return and resume possession, Huntly, though a zealous Catholic, professed himself ready to be reconciled to the Kirk, and to receive a Presbyterian pastor into his house for his better instruction. The ceremony of reconciliation to the Kirk and restitution of his estates took place in the old church at Aberdeen in June, 1597, Huntly having previously professed his determination to adhere to the Presbyterian Church, and his deep penitence for the murder of the Earl of Moray, one of his worst deeds, in which the king himself was probably an accessory. He was created Marquis of Huntly in 1599, and lived to an advanced age, taking little part in public affairs for the future, and devoting himself to the improvement of his estates, planting and building on a large scale, and fixing his Deeside residence at Candachyle, now called Dee Castle, where his establishment included a Catholic chapel, for his Presbyterianism had been but a temporary and external profession.

The second Marquis, who succeeded in 1636, opposed the Covenant, though considering the resources at his command, he effected little for the royalist cause. He was unfairly treated and taken south as a prisoner in 1639 by Montrose, at that time a Covenanter. Afterwards



he looked with distrust and aversion on Montrose, and when the latter, having changed sides, was fighting gallantly for the king, Huntly would not act cordially with him nor allow his vassals to give a firm and steady support. When Huntly tried warfare on his own account, he made but a poor figure, though his execution in 1649 was discreditable to the party in power. In 1641 Canda-chyle, while occupied by Major Garden and a party of soldiers stationed there to restrain marauding and violence, was burned down. Though long before the days of Compensation Acts, Huntly recovered damages from the major; and after the Civil War the house was re-erected, but on a smaller scale. In the early summer of 1644 eight hundred Argylemen, usually called "the Cleansers," were quartered on the lands of Birse, Cromar, Glentanner, Glenmuick, Abergeldie and Aboyne; and, for the times, they seem to have "fared sumptuously every day," leaving at their departure only a slender remnant of provisions to the luckless inhabitants. Next winter Montrose dealt more unmercifully with Argyle's country, plundering and burning far and wide.

After the Restoration, Charles, fourth son of the second Marquis of Huntly, was created Earl of Aboyne, two previous Aboyne peerages having ended unfortunately—Lord George Gordon, created Viscount Melgum and Aboyne in 1627, having been burned to death three years later; and Lord James Gordon (the opponent of Montrose at Bridge of Dee in 1639), succeeding to a peerage created in 1632 and dying broken-hearted in Paris in 1649. The earldom of Aboyne created in 1660, to which the lands and lordship of Aboyne were attached, has continued down to the present day, although since the death of the last Duke of Gordon, in 1836, the earldom has been overshadowed by the title of Marquis of Huntly to which the Aboyne family then succeeded.

The first Earl rebuilt Aboyne Castle in 1671, and the village of Aboyne, anciently known as Bunty or Bounty, seems to have taken a fresh start under his auspices, and out of compliment to him is sometimes called Charlestown. The castle, though considerably extended since, still bears the stamp impressed on it by the first earl, and is a robust-looking old pile, with a square tower at one end, surmounted by a flagpole overtopping the rest of the building. The main doorway, with a flight of steps leading up to it, is near the middle, and perched on corners at the summit of the walls are several specimens of the dwarf turrets which seem to have been in fashion on Deeside two or three hundred years ago, other examples occurring at Crathes and Abergeldie and the ruins of the castle of Knock. Within the castle grounds there is an ancient sculptured stone which long stood in the neighbourhood of Loch Kinnord, and which, it has been conjectured, may have been first set up at the time when Christianity was being taught to the still Pictish inhabitants. The eastern part of the grounds is ornamented by an artificial sheet of water, touching the railway at one side, and presenting a sinuous outline, shaded in some parts with trees. This loch serves for boating, skating or curling, according to the season. Besides castle-building the first earl tried verse-making, in which he showed some fluency without much inspiration. In 1689-90 General Mackay, in his "hurrying to and fro," which he managed in greater safety after the death of Dundee, passed and repassed Aboyne occasionally and maintained a garrison there for some time. A quarter of a century later the third earl took part in Mar's insurrection, and in 1745 his son, the next earl, then a minor, was inclined to join Prince Charlie, but his friends, thinking discretion the better part of valour, persuaded him to go to Paris to finish his education. Within the

last fifteen or eighteen years the Aboyne lands have been mostly alienated, and the old saying, long familiar as a household word—"The Gordons hae the guidin' o't"—has lost its force.

Thomas Innes, sometimes called Father Innes, of the Scots College, Paris, who was born at Drumgask in 1662 and died at Paris in 1744, though not a man of broad acres or feudal titles, is probably the greatest native of Aboyne. He spent most of his life abroad, but his interest and his work centred in the old country. All things considered, his researches into early Scottish history, which had been obscured by Boece and Buchanan, show a wonderful degree of penetration and impartiality.

ALLANQUHOICH, a farm just below the Linn of Quoich, on the eastern bank of Quoich burn, the usual residence of the factor on the Fife estates in Braemar, and, before the advent of the Duffs, forming (with Glenquhoich) a separate estate. *See* QUHOICH.

ALLNAGUIBHSAICH, a lodge (sometimes called the Hut) nine miles from Balmoral, in the upper part of Glenmuick. It is situated to the south-east of Conachraig and north-east of Lochnagar, the path to the summit of the latter lying in a hollow between the two; is sheltered by a fir wood, and looks out on a bare glen. For a very long time the Queen has been used to making occasional visits to this remote lodge, in the neighbourhood of which is the grand and lonely scenery of Loch Muick and Lochnagar; and here in September, 1852, she first heard of the death of the Duke of Wellington.

ALTRIES is a small estate in Maryculter, Altries House being near the south Deeside road, about nine miles from Aberdeen.

ANGLING. *See* SHOOTINGS and FISHINGS.

ARDO is an estate in Banchory-Devenick, with an elegant new granite mansion erected on a prominent rising ground overlooking the river, and nearly facing Cults, which is about a mile to the northward across the Dee. The lands were purchased in 1747 by Mr. John Fordyce of Huntly, and were afterwards held by his daughter, who died in 1834, leaving the estate to Andrew Watson, her law-agent, a young man of twenty-three, though he was no kinsman. He did not long survive his good fortune, but died in 1837; and soon afterwards the estate was purchased by Mr. Alexander Ogston, Aberdeen, a prosperous soap manufacturer. His son still holds the property, and has added to it the neighbouring estate of Heathcot intervening between Ardo and Blairs.

AUCHALLATER, a farm two miles southward from the village of Braemar, where Glenclunie and Glencallater meet. It contains most of the land now under tillage in Glenclunie (not a very great amount) and several conjoined sheep grazings, so that as a sheep-grazing farm it is now one of the largest in the county. A short distance above it the Callater burn passes through a rocky defile, from which rather flaggy slates have formerly been quarried. Till a comparatively recent time Auchallater was a separate property.

AUCHENDRYNE is the part of the village of Braemar on the west bank of the Clunie, as Castleton is the part on the east, though the latter name is sometimes applied to the whole village. Auchendryne was formerly a separate property owned by a family of Farquharsons, who continued down to the end of the eighteenth century. *See* BRAEMAR.

AUCHENHOVE, a Lumphanan estate, a little to the north of Dess Station, owned by Duguids for over 300 years,

but forfeited and the mansion burned down on account of the last Duguid laird taking an active part in the rising of 1745-46. Most of the lands of Auchenhove were purchased by Farquharson of Finzean, but there is still a small estate, owned by Mr. Leslie, retaining the old name.

AUCHLOSSAN was formerly a loch in Aboyne and Lumphanan parishes, a little to the north of Dess Station, but within the last forty years has been converted into a farm. About the close of the seventeenth century the outlet was deepened and the area of the loch reduced, though it still covered 250 acres, about a fourth of which was an aquatic marsh. The loch abounded with pike and flocks of wild ducks and other waterfowl, but the stagnant shallow water and decaying vegetation were unsightly and insalubrious. In 1860 Mr. James W. Barclay, afterwards M.P. for Forfarshire, obtained a long lease of the place from the three proprietors, the Marquis of Huntly, and the lairds of Finzean and Auchenhove, with a view to reclaiming the loch. This was successfully accomplished at a cost of over £6000, partly by diverting the little burns which fed the loch, and partly by forming a deep cutting and a tunnel of some length at the outlet to the burn which passes through the hollow to the east of Dess Station. Mr. Barclay's enterprise was crowned with deserved success, the virgin soil of the bottom of the loch proving very fertile and yielding extraordinary crops both of straw and grain. The straw of 1868 fetched over £500, and the oats weighed from forty to forty-four pounds a bushel.

A son of Rose of Kilravock obtained the lands of Auchlossan in 1363, and the Roses continued in possession till Captain Francis Rose fell in the slaughter of Malplaquet, one of Marlborough's dear-bought victories, in 1709, after which the estate was sold.

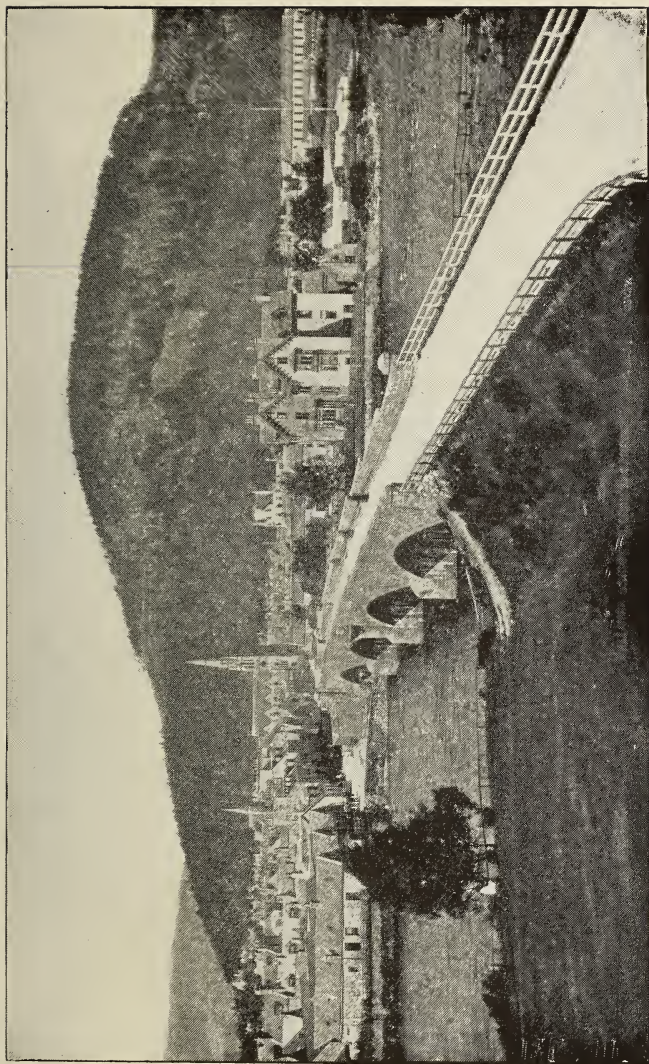
AUCLUNIES is a small estate toward the eastern border of Maryculter, about three-quarters of a mile south of Heathcot and Shannaburn, which formerly formed part of the property. For sixty or seventy years Auchlunies has been held by a family of Duguids.

AULD-DINNIE (ALLTDINNIE) Burn is a small hill-stream, running almost directly northward, and emerging from between the hills of Birsemore and Craigendinnie, where it forms the boundary between Glentanner and Birse, to enter the Dee a little above Aboyne Bridge. There is a path up the burn leading south to the Forest of Birse.

BADDOCH Burn rises from the Braemar hills, west of Cairnwell, near the Perthshire border, and also drains the remote Loch Bhrothachan, 2303 feet above sea-level. A little below Baddoch farm (the uppermost in Glenclunie) it joins the Allt Bhruididh to form the Clunie.

BALFOUR, a small estate to the south of the church of Birse, held for some time by Farquharsons sprung from those of Finzean, afterwards by the Earl of Aboyne, and since 1840 by a family of Cochranes belonging to the legal profession in Aberdeen, the first of whom built an elegant house in 1845. Balfour was the birthplace of John Skinner, whose Tullochgorum and other lays from the Doric lyre still keep his memory green. There are other places bearing the name of Balfour, including an upper and nether Balfour in Durriss.

BALLATER (670 feet above sea-level), with a population of over 1000, is a police burgh, and may be looked upon as a small town rather than a village, though its surroundings give it a country climate, perhaps we should say a Highland climate. It is conveniently situated on a large moor, now mostly reclaimed and brought under cultivation, with the river sweeping round it on the south, while



*Wilson, Aberdeenshire.*

**BALLATER.**





in the rear of the town the woody hill of Craigendarroch rises in bold relief from the plain, and at its south-west end runs forward so as to overhang the river, almost shutting out the view of the country beyond; while on the north it is separated from the next hill by the noted Pass of Ballater. To the south, across the Dee, are the opening of Glenmuick, with the mansion house of the same name rising from bowers of birch, and farther down the steep Pannanich hills approach close to the river at Ballater Bridge and stretch away to the eastward. On the north side there is more room to the eastward between the river and the hills, a tract of cultivated ground fringed with birches extending along by the ancient hamlet of Tullich, two miles away, and for a mile or two beyond it.

The turnpike from Aberdeen enters the town at the Invercauld Arms Hotel, a large and well-equipped establishment, near which is the bridge giving access to Glenmuick and places on the south side of the Dee. The railway station, the terminus of the Deeside railway—more's the pity that it should be!—is at the north side, in the edge of a fir wood, which stretches away to the hill slopes of Craigendarroch, and the park within which the white-walled old-fashioned mansion of Monaltrie House presents itself to the view. The Deeside road is continued from the south-east point of the town through the square, past the station, and onward through the wood to the west, climbing high up the side of Craigendarroch which overhangs the river, and forming a long steep incline of nearly a mile, which makes a stiff pull for horses and tries the mettle of cyclists. Ballater began by being “compactly built together” round the square in which the Parish Church stands, but it has ended by throwing out a long tail consisting of detached cottages and villas, walled or fenced within their own grounds, extending along both sides of the Braemar road, but ascending

higher up Craigendarroch on the north side of the road than on the other. Numbers of the sites are on the steep hillside, and in many cases the wood which covered the ground before buildings were commenced has been only partially cleared, leaving houses and gardens peeping through forests of fir or thickets of oak. The Parish Church, a good-sized building, erected about twenty-five years ago to replace a less elegant and commodious structure dating from 1798, stands on the west side of the road within the square ; and on the other side, nearly opposite, is a small fountain (without water), rendered less conspicuous by the fence which encloses it, presented to the burgh by a former provost. Another more ornamental fountain was inaugurated in September, 1898, by the side of the Braemar road, near the Free Church, to commemorate the completion of the fiftieth year since the Queen acquired a residence on Deeside. Facing the station are the public halls, the earlier of which, dating from 1874, accommodates the post office, and possesses a library and reading and recreation rooms, while the other, built within the last few years, is mostly used for public meetings. The donor, Mr. Gordon, a native of the district who had gone south and prospered by brewing, erected the earlier hall as a memorial of the late Prince Consort, after whom it has been named the "Albert Memorial Hall". Immediately to the west of the station there is a bridge carrying the road over the railway, and from the upper end of the bridge the road to Monaltrie House leads off through the fir wood, to emerge afterwards into the open park by which the house is surrounded. In the edge of the wood near the Monaltrie road is the newly-built Episcopal Church, an iron structure skilfully painted. A little farther along on the other side of the road is the Free Church, erected about twenty-five years ago in succession to a smaller building which stood

at an inconvenient distance, on the bank of the road well up Craigendarroch, just outside the boundary of the Invercauld property, on which Free Churches were not then tolerated. Almost opposite the present Free Church, but some distance nearer the river, the military barracks will be noticed, consisting of several separate buildings, with a large barrack-yard within enclosing walls and railings. The barracks were built about 1867-68 to accommodate the company of soldiers usually stationed at Ballater in the summer and autumn months as a guard of honour to Her Majesty. Between the barracks, the projection of Craigendarroch overhanging the Dee, and the southward bend of that river, there is a considerable area of ground mostly under cultivation, but the strip next the river is used as a golf course, and is much frequented in summer by the devotees of that popular game.

Ballater, like Banchory, has grown up within the present century. The chalybeate mineral wells of Pannanich, two miles away, attracted visitors to the district in the last decades of the eighteenth century, while Ballater was still a heathery moor without houses, and accommodation must have been sought in the small village of Tullich or in the scattered hamlets and houses of the vicinity. Ever since that time Pannanich has possessed some "credit and renown" for the healing virtues of its waters. In 1798 a new church was built where the site of the present church is, the locality being more central and convenient for the wide area of the parish than the former site beside the churchyard, near the mouth of the Muick, especially in view of the existence of a bridge over the Dee close to the new church. The bridge was indeed swept away by a flood in 1799, and a new one erected eight or ten years later, by which time the nucleus of a village seems to have been established at Ballater. It

grew steadily, but not very rapidly, till in 1841 the population reached 271, and in 1861, 362. The extension of the railway to Ballater in 1866 gave a great impetus to the growth of the village, the population reaching 691 in 1871, while in 1891 it reached 983, and may now be reckoned at appreciably over a 1000. Most of the houses are owned by residenters and let in summer to visitors, but some villas are owned by families having other residences but spending the milder part of the year in Ballater. There has been a good deal of additional building within the last ten years, but the accommodation has not outgrown the demand, and in summer and autumn the town is well filled. The houses, built of the grey or red granite abounding in the vicinity, are supplied with water from the Gairn about two miles away (the pipes being led along the unused line of railway formed to the foot of Gairn); the streets are well kept, and there is a general appearance of freshness and good order within the town. Ballater has healthy and bracing air, and a fine situation on the skirts of the Highlands, environed by the wild beauty of woods and hills; and, as "coming events cast their shadows before," so Ballater gives a kind of foretaste of the wilder and more impressive scenery beyond. Yet it is within an hour and a quarter's passage by rail from Aberdeen, and through Aberdeen within easy reach of all parts of the kingdom.

Ballater may be selected as suitable headquarters from which to make one's way to a number of outlying and thinly-populated but not uninteresting localities, and through it lies the ordinary route to the upper part of Deeside, including Crathie and Braemar, with the royal residence of Balmoral, and the mansions of Abergeldie Castle, Invercauld, Mar Castle, and Mar Lodge. During a great part of the year, it is the only route, for though there is a road over the Cairnwell from Perthshire to Braemar,

with daily coaches and some traffic for three or four months in summer, it crosses the Grampians at a height of 2200 feet, and is blocked with snow for nearly half the year. There being no railway, the road traffic between Ballater and Braemar is great, especially in July, August and September, when there are three four-in-hand coaches plying regularly both ways in connection with the trains, and numerous carriages and vehicles continually coming and going, conveying their freight of holiday passengers along the banks of the silver Dee. Nimble cyclists skim rapidly along, and some black and noisy traction engines, dragging their clumsy train behind, add variety but not romance to the scene. There is good salmon fishing on the Dee both above and below Ballater, and anglers are attracted to the district from March and April onwards, long before the ordinary tourist season commences; while for a couple of months after the 12th August, in the mansion houses and shooting lodges of Strathdee and its glens, deer-stalking and grouse-shooting constitute "the chief end of man". To those who relish hill-climbing, but neither shoot wild birds nor quadrupeds, Morven (2862 feet) and Lochnagar (3786 feet), both sung by Byron, are the chief attractions; but many smaller, nearer and less noted hills afford ready means of healthful and pleasant exercise. Any reader who does not feel inclined to heroic efforts at first, may well begin with Craigendarroch (1250 feet), from which, to the south, a good view is obtained of the lower part of Glenmuick, with the large modern granite pile of Glenmuick House (Sir Allan Mackenzie), Braichlie Lodge, used by Sir Allan when the larger mansion is let, and the ruins of Knock Castle, formerly the seat of some chieftain of the Gordons, and the lofty crags of Lochnagar, spotted with snow, in the background; to the east, of Ballater itself at the foot of the hill and of the country along by Tullich,

Culbleen and Pannanich ; and to the west, of the lower part of the Gairn, and the woody hills on the south side of the Dee towards the foot of Girnock ; as well as of Morven House on a ridge of Craigenarroch projecting westward at a lower level than the summit, the House being the residence of Mr. Keiller, who has recently become the proprietor of a considerable fragment of the Aboyne estates in this vicinity. The visitor may descend the side of the hill next the Gairn, and walking a quarter of a mile to the west of Morven House, take the road leading through the Pass of Ballater, separating Craigenarroch from the next hill on the north, a narrow gorge with steep rocky sides, partly covered with wood, and a small stream brawling along the bottom. At the eastern part there are tall trees shading the stream, and one emerges from the pass behind the grounds and gardens of Monaltrie House, and more than half a mile below this in the direction of Tullich the Deeside turnpike leading to Ballater is reached. Twenty-five or thirty years ago the pass looked much more rugged and picturesque, a good deal of wood having been cut down since then, and numerous rustic blocks and boulders of stone which were tumbled and strewn "in most admired disorder" about the sides and bottom of the gorge, quarried and removed. Before Ballater had grown to be of much account, the ordinary route for traffic between Crathie and Braemar and the lower parts of Deeside, including Aberdeen, lay through the pass, this route shortening the journey by a mile, and being less steep than the big brae of Craigenarroch.

Tullich burn, descending from Morven, flowing past the hamlet of Tullich, and entering the Dee nearly opposite Pannanich, scarcely forms a glen, but both the Muick, which enters the Dee on the south about a quarter of a mile above Ballater, and the Gairn, which enters on the

north about a mile higher up, flow through long, narrow, hilly glens, with some cultivation and pasture in the lower parts, and grouse moors merging into deer forests in the upper, towards Lochnagar in the case of the southern tributary and Benavon in the case of the northern. The Muick has more wood than the other, and also a fall of some note about five or six miles from Ballater, and the wild and lonely Loch Muick in the upper part. There are three lodges in Glenmuick belonging to the Queen, the upper two of which she has been accustomed to visit occasionally, namely Glassalt, near the upper end of the loch, Altnaguibhsaich, about a mile below the loch, and Birkhall, within a mile and a half of the Dee; while in Glengairn there are three shooting lodges on the Invercauld estate—Gairnshiel, Corndavon (with grouse moors hardly excelled in Aberdeenshire) and Loch Bulig.

There is a hill path by Glenmuick over the Capel Mounth to Clova in Forfarshire, distant about eighteen miles, Kirriemuir being about thirteen miles farther. A hill road passable for vehicles leads through the lower part of Glengairn by Glen Fenzie and onward by the Glas Choile road to Tornahaish in the upper part of Strathdon, about ten miles. By following the Glengairn road to Loch Bulig, fourteen and a half miles, and then taking the path northward by Inchrory, one may reach Tomintoul, about ten miles from Loch Bulig, while from Tomintoul to Grantown in Strathspey is fourteen miles.

The following are among the more notable historic events connected with the neighbourhood: the reported occasional use of the island castle on Loch Kinnord as a royal residence by Malcolm Ceanmore; the battle of Culbleen in 1335 between the adherents of David Bruce under Sir Andrew Moray, and rebel forces under Comyn, Earl of Athole, who sided with the English, resulting in the defeat and death of the latter; a disastrous raid in or

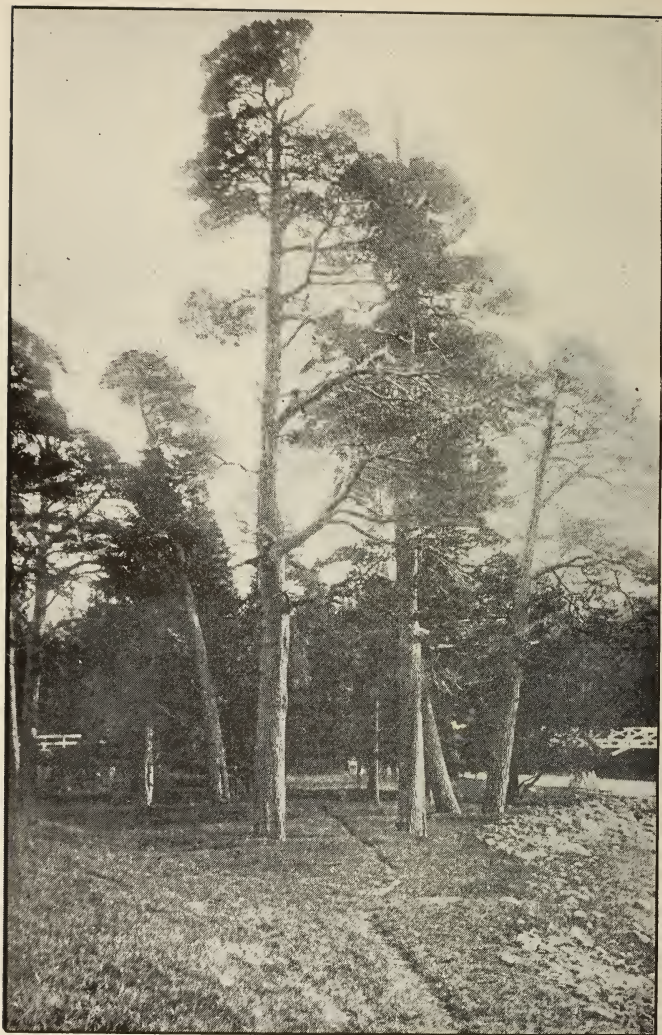
about 1593 by the Clan Chattan upon the Gordons of Glenmuick, in which Gordon of the Knock and the Baron of Braichley were killed; the skirmish at Braichley in 1666 between Farquharson of Inverey (the black colonel) and the Baron of Braichley, in which the latter fell, the memory of the fray being embalmed in a ballad; and the "alarums and excursions" in the country at the time of the Revolution, ending in wholesale devastation and burning by General Hugh Mackay. Dundee, who so signally defeated him at Killiecrankie, is usually represented as cruel and merciless, but it will be hard to find in the authentic records of his life anything to match the cruelty of Mackay in burning twelve miles of a very fertile Highland country, at least twelve or fourteen hundred houses, according to his own description.

Ballaterach farm, on the south side of the Dee, four and a quarter miles below Ballater, is noted for its association with Byron. *See* BALLATERACH. In a literary connection the Rev. Alexander MacGregor, a native of Glengairn, deserves mention for having given to the public a life of Flora Macdonald, whose memory all Highlanders love and honour.

BALLATERACH is a farm on the south side of the Dee, four and a quarter miles to the east of Ballater, chiefly notable on account of Byron having spent some weeks or months in the old farmhouse in the summer of 1796 or 1797, when he was a boy of eight or nine. There is a sort of bend in the line of hills on the south side of the river at Ballaterach, and the burn of Pollagach courses down through a hollow. In front there are some newer buildings near the road, but the present farmhouse is farther back, and the remains of the old farmhouse in which Byron lived, now forming part of the steading, are in the rear of the other buildings and on rather higher







SCOTS FIR IN BALLOCHBUIE.

*Wilson, Aberdeen.*

ground. The old house had ceased to be used as a dwelling, and in 1868 a fire originating in an adjoining part of the farm-steading rapidly spread to it, leaving nothing but the walls, the bed in which Byron slept, which had long been regarded as a most interesting relic, being consumed with the rest. The buildings have since been repaired and roofed anew, but the original house has formed only part of the range of buildings (belonging to the steading) in which it now stands. In the adaptations that have taken place, a doorway, the outlines of which are still discernible, has been built up—probably the identical doorway through which Byron made his exits and his entrances when he had his home at Ballaterach. The hillocks in the neighbourhood and the rippling little burn passing the house must have been familiar to him; in front flowed the Dee, and across it Culbleen and part of Cromar met his view. If he climbed the hill slope behind, he would come in sight of Morven, which is celebrated in his verse and several times mentioned in his prose. As to the question whether Mary Robertson of Ballaterach was Byron's first love and the heroine of one of his early poetical effusions, see the remarks at the close of the article on Glentanner.

BALLOCHBUIE forest forms the eastern portion of Braemar on the south side of the Dee, and meets the former Balmoral forest with which it is now merged. Ballochbuie, doubly a forest in respect of both wood and deer, extends downwards for about three miles from Invercauld Bridge, and includes the old narrow, high-backed bridge said to have been built by Marshal Wade, though its date is probably two or three years later than the death of the Marshal. Southward from the Dee, the hill slopes for a considerable distance are clad with pines, mostly of

natural growth, though some parts have recently been planted. A good deal of the older wood has decayed or is decaying from over-ripeness. When dressed the natural wood has a very fine appearance, except that the blemishes known as "black knots" are apt to occur. Cranberries and blaeberreries grow plentifully under the shade of the wood, and numerous ant-hills are to be seen. Behind and above the wood bare hills rise, culminating in Lochnagar, from the northern aspect of which several streams descend to form the Garrawalt, which has a considerable and much-visited fall over a granite rock shaded with trees, about a mile above its mouth. There is a rather grim and incongruous-looking iron bridge above the fall, from which, looking over the tops of the trees, we have a fine view up the river towards Invercauld. The woody part of Ballochbuie is traversed by a network of drives, one of which communicates by a wooden bridge over the Dee near the mouth of the Garrawalt with the turnpike on the north, while the highest drive sweeps round the hillsides at a considerable elevation, and commands a fine distant prospect of Balmoral four or five miles away. There are two or three mineral wells with reddish water in Ballochbuie—one beside the Garrawalt falls—but they have no special virtue. East of Garrawalt burn there is a considerable plain, with parks which have formerly been under cultivation, and the small Danzig shiel, as it is called, belonging to the Queen, is near the bank of the burn. On a hill towards the eastern border of Ballochbuie a cairn has been erected, with an inscription marking the day in 1878 when the Queen came into possession, and adding, "The bonniest plaid in Scotland". This is an allusion to the tradition that Macgregor of Ballochbuie sold the place to Invercauld for a tartan plaid. If there be any truth in the story, we may be sure the transaction was not a voluntary one





BALMORAL CASTLE.

*Wilson, Aberdeen.*

on the part of Macgregor. It may be doubted whether the man who sold Ballochbuie in 1878 made a much wiser bargain than Macgregor. Probably the price would not last much longer than the plaid.

BALLOGIE is a mansion and estate of Birse parish, the mansion standing on the north bank of the burn of Cattie, a short distance to the west of the little village of Marywell, sheltered by woods on most sides, but with some undulating parks and fields in front. Within comparatively recent times the estate has repeatedly passed from one family to another. In 1852 it was purchased by Mr. James Dyce Nicol, sometime M.P. for Kincardineshire, and his son still holds it. Ballogie House was built by Mr. Dyce Nicol a few years after acquiring the property.

BALMORAL, now so widely known as the residence of the Queen during her visits twice a year to the Scottish Highlands, is situated on the south side of the Dee, fifty miles from Aberdeen, and about equidistant from Ballater and Braemar, being approximately eight and a half miles from either. The castle stands 926 feet above sea-level on a haugh of moderate extent sloping very gently down from the base of the hill of Craig Gowan to the bank of the river. Craig Gowan (1437 feet) is closely shaded with a luxuriant growth of wood, including natural birch and a variety of planted trees; and though there are some strips of lawn near the castle, one of which extends from the buildings towards the river's bank, the greater part of the haugh is covered by a dense plantation of firs, mixed with shaggy old birches of natural growth, and a sprinkling of young ornamental forest trees, especially near the approach to the castle from the iron bridge. The woody environment is further thickened by a close growth of tall spruces on the north bank of the river

between it and the turnpike road from Ballater to Braemar. Though the opposite part of this road is at a higher level than the site of the castle, the latter is so well screened with wood that such partial glimpses as can be got tend rather to heighten than to satisfy curiosity. A little farther west, half-way between the fiftieth and fifty-first milestones, a tolerably good view is obtained, and not a bad prospect, though at a greater distance, from the Mill of Inver. The best view from a readily accessible spot may be had by following for a short distance an old road leading off to the north from the Deeside turnpike a few hundred yards west of the fiftieth milestone, till the spectator reaches a point above the uppermost fields of Newton Farm enabling him to look over the heads of the trees. He will then see some miles of the valley of the Dee, with green fields and pastures in the lower part, interrupted here and there by fringes of wood, the lower hills covered with plantations, very dense and green on the south side, being mostly of Scots fir, the bold outlines of the Lochnagar range limiting the view in the background, and Balmoral in all its beauty nestling among its woods at the foot of Craig Gowan, with the Dee curving round to the north as it flows past, and enlarging the bounds of the natural platform on which the castle stands. The general arrangement of the buildings and grounds, with strips of lawn and masses of wood, can be well made out from this position, but the front cannot be seen, as it looks towards Craig Gowan and the south.

The castle, built of light grey granite quarried in the vicinity, which at a little distance looks almost white, was erected in 1853-55, after designs by William Smith, Aberdeen, and comprises a tower at the east end, thirty-five feet square and eighty feet high, surmounted by a flag-pole turret reaching a height of 100 feet, and a main



wing at the west, with a covered-in carriage entrance, and a considerable frontage both towards the south and west. The connecting buildings are so arranged as to leave something like a small quadrangle between the tower and the main block on the west, the ground within which is laid out in small flower plots enclosed in lines of box, with spaces covered by white sand between, there being a small area at the west side of the castle similarly laid out. Under the walls there are two bronze figures of stags with heads massively horned, and a bronze eagle on a pedestal. The summits of most of the nearer hills bear cairns or pyramids erected to commemorate notable events in the life of the royal family, some of these hills themselves presenting a curiously pyramidal outline. At the western part of the grounds near the river is an Iona cross in memory of the Princess Alice ; on an eminence near the Balmoral Bridge a bronze statue of Her Majesty, and at a little distance, facing it, a statue, also in bronze, of the Prince Consort, represented as if returning to the castle after a day's deerstalking, wearing the Highland garb, and having a rifle in his hand and a hound at his side. Near the same spot there is a granite obelisk erected to his memory by the tenants and servants on the Balmoral estate.

Balmoral was for some time in the hands of the Gordons, and in the roll of Aberdeenshire "Annual-rentaris and Wedsettaris" for 1633 the name of "James Gordoun of Balmorell" occurs repeatedly and rather ominously. He had too many bonds to keep the place long, and so in a little time the Gordons went out and Farquharsons, akin to the Invereys, came in. James Farquharson of Balmoral followed Prince Charlie, and was severely wounded at the battle of Falkirk, 17th January, 1746, so that he was out of the conflict before the final overthrow of the Jacobite cause at Culloden ;

but even after that he seems to have kept an open door for the fugitives. After the battle of Culloden, fought on Wednesday, 16th April, 1746, Captain James Stuart of Lord Ogilvie's regiment, making his way back to Clova, traversed Badenoch, Glenfeshie and Braemar, and reached Balmoral on the Saturday, where he passed the night, and next day crossed the hills into Clova. Farquharson of Inverey latterly came to possess Balmoral as well, and seems to have resided sometimes at the latter place, as we may infer from the record of the death of his chaplain there, given on a tombstone in the churchyard of Braemar in memory of the Catholic clergy, where we read: "The Rev. John Farquharson spent the evening of his days as chaplain to his nephew, Alexander Farquharson, Esq., of Inveray, and died at Balmoral, August 22nd, 1782". After the Invereys had died out or been dispossessed, the estate passed into the hands of the Earl of Fife. In 1837 it was rented from the Earl by Sir Robert Gordon, brother of the Earl of Aberdeen (Premier, 1852-55). Sir Robert held various posts in the diplomatic service, and when not on duty abroad resided a good deal at Balmoral, and greatly enlarged and improved the old house or castle, which was not exactly on the same site as the present one. Though in a very composite style of architecture and not designed or equipped for the accommodation of royalty, it was by no means an ungraceful or tumble-down structure. In 1848 the Prince Consort, on the recommendation of the Earl of Aberdeen, acquired Balmoral for the unexpired period of Sir Robert Gordon's lease, and in that year the Queen first took up her autumn abode under the shade of Lochnagar. It has been Her Majesty's custom for about thirty-six years, since the death of the Prince Consort, to make two annual visits to Balmoral, residing there for nearly a month in the early part of summer and for almost three months

in autumn. If we estimate the annual average stay for thirty-six years at three and a half months, and the average for the earlier period (about fourteen years) at one month, estimates which are probably a little below the mark, we see that the Queen has lived nearly twelve complete years at Balmoral. It may also be noted that 1897 was the fiftieth year of her residence there. Surely there never was monarch with so many auspicious jubilees.

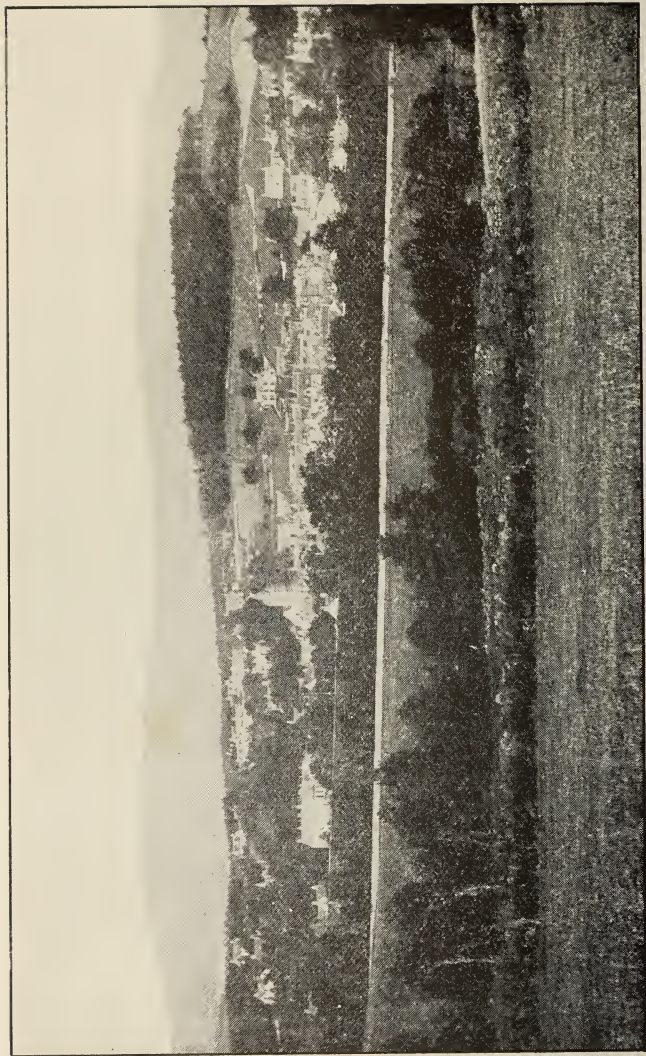
In 1852 the estate was purchased, and next year the present castle, completed in 1855, was begun. The Queen also holds Abergeldie Castle and estate on lease, and possesses the small property of Birkhall in Glenmuick. Ballochbuie forest, lying contiguous to the Balmoral estate on the west, and comprising probably about 8000 acres, after having been held on lease for ten years, was purchased in 1878 from Colonel Farquharson of Invercauld for a sum of nearly £100,000. The royal estate has been greatly extended by this acquisition, especially the portion of it devoted to deer forest, Ballochbuie being wholly of that description. There has been much planting, fencing, building and road-making since the estates came into the Queen's possession, and the privacy of the castle and grounds has been secured by the closing, under an Act of Parliament in 1859, of six miles of the south Deeside road from Invercauld Bridge, through Ballochbuie, to the iron bridge thrown across the Dee in 1856, near the church of Crathie, at the main entrance to Balmoral Castle and grounds.

BALNACRAIG, formerly a small estate owned by a family named Innes, of whom nothing now remains but their burial-place in the old churchyard of Aboyne, has since 1852 been united to the lands of Ballogie. It stands on

the south side of the Dee, within a sharp curve of the river, nearly opposite Kincardine O'Neil. The road from Potarch Bridge to Birse Church passes through a tract of low hills covered with wood, and Balnacraig, now a farmhouse, stands near the crest of one of these sylvan eminences, with a southern exposure, and a good outlook upward along the Dee as well.

BANCHORY-DEVENICK is a Kincardineshire parish between Maryculter and Nigg, extending from the Dee on the north to the coast on the south-east. Till recently there was rather more than a fifth of its area to the north of the Dee in Aberdeenshire, embracing the village of Cults and a considerable tract to the eastward, but owing to changes made by the Boundary Commissioners, Cults is now included in Peterculter. Banchory House is a handsome residence on a rising ground overlooking the south Deeside road, less than four miles from Aberdeen, belonging to Sir David Stewart, formerly lord provost of the city, by whose father the house and estate of Banchory were purchased in 1872 from the trustees of the late Mr. Alexander Thomson, the previous proprietor. In the autumn of 1843, a few months after the formation of the Free Church, Mr. Thomson entertained Dr. Chalmers at Banchory House, and that eloquent divine preached to a great open-air gathering in the grounds. The Prince Consort was also Mr. Thomson's guest at Banchory House when attending the meeting of the British Association at Aberdeen in 1859, and a granite obelisk was erected on Tollo Hill to commemorate the royal visit. Ardo House is another tasteful mansion near the western boundary of the parish, conspicuous from the opposite (northern) side of the river. The parish church is near the road, a little to the west of Banchory House, and the Free Church is about half





*Wilson, Aberdeen.*

**BANCHORY-TERNAN.**

a mile to the south. A suspension bridge for foot passengers crosses the Dee at Cults, and the Bridge of Dee is a little beyond the eastern boundary. The ground slopes or swells upward from the Dee, but the elevations scarcely deserve the name of hills, Blue Hill (465 feet), on the Banchory estate, being the highest.

BANCHORY-TERNAN (Upper Banchory) is an old parish, within which the modern village of Banchory has grown up, and grown to be not only a village but a burgh, with a provost, bailies and councillors and a population of over 1400. The burgh, seventeen or eighteen miles from Aberdeen, stands on the side and crest of a rising ground near the north bank of the Dee, from which it is separated by some fields, intersected by the railway. The arrangement of the houses is tolerably regular and at the same time open, gardens and, in some places, fields intervening between the rows, and within the town and around it there is much wood. The main part of the town is at the west end, about half a mile from the railway station—a station which is neither well built nor well situated, being placed at the eastern outskirts close to the churchyard, as if designed for nearness to the dead rather than the living. At the west end are the Town Hall, a neat and commodious building erected in 1872; the Free Church (1880), one of the best buildings in the town, with a square tower surmounted by a slated spire; the United Presbyterian Church, an older building near the preceding but on a higher site; and the Episcopal Church. In the same locality are the three hotels—the Burnett Arms, Douglas Arms and Banchory Hotel—with which posting and carriage-hiring establishments are connected. They are not so large as the hotels in Ballater and Braemar, but Banchory itself is larger, and as most of

the houses are let in summer for the accommodation of visitors, this tends to restore the balance. High Street, following the course of the Braemar and Aberdeen turnpike, leads from the Town Hall towards the Parish Church, which is on elevated ground at the eastern outskirts above the railway station, the approach to the latter having a steep incline. On the high ground at the east end, but some distance to the rear, a number of houses and buildings have been erected, including the public school ; and there is a similar outgrowth of houses at the west end above the Free Church, the steep roadway leading up to this quarter being appropriately named Mount Street.

From the west end the outlook to the south across the Dee shows hills closely covered with plantations to right and left, while midway between is the valley of the Feugh, with the heathery slope and gently curved skyline of Kerloch (1747 feet) in the rear. Scolty, the hill next the Dee on the right, has a round tower on its summit erected in memory of General Burnett, a local proprietor who died in 1839 ; and the lower and less prominent woody hill on the left forms part of the old estate of Tilquhillie. From the high ground at the east end above the station a longer prospect up the valley of the Feugh is obtained, and Clochnaben (1900 feet) is seen, bearing on its summit a huge, projecting mass of granite, somewhat like the ruins of an old castle or the remains of a stranded iceberg. There is a picturesque fall on the Feugh near its mouth, less than a mile from the village. To the north at some distance is the extended sheltering Hill of Fare, with several summits, the highest of which is 1545 feet. The hill is notable as the scene of the Battle of Corrichie in Queen Mary's time, where the Earl of Moray defeated the rebellious forces of the Earl of Huntly in 1562.



There is a public park some distance to the west, presented to the burgh in 1887 by the late Sir Robert Burnett, which possesses a border of heather and birch, such as probably no other burgh park can equal. The town being built in an open fashion and having a fresh and unsullied atmosphere, and an abundant choice of walks by the Dee, the Feugh, or the hills, does not urgently need a park, and perhaps it would be better to turn the present one into a golfing course, which would attract visitors more or less at all seasons, and give the inhabitants an easy opportunity of indulging in the healthy and popular recreation. It is true that a golf course was opened in the summer of 1897, near the banks of the Feugh in Birse, six or seven miles away, but its distance is a drawback, and as yet the ground has not been very much trimmed.

The old village of Banchory was in the neighbourhood of the churchyard, and the surviving remnant contributes very little to the present burgh, which is modern. Feuing began in the early years of the nineteenth century, the village being at first called Arbeadie from the lands first occupied. The feu duties in the first three contracts were 2s. 6d. per Scots acre in 1805, 3s. in 1807, and 20s. in 1809, by which time twenty Scots acres had been feued for total annual payments amounting to £11 4s. 6d., though since sub-feued at immensely higher rates. In 1842 there were fifty houses in the village, with seventy-two families, and a yearly rental under £1000, while in 1897 there were fully 250 houses, with an assessable rental of over £8000.

Banchory is reckoned the most popular of Deeside resorts, its nearness to Aberdeen contributing to this, as well as its pleasant situation and surroundings. Many Aberdonians spend a good part of the summer within its borders, and of course it has visitors from

other parts as well. The greatest influx occurs on the occasion of an Aberdeen holiday, when as many as 5000 passengers are sometimes set down at the rather dilapidated old station, from which they soon throng the streets of the village and overflow into all the neighbouring parts, cycling or promenading along the roads, picnicking by the Falls of Feugh, rambling through fields and woods, climbing the Hill of Scolty or other heights, and carrying back with them handfuls of heather, rowans, holly, wild flowers, or bits of green branches, as souvenirs of their day's excursion.

The parish of Banchory-Ternan extends eastward beyond Crathes Castle and station almost as far as the Loch of Park, and northward to the Hill of Fare, near the foot of which is Raemoir. The turnpike leading westward, after leaving the town of Banchory, passes through fir woods most of the way till it reaches the Kincardine O'Neil border, inclining towards the Dee near Inchmarlo House, where there is some open ground, and the Castle of Blackhall (in Strachan) is seen across the river, with the Hill of Goauch behind it covered by plantations. Another road, bordered for a long way by dense woods, leads by higher ground near the railway towards Glassel and Torphins. Just beyond Inchmarlo, at Invercanny, are the reservoir and filter beds connected with the Aberdeen waterworks. The small woody hill of Cairnton (427 feet) then intervenes between the road and the river, and is partly tunnelled for the passage of the water supply, which is led in from the Dee about a mile above the reservoir. Farther on, near the confines of the parish, is another woody hill, called Trustach (587 feet), on the east side of which, at a moderate elevation, there are considerable remains of earthworks commanding the hollow (in old times, no doubt a pass) between the Dee and the heights on the

north, through which the road now runs. There is neither history nor tradition to account for the origin of this work, but probably it had been designed and used for some military purpose. South of the Dee an irregularly triangular portion of the parish is wedged in between Strachan on the west and Durriss on the east, including the old house and lands of Tilquilly, and the lower part of the Feugh with its falls. The bridge over the Dee connecting between north and south, opposite the west end of the town, was built by subscription in 1798, the central span of 175 feet being formed of wood, but this having become insecure after the flood of 1829, was replaced by the iron truss span now forming the main part of the structure. Banchory Lodge, the residence of Captain Burnett Ramsay, one of the local proprietors, is on the north bank of the river a little below the bridge, just opposite the mouth of the Feugh. It is said that Banchory was annexed to Kincardineshire (an arbitrary arrangement as regards the portion north of the Dee) about the time of Robert the Bruce, to suit the convenience of Fraser of Cowie (near Stonehaven) allied by marriage to the royal house, Fraser having acquired the lands of Banchory, and wishing to have them under his own jurisdiction as Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire.

The Parish Church of Banchory—formerly placed in the churchyard, where the old bell cast at Rotterdam in 1644 is still preserved, and erected on its present site in 1824—has had some notable ministers. The first minister after the Reformation was James Reid, sprung from the Reids who held Pitfodels before it passed into the hands of the Menzies family, and whose descendants were long associated with Banchory and the neighbourhood. His son, Robert Reid who succeeded, was minister for about forty years from 1602. He was a member of the General

Assembly which met at Aberdeen in 1605 in spite of the petulant and bigoted James VI., and in 1638 he signed the Covenant on the invitation of Montrose, adding, however, some explanatory notes. His son, Dr. Alexander Reid, one of the foremost medical practitioners in London in his time, and physician to Charles I., made a large fortune, and "not in entire forgetfulness" of the distant hamlet by the Dee, mortified a sum of about £330 to establish in Banchory a Grammar School for boys, and £150 for a Sewing School for girls. Further endowments being contributed by Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, the schools came to be known as the Reid-Burnett Schools, and no doubt were of great advantage to the district. Another of the Reids was minister of Strachan in the early part of the eighteenth century, and his son, Thomas Reid, born at the manse of Strachan in 1710, became Professor at King's College, Aberdeen, and afterwards at Glasgow University, and was one of the most notable men of his time in the department of Mental Philosophy.

George Campbell was minister of Banchory for ten years from 1748, and afterwards became Principal of Marischal College, Aberdeen. He was an author of no mean ability and reputation, and his *Philosophy of Rhetoric* (partly composed at Banchory) is still well worth perusal, while his reply to Hume's agnostic views on miracles is considered probably the best answer that has yet been given. The name of Dr. George Hutchison of Banchory was long familiar on Deeside, and in 1887 he was called to the high office of Moderator of the General Assembly. The place has also some recent literary associations, Ballantyne, a minor Scottish poet, who dedicated his effusions to Charles Dickens, having, if we may trust his own story, "won the flower of Banchory," whose worth and beauty he proceeded to celebrate in song, as in duty bound; while in William

Black's latest novel part of the action takes place in Aberdeen, and Banchory is also introduced under the thin disguise of "Sanchory".

BEALACH DEARG, formerly a hill path and right of way, by the west side of Culardoch, between Braemar and the upper part of Glengairn, continued by Loch Bulig to Inchrory, from which a road leads to Tomintoul, Banffshire (nineteen miles from Braemar). Thirty or forty years ago great droves of shaggy, longhorned Highland cattle passed to Falkirk and Amulree by this route, and flocks of sheep were driven north and south at certain seasons. About 1880, in connection with an extension of Invercauld deer forest, a road was formed by the east side of Culardoch from Aberarder to Loch Bulig, and the Bealach Dearg route was announced to be closed.

BELTIE BURN rises among the hills of Corennie, passes between Findrack House and Learney Hill, and then in a south-easterly direction by Torphins and Glassel, to enter the Dee below Invercanny reservoirs, almost opposite Inchmarlo House. Below Glassel it is called the Canny Burn, and at the Bridge of Canny, where the turnpike crosses, there are a few houses.

BEINN-A-BHUIRD (3924 feet), a Braemar mountain between the upper part of the Quoich on the east and Dubh Ghleann on the west. It is a broad-backed granite mountain, with a south top (3860 feet) nearly a couple of miles distant from the north top (3924 feet) on the Banffshire border. A great part of its broad, flat back is covered with sand and gravel formed from disintegrated granite, and in some places great piles of granite blocks and boulders occur. There are several notable corries about the mountain, among them the Snowy Corries near the south top, which keep the snow till late in the year,

rendering them conspicuous from a long distance, and the Stony Corrie in a dark recess near the north top, only seen from close quarters. A deep defile, the Glasallt Mor, to the east of the north top, separates Beinn-a-Bhuird from Ben Avon, its comrade mountain. They are the two highest mountains on the Invercauld estate, and, with their corries and glens, form the main part of the Invercauld deer forest. Both mountains yield Cairngorm stones (rock crystals) and valuable specimens of Alpine Botany. Beinn-a-Bhuird may be reached by ascending the Quoich or the Sluggan Burn; or by going up Glengairn, or crossing from Aberarder to Loch Bulig, Ben Avon and Beinn-a-Bhuird may be taken in succession.

BEINN BHROTAIN (Ben Vrottan, 3797 feet), a mountain of Braemar, on the west side of the Dee, south of Cairntoul, from which it is separated by Glen Geusachan.

BEN AVON (3843 feet), a conspicuous mountain, six or seven miles nearly due north from the village of Braemar, from which its crest and corries and massive granite cairns are in view. It extends from Glasallt Mor, which divides it from Beinn-a-Bhuird on the west, to Loch Bulig on the east, and impetuous burns course down its sides, which are diversified by deep gulleys and great corries, with protruding mountain spurs and masses between. On the south the burns drain to the Gairn, and on the north to the Avon. Sand and gravel formed from wasted and disintegrated granite cover the flattened ridges and the hollows near the upper part of some of the burns, and Cairngorm stones (quartz crystals) occur in considerable abundance. In the early part of the nineteenth century Ben Avon was the scene of Cairngorm digging on a pretty large scale, and the trenches and ridges left by the diggers may still be seen. On the

upper part of the mountain at several points there are huge naked masses of granite standing out abruptly above the general surface, one in particular being of enormous size, the "Muckle Stane o' Ben A'an" (with a Gaelic name as well). Ben Avon is best ascended by going up Glengairn some distance past Loch Bulig and following a bridle path which leads nearly to the summit, from which, it is needless to say, there is a magnificent view.

BEN MACDHUI (4296 feet) is the "monarch of mountains" so far as Braemar is concerned, and next to Ben Nevis (4406 feet) the highest of Scottish mountains. It is situated on the outskirts of Braemar, belonging partly to Aberdeenshire, in which is its highest point, and partly to Banffshire, and is also connected with summits in Inverness-shire. It is one summit of a mass of mountains with a broad base, including Cairngorm (4084 feet) to the north, Beinn Mheadoin (3883 feet) to the north-east, Cairngorm of Derry (3788 feet) to the south-east, and a number of others; and this wide circumference and multiplicity of summits tend to make it less conspicuous than if it were a single detached mountain shooting abruptly from a plain. Beinn-a-Bhuird bars the view to the east, but from the broad flattened top of Ben Macdhui, nearly opposite the tremendous gorge of Garchory, through which "the infant rills of Highland Dee" descend, there is a prospect of wonderful grandeur and extent, taking in Ben Nevis, Ben Wyvis and Bengloe. Ben Macdhui and its comrades are often called the Cairngorm Mountains or Cairngorms, but the old Highland name, Monadh Ruadh (red mountains), was more appropriate, the reddish granite of which they are composed obtruding itself on the eye owing to the thinness or absence of vegetation. Good specimens of Cairngorm

stones (quartz crystals) are found. The Larig Burn and Dee flow down the great defile on the west, and the Lui Beg and Derry from the southern and eastern aspects unite to form the Lui, which enters the Dee a little below the Linn. The Lui Beg drains Lochan Uaine (3142 feet above the sea-level) and the Derry drains the larger Loch Etchachan (3100 feet). Loch Avon, well seen from a point a little north of Loch Etchachan, lies between Ben Macdhui and Cairngorm—a long narrow sheet of water, 2500 feet above sea-level, walled in among stupendous mountains—forming a scene which has been pronounced one of the finest in the Highlands. The summit of Ben Macdhui is about eighteen miles from Braemar, the route lying by road up the Lui and Derry to Derry Lodge, and then by path up Glenderry and Corrie Etchachan, there being another less frequented path from Derry Lodge up the Lui Beg.

BIELDSIDE is a new station on the suburban portion of the Deeside railway, about five miles from Aberdeen. Some few houses existed previously on the face of the brae above, and already four or five new villas have sprung up beside the station. In the neighbourhood a road leads off from the turnpike to Countesswells, about a mile and a half away, and near its divergence St. Devenick's Episcopal Church, a tiny wooden building with a slated roof, has been erected. The outlook from Bieldside toward the country south of the Dee is one of the best in the district, commanding the long slopes of the hills, now somewhat nearer the river and again somewhat farther off, mostly under cultivation, but with masses of wood of various extent and form distributed at intervals. Blairs College, Heathcot Hydropathic Establishment, with its long white-walled front, and Ardo House on a projecting knoll among trees, are all well in view.



BIRKHALL is a small estate on the west bank of the lower part of the Muick, with a few farms and a good deal of wood. The ruins of the old castle of the Knock, well seen from Craigendarroch, are on a knoll a few hundred yards south of the Dee, and rather more than a mile farther up the glen, about two and a quarter miles from Ballater, is the plain old house of Birkhall. The main building looks like an overgrown farmhouse of the last century, and a corrugated iron annexation has recently been added in order to extend the accommodation. The building fronts the Muick and a high, rounded, birch-clad knoll on the farther side, which may have suggested the name Birkhall; and from the grounds glimpses may be obtained through openings among the trees towards Craigendarroch, Culbleen, and Morven. The laird of Abergeldie settled down at Birkhall about 1780, and brought the adjoining farm into a high state of cultivation, with a view to show the capabilities of the soil, and stimulate his Glenmuick tenants, who were alleged to be taking it rather easy on their small farms. The laird proceeded energetically, trenching balks, draining marshes, levelling and straightening fields, and enclosing and subdividing them by dykes; and the farm was so well worked that it yielded bere, oats, potatoes, turnips (then only beginning to be cultivated in this locality), and hay of as good quality as any in Aberdeenshire. The laird succeeded equally well with horticulture at Birkhall, producing apples, pears, plums, cherries and gooseberries as early and well flavoured as any in the north of Scotland. But though Birkhall was producing goodly grain and plums at the era of the French Revolution, there was no revolution in the general farming arrangements of the glen. The tenants looked on listlessly, and ascribed the effects to the power of money, which they could not imitate and did not try. Birkhall was purchased by the

Royal Family in 1848, and has latterly been occupied in the autumn season by the Duchess of Albany.

BIRSE is the most easterly parish in Aberdeenshire on the south side of the Dee, meeting Kincardineshire on the south and east, and Forfarshire on the south-west. Its western boundary is formed by the Auldinnie (Allt-dinnie) burn separating it from Glentanner, and its south-eastern boundary by the water of Avon separating it from Strachan. The Feugh, about twenty miles long, rises by several headstreams among the hills of the south-west, Mudlee Bracks (2259 feet), Cannoch (2396 feet) and Craigmahandle (1878 feet), and has a course of thirteen miles within the parish before passing into Strachan. The burn of Birse and the burn of Cattie both flow north-west through the parish, the former passing the old sequestered church and manse, and the latter, Ballogie and Marywell. The district is studded with hills, the higher ones being towards the southern border, including Peter Hill (2023 feet), Cock Hill (1960 feet) and Hill of Cammie (2028 feet), besides those mentioned as the headstreams of the Feugh. A little to the east of the Parish Church the Dee turns sharply northward towards Desswood House on the steep wooded north bank, and then gradually recedes till Potarch Bridge is reached. The sylvan peninsula thus enclosed has Carlogie at its northern point and Balnacraig House near the central part.

The little village of Marywell, built in an open fashion, with fields running in between the houses, is among the woods on the southern slope of a low hill overlooking the Cattie burn. Near it, with undulating parks and fields below and woods around, is Ballogie House, the residence of Mr. Dyce Nicol. Directly south from Marywell, but separated from it by an intervening ridge of woody hills,

is Finzean House, the principal mansion of the parish. It stands on the slope of a hill facing but not close to the Feugh, and is sheltered and screened from view by extensive woods, a tall holly hedge in front veiling it still further. Finzean has been held for about 300 years by Farquharsons descended from the Invercauld family. The present owner, chief of the clan Farquharson, has for nearly twenty years been member of Parliament for West Aberdeenshire; while a former laird of Ballogie was sometime member of Parliament for Kincardineshire. The small estate of Balfour, south-west of the church of Birse, was held for about 100 years by an offshoot of the Farquharsons of Finzean, was then purchased by the Earl of Aboyne, and in 1840 sold to an Aberdeen lawyer named Cochran, who built an elegant residence. Balfour, where his father was schoolmaster, was the birthplace in 1721 of John Skinner, afterwards an Episcopal clergyman, famous, not as a divine, but as a writer of songs and verses, among them *Tullochgorum*, rather extravagantly extolled by Burns, *The Erwie wi' the Crookit Horn*, whose quaint, old, rustic flavour passes description, and *John of Badenyon*, a piece of buoyant stoicism.

Low hills covered with wood border the Dee for a considerable part of the length of this parish, and the most fertile portion is on the Feugh below Finzean. The upper portion of the Feugh, known as the Forest of Birse, is, however, rather inconsistent, the remoter part having some outlying farms and patches of wood, while lower down several miles of very bare and bleak hill ground intervene before the woods of Finzean are reached. From Banchory through Strachan and Birse a road leads up the glen of the Feugh, and from this road there are two ways of reaching Deeside. The first is by a road leading off near Feughside Inn, crossing the intervening ridge in a slanting direction, and reaching the Dee

at Potarch Bridge, a substantial structure of three stone arches thrown across a narrow, rapid, rocky part of the river. At the south end of the bridge there is an inn, recently enlarged, with a green in front, formerly a market stance, now sometimes used for golfing, though a larger golf course was opened in 1897 on the bank of the Feugh. The second road climbs the hillside to the east of Finzean, and reaches its summit-level at Corsedarder, where there is an upright granite stone, said to mark the place where King Dardanus—not a Trojan, though his name might suggest it, but a Pict—was slain. The road then descends by Marywell, and joins the south Deeside road near the Parish Church. From the Forest of Birse there is also a hill path northward by the Alltdinnie burn to Aboyne.

Birse was anciently a thanage, but was soon made over to the Bishops of Aberdeen. William the Lion in 1170 granted to the bishop the whole lands of “Brass,” consisting of sixteen townships in the Kirkton, and likewise the royal forest of “Brass,” with the native men of these lands, excepting the Thane’s. In 1241, however, Alexander II. conferred upon the bishop the whole lands of “Brass” in free forest, not excepting the Thane’s lands, and thus terminated the thanage. The Mackintoshes of Clan Chattan, who more than a hundred years later had obtained a footing in Birse, seem to have acquired or assumed the title of Thane. They quarrelled with the bishop and his tenants, and the bishop seems by-and-by to have ousted them from Birse, though the Farquharsons of Finzean are of the same race. Two ruined castles on the Feugh are usually ascribed to the bishops, and at Birsemore, in the western part of the parish, facing Aboyne, there are remains of an old castle or mansion. Between Birsemore and the Dee is the Free Church, built in 1843. The name Birse

is said to be derived from the Gaelic word *preas*, a bush or thicket of wood, a name appropriate enough in ancient times, when the Forest of Birse was really a dense woodland. In whatever way the name originated, it came to be very popular, since it occurs not only as the general name for the parish, but also in the forms of Birsemore, Birsebeg, Birseburn and Birse Forest. Some time ago one of the four chiefs who appeared at a Braemar Gathering was greeted with loud applause when he pointed out that the four chiefs could march on their own ground from the Forest of Birse to the Pass of Killiecrankie. However, the author of the saying has since made it impracticable.

BLACKHALL is a mansion on the south side of the Dee near the north-western extremity of Strachan, the estate being partly in Banchory parish as well. The house (or castle) occupies a good site on a haugh near the river, with the woody hill of Goauch (1104 feet) to the south. The property has changed hands several times within the present century, and was acquired by the present owner, Mr. James T. Hay, about a dozen years ago. A new house has since been built, which, though not in the first rank of Deeside mansions as regards size, is a very tasteful and substantial granite edifice, with a square tower surmounted by a flagpole turret. The internal fittings and embellishments are much praised. From the entrance to the grounds near the south end of Banchory Bridge the approach extends nearly two miles before the castle is reached. Blackhall may be seen to advantage from the railway above Banchory, and is also in view from the turnpike near Inchmarlo.

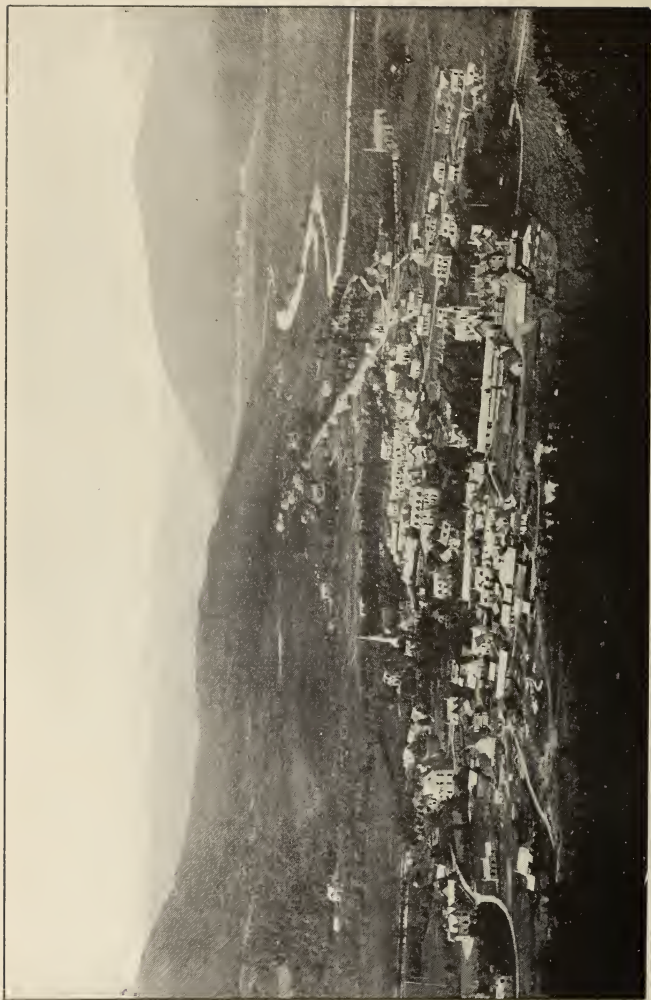
BLAIRS is a small estate in Maryculter, between Kingcausie and Heathcot, extending from the Dee to the southern border of the parish, while within a third

of a mile from the Dee there is a Catholic college. In the first half of the sixteenth century Blairs had become part of the property of Menzies of Pitfodels, but was soon transferred to other hands, and after about two hundred years was once more purchased by Captain David Menzies of Pitfodels. John Menzies, the last Pitfodels laird of that name, made over the lands and house of Blairs to the Catholic bishops in Scotland about 1829, and the mansion was transformed into a college for the education of students preparing to become Catholic clergymen, the revenue from the lands forming endowments. Within the last ten or twelve years the college has been considerably enlarged, and now accommodates about eighty resident students, besides the teaching staff, consisting of a president and four professors. The college has a chapel, a valuable library, in part transferred from the Scots College at Paris, and portraits of Mary Queen of Scots, Cardinal Beaton, and Prince Charlie. There are some few buildings near the spot where the approach to the college diverges from the South Deeside road, including a small post office, a blacksmith's shop, and stabling for the horses used in the bus which runs from Aberdeen three times a day, and for which this is the terminus.

BLELACK is a small estate in Logie Coldstone, Cromar, the mansion standing in a wood near the road from Dinnet to Newkirk, about three-quarters of a mile from the latter. For a long time Blelack was owned by Gordons, the last of whom followed Prince Charlie, and along with the laird of Monaltrie marched northward from Tarland in February, 1746, at the head of 300 men. The place is now owned by Mr. Coltman.

BLUE HILL is the highest point in Banchory-Devenick. The natural height of the hill is 465 feet, but Sir David





VILLAGE OF BRAEMAR, FROM CRAIG CHOINNICH.

*Wilson, Aberdeen.*



Stewart, on whose estate it stands, added thirteen feet to its stature in 1891 by building a cairn on the summit. Steps lead to the flat top of the cairn, which has an iron seat guarded by a railing. There is said to be a marvellous prospect from the top, the sea horizon being thirty-seven miles away, and the Braemar mountains, sixty miles distant, coming within the farthest point of the land horizon, while northward the view extends to Bennachie, and southward to the Tower of Johnston. These things I gathered from a brass plate affixed to the cairn, as it came on a wofully misty afternoon when I visited it, and I could see little but the hill, the cairn and the shaggy plantation. Blue Hill is not much higher than some of the neighbouring heights, but is recognisable by its cairn and flagpole, and may be conveniently reached by following the road to the south-west from the Kincardineshire end of the Bridge of Dee till opposite the Loch of Loirston, and then turning westward for three-quarters of a mile along the road to Auchlunies.

BRAEMAR is the most mountainous part of Scotland, and the most remote from the sea. It is also one of the highest above sea-level, the village having an elevation of 1114 feet, but it is only third in order of Scottish villages in that respect, the two mining villages of Wanlockhead and Leadhills having a great altitude. Braemar, being sixteen and a half miles from Ballater, the nearest railway station, is the least accessible of Deeside resorts, yet it is the foremost in favour. From July till October three coaches run daily to and from Ballater, and there is a daily coach to and from Blairgowrie (thirty-five miles), while numerous private carriages and hired vehicles crowd the ways. In August and September the hotels and lodging-houses (nearly all the houses are let in the season) have enough to do to accommodate the thronging

influx of strangers, and sometimes are unable to meet the demands made upon them. Two or three great mansions and a number of shooting-lodges in the neighbourhood add something to the general bustle, and the nearness to Royalty may have a fascination for some; but the invigorating climate of the "Caledonian Alps" and the wild beauty of the natural scenery are the great and enduring attractions which year after year provide occupants for the neat cottages and villas and the great hotels of Braemar. The contrast between summer's bustle and winter's stagnation is very marked. Coaches are taken off, carriages pass but rarely, and for fully half the year there is no conveyance for passengers except that carrying the mails to Ballater, which runs all the year round. In my schoolboy days I have seen the roads completely blocked with snow for nearly three weeks, and not a wheeled vehicle able to move.

The village of Braemar stands on a hillocky and irregular piece of ground, where Glenclunie opens out between Craig Choinnich and Morrone to meet the valley of the Dee. Clunie water, flowing northward from Cairnwell hill, on the border between Aberdeenshire and Perthshire, subdivides the village into a Castleton portion on the Invercauld estate, and an Auchendryne portion on that of the Duke of Fife, and descends to join the Dee about three-quarters of a mile below. As seen from the bridge connecting the two parts of the village, the Clunie has a deep rocky channel. Within a stone's throw above are the ruins of Kindrochit Castle, and the rocky and perpendicular banks above and below are shaded with trees, some of which appear to grow out of the naked rock; while the channel is so rough and jagged that the waters, which chafe and whirl even in ordinary times, are violently tossed about when in flood. A stream artificially diverted from the Clunie to the eastward also courses

through the village, and drives two mills when about to re-enter the Clunie below the Union Bank, the Bank itself occupying the site of a third mill which has been removed.

The turnpike from Ballater after passing Braemar Castle turns its back upon the Dee and curves southward to ascend a steep brae on the right bank of the Clunie, and enter the village between the Invercauld Hotel and the Parish Church. Hence it is continued past the Union Bank, opposite which the Glenshee or Cairnwell road diverges up the right bank of the Clunie, and then onward across the bridge over that river to reach the Fife Arms Hotel, opposite which another road diverges up the left bank. From the Fife Arms the main road is continued past the Post Office, the Police Station, the Auchendryne Public Hall, and the entrance to the Roman Catholic Chapel, a little beyond which it sends out an offshoot lined with houses and known as Chapel Hill, and then begins to clear itself of the village, and again approaches the Dee, though there is a high and steep bank with birches between them. The houses are mostly arranged alongside or in the neighbourhood of these roads, but a number of houses are scattered about near the left bank of the Clunie below the Fife Arms and the post office. Though eight or ten buildings may be found in a row in some places, the general arrangement is rather irregular, single houses having been set down on such sites as could be obtained, without much regard to their relations. In the heart of the Highlands, however, a little rustic variety does not offend. As a rule, the houses are not large or of any architectural pretensions, but they are neat and substantial, and in great part new or recently built.

On the Castleton side, facing the Glenshee road, but separated from it by sloping plots of green, is the front

row—we might call it the High Street, but there is a higher street behind. In the rear of this higher street there is a piece of hillocky ground, with a pond at one end, and elsewhere some rather marshy ground now more or less drained, which formerly served for a market stance, where cattle and sheep fairs were held and shooting competitions and other public gatherings took place. But the markets have now dwindled almost to the vanishing point, and so has the ground formerly allotted to them, having been curtailed partly by the taking off of sites for houses and gardens, and partly by the shifting downward of the fence separating it from the wooded hillside of Craig Choinnich. This fence was shifted about half a dozen years ago as a demonstration of displeasure on the part of the proprietor, when there was a contention between him and the public regarding access to the Lion's Face and the right to use an old quarry road entering from this quarter. Some of the best villas are on the outskirts of the village near the Glenshee road, conspicuous among them being Corrie Fergie House, built about thirty years ago by the Earl of Cavan, which stands on the top of a knoll sheltered by a rapidly growing plantation. At the time this villa was built, the neighbourhood was greatly improved by the draining of a ragged and boggy old moss which had been exhausted as a source of fuel. Behind Corrie Fergie House there is a pond where the members of the Braemar Curling Club carry on their roaring play when there is sufficient ice for the purpose. The curling club in its early stages was fostered by the local lairds with a view to wean the Braemar men from their liking for shooting competitions, as it was feared that if good marksmen were very numerous their guns might sometimes be pointed at the deer. Some suspicion of this sort has also probably hindered the formation of a volunteer company at Braemar.

Excepting Kindrochit and Mar Castles, the chief buildings are the two hotels, the four churches, and the two Victoria Halls, both of which, as the name may suggest, date from about the jubilee year. The two hotels—the Invercauld Arms and the Fife Arms—have been mostly rebuilt within a comparatively recent time and are among the largest and best equipped in the Highlands. The Invercauld Arms is the first building reached on entering the village from the Ballater side, and though the elevation on which it stands has made the approach to it somewhat steep, yet the site is excellent, commanding a fine view of the valley of the Dee, with wooded hills on the north bank, and higher mountains behind, Benavon (3843 feet) forming the horizon. The north-eastern portion of the building covers the spot where the Earl of Mar raised his standard in the much mismanaged insurrection of 1715. Within the hotel grounds there is an ornamental granite fountain erected by the late Colonel Farquharson of Invercauld in memory of his wife, who died at a very early age. It was at first announced that the fountain was to be erected in Ballater, and the stones were dressed there, but a change of site having been determined upon, the materials were removed to Braemar and the fountain erected in the hotel grounds. Immediately across the bridge connecting the two parts of the village is the Fife Arms, a very large building, whose best front overlooks the Clunie with its impetuous waters and rugged cliffs, the ruins of the old Castle of Kindrochit, said to have been a hunting seat of Malcolm III. (1057-93), being also in view, a little higher up and on the opposite bank. A considerable amount of the hotel was formerly built of wood, but this is in course of being replaced by a more substantial and elegant structure. Braemar is remote from railway communication, the nearest stations to the east and south being respectively

sixteen and a half and thirty-five miles distant. As a consequence, an enormous traffic has to be carried on in summer by means of coaches and carriages, and both hotels have very large coaching and posting establishments attached to them. The hotel keepers also usually hold some portion of the salmon fishing on the Dee, so that visitors with a taste for angling may exercise themselves with rod and line on a river noted for its fertility in fish.

The four churches are equally distributed between the two portions of the village, the Free Church and the Roman Catholic Chapel being on the Auchendryne side, while the Parish Church and the Episcopal Church are in Castleton. The Free Church, somewhat obscured by other buildings near it, has a graceful spire and a clock, stands on a slight eminence to the south of the Post Office, and is the largest and handsomest of the four. The Catholic Chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew, stands on a hillock shaded with birches near the western outskirts of the village, and has a large congregation, mostly resident in Auchendryne and Inverey. The Parish Church, considerably extended and improved about eighteen years ago, at the time when Braemar was constituted a parish *quoad sacra*, has a clock and chime of bells, and is situated at the entrance to the village opposite the Invercauld Hotel. The churchyard, surrounded by a dense plantation, is by the roadside about half-way to Mar Castle. In it the church formerly stood, but was removed about sixty years ago, and replaced by the burial aisle of the Farquharsons of Invercauld. The Episcopal Church, open only in summer and built on what was formerly the public school playground, has a granite basement and a wooden superstructure with a very steep, wedge-shaped roof. Instead of a belfry there is a buttressed pole from which the bell is suspended. This church has been named St. Margaret's, after the Queen of Malcolm III., there being an

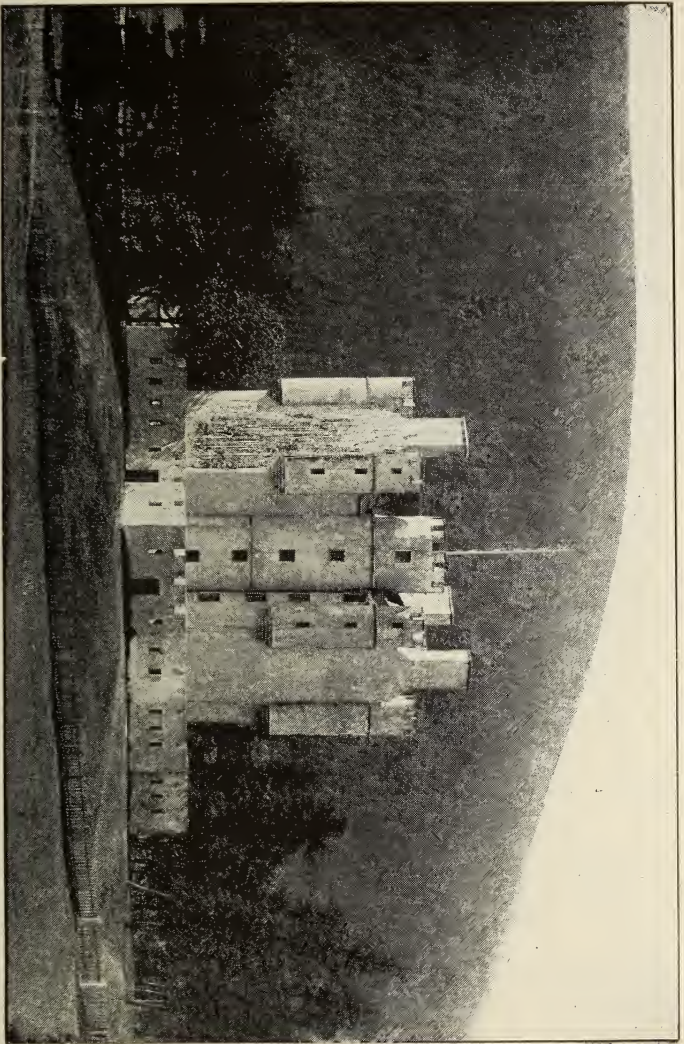
unverified tradition that the royal pair were occasional visitors to Braemar. In the autumn of 1898 the building of a more durable stone edifice was begun.

The Public Hall on the Castleton side is a substantial building of rustic granite, occupying a conspicuous position below the line of the front row of houses, nearly opposite the ruins of Kindrochit Castle, but separated from them by a streamlet diverted from the river Clunie. The site of the hall and the adjoining grounds, in no very ancient times, when it was thought to be every man's business (if not indeed his duty) to engage in farming, formed the schoolmaster's croft, but it has been devoted to other purposes since farming ceased to be one of the qualifications for teaching. The building includes, besides a good-sized hall for public meetings, a library and reading and recreation rooms; and in the grounds a bowling-green and tennis-courts provide means of outdoor recreation as well. The Auchendryne Hall is a wooden structure erected by the Duke of Fife close to the roadside, on the edge of a fir wood, near the western outskirts of the village; and the terms of admission are somewhat easier than in the case of its granite rival on the other side of the Clunie. In view of the limited population, one almost wonders why there should be two halls; but, as there are two estates, it seems to be thought that something would go wrong if the residents on either of them patronised a hall outside their own boundaries. Near the Auchendryne Hall a small granite fountain was erected in 1897 as a memorial of the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign. The triangular space between the partings of the road a little farther on would have been a better site.

Kindrochit Castle, within the village, and Mar Castle, in a park half a mile to the north-east, are historically the most interesting buildings. No exact date can be assigned either for the beginning or the end of the former,

now a ruin, covered by accumulations of earth and rubbish out of which trees are growing; but it is probably older than the tower of Drum or any building now in use on Deeside—older than the days of Wallace and Bruce and dating from the time when a Celtic Mormaer ruled in Mar. It overhangs the rocky bank of the Clunie, which is said to have been crossed at a very early date by a bridge connected with the castle, from which the place took the name of Kindrochit (Ceann drochaide—Bridgend) by which it was long known. The modern name of Castleton seems to have arisen in connection with Mar Castle rather than with the more ancient one. Stones have doubtless been from time to time removed from the ruins of Kindrochit for modern buildings, and the existing remnant does not make much show, though there is enough to indicate that the castle must have been an important one in the ancient days of its prime. Mar Castle stands on a conspicuous hillock half-way between Craig Choinnich and the Dee, and is surrounded by trees, high above which the grey old pile rears itself. The round tower containing the main staircase, the corner turrets, the small windows (some of them with iron gratings), the hinged iron gateway in place of portcullis, and the rampart with its many angles and sides, give a very characteristic appearance to the castle, which leaves a vivid impression on the spectator. The castle was built about 1568, just after the Erskines obtained possession of the earldom of Mar. It was burned down by Inverey and his followers after the Revolution to get rid of a Williamite garrison. Having passed into the hands of Farquharson of Invercauld about 1731, it was leased to Government after Culloden, rebuilt and garrisoned. For something like eighty years it has been annually the scene of the Highland pageantry and athletics known as the Braemar Gathering, carried on by the Braemar Royal Highland Society, the gathering





MAR CASTLE.

*Wilson, Aberdeen.*



being the great yearly holiday of the district. Quite recently the castle has been fitted up with a view to be let as a summer and autumn residence, and is now occupied by the Prince and Princess Dolgorouki.

Below the village between it and the Dee there is a stretch of cultivated ground on each side of the Clunie, forming a farm of some size in connection with each of the hotels, and crofts for a number of householders both in Castleton and Auchendryne. It looks as if the Clunie had formed a kind of alluvial plain at its mouth, and had pushed the Dee backward to the base of the pine-clad hill on the north. The cultivated fields extend some distance up the side of Craig Choinnich, which is otherwise closely covered with wood, except a small part at the top near which there is a cairn ; but on the other side of the village they extend much higher up on a shoulder of Morrone known as Tomintoul, between the valley of the Dee and Glenclunie. The uppermost croft in Tomintoul is reputed (perhaps erroneously) to be the highest cultivated land in Scotland, and a story is told of a former occupant who, when trying to explain to a stranger this notable circumstance regarding his croft, blundered into saying: " I am the highest cultivated man in Scotland ". Tomintoul has some lime quarries and kilns which are occasionally worked. By the side of the Clunie below Tomintoul there is a cluster of houses at Ellanfearn (alder island), a name which explains itself, for both the island and the alders are still there. On the braes about the lower part of Tomintoul there is a good deal of birch, but the upper parts of Morrone and the steep heathery hillside which it presents to Glenclunie are bare. On the latter aspect a burn coursing down Morrone to the Clunie furnishes the water supply for the Castleton part of the village. Morrone being a near hill, with a good height (2819 feet) and a fine prospect, is often climbed.

On the west side of the Clunie, about two miles above Braemar, is Coldrach farmhouse, from which a good portion of the lower part of Glenclunie is in sight, and right opposite is the opening into Glencallater, with the Callater burn descending to join the Clunie at the farm of Auchallater. The Glenshee road will be noticed extending along the opposite hillside, crossing the bridge over the Callater, and diving into the upper part of the glen. Pedestrians who come up one side of the Clunie may cross by a wooden foot-bridge thrown over a deep rocky pool just above Auchallater farm, and return by the road on the other side. The bridge has been committed to verse by Professor Blackie, to wit:—

Coldrach Bridge,  
Where the forceful mountain torrent  
Cuts through the pointed granite ledge  
With deep, dark, swirling current.

If the visitor returns towards Braemar by the Glenshee road he will see an old grass-covered drive branching off on the right through some stunted birch, two or three hundred yards outside the village. This is the Lion's Face drive, as it is called, sometimes also the Queen's drive, from having been occasionally used by Her Majesty. It runs along the lower part of the hill slope of Corrie Fergie towards a deep cleft (Duchlash) between Craig Choinnich in front and the Lion's Face hill behind, both hills being densely covered with wood. Climbing the latter some distance, with a deep ravine on one side and the woody hill slope on the other, the road reaches a point from which a full view of Deeside is suddenly presented. Invercauld is directly in front, with parks between it and the Dee, wooded hills behind, and Benavon in the far background. From this point the road descends circuitously through tall and bushy spruce trees to join the Deeside road about 200 yards from the fifty-seventh milestone,

A little after the road begins to descend it passes under the precipitous rock—crowned with wood above, and partly obscured by tall trees growing below—which somebody fancied looked like a lion's face and so gave the name to the hill. The resemblance is not very apparent, but the hill is no way responsible for being misnamed. Indeed it previously had a Gaelic name with a long tradition annexed; but if the reader is not a Celt he may probably not wish to hear either the name or the tradition. From the Braemar side there was a shorter route to the Lion's Face, passing through the wood behind the village and past an old quarry at the back of Craig Choinnich to join the Queen's drive at Duchlash. About seven years ago the laird of Invercauld questioned the right of the public to have access to the Lion's Face, and this led to some legal proceedings and rather lively work in the way of pulling down a fence with which the proprietor obstructed the passage. It was a burning question in more senses than one, for the fence was not only pulled down but turned into a bonfire. After some time it was arranged that access should be allowed except for some weeks about September. This road affords the most sheltered walk and one of the best views in Braemar, and it is no wonder the public should be unwilling to see it closed. Even its temporary closure is a disadvantage to them and can do little good to any one else.

Turning from the village and its environs to the tract of country known as Braemar, we may remark that a visitor who passes a short time at a hotel or lodging-house in the village, even if he comes or goes by the route over the Cairnwell or makes a trip to the Linn of Dee, gains but a very imperfect notion of the wide Highland district which Braemar includes, and of the great rampart of mountains by which it is surrounded. Braemar forms the south-western angle of Aberdeenshire, and

is wedged in between the counties of Forfar, Perth, Inverness, and Banff. It touches the Forfarshire boundary at Fafernies (3274 feet) and Cairn Bannoch (3314 feet), a little to the south-west of Lochnagar (3786 feet), and the Perthshire boundary at Glas Maol (3502 feet); and borders with Perthshire for a considerable distance westward, along the summits of Cairnwell (3059 feet), Carn Geoidh (3196 feet), Ben Uarn (3424 feet), Carn Bhac (3014 feet), Sgarsoch (3300 feet), to Carn an Fhithleir (3276 feet); where, meeting the Inverness boundary, it turns to the north in contact with Inverness-shire, along the ridges between the Geldie burn on the east and the Feshie burn on the west, and thence by the ridges of Monadh Mor (3651 feet), Cairntoul (4241 feet), and Braeriach (4248 feet), to meet the Banffshire boundary about midway between the summits of Ben Macdhu, (4296 feet) and Cairngorm (4048 feet); from which point the boundary between Braemar and Banffshire is continued in a tortuous manner, at first southward to the top of Ben Macdhu, and then eastward by Beinn-a-Charouinn (3553 feet), to Beinn-a-Bhuird (3924 feet), and Benavon (3843 feet). Four of the mountains just named exceed 4000 feet, and two or three of the others are only a shade below it; while Ben Macdhu overtops all other mountains in Scotland, with the single exception of Ben Nevis, which is 110 feet higher. Still, no other district in Scotland contains so many giant mountains as Braemar, and compared with them the loftiest peaks in the other divisions of the United Kingdom must "hide their diminished heads," Snowdon in Carnarvonshire, the highest mountain south of the Tweed, being only 3560 feet, while Macgillycuddy Reeks in Kerry, the highest summit in Ireland, is only 3414. Mountains dominate the whole scenery of Braemar, varied as it is with lonely glens, sheltering corries, frowning precipices,

impetuous torrents and waterfalls, lochs in great number but not of great size, wide areas of sand and disintegrated granite on the flattened expanses above, and long reaches of "brown heath and shaggy wood" lower down.

The glens branching out from Deeside, with the exception of Glenclunie, are mostly houseless and uninhabited save for a gamekeeper's cottage or a shooting lodge here and there. On the north side of the river Braemar begins at Clagganghual, where there is a cottage built across the boundary-line between it and Crathie, formerly notable for having a caged eagle beside it. The western part of Aberarder, too, belongs to Braemar, including the green hollow among the hills at Balloch with remains of dismantled farms, and the clachan of Felagie, which will soon be dismantled too, one thatched cottage being allowed to tumble down after another. Below Felagie, overlooking the Dee, is Keiloch, formerly the Invercauld home farm. Cultivation has long been given up, but for about thirty years, with some intervals, it has had a steam sawmill, and been the scene of a busy industry in woodcutting, to which the neighbouring parts, now stripped of their wood, bear witness. From Keiloch to the west end of Allanmore, a distance of about four miles, the low ground near the Dee formerly under the plough, has long been converted into grazing parks. Invercauld is about a mile from Keiloch, situated on a fine natural terrace. Opposite Mar Castle, the Sluggan burn, which rises almost within sight of the upper part of the Quoich, and receives a number of tributaries in its course, enters the Dee. On a conspicuous knoll near the mouth of the burn there is an obelisk of Ballochbuie granite erected by the Invercauld tenantry in memory of the grandfather of the present laird. From this neighbourhood there was

formerly a right of way (also accessible from the western part of Aberarder) by Balloch Dearg and Inchrory to Tomintoul (Banffshire) and the north ; but about eighteen years ago a road was formed from Aberarder to connect with the Tomintoul route in the upper part of Glengairn, and the road to Balloch Dearg has since been fenced across. Beyond Allanmore is Allanquoich, and farther on Dalmore (with the Duke of Fife's mansion) and a moor stretching towards the Linn of Dee. This long extent of flat ground near the Dee, notwithstanding some attempts at embankment, is liable to inundation by floods, and both Allanmore and Allanquoich are rather boggy. A great flood covers the low ground from Allanquoich to Mar Castle, and would be a fine sight if there were nothing at stake. A hillock near Allanmore farmhouse has repeatedly saved from drowning numbers of cattle, sheep and horses that have been driven to it for standing room by the advancing waters, and forced to remain there till the flood abated. Allanquoich was formerly a separate property, with a laird all to itself, and has long been the residence of the factor on the Fife estate. The impetuous burn of Quoich, descending from Beinn-a-Bhuird through a long, winding, wooded glen which formerly had some inhabitants, has a fine fall near the edge of the wood at Allanquoich. The pine-clad hill of Craeg a Bhuilg (2190 feet) extends from the Quoich to the Lui near the Linn of Dee, and forms a fine background to Mar Lodge, the Duke of Fife's mansion. New Mar Lodge, as it was called, an irregular wooden structure of some size, situated on the south side of the Dee near the Falls of Corriemulzie, was burned down in the summer of 1895, and the duke, who did not seem to care for Old Mar Lodge on the haugh of Dalmore, set about building a new mansion not far from the site of the old one (now removed). The extensive new building, with a



longish front and no great elevation, is covered with red tiles, and presents altogether rather a whimsical appearance.

On the south side of the Dee the lowest part of Braemar is Ballochbuie Forest, whose pine trees, mostly of natural growth, extend from the river a long way up the hillsides, while above the wood higher and higher hills rise, culminating in Lochnagar. The Garrawalt and Glenbeg burns course down through the wood, the former having a fine fall in the heart of the forest, while near its mouth there is a wooden bridge over the Dee. Ballochbuie is now part of the Queen's estate, and there is an entrance to Balmoral (six miles away) diverging from the Ballater and Braemar road opposite the entrance to Invercauld, and crossing the old, high-backed military bridge close by. Invercauld Bridge, a handsome structure built of Clagganghual granite in 1858, is two or three hundred yards higher up, and here the road crosses to the south to reach the village of Braemar, the only considerable Deeside village on the south bank of the river. Close above the bridge there is a rock from which salmon used to be captured by a shorter process than angling, being transfixcd by a long-shafted spear, and then lifted out of the water on its prongs. Another large rock by the roadside, about the size of a cottage, is known as the "Muckle Stane o' the Cluny," and near it is Cluny Lodge, with its pond and approach bordered by rhododendrons and Irish juniper. Three notable tree-clad hills overhang the road between Invercauld Bridge and the village of Braemar, namely Craig Cluny, Lion's Face and Craig Choinnich, the first and third pressing the road close to the edge of the river, though opposite the Lion's Face and Invercauld there is a little more room. Rounding Craig Choinnich and passing Mar Castle, the road sweeps southward to enter Braemar. Glenclunie

leading off to the south has already been partly described. It is almost the only glen in this part of the country that has still some cultivation and inhabitants, though both are dwindling, and there has recently been an extension of deer forest at one part. Two miles above Braemar, Glencallater branches off from Glenclunie, and through the former glen and past Loch Callater lies the route to Lochnagar.

Westward from Braemar the road up Deeside runs at first through some birches, with the low grounds of Allanmore and Allanquhoich well in view on the north, and approachable by means of a ford at Mill of Coull—a place where there is no mill. From this neighbourhood, to which some straggling houses extend from the outskirts of Braemar, there is a good prospect down the Dee, Mar Castle standing out very prominently on its bold hillock. The road, however, soon dives into woods of fir, larch and spruce, and about three miles from Braemar reaches Corriemulzie Falls. The Falls have a good height—higher than Garrawalt, or Quoich, or Muick—and the opposite ledges of rock are closely shaded with trees, altogether making a very picturesque scene, but there is not a sufficient volume of water to make up the full thunder of a Highland waterfall of the first order. By a transformation of energy, the falls are to be used to supply electric light for the ducal mansion of Mar Lodge. New Mar Lodge, already mentioned as burned down in 1895, stood by the roadside a little beyond the Falls. A little farther on is Victoria Bridge, giving access to the duke's mansion—a private bridge, though the privacy is not very strictly enforced except when the duke is at home. The mansion may be seen from the south side as one nears Inverey, which is soon reached—an assemblage of houses and crofts extending some distance along the flat ground near the

mouth of the Ey. A little before reaching the bridge crossing the Ey the remains of the old house or castle of the Farquharsons of Inverey, burned down after the Revolution, may still be seen. About a mile and a half up the Ey there is a rocky cave by the side of that stream where one of the old fighting lairds took refuge when hard pressed by his enemies. A mile or so beyond the west end of Inverey is the Linn of Dee, spanned by a Gothic granite arch, from which the visitor may view the long, narrow, rocky channel into which the waters tumble, and through which they must force their way. We may describe it as like the rapid and resistless charge of one of the old Highland clans, enraged at being caught in ambush, and writhing and rushing onward till freedom is once more accomplished. Byron, "when he roved a young Highlander" on Deeside, and visited, among other places, the Linn of Dee in 1796 or 1797, tripped on the edge of the precipice, and had not the attendant caught him in his fall the world would never have seen "Childe Harold" or "Manfred".

For the parts of Braemar above the Linn of Dee the description at the end of the introductory sketch, with the paragraphs on the mountains and burns (Ben Macdhui, Geldie, etc.), must suffice.

It is strange that we should have to turn to Ptolemy, a geographer and astronomer who flourished at Alexandria in the first half of the second century, for the earliest intelligible particulars regarding the tribes who inhabited Braemar and the neighbouring districts in the far off centuries of the past. In that distant time the country now known as Braemar, along with Strathspey and some other parts, was inhabited by a Pictish tribe, the Vacomagi, who had on the west (in Athole, Badenoch, etc.) the Caledonii, and on the east (in the lower part of Deeside, Buchan, etc.) the Tæxali. The chief town of the last

tribe seems to have been within a few miles of the Pass of Ballater, probably near Lochs Davan and Kinnord, where considerable Pictish remains have been found. Some have conjectured that the Romans passed through Braemar, but it is only conjecture, though there is ground for supposing there was a Roman camp near Culter, about 208-10 (see Normandykes). Attempts have also been made to identify places in the neighbourhood with some of the scenes celebrated by Ossian—that bard of misty antiquity about whose life and work there has been so much dispute—but though Beinn Gulabin in Glenshee, near which is the reputed tomb of Diarmid, may have been the scene of that hero's fall, Ossian's Morven cannot be identified with the Morven of Deeside. Such dim history as we have regarding the period represents St. Mungo (Kentigern) as labouring with some success on Deeside in the latter part of the sixth century for the conversion of the Picts to Christianity. He is reported to have carried his evangelising work as far up Deeside as Glengairn, and the report is corroborated by the dedication of the old church there to him, as well as the dedication of the churches of Migvie and Lumphanan to disciples or associates of his. There is no record of the saint having penetrated to Braemar, but doubtless the influence of his work would be felt there. Among the Picts in very ancient times there was little or no tillage, as they depended on flocks and herds, hunting and fishing, with such berries and fruits as the country yielded; but by-and-by, after the introduction of Christianity, we come to hear not only of churches but of church lands, and if, as seems probable, the early Church taught the people how to till the land, it must have been one of the greatest services rendered by the Church.

North and south Pictland, as well as the Dalriad kingdom, were united in 844 under Kenneth Macalpin, the

new kingdom, known as Alban, being exposed for some time to severe assaults by the Norsemen. On three occasions—894-900, 986-993, and 1034-1064—Scandinavian rule was established in the northern parts of Scotland, and there are traditions of their penetrating well up Deeside. On the first of the three occasions mentioned the Norse invaders were checked on reaching the great barrier of the Grampians at the southern boundary of Mar, where a battle was fought with a Celtic Mormaer, supposed by Skene to have been the Mormaer of Mar. There is a distinct historic notice of the Mormaer of Mar helping the Celts of Ireland to defeat the Danes at the battle of Clontarf in 1014. In 1057 Macbeth was slain at Lumphanan and Malcolm III. (Caenmore) ascended the throne. There is a persistent tradition, which may be true, though I have not seen any decisive warrant for it, that Malcolm hunted in Braemar and dwelt in Kindrochit Castle. Doubtless Kindrochit had been a seat of the Celtic Mormaers (or Earls as they afterwards became) of Mar. Another tradition represents Craig Choinnich as taking its name from the still earlier King Kenneth, also said to have urged the chase among the hills of Braemar.

David I. (1124-53) disliked the old system, under which the relation of the Mormaers to the Crown had been purely official, while towards their districts it had not been purely territorial, being more a relation towards the tribe than the land. He and some of his successors directed their policy to break the power of the Celtic Mormaers, and to substitute the feudal system according to which all rights to land emanated from the king, and land not given out as feudal holdings was regarded as crown land. Ruadri or Rotheri was Mormaer of Mar in the time of Alexander I. (1107-24) and was succeeded by Morgund, who for a time was put aside in favour of a certain Gilchrist, temporarily styled Earl of Mar. De

Lundins or Durwards, for a time a very powerful and ambitious family, claimed the Earldom of Mar through a pretended female descent, and made allegations (probably of no force or soundness according to Celtic law and custom) against the legitimacy of the Celtic Earl. However, it was the policy of the Crown to weaken the Celtic earls, and by the help of the Crown the Durwards at a very early period carried off a great part of the ancient territory of the earldom, leaving the Celtic Earl with the Highland districts of Braemar, Strathdee and Strathdon, which preserved the Celtic population.

Further vicissitudes awaited the earldom and must have affected the inhabitants within its territory. Donald, Earl of Mar and Regent of Scotland, was slain at the battle of Dupplin in 1332, leaving a son, Thomas, who died without issue in 1377, and two daughters. One of the latter by marriage carried the earldom into the Douglas family, and some time later it passed to an heiress who was Countess of Mar and Garioch in her own right. Her husband, Sir Malcolm Drummond, was killed by foul play. A lawless adventurer, Alexander Stewart, natural son of the Earl of Buchan and grandson of Robert II., seized upon both the Countess and the Earldom of Mar. The countess did not long survive, and on the death of Stewart, in 1435, the earldom reverted to the Crown, and was long in abeyance, except at odd intervals when it was bestowed on Crown favourites or members of the royal family, none of whom had more than a brief tenure. The Erskines, descended from the other daughter of Earl Donald who fell at Dupplin, put in a claim, but it was not admitted till 1565, when Lord John Erskine received infeftment from Queen Mary under the Great Seal, Parliament ratifying the infeftment two years later.

A great part of the territory of the earldom had mean-

time been alienated by the Crown, or others obtaining temporary authority, and new families were installed or found means of obtaining a footing in the absence of any settled administration. Stewart, the usurping Earl of Mar, settled a family of Macdonalds in Rinetan, Glen-gairn, who retained possession till the early part of the nineteenth century, when they sold it to Invercauld. Mackenzies settled in Dalmore in Braemar about 400 years ago, under a grant by James IV., as tradition bears. The Farquharsons, who by-and-by came to be the dominant family in Upper Deeside, had obtained extensive possessions before the Earldom of Mar passed into the hands of the Erskines. The Earl of Huntly was for a time feudal superior of Braemar, and Gordons pushed their possessions as far up as Abergeldie, which they still retain, and they also held Balmoral for a time. Huntly does not seem to have had enough patriotism to induce him to pay taxes readily. An assessment was being levied over the country in 1549, after the battle of Pinkie (at which battle Farquharson of Invercauld was killed), to enable the Government to withstand an expected English invasion, and in the valuation of Aberdeenshire there is a record regarding certain lands that neither their "barons, fewaris of the samen, comperit, nor their officers. *Imprimis* the Bray of Mar in the hands of my lord Erle of Huntlie feftie libs" (£50). In the same valuation the laird of Abergeldie is assessed at six pounds for his lands. Braemar must have been in those times one of the most inaccessible parts of the country, as indeed it continued to be for a long time afterwards. Sir Robert Graham and some of his accomplices in the most base and guilty assassination of James I. at Perth in 1437, fled to Braemar for concealment, but were traced to their lurking place in Glendee, arrested and taken south for execution. From

a register of ministers, exhorters and readers, dated about 1567 or 1568, it appears that the Reformation had spread over Deeside generally, including Braemar, though in the upper parishes readers rather than ministers had been settled. James Hayne "reidar" at "Kyndroch in Braymar" seems to have been better remunerated with £20 a year than the other readers in the upper parishes of Deeside, with the single exception of "Lorence Cowttiss, reidar" at "Tullick" (Tulich), who also had £20, while Archibald Irwyn, John Ross and Archibald Wilsoun, readers at Birse, Glentanner and Glenmuick, respectively, had each £16. Statements of the valuation of benefices are extant for 1644 and 1667, from which it appears that almost all the parishes of upper Deeside had advanced considerably in the interval, "Kindrocht" (Braemar) rising from £1334 to £1563, "Crachie" (Crathie) from £1864 to £2260, Glengairden from £977 to £1284, Glenmuick from £1580 to £1648, and Tullich from £1279 to £1580. But, as 1644 was the year in which the Argyle "cleansers" harried most parts of Deeside, it may not have been a normal year.

The Farquharsons, who settled in Braemar towards the end of the fifteenth century, are a branch of Clan Chattan, and the parent clan had considerable possessions on Deeside before the advent of the Farquharsons. In 1382 Robert II. directed his son, Alexander Stewart (Wolf of Badenoch), to restrain Farchard Mac Toschy and his people from disturbing the Bishop of Aberdeen and his tenants in the lands of Birse, and to oblige Mac Toschy to prosecute his claims in legal form. Dr. Skene says the representatives of these older Mackintoshes were without doubt the Shaws of Rothiemurchus and the Farquharsons of Strathdee, who extended from Badenoch as far as Birse, and whose head in 1464 was



Alexander Keir Mackintosh. Farchard (Farquhar) one of Alexander's youngest sons, settled in the Braes of Mar, and his son Donald (Farquhar's son) succeeded, and by his marriage with a daughter of Duncan Stewart got possession of part of the lands afterwards known as Invercauld. Finlay Mor came next, a man of great stature, strength and ability, who extended his possessions, probably by rather high-handed means. From him rather than from Farchard some of the succeeding race took their name, those remaining in the Highlands being called Mackinlay, and those who settled in the lowlands, Finlayson. Finlay Mor fell at the battle of Pinkie in 1547. It is curious to note that long before the Farquharsons arose in Braemar the name occurs. Scha Ferqwhareisone was chieftain of one of the two clans who fought in the combat on the North Inch of Perth in 1396, made famous in Scott's *Fair Maid of Perth*, and it is probable that both he and his followers belonged to Clan Chattan. Farquharsons by-and-by got possession of Inverey, Castleton, Monaltrie, Balmoral and other places. In 1568 Erskine, shortly after coming into possession of the Earldom of Mar, excambed the lands of Monaltrie for those of Castleton, and Mar Castle was built, being either a quite new erection, or possibly an extension and renovation of an earlier structure. From the time of Montrose to that of Prince Charlie, the Invereys and Monaltries were the leading warriors of the Farquharson clan, Invercauld, though involved in the rising of 1715, keeping wonderfully well out of the fighting.

Sir Walter Scott tells a story of a terrible massacre of the Farquharsons about the beginning of the seventeenth century by the Gordons and Grants, in which, he says, "almost all the men and women of the race were slain," and about 200 orphan children left in Huntly's hands at

the close of the day, who were taken first to Huntly's and afterwards to Grant's castle, and being distributed among the clansmen of the latter, were brought up as Grants "of the trough," in allusion to the barbarous manner in which they had been fed by Huntly. The story as it stands is incredible. If almost all the men and women in the lands of the Farquharsons had been slain, there would have been more than 200 orphan children left. And if the men and women had been massacred and the children carried away, the Farquharsons could not, at least for several generations, have regained their former numbers and strength. Yet in the next generation, within about forty years at the outside, Inverey and Monaltrie led a goodly number of men in Montrose's wars, and Invercauld, though he kept out of the wars, was, considering the times, "a prosperous gentleman," for in 1633 or earlier he had advanced a considerable sum of money on bond to the Marquis of Huntly—to Huntly, who, according to Scott, had butchered and almost annihilated the men and women of the Farquharson clan and had fed their orphan and captive children like swine. Invercauld was, in 1643, one of the committee (acting under the authority of the Scottish Parliament) for managing taxation and loan moneys in the shire of Aberdeen. Donald Farquharson of Monaltrie, while serving under Montrose, was slain in Aberdeen in 1645, leaving behind him the reputation of having been "one of the gallantest captains in Scotland". After the landing of Charles II. in Scotland in 1650 to contend with the forces of the Commonwealth, Lord Erskine wrote from Alloa urging Invercauld and Inverey to gather their forces for the service of the king, adding: "I have told the king you are about to do this with all imaginable diligence". It does not appear, however, that the two Braemar chiefs did anything notable on that occasion.

For some time after this the most notable events in Braemar are closely associated with the Farquharsons of Inverey and their doings. In 1666 John Farquharson of Inverey, usually styled "the black colonel," a man of adventurous and unruly disposition, who might perhaps pass for the Rob Roy of Braemar, notwithstanding the difference of complexion and circumstances, killed Gordon, Baron of Braichley, in a skirmish at Braichley near Bal-later, "and thereby hangs a tale," as well as a ballad, which latter may be found in Aytoun's *Ballads of Scotland*. It was by no means an unprovoked attack, and the incident shows the cumbrous and unfair manner in which the laws were then administered. The Sheriff of Aberdeen having no direct means of collecting from Inverey certain fines exigible for killing "black fish" (not a very serious crime at the worst), made over the fines to the Baron of Braichley to settle as he best might. Negotiations were tried, and Inverey alleged that he was willing to settle on the same conditions as Braichley had agreed to in other cases. However, Braichley pointed Inverey's cattle, and Inverey failing to come to terms at an interview, began to drive away not only his own pointed cattle but some of Braichleys in addition. In the skirmish which ensued three men were killed on each side, Braichley being among them. Inverey was outlawed, but apparently never captured or punished. It may have been at this time that he sought refuge in a rocky cave by the side of the Ey, about a mile and a half from his castle, still known as "the colonel's bed". It is generally stated that John, "the black colonel," took part in the rising under Dundee, but some accounts give the name of Tho. (Thomas) to the Inverey chief of that time, and in a proclamation of 1689 the name appears as William. Perhaps an indistinctly written Jno. for John has been misread as Tho. (Thomas).

Inverey was included in a list of persons proclaimed at Edinburgh as traitors in the summer of 1689 shortly before Killiecrankie, and this was not the worst of his troubles. In the early summer of that year the Williamites under Mackay and the Jacobites under Dundee had been marching and manœuvring about Badenoch and elsewhere without coming to an engagement. Mackay on his way south sent a party of 100 horse and sixty foot to take possession of Mar Castle, which he intended to garrison with a view to hold the Deeside Highlanders in check; ordering the captain of dragoons on getting possession of Mar Castle to make a quick march before day-break and seize Inverey who had lately been with Dundee. But in the early morning Inverey and his friends, having detected the approaching enemy, had just time to escape in their shirts to a neighbouring wood. The disappointed dragoons returned to Mar Castle, turned their horses loose to graze, and lay down to rest. Inverey, having suddenly gathered a party of men, followed hard at their heels, and opened fire on the castle from the hillside of Craig Choinnich above. Probably the castle would be rather out of range for the muskets of those days, but the firing alarmed the dragoons' horses and set them careering about the neighbouring fields, so that the dragoons had difficulty in catching them. As soon as they managed this, the dragoons mounted in hot haste and rode down Deeside; on which Inverey burned Mar Castle, which remained in disrepair for more than half a century. The sixty foot and a convoy with provisions and ammunition for the intended garrison were still on the way, and Mackay, having learned the failure of the expedition, turned across the hills to Braemar with his foot, directing Barclay's dragoons to march up Deeside. But Mar Castle had been burned, and its vaulted lower part was judged unfit for a garrison, and Mackay had to

change his plan. He took vengeance on Inverey by burning his house and wasting his lands, and then moving down Deeside he stationed a garrison of seventy men at Abergeldie, and placed additional troops in quarters lower down the country. The Abergeldie garrison became a centre for the struggles of besieging and relieving forces, and "the direful spring of woes unnumbered" to Deeside. Probably Inverey was not present at Killiecrankie, as the battle took place a little before the date appointed by Dundee for the general muster, and some of the clans had not joined; but he and his clansmen were with the Jacobite forces very soon after, and his name, "Tho. Farqerson," appears among the signatures to a letter sent by the Jacobite chiefs from Birse on 17th August, 1689, in answer to a friendly invitation by Mackay to lay down their arms. "We scorn your usurper and the indemnities of his Government," answered the chiefs. The bond of association to support the cause of King James, signed by the chiefs on 24th August, 1689, before the dispersion of their forces, also bears Inverey's signature.

In the summer of 1690 the Jacobites were again astir, and Mackay toiling after them. On 21st June, 1690, Mackay, with a force of about 3000 men, started from Perth, and traversing Strathardle and Glenshee, marched through Braemar, and northward by Strathdon and Strathspey. Though he wrote from Strathardle on 23rd June: "It seems the Devell, who is certainly the enemy of all good purposes . . . sturreth all sorts of people to oppose my indeavours"—he did not come to close quarters with an enemy on that expedition; but having penetrated to Inverlochry (Fort William) and accomplished his cherished project of erecting a fort and stationing a garrison there, he returned to Perth on 26th July. Hearing that Buchan and Cannon had got some 200 horse together, he ordered a force from Stirling to pursue them, but they

were gone before those posted at Stirling went out ;” upon which Mackay himself, with a force of about 1000, started after the Jacobites, but, as he says, “ they passed through the heights of Athole to Braemar, so that I could not overtake them in two days that I marched after them”.

Towards the end of August Mackay was again on Deeside, and this time he made fearful havoc. Previously Inverey with 500 or 600 Highlanders had joined Buchan and Cannon, and the united forces, after leaving a party of 160 to block up and starve the Abergeldie garrison, marched against the Master of Forbes, a man much commended by Mackay for his services in Aberdeenshire to the new Government, and compelled him to retreat precipitately to Aberdeen. There was great apprehension lest the city should be captured, but the Jacobites retired on hearing that Mackay was moving north with superior forces. Mackay put a garrison into Aboyne Castle, and proceeded to raise the siege of Abergeldie, strengthen the garrison there, and furnish them with supplies. On the way he encountered Inverey with 200 “ good Highlanders ” in a “ very rough and steep ground which emboldened them to approach,” but Inverey’s force was overpowered, and, as Mackay affirms, almost all slain or captured, Inverey himself having had a wonderful escape after being trodden under the horses’ feet and left for dead. The Abergeldie garrison, which “ would have been lost within three days had it not been timely succoured,” was relieved, and Mackay says: “ To terrify others from the like attempts I burned twelve miles of a very fertile Highland country—at least 1200 or 1400 houses—but had no time to go up the length of Braemar, being willing to follow the enemy to the north”. At the same time he left orders that none were to be suffered to rebuild till they had given up their arms and sworn allegiance to William and Mary. The burned

district would approximately include Deeside from Tullich to Inver, with at least the lower parts of Glenmuick and Glengairn. Balmoral itself was within the area of devastation, and as it was then held by kinsmen of Inverey it would not be likely to fare better than the neighbouring country. Taking 1200, Mackay's lower estimate, as the number of houses burned, and allowing an average of four inmates to each, this would give a population of 4800 burned out of their homes—more than the total number of present inhabitants in Braemar, Crathie, Glenmuick, Tullich and Glengairn. After this "hideous ruin and combustion" Mackay proceeded to Inverness, and when returning southward detached a strong force to ravage Inverey and Braemar. He says: "I ordered Colonel Cunninghame to Braemar with six troops of horse and 600 of his best foot, to disarm or burn Inverey's country and all Braemar, which I had no time to effectuate when I went north". Mackay was transferred to Ireland about this stage, and does not record the result of the expedition under Cunninghame, but the latter has not left such fearful memories behind him in the Highlands of Deeside as the former.

The rebellion of 1715 was in its earlier stages a Deeside rebellion. John Erskine, the Earl of Mar of that time, was a politician whose extreme fickleness had gained him the name of "Bobbin' John," and whose main accomplishment consisted in penetrating into the views of others and dissembling his own. He had been Secretary of State under Anne, and was desirous to be secretary under George, but was very coldly received by that monarch, and so came down in disguise to Scotland to set the heather on fire. Having reached Kildrummy, he convened a grand hunting-match at Glentanner near Aboyne, to bring together the nobility and heads of clans with a view to organise an insurrection. There was a

numerous attendance, including the Marquis of Huntly and the Marquis of Tullibardine; the Earls of Nithsdale, Marischal, Traquair, Errol, Southesk, Carnwath, Seaforth and Linlithgow; Viscounts Kilsyth, Kenmure, Kingston and Stormont; Lords Rollo, Duffus, Drummond, Strathallan and Ogilvie; Campbell of Glendaruel representing the aged Marquis of Breadalbane, the chief of Glengarry, Generals Hamilton and Gordon, and about twenty other gentlemen. Mar harangued them, professing deep repentance for his share in promoting the Union, declaring the Elector of Hanover a usurper who had given over the Government to an infamous cabal, and manifestly intended to suppress the national liberties. Mar asserted that he had therefore resolved to arm his tenants and friends, and that he had promises of aid from thousands in England and Scotland, as well as from France, from which country the exiled king would come over as soon as the campaign was begun, and had meantime appointed Mar lieutenant-general of his forces in Scotland. Mar concluded by calling on all who heard him to restore their sovereign to his rights and their country to its prosperity and honour. All present took an oath to be faithful to each other and to Mar as the king's lieutenant, and then returned to their estates to raise their men. This rebellion had more support from the Lowlands than Prince Charlie's rebellion thirty years later.

The rebel Earl repaired to Braemar, quartered himself at Invercauld, drew the chief of the Farquharsons (some say reluctantly) into his project, and erected his standard near the bank of the Clunie at the north-east corner of the village. Probably there would be many spectators at this most notable of Braemar gatherings, but there was no great military muster and only about sixty armed men attended. From a letter which the Earl wrote at this time to his baillie at Kildrummy, portions of which are



subjoined, we may infer that friends and allies did not come forward with the desired alacrity.

INVERCAULD,  
*September 9, at night, 1715.*

Jocke,—Ye was in the right not to come with the 100 men ye sent up to-night, when I expected four times the number. . . . Particularly let my own tenants in Kildrummie know that, if they come not forth with their best arms, I will send a party immediately to burn what they will miss taking from them. . . . You are to tell the gentlemen that I'll expect them in their best accoutrements, on horseback, and no excuse to be accepted of. Go about this with all diligence, and come yourself and let me know your having done so. All this is not only as ye will be answerable to me, but to your king and country. Your assured friend and servant,

MAR.

This is doubtless a peremptory letter, but not quite so bad as the traditional version of it which used to be current on Deeside, to wit:—

Dear Jock, If you don't send more men, I'll have you hanged, dear Jock.

Towards the middle of September Mar descended into Athole with a considerable number of men, waiting some time at Moulinearn for further levies to join him, while Colonel Hay took possession of Perth. The death of Louis XIV. deprived the Jacobites of any effective aid from France, but, on the other hand, there were so many open or latent Jacobites in England that the English military were needed on their own side of the Tweed, and could not be spared to reinforce the small army Argyle had gathered at Stirling. Mar was now at the head of a formidable army, far outnumbering Argyle's, but he did not know what to do with it. On 13th November the battle of Sheriffmuir began, apparently without any orders from Mar to fight. He had called a council that morning, but it broke up without reaching a decision, the

officers riding off to their posts when the position and movements of the enemy made fighting inevitable. The right wing of each army was successful while the left was routed. Next day Mar retreated to Perth, where he was soon joined by the Chevalier (James VIII.), a man worthy to rank with himself in respect of pitiful incapacity. The cause went from bad to worse, and early in 1716 Mar and James embarked at Montrose and escaped abroad. Mar's Aberdeenshire estates were confiscated and never restored to the Erskines, though the title was revived in 1824. Farquharson of Invercauld, who had been deeply implicated in the rebellion and some time a prisoner in England after its suppression, not only managed to retain his estates, but soon added to them a large portion of the Mar property as well, namely, Mar Castle and the lands of Castletown.

Invercauld, now an old man of seventy-five, kept out of the next rebellion, but a goodly number of men from the Braes o' Mar followed Prince Charlie at one time or other during the campaign of 1745-46. At the battle of Falkirk on 17th January, 1746, in which the Farquharsons formed part of the second line, James Farquharson of Balmoral was severely wounded, and was with difficulty brought to Perth in a chaise about the beginning of February. His wound accounts for his disappearance from the contest before the final battle at Culloden, where Farquharson of Monaltrie fought in the van. Under Lord Lewis Gordon, Monaltrie had taken a leading part in the moonlight skirmish at Inverury, on 23rd December, 1745, in which the Macleods, fighting in the Georgian interest, were discomfited; and about the middle of February Monaltrie, still, like Leonidas, with his 300, marched northward through Tarland. In the Act of Attainder, passed in May, 1746, he had the distinction of being included by name in the list of those

described as having levied war against the king, who were to be held as traitors unless they surrendered before the 12th of July; and those so specified were excluded from the benefit of the Act of Indemnity passed next year. Monaltrie was imprisoned for some time, and was very near being hanged, but ultimately got back his liberty and his estates, and left an honourable name for promoting and carrying out improvements.

Though Invercauld kept out of the rebellion, he does not seem to have been very zealous on the other side, and did not shut his door against recruiting agents of the Prince. His son and heir took service in the Government forces, as did also his son-in-law, the chief of the Mackintoshes. One Braemar lady, however, deserves mention for her enterprise and devotion in the cause of the Prince—Anne Farquharson, daughter of the laird of Invercauld and wife of the Mackintosh. Indeed “the Amazonian Lady Mackintosh,” or “Colonel Anne,” as she was frequently called, was of more account than her father, brother and husband all put together; and while the two latter served in the Georgian militia, she raised the clan Mackintosh and 300 Farquharsons, combining them into a fine regiment for the service of the Prince. On his retreat to the North the Prince arrived at Moy Hall in February, with a slender retinue, to wait till his army should come up. His arrival was surreptitiously made known to the Earl of Loudon, who then held Inverness with 1700 men, and the Earl determined to make a night march on Moy to capture the Prince. The plan somehow came to the ears of the Jacobites, and at five o'clock in the morning of 17th February a panting messenger from Inverness brought tidings to Moy of Loudon's near approach. There was no time for ceremony and not a moment to be lost. Lady Mackintosh, with little further dress than what is assigned to Nannie in “Tam o' Shanter,” was instantly on

the alert, and the Prince, hastily roused out of bed, was sent along the shore of Loch Moy to a place of safety. Not only did the Prince get clear, but Loudon's advance was arrested and turned into a rout by a small patrolling party with the blacksmith of Moy at their head, which Lady Mackintosh had sent to keep guard on the Inverness road. They fired through the darkness on the van of Loudon's advancing troops, and threw them back in confusion on their comrades behind, causing the whole body to retreat precipitately to Inverness. Mr. Chambers, in his *History of the Rebellion*, relates a curious meeting between Lady Mackintosh and her husband.

“It is said that at a subsequent part of the campaign, Mackintosh himself, being taken in the capacity of a loyal militia captain by a party of the insurgents, was actually brought as a prisoner into the presence of his wife, who was then acting a semi-military part in the Chevalier's army. She said with military laconism: ‘Your servant, captain!’ to which he replied with equal brevity: ‘Your servant, colonel!’ Into such strange relations are the various parts of society apt to be thrown by a civil war.”

It is reported that after his triumph over the Jacobites the Duke of Cumberland gave a ball to which Lady Mackintosh was invited. The victor of Culloden asked her to dance with him to the tune of “Up and waur them a', Willie,” and the lady complied. By way of returning the compliment “Colonel Anne” then asked him to dance to a tune of her naming, and, on his agreeing to do so, she gave “The auld Stuarts back again!” And so “the Amazonian Lady Mackintosh” passes in music out of sight.

I have been told by a man who conversed with an eyewitness of the return of the fugitives to the Braes o' Mar after the battle of Culloden that their verdict (expressed in Gaelic, of course) on the close of the campaign was:

“The whole thing is wrong now,” a pithy comment, showing they understood all was over with the Stewarts. Some fugitives of note found their way over the hills to Braemar and Deeside after the shattered remnant of the Highland army dispersed at Ruthven in Badenoch, and there were rumours and conjectures, though they turned out to be unfounded, that the Prince might be among them, trying to make his way to the Buchan coast in the hope of finding a French vessel. Peter Grant, who died at Auchendryne on 11th February, 1824, was the last survivor of the Braemar men who fought for Prince Charlie. Peter attained the extraordinary age of 110 years. Though he married a wife thirty-two years younger than himself, she predeceased him by thirteen years. He was for some time farmer in Dubrach, but in his later years he received a small pension from the Government. The remains of this venerable Highlandman are interred in Braemar Churchyard, where his gravestone may be seen close to the western wall of the burial aisle of the Farquharsons. More than 300 men attended his funeral, and the company consumed fully an anker (fifty-four bottles) of whisky before lifting the body, which indeed was no very extraordinary quantity after all—only about two glasses a-piece. As the funeral procession moved slowly along through the thatched cottages, over the narrow bridge crossing the Clunie, and down the long brae to the churchyard, three pipers marching at the head of the coffin played “Wha wadna fecht for Charlie?” Grant had tried farming for some time at Lethnot in Forfarshire, and while he was there Lord Panmure had his portrait painted and hung in Brechin Castle.

The Duffs obtained a footing as owners in Braemar about the middle of the eighteenth century or perhaps a little earlier, beginning with Dalmore. In 1759 William Duff was created Earl of Fife in the peerage of Ireland,

and by about the close of the century the Earl of Fife, besides Dalmore, had possessed himself of a number of the smaller properties in the neighbourhood, including Allanquhoich, Inverey, Auchendryne and Balmoral, the last of which was purchased by the Royal Family in 1852. Auchallater was a separate property at the time of the Old Statistical Account (*circa* 1795) and probably for some time after, when it was merged in the Invercauld estates.

The first school in Braemar was started in Castleton about 1710 or very soon after, under the auspices of the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge, then recently formed. Their plan in those days was to carry on a school for some time in one locality, affording the means of rudimentary instruction to children and young adults there, and then to shift both teacher and school to another locality. Braemar, Monaltrie and Clachinturn seem to have been taken in succession, the schoolmaster being a Mr. John Young; and there is a record of one of these early schools being conducted by Mr. Arthur Gregory at Milton of Invercauld, a place where it would be hard to find any scholars now. By-and-by some attention was given to training in industrial pursuits, and a spinning school for training, especially in the spinning of lint, was set agoing in Castleton about 1755 (when the population of the united parish numbered 2671) by Lady Sinclair, wife of Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, and daughter of Lord George Murray, Prince Charlie's Lieutenant-General. Previously linen had been spun on the rock or distaff, and wool on the big wheel. A qualified spinning mistress was engaged, but it was difficult at first to get the young women to attend, and so the laird of Invercauld had to speak to his tenants, and in a manner compel those who had two or three daughters to send one of them to the spinning school.

But Lady Sinclair took great interest in the school, made personal visits to it, and gave prizes to those who excelled, so that in about half a dozen years great progress had been made, and the young women vied with each other in devotion to the art of spinning. In August, 1762, Lady Sinclair issued an advertisement that she had received a sum of money from the Trustees for Manufactures to be used for promoting spinning in the united parish of Braemar and Crathie, and had resolved to distribute, next New Year's Day, gowns, plaids, caps and other such articles among the women and girls who lodged at Invercauld before the close of the year, the greatest and best quantities of linen yarn of their own spinning. In response to this advertisement, yarn to the value of £300 was sent in, and no doubt New Year's Day, 1763, had been a busy day at Invercauld, and many a cottage in the parish had been gladdened by the success of some of its inmates, and by the plaids and gowns brought home as a result. For about half a century to come the spinning of linen yarn came to be in Braemar and Crathie, as elsewhere in Aberdeenshire, one of the main supports of the poorer families, cottars and crofters. The raw material was sent out by a manufacturing company in Aberdeen to country shopkeepers, who received a small sum for giving it out and receiving back the yarn. At this work a woman could earn the modest sum of 2s. 6d. or 3s. a week.

While the women were thus busy with spinning, the men were learning to enlist in the army, some of the earliest Highland regiments being largely recruited from Braemar. In 1783 the Government in bad faith attempted to ship off the men of the 77th regiment—many of whom were from the Highlands of Deeside—to India, after their term of service had expired. Charles Gordon, a brother of the laird of Abergeldie, was Lieutenant-Colonel of the

regiment, and he incurred much odium by endeavouring to get the men away. The soldiers mutinied, however, the order for their embarkation was cancelled, and the regiment marched to Berwick and disbanded. This affair and the temporary withdrawal of the bounty formerly given on enlistment checked the progress of recruiting for some time, though it was actively resumed on the outbreak of the war with France after the Revolution. In general the men entered the army willingly enough, but sometimes the recruiting parties tried compulsion and had to catch their man before enlisting him, and this gave rise to many exciting adventures and amusing stories of flight and chase.

The Old Statistical Account (about 1795) gives the following statement of live stock in the parish:—

	Horses.	Black Cattle.	Sheep.
Crathie . . . . .	529	919	5591
Braemar . . . . .	466	930	9000

About 800 or 900 additional black cattle were grazed in summer within the parish, and 2000 of the sheep given above were wintered outside of it. It is added that the numbers given for horses, cattle and sheep fall short of the real numbers, as the people would not give exact information, fearing the return was wanted in connection with some design of the Government to impose fresh taxation. The number of horses (almost a thousand) looks large, but it is to be remembered that carts were few and roads bad (or non-existent), and that there was very little cartage, peats being carried home from the mosses and crops from the fields by means of creels slung across the horses' backs. The volume of goods traffic with distant places was very small, and down to about 1828 the Braemar carrier, making a journey with two carts once a fortnight to and from Aberdeen, did all the ordinary carrying work. The



population of the united parish in 1755 was 2671, and in 1891, 1534, while in the Old Statistical Account it is given for 1794 classified in the following curious way :—

	Protestants.	Catholics.	Children.	Total.
Crathie . . .	700	150	164	1014
Braemar . . .	455	580	192	1227
				<u>2241</u>

No doubt a good deal of smuggling was carried on in Braemar during the latter part of the eighteenth century and the first three decades of the nineteenth, the ruins of many a smuggling bothy being still traceable in the glens and on the hillsides. Sometimes these stood in places by no means very concealed or outlandish, and one wonders how they could be used and escape detection. I am inclined to think, however, that too much has been made of smuggling in some accounts of the subject, at least as regards the gains it brought to the country people. The farmers, crofters and others who engaged in unlicensed distilling were apt to neglect their ordinary peaceable industries, and both still and whisky might be seized upon by the excise, and the smugglers subjected to fine or imprisonment. Smuggling was not considered disreputable, but defiance of the excise laws and conflicts with the excisemen tended to make smugglers unruly, and to turn the fiercer spirits among them into desperadoes, so that it was well when the lawless traffic in drink came to an end. Though their useful toil did not give rise to adventures and exciting stories, it is probable that the women who patiently and steadfastly applied themselves to the work of spinning, poorly paid as it was, did more in the long run for the welfare of their families than the smugglers did.

In the early part of the nineteenth century the village of Braemar consisted mostly of an irregularly arranged collection of thatched cottages and huts, with very few

slated houses. Visitors spoke rather disparagingly of the inn, probably the best house in the place, but if there was anything amiss about it the natives should be exonerated from blame, as both host and hostess seem to have been imported from the Lowlands. In reading accounts of what things were like in the Highlands in old times, we must remember that great changes have come over other parts of the country as well. The city of Aberdeen, for instance, towards the close of the eighteenth century would contrast very unfavourably with the city of the present day, not only in size, but also in the character of the houses and the sanitary arrangements; and in 1787 it was described by Robbie Burns as "lazy," precisely the accusation which flippant critics are fond of making against the Highlanders. Within the last forty years the village of Braemar has probably been more transformed than in 100 years preceding. A new bridge, rather too narrow for the summer traffic, has been built (1863) connecting the two parts of the village, the two hotels have been quadrupled in size and greatly embellished in appearance, the thatched houses, which at the beginning of the period formed fully half of the total number, have almost entirely disappeared, having been either pulled down or enlarged and slated, and numerous new houses and villas have been erected, especially about the market-stance in Castleton and Chapel Hill and some other parts of Auchendryne. A new Free Church was opened in 1870, the Established Church renovated and greatly extended (1880), a wooden Episcopal Church erected (1880), two public halls built (about 1887), the Boys' School transformed and fitted up as a teacher's house, and the Girls' School enlarged and made into the Public School. A police station was built in 1860, a branch of the Union Bank opened (1873), telegraphic communication extended to Braemar Post Office

(1871, I think), a gravitation water supply introduced to Castleton about ten or twelve years ago, and at a considerably earlier date to Auchendryne. Previously the village maids and matrons had come forth, like the woman of Samaria,<sup>r</sup> to draw water, not from a well, however, but from the mill lade near the present site of the Union Bank, or from the flowing Clunie.

The bridge over the Dee, a mile and a quarter below Invercauld, was built in 1858, and the new turnpike from Ballater to Braemar crossing it was opened in 1859, at which time the south Deeside road for six miles through Ballochbuie to Balmoral was closed and declared private. Following the opening of the new turnpike Braemar became the site of that unwelcome thing—a toll, which for a few months was placed beside the Invercauld Arms, and afterwards near the churchyard, where the toll-house still stands. It was not a long-lived institution, however, as tolls were abolished about 1866. The new road from Braemar through Glenclunie to the top of the Cairnwell was formed about 1861-63. The mansion houses of the district have changed with the changing era, Invercauld being greatly altered and enlarged (1872-74), New Mar Lodge burned down in 1895, Old Mar Lodge demolished (1897-98), and a new residence for the Duke of Fife near the site of the latter completed in 1898, while within the last two or three years Mar Castle has been repaired and fitted up with a view to be let as a residence. Some trees and shrubbery planted in the park in front of the castle, without adding much to the amenity of the scene, have the effect of preventing the Braemar Gathering from being held on its wonted site.

Everybody has heard of Byron's early life on Deeside, but there is scarcely any mention of the visit of a less illustrious but still genuine poet, James Hogg, the Ettrick shepherd, who was in Braemar in the early years of the

nineteenth century. I have not seen any account of his visit in print, and such particulars as have reached me have been "disclosed by the natives". The author of "Cam' ye by Athole?" and "When the kye come hame" remained a bachelor till he was about fifty, but might have sooner reached the haven of matrimony if a Braemar maiden who caught his fancy had been inclined to be gracious. Perhaps it was natural that she should not be in haste to fall in love with a man nearly twenty years older than herself; so Hogg went on his way and she missed the opportunity of becoming a poet's wife. Hogg notices Braemar localities in several of his poems, though not generally in his happiest efforts. In the article on Loch Bulig I have summarised one of his prose tales connected with the neighbourhood.

BRAERIACH (4248 feet) second in height among the mountains of Braemar and third among those of the United Kingdom, lies at the north-western extremity of Braemar, on the confines of the counties of Aberdeen and Inverness, opposite Ben Macdhui (4296 feet), from which it is divided by the deep, narrow glen through which the Larig burn flows. The main axis of the mountain is of great length and lies approximately north-east and south-west, narrowed in some parts to a ridge, but broadening out elsewhere into an extended area, covered in some places with blocks and boulders of stone, but in greater part with gravel and sand, the crumbled remains of disintegrated granite. In an area of sand and gravel of this description, 4060 feet above sea-level, are the wells of Dee, giving origin to the Garchory burn, which dashes over great rocks and descends the wild and frowning gorge of Garchory to join the Larig burn. The three greatest mountains of Braemar—Ben Macdhui (4296 feet), Braeriach (4248 feet), and Cairntoul (4241

feet)—are, from most points of view, so much hemmed in among others that from a distance they do not appear so conspicuous as some other mountains not nearly so high, but the near view is very impressive. To be the third highest summit in the three kingdoms Braeriach has for a wonderfully long time been ignored, or perhaps we should say undiscovered, by geographers.

BRAERODDACH, a small loch in Aboyne parish, about three-quarters of a mile north of the turnpike, and two and a half miles directly south of the village of Tarland.

BRAICHLIE is an enlarged farmhouse in a bend of the hills, a little to the south of the Dee, opposite the west end of Ballater, conspicuously in view from the top of Craigendarroch. It is now used as the residence of Sir Allan Mackenzie of Glenmuick, who lets Glenmuick House and shootings. Long ago Gordons, styled barons of Braichlie, held the place, one of whom was killed in a raid by the Clan Chattan about 1592, and another in a skirmish with Farquharson of Inverey (the Black Colonel) in 1666, the latter occurrence being the subject of a rugged old ballad which has long outlived the Braichlies and Invereys. As part of Glenmuick, Braichlie was afterwards held by the Earl of Aboyne; in 1749 sold to Farquharson of Invercauld, and about 1870 again sold to Mr. (afterwards Sir) James T. Mackenzie. The old house of Braichlie stood near the site of the present edifice, but little trace of it now remains.

BRAID CAIRN (2907 feet), a hill on the borders of Aberdeenshire and Forfarshire to the east of Mount Keen, of which it may be regarded as a projection. The water of Gairney, a tributary of the Tanner, drains its northern aspect. It is to be distinguished from *Broad Cairn*

(3268 feet), part of the Lochnagar group of mountains, situated to the west of Loch Muick and south-east of Dubh Loch.

BROAD CAIRN (3268 feet), forms a south-eastern projection of the Lochnagar group of mountains. It is separated from the main mass of Lochnagar by a deep defile in which lies the Dubh Loch and the burn passing from it to Loch Muick.

BULIG, LOCH, three-quarters of a mile long, lies at the north-eastern base of Benavon, 1568 feet above sea-level, eight or ten miles from Braemar, and eleven from Tomin-toul (Banffshire), the hill route between the two passing its eastern margin. Though just within the Banffshire boundary and draining to the Avon, it is almost in Gलगairn, and an outlet to the Gairn could easily be formed. It is owned by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, but the fishing (abundance of trout and char) is held for a nominal rent by the laird of Invercauld, who has a shooting lodge at the south end. There are several small lochans, with broken mossy ground between Loch Bulig and the Gairn.

Hogg, the Ettrick shepherd, tells a long legend of Loch Bulig, perhaps embellishing it in the telling. Peter Aston, a friend of the Earl of Mar, was sent north about 1640 to manage the earl's territory on Deeside and Donside. He had trouble with a band of Grants who had settled at Loch Bulig, and carried on poaching on a large scale in the Mar territory. Aston, looking down one day on the abundant smoke rising from the poachers' huts, determined to call and remonstrate. He found them engaged smoking over slow peat fires great numbers of haunches and shoulders of venison, the spoils of their lawless hunting, quarrelled with Nicol Grant the poacher

chief, fought with him, and was on the point of conquering when Grant's followers interfered, seized and bound Aston and threw him down on the floor of a hut. At night deliverance came, for Marsali Grant, a comely and gracious maiden, daughter of the poacher chief, had seen and pitied, perhaps loved the stranger, so she loosed his bonds and let him escape, after taking a promise from him not to disturb the poachers' settlement or harm her father. Old Nicol Grant, on discovering the escape, pursued furiously and killed some one else in mistake for Aston; but was himself captured and taken prisoner to Mar Castle, from which he was being led on a rope to be hanged in the village of Braemar when Aston appeared on the scene, stopped the execution and consigned Grant to the castle vaults, from which after nightfall he secretly released the old man, who departed breathing forth threatening and slaughter.

Afterwards, when Aston was in Glengairn with a small party, Marsali resolved to send him a messenger to warn him of an intended attack, but Aston's party taking the messenger for an enemy discharged their arrows and the youth fell. Aston, on going up to him, found him bleeding from a wound in the shoulder, from which he had extracted the arrow. On learning the friendly nature of the youth's errand, confirmed by a token from Marsali, Aston agreed to accompany him to Loch Bulig, from which the fighting men were absent on an expedition. Marsali chid him for the reception accorded to her messenger, Aston excusing himself by saying that the youth did not give the pass word or announce himself a friend, and speaking rather disparagingly of the appearance made by the youth; on which, to his astonishment, Marsali, slightly drawing aside her tartan bodice, disclosed the wound the arrow had made on her shoulder, for she herself had been the messenger. She tried her utmost

to persuade Aston to keep out of Montrose's campaign, for which both sides were mustering their forces, as she dreaded a fatal encounter between him and her father all the more if, as seemed likely, they should both come together under the standard of Montrose. But Aston had already received a commission to raise a party of horse for Montrose, and was not to be moved. What more could maiden do! Aston's earliest conflict was rather inglorious. Crossing a ford on the way to join Montrose, he was attacked by a party under Nicol Grant, his bridle reins were cut and his horse, no longer subject to control, galloped out of the fray. Aston's men thought best to follow their leader, and when a halt was made at some distance, Aston was persuaded by a young recruit known as Colin, who won his good opinion and was afterwards closely attached to himself as page, to choose a route by which he could join Montrose without further encounter with the Grants. The battle of Auldearn soon followed, in which Aston greatly distinguished himself, and was forthwith made a colonel. Afterwards he was sent with his party of horse to Glenfiddich where forage was plentiful. One day Aston and Colin with two other companions ascended the mountain of Benrinnes and sated themselves with the wide prospect, Aston and Colin looking wistfully southward in the direction of Loch Bulig. On their way back to the camp they were attacked in a pass by Nicol Grant and some confederates. Aston fought manfully against fearful odds. Colin, who had gone to summon aid, soon reappeared and was struck down by Nicol Grant, upon which, Aston, redoubling his efforts, pressed hard on Nicol and would have cut him down when a piercing cry rose from his wounded and dying attendant: "Spare him! Spare my old father!" Both combatants dropped their swords. Aston kissed the dying maid, for it was Marsali, who in the guise of



Colin had been his attendant ; and Nicol Grant, in rage and horror, rushed away, howling. Marsali's body was carried to Aston's tent, where he watched and wept over it, refusing to be comforted. In the morning he was found bleeding to death, for Nicol Grant had come back under cover of night to complete his murderous work. So ended the tragic tale. A gulf lay between the lovers in their lives, but in death they were not divided.

BYNACK is a shooting lodge in Mar Forest, on a burn of the same name, a tributary of the Geldie, five or six miles south-west of the Linn of Dee, and only a little over a mile from the Perthshire border. The route from Braemar through Glentilt to Blair Athole passes close to the lodge.

CAIRNBATHIE, a farm a little to the south of Lumphanan church, on which "Macbeth's Stone" is still pointed out near the railway, the stone being traditionally associated with the last battle and death (1057) of that monarch, whose cairn, surrounded by a ring of trees, stands on Perk Hill, about a mile away.

CAIRNGORM (4084 feet), almost directly north from Ben Macdhui, is beyond the limits of Deeside and Aberdeenshire, but, rather inappropriately, it has come to be the fashion to call Cairngorm, Ben Macdhui, Braeriach and Cairntoul by the common name of Cairngorm mountains, and even to include Beinn-a-Bhuird, if not Benavon. Cairngorm stones, as they are called, used for Highland jewellery, are composed of silica, which in one form or another is about the most abundant mineral in the earth's crust, though the crystallised and coloured varieties known as Cairngorms are somewhat rare. They are found on all the greater mountains of Braemar from

Lochnagar to Ben Macdhui, and at one time Cairngorm digging was pretty extensively carried on, very large specimens being preserved at Invercauld.

CAIRNMONEARN is one of the lesser eastern Grampians in Durris, six and three-quarter miles north-west of Stonehaven. The Slug road from Deeside, about two miles below Bridge of Feugh, to Stonehaven, traverses its west side, and below the road a deep hollow separates Cairnmonearn from the next hill.

CAIRN O'MOUNT (1488 feet), a hill on the mutual border of Strachan and Fordoun parishes, with a road from Deeside passing up Glendye and over its eastern shoulder, thence leading to the Howe of the Mearns and Forfarshire. In old times this was one of the main highways between north and south, and in the accounts of the doings of Dundee and his successors and antagonists frequent mention is made of armed forces coming and going by the Cairn O'Mount. The Stag burn, a tributary of the Dye, rises partly on the northern aspect of the hill.

CAIRNTON (427 feet) is a small woody hill, about three miles west of Banchory, between the turnpike and the river. The water supply for Aberdeen is diverted from the Dee at Cairnton, and led through a tunnel below the hill to the reservoir at Invercanny.

CAIRNTOUL (4241 feet), one of three Braemar mountains overtopping all others in the United Kingdom except Ben Nevis, its compeers being Ben Macdhui (4296 feet) to the north-east, separated by the deep straight glen or ravine of the Dee, and Braeriach to the north, separated by the great gorge of Garchory, though the two are continuous behind the head of the gorge. The small Lochan Uaine

faces the Garchory and sends a streamlet to augment the Garchory burn (the head stream of the Dee). On the south the deep crooked Glen Geusachan separates Cairntoul from Beinn Bhrotain (3797 feet) and Monadh Mor (3651 feet). In the upper part, near the Inverness-shire border, is the small Lochan Suarach, sending a streamlet to the Geusachan burn. In the angle between the Dee and the Geusachan is the lofty and sharply-defined granite peak called the Devil's Point (3033 feet).

CAIRNWELL (3059 feet) is a mountain eight or nine miles south of Braemar, with the road from Braemar to Glenshee and Blairgowrie (usually called the Cairnwel road) passing at an elevation of about 2200 feet through a hollow between it and Meall Odhar (3019 feet) to the east.

CALLATER—LOCH, GLEN and BURN. Loch Callater, barely a mile long, and 1627 feet above sea-level, is five miles south of the village of Braemar, and covers the bottom of the narrow glen in which it lies, between hills which, though they attain a good height, have no very notable features. Various rivulets combine to form Alltan Loch, the main feeding stream, which has a zigzag course through flat ground near the upper end of the loch; and the loch itself is gradually being silted up (as one may see when climbing the Lochnagar path on the hillside opposite), the sand and gravel carried down by the burn when in flood settling when they reach the quieter water of the loch, and forming a bank which slowly rears itself above the surface. The issuing burn, the Callater, has a course of three miles, with a stony channel and rocky steps here and there, but no falls to impede the passage of salmon. In the summer of 1897 nearly fifty salmon were caught in one day by dragging the loch with a net. The Callater burn joins

the Clunie at Auchallater, where it is crossed by a substantial stone bridge carrying the Cairnwell road. Close above this there is a rocky den from which flaggy slates or slaty flags have formerly been quarried. The glen is without wood and solitary, save for a gamekeeper's house (not always occupied) at the near end of the loch, and a shepherd's hut in the same neighbourhood. The road through the glen from Auchallater to the loch is very much out of repair. At the upper part the path to Lochnagar leaves the road on the left, just before reaching the gamekeeper's house. Glencallater and the hills and corries in the neighbourhood afford many specimens of alpine or subalpine plants, and have therefore considerable attractions for botanists.

CAMBUS O'MAY is a small station about four miles to the east of Ballater, and two and a half west of Dinnet. On one side the rails run quite close to the river's bank, and on the other a natural ledge of granite rock covered with heather faces the platform. Cambus O'May House, on a portion of the dismembered Aboyne estates, now owned by Mr. Gaskell, is a gabled and verandahed structure built about 1874 or 1875 on a rocky flat near the station, elevated a little above the road and the river. A little farther west there are several houses by the roadside, as well as a bobbin mill which has been a long time at work among the birches. Notwithstanding the doings of the mill, the banks and braes still show a considerable growth of natural birch, and the Dee winding through the woods forms a scene which is quite refreshing after the monotonous Moor of Dinnet. Across the river to the south is Ballaterach farm, with associations of Byron's boyhood; and the hills to the north-west, offshoots of Morven, are scarred in several places with granite quarries.

CAMMIE, HILL OF (2028 feet), a hill on the borders of Aberdeenshire and Forfarshire, between Mount Battock on the east and Mudlee Bracks on the west, near the head streams of the Feugh and the Aan.

CAMPFIELD, a small estate (owned by Mr. George Collie), with the house on an elevated site about a mile to the north of Glassel station, with the Hill of Fare behind it.

CAMPHILL, a small property near the Dee, to the west of the road leading from Milltimber Station across the river to Maryculter, the house being surrounded by woods.

CANNY BURN is the lower part of Beltie burn, which see.

CAPEL MOUNTH (2250 feet), a hill to the south of Loch Muick, over which there is a path from the upper part of Glenmuick in Aberdeenshire to the upper part of Glenclova in Forfarshire. In old times this route was much frequented, and the Spital of Muick, near the lower end of the loch, afforded accommodation to travellers, but now there is only a gamekeeper's house, and the travellers are few. Montrose passed northward by this route in the spring of 1645, before the battle of Auldearn, as did also some stragglers from the Jacobite army in 1746.

CARLOGIE HOUSE is at the north end of a peninsula enclosed on three sides by a strong bend of the Dee, almost opposite Desswood House, and about a mile west from Kincardine O'Neil. Though rather low-looking when viewed from the turnpike on the north side of the Dee, its site is a pleasant one, with woods behind and the river on all sides but the south.

CARN-A-MHAIM (3328 feet), a mountain of Braemar, between Glen Lui and Glen Dee, directly south of Ben Macdhui, of which it may be regarded as an offshoot.

CARN-NA-CUIMHNE (remembrance cairn), modernised into Cairnaquheen, which some people fondly imagine must be associated one way or another with Her Majesty, is a rough cairn of stones, of no great height, thrown together without any attempt at building, close to the north bank of the Dee, between the fifty-first and fifty-second milestones, near the eastern outlet of a narrow pass between the river and a steep birch-clad hill on the north. The cairn has a flagpole in the centre and is surrounded by a stone dyke, the enclosure being planted with larches. In old times Carn-na-Cuimhne was the war cry of the Farquharsons, and a very improbable account has arisen regarding it. The story is that the clan, when going out to battle, mustered beside the cairn, each clansman laying down a fresh stone near it. When they returned, each picked up a stone, and those left represented the number of "the unreturning brave" who had fallen in battle. Highlanders in old times certainly had little book learning, but they could count plain numbers just as well as others, and the story about their counting the number of their men by means of small stones (though this is going back to the etymology of *calculation*) is altogether too ridiculous. Besides, the Invereys were for a long time the great warriors of the clan; and if they were to issue through the higher passes—say through Glentilt or over the Cairnwell—to join Montrose or Dundee, they never would come thirteen or fourteen miles out of their way to count the number of their men by means of small stones. It is quite likely that musterings frequently took place at the cairn when it did not lie out of the line of march, but not for the

purpose alleged. Carn-na-Cuimhne was a watchword and a rallying cry, a mystic word of brotherhood to members of the clan, and down to the close of the eighteenth century, and perhaps longer, any Braemar or Crathie man who encountered bad usage at the rough scenes which sometimes occurred at markets and other country meetings, had but to shout this mystic word in order to bring a crowd of neighbours to his relief. The last laird of Monaltrie had a friendly eye on the cairn, and in the early years of the nineteenth century called out a boy from each house in Monaltrie to plant a tree within the enclosure. The trees, though not perhaps in full numbers, are still there, but the hands that planted them have long ceased from their labours.

CASTLETON is the part of the village of Braemar on the eastern bank of the Clunie, but the name is sometimes applied to the whole village, which is hardly fair to the larger and more populous Auchendryne. See KINDROCHIT (the old name for the place) and BRAEMAR.

CAT, HILL OF (2435 feet), also called Peter Begg, a hill on the borders of Aberdeenshire and Forfarshire, giving origin on its north side to the water of Allachy, a tributary of the Tanner.

CATTIE BURN, eight and a quarter miles long, is next to the Feugh, the chief stream of Birse, rising between Carmafeg (1724 feet) and Brackenstake (1555 feet) near the Glentanner boundary, and flowing north-east by Ballogie and Marywell, to enter the Dee a mile and a quarter below the Bridge of Potarch.

CAUSEY MOUNTH was an old route from Aberdeen southward leading over the dwindling eastern Grampians in Banchory-Devenick to the Howe of the Mearns.

Long centuries ago, before the Bridge of Dee was built, there was a ferry in connection with this route, some distance below the place where the bridge was afterwards erected. The path was paved in some places where it traversed boggy or mossy ground, hence the name.

CEANDER, LOCH, a small mountain loch to the south-west of Loch Callater, Braemar. High and precipitous rocks enclose Loch Ceander, except at the outlet of the little burn which descends to Loch Callater. Loch Ceander has abundance of small trout, and in the neighbourhood is the Break Neck waterfall, with parsley and holly fern growing near it.

CHARLESTOWN, a name sometimes given to the village of Aboyne (Charlestown of Aboyne) out of compliment to Charles, first Earl of Aboyne. A still older name was Bunty or Bounty.

CLACHANTURN, a hamlet of Crathie, on the south side of the Dee, three-quarters of a mile west of Abergeldie, formerly of some account in respect of having a market, a ferry across the Dee, and one of the earliest schools in the district, but now dwindled to a smithy and two or three houses.

CLOCHNABEN, a conspicuous hill (1944 feet) in the parish of Strachan, between the Dye and the Aan, about three miles north-east from Mount Battock (2555). Though not nearly so high as the latter, it is more conspicuous, being more to the front, and carrying on its brow a huge, naked mass of granite, somewhat like a half-ruined castle or a stranded iceberg. It is prominent from various parts of Deeside, especially from the east end of Banchory near the church, and from Torphins, besides being a notable landmark from the sea. It is



frequently climbed (Feughside Inn being a convenient starting-point), and commands a wide view to the eastward, embracing the country from Peterhead to the Lammermuirs

CLUNIE WATER is a considerable tributary of the Dee, entering the river about half a mile below the village of Braemar. It is formed about six miles above its mouth by the junction of the Allt Bhruididh, which rises on the Cairnwell hill, near the highest point of the road traversing Glenclunie and crossing between Braemar and Glenshee, and Baddoch burn rising among hills more to the west. Near the junction of the burns is the farm of Baddoch, the uppermost in the glen, and a shooting lodge, with a belt of fir plantation. There are two or three houses on dismantled farms in this neighbourhood, and the glen has good sheep pasture, including numerous patches, mostly near the Clunie, that have formerly been under tillage. At Auchallater, two miles above Braemar, the Clunie is joined by the Callater, a good-sized burn draining Loch Callater. As it flows through the village of Braemar and past the old Castle of Kindrochit, the Clunie has a very rough channel, with rocky cliffs, out of which trees and bushes are growing, well seen from the bridge between Castleton and Auchendryne. The village itself belongs quite as much to the valley of the Clunie as of the Dee. In summer the hills and haughs of Glenclunie are covered with sheep, and shepherds "whistle through the glen"; in autumn sportsmen scour the braes and moors; while coaches and other conveyances come and go between Braemar, Glenshee and Blairgowrie. In winter the scene is changed, and the glen all but deserted. Shepherds and sportsmen "tread on the heather no more," and traffic over the Cairnwell ceases, the road being usually blocked with snow for four or five months.

CLUNY LODGE, etc. *See* CRAIG CLUNY.

COCK CAIRN (2387 feet), a hill on the borders of Aberdeenshire and Forfarshire, between the headstreams of the Gairney and the Allachy, tributaries of the Tanner. Little Cock Cairn (2044 feet) is to the north of the other.

COILACREACH is an inn and farm on the north side of the Dee, about four miles to the west of Ballater, with some cottars' houses in its neighbourhood, and abundance of graceful birches. It was formerly the site of a toll when tolls were in fashion. The road rises pretty steeply on both sides to reach Coilacreach. It might easily have been engineered to pass along the braeside in an almost level line, but it looks as if the engineer who planned the road could not resist the temptation of making for the public house. A good view is obtainable from Coilacreach, the hills on the south having a profusion of fir wood, while the rather bare Glengirnock shows itself through an opening between them. Westward along the Dee the prospect extends to within about half a mile of Balmoral.

COLONEL'S BED. *See* EY.

CORNDAVON, a shooting lodge of some size in the upper part of Glengairn, on the Invercauld property, with extensive and very productive grouse moors. There is a fence on the western boundary between the Corndavon ground and Invercauld forests, but late in the season a stray deer is occasionally shot on the former. Corndavon shootings were long held by Sir Joseph W. Pease, a wealthy quaker M.P.

CORRICHIE, a somewhat mossy or marshy hollow on the south-eastern aspect of the Hill of Fare (which see). Here, on 28th October, 1562, the Earl of Moray,

commanding the forces of Queen Mary, routed the rebellious Earl of Huntly. The defeated earl fell probably not by the sword, but crushed in the struggle or pursuit by the weight of his armour.

CORRIEMULZIE, a hill burn of no great size, entering the Dee about three miles west of Braemar, and where crossed by the South Deeside road, dashing over a high rock shaded with trees, and forming a picturesque waterfall. This waterfall is now used to supply mechanical (transformed into electrical) energy for the lighting of the Duke of Fife's new mansion of Mar Lodge. A former mansion, mostly built of wood, which stood on a woody bank by the roadside, a little to the west, was burned down in 1895.

COULL is a parish in the eastern part of Cromar, draining mostly to the Dee by the Tarland burn, but partly to the Don by the burn of Corse. Nearly half-way on the road from Tarland to Aboyne (about three miles from the latter), two or three houses and a small post office are passed, and eastward across the burn, on the edge of a wood, is the plain, unpretentious church of Coull, with the churchyard beside it. The church was built in 1792 and restored in 1876, and has a fine-toned bell cast in Holland in 1644. A little to the south of the church are the ruins of the old castle of Coull, which measured about fifty yards square, and had five turrets and four hexagonal towers. At the beginning of the thirteenth century it was held by the high-reaching and rapacious Durwards, and a strange tradition arose that the church bell was wont to ring spontaneously on the death of a Durward.

COUNTESSWELLS, an old estate in Peterculter parish, nearly five miles from Aberdeen, now owned by the Rev.

James S. Gammell. There is a good-sized mansion, and the place has also a public school and a post office. Countesswells is about two miles from Cults Station, and may also be reached by a road diverging from the Deeside turnpike near Mannofield.

COYLES OF MUICK (1956 feet), two prominent green peaks, consisting in great part of serpentine, between Glenmuick and Glengirnock, about a mile below the Linn of Muick. Though from a distance, as for instance from the top of Craigenarroch, the Coyles look very green compared with the neighbouring hills, the vegetation is not luxuriant, and in some places there are bare stone surfaces scarcely deserving the name of precipices.

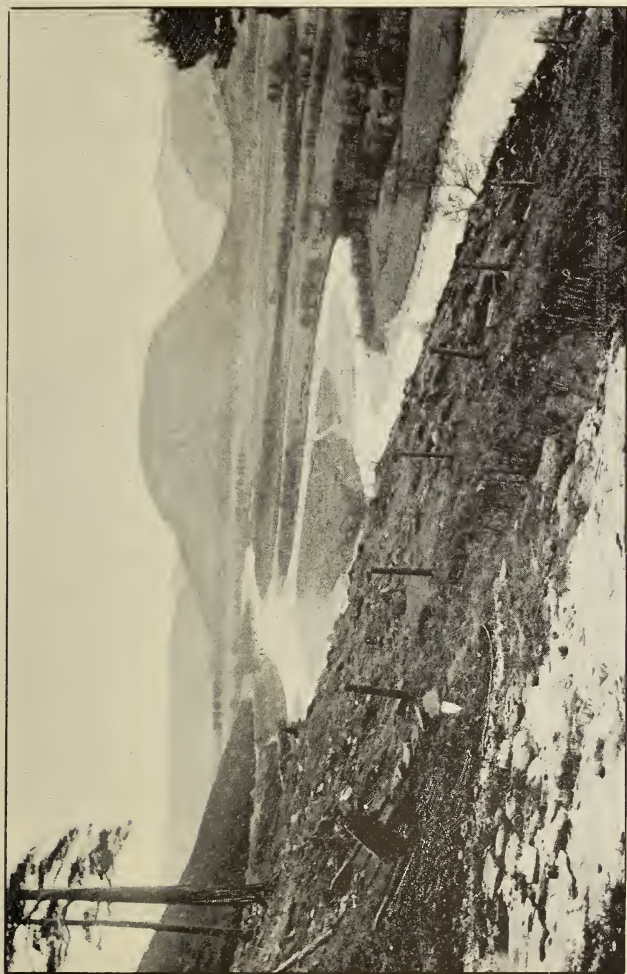
CRAIG CHOINNICH (1764 feet), a woody hill of no great height, flanking the village of Braemar on the north-east, and facing Mar Castle. At the lower end of the castle park the hill slopes abruptly down to the river, scarcely leaving room for the road to pass. On this aspect of the hill, a little below the castle, there is a gorge enclosed by precipitous rocks, but so much obscured by trees that it is scarcely seen except from the north side of the river. Towards Braemar fields and parks extend some distance up, but elsewhere, except a small part at the top, the hill is closely covered with wood—a good mixture of birch and larch, by their lighter colour, relieving the more sombre hue of the pines. On the upper bare part, though not exactly on the summit, there is a circular stone cairn built in 1829 by the soldiers then stationed in the castle. A race from the park below to this cairn used to be one of the competitions in the Braemar gathering, but it was given up as altogether too murderous. Craig Choinnich (Kenneth's Craig) is said to have been named after King Kenneth, whom tradition represents as

hunting in the district. There is no saying which Kenneth it was, but any way it is a very old story [Kenneth I. (605-6), Kenneth II. (834-54), Kenneth III. (970-94), Kenneth IV. (995-1003)].

CRAIG CLUNY, a steep, rocky, and precipitous hill, about two miles to the east of Braemar, overhanging the turnpike, and pressing it close to the river's edge at the upper end of the deep black winding pools of Caipaich. The hill is in great part covered with fir wood, with a sprinkling of birch and rowans in some places, trees shooting up either singly or in clusters among the rocks and precipices, which they partly veil though they cannot hide. About a fourth of the way up there is a rocky shelf—hardly a cave, though it is sometimes so called—rather difficult of access but capable of being scaled at one point. In this place, sometimes called “Charters' Chest,” are the remains of a hut, and there is a tradition, repeated with a good many variations, that some laird or other (the laird of Invercauld or the laird of Cluny) took refuge or hid his charters in this strange repository at the time of some rebellion. It is rather comic to tell this story of the laird of Invercauld in the 1745-6 affair, as he was on the Hanoverian or winning side on that occasion, and could have no need to hide himself or his charters. From the north side of the river, about half a mile below Invercauld, the hill shows even to greater advantage than from the road on the south, but it has suffered somewhat by the trees on its eastern side having been blown down about ten years ago. A park, most of which has formerly been under cultivation, stretches between the road and the river for three-quarters of a mile westward from Invercauld Bridge to Caipaich, and in this park the Braemar gathering has recently been held. Near the middle of the park is Cluny Lodge, sometimes let with

the shootings along the western fringe of Ballochbuie, sometimes occupied by the laird of Invercauld when Invercauld itself is let. It is encircled with trees and has an ornamental pond, and rhododendrons and Irish junipers lining the approach. Half-way between the lodge and the bridge is the "Muckle Stane o' the Cluny," a rock about the size of a cottage, with an aged rowan beside it and some very graceful birches between it and the river. A private road leading through Ballochbuie to Balmoral diverges from the turnpike almost opposite the "Muckle Stane". The stones used in building the old Bridge of Dee (somewhere about 1750) were quarried near the top of Craig Cluny, and the sledge road by which they were brought down is still quite traceable.

CRAIGENDARROCH is a bold, rocky, red-granite hill, 1250 feet high, to the north-west of Ballater, in great part covered with fir wood, but on the south with oaks mixed with birch. On the north is the Pass of Ballater traversed by the road from Tullich to Bridge of Gairn, on the south-east the village of Ballater, while the Dee touches the base of the hill on the south-west, and recoils from it towards the mouth of the Muick. The Braemar road, before getting clear of the hill, climbs through oak and fir wood half-way up its height, followed most of the way by villas whose foundations have been cut out of the steep, rocky slope and whose grounds retain the natural grown wood. Where the road reaches its highest point it is overlooked by Morven House; at the foot of the eastern fir-clad projection is the old mansion house of Monaltrie, and across the Dee are the modern mansion of Glenmuick and the ruins of the old castle of Knock. From the summit, which even an apprentice at hill climbing may easily reach, we may vary the prospect by looking towards Lochnagar, or up the opening of Glenmuick, or



*Wilson, Aberdeen.*

CRAIGENDARROCH AND PASS OF BALLATER.





along the valley of the Dee, or down to the trim village at the foot of the hill. There were formerly two cannons on the top, placed there, I believe, by the laird of Monaltrie, and used on occasions of public rejoicing. As the sound swelled and echoed among the hills, it was a good site to give an impressive idea of "the diapason of the cannonade". In 1864 one cannon was taken away to "make a joyful noise" in Braemar at the wedding of Colonel Farquharson, and the other was overcharged and burst on a later occasion.

CRAIG GOWAN (1437 feet), a beautiful birch-clad hill which would be a "delectable mountain" if it had sufficient height, fronting Balmoral Castle from the south, and bearing several royal cairns on its summit and ridges, the principal one of which was erected in 1862 to the memory of the Prince Consort.

CRAIGMYLE is a small estate in the eastern part of Kincardine O'Neil. The house stands among trees about a mile east of Torphins, and was built long ago by Farquharson of Monaltrie, who purchased the property from Burnett of Leys, and afterwards sold it to Mr. John Gordon, in the hands of whose relatives it still remains.

CRAIGNABAN (1736 feet), a hill, mostly covered with fir wood, forming a fine background to Abergeldie Castle when the latter is looked at from the turnpike on the north of the river, though, as Abergeldie fronts the south, the hill may more properly be said to be in the foreground. From the upper part of the Abergeldie parks a foot-path crosses Craignaban to Glengirnock. Etymologists are not quite sure whether Craignaban should mean the Wives' or the Witches' Craig, but probably the wives' have the best of it.

CRAIG PHIOBAIDH (1462 feet), a hill, pretty well covered with fir wood, on the east side of the lower part of Glengirnock, rather farther from the river than Craig Ghuibhais, the neighbouring hill on the west side of the glen.

CRATHES is one of the oldest estates on Deeside, coeval with the neighbouring estate of Drum, both having been granted by King Robert the Bruce to ancestors of the present owners. Even at an earlier date the Crathes family seem to have had some hold in the district, for King Robert's grant of the lands in 1324 to Alexander de Burnard is declared to be in recompense for the loss of the forestership of Drum (conferred in 1323 on Irvine along with the lands of Drum) and in discharge of the duty due to him for making the Park forest. The lands originally granted by the greatest of Scottish kings have thus remained in the same family for nearly 600 years. The Castle of Crathes stands high on the southern slope of a hill, but is so closely embowered among tall, shady trees that it is not very distinctly seen either from the north road or the railway. From the neighbourhood of Crathes Station, however, its roofs and turrets may be noticed to the north-west, and it is well seen from the road on the south side of the Dee. The older portion, dating from 1528, is a square-looking four-storey block, its upper storey, roofs and gables, diversified with small turrets, crow steps and dormer windows, while the newer three-storey portion, at right angles to the other, is of a plainer character. The green bank on which the castle stands, and the high sheltering woods around it, lend it additional charms. The visitor's mind may be agreeably exercised whether it dwells on the present scene, or the memories and associations of the distant past which the quaint and venerable edifice naturally suggests.

In the second or third generation after the Burnetts

settled at Crathes, the property was erected into a Barony, the laird being henceforth styled the Baron of Leys. As the saying is, rank imposes obligation, and Burnett, if we may believe a familiar old ballad, forthwith aspired to fashion and learning.

The Baron o' Leys to France has gane,  
The fashion and tongue to learn.

However, there is no record that he ever excelled as a linguist or became "the glass of fashion and the mould of form". A later Baron, Thomas Burnett, the twelfth laird, knighted by King James VI. and created a Baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles II., did something for learning. In conjunction with Dr. Alexander Reid he endowed the Reid-Burnett schools in Banchory, and in 1648 mortified four crofts beside the Crabstane of Aberdeen for the benefit of three Bursars in King's College.

Sir Thomas supported the Covenant, and, till weary of the struggle, opposed the policy of the Royalists. The third Baronet, also named Sir Thomas, was member for Kincardineshire in the last Scottish Parliament and stoutly opposed the Union. Sir Robert, the seventh Baronet, some time an officer in the Scots Fusiliers and in active service in the first American War, was taken prisoner when Burgoyne and his troops surrendered to the colonists at Saratoga in 1777. He died at an advanced age in 1837. Sir Robert Burnett, the eleventh Baronet, who died in 1894, presented a public park to the burgh of Banchory in 1887.

Gilbert Burnett (1643-1715), a man who, in his time, played many parts—Professor of Divinity at Glasgow, Chaplain to the Prince of Orange, Bishop of Salisbury, and author of a history of his own time—belonged to the Crathes family. He was a successful man, but sometimes ran into troubles which a little tact might have

enabled him to avoid. He had exceptional opportunities of collecting information for his history, but like other men and historians he sometimes had a bias. Their circumstances were very different, but there was some resemblance between him and Boswell, the biographer of Dr. Johnson; but though Boswell might have made a bishop, probably Burnett could not have written the *Life of Johnson*.

Formerly there was a Loch of Leys with an island upon it on the Crathes estate, in a hollow extending westward from the Loch of Drum. The Loch of Leys was, however, drained and reclaimed about forty years ago and in the course of draining the island was found to be artificial—a specimen of the old Celtic lake dwelling or crannog. It rested on trunks of oak and birch trees laid alternately, the interstices being filled up with earth and stones, and the island surrounded by oak piles to prevent its substance from being washed away. Curious and interesting remains were found, including bones, antlers of deer, bronze kitchen vessels, a millstone, and a canoe hollowed out of a single piece of oak.

The Court Book of the Barony of Leys for eighty or ninety years from 1621 is still preserved, and the entries, though sometimes requiring patience and skill to interpret them, throw an interesting light on the rural economy of the time and the relations subsisting between tenant and laird. It is statuted and ordained that the Leys tenants are to get their “irne wark” done with “James Smythe in Hairstaine,” and to pay him their “Smydie bool zeirly” (*i.e.*, a boll of oatmeal yearly); and the blacksmith is bound to work to the said tenants “diligentlie and sufficient,” and if he be “remis or refuis to do his dewtie,” he must repay the double of that man’s boll, and the party so disappointed is to be at liberty “to gang to any uther smyth.” Again, “if ony . . . be found hounding

his nichtbouris scheip vrangouslie efter the cornis be within the dyk, the hounder sal pay to the compleaner half ane merk *toties quoties* he sal be found hounding thame". A regulation was also laid down that tenants should "fald thair haill guidis both nolt and scheip nichtly," each of them to "walk the fald thair nicht about," and if any "skaith" happen, the person appointed to "walk the fald sal be comptabil".

Household supplies for the laird form the subject of some of the enactments. At one time there is a complaint that those who should supply fowls "goes to the brugh and sellis thair foulls, wherethrough the laird's hous is alltogidder misserweit" (misserved), and a fine is laid down for those neglecting to deliver their fowls; at another the complaint is against "ewil baikin bread," and as the steward blames the barm or want of "barme to the batches," it is ordained that all brewers within the laird's lands are to give weekly to the steward "ane quart of barme" for making and bairking of sufficient bread. Even in those early times some control of the liquor traffic was found necessary, and in 1636 a regulation was laid down against any "brouster" (brewer) selling "aill to any of the laird's domestik servands"—the transgressor to pay "tene pundis to the laird *toties quoties*" he shall offend.

"Holling of firr or carieing of the sam to Aberdeen to be sauld" is strictly forbidden; and "holling and winning of firr" and the work involved in it are pronounced to be "gryt abus and skaith". "Holling of firr" was, of course, the digging up of old fir tree roots, which were split or chipped into small pieces, and used for firelights. Pine chips were also burned on the hearth to supply light, instead of candles or lamps, and I have seen this method of lighting in use in Braemar in the present generation. In 1637 the Leys tenants were also bound to carry into

Aberdeen “peittis or ffyir” for the use of the “laird’s bairnes” then at college, and whatever fire (fuel) any of the tenants carry to Aberdeen for their own use “sal be taken from them and given to the said bairnes’ chalmerer into the colledge”.

In 1639 the Barony Court made an effort at moral supervision and correction of manners and behaviour, and appointed a committee of three “having power of the laird” to repress “flytters and bakbytters,” who were to be put in the “stoikis quhill peyment be maid of fourtie sh”. This record suggests several questions. What had become of the kirk session? How was its arm shortened that it could not deal with such offenders? And why did it suffer this triumvirate “having power of the laird” to exercise a jurisdiction rightly pertaining to the minister and elders in kirk session assembled?

In July, 1639, the tenants and husbandmen of the Barony of Leys are commanded to appear in the part appointed by the laird, or in any part of the laird’s own bounds, “for haldin out the heilandmen” (probably referring to a visit from the Argyle men), and next year there is an order to the whole of the tenants to muster with their men for the defence of the country, “under the paine of ther hail mowabils” (movables).

Crathes Station is about a mile to the east of the castle on lower ground, though still some distance from the Dee. Near it, on the north side of the railway, there are three or four tidy villas among the trees, and on the south side two or three houses and a shop. A road slanting a little to the east leads to the south side of the Dee by Durris Bridge, an iron structure about 240 feet long, consisting of two spans resting on granite piers.

CRATHIE is smaller and less populous than Braemar, and its natural features scarcely reach the same standard

of wild magnificence, but by modern usage it takes precedence in naming the united parish of Crathie and Braemar. Protestantism prevailed more and earlier in Crathie than in Braemar, where a considerable section of the population still adhere to the old Catholic religion, and as parish affairs were formerly mostly church affairs, this seems to be the reason why Crathie came to be put first. The united parish, forming the south-western angle of Aberdeenshire, is wedged in between the counties of Forfar, Perth, Inverness and Banff. It extends to a length of nearly twenty-five miles, has an area of 183,287 acres, and a population of 1534, being about five and a third inhabitants to the square mile. Coming to deal with Crathie proper, we may note that its highest hills are towards the west and the Braemar border, Lochnagar (3786 feet) being the chief summit on the south of the Dee (though it belongs rather to Braemar), and Culardoch (2983 feet), the chief summit on the north. From Lochnagar smaller hills reach down Glengelder towards the woody hills behind Balmoral, while others run into Glengirnock and Glenmuick. The hills on the west side of Glengirnock connect with Craignaban behind Abergeldie, and the detached fir-clad hill of Craig Ghuibhais is on the Crathie side of the Girnock near its mouth. Extending from Culardoch, a series of hills lying to the north of Aberarder, Monaltrie, and Crathie Church, and presenting a considerable area of peat mosses, separates Glengairn from the valley of the Dee. Glengairn parish extends up Deeside to within three-quarters of a mile of Crathie kirk, though the hill of Geallaig behind Micras separates the Gairn from the Dee. Crathie reaches about three miles lower down on the south side of the Dee at the mouth of the Girnock than on the north, but towards the west it reaches a little further on the north side at the rocks of Clagganghual than on the south. The lower

hills next the river are closely covered with wood, except on the north side of the Dee towards the eastern boundary of the parish, where there are some bare hillsides and open spaces.

Balmoral is of course the great centre of attraction. Its fame is modern, however. The author of the *Old Statistical Account* (1795) finds in Balmoral nothing to describe, and barely mentions James Farquharson, laird of Balmoral (who seems to have been also laird of Inverey), as one of the heritors of the parish. From the last of the Inverveys, the waning offspring of a hardy Highland race, Balmoral passed nearly a hundred years ago to the Earl of Fife, and by-and-by it was let to Sir Robert Gordon, brother of the Earl of Aberdeen. Having retired from the post of Ambassador at Vienna, he was about to settle at Balmoral when he died prematurely in 1847. Balmoral was then recommended by the Earl of Aberdeen to the royal family, who were looking out for a Highland residence, and the Queen made her first visit in the autumn of 1848. The estate was soon afterwards bought, and the new castle finished in 1855. The white granite walls of the Highland palace rise from the middle of a plain mostly covered by wood, with the river Dee on the north and Craig Gowan with its birches and its cairn on the south. The cairn was built to the memory of the Prince Consort in 1862, and in the eastern part of the grounds an obelisk and a statue have also been erected to his memory, while near the entrance at the iron bridge there is a statue of the Queen, and most of the neighbouring hills bear cairns marking notable events affecting the royal family. The Gelder burn, descending from Lochnagar, enters the Dee fully a mile to the west of the castle, and beside it is the royal home farm; while less than a mile below the castle there is the beginning of a village at Easter Balmoral, as it likes to be called,



on the braeside overlooking the Dee, near the old suspension bridge and almost opposite Crathie kirk. Near the site of the bridge there was formerly a mill, and this is probably the place where Montrose and his followers, after crossing the Capel and passing down Glenmuick, forded the Dee, on their way north before the battle of Auldearn in 1645, the record being that they crossed the Dee at the "Milne of Crathie". Some distance above this on the hillside, rather obscured by wood in front, a whisky-making establishment, now known as "Lochnagar Royal Distillery," has long been settled.

Abergeldie Castle, a small but robust-looking old pile, with some modern additions, stands on the bank of the Dee fully two miles below Balmoral, with its back to the river and its front to Craignaban and the south. The Geldie burn enters the Dee a little to the west, while on the other side there is a trim garden, and in front a green, through a hollow in which it is said the Dee once flowed. Abergeldie was for a number of years the autumn residence of the Prince of Wales, and formerly of the Duchess of Kent. The place has been for 400 years in the possession of Gordons, kinsmen of Huntly, whose party the Abergeldie Gordons generally followed, fighting against the Crown at Glenlivet in 1594 and against the Covenant at the time of the Civil War. Argyle's followers plundered the Abergeldie lands in 1644, and after the Revolution General Mackay put a garrison into the castle. They were hard pressed and on the point of surrendering, but the general managed to relieve them, and forthwith burned twelve miles of the country in testimony of his wrath, Balmoral being within the area of conflagration. The pine-clad hill of Craignaban faces north-west so that its eastern part is much nearer the Dee than its western, and a hollow is thus left through which the Geldie burn

runs, bordered by undulating or sloping parks and fields, with lines and patches of trees at intervals. On the west bank of the burn, half a mile or more from its mouth, is the hamlet of Balnacroft, with about a dozen houses, and higher up there is a smaller hamlet at Khantore. Clachanturn, about a mile to the west of Abergeldie, was formerly a place of some local importance. About 180 years ago it was the site of one of the earliest schools in the parish, established by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, under whose scheme as it was then worked the schoolmaster had to go on circuit. Having begun at Braemar about 1710, he was afterwards moved to Monaltrie and next to Clachanturn, to continue his teaching work for the allotted time. Clachanturn had formerly a market too, but that, as well as the school, has long been a thing of the past, and now there are only one or two houses, with a smithy surrounded by wood but not "under a spreading chestnut tree". At the foot of Girnock, where the burn of that name issues from its glen between two woody hills (Craig Ghuibhais on the west and Craig Phiobaidh on the east or Glenmuick side), there is an outlying school on the confines of Crathie parish, a small post office and a mill. Glengirnock has little wood, and consists mostly of sheep pasture, with a few patches of farm land. A road from Innschnabobart in Glenmuick crosses its upper part, and passes near the farm of Bavaglie and onward over comparatively low hills, from which it descends by the distillery to reach Deeside at Easter Balmoral.

On the north side of the Dee near the lower part of Crathie is Tomiedhus, a farmhouse with some fields and a considerable expanse of moorland with stunted heath and birch, and here and there some black-looking heathery hillocks, from which the place has its name. Within the last few years the Free Church has been transferred

from a rather inconvenient site, where it formerly stood near the distillery, and re-erected by the roadside at Tomiedhus, where the Free Church Manse had previously been built. The main public school of the parish has also been erected near the same spot, almost facing the site of the original school across the river at Clachanturn. Farther west Crathie Church stands on a hillock overlooking the Ballater and Braemar road, near the iron bridge leading into the Balmoral grounds. The present church, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Queen on 11th September, 1893, was opened in 1895, and is a handsome edifice of rustic granite masonry, replacing a plainer building erected in 1806, which in turn replaced the old church whose ivy-covered ruins stand in the churchyard across the field near the river side. The new church has a short, square, granite tower, topped by a wooden spire covered with slates. The tower and spire are not very symmetrical, and their combination is the least successful part of the architecture. The heritors made considerable contributions to the building fund, but the main part of the required amount was realised from a bazaar patronised by Royalty and supported by celebrities near and far. Within the churchyard is the burial-place of the now extinct Farquharsons of Monaltrie, and of the Farquharsons of Tullochcoy afterwards of Balnabodach. Sooth to say, few of the parish institutions have shown greater signs of growth within the last twenty years than the churchyard, a forest of new tombstones having arisen and an additional piece of ground having been annexed. A notable number of tombstones have been erected by the Queen in memory of old servants and others who, having gained her notice and regard in life, have not been forgotten even in death.

Some of the ministers of Crathie have been notable

men in their day. Alexander Ferries, or Ferguson, who became minister in 1633 or earlier, had a long ministry, was favoured, wonderful to tell, both by Covenanting and by Royalist Governments, and even his losses turned to gains. In 1649 the Scottish Parliament passed an act for the reparation of his losses, the nature of which does not appear, and this reparation was continued after the Restoration, in 1662. His daughter Agnes doubtless made a good match, for she married the laird of Inverey. Adam Ferguson, minister from 1700 to 1714, was a stout Hanoverian. He belonged to Moulin in Perthshire, where he went to school under Duncan Menzies, who had been a tutor at Abergeldie in 1683 in the family of the laird, after passing his course in philosophy at King's College, Aberdeen. Young Ferguson also tried to make Aberdeen his *Alma Mater*, and made two rather heroic journeys thither in quest of a bursary, but being unsuccessful he repaired to St. Andrews, where he went through the Arts course and graduated in 1693, after which he succeeded Menzies as schoolmaster at Moulin, and by-and-by passed through the theology course and entered the ministry. When settled at Crathie he endeavoured to keep John Farquharson, the laird of Invercauld, out of the Jacobite plots and projects of the time. Ferguson had been translated to Logie Rait before the outbreak of Mar's rebellion, and he was rather despitely used by the rebel Earl on his southward march, but he would not move from his principles; and after the failure of the rising, when Invercauld was a prisoner in England, Ferguson helped to procure his release. Declining any personal recompense for his services, the minister suggested to Invercauld the foundation of a local endowment for the education of lads of the name of Ferguson, Farquharson or Macdonald, which the laird instituted, and which, with some modifications, still exists. One

biographer of the younger Ferguson represents his father as having sheltered in his manse of Crathie some fugitive Macdonalds who had escaped from the massacre of Glencoe, but as Ferguson was not settled in Crathie till eight years after the massacre, this instance of charity to the hunted and perishing Macdonalds, if it occurred, must probably have happened during his earlier life at Moulin. That he had some favour for the Macdonalds is shown by their being brought within the educational scheme founded on his suggestion. Ferguson seems to have had his manse at Balomore, perhaps Balmore in Aberarder, where long ago there was a church or chapel and also a burying ground. He had a large family, most of whom were born at Balomore (Balmore), and baptised by the Rev. James Robertson, minister of Glenmuick, who must have been very accommodating and ready to come when called, for the baptism sometimes took place the day after the birth. The youngest member of the family was the most distinguished—Sir Adam Ferguson, born at Logie Rait in 1723, afterwards professor at Edinburgh, author of historical and philosophical works, and one of the most eminent men in the Scottish metropolis at the time when Burns made his celebrated visit. Murdoch Maclellan, "Itinerant Missionary of the Parishes of Crathie and Kindrochit," 1748-49, and minister from 1749 till 1783, left a song behind him, though all his sermons have perished. His theme was the battle of Sheriffmuir, in which dubious conflict one wing of each army was victorious and the other defeated. The opening lines give a sample of the doggerel humour of the piece :—

There's some say that we wan and some say that they wan,  
 And some say that nane wan at a', man ;  
 But ae thing I'm sure, that at Sheriffmuir,  
 A battle there was that I saw, man ;  
 And we ran and they ran, and they ran and we ran,  
 And we ran and they ran awa', man.

The Rev. Charles McHardy, who wrote the article on the parish for the Old Statistical Account about 1795, and in whose time the manse was built on a new site and a new glebe formed, had some troubles of his own to record. He described the manse, built in 1790-91 for about £400, as "an exceedingly good house," but says the church—at that time it was the old edifice in the churchyard—was in very bad order and too small, and the wall of the churchyard was out of repair. With his own servants and cattle he had trenched several acres of the glebe, and had engaged a contractor to trench the rest, the contractor's charges being about £6 per acre. He had a process for augmentation of stipend depending, and seemed to be rather anxious about the result. To crown his sorrows, the missionary on the royal bounty at Braemar knew no Gaelic, and the parish minister had often to change pulpits with him. The General Assembly had, however, agreed not again to appoint a missionary to Braemar who did not know Gaelic.

Half-way between Crathie kirk and Balmoral the Crathie burn enters the Dee on the north, descending through a deep and winding hollow in which birch, alder and hazel grow. The neighbouring braes and lower parts of the hillsides are mostly under the plough, and from the higher fields a good view of Balmoral may be obtained. Crathienard, half a mile up the burn on the west, was a separate "lairdship" at the time of the Old Statistical Account (1795), and Macdonald of Rineaton then held some lands about Micras. Above the farms near the banks of the Crathie burn, a number of squalid and insubstantial cottages have been huddled together at Piperhole. From Piperhole roads cross into Glengairn—the lower road leading to Gairshiel and the higher one to Daldounie, Corndavon and Loch Bulig. A mile or so to

the west of Crathie burn there is a hollow at Monaltrie reaching northward some distance among the hills and embracing several farms. The hillside between Crathienard and the upper part of this hollow was enclosed and planted, to improve the outlook from Balmoral, soon after the Queen acquired it. The Farquharsons of Monaltrie were active Royalists in the wars of Montrose and active Jacobites in the time of Prince Charlie and suffered in consequence. The old house at Monaltrie, which stood near the present farmhouse of Mains, was burned down after Culloden, and at a later time, when the lands had been restored, the laird of Monaltrie built a new Monaltrie House at the foot of Craigendarroch. Close by the river's bank, opposite the mouth of the Gelder, a small enclosure will be noticed, with a flattened heap of grey stones in the middle surrounded by some larch trees. This is Cairnaquheen (Carn-na-Cuimhne, remembrance cairn), in old times the war cry of the Farquharsons, and above it there is a narrow pass between the river and the neighbouring hill.

Half a mile above Cairnaquheen the Fearder burn enters the Dee, and near its mouth is Mill of Inver, one of the few remaining meal mills in the country. From Mill of Inver Balmoral Castle is well seen, though about two miles away. A little above the mill there is an inn or small hotel by the roadside at Inver. A well-equipped hotel would doubtless meet with a fair amount of patronage, but the house at Inver seems to have been designed for the beginning rather than the end of the nineteenth century, and, without structural and other changes, even a capable tenant can hardly adapt it to present-day requirements. Excellent grey granite is procured from quarries in the fir wood to the west of Inver, and if the railway were extended to this locality, the output might be greatly increased and a good deal of work

afforded. The glen of the Fearder, known as Aberarder, stretches some miles among the hills to the north-west, and has a number of farms, a profusion of natural birch-wood, and large plantations of Scotch fir and larch. In old times it had a much greater population, and a number of lairds with small holdings, who, if tradition may be trusted, were very unceremoniously put out of the way in order that their properties might be annexed to Invercauld. The farm of Tullochcoy, among the birches on the high ground to the north-east of Inver, remained as a separate property till about 1770. The old residence, now used as part of the farm steading, bears the date 1693 on one of the lintels, and it had probably become necessary to build it in consequence of General Mackay's humane experiment of burning down 1200 or 1400 houses in the district from Tullich to Tullochcoy in the summer of 1690. There is a meeting-house in connection with the Free Church in the lower part of the glen at Knockan, and it is also used as a school. The Fearder rises high up on Culardoch in a region of mosses, and one of its tributaries, the Felagie burn, rises to the west within the Braemar border, and flows through low mossy ground past Felagie on one side and Middleton on the other, at both of which there are remains of houses and crofts. To the north-east of Felagie across the moss there is a considerable green-sheltered hollow among the hills at Balloch, where a number of farms were dismantled about fifty years ago. If the moss in front were drained, Balloch would be a not unattractive spot. The notes of the cuckoo are heard in the spring among its birches as early as anywhere in the country. From Inver mill there is a road, generally in moderately good repair, by Knockan and Felagie, which rejoins the main turnpike near Invercauld Bridge; while another road, such as it is, fording the Fearder at Balmore, crosses the hills to the



east of Culardoch to reach Glengairn at Loch Bulig, from which pedestrians may make their way to Tomintoul in Banffshire. From the number of smuggling bothies, the remains of which may still be found in Aberarder, as well as in other parts of Crathie, it may be inferred that the inhabitants formerly preferred to make whisky without consulting the excise.

CREAG A BHULIG (2190 feet), a Braemar hill reaching from the Quoich to the Lui, some little distance to the north of the Dee, and forming a fine background to Mar Lodge. It has an extended and comparatively level skyline, and its southern slope clad with fir trees, is tolerably uniform. Creag a Bhulig fronts the traveller for several miles of his course up the Dee, and though not presenting great corries, or frowning precipices, or rushing torrents, such as mark many other hills in the neighbourhood, its long ridge and woody slope give it a very characteristic appearance.

CREAG GHUIBHAI (pronounced Craig Yuish, or Craig Yu'sh, the "i" being very slightly sounded), an isolated hill (1593 feet) on the west side of the Gironck near its mouth, still true to its name of Fir Craig, and doubtless one of the places "where the pine of the forest for ages has stood". It is nearly opposite Coilacreach, from which it is well seen.

CROMAR is a wide agricultural district north of the Dee, between Aboyne and Cambus o' May. On three sides it is enclosed among hills, having Culblean and Morven on the west, Mortlach and the hills north of it on the east, and on the north the hills connecting these two ranges. On the south next the Dee, where one might expect most fertility, is the flat, barren Moor of Dinnet. Strathdon is about thirteen miles northward from Dinnet

Station, and a road runs from the latter by the small mansion of Blelack (Mr. Coltman) and the little village of Newkirk, about half a mile above which it begins to rise steeply, and farther on at the gate of Tillypronie (Sir John F. Clark), it is joined by another road from Aboyne through Tarland. About half a mile above the entrance to Tillypronie the road reaches the summit of the ridge, and beyond this the water drains to the Don. Newkirk is a small village with a church, a school, a newly erected hall for meetings, a small post office and a mill. On the high ground above it, less than a mile away, is Coldstone Manse and churchyard. Tarland is a larger village, noticed separately, nearly due east from Newkirk, five miles from Dinnet and five and a half from Aboyne, having one or two inns. The south-western part of Cromar, within the Tullich boundary, is ornamented by Loch Kinnord, fringed by birches and fed by the burn of Vat, which has a small waterfall a little higher up, walled in among granite cliffs, the lower circular part of which has suggested the name of Vat. The less picturesque Loch Davan is to the north of Loch Kinnord. In the eastern part of Cromar is Coull, with the remains of an old castle anciently belonging to the Durwards, measuring about fifty yards square, and having remains of four hexagonal towers and five turrets. A broad belt of fir plantation crosses Cromar from east to west a little below Newkirk, enclosing Blelack within its shades, and other plantations cover a large part of the upper reaches of the hills, though Culblean and the higher mass of Morven are bare. Besides farm houses and steadings, cottages occur pretty frequently in Cromar, some of them with wooden chimneys and roofs thatched with broom. Bee-hives are conspicuous in many of the gardens, abundance of heather and clover in the neighbourhood supplying the raw material for the making of honey.

CRYNOCH BURN is a small stream rising on the confines of Durris and flowing north-east through Fetteresso and Maryculter to enter the Dee below Kingcausie near which there is a small fall, the Corbie Linn.

CULARDOCH (2953 feet), a high hill with a rounded green summit, and a good deal of moss on some parts of its surface, about four miles north of Invercauld, now included in the deer forest. The Bealach Dearg route from Braemar to Tomintoul passed on its west side, but the new road substituted for it from Aberarder to Loch Bulig passes on the east side. Some of the head-streams of the Fearder rise from its southern aspect, and some small tributaries of the Gairn from its northern.

CULBLEAN (1567 feet), a southern off-shoot of Morven, overlooking Loch Davan and Loch Kinnord to the east. It is now rather bare and barren-looking, but long ago oaks grew on its side. In 1335 a battle was fought at Culblean, probably on the eastern slope of the hill and the space near the margin of Loch Kinnord, in which the renegade Earl of Athole was defeated by Sir Andrew Moray, and fell in the battle. It is said that the Earl set his back against a rock and declared that it would flee as soon as himself, an occurrence that may have suggested to Scott the scene in the *Lady of the Lake* where Fitz-James, taking a similar position, addresses the spirited defiance to Roderick Dhu and his followers :—

Come one, come all, this rock shall fly  
From its firm base as soon as I.

CULTER is a large village about seven and a half miles from Aberdeen, and is the outer limit of the suburban service of trains. Unlike most of the villages on Deeside, it owes its development to industry rather than to its

affording quarters to summer visitors. Bartholomew Smith, an adventurer from the Isle of Man, who settled down to peaceful enterprise after taking part in the Prince Charlie insurrection of 1745-6, having transformed an old lint mill and equipped it with new machinery, began the manufacture of paper here in 1751, and ever since that time paper mills have been in operation at Culter. The mills have been held by a variety of owners, and since 1865 by the Culter Mills Paper Co., Ltd., whose capital now amounts to £87,500. A little above the mills there is a natural hollow traversed by the Culter burn, which has been readily converted into a very effective mill-dam, from which a large amount of water-power for the mills is derived. The mills are large, substantial, well equipped, and lighted throughout by electricity, giving employment to about 500 workers, and having a weekly output of about 100 tons of paper. There is a siding between the mills and Culter Station, and it is in contemplation to introduce a locomotive worked by electricity. So great an industry deserves a word of notice, and the establishment of other permanent industries to afford means of employment on Deeside would be "a consummation devoutly to be wished". There is a narrow rocky den above the mills and below the mill-dam, and on one of the cliffs the villagers have set up a wooden statue of Rob Roy, wearing the tartan and brandishing the claymore, but scarcely with his foot upon his native heath. Below the den the ground opens out somewhat, but the space is still rather contracted, and though the paper mill premises are well arranged, the parts in the neighbouring hollow are rather huddled, including the railway line and the siding for the paper mills, some old grain mills, an old bridge over which the north Deeside road formerly passed, and a number of irregularly disposed houses.

The main part of the village, however, is on the high

ground to the north and north-east near the turnpike, where there are trim villas and combined tenements of grey granite. The railway station is towards the east end, and the approach to it from the turnpike is rather steep; while below the station, between the railway and the river, is the parish Church of Peterculter. The Free Church, a new building dating from 1894, with a square tower instead of a steeple, is above the turnpike near the same quarter, and near it there is a public hall for meetings. The turnpike soon inclines to the north, diverging farther from the Dee, and the main lines of houses follow the same course as Culter burn and den are approached. There is a thick growth of trees, mostly above the turnpike, among which a number of the villas and houses are embowered. For travellers, cyclists and others, the opening of a good hotel in Culter would be a desideratum.

A mile or so to the north-west of the village, Culter burn is formed by the junction of the Leuchar burn from the Loch of Skene and the Gormack burn, which rises on the southern aspect of the Hill of Fare, and near their confluence the Leuchar is crossed by a very old bridge. About a mile to the south-west of the station there is an old Roman camp, dating probably from about 208-10 in the time of the Emperor Severus, a description of which will be found under Normandykes, the name usually given to it in the district. Culter House is to the east of the village, on the sloping ground above the turnpike, and there is a fine avenue of old trees leading up to it.

CULTS is a village nearly four miles from Aberdeen, within the suburban railway system. It is situated on a rising ground traversed by the Deeside turnpike, and has a fine exposure to the south. Buildings, more or less compactly placed, extend from the vicinity of Pitfodells Station, near the third milestone, to the newly

erected public schools at the west end, near the fourth milestone, and farther on a number of houses line the roadside at West Cults, which also has a station on the suburban railway. In the eastern part, on the high ground above Pitfodels Station, there are two or three conspicuous villas shaded by fir trees, and standing within grounds of considerable size, where spots of heather and blaeberrys give a foretaste of the vegetation in the higher parts of Deeside, and brambles and woodsorrel also appear. The greatest breadth of the village is at the place where the burn of Cults descends through it in a deep and somewhat winding course, passing near the railway station. Where the turnpike crosses the burn there is a granite building with a tall, smoky, brick chimney, in which there is a steam pumping apparatus working in connection with the city water supply. On the opposite bank there is a recently started electric work for supplying electric light, with which many of the villas and houses are provided—so great is the appetite of Cults for the latest means of enlightenment. There is a Free Church and Manse on the bank of the burn 200 yards above the pumping station, and a Mission Station of the Church of Scotland on the north side of the road some distance westward. A suspension bridge, for foot passengers only, crosses the Dee nearly opposite the station.

DALVORAR (variously spelt, Dail a' Mhoraire, etc.), a haugh in the bottom of the glen, near the Dee, a mile or two above the Linn, formerly under tillage, as witnessed by the green sward from which the traces left by the plough have not altogether disappeared, and by the remains of houses. This was the uppermost cultivated farm on the Dee in 1829, and was much damaged in the great flood on the 3rd and 4th August of that year, the

farmer and his family having had great difficulty in escaping to Inverey on the night of the 3rd. Sir Thomas Dick Lauder says that Viscount Dundee encamped at Dalvorar fourteen days before the battle of Killiecrankie, but Sir Thomas appears to have been misinformed on the subject, as there is evidence that Dundee was in another part of the country at that time.

DAVAN LOCH lies to the east of Culblean (the scene of an important battle in 1335), and to the north of Loch Kinnord, about a mile and a half to the north-west of Dinnet Station. It is less picturesque than Loch Kinnord, lacking the fine fringe of birches and other amenities of its more favoured neighbour. Ptolemy's old Pictish town of Devana is believed to have been in this locality, and the name Davan is perhaps a modification. The loch contains pike and perch.

DEE CASTLE (originally Cean-na-Coil, *i.e.*, Woodend) is on the south side of the Dee, about two miles above the bridge at Dinnet. A small burn slants down through a hollow, the braes on its eastern side being covered with birches, while on the other side the ground is comparatively flat and occupied by fields. Near the burn a number of cottages and a farmhouse are placed. The first Marquis of Huntly, in the early part of the seventeenth century, built a house at Cean-na-Coil, which had very thick walls and was more or less of a fort or castle as well as a residence. The castle was burned down in 1641, and though afterwards rebuilt, little now remains of the old structure, which stood on a hillock a little above the present road, but part of the old walls are said to be worked up into one of the modern houses. The tops of some of the hillocks seem to have been levelled to form a rough and winding approach, and a pair of

stout old fir trees, an oak and some geans, which still mark the scene, in their youth may have witnessed the existence of the castle. Byron, who spent some weeks at the farm of Ballaterach, about a mile away, mentions Dee Castle in a note to his "Hours of Idleness".

DEER AND DEER FOREST. *See* SHOOTINGS and FISHERIES.

DEESIDE RAILWAY. In 1846 an Act of Parliament was passed authorising the construction of the Deeside Railway from Aberdeen to Aboyne, with a capital of £293,383, but a number of years elapsed without anything being done. In 1852 the company was reincorporated, and the line was constructed and opened for traffic to Banchory in 1853. In 1857 the extension to Aboyne was begun, and trains were run to Aboyne before the close of 1859. The line between Banchory and Aboyne diverges considerably from the course of the Dee, swinging northward by Torphins and Lumphanan, and then southward by Dess, leaving Kincardine O'Neil two or three miles off the line. The highest point on the line, almost 700 feet, is between Torphins and Lumphanan, while Ballater Station is 670 feet above sea-level. An Act incorporating the Aboyne and Braemar railway company, on a capital of £66,000 and £20,000 on loan, and authorising the extension of the railway, was passed in 1865, and the line was opened to Ballater in October, 1866. The continuation of the line to Braemar originally contemplated was not carried out—much to the detriment of Braemar—but it was formed along the base of Craighendarroch close to the edge of the river, and onward to Foot of Gairn, so as to bring it on to the Invercauld estate, along which the whole subsequent distance to Braemar lies. This small portion from Ballater to



Foot of Gairn was not worked, however ; the rails were soon taken up ; the railway bridge over the Gairn was moved far up the glen, and re-erected for road traffic at Daldounie ; and the main pipes conducting the water supply from the Gairn to Ballater were laid down along the side of the unused line. In 1876 the Deeside Railway was amalgamated with the Great North of Scotland Railway.

There is now a double line of rails to Culter, about seven and a half miles from Aberdeen, with eight or nine stations outside the Joint Station at Aberdeen, and since 1894 a frequent service of trains has been run on this suburban section. Above Culter there are twelve stations in a distance of thirty-six miles, but the fast trains render the journey less tedious by omitting to call at the smaller stations. Some of the stations have recently been much improved, while others still stand much in need of improvement, Aboyne being an example of the first and Banchory of the second description. The railway company obtained power a year or two ago to erect and carry on a hotel at Ballater, which is the present terminus, though the line cannot be regarded as complete till extended to Braemar.

DERRY is a Braemar burn having its chief source in Loch Etchachan, 3100 feet above sea-level, on the northern aspect of Ben Macdhui. After descending into Glenderry, it follows a course nearly parallel to the upper part of the Dee, and at Derry shooting lodge it is merged in the Lui. Sturdy old pine trees extend some distance up Glenderry, and there may still be seen the remains of an embankment formed across the glen somewhere about eighty years ago to dam back the water and assist in floating timber down the Dee, an artificial flood being created when the sluices were opened. Floating

did not succeed well, however, the Dee being too rough and shallow, especially in its upper parts. The path to the summit of Ean Macdhui (there is no road above Derry shooting lodge) lies up Glenderry, and there is also a path northward to Speyside at Nethy Bridge (thirty-two miles from Braemar).

DESS is a small station midway between Lumphanan and Aboyne, being about two and three-fourth miles distant from each, and by road about two miles from Kincardine O'Neil. There is no village at the station, but some farms to the northward, while to the east is a hollow through which the burn from Auchlossan passes to the Dee, forming a fall and driving a mill on its way, and beyond the burn is the shoulder of a woody hill on the other side of which is Desswood House. There is also a Muir of Dess.

DESSWOOD HOUSE, the residence of Mr. Davidson, the laird of Dess, has an elevated and commanding site on the southern slope of a steep hill overlooking the Dee, a little to the south-east of Dess Station, and about twenty-seven miles from Aberdeen. The hill is closely covered with wood—mostly tall and well-matured fir trees, but with some mixture of others. The turnpike, bordered by a beech hedge, passes through the wood below the house and has a high steep bank between it and the Dee.

DEVIL'S POINT (3303 feet), a sharply defined precipitous offshoot at the south-eastern part of Cairntoul, in the angle between Glen Dee and Glen Geusachan. Over a great part of the surface there is no heather or vegetation of any kind, the naked granite rock presenting itself to the eye.

DINNET is a small village with a railway station four and a half miles west of Aboyne and six and a half north-east of Ballater. The village, which has grown up since the opening of the railway, has a post office, two or three shops, two small temperance hotels, and a church, and the district of Dinnet was formed into a parish *quoad sacra* in 1881. The village stands on part of the flat Moor of Dinnet, and an extensive fir plantation has been formed to the south-west between the turnpike and the river, while on the north of the turnpike, about a mile away, is the picturesque Loch Kinnord, with abundance of legendary and historical associations. Dinnet House, recently built, is a tasteful granite edifice, with a round tower and crow-stepped gables, close to the north bank of the Dee, about a mile west of the station. It is owned by Mr. Barclay Harvey, who purchased this portion of the dismembered estate of Aboyne from Mr. C. H. Wilson, M.P., the previous possessor. A substantial bridge crosses the Dee at Dinnet, providing free communication between the parts north and south. The burns draining Loch Kinnord and Loch Davan incline eastward, and just after uniting cross the road to enter the Dee. To the west of this burn, which is sometimes regarded as the boundary between the highland and lowland parts of Deeside, is the long, flat, monotonous Moor of Dinnet. For the agricultural district of Cromar, the central village of which, named Tarland, is about five miles away, Dinnet is the most convenient station; and it is also nearer to the upper part of Strathdon (about thirteen miles) than Alford, the uppermost station on Donside.

DRUM CASTLE is about a mile from the station of the same name, and eleven miles from Aberdeen. A city that is set on a hill is proverbially conspicuous, and so should a castle be; but Drum Castle, though set on a hill about

400 feet above sea-level, is so closely surrounded by wood that it does not make much show from the road or the railway. The flagpole and upper part of the walls of the tower may, however, be seen above the trees, if one looks to the north-west from the station or its immediate neighbourhood. The greater part of the building dates from 1619; it is in connection with a massive square battlemented tower, sixty-three feet high, with walls twelve feet thick. This is the oldest building in use on Deeside, and though the date and circumstances of its erection cannot be positively known, the prevailing belief is that it was erected by William the Lion (1165-1214), a king who may be said to have frequented Aberdeen and Deeside, and probably may have used this old building while pursuing the chase in neighbouring forests which then existed.

The Irvines of Drum and their near neighbours, the Burnetts of Crathes, are the most ancient families on Deeside, having held their lands in unbroken succession since they were granted by King Robert the Bruce shortly after Bannockburn, but for historic prominence the palm must be assigned to the Irvines. The tower and forest of Drum were conferred on Sir William de Irving in 1323 in return for long and faithful services to the Bruce. Sir Alexander Irvine was second in command, and fell in the sanguinary battle of Harlaw which saved Aberdeen from plunder by the Lord of the Isles and his Highland host. The next laird of Drum was one of the Commissioners sent into England to negotiate for the release of James I. from captivity; and in the trouble and uncertainty which prevailed two or three years after the murder in 1437 of that monarch, Aberdeen seems to have put itself under the protection of Irvine of Drum, who was styled Captain and Governor of the city. In the doings of the Civil War, as it affected the north of Scotland, the Irvines were

prominent. In 1639 Argyle quartered 500 Highlanders on the Royalist lairds of Drum and Pitfodels, and some years later paid a visit to Drum, and not finding the laird or his son at home, vented his displeasure by ejecting Lady Irvine and his own niece, Lady Mary Gordon, wife of the young laird; and the ladies, wrapped in grey plaids and mounted on work horses, were obliged to make the best of their way to Aberdeen. Though he was not like his ancestor, Captain and Governor of the city, Alexander Irvine, younger of Drum, made a raid along with others on Aberdeen in March, 1644, and carried off Provost Leslie and other Covenanters to Strathbogie Castle. Alexander was dissatisfied with the inactivity of Huntly and tried to escape abroad, but he and his brother Robert were caught and sent prisoners to Edinburgh, where Robert died in February, 1645, Alexander being released by Montrose when his victory at Kilsyth made him for a short time master of the country. After the Restoration Irvine was offered but declined a peerage. Though his name was never inscribed on the roll of peers, the doings of his later days are recorded in a ballad, which represents him as exchanging the field of Mars for that of Venus. Having outlived his first wife, a high-born, disdainful lady, he afterwards, if the ballad may be trusted, wedded a shepherdess in the hope of finding her more gracious and friendly. However, this worthy man found that "the best laid schemes" are not always successful, and seems to have ended his days enduring the ridicule of his kindred and the wrangling of his new spouse about equality. A recent proprietor of Drum was author of a treatise on the Game Laws—doubtless a congenial subject for a member of the aristocracy.

The Loch of Drum, also called Loch of Park, is some distance from Drum Castle, and is noticed under Drumoak.

DRUMOAK is a small parish, roughly triangular in shape, with the base to the west, meeting the northern part of Banchory-Ternan, and the point towards Culter, which it does not quite reach. It contains the stations of Drum and Park, only a mile apart; Drum Castle, with its ancient tower, 700 years old, near the top of a woody hill to the north of the station; and Park House in a wood near the river below the Isle of Dee. The Irvines of Drum have been the leading family in the district for 500 or 600 years, and Park (originally the Park of Drum) was part of their possessions till near the middle of the eighteenth century. The Parish Church, built in 1836, is about half a mile north of Park Station, and the Free Church, built in 1880, stands by the roadside within a cluster of houses, a few hundred yards west of the same station. The ruins of the old church of Drumoak are within the old churchyard, on the northern bank of the river about two miles below Park House. The Loch of Drum, also called Loch of Park, shallow, weedy and much reduced by drainage, is towards the west, not far from the Banchory border. It contains pike, perch and eels, and is much frequented by water-fowl. Gormack burn, from the Hill of Fare, flows along the northern boundary, joining the Leuchar burn to form the Culter burn, which for a short distance forms the boundary between Drumoak and Peterculter. A bridge belonging to the railway company crosses the Dee opposite Park Station. A stone in the river below the bridge, showing its upper surface above water when the river is low, is called Keith's stone, and there is a legend that a young gallant of the Keith family, in days when the relations between the Keiths and Irvines were like those between the Montagues and Capulets, was shot dead on this stone while attempting to cross the Dee. James Gregory (1638-75), inventor of the "Gregorian" reflecting

telescope, a distinguished natural philosopher, who, with longer life, might almost have been a rival to Newton, was born in the Manse of Drumoak.

DUBH LOCH, an elongated narrow sheet of water, at an elevation of 2166 feet, in a hollow between the White Mounth and Cairn Bannoch, about two miles due south of the main top of Lochnagar. On the route to Lochnagar from Loch Callater, it is seen below, and to the right after rounding Cairn Taggart, from which some of its feeding streams come. The issuing stream feeds Loch Muick, and there is a path through very wild scenery from the upper end of that Loch to the Dubh Loch.

DUNECHT HOUSE, a large mansion, built in the Grecian style of architecture in 1820, to which subsequent additions have been made, is about twelve miles west of Aberdeen, and nearly seven due north of the Dee, though within the drainage area of that river. It is owned by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, and a well-equipped observatory was carried on for some time. In 1881 the body of Alexander William Lindsay, 25th Earl of Crawford (1812-1880), was stolen from the vault beneath the private chapel, and since this unnatural offence was perpetrated the Lindsay family have taken less interest in the place, and the observatory has been discontinued.

DURRIS is a Kincardineshire parish on the south side of the Dee between Banchory-Ternan and Maryculter, with the small village of Kirkton of Durris near the middle of its northern border. Towards the back (or southern) part, Cairn-mon-earn and three other hills rise to a height of over 1200 feet, and the lower hills in front are mostly covered by plantations, while fully a fourth of

the whole area is under cultivation. The Sheeoch burn, rising on the side of Kerloch, a mile or two outside the parish, flows through it in a slanting north-easterly direction for eight and a half miles. Perched on the high bank of the burn a little above its mouth and shaded with trees is the quiet little village of Kirkton of Durris, with a post office and two or three shops. The Sheeoch burn passes through a ravine close to the village, and is crossed by a bridge from which the shady dell and lively stream may be viewed. Another older bridge, a little higher up, is concealed by trees, as is also the parish church, a little way off on the lower side. The church, built in 1822, was remodelled and improved in 1897, and beside it is the burial-place (walled in but not roofed over) of the Frasers, to whom the lands of Durris were granted by King Robert the Bruce, and with whom they remained till towards the close of the seventeenth century, when they passed to that daring and adventurous soldier, Charles Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough. By the marriage of Peterborough's daughter with the Duke of Gordon, Durris came in 1824 into the hands of a subsequent duke, who erected a conspicuous octagonal tower, still to be seen near the south end of Park Bridge, to commemorate his success in a lawsuit concerning the property. Anthony Mactier, a Scotchman who had made a fortune in Calcutta, purchased the property in 1834, and there is a row of tablets to himself and several members of his family beside the vaults of the Frasers. Durris changed owners again in 1871, when it was purchased for £300,000 by James Young of Kelly, a man who made a name and a fortune from paraffin, and was an intimate friend of David Livingstone, the great explorer of Africa. Finally the estate was bought by Mr. Henry Baird in 1890. Durris House, the older part of which dates from the seventeenth century, though it has



been much enlarged in the nineteenth, is about a mile and a half to the east of the village, and by the side of the approach there are some fine ornamental trees. The south Deeside road traverses the parish, and there is access to Crathes Station and to Park Station by two iron bridges crossing the Dee. Crathes Bridge is owned by the proprietor of Durris, and is open free to the public, but the railway company, who own Park Bridge, charge a halfpenny for each pedestrian who crosses. The Slug road, leaving the south Deeside road near the confines of Durris and Banchory, passes by the west side of Cairn-mon-earn through the hills to Fetteresso and Stonehaven. Cosmo Innes, born at Durris in 1798, is the most notable native. He held important professional appointments, such as Sheriff of Morayshire, Professor of History in Edinburgh University, and Clerk to the Court of Session (an office Sir Walter Scott held in his day), but his reputation rests mainly on his works dealing with Scottish history and antiquities.

DYE, THE, is a good-sized stream of Strachan parish, nearly fifteen miles long, rising at a height of 2000 feet on the south-eastern slope of Mount Battock (2555 feet), and running first in a north-easterly and afterwards in a northerly direction, till it enters the Feugh about half a mile from Kirkton of Strachan. In the upper part there are several small tributaries, including the water of Charr and the Spital burn, the last named from a house of accommodation for travellers which stood near it in old times. The Cairn o' Mount road traversing Glen Dye crosses a very old bridge on the Dye near the mouth of the Spital burn, and is continued over the eastern shoulder of the Cairn o' Mount (1488 feet), to descend to Fettercairn and the Howe of the Mearns. Near the bridge, in a sheltered part of the glen surrounded by woods,

is Sir John Gladstone's shooting lodge of Glen Dye, in connection with which a stretch of deer forest has been formed. Farther down the glen there are some houses, including a small school, and occasional patches of cultivated ground as well as considerable plantations, and three-quarters of a mile from the mouth of the stream is the bridge of Bogendreep, with a rocky pool below.

ECHT is a parish, not directly within the valley of the Dee, but draining to that river, with an area of about 12,000 acres, two-thirds of which are in cultivation. The western part of the parish includes a portion of the Hill of Fare and a tract behind it, Kirkton of Echt being on a rising ground seven and a half miles north-east of Banchory and six and a half north-west from Drum Station. A road passes from Aberdeen, which is twelve miles distant, through Echt and Midmar to Tarland, and there is some expectation of a railway being formed from Aberdeen to Echt. The Gormack burn, from the back of the Hill of Fare, flows through Echt to join the Leuchar burn from the Loch of Skene. Kirkton, as its name suggests, is the site of the parish church, and it has also a good-sized inn, the Balcarres Arms, very convenient for travellers and cyclists. There is a Free Church a little outside the village of Kirkton to the east, and some distance northward is the mansion house of Dunecht, a seat of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, where till recently a well-equipped observatory was maintained. A little to the north-west of Kirkton is the hill of Barmekin, covered by a plantation of firs, and crowned by the remains of an ancient camp, covering six and a half acres, and having five concentric ramparts. These remains, which somewhat resemble those on the Caterthun hills near Brechin, probably belong to the times of the Picts. Within the parish peat mosses occur to a

notable extent, some of them by the roadsides showing stumps and roots of old trees preserved for ages in the moss.

ETCHACHAN LOCH, half a mile long, and not quite so broad, lies at an altitude of 3100 feet, on the east side of Ben Macdhui, near the Banffshire border, and gives origin to the Derry burn. Elevated and outlandish though the loch be, it is fairly stocked with trout.

EY WATER is a tributary of the Dee, entering the river from the south at Inverey, about a mile and a half below the Linn of Dee, after a course of seven or eight miles. The head-streams rise near the Perthshire border from Beinn Iutharn Mhor (3424 feet), and Beinn Iutharn Bheag (3011 feet) (Great and Little Mount Hell), and the upper part of Gleney is almost parallel with Baddoch burn, one of the head-streams of the Clunie, though in the lower part the interval widens. About five miles up the glen there is a small shooting lodge at Altanodhar, and two or three miles lower at Aucherrie, where formerly there has been a good bit of ground under tillage, is the only other inhabited house in the glen. About a mile and a half above Inverey, at a spot where the Ey is confined between precipitous rocky cliffs, which may be about fifty feet high at the highest part, and which have small rowan, birch and aspen trees growing from their sides, is the Colonel's Bed, as it is called—a shelf or recess in the rock only a little above the level of the stream. An artificially formed flight of stone steps now enables the visitor to enter and leave the cave with ease. The security of the place must have depended on its secrecy; for if the lurking-place were discovered and the enemy posted at the entrance, the refugee could hardly escape. One

of the old Inverey chiefs is said to have eluded the vengeance of victorious enemies by concealing himself here.

A little above Inverey the Ey receives the Allt Connie, a tributary with a series of miniature falls; and the Allt Connie some distance up receives a small burn from Glen Christie, a glen which a century and a half ago was the scene of a fatal mystery, which gave rise to probably the only murder trial in which Braemar men were placed at the bar. Arthur Davis, a sergeant in Guise's regiment, disappeared in September, 1749, and nearly two years afterwards a much decayed body, believed to be his, was found in Glen Christie, and buried by an Inverey farm-servant, named Macpherson, and a neighbour, named Farquharson. Three years later, in 1754, two Braemar men, named Duncan Clark and Alexander Bain Macdonald, were tried before the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh, on a charge of murdering the sergeant. Macpherson gave evidence as to finding the body, and both he and Farquharson as to burying it; but Macpherson declared that before finding the body he had been visited one night by the ghost of the sergeant, who informed him where the body was lying and pleaded for burial. An inmate of the house where Macpherson lived testified to some mysterious visitor coming to Macpherson the night of the alleged visit from the ghost; but the introduction of the ghost story weakened the case for the prosecution. Macpherson, who gave evidence in Gaelic through an interpreter, was asked by Mr. Lockhart, the prisoner's counsel: "What language did the ghost speak in?" "As good Gaelic as I ever heard in Lochaber," was the answer. "That was rather good for the ghost of an *English* sergeant," remarked counsel. The sergeant had some money and rings about him when last seen, and robbery seems to have been the alleged motive to

murder; but the evidence does not seem to have been at all conclusive, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

FARE, HILL OF, situated some distance to the north of Banchory, which it shelters, is an extended hill with several summits, the highest (1545 feet) being towards the west, Craigrath (1429 feet) towards the south, Meikle Tap (1179 feet) and Greymore (1291 feet) towards the east, and Craigour (1332 feet) towards the north. Though not among the great heights of Deeside, the Hill of Fare, having no lofty neighbours, is conspicuous and commands a wide prospect. Some distance to the east of the main summit, the Earl of Moray (afterwards regent) defeated the rebel Earl of Huntly at the battle of Corrichie in 1562. Plantations cover most of the hill, but there is a sloping heathery corrie between Craigrath and Meikle Tap, through which the burn of Corrichie descends, and in this neighbourhood there are granite quarries. Gormack burn, from the north side of the hill, flows through Echt, and a little above Culter joins the Leuchar burn from the Loch of Skene.

FEARDER, a good-sized Crathie burn, rising on Culardoch, and flowing southward through bare ground to Auchtavan, and then south-east through the birch woods and fields of Aberarder, to enter the Dee at Inver, where it drives a mill.

FERRAR, a place on the north of the turnpike, three miles west of Aboyne Station, formerly of some account as a residence of the junior members of the Huntly family. In the first half of the sixteenth century it was long occupied by the Countess of Sutherland and her husband, Alexander, second son of the Earl of Huntly,

and an Earl of Sutherland was born here. In consequence of this, admirers of the Huntlys and Sutherlands look upon the place as ennobled.

FEUGH WATER is one of the largest tributaries of the Dee, into which it falls nearly opposite Banchory Station. It rises in the south-west of Birse at a height of about 1800 feet, near Mudlee Bracks (2259 feet) and Hill of Cat (2433 feet), flows northward a short distance and then eastward through Birse and Strachan, in its lower part inclines somewhat northward and traversing Banchory for a short distance, reaches the Dee, after a course of nineteen and three-fourth miles. In the higher part is the Forest of Birse, as it is called, with some farms and patches of wood in its upper part, and some miles of a very bare glen in its lower; while at Finzean there is abundance of wood, and farther down a strath of some width with a good deal of tillage and plantations. The Avon and the Dye are considerable tributaries from the south, and on the north bank a little below the mouth of the latter is the little village of Kirkton of Strachan. But the most notable spot on the Feugh is at the falls near its mouth. For some distance above and below the bridge which crosses here, the rocky and rugged channel is "o'erhung by wild woods thickening green," and in the ordinary state of the stream the water passes obliquely behind the ledge of rock, and gives off through as many openings four or five separate streamlets, which course down its face, some of them uniting before they reach the bottom. It is but a little fall, yet the rugged channel and close embowering wood lend additional charms. It is interesting to watch salmon ascending the fall, leaping a good height, but frequently lighting on the bare rock, and rebounding to the bottom, till after repeated efforts they manage to

clear the linn by leaping, swimming and scrambling (if fish can be said to scramble).

FINDRACK, a small estate in Lumphanan parish, with an old mansion on the west side of the burn of Beltie, opposite Learny Hill. It has been owned by Frasers since 1670.

FINZEAN (locally pronounced Feen-yan), the chief mansion house in Birse, stands on the southern slope of a hill about a mile from the Feugh, within extensive and richly-wooded grounds. Below the house the old fir trees, closely crowded together, have tall, straight stems, thriving fir plantations crown the upper part of the hill, and some hardwood trees are disposed about the nearer part of the grounds. The house forms three sides of a quadrangle, its oldest part dating from 1686, and it is screened in front by a tall hedge of holly. Finzean has been about 300 years in possession of a family of Farquharsons, an offshoot from the Farquharsons of Invercauld, and since the failure of the Invercauld male line in 1805, and that of Monaltrie in 1828, the laird of Finzean has been chief of the clan. The founder of the Finzean Farquharsons first acquired Tilliegarmont (about 1580) and Finzean was soon afterwards purchased. Other lands were added from time to time, and the estate embraces lands in Birse, Aboyne, Lumphanan and Turland. Robert Farquharson, the present owner, who succeeded to the property in 1876, is an M.D. of Edinburgh, and LL.D. of Aberdeen, whose career illustrates the Shakespearian saying that "one man in his time plays many parts". Dr. Farquharson, to take only a selection of his appointments and works, has been an army surgeon, a hospital physician, medical officer for Rugby School, lecturer on *Materia Medica* in St. Mary's

Hospital Medical School, London, author of a *Guide to Therapeutics*, which has gone through five editions, Member of Parliament for West Aberdeenshire since 1880, besides being chief of his clan. Not every clan has such a chief.

FISHING. See SHOOTINGS and FISHINGS.

GAIRN. See GLENGAIRN.

GAIRNSHIEL, an old-fashioned house of considerable size, barely seven miles from Ballater, in a park on the right bank of the Gairn, built by the last laird of Monaltrie as a residence for that part of his property, but now used as a shooting lodge. Recently the lodge has been much extended by the addition of a large three-storey wing, and other improvements have been made, including the formation of a garden. The old military road from Blairgowrie through Braemar and Crathie to the north passes the gate, and just below there is a stone bridge over the Gairn with a high projecting arch.

GAME. See SHOOTINGS and FISHINGS.

GARRAWALT (Garbh Allt, rough burn), is formed by the junction of the burn from Lochan-an-Eoin and Sandy Loch, to the north of Lochnagar, and Feindallacher burn from the north side of Cairn Taggart. The lower parts of the two head-streams and the whole of the Garrawalt itself are within the pine forest of Ballochbuie, in the middle of which there is a fine fall over a granite rock, the banks of the burn being overgrown with long heather and shaded with a close growth of trees. There are some smaller falls above and below the chief one, and near its mouth the burn tends, especially when flooded, to quit the main channel and spread out into several wandering streamlets. Access to the Garrawalt Falls is



allowed by the road diverging from the turnpike at Invercauld Bridge, and leading across the old Bridge of Dee and through Ballochbuie, but subject to certain restrictions as to the time of visit. The falls are much visited in summer, not only on their own account, but also for the sake of the drive or walk through the shady solitude of Ballochbuie, and the view from the bridge at the linn, especially to the north-west in the direction of Invercauld and Beinn-a-Bhuird, which is one of the best in the district.

GEALLAIG (2439 feet), an extended hill, under sheep and grouse, on the north side of the Dee opposite Abergeldie, intervening between Deeside and Glengairn.

GELDER BURN, with a number of head-streams from the northern aspect of Lochnagar, one of them draining the loch, flows northward through the Balmoral deer forest to enter the Dee almost opposite Carn-na-Cuimhne. About half-way up the glen there is a small shieling at which the Queen has been wont to alight occasionally when passing through the forest. There is a road up the glen thus far, and formerly (though very long ago) there have been some patches of cultivated ground and a few houses in the neighbourhood. At the lower part the burn drives a sawmill, and is crossed by a bridge on the road from Balmoral westward, and below this it passes through the royal home farm. A water motor driven by the Gelder, fitted up in 1898, supplies the energy for the electric lighting of Balmoral Castle.

GELDIE is a Braemar burn, a tributary of the upper Dee, having itself many tributaries. It rises about a mile from the meeting point at Carn an Fhidhleir of the three counties of Perth, Aberdeen and Inverness, while

the upper part of its glen is almost in line with and nearly meets Glen Feshie in Inverness-shire. Glen Geldie is rather flat and bare, and the nearer hills do not present very striking features. Geldie Lodge is towards the upper part of the glen, within two and a half miles of the Inverness border, and lower down is Bynack Lodge on a small tributary of that name. Both the lodges belong to the Duke of Fife, and are used in working the deer forest of Mar. Where the Geldie joins the Dee the latter is crossed by a wooden bridge (White Bridge), and from this point a number of routes diverge—one to Blair-Athole, along the Bynack road which ends near the lodge, and thence by the hill path through Glentilt (thirty miles from Braemar), another hill path conducting to Glen Feshie, and a third, up Glen Dee, by the Learg Ghruamach, to Rothiemurchus and Aviemore (thirty-two miles from Braemar). Salmon as well as trout are found in the Geldie. The small burn entering the Dee beside Abergeldie, and from which that place has its name, is also called Geldie.

GEOLOGICAL NOTES. The Highlands, bounded on the south by the irregular line of the Grampians, stretching across the country from Kilcraggan in Dumbartonshire to the Kincardineshire coast, constitute a separate region geologically as well as in other respects, a region which at some exceedingly remote period had been an elevated rocky tableland, presenting perhaps some minor undulations, but tolerably flat in its general aspect, though sloping slightly towards the coast. The greatest elevation in the portion of the Highlands we have to consider must have been in the vicinity of Ben Macdhui and Braeriach, from which locality, to judge by the existing landmarks, it is probable that a dominant line of the ancient plateau extended north-westward in the direction of Kinnaird's Head, and

another eastward to the coast south of Aberdeen. The hills and mountains of the district have not been upheaved so as to leave valleys, glens and gorges between them; but the latter have been eroded or excavated out of the ancient tableland by the wearing and grinding powers of nature—streams, rivers, floods, storms, frosts, glaciers, etc., reinforced by chemical influences from the atmosphere, which loosen the cementing materials of rocks and aid in their disintegration. The reader may think that it would need an almost incredible length of time for such results to be accomplished by such agencies, but he must remember that no one makes such demands on time as the geologist.

Within the flattened area thus indicated, inclining somewhat from Ben Macdhui to the coast, the waters that fell on the surface must have followed the inclination of the ground seeking their way back to the sea, not always finding the nearest way but bending to one side or the other to avoid obstacles, and spreading out now and again into lochs when they entered hollow spaces from which they could not escape till the hollow had been filled up. The main stream would also receive smaller affluents from right and left, so far as water could reach it by flowing downhill. A channel having been once formed for the primeval river, age after age and century after century its ceaseless flowing and frequent floods would wear it deeper and deeper, frosts splitting the joints of the rocks overhanging its course, and fragments falling into the river to be whirled along the steeper parts of the channel by floods, till boulders were worn to pebbles and pebbles to sand, and by slow degrees the materials of the higher regions were worn down and in part carried out to sea. Thus the valley of the Dee was gradually excavated, and its drainage area marked off from the Avon and Don on the north and the

Isla and Esks on the south. Tributary streams also cut glens and gorges for themselves, their more rapid descent and greater liability to flood compensating for their smaller volume.

Traces may still be detected of the lochs which existed at various parts along the course of the river. Probably the whole area in Braemar from Dalmore (the site of Mar Lodge) down through Allanquhoich and Allanmore to the neighbourhood of Mar Castle had formed a loch, while another covered the comparatively flat ground from Craighendarroch downwards by Tullich. The best example, however, is below Cambus o' May, extending over the Moor of Dinnet and the Howe of Cromar, of which Lochs Kinnord and Davan are still persisting remnants. A loch of considerable size had probably covered the low-lying ground on the banks of the Feugh in Birse and Strachan at no very remote period in geological time. The lochs may have been more or less filled up by sand, gravel and stones swept down into them by floods. The process of gradually silting up a loch by sand and *detritus* may be seen in progress in Loch Callater, a bank of sand having accumulated where the burn enters the loch, while one can easily see that the loch itself must have covered the flat ground through which the burn in zigzag course now approaches it.

The ice age, besides other far-reaching changes, helped to obliterate the lochs in the river's course, either by filling them up with boulder clay (or with the sand and gravel swept down by the floods which marked the close of the ice age), or by tearing away the ground at their lower ends, and allowing the water to flow on without accumulating. At the advent of the ice age, whether from astronomical or other causes, the seasons changed, an arctic climate gradually came on, and vast masses of snow accumulated, covering the hills and gliding down to

the low grounds. Century after century, though there may have been some intervals when the cold was more or less relaxed, the ice age continued, and glaciers, or enormous masses of slowly gliding frozen snow, pushed seaward, carrying with them fragments of rock (moraines) which had toppled from the cliffs and precipices over-hanging their course. Large separate masses of rock were sometimes left behind in odd situations, and where the glacier melted away heaps of sharp-edged stones were left by the moraines. Some of the stones and rubbish from the upper surface of the glacier fell through cracks and openings (crevasses) to its under surface, and the under surface was roughened by stones, gravel and sand, which under the enormous pressure of the moving mass above, scoured and scratched the surface of the rocks over which the glacier passed. The former soil was crushed into clay, and this mixed with more or less rounded pebbles and lumps of stone gave rise to the till or boulder clay, the characteristic deposit left behind by the ice age, very abundant in all districts of Deeside. The march of the main Deeside glacier lay along the river valley, turning somewhat northward at the lower end, but the various glens had glaciers of their own as well. When a warmer era returned, great floods must have occurred before the huge accumulation of ice and snow disappeared, and these floods would still further waste the surface, and carry with them gravel, sand and *débris*, to be dropped when the force of the current abated. By the end of the ice age valleys and glens had been scoured, the summits and ridges of the hills ground down, their angularities rounded more or less, their slopes and corries remodelled, and their water-sheds and streams greatly altered. The face of nature had been transformed and made to wear pretty nearly its present appearance.

The precipices of Lochnagar afford a good example of

the way in which even hard granite yields to the wasting powers of nature. Water finds its way into the joints traversing the rock, and when frost comes this water expands in freezing and splits open the rock. It may be only a very fine crack at first, but successive winters open it out wider and wider, till fragments from the face of the precipice are displaced, overbalanced and dashed to the bottom, knocking against the rocks in their descent and breaking up into smaller fragments. In this way layer after layer is removed from the surface of the precipice, and piles of *débris* accumulate at the bottom, though the lighter fragments are washed downwards by floods, and even the larger blocks are slowly weathered, wasted and swept downwards. This process gives a suggestion how, in the valley of the Dee and its glens, rocks have been brought within the transporting power of floods and during the ice age of glaciers. At or near the tops of many of the great mountains of Braemar, wide and comparatively level areas, 3500 to over 4000 feet above sea-level, occur, and are very characteristic, as on Lochnagar, Ben Avon, Beinn-na-Bhuird, Ben Macdhui, etc. In such places the waste of granite occurs under different conditions and is much slower. The portions disintegrated cannot topple down a precipice, but must lie on the flat surface where they originate, and thus in time come to form a cover of gravel and sand which protects the rock below. The manner in which the joints in the rocks are arranged, and the presence or absence of a perpendicular or steeply inclined surface influence the process of splitting, disintegration and waste, and the character of the resulting scenery depends greatly on these circumstances.

On Deeside generally the oldest and newest geological formations are brought into close contact, without any fossil records for the geologist to decipher. Granite and

gneiss, the remains of the eroded tableland, are the prevailing rocks, and there are no intervening formations between them and the thin covering of boulder clay, gravel, soil, or peat resting upon them. In some localities limited areas of rocks of a different nature occur. Limestone is found more or less in almost every parish, one of the largest limestone areas including the hill behind Invercauld and the Balloch hills, to the north-east. Micaceous schist occurs in Glenclunie, serpentine in Glenmuick, hornblende in Morven, porphyry at Potarch, etc. Though the amount of good peat fuel in readily accessible places is not very abundant, there are many mosses, and they frequently occur in flat, marshy areas where shallow lochs have formerly existed and been gradually filled up by the growth of *Sphagnum* and kindred vegetation; but mosses may form over what was previously a dry bottom out of which large trees grew, as evidenced by the tree roots often found in their natural position, with a layer of moss formed above them. There is a large amount of peat in the upper part of Glenmuick. Sand dunes, or hillocks of sand, are found on the Links at Aberdeen, and for some distance northward along the coast. Fine sand is thrown up on the beach by the tide, and after having dried in the sun, is lifted by the wind and gradually accumulates. Insignificant as these sand hillocks may appear, their formation may greatly affect a district. When the accumulations are excessive, and when vegetation does not form on the surface of the hillocks to prevent their being further blown about, great damage may be done to fertile inhabited tracts near the coast. In this way, about 250 years ago, a large, fertile tract known as "the granary of Moray" was laid waste, and land formerly "made blithe with plough and harrow" is now covered with barren ridges of sand, some of which are more than 100 feet high.

GIRNOCK, a Crathie burn rising from the hills spreading out from Lochnagar between the Muick and the upper part of the Gelder, and flowing through a narrow glen with a few farms, and in the lower part, a mill, a school, and a small post office. The upper parts of the glen are bare, but Craig Ghuibhais and Craig Phiobaidh, between which the burn emerges near its mouth, are densely wooded. There is a rough road up the glen crossed by another, leading from the upper part of Glenmuick by Bavaglie to Deeside below the Crathie Distillery.

GLASSEL, a small station, twenty-one and a half miles from Aberdeen, reached when the railway, after a steep ascent through the dense woods above Banchory, enters somewhat opener ground. Glassel House is on the bank of the burn of Canny, a little to the north of the station.

GLENCLUNIE. *See* CLUNIE.

GLENDYE. *See* DYE and STRACHAN.

GLEN FINZIE diverges from Glengairn to the north near Lary, some distance above the Catholic Chapel, and from Glen Finzie the Glas Choille road proceeds north-west, crossing the hills to Strathdon near Tornahaish.

GLENGAIRN is a long, narrow glen without much wood, except natural birch in the lower part, stretching from Deeside a little above Ballater to Benavon. The uppermost house is the small shooting lodge at Loch Bulig, where the glen road terminates, and is crossed by a hill path from Tomintoul (Banffshire) and the north, by way of Inchrory, Loch Bulig and Aberarder, to Braemar, near which path is the boundary of the deer forest. Loch Bulig, though quite near the Gairn, drains to the Avon. Crondavon and Gairnshiel are two other shooting lodges



in the glen, the former, which has extensive and excellent grouse moors, is two or three miles below Loch Bulig, and the latter about half-way between Corndavon and the mouth of the Gairn. Gairnshiel, originally an old-fashioned structure built by the last laird of Monaltrie, but renovated and extended within the last few years, stands in a walled park by the side of the river; and near it is Rinloan, formerly an inn; Rineaton, formerly a separate property owned by Macdonalds, and some other farms and houses, so that this part is about the main centre of population in the glen. The old military south and north road passes Gairnshiel, and over a high-backed bridge a little below, slants along the northern hillside, and crosses the Glas Choille to Corgarff. On the north side a little below the bridge is the Parish Church, and in the same neighbourhood is the public school, while two miles farther down there is a Roman Catholic Chapel. Near this there is a road up Glen Finzie connecting with the Glas Choille road, and below the Glen Fenzie burn, the Morven or Lary burn enters the Gairn on the left. Among the birches on a height above the Manse is Dalfad, a small place, once held by a branch of the persecuted Clan Macgregor, whose burial ground is still visible beside the ruins of an old Catholic Chapel. Where the glen opens out at Bridge of Gairn is the reservoir from which the water supply for Ballater is led in, and there are also a wool mill, a smithy, a post office and several houses. When the railway was made to Ballater in 1866, the line was continued along the base of Craighendarroch and across the Gairn to reach the Invercauld estate, within which, if the railway should ever be extended to Braemar, the remaining portion would lie. This small portion above Ballater was never worked, the rails were soon taken up, and the bridge by which the line crossed the Gairn was removed and re-erected ten miles higher up the stream at Daldounie,

where the glen road crosses and is joined by a communicating road from Crathie. Below the turnpike, at Bridge of Gairn, is the churchyard, with remains of the old Parish Church, dedicated to St. Kentigern (Mungo), and there is some probability that the Saint may have founded a church here in the latter half of the sixth century. The farmhouse on the high ground to the north-east of the bridge is called Abergairn, and near it are some remains of an old castle of the Forbeses. The rocks behind yield lead, and about 1876 experimental mining operations were carried on for some time by direction of the Marquis of Huntly, who was then proprietor; but as it did not seem that the work could be made remunerative, it was given up. In the lower part, on the side next Ballater, Mr. Keiller, of Morven House, owns some miles of the glen, and all the rest belongs to Invercauld. In this article Glengairn has been treated as meaning the Glen of the Gairn, although the parish-makers have placed the upper part of it in Crathie and Braemar, and included Glengairn (such as it is) *quoad civilia* in the united parish of Glenmuick, Tullich and Glengairn. The ancient *quoad civilia* parish of Glengairn included Strathgirnock on the south side of the Dee. The Rev. Alexander Macgregor was born in 1806 in Glengairn, where his father was both minister and teacher. Afterwards the younger Macgregor was for some time assistant to his father in Kilmuir parish in Skye, the churchyard of which is the last resting-place of Flora Macdonald. Macgregor, who went to Kilmuir only about thirty years after her death, doubtless had good means of obtaining information about the darling heroine of the Highlands, and he has written a sketch of her life.

GLEN GEUSACHAN, a deep, crooked glen, in the remote part of Braemar, extending at first nearly westward and afterwards north-westward from Glen Dee, between

Devil's Point and Cairntoul on the one side, and Beinn Bhrotain and Monadh Mor on the other. From the west side of Cairntoul a good-sized burn descends through the glen, draining the small Lochan Suarach near the Inverness-shire border. The Geusachan burn is pretty well stocked with trout, but, being in the heart of a deer forest, it is of course not open to the public.

GLENGIRNOCK. *See* GIRNOCK.

GLENMILLAN, a small estate, with a mansion house in a conspicuous position, barely a mile to the north-east of Lumphanan Station. It was formerly known by the name of Cloak, and two bronze rings or armlets, found here in sepulchral cairns, were presented in 1832 to the Edinburgh Antiquarian Museum.

GLENMUICK takes precedence in naming the united parish of Glenmuick, Tullich and Glengairn, an extensive area intervening between Aboyne and Glentanner on the east and Crathie and Braemar on the west, all of them parishes formed by amalgamation, resulting, we may be sure, not from limitation of area, but from the slender number of inhabitants. Glenmuick by itself is a long glen stretching in a south-westerly direction from the mouth of the Muick, about half a mile above Ballater Bridge, to Loch Muick, eight or nine miles distant. The glen has some width below, near the Dee, and above, near the loch, with a narrower intervening part mostly covered with wood, which reaches farther up on the west side than the other. There are some farms in the lower part stretching up towards the Linn of Muick, with some good hill pasture for sheep, but the recent tendency has been to increase the area under deer. On the west side a small isolated farm still survives far up the glen at

Inshnabobart, about two miles from Loch Muick; but on the other side at Spital of Glenmuick, where there was formerly some cultivation and a place of accommodation for travellers crossing by the Capel Mount to or from Clova, "the scene is desert now and bare," but for a gamekeeper's house and a plantation. There are two tolerably good roads along the glen—one on each side of the Muick—the upper part of the road on the west side, passing through the royal domains, being usually reckoned private, although the privacy is not very strictly enforced. The Linn of Muick is about half-way up the course of the stream, embowered among trees—a favourite place for summer picnics. The water falls, though not in one leap, over a rock about thirty feet high into a deep, black pool below. The green bare hills of Coyle (1956 feet), formed of serpentine, and contrasting with the neighbouring hills in appearance as well as in geological structure, are situated on the west below the Linn, and they separate Glenmuick from Glengirnock.

About a mile above the Linn, wood ceases on the east side of the glen, and on the west it no longer reaches close down to the Muick but leaves a clear space in the bottom of the glen on that side as well. For some distance below the near end of Loch Muick there is a wide, flat, mossy moorland, through which the water of Muick, after issuing from the loch, pursues a sluggish, zigzag course. The loch, which is over two miles long, is shut in by wild and high precipices and ridges, and its lonely grandeur is very impressive. Near the upper end of the loch on the west side is the Queen's remotest dwelling—Glassalt shiel, on the bank of the burn of that name. A little way up the Glassalt burn there is a headlong waterfall in a granite gorge, which would doubtless be a favourite haunt of tourists and rambles if it were not so distant and outlandish. A mile or so below the loch on

the same side of the glen is Alltnaguibhsaich, sometimes called "The Hut," or "The Queen's Hut," though it stands on the Abergeldie property. The route to the summit of Lochnagar from Ballater through Glenmuick passes near the lodge. The summit is, however, not seen from the glen except near Spital, which would be off the route for the ascent.

Fully a couple of miles below the Linn there is an outlying school at Mill of Sterin. Half a mile or so below this, occupying elevated ground on the west side of the Muick, and facing a rounded knoll clad with birches on the other side, is Birkhall. More than a hundred years ago the laird of Abergeldie started a sort of model farm here, and built or enlarged the farmhouse forming the older part of the residence. For the last fifty years the place has been owned by the royal family, and the house has been further extended by corrugated iron and other additions. Lower down among the birches on the opposite side of the Muick, is Glenmuick House, a massive modern edifice visible from some parts of Ballater, the mansion of the Mackenzies. It is generally let, however, along with the shootings on the east side of the glen; and the farmhouse of Braichley, at the base of the hill near Ballater Bridge, has been enlarged and fitted up as the residence of Sir Allan Mackenzie. In old times the Gordons held Braichley, and the place is one of some note in local history, a Baron of Braichley having been slain in a foray by Clan Chattan about 1592, while another fell in 1666 in a quarrel with Farquharson of Inverey, and a rustic ballad still survives to tell the story. The road from Ballater Bridge crosses the lower widened portion of the Muick valley, the stream being spanned by a granite bridge built in 1878, to replace an old, narrow, inconvenient structure, the scene of frequent accidents. The churchyard, where the church stood till

transferred to Ballater in 1798, is close to the bridge, and contains the unostentatious burial place of the Gordons of Abergeldie. A rough slab, shaped something like the lid of a mummy case, will be noticed bearing the initials J. M. and the dates 1596-1722, indicating that John Mitchell, "the poor inhabitant below," attained the extraordinary age of 126 years. Proceeding westward from the bridge, one notices a tall, rough, unhewn stone set up on end in a field by the roadside. Locally it is called "Scurry Stane," and may be as old as the days of the Picts, but its history is unknown. On a knoll on the west side of the glen, nearly opposite Braichley, are the ruins of the old castle of Knock. Some kind of fort or tower has existed here since the remote times of the Celtic Earls of Mar; but the castle whose remains now crown the brae was built shortly after 1600, by Alexander Gordon, a kinsman of the laird of Abergeldie. He was the last laird of Knock, a man unfortunate as Job himself, and destined to a tragic end. His seven sons while at work casting peats were treacherously attacked and slain by the Forbeses of Strathgirnock, and their father on hearing the terrible news staggered and fell over the Castle stair—dead.

In 1644 Argyle quartered some of his followers in Glenmuick, then part of the territory of the Royalist Gordons, and the strangers seemed to have fared sumptuously at the expense of the country people. Next year Montrose passed down Glenmuick on his northward march before the battle of Auldearn. About 1720 the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge established a school at Tombellie, Glenmuick, with Andrew Rule for teacher, but the school was soon transferred to Tullich. Before 1740 John Gordon had been settled by the Society as schoolmaster at Balnoe, Glenmuick, and his scholars numbered thirty-seven boys

and twenty-three girls. A little while after this George Thomson was schoolmaster in Glenmuick, and in 1753 he married a daughter of Alexander Ross, author of *The Fortunate Shepherdess* and some doric verses that still survive. The minister of Glenmuick who united the young couple was himself the husband of Mary Mackenzie, daughter of the last laird of Dalmore (Mar Lodge). Ross, who was schoolmaster of Lochlee in Forfarshire, about sixteen miles away, used to make a journey on foot every year till he was past seventy, to visit his daughter in Glenmuick. Francis Farquharson, the laird of Monaltrie, was one of Ross' Glenmuick acquaintances, and the bard wrote some verses in his praise which have not been preserved. In 1842 there were eight schools in the parish, five of them, supported by subscription among the parishoners, being open for only three or four months in winter. The educational state of the parish in 1842 could not, however, be counted satisfactory, there being 370 children between six and fifteen years, and 240 persons above that age who could neither read nor write. The author of the Old Statistical Account of the parish (1795) says the farms were small, the methods of cultivation bad, and the farmers and crofters, for the most part, indolent. The parish then had 1563 black cattle, 13,263 sheep, 716 horses (mostly of the small, hardy Highland breed, valued at about £5 each), 208 ploughs, 61 carts, and only one carriage. The yearly wages of men-servants, of whom there were 63, is stated at £6, and of female servants, of whom there were 87, at £3, while a labourer earned 6d. a day with victuals, or 9d. a day without. While the men are blamed for taking it easy, the author of the Old Statistical Account praises the women for industry and diligence. Their chief employment a hundred years ago was spinning flax, at which a woman might earn 3s. a week, while in summer many

of them manufactured their own wool into coarse blue or tartan webs, which sold at 2s. to 2s. 6d. per ell (thirty-seven inches). Verily "old times are changed, old manners gone!"

GLENTANNER once formed a parish by itself, but its lower part has long been included in Aboyne and its upper in Glenmuick. The Tanner, a good-sized stream, enters the Dee from the south-west about a mile above Aboyne, and its head-streams almost reach the tributaries of the Muick on one side and of the Feugh on the other. The main stream has its sources in Hare Cairn (2203 feet) and Mount Keen (3077 feet), while the Gairney and the Allachy, farther to the east, come from Braid Cairn (2907 feet), Cock Cairn (2387 feet), and Hill of Cat (2435 feet), and unite into one burn, which enters the Tanner about a mile above Glentanner House. There is a road to the upper part of the glen near the dismantled farm of Coirebhruach, and from this the Fir Mounth path crosses the western shoulder of Mount Keen to descend on the other side through Glenmark in Forfarshire.

Hills of no great height or steepness border the Tanner for most of its length, forming a long glen, clad with fir wood, except in its upper third or fourth, with an occasional mixture of other trees. Gordon of Straloch, in a description published in 1660, notes that the banks of the Tanner were crowned by a huge wood of tall pines, and a writer in the Old Statistical Account (about 1795) says Glentanner timber used to be 3d. per cubic foot, but had then risen to 4d., and for the best trees 5d. He also mentioned that the Earl of Aboyne at that time drew £300 or £400 a year out of wood sales from Glentanner, and suggested the construction of a canal from Aberdeen for the better carriage of the timber, estimating that, with a canal, Lord Aboyne would draw £1500 a year from



Glentanner woods. If the present owner had come a century earlier, he might possibly have added the making of a canal to the list of his enterprises. A hundred years ago Glentanner was also famed for its goats, and persons suffering from consumption resorted to the glen to drink goat's milk as a remedy, and apparently goat's whey as well.

For about thirty years Glentanner has been the autumn residence, and latterly has become the property of Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, a barrister and banker of great wealth, who has converted the glen into a deer forest, and made numerous changes. Glentanner House has been erected on a meadow on the left bank of the stream, enclosed between low, woody hills. Having been built by instalments, it lacks the symmetry it might otherwise have shown, but it is a good-sized and not ungainly building. Internal accommodation and convenience have been well attended to, and the fittings and embellishments are sumptuous and tasteful. Stag's horns, the favourite trophies of the chase in the Highlands, are shown in great numbers, the large ball-room being profusely decorated with them—both walls and ceiling. Stables, gardens, kennels, workshops, sawmills, and several artificial ponds stand within the grounds, as well as a number of houses for officials and servants, for whom the proprietor has very considerably provided a reading-room and library. The kennels, provided with electric light, are the finest on Deeside, and if the canine inmates are not comfortable and grateful, they ought to be. A little below the house, on the opposite bank of the Tanner, a small Episcopal Chapel has been built on the site of "the auld hoose" of Braeline, preserving an archway from the old structure. The chapel has internal fittings of pine, and externally is thatched with heather, though the thatch might be dispensed with, for there is

a lead roof below. Beside the chapel there is a small burying-ground, enclosed by tall blocks of stone placed on end and disposed around it. Close by there is a green flat in the bottom of the glen where sewage irrigation is carried on. Throughout the glen, roads, dykes, fences, and lodges are kept in good order, wells have been fitted up with rustic masonry at many spots, and drinking troughs made for animals, while inscriptions, more or less appropriate, meet the eye at every turn.

Glentanner district includes five or six miles of the Dee westward from the mouth of the Tanner, as well as the glen itself, and borders with Glenmuick at Dee Castle, while the Glentanner estate extends almost to Pannanich. Farms occur at intervals, the buildings on which have mostly been renewed within the last few years, the roofs being covered with red tiles, instead of slates. On a moor near the Dee, about a mile below the bridge at Dinnet, is the churchyard of Glentanner, with the western gable of the ruined old church remaining, and bearing a tombstone on what had formerly been its internal surface. Towards the west end of the churchyard a tombstone will be noticed, the lower part of which has a curved outline from which a cross springs, marking the resting-place of James Robertson and Helen Macdonald "and also of Mary Robertson their daughter, widow of Kenneth Stewart, who died at Aberdeen on 2nd March, 1867, aged eighty-five years". It is sometimes asserted that this Mary Robertson was the heroine of one of Byron's youthful pieces, beginning, "When I roved a young highlander o'er the dark heath". Byron, when a boy about nine years old, spent some weeks at Ballaterach while recovering from fever, in the house of the Robertsons, it is said. It would not be inconsistent with the sense of the stanzas to suppose that Mary Robertson was their heroine; but unfortunately for such

a theory, Byron has left a pretty full account in plain prose of his early attachment, in which he clearly states that the supreme favourite of his early boyhood was Mary Duff, and makes no mention whatever of Mary Robertson.

GOAUCH (1104 feet), a densely wooded hill to the south of Blackhall, meeting the Hill of Scolty on the east.

GORMACK BURN is a stream of some length but no great volume, rising on the Hill of Fare, and passing near Kirkton of Echt and Cullerlie, to join the Leuchar burn from the Loch of Skene and form the Culter burn a mile above Culter.

HEATHCOT is a small estate in Maryculter, about five miles from Aberdeen, adjoining Ardo, to which it has now been annexed. What was formerly the mansion stands in a sheltered hollow, with a spacious lawn in front, and wood round about. It has been enlarged and transformed into a Hydropathic establishment, and may fairly be said to be without a rival on Deeside, as there is no other similar establishment. A bus comes and goes three times a day between Aberdeen and Blairs, passing the Hydropathic gate. A stretch of fishing on the Dee is held in connection with the Hydropathic for the use of visitors, sea-trout fishing being at its best from March to May, while the best time for salmon fishing is in September and October. Very heavy salmon (sometimes fifty pounds or more) are caught on this stretch.

INCHMARLO, an estate in Banchory-Ternan, formerly belonging to Douglasses, but since the early part of the nineteenth century to Davidsons. The mansion house, about two miles to the west of Banchory, almost opposite

Blackhall, is of considerable size, and is situated in the higher part of a park sloping or undulating downwards to the turnpike. Excepting the park, most of the district is covered with wood. The Canny burn enters the Dee directly below the house, and the Invercanny reservoirs connected with the Aberdeen Water Works are in the near vicinity.

INVER, near the mouth of the Fearder burn in Crathie, has an old-fashioned inn (for which a larger and better equipped establishment might with advantage be substituted), a mill, and a small post office, and on the north side of the road, to the west of the inn, quarries from which excellent greyish-white granite is obtained. Opposite the quarries there is a flat space of no great breadth next the river, called the Muir of Inver. Both the muir and the hill above are closely covered with fir and larch wood, with occasional sprinklings of birch. Inver was the appointed mustering place in some of the Earl of Mar's proclamations in the early stage of the rising in 1715.

INVERCAULD HOUSE, for centuries the residence of the chiefs of the Farquharson clan, occupies a conspicuous site on the north side of the Dee, two miles from Braemar to cross the Dee by boat or ford, and four miles to follow the road by the bridge, which is fully a mile farther down. It stands on a plain divided by a natural terrace of some height from the park in front, which extends 500 yards or so down to the river, and is dotted with clumps of trees, while on the opposite part of the Dee there is a small island covered with alders and spruces. On the knolls close behind the buildings there are thick masses of growing plantations, while in the rear the hills are covered to a good height by dark green firs

mixed with a sprinkling of birch in the lower part, and in the extreme background there are mountains too high to bear a sylvan shade and seldom entirely clear of snow—Benavon, with abrupt, castellated-looking masses of granite shooting up here and there from its storm-beaten heights, and Beinn-a-Bhuird with its massive outline, its wild corries, and its extended ridge. The wooded hills in the near background shelter and adorn the site of the mansion, though they have a touch of wildness in their beauty. Between them the Sluggan burn and the Aultdowrie burn run down to join the Dee, the latter burn flowing through an opening of considerable extent to the north-west of the house. The village of Braemar is hidden from view by Craig Choinnich, but Braemar Castle on its bold hillock is within sight. On the south side of the Dee nearly opposite are the Lion's Face hill (rather misnamed), with a profusion of wood partly concealing the craggy rock above, and Craig Cluny, with almost perpendicular precipices overhung by trees, though the winter storms have recently made havoc with the wood on its more distant side. Farther down, the wide pine forest of Ballochbuie is spread to the view, with the white spray of the Garrawalt Falls rising in its midst, and beyond the wood, bare hillsides and ridges stretch up to the peak of Lochnagar. The Dee holds its course along the bottom of the valley, sometimes in full view, oftener hidden by woods or hillocks, and forms a strongly marked coil, crooked enough to have been borrowed from the Links of Forth, with deep pools abounding in salmon, at Caipaich, just below the mansion house. The general opinion of the country people on the natural merits of Invercauld may be gathered from the exclamation which usually escapes them when moralising on the scene: "What a pity Balmoral was not built there!" So far as natural features are concerned, Invercauld bears a

general resemblance to Urrard or Renrory House on the bank of the Garry in Athole, where the battle of Killiecrankie was fought. In both cases there is a flat haugh next the river, with the mansion house on a higher plain above, separated by a steep bank, and hills more or less covered with wood in the rear of the house.

Invercauld is one of the largest country seats in Aberdeenshire, and is usually described as being in the Scottish baronial style of architecture, but it has been built by instalments, and there is a good deal of variety both in the design and the execution. The oldest portion is near the dining-room and is not seen from the exterior, consisting of a low vaulted structure, with thick walls composed of small stones that have not suffered much from masons' hammers, furnished with narrow loopholes for shooting upon besiegers. Probably not much of the rest of the building is older than the seventeenth century. In its general appearance the mansion is roughly cruciform, the longest axis standing approximately at right angles to the Dee, and looking towards Ballochbuie and Lochnagar, while another block extends westward facing the river and the noonday sun. Where the two blocks meet there is a massive square tower surmounted by a flag-pole turret. The battlemented tower rises to a height of seventy feet, but it is rendered less striking on account of its lower part being entangled among the other buildings. Large additions to the mansion house were made in 1872-74 by Colonel Farquharson, the father of the present proprietor. The area of ground occupied by the buildings was not appreciably increased, but one, two, or more storeys were added to the height of the previous buildings, and the internal accommodation was re-arranged, but most of the structure of the western wing, being of recent erection, was not disturbed. The main entrance to the old mansion was on the south, but

the renovated building includes a new entrance hall on the east front, standing in a slanting position, with a narrow, odd-looking recess between it and a projecting part of the neighbouring wall. The whole surface of the old walls was roughly plastered over with lime (“*harled*”), while in the new building the walls are pointed between the stones, leaving the surfaces bare. The plaster has been stripped off the old walls, and they have been pointed to make them correspond as well as may be to the new, but there is an appreciable difference of complexion in the various parts of the building. The flat roofs in the new buildings extend to a considerable area, but the winter is so severe that even the very best plumber-work can hardly render them waterproof, and when a heavy accumulation of snow occurs, it has to be dug up from the flat roofs and cast over the battlements. The renovation of Invercauld was carried out under the direction of a London architect, in contrast to the building of Balmoral Castle, which is a monument of the architectural taste and skill of Aberdeen.

In the autumn of 1715 the Earl of Mar took up his quarters in Invercauld while making his bustling and bungling preparations for the inglorious insurrection which he headed, and it is said that the fiery cross was then sent out from the same place over a wide Highland district. The Invercauld estates, though they have suffered large curtailments since 1863, parting with many thousands of broad acres in Cromar, Glenmuick, Ballochbuie, etc., are still very extensive, including over 80,000 acres in Aberdeenshire and 30,000 or 40,000 in Perthshire. The rise of the clan Farquharson is noticed in the article on Braemar.

Great changes have come over the administration and “local government” of Invercauld since the days of the present laird’s grandfather, who died in 1862. The

economy of the place then included a home farm at Keiloch, hardly a mile distant, with a large stock of dairy cows and other cattle, including a number of Highland cattle; a lime-kiln where lime was prepared both for building purposes and for top-dressing the lands; a vegetable and flower garden, as well as a nursery for raising seedling forest trees and rearing them till fit to be planted out; a sawmill for cutting up grown timber; a flock of sheep pasturing in the meadows, and ten or a dozen Highland ponies, generally running about the parks, and stabled only for a few months in mid-winter; a slaughter-house where fattened victims from the flock and herd were prepared for the larder and the cook; a building for smoking and curing venison hams to be used outside the season when deer are fit to be killed; baking and brewing departments, where bread and ale were produced within the mansion house; and a *girnial* or store for oatmeal, which was supplied by the Cromar tenants in part payment of their rent, and sold out (a shade below Braemar rates) to the servants and workers on the estate, many of whom, both men and women, might have been seen on a Saturday (the day when the *girnial* was open) carrying home a firloot or more of meal on their shoulders. The system was one which employed numerous servants and workers, most of whom had crofts attached to their cottages, and some who were not otherwise sufficiently provided for were allowed the use of a bit of the Keiloch home farm. The workers mostly lived at Keiloch and Felagie, but some of them at Braemar, and for the convenience of the latter as well as for general communication, several boats were provided on the Dee, and, to encourage and facilitate church-going, one of the workmen was told off every Sunday to ferry all comers over the river. Several rural festivities held from time to time were greatly enjoyed by the servants



and country people, not so much the "harvest home"—though the home farm sometimes witnessed entertainments too—as some other occasions. About the time of the Braemar gathering, the great annual holiday of the district, when usually the clan Forbes marched over from Strathdon and encamped for a day or two at Invercauld, hospitality was at its height, piping and dancing abounded, and every man of mettle was attired in all the glories of tartan and *Sporan molach*. The bringing home of the laird's peats from Balloch Dearg moss was another great occasion. When this undertaking, at which the Aberarder tenants assisted with their horses and carts, had been successfully accomplished, the "peat dinner," as it was called, was provided, and old men used to vie with each other in reckoning up the number of "peat dinners" which they had attended. The table was usually spread in the open air, and the company, after regaling themselves with an ample repast, and cordially drinking the laird's health as in duty bound, enjoyed a dance on the green at which, as in *Tam o' Shanter*, the piper with his

Strathspeys and reels  
Put life and mettle in their heels.

The old laird and his lady took a considerate, personal interest in their tenants and work-people, and the support which they gave to education, before the days of School Boards and cheap literature, was both creditable to them and beneficial to the country. When the laird rode his rounds on his favourite grey mare, with a saddle having an upright back attached to it to support him on account of lameness, he was "the observed of all observers". Even the old pony appeared conscious of the dignity of her office, and her stately pace seemed clearly to say: "*Cæsarem porto et fortunas ejus*".

INVEREY is a collection of about twenty houses, mostly with crofts attached to them, on the south side of the Dee, a mile or two below the Linn, and four or five from Braemar. The houses line the roadside for some distance on both sides of the Ey, which flows through comparatively level ground to join the Dee a little distance to the north, the intervening space being mostly under tillage. To the west of the bridge over the Ey the road slopes downward and inclines towards the Dee, and the houses here (forming "Little Inverey") stand on rougher and more irregular ground than those on the open plain to the east (forming "Muckle Inverey"). There are two small schools in the place—one under the School Board, and the other a Catholic school; and also an old disused burying-ground, where the "forefathers of the hamlet sleep". To the north-east across the Dee is the plain of Dalmore with the ducal mansion of Mar Lodge, and behind it the long hill of Creag a Bhuilg covered with firs; while the hills to the south in front of Inverey are covered with wood, but the opening through which the Ey descends is comparatively bare. The houses are mostly neat slated cottages, and for a place so outlandish (sixty-three or sixty-four miles from Aberdeen) and so high above sea-level (somewhere about 1200 feet), Inverey makes a very good appearance.

In "Muckle Inverey," nearly hidden among some shady trees, are the ruins of the old house of Inverey, sometimes called Inverey Castle, though the structure is of modest dimensions, and does not present the turrets, battlements, and other usual features of castellated architecture. The house and lands of Inverey were formerly held by a branch of the clan Farquharson, one of whom fought under Montrose. So far as traditional fame goes, the most notable chief was John Farquharson, usually called "the Black Colonel," who quarrelled with the

Baron of Braichley (or else the baron quarrelled with him), and in a skirmish which took place at Braichley (near Ballater), in 1666, the baron and several others were killed. A ballad still keeps green the memory of the combat and the combatants. It was probably at this time that Inverey took refuge in the rocky recess, about a mile and a half up the Ey, still known as the "Colonel's Bed". After the revolution Inverey and his men joined the Jacobites. They were not in time for Killiecrankie, however, as Dundee had dismissed the Highlanders and allowed them to go home for some weeks, and the battle was fought (with diminished numbers on the Jacobite side) a day or two before the time appointed for the re-assembling of the clans at Athole. Before Killiecrankie, however, fire and sword had been used by and against Inverey. He had burned Mar Castle about June, 1689, to get rid of a garrison Mackay was placing there, a party of whom unsuccessfully attempted to capture Inverey. But Mackay himself "with terrible numbers" next appeared on the scene, burned Inverey's house, and wasted his lands.

There seems to be a good deal of doubt as to the identity, or, at all events, the name, of the Inverey chief of those days. Popular tradition represents "the Black Colonel," John Farquharson, as being still the man, but a proclamation, issued at Edinburgh on 18th July, 1689, by the Lord High Commissioner and Privy Council, "against the Viscount of Dundee and other rebels now in arms," includes in the list "William Farquhardson of Inverray, and Farquhardson, his brother". Inverey appears again in a letter written from Birse on 17th August, 1689, by the Highland chiefs, in reply to a friendly invitation from Mackay to lay down their arms: "We scorn your usurper and the indemnities of his Government". This letter is given with the signature

“Tho. Farqyson”. The same signature “Tho. Farqyson” is given with a bond of association to support the cause of King James signed by the chiefs on 24th August, 1689. Tradition might err, and so might even the Government proclamation, but no doubt the worthy old chief knew his own name and signed it accordingly. Perhaps, however, a badly written “Jno” for John may have been read and reproduced as “Tho.,” so that the traditional account may be right after all.

The Invereys are further noticed in the article on Braemar. At the time of the Old Statistical Account (*circa* 1795) there was still a Farquharson of Inverey and Balmoral, but he was the last of his line, and the Braemar and Balmoral lands soon afterwards passed into possession of the Earl of Fife, other lands at Tullich and Ballater held by Inverey having (probably at a rather earlier date) been sold to the laird of Monaltrie.

INVEREY, a small estate now annexed to Tilquihilly, Inverey House being embowered among dense woods on the left bank of the Feugh, a little above the bridge and falls.

ISLAND OF DEE, as it is called, is situated a little above Park House. There are numbers of other small islands occasioned by changes in the channel and mostly covered with wood, for example, opposite Invercauld, at Coila-creach, Pannanich, Banchory, etc.

KERLOCH (1747 feet) is a hill about five miles south of Banchory, from the western part of which it closes in the view in that direction, presenting a long, slightly curved sky line, with a brown, heathery slope below. The water supply for Banchory is brought from near its foot, and the Sheeoch burn rises from its southern

aspect, to flow south-east through the parish of Durris. Little Kerloch (1581 feet) is to the west, nearer the water of Dye.

KINCARDINE O'NEIL is an Aberdeenshire parish, bordered on the south by the Dee, and on the east by the portion of Kincardineshire which intrudes across that river. The village of the same name is towards the western part of the parish, twenty-six miles from Aberdeen, eight and a half from Banchory, nearly five from Aboyne, and about two from Dess Station. It has a southern exposure, and the hills on the opposite side of the Dee are thickly covered with plantations, while to the rear the low hills between it and Lumphanan, sheltering it from the north, are mostly under cultivation in the lower part and covered with wood or broom and whins above. The turnpike between Banchory and Aboyne passes near the base of these northern hills, and the village is mostly formed by a line of houses and shops on each side of it—pretty regular in the western part, but rather twisted farther east, near the churchyard and the old roofless church beside the bridge over the tiny burn of Neil. The present Parish Church is on the opposite side of the road farther east, and at the western outskirts there is a small Episcopal Church, with a very pointed little spire covered with slates, and a burial ground beside the building. Near the bridge there is a small hotel, the Gordon Arms, and there is also a public hall in the village. On the hill slope behind is Kincardine Lodge, the residence of Mrs. Pickering, who recently purchased the estate; about a mile to the west, on a commanding eminence covered with wood and overlooking the Dee, is Desswood House, the residence of Mr. Alexander Davidson; and on the slope of the hill to the north-east of the village is Anniesland. The village has a good situation and agreeable surroundings, and it

might have been an attractive resort for summer visitors, yet it is but a "sleepy hollow". The railway line, owing, it is said, to the obstinacy of some of the landowners concerned, having been diverted from Deeside to pass through Torphins and Lumphanan, Kincardine O'Neil has been in a manner left out of sight and out of mind. Torphins Station is about three miles distant and Dess about two. Torphins is within the parish and is separately noticed. About two miles below the village of Kincardine O'Neil there is a substantial stone bridge at Potarch, just below a narrow rocky part of the river's channel. The north end of the bridge is within the parish of Kincardine O'Neil and the south end (at which there is an inn) is in Birse. There is a ferry across the river near the village.

While Kincardine O'Neil is now off the main line of travelling and traffic, formerly all the traffic from Aberdeen and Banchory to Aboyne, Ballater and Braemar passed through it, and it was on the highway between north and south by Cairn o' Mount, a route much frequented in old times. It was by the Cairn o' Mount that Dundee rode north with his troopers to raise the Highlands after his flight from Edinburgh in 1689, before the battle of Killiecrankie. A small garrison of troops seems to have been stationed, at least occasionally, at Kincardine O'Neil in times when Scotland was still an independent kingdom, indicating an attempt, not always successful, on the part of the Government to maintain order on Deeside. The Presbytery dealing with ecclesiastical affairs in the upper districts of Deeside has for several hundred years taken its name from Kincardine O'Neil. The Bishops of Aberdeen at a very early time drew tithe from the thanage of O'Neil, and in the reign of Alexander III. the thanage had fallen to Allan Durward in respect of a succession derived from the old Celtic Earls (or Mormaers) of Mar, whose position as Celtic Mormaers some of the earlier

kings had tried to weaken by alienating part of their lands, and by substituting feudal tenure of the territory left in their possession, instead of the old Celtic tenure under which they were less dependent on the Crown.

About a hundred years ago the parish of Kincardine O'Neil had a population of 2075, being 245 more than at last census, but the village must have been smaller a century ago, as it had only 100 inhabitants. The population of the parish then included sixty farmers, not one of whom paid a rent reaching £50 a year, and if we may rely on the figures given in the Old Statistical Account respecting the total rental and the total acreage under cultivation, the average annual rent per acre for arable land cannot have been more than six shillings an acre, if so much. There were seventy-five male and eighty-five female farm servants, the former earning £5 to £6 a year and the latter £2 to £3, while a day labourer earned five shillings a week; and there were also six blacksmiths, eight millers, seventeen carpenters, two masons, fourteen shoemakers, fifteen weavers and twenty tailors. The relative number of carpenters and masons suggests that the houses must have been very wooden, and the other figures that a good deal of attention must have been paid to dress. Women could earn a maximum of half a crown a week at spinning lint and knitting stockings, and it is said that about 600 women were so employed—a surprisingly large number compared with the total population, but as the work was such as women could begin very young and carry on even at an advanced age, the figures may be approximately correct. The wars in which the country was engaged in the latter part of the eighteenth century left their mark on the parish statistics, no fewer than eighty inhabitants having previously served in the army.

Two notable Kincardine O'Neil men of the eighteenth century may be mentioned. The first, Alexander Ross

(1699-1784), son of a small farmer at Torphins, and himself long school-master of Lochlee in Forfarshire, was a man of some fame as the author of a number of Doric lays, including "The Rock and the wee pickle tow," "What ails a' the lasses at me?" etc., and a longer work of fiction in verse, "Helenore, the Fortunate Shepherdess." He is to be distinguished from Alexander Ross (1590-1654), a native of Aberdeen, author of many forgotten works, whose own memory is kept alive by a couplet in Butler's *Hudibras*:—

There was an ancient sage philosopher,  
And he had read Alexander Ross over.

The other notable man was John Grant, a fortunate tailor in real life, who fell heir to a large sum of money with which he bought the estate of Kincardine O'Neil, and forthwith set himself to plant and build in a style that was quite feudal; but the house which he built was nicknamed "Needle Ha'," and the property was soon sold into other hands.

KINGCAUSIE is an estate in Maryculter parish, the mansion house (about seven miles from Aberdeen) being situated among trees on the slope of a rising ground, fully a quarter of a mile south of the Dee and about the same distance east of Crynoch burn. The Mill Inn of Maryculter, a substantial and handsome new iron bridge over the Dee, and a small waterfall, the Corbie Linn, are in the near vicinity. Henry Irvine, a son of the laird of Drum, obtained the lands of Kingcausie before the middle of the sixteenth century, and the Irvines long retained possession, but the male line having become extinct towards the end of the eighteenth century, Kingcausie fell to an heiress who married Claude Boswell, an advocate, afterwards a judge of the Court of Session under the style



of Lord Balmuto. Their son, John Irvine Boswell, died without issue in 1860, and his widow erected a conspicuous granite monument to him on the hill of Auchlee, two miles to the south-east. Kingcausie then passed to his niece, Miss Syme, who married Mr. Fortescue, owner of Swanbister in Orkney. Kingcausie is well seen from the north road near Milltimber Station.

KINDROCHIT, a ruined castle on a rock of some height, overlooking the Clunie on the east side, hardly a stone's throw above the bridge between the two parts of the village of Braemar. It is said that a bridge spanned the Clunie in connection with the old castle, from which the name (Ceann na drochaid, bridge-end) arose and was applied to the castle, the village, and even the district of Braemar, which at a still more ancient date is said to have been called St. Andrews. Braemar (often Brae of Mar in early instances) had come into use before the time the Erskines obtained the earldom of Mar (1565), though Kindrochit was long used as synonymous. In a print of 1741 giving particulars of the schools maintained by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, mention is made of "Crathie and Kindrochit, united parishes". The remains of the old castle, out of which trees are now growing, are not very extensive, but besides suffering from the natural waste of centuries, stones have probably been taken from the old pile for other buildings. Long centuries ago, when the castle stood intact, and was occupied by kings and nobles, it had probably been of ample size, and esteemed as great a mansion as the proudest now standing on Deeside. There is a persistent tradition that it was built by Malcolm III. (1057-93) as a hunting seat, but I am not aware that there is any authentic record either of the beginning or end of this ancient castle. Probably it had been

owned and inhabited by the Celtic Earls of Mar, the male line of whom became extinct in 1377. In 1382 King Robert the Second lived some time in the castle, and may have come, on the failure of the male line of Earls, to survey the Earldom with covetous eyes and selfish longings. However that may be, anarchy soon followed in the affairs of the Earldom and probably the castle ceased to be occupied and gradually fell into decay. Thirty or thirty-five years ago I remember the old castle as a sort of general Gehenna for the offals and rubbish of the village, including all the dead cats and dogs. It is still rather neglected-looking, though enclosed by a wooden fence.

KINNORD, LOCH, is about a mile west of Dinnet Station and five and a half north-east of Ballater. It is gracefully bordered with birchwood except to the north-west, and has two or three islets which further enhance its beauty. A castle formerly existed on one of the islets, and was long a seat of the Earls of Huntly, popular tradition assigning its origin to the time of Malcolm Cannmor (1057-93), who is said to have hunted in the district. Numerous relics have been found about the loch or its neighbourhood—remains of ancient crannogs and canoes, a stone with a sculptured cross, now preserved within the grounds of Aboyne Castle, a stone cup, planks and beams of an old drawbridge belonging to the island castle, and other articles. A Pictish town is believed to have existed in the neighbourhood of Lochs Kinnord and Davan, probably identical with the Devana of Ptolemy, and within the last year or two some underground Pictish dwellings have been discovered at no great distance, on a farm to the east of Morven. The loch, which may be somewhere about two miles in circumference, is shallow and sedgy at the margin, and

only three or four fathoms deep in the middle. Cultivated fields reach pretty close to it in some parts, but on the west there are bare heathery hillocks, and farther away to the north-west are the outlying spurs of Morven, including Culblean. For a Highland loch its surroundings on most sides are rather low, however, and if shorn of its birches it would not so much excel the neighbouring Loch Davan. Loch Kinnord is fed by the little burn of Vat (on which there is a curious, rock-encircled fall) and drained by the burn of Dinnet.

KIRKTON, a name applied in old times to the hamlet or cluster of houses usually existing in the neighbourhood of the parish church, and still persisting in a number of cases; for example, Kirkton of Durris, Echt, Strachan, etc.

*Abeyne*

KNOCK CASTLE, now roofless and ruined, stands on the ridge of a comparatively low hill on the west bank of the Muick, about a mile from Ballater. The castle faces Craigendarroch, from the road ascending which it may be seen, though somewhat veiled by larch and rowan trees. The walls, four or five feet thick, furnished with loop-holes for shooting through, and resting on a basement of projecting rough stones, are tolerably entire, and show the castle, though of no great size, to have been a robust rectangular structure of three storeys (the lowest being vaulted), with dwarf turrets and small windows, the latter having been formerly protected by iron gratings, to judge by the marks on the stones. In one corner there has been a winding turret stair inside the building. This stair and the vaulted stone roof over the ground floor have given way, and the stones are strewed about the interior.

An earlier small fort or tower stood for centuries near

the site of the present ruin, and Knock has witnessed many vicissitudes. Far back in the misty past it was in the hands of the ancient Mormaers or Earls of Mar, and from them it was transferred to Durwards and Bissets—families of short-lived greatness, that waxed when that of Mar somewhat waned; subsequently it passed to the Frasers, then to the Keiths, Earls Marischal, and afterwards to the Gordons, Earls of Huntly. The third Earl of Huntly, who led the left wing of the Scottish army at the disastrous battle of Flodden, appointed one of his sons to command the castle; and the next Earl, who fell at Corrichie, bestowed both castle and lands on a brother of the laird of Abergeldie, a Gordon and a kinsman. This Earl having defied the royal authority was defeated at Corrichie, on the Hill of Fare, by Queen Mary's half-brother (afterwards known as the Regent Moray), and fell on the field. The Forbeses, who were nominally under the Huntly standard, scarcely struck a blow for him, and they afterwards made terms with Moray. After this there was great bitterness and quarrelling between the Gordons and Forbeses, and Forbes of Strathgirnock, who held property lying between that of Knock on one side and Abergeldie on the other, was, as it were, placed between two fires. He took a vigorous part in 1571 in the clan fights between the Forbeses and Gordons at Tillyangus and Crabstane, Aberdeen, and was made prisoner at the latter, when during his imprisonment the Gordons endeavoured unsuccessfully to merge his property in their own. Shortly before the battle of Glenlivet in 1594 the Clan Chattan (Macintoshes and others) made a destructive foray into Deeside and Glenmuick in which Henry Gordon of the Knock was killed, as well as Gordon of Braichley, and the Forbeses were rightly or wrongly suspected of being concerned in this raid. Alexander

Gordon, who succeeded his brother Henry, is believed to have built the now ruinous castle, and it is related that soon afterwards his seven sons, while casting peats in the hill moss, were attacked and murdered by the Forbeses, and that their father fell dead over the castle stair on hearing the terrible news. Forbes was summarily condemned and executed, and Strathgirnock annexed to the Abergeldie estates, which were further enlarged through the lands of Knock falling to Abergeldie by inheritance. Knock Castle not being occupied by the new owner except at odd intervals gradually fell into disrepair, and finally into the ruinous condition it has now reached. The lands of Knock were purchased by the royal family from Abergeldie in 1848 and have now been in their possession for half a century.

LARIG (LEARG) BURN, one of the head-streams of the Dee, meeting the other longer head-stream (Garchory burn), 1976 feet above sea-level, in the bottom of a tremendous defile to the west of Ben Macdhui. Near the upper end of the Larig burn, 2700 feet above sea-level, are some pools (the pools of Dee) with which the burn probably communicates, though the communication has not been demonstrated; and in a rapid course of about a mile and a half through the defile it receives a headlong tributary from the west side of Ben Macdhui and itself descends fully 700 feet before joining the Garchory to form the Dee. Through the defile traversed by this burn lies the Learg Ghruamach (Rueful Hillside; Rueful Pass) from Braemar to Rothiemurchus and Aviemore (thirty-two miles).

LEARNEY HOUSE is a good-sized but rather plain mansion situated about two miles to the north of Torphins, 830 feet above sea-level, on the slope of a hill of the

same name. It has dense woods behind, and looks down a cultivated hollow with lines and clusters of trees here and there, while the distant Clochnaben limits the view to the south. It has been rebuilt since 1838, in which year it was accidentally burned down. Colonel Innes of Learney (born 1814) was for a long time active and prominent in county and local business, and in 1876 unsuccessfully contested the western division of the county as a candidate for parliamentary honours. The lands of Cullerlie in Echt form part of the Learney estates.

LEGGART BURN is a small stream dividing Nigg from Banchory-Devenick, and receiving a tiny streamlet from the Loch of Loirston.

LEUCHAR BURN issues from the Loch of Skene (which is fed by the Kinnernie burn) and has a course of nearly eight miles through or along the borders of Skene, Echt and Peterculter, entering the Dee at Peterculter Church. Below its junction with the Gormack it is known as the Culter burn, and drives the Culter Mills.

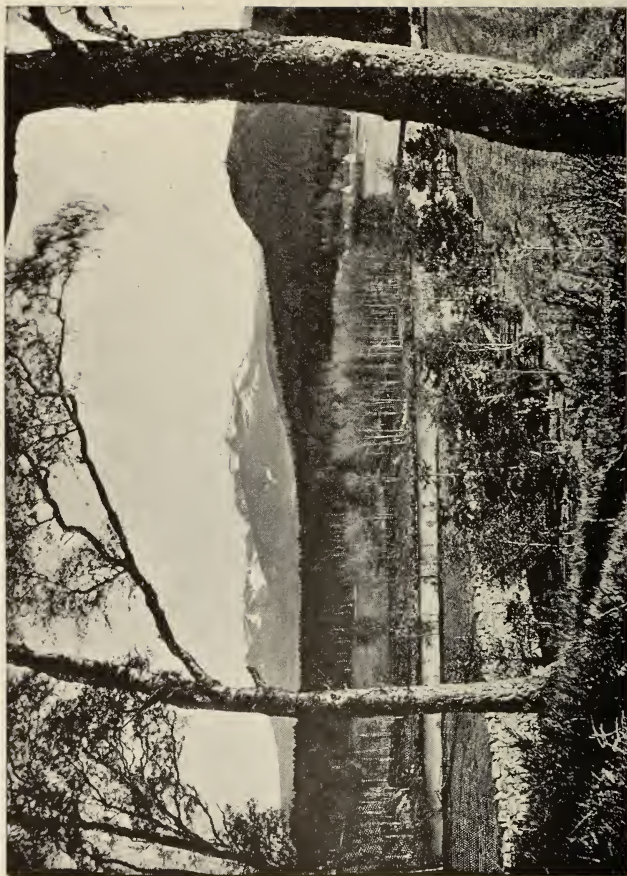
LEYS. The lands belonging to the Burnetts of Crathes were erected into a barony, called Leys, about the beginning of the fifteenth century, the laird being styled Baron of Leys, a title known to local fame in a hardy old ballad. Further lands were included in a later charter granted by James VI. in 1595. *See* CRATHES. It may be remarked that Leys is a not uncommon surname on Deeside.

LINN OF DEE. *See* BRAEMAR.

LOCHAN SUARACH. *See* CAIRNTOUL.

LOCHAN UAINE (2), *See* UAINE.





*Wilson, Aberdeen.*

**LOCHNAGAR, FROM CAIRNAQUHEEN.**



LOCH BHROTACHAN, *see* BHROTACHAN. So also for Loch Braeroddach, Bulig, Callater, Ceander, Davan, Etchachan, Kinnord; and for the Loch of Aboyne, of Auchlossan, of Leys, of Loirston, and of Skene, *see* BRAERODDACH, BULIG, etc., and ABOYNE, etc.

LOCH MUICK. *See* GLENMUICK.

LOCHNAGAR (3786 feet), not the highest, but probably the most famous mountain on Deeside, is situated in the south-east of Braemar, and sends projections into Crathie and Glenmuick, as well as to some extent into Forfarshire. Viewed from the top of Craigendarroch or the neighbourhood of Tullich, the dark grey granite precipices rear themselves above the nearer hills and front the spectator; from Strone-Yarrich (the hill between Gairnshiel and Crathie), the main mass and the projecting ridges and spurs are well in view, peaks, precipices, hill slopes, and sky lines blending in one great Alpine scene; while from the neighbourhood of Invercauld the pointed natural cairn at the top is conspicuous, giving a sharply defined and characteristic appearance to the summit, very different from that of the neighbouring hills. From a point near this topmost pinnacle the main line of precipices, 1000 feet high or more, extends southward with a slight inclination to the east, and at their base is the small triangular loch from which the Gelder burn rises. On a near view the grim majesty of the precipices is very impressive. At the northern end the main range of naked granite cliffs meets another range at a sharp angle, the two enclosing between them a narrow yawning gorge which retains the snow till August or later. Near it on one side there is a curious projecting granite spire or pinnacle, of considerable height, standing clear out from the cliff to which its base is

attached. A wary pedestrian in search of ferns or Alpine plants may make his way up or down the gorge, if tolerably clear of snow.

It would be useless to attempt to enumerate all the parts of the country seen from the top, though experts profess to see beyond the Firth of Forth on one side and the Moray Firth on the other. The last time I was on the top I took a map with me, intending to identify as many places as possible, but made little progress, for it was a gusty day and the map was no sooner opened than it was torn by the wind. Hills on hills crowd upon the view in all directions, like the waves of some great sea stilled and petrified. Stretches of cultivated ground, contrasting with the prevailing heathery colour, appear in different directions, especially in the lower parts of Deeside. Ballater is very distinctly seen, but Balmoral is not in view, being hidden by the hills behind it. Invercauld is seen to great advantage from various parts of Lochnagar. Surrounding the base of this great mountain there is a series of lochs—Loch Muick and Loch Callater at some distance to the east and west respectively, Lochan an Eoin and Sandy Loch to the north, Dubh Loch to the south, and Lochnagar at the foot of the cliffs. Numerous burns flow down from the mountain, including various streams uniting to form the Garrawalt, which courses through the pine forest of Ballochbuie, the Gelder flowing through Glen Gelder, and Allt an Dubh Loch and Glassalt feeding Loch Muick.

Byron saw and celebrated, but did not create, the wild beauty and grandeur of Lochnagar, though doubtless his proud lyric has helped others to see and to appreciate them. Lochnagar is oftener climbed than any other great mountain of Braemar, the route from Ballater lying along the road up Glenmuick, and then by a path leading off near the hut at Allt-naguibsaich, and

from Braemar by road (not a good road) to Loch Callater, and thence by the hill path. This path, diverging from the road at the lower end of Loch Callater, slants up the hillside, passes the back of Cairn Taggart (3430 feet), and approaches the cliffs above Lochan an Eoin, till after various ups and downs a final climb brings us to the summit. Hill ponies can be taken to the top without difficulty. There is good water near the summit, but the number of broken bottles to be seen scattered about suggests that many visitors prefer other kinds of liquor.

LOCH OF DRUM *or* PARK. *See* DRUMOAK.

LOCH OF LEYS. *See* CRATHES.

LOCH TENNET. *See* AAN *or* AVEN.

LOGIE COLDSTONE, comprising since 1618 the two ancient parishes of Logie-Mar and Coldstone, belongs mostly to Cromar, but partly drains to the Don by Deskry water. Loch Davan and Morven (2862 feet) are on the western boundary, and Blelack and Newkirk on the road from Dinnet to Strathdon.

LOIRSTON, LOCH OF, a small loch, considerably reduced by drainage, in the south-west of Nigg, between the road leading south from the Bridge of Dee and that from Wellington Suspension Bridge, but nearer to the latter. It gives off to the north a tiny rill which joins the Burn of Leggart.

LUI, a Braemar burn, rising on the southern aspect of Ben Macdhui by several head-streams, one of which drains Lochan Uaine. The Lui Beg, as it is called in

the upper part, has for some distance a course about midway between the Derry and the Dee, while farther down it inclines to the south-east and receives the Derry. The united stream known as the Lui has a course of three or four miles before entering the Dee below the Linn, and has one or two small linnings of its own in the wood a little above its mouth. Sturdy old pine trees of natural growth extend some way up the glen, and there are traces of former tillage and dwellings even in this remote region, which still yields some bits of wonderfully good green pasture in summer. Near the meeting of the Lui Beg and the Derry is Derry Shooting Lodge, at which the road ends.

LUMPHANAN is a parish with an area of 8757 acres and a population of 992, towards the southern part of which is the village and station of Lumphanan, twenty-seven miles by rail from Aberdeen, and about three miles north of the village of Kincardine O'Neil, from which it is separated by some low, flattened hills, mostly covered with broom and whins, which intervene between it and the valley of the Dee. The burn of Leochel carries the drainage of the northern part of the parish to the Don, but most of the drainage passes to the Dee by the burn of Dess on the west and of Beltie on the east. The railway is carried over the hollow at the burn of Beltie by a considerable viaduct, and farther west there is a deep cutting as Lumphanan Station is approached. To the west of the village there is a considerable agricultural district in a hollow among the hills, running up towards Corsehill (1383 feet) on the north. Near Corsehill is Craiglich (1563 feet), the highest point in the parish, and from it the hills run southwards to Mortlich near Aboyne. A portion of the land in this agricultural district has been formed by draining the loch of Auchlossan to the north

of Dess Station, and partly in Aboyne parish. This enterprise was carried out rather more than thirty years ago, at an expenditure of over £6000, by Mr. James W. Barclay, formerly M.P. for Forfarshire, and involved the making of a tunnel and other costly operations. When brought under cultivation the virgin soil of the loch continued for some time to yield extraordinary crops both of straw and grain. The village of Lumphanan has a row of houses and shops with a bank and a small hotel facing the station; and another row, containing the parish hall, completed in 1898, stretches northward towards a narrow opening between some fir-clad hills, through which a road passes to connect with the road from Tarland, through Midmar and Echt to Aberdeen. Behind the village, in the wood by the side of this road, is the Free Church, a neat granite building with a tasteful spire. Looking through the opening beyond the Free Church one sees in a field on the slope of Perkhill a circular clump of trees encircling Macbeth's cairn (*see* PERKHILL). The Macbeth of history was probably a better man than the Macbeth of Shakespeare's tragedy, but his hands were stained with the blood of Duncan, and Nemesis waited for him at Lumphanan. He had been defeated at Dunsinane by Duncan's son, Malcolm III. (Ceanmor), and was probably trying to reach the province of Moray, of which he was Mormaer in his own right (*i.e.*, without usurpation), when he was overtaken and cut off by the pursuing forces at Lumphanan in 1057. Shakespeare, though it suited him to end his tragedy at Dunsinane, had doubtless read the historic account, and knew that Macbeth fell at Lumphanan. A stone and a well in a field near the bridge where the railway crosses the road to the south-west of the village are also called after Macbeth, and the fighting may have been kept up all the way (about a mile) between them and the cairn on

Perkhill where the doomed king was slain and probably buried. Near the railway bridge, and easily visible from the railway, is the Peel Bog, as it is called, a nearly circular earthen mound, about fifty yards in diameter, and four or five yards high, supported by a stone wall and surrounded by a wide moat. The Lumphanan burn had supplied water for the moat, and the remains of a sluice were exposed by the flood of 1829. Some kind of fort or building had existed on the central mound, but it has long disappeared. The origin and history of the structure are rather obscure, but it is of great antiquity—perhaps as old as the times of Macbeth and Ceanmor—and there is a presumption that Edward I. of England paid it a visit in 1296. The Parish Church is outside the village to the south-west, and the ancient Church of Lumphanan is one of the places associated by tradition if not by history with the work of St. Kentigern (Mungo) on Deeside in the sixth century, the church having been dedicated to St. Finan or Llanffinan, a Welsh disciple or companion of the saint.

MACBETH'S CAIRN, STONE AND WELL. *See* LUMPHANAN, CAIRNBATHIE, and PERKHILL.

MANNOFIELD, a western suburb of Aberdeen, near the tramway terminus, at the extremity of the Great Western Road, some little distance from which are the Manno-field reservoirs in connection with the city water supply.

MAR LODGE, the newest, but not the fairest of Deeside mansions, stands on the haugh of Dalmore, on the north side of the river, less than two miles below the Linn of Dee. In front and around there is a considerable extent of meadow, behind is the long hill of Creag a Bhulig, reaching from the Quhoich to the Lui and covered with firs, and across the Dee slightly to the west is Inverey,

with woody hills closing in the view to the south. If the site of Mar Lodge had been a little more elevated above the river it would have improved the effect ; but the scene as a whole is a beautiful one, and the mansion is not the best of it. The building is rather low, with a frontage to the south of about 270 feet, gables and verandahs everywhere meeting the eye, and long, bare chimneys protruding through the roof of red tiles. A hint seems to have been taken from the way they do things at Glentanner, but with a difference. At Glentanner the mansion is slated and the farm and other houses recently built are covered with red tiles ; but at Mar Lodge the mansion is tiled and the houses in the neighbourhood slated. Old Mar Lodge, which stood not far from the same site, has been demolished so as to leave the field clear for the new mansion, occupied for the first time in the autumn of 1898. About half a mile to the east of the private bridge which spans the river and gives access to the new, as it formerly did to the old, mansion, there formerly stood on an elevated site among close woods, near Corriemulzie falls, a building which began on a modest scale as Corriemulzie Cottage, but was afterwards enlarged and developed into new Mar Lodge. It was an edifice of considerable size, mostly formed of wood, and was long the residence of the Earls of Fife, but unfortunately it was burned down in the summer of 1895.

The deer forest of Mar is probably the largest in Scotland, and is surrounded by other great forests. It includes some very high mountains and barren tracts, but also good pasture in many of the glens, and extensive woods which afford shelter to the deer in winter. The Duke of Fife retains the whole area in his own hands as a hunting ground for himself and his guests, and for the more convenient working of the different parts there are shooting

lodges at the Derry, Geldie, Bynack and Alltanodhar. In spring and early summer there is a good deal of artificial feeding, turnips, beans, etc., being laid out for the deer to devour; and near Mar Lodge a park has been enclosed for the accommodation or incarceration of the much-prized animals.

The Duffs obtained their first footing in Braemar about or probably before the middle of the eighteenth century, when they acquired Dalmore, which had been held for two or three hundred years by a family of Mackenzies; and by the close of the century they had added Allanquhoich, Auchendryne, Inverey and Balmoral to their possessions, Balmoral being sold to the Prince Consort in 1852 for £31,500. William Duff, M.P. for Banffshire, 1727-34, was created (first) Baron Braco in the Irish Peerage in 1735, and (secondly) Viscount Macduff and Earl of Fife, also in the Irish Peerage, in 1759. Curiously enough, though the second Earl and also the fourth were created Baron Fife in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, the Barony expired with them, in the absence of direct issue, and the Irish honours reverted in the first case to a brother and in the second to a nephew. The fifth Earl, who had previously been M.P. for Banffshire, 1837-57, was created Baron Skene in the Peerage of the United Kingdom in 1857. Finally, Alexander William George Duff, sixth Earl in the Irish Peerage, was created Earl of Fife in the Peerage of the United Kingdom in 1885, and Duke of Fife in 1889, on his marriage with the Princess Louise Victoria, eldest daughter of the Prince of Wales.

MARYCULTER is a Kincardineshire parish mainly on the south side of the Dee, between Durris and Banchory-Devenick. The Crynoch burn, which has a small fall, the Corbie Linn, near its lower part, is the principal tributary



of the Dee. There is some comparatively flat ground near the Dee, but elsewhere the surface is uneven and rocky, though about half the area is under tillage. Between the south Deeside road and the river, almost opposite the mouth of the Culter burn, is Maryculter House, and near it are the ruins of the old church, superseded in 1782 by the present one about a mile to the south, which was repaired and provided with an organ in 1881. In the churchyard, beside the ruined church, are carved effigies of a knight and lady, supposed to represent Thomas Menzies of Maryculter and his wife Marion Reid, who lived in the early part of the sixteenth century. Altries House is about a mile to the south-west of Maryculter House, and Kingcausie about the same distance to the south-east, near the bank of the Crynoch burn and surrounded by woods. A conspicuous circular tower has been erected on the hill of Auchlee about two miles to the south-east, in memory of Mr. Irvine Boswell of Kingcausie, who died in 1860, leaving behind him an honourable record for agricultural improvements. Eastward from Kingcausie is Blairs College, and near the border of the parish Heathcote Hydropathic Establishment. Near the mouth of the Crynoch burn a fine bridge has recently been erected over the Dee, consisting of three iron spans, the middle much the largest, and two side arches. The bridge gives access to Milltimber Station. Near its south end is the Mill Inn of Maryculter, a notable place of call for excursionists driving or cycling from Aberdeen. An addition has recently been made to this establishment, which seems to show that it is not declining in popular favour.

MARYWELL is a small village of about twenty houses situated among woods on the southern slope of a low hill overlooking the burn of Cattie in Birse, a short distance

to the north-east of Ballogie House, and, to follow the road, about two and a half miles north-west from the Bridge of Potarch. There is also a road to the Church of Birse, and another over the hills behind Finzean House into the valley of the Feugh.

MICRAS is a locality on the north side of the Dee with no very definite boundaries, beginning some distance west of Coilacreach and ending some distance west of Abergeldie. There is a good deal of graceful birchwood along the roadside, and the open parts are mostly under cultivation. Some half-dozen farmhouses are dotted along the braes to the north of the road, the fields being partly between the road and the river; but the cottar houses of rather primitive architecture which formerly existed have now become very few. Micras is sheltered on the north by the extended hill of Geallaig (2439 feet) intervening between Deeside and Glengairn.

MIGVIE, an old parish, with two separate portions, one in Cromar and one in Strathdon, formerly united to Tarland, but now merged by the Boundaries Commissioners in the neighbouring parishes. The ancient Castle of Migvie, a seat of the Earl of Mar, has almost entirely disappeared, but there is a more ancient and in some respects more curious structure at Mill of Migvie farm, namely, a Pict's house.

MILLTIMBER is a station six and a half miles from Aberdeen, within the suburban railway system. There are no houses quite close to the station, which is situated in a park below the turnpike, but there are some large villas above the road. Long fields stretch down from the railway to the Dee in front, and the river is here crossed by a fine iron bridge recently built. At the south end of the

bridge is the Mill Inn, Maryculter, and near it Kingcausie House, with fine woods on the hill slopes around and behind it. From the position of the bridge this station serves the district on the south side of the Dee as well as on the north. Camphill House is among the trees to the west of the road leading from the station to the bridge, and Murtle House, with curious yellowish-white walls, on an eminence crowned with trees near the river, though a good distance to the eastward, is well seen from the turnpike above Milltimber Station.

MONADH MOR (3651 feet), a mountain of Braemar, lying to the south-west of Cairntoul, from which it is separated by Glen Geusachan. The border line between Aberdeen and Inverness runs north and south along its ridge.

MONALTRIE. A little to the west of Balmoral the hills on the north side of the Dee recede from the river so as to leave a hollow between the woody hill behind Tynabaich and the ridge running northward from the birch-clad hill at Carn-na-Cuimhne. This hollow, called Monaltrie, is mostly under tillage, but has some patches of birch and a small burn coursing southward to the Dee and crossing the road near a spot where a line of thatched cottages, called Street of Monaltrie, formerly existed, and where there is still a small roadside shop. The boathouse of Monaltrie, now demolished, stood near the mouth of the burn, and a ferry boat conveyed passengers from the Monaltrie to the Balmoral side of the river till 1834, when the suspension bridge opposite Crathie Church was built. William Rattray, the boatman, was one of a considerable number of persons in the district who felt the shock of earthquake in the night preceding the great flood of 4th August, 1829, and declared he felt the earth "hobblin'" under him. Monaltrie House was some distance to the north

of the road, near the present farmhouse of Mains of Monaltrie, and the estate latterly comprised lands in Glengairn, and the lands of Tullich and Ballater purchased from the last of the Invereys. About 1568 the first Earl of Mar of the Erskine line exchanged the lands of Monaltrie for those of Castleton in Braemar, and Monaltrie passed into the possession of a family of Farquharsons akin to those of Invercauld. One of them (Donald), a Royalist and a follower of Montrose, was slain in Aberdeen in 1645, leaving behind him the reputation of being "one of the gallantest captains in Scotland". His son, who succeeded, fell into pecuniary difficulties when an old man, and about 1700 sold the property to Alexander Farquharson, younger son of Invercauld. There were four lairds of this second line, the best known of whom, Francis Farquharson (the Baron Ban), followed Prince Charlie, and suffered and sacrificed much in consequence. He fought at the moonlight skirmish at Inverurie in December, 1745, at which the Macleods were routed, at the battle of Falkirk where Prince Charlie won his last victory, and at Culloden where he sustained his final defeat. "Francis Farquharson of Monalterye" had the distinction of being included in the Act of Attainder passed in May, 1746, and excluded from the benefits of the Act of Indemnity passed in the following year, of being sometime a prisoner in England, of losing his estate and of very nearly losing his head. He was condemned to death, but obtained a pardon, and after a while the restoration of his property on payment of what must have been for those times a very heavy fine; in his later years he devoted himself vigorously to the making of roads, bridges, buildings, plantations, and improvements; and died at a good old age in 1790. It is the business of bards to celebrate heroes, and Monaltrie's doings did not pass "unhonoured and unsung". Alexander Ross, author of "The Fortunate Shepherdess," "The

Rock and the wee pickle tow," "What ails a' the lasses at me?" etc., used to pay an annual visit to his son-in-law, the schoolmaster at Glenmuick, and made the acquaintance of Monaltrie, who countenanced and encouraged him. Ross wrote verses in praise of Monaltrie, celebrating, however, rather the kindly and beneficent deeds of his later days than his earlier warlike exploits. No doubt these effusions had gratified Monaltrie's acquaintances, but they were never published and so have been forgotten.

The Baron Ban was succeeded by his nephew William, the last of the Monaltrie Farquharsons, who made Ballater House his headquarters, and in 1827, the year before his death, sold Monaltrie to Catherine Farquharson of Invercauld. On the death of his widow, in 1857, the rest of his estates passed to Farquharson of Invercauld as next of kin. Twenty or thirty years ago portraits of the last Monaltrie Farquharson used to be common in farmhouses within the Monaltrie domains, and to judge by them he must have borne a pretty strong resemblance to Sir Walter Scott. There is a granite monument to his memory on a hillock between the road and the river, three or four miles below Ballater, opposite the farmhouse of Tomna-keist. The house of Monaltrie was burned down after Culloden—not by the foe, as it appears, but rather by the country people in order to get rid of a garrison of Government troops. The lands of Tullich and Ballater were purchased from the last of the Inverey Farquharsons either by the Baron Ban or by his nephew William, and Ballater House (or Monaltrie House) built under the eastern spur of Craigendarroch, near the outlet of the Pass of Ballater, a very good site, though the building has now come to look old-fashioned.

MORRONE (2819 feet), an extended hill overlooking the village of Braemar, presenting a steep, heathery slope

eastward towards the Clunie, and a less steep slope to the north covered with straggling birches in the lower part. On the shoulder between these two aspects of the hill there are some half-dozen crofts at Tomintoul, with a birch wood below. There is a cairn on the top, and the hill is often climbed for the sake of the exercise and the view. Lime-stone has been quarried in several parts, and from a burn descending the eastern slope the water supply for Castleton is derived.

MORTLICH (1248 feet), a conspicuous hill to the north of the Loch of Aboyne, bearing on its brow a granite monument (much in need of being pointed) erected in 1868 to the memory of the tenth Marquis of Huntly, who died in 1863. Round about the monument there are traces, by no means conspicuous, though they may be detected by looking carefully, of a large, circular enclosure, to which antiquaries assign great antiquity. Mortlich is the southern extremity of the line of hills intervening between the Howe of Cromar and the Howe of Auchlossan and Auchenhove.

MORVEN (2862 feet) is a high hill mainly formed of hornblende, about five and a half miles north from Ballater, on the border of Logie Coldstone and the Tullich portion of Glenmuick. The main summit is towards the back (north), and is somewhat obscured by Culblean, Crannoch Hill, and Creagen Riach which project down towards Cambus o' May and Tullich, the Tullich burn issuing from between the two latter. One of the routes to ascend Morven lies along this burn. Another starts from near the Vat, and a third from the upper part of Cromar. Looked at from the south, Morven presents a longish ridge, but no sharp peak such as characterises Mount Keen (3077 feet) which faces it on the south side

of the Dee. To the west is a realm of mountains, Ben Avon conspicuous among them, to the south-west Lochnagar is even more conspicuous, and to the east the hills are lower and to a considerable extent covered by plantations. Byron mentions Morven but not with such emphasis as Lochnagar.

MOUNT BATTOCK (2555 feet), the highest hill of its own neighbourhood, and higher than any of the Grampian summits to the eastward, stands between the head-streams of the Aan (Aven) and the Dye, at the meeting point of the counties of Aberdeen, Forfar and Kincardine.

MOUNT KEEN (3077 feet), the most easterly mountain of Deeside and of Scotland that reaches a height of 3000 feet, is situated in the upper part of Glentanner, on the borders between Aberdeenshire and Forfarshire. The Fir Mounth path leading from Deeside up Glentanner, with a western branch from the neighbourhood of Ballater, crosses the western side of the mountain to Glenmark and Forfarshire, the descent into Glenmark being made by a steep path called the Ladder. Lower hills in front obstruct the view, so that Mount Keen, with its sharp peak, is invisible from the bottom of the valley of the Dee, though well seen from the hills on the north and from some parts of Cromar.

MUDLEE BRACKS (2259 feet), a hill on the borders of Aberdeenshire and Forfarshire, about three miles west of Mount Battock, giving origin on its northern side to some of the head-streams of the Feugh.

MUICK, LOCH AND WATER. *See* GLENMUICK.

MURTLE is a small station on the suburban railway system five and a half miles from Aberdeen, with some mills and a few houses near it. There are several large

villas on the high ground to the north-east, while Murtle House occupies an eminence near the river, embowered among trees, and is best seen from the turnpike some distance westward near Milltimber Station. Immediately eastward from the station there is a bridge of some height and size over the Murtle burn, a tiny stream flowing through a deep hollow screened with beeches and other trees. In the midst of the fields, a few hundred yards northward from the road, the burn flows through a small dell thickly covered with wood, and having two mill-dams which look like miniature natural lochs, while heather, blaeberrries, whin and bramble grow upon the rocks.

NEWKIRK, a small village in Logie Coldstone, Cromar, four and a half miles from Dinnet, on the way to Strathdon. There is a kirk in the place, though it has long ceased to be new, a school, a public hall built in 1897, a post office, one or two shops, and a number of other houses. "The land o' cakes" is not using oatmeal so much as formerly, and meal mills are getting rather scarce even in country farming districts, but there is one at Newkirk still actively engaged in business.

NIGG, a Kincardineshire parish on the south side of the Dee at its mouth, comprising Girdleness Lighthouse; Torry, now included within the city boundaries, and with new streets and buildings rapidly springing up, so that the former fishing village is now taking on a new character; and Loirston Loch in the south-west. Nigg is traversed by the south roads from Aberdeen, as well as by the main line of the Caledonian Railway, and communicates with the north side of the river by the Bridge of Dee in the north-west, the railway bridge near the Duthie Park, the Wellington Suspension Bridge a little



farther down, and the Victoria Bridge in line of Market Street. To the west of Nigg Bay is the ruined old Church of St. Fittick's, with St. Fittick's well near it, formerly believed to possess healing virtues and therefore made the scene of superstitious pilgrimages and rites which all the censures and penalties of the Aberdeen Kirk Session could not put down. The present church, erected in 1829, is near the centre of the parish.

NORMANDYKES is the name locally given to the remains (as they are believed to be) of a Roman camp on Deeside, about nine miles from Aberdeen and about a mile south-west of Culter Station, on a swelling height, the upper part of which does not form a sharp ridge but has considerable breadth. On this upper flattened part the camp had its position—doubtless a good position both for outlook and defence. The site is now planted with fir trees and surrounded by fields, and can be readily made out from several points in or near the village of Culter, and from the railway to the west of the station. By descending through the old part of the village past the paper mills, and crossing below the bridge over which the railway passes, the camp may be reached by picking one's way through the fields. There has been an extensive rectangular enclosure capable of accommodating a large army, the northern wall of which, almost 1000 yards long, is the best preserved portion. This is a broad wall two or three feet high, though it has doubtless been much higher, the weight of the stones causing it to sink, and quantities of stones having probably been removed. There is a ditch in front which adds to the apparent height of the wall, though a question may cross one's mind whether the ditch may not have been excavated by a modern farmer and not by the ancient Romans. Till recently there was a well on the eastern

rampart called "Norman's Well," and the inequalities of the ground within the enclosure must at some time have been removed by the work of man, as the surface is too even to be natural. Antiquarians have given out various conclusions or conjectures regarding this old structure. The account given by Dr. W. F. Skene is probably as worthy of attention as any. The Romans in Britain had suffered severely from the attacks of the Caledonii, and about A.D. 208 the Emperor Severus, though an old man, came to Britain, accompanied by his two sons, to repel and chastise the Caledonii, his aim being to open up their country by making roads and bridges and forming camps—the very design of General Mackay for reducing the Highlands nearly 1500 years later, after the Revolution. The Emperor formed a large camp at Battledykes, near Forfar, at which he probably left a portion of his troops to secure his retreat in case of need, and pushed on with the rest to form a series of camps, somewhat smaller than that at Battledykes, in the country to the north, each within a day's march of the one next it—one being at Wardykes near Keithock, another at Raedykes near Stonehaven, a third at Normandykes on the Dee (the camp in question), and the fourth, also called Raedykes, on the Ythan. Probably the Romans then came up to the long line of coast stretching westward from Fraserburgh, and seeing nothing but the main sea beyond, concluded they had reached the northern extremity of the country.

NORWOOD, near the Dee, about three-quarters of a mile to the east of Cults Station, now the residence of Mr. James Ogston, Manufacturer, Aberdeen, is a chip off the old estate of Pitfodels, the mansion or castle of which stood close to the river within the area now occupied by Norwood grounds.

PANNANICH is about two miles to the east of Ballater, on the steep hill slope overlooking the Dee from the south. At a little distance from the wells there is a straggling hamlet of nine or ten houses, mostly thatched, with gardens and crofts beside them, but the most notable edifice is Pannanich Wells Hotel, as it styles itself, consisting of two longish old-fashioned buildings, one behind the other, above the road, in the edge of a large plantation, which spreads over the hillside. Below the road are some sturdy fir trees, remnants of the extensive old wood of Pannanich, which was cut down about forty years ago. At the bottom of the steep brae below the road the Dee flows along, presenting several small islands in its course, partly covered with wood. Across the river is Tullich, and beyond it heathery hills, with Morven in the rear. To the west Craigendarroch is well in view, sharply separated from the hills behind by the yawning depth of the Pass of Ballater. For considerably more than a hundred years the mineral wells of Pannanich, of which there are three, have had some reputation for curative virtues; but the fresh air and healthy climate, together with rest and change of scene on the part of patients, have probably helped greatly to bring about such cures as have occurred. Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie, the chief who led the Deeside Highlanders at Culloden, in his later years carried out a vigorous policy of improvements on his estates, and among the rest he enclosed the wells of Pannanich, provided hot and cold baths, and built accommodation for visitors. The landlady who held the place in these days seems to have had an exceptional record, for she was described as "one who has the good fortune to give universal satisfaction".

PARK, as it is now called, was anciently the Park of Drum, to which estate it formerly belonged, but was sold

in 1737, and has frequently changed owners since. In 1888 it was purchased by Mr. Andrew Penny, a native of Birse, who had made a fortune abroad. He died a year after and the estate passed to his brother. Park House is an elegant Grecian building, surrounded by fine woods and grounds, near the north bank of the Dee, a little over twelve miles from Aberdeen. A sculptured stone found on Keith's Muir (a tract between the station and the bridge over the Dee) stands within the grounds. Park Station, about eleven miles from Aberdeen, has no village beside it, but there are some houses and a Free Church by the side of the turnpike, a little to the west, and directly to the south there is a bridge over the Dee. It is owned by the railway company, and pedestrians crossing it are charged a halfpenny. Near the south end of the bridge is an octagonal tower erected about seventy years ago by the Duke of Gordon to mark his success in a lawsuit about the lands of Durris.

PASS OF BALLATER. *See* BALLATER.

PEEL BOG. *See* LUMPHANAN.

PERKHILL, an eminence of no very great height—the lower part under tillage, the upper in rough sheep pasture with a pretty abundant growth of broom—to the north of Lumphanan Station, from which it is seen through an opening between two other hills. Here, and not at Dunsinane, as represented in Shakespeare's tragedy, Macbeth fell in 1057, with harness on his back and fighting to the last, as we may believe. A grey, time-worn cairn marks the spot where he is believed to have fallen, and where probably his remains were buried. In 1793 it was described as "forty yards in circumference and pretty high up in the middle," and the description is still tolerably accurate, but the cairn, which now stands

near the head of a field, has been surrounded by a ring of trees and enclosed by a dyke. It is formed of loose stones, generally of no great size, thrown into a broad pile, swelling up somewhat in the middle, but not built to a height so as to be conspicuous from a distance, though the ring of trees readily catches the eye from the neighbourhood of the station, for instance, from the foot bridge crossing the railway.

PETERCULTER, one of the eastern parishes on the north side of the Dee, contains the villages of Culter and Cults, the ancient camp of Normandykes, and the mansions of Culter, Murtle, and Countesswells, all separately described. More than half the area is under tillage, a considerable amount under plantations, and the thriving villages of Cults and Culter (the latter with extensive paper mills) greatly enhance the value and importance of the parish. Beans Hill (450 feet) and Kingshill Wood (706 feet) are the highest points in the parish; and the Leuchar burn and Gormack burn unite a little to the north-west of Culter to form the Culter burn, which passes through a rocky dell (utilised as a reservoir) just outside the village. The area included within Peterculter to the north of the Dee, and Maryculter to the south, anciently formed the single parish of Culter, but it has long been broken up into two. The Parish Church of Peterculter, built in 1779, stands between Culter Station and the river, and there is a Free Church—nearly two miles to the north.

PITFODELS was a tract of ground formerly extending from the Bridge of Dee westward to Cults, and from the river to the crest of the swelling heights on the north. For about a century prior to 1390 it was held by Morays, and was then acquired by William Reid, a

burgess of Aberdeen. Within the next half-century or so a family of Menzies from Perthshire, who had previously settled in Aberdeen, obtained some part of the lands of Pitfodells, and early in the sixteenth century acquired the whole by the marriage of Thomas Menzies with Marion Reid, the only daughter and heiress of the last Pitfodells laird of that name. Menzies, one after another, beginning from an earlier time than the date of their obtaining Pitfodells, took a leading part in the municipal government of Aberdeen, one of them being Provost in 1426 and afterwards member for the city in the Scottish Parliament. Another was Provost for over twenty years, ending with 1536, and a third (Thomas Menzies) was Provost from 1551 to 1576, and afterwards his son, "Gilbert Mengzies of Petfoddellis," entered upon the same office and continued in it till his death. George Menzies, who succeeded, married a daughter of Irvine of Drum, and some time later, Irvines and Menzies were among the stoutest Royalists and opponents of the Covenant. An old ballad relates that

Gilbert Menzies of Pitfodells  
Did for King Charles wear the blue.

Menzies' eldest son joined the last luckless rising of Montrose in 1650, and fell at the skirmish of Invercarron, bearing the royal standard. Another Gilbert Menzies joined the insurgents in 1745.

The Menzies family were zealous Catholics, and the last of them, John Menzies (1756-1843), apparently the most zealous. He bequeathed most of his wealth to the Catholic Church, and a considerable time before his death made over the mansion and lands of Blairs, on the south side of the Dee, about five and a half miles from Aberdeen, for the establishment and endowment of a college to train students for the Catholic priesthood. After an unsuccessful attempt had been made in 1805 to sell the

lands of Pitfodels, portions of it were feued and the remainder afterwards sold to a joint stock company, who continued the process of feuing and disposed of the rest in separate lots as opportunity offered. In this way many villas and several small estates have arisen, as well as the eastern part of the village of Cults. The old House or Castle of Pitfodels stood near the Dee on a spot now included in the grounds of Norwood Hall. The historic name of Pitfodels has been revived and assigned to a station on the suburban railway between Ruthrieston and Cults. A tall wood, mostly of fir trees, crowns the height on the north, through openings in which handsome villas appear.

PITMURCHIE is a small estate on the eastern outskirts of Lumphanan, Pitmurchie House being about a mile and a half west of Torphins, and half a mile south of the road from Torphins to Lumphanan. It was formerly held by Irvines, but has repeatedly changed owners, the present proprietor being Mr. James H. Bower.

POLLAGACH BURN, a stream of smaller volume flowing north-east, about midway between the Muick and the Tanner and entering the Dee near Ballaterach. The hill route from Ballaterach to Mount Keen through Glenmark to Brechin crosses its upper part.

POOLS OF DEE. *See* LARIG BURN.

POTARCH, twenty-four miles from Aberdeen, and about midway between Banchory and Aboyne (fully six miles from each), is mainly notable for its bridge connecting Kincardine O'Neil with Birse, and its rocky channel almost forming a linn, though to some its inn may also form an attraction. Sixty or seventy yards above the bridge the river is confined by jagged ledges of reddish porphyritic

rock, not rising high above the water but compressing it within a rugged, narrow passage, over which about a hundred years ago a desperado tinker, named Young, is said to have leaped when pursued by the officers of the law. The bridge has three arches, the middle one, high and rainbow-like, passing nearly all the water in the ordinary states of the river. Hurrying onward from its narrow outlet between the rocks above, the water sweeps past the bridge with a deep, strong current, but so clear that the bottom may easily be seen, and all the salmon, if there happen to be any. While in course of erection in 1812 the bridge was much damaged by logs of timber which were being floated down, and the builder, William Minty, recovered £1200 by way of compensation from the owner of the timber. The bridge was again unfortunate in the flood of 1829, after which the stone work of the piers had to be secured by iron bolts and bars, which are still conspicuous. At the south end of the bridge there is an inn, considerably enlarged in 1897, and beside it, surrounded by woods, a triangular market-stance, sometimes used for golfing, though none too large for that purpose. Besides the road along the north bank of the river, another road leads through dense woods past Balnacraig to Birse Church, and thence to the Bridge of Aboyne. There is also a road (locally known as the "Sheetin' Greens") over some low hills between the Dee and the Feugh to Whitestone (four miles) and Strachan (six and a quarter miles). Potarch was on the ancient, much frequented route between north and south by Cairn o' Mount, and the Dee was crossed by a ford at Inchbaire, a little below the site of the bridge.

QUOICH BURN is formed by two head-streams, one of which rises near the north top of Beinn-a-Bhuird, and also drains the small Dubh Lochan, while the other, called the



Glassalt Mor burn, traverses a deep defile between Beinn-a-Bhuird and Benavon. The Quoich has a winding course, receives a considerable burn from Dubh Ghleann to the west of Beinn-a-Bhuird, and in its lower part has a good deal of natural pine wood and traces of former habitation and tillage. Near the lower edge of the wood, less than a mile from the mouth of the burn, there is a picturesque fall, the Linn of Quoich, with a rustic bridge spanning the stream, and potholes worn in the rock by eddying sand and pebbles. At Allanquhoich, between the river Dee and the lower border of the fir wood, there is a flat piece of ground, strewn near the banks of the burn with stones, gravel and sand left by the Quoich when in flood. In the great flood of 1829 the Quoich carried away a stone bridge at the Linn, left its old channel, and cut four successive channels for itself, crossing the farm and haugh of Allanquhoich, which were strewn with great heaps of stone and gravel, while at one place a loch of sixty acres was left on what had previously been a piece of valuable meadow. Allanquhoich and Glenquhoich were formerly a separate property until acquired by the Earl of Fife.

RAEMOIR, an estate belonging to the trustees of Mrs. Innes, with a mansion two or three miles north of Banchory, near the foot of the Hill of Fare. There is a sprinkling of farms and houses as well as a school at Raemoir, and the road from Garlogie (between Echt and Skene) passes the place on its way to Torphins and Lumphanan.

RUTHRIESTON, a ward in the western part of Aberdeen, with a station of the same name on the suburban portion of the Deeside line, a mile and three-quarters from the Aberdeen Joint Station.

SCOLTY (982 feet), a woody hill on the south side of the Dee facing the west end of Banchory, crowned by a round tower, about sixty feet high, erected in 1842 as a monument to General William Burnett of Banchory Lodge (1762-1839).

SGARSOCH OR AN SGARSOCH (3300 feet), a Braemar mountain near the source of the Geldie burn. It is outlandish enough now, and its very existence comparatively unknown, but in old times it was the scene of great fairs for Braemar, Athole and Strathspey, the route to the two latter by Glentilt and Glenfeshie, respectively, passing near it. In maps of Scotland two or three hundred years old, Sgarsoch is set down, but no Ben Macdhui, nor Balmoral, nor Lochnagar, and Braemar itself is represented only by Kindrok (Kindrochit). How times change!

SGOR MOR (2666 feet), a hill of Braemar between Glen Lui and Glen Dee, almost opposite Beinn Bhrotain.

SHOOTINGS AND FISHINGS. It has been estimated that every stag that is killed costs fully £50, and every brace of grouse about £1, and though the estimate may be rather high, there can be no doubt that sportsmen pay pretty dearly for their game. Over 2,000,000 acres, or more than a tenth of the total area of Scotland, are under deer, and the forest of Mar, owned and used by the Duke of Fife, stands at the head of the list in respect of extent, embracing 80,100 acres, or fully 125 square miles. At least four different shooting boxes are in use for working different sections of the forest, and Mar Lodge itself, the Duke of Fife's new residence, has taken the form of a hypertrophied shooting lodge. In the neighbourhood of Mar Lodge there is a park of considerable size enclosing a herd of deer.

Though much smaller in extent than the ducal forest of Mar, Invercauld forest is fully as productive in proportion to its area. Besides the main forest of Beinn-a-Bhuird and Benavon, with the lower grounds about Sluggan, Glassalt and Beallach Dearg, Invercauld has a narrow strip of forest on the south side of the Dee, bordering on Ballochbuie and extending from Invercauld Bridge to Loch Callater, sometimes let along with Cluny (not Glenclunie) Lodge, or held by the laird himself when Invercauld is let. The royal forests of Balmoral, taken in the aggregate, embrace 22,070 acres, or almost thirty-four and a half square miles. On the south side of the Dee along the lessening Grampians several other forests occur—Glenmuick (Sir Allan Mackenzie), usually let; Glentanner for nearly thirty years occupied by Sir William C. Brooks and now his property; and Glendye on the estate of Sir John Gladstone, which for some time has had a stretch of ground under deer. While the area under deer on the south side of the Dee thus reaches, with some interruptions, to within sixteen or eighteen miles of the coast, on the north side it is much more restricted, the lower boundary running from Auchtavan in Aberarder, by the east side of Culardoch to Loch Bulig, a wire fence forming the line of separation between the deer forest and the hills and moors to the east, which are under sheep and grouse. A stray deer that has made its way through the fence may occasionally be shot on the Corndavon grouse grounds, but this happens only exceptionally. Roe deer occur within the area of deer forests (where they are lightly esteemed), and in the woods outside that area, where of course more value is set on them.

In nearly all the forests artificial feeding is provided for the deer in spring and early summer, turnips, beans, hay, etc., being laid out for them. In matters concerning

the stomach, deer show an appreciable amount of intelligence. They conform to the environment, and soon learn when and where to present themselves so as to benefit by the feeding provided for them. I have seen them come almost close up to the cart's tail from which turnips were being laid out for them. In the severe weather of winter deer do not live on the top of Benavon or Ben Macdhui, but make their way to the lower grounds and woods. Indeed it would be no uncommon sight to see a herd of perhaps 100 stags in the cattle parks about Invercauld towards the end of June. It is said they receive notice to quit from the hot weather, the flies, or perhaps from some instinctive apprehension that their season of danger is approaching, and so betake themselves once more to the high grounds. Stag shooting hardly becomes general till some time after the 12th August, when indeed the horns are not always clear of velvet, though some early specimens are fit for shooting, and doubtless the artificial feeding now practised on a pretty large scale helps to bring the stags into condition sooner.

After a week or ten days at grouse shooting, sportsmen turn to the *summum bonum* of Highland sport—the shooting of stags—to which they devote themselves with as much zest and alacrity as if their whole future depended on the result. They make a study of the habits of the deer and the practicability of stalking them in different positions and circumstances, whether in sheltered corries or other haunts; they study even the way the wind is blowing, for the wind may make or mar the fortunes of the day. Stalkers generally go round the outer and higher limits of their territory so that the deer, if disturbed, may move towards the internal part of the forest. Deer move against the wind, and stalking should be so conducted as not to drive them over the border

into the next forest. In this way a south wind suits a forest on the north side of the Dee, and is unsuitable for one on the south side; while a north wind suits the latter but not the former. A forest either on the north or south side is tolerably workable with a west wind, except a portion next the western boundary, in which, if the deer were disturbed, they would cross over to the next forest. There is a theory, probably not altogether unfounded, but sometimes pushed too far, that each forest has its own deer bred and maintained within it, and the artificial feeding may attach the deer to the ground a little more, though it tends to domesticate them in some degree. It is wonderful to learn how all the finest and heaviest stags that are killed have long been familiarly known to the gamekeepers. On the other hand, the inferior stags do not belong to the ground at all. When an inferior stag is killed (say) in Braemar, the first remark of the gamekeeper is sure to be—"That's a Glena'an stag"; and it is not at all unlikely that, if an inferior stag were killed in Glenavon, the gamekeeper would say—"That's a Braemar stag".

When the deer has been killed, the stalker or ghillie puts his knife well into its chest, so as to sever the large vessels near the heart and let out the blood; and afterwards he opens the abdomen and removes the "greallach" (intestines). Then the stag's neck is twisted till the head rests on the shoulder and one horn against the flank, and the parts being firmly tied with plough rein in this position, the stag is lifted and secured by straps passing through rings in the deer saddle on the back of a Highland pony. Homer himself has minutely pictured forth the yoking of a chariot, and if Homer had been a Highlandman he might have done as much for a stag on the saddle. But though no bard has shed the charm of poetry on the subject, many an artist "of credit and

renown" has tried his powers at depicting a Highland pony with a stag strapped on its back, a hound or two running alongside, and a sturdy Highlander in charge, but perhaps no one has yet succeeded in doing justice to the abundant possibilities of expression in such a group. A typical sportsman will attend not only to slaying the deer, but also to the process of bleeding, "greallaching," mounting on the saddle, and bringing home, and even perhaps to the process of skinning and cutting up into quarters after it has been brought home.

There is a belief that three or four score years ago stags were much heavier than they now are, twenty stones being then a not uncommon weight for a stag, while now the average would not be above fourteen or fifteen stones. An effort is sometimes made to explain this by pointing to the great increase in the number of deer; but the explanation is hardly convincing, for if the deer have increased, the area of ground devoted to deer forests has also greatly increased, and includes a mixture of comparatively fertile spaces, while artificial feeding is also carried on in most of the forests. There is a kind of mystery in the matter, and one would like to be sure that the weight was taken under the same conditions in the old days as at present. Even if this were made out, there might be a further question whether the older recorded weights might not be confined to a selection of the finest and heaviest stags, the middling and inferior being left out of account.

In a good season about 450 or 500 stags may be killed in the Deeside forests, Mar forest contributing about 150 or so, Invercauld (including deer killed in the strip of ground bordering Ballochbuie, and occasionally in Glencunie and Glencallater) about 100, and the Balmoral forests eighty or ninety. Stags go out of condition about 10th October, and hinds come into condition

about a month later. The number of hinds usually killed is pretty nearly similar to the number of stags, but the hinds are killed for venison rather than for sport, and the gamekeepers are generally left to despatch them from November to January after the southern sportsmen have withdrawn.

Grouse are found in the lower glens and outskirts of the great deer forests in the upper reaches of the Dee, and they form the main game of the districts lower down. No other district of Deeside can rival Glengairn for the extent and productive character of its grouse moors, though many other localities afford excellent shooting, Glendye and Kerloch district being notable. In most parts of Deeside there is a fair amount of partridges and black game; and though the climate is rather too severe for them, pheasants have been introduced with tolerable success as far up as Aboyne. Attempts have been made to rear them even as far up as Braemar, but though with great care and attention the stock may be preserved for a time, they are too exotic to bear the long hard winters that frequently occur. Ptarmigan are found in considerable numbers on all the great mountains of the western district, but there sportsmen are so much enamoured of deer that all sorts of winged game are apt to be underrated. Eagles are also found in this locality. Their nesting places (as for example in the rocks of Loch Ceander) are in the wilder and more remote parts. In summer eagles are scarcely to be found near the inhabited country, but in winter I have seen as many as three or four together soaring in majestic flight on the outskirts of the inhabited parts of Braemar. It is said that eagles breed as far down as Glentanner.

For angling purposes the Dee is one of the best rivers in Scotland. The portions let for rod fishing yield a rental of over £6000 a year, and if the portions retained

by proprietors in their own hands were also let, it is believed that fully half as much in addition would be realised, so that the total available rental for rod fishing would be close on £10,000 a year. Considerable sums are obtained for net fishing in the lower reaches, but a dozen or more nets have been bought off by a combination of proprietors in the upper district, with a view to improve the spring fishing. Fresh salmon begin to ascend the river as early as the middle of January, and great numbers continue to ascend in February and March. Grilse and sea-trout ascend from May to August, and in the latter part of the season, from the middle of September, heavy autumn fish make their way up in considerable numbers as far as Banchory, and stray fish may go farther.

The Dee salmon are not so heavy as those caught from some other Scottish rivers—not so heavy as the Tay salmon, for instance. Seven to ten pounds may be counted an ordinary weight, though it is by no means rare to encounter salmon of fifteen pounds or upwards; but in the stretches below Banchory, where the autumn fishing is productive and the earlier part of the season does not count for much, fish of from thirty to forty-five pounds are got, and some few over fifty. The Dee is a clear and rapid river, neither very broad nor very deep, and the pools can generally be thoroughly fished from the bank; but in the lower and what may be called the lower middle portions some wading may be helpful. Boating is not much in vogue, and as regards the jetties which exist in some places, the orthodox opinion among anglers seems to be that they are worse than useless.

Above Kincardine O'Neil considerable stretches of the river, yielding excellent fishing, are usually held by the lessees of the more important hotels (Huntly Arms, Aboyne; Invercauld Arms, Ballater; Invercauld Arms,



Braemar ; and Fife Arms, Braemar), with a view to their affording fishing to visitors staying at these hotels. The arrangement can be made to adapt itself to the case of anglers whose time is limited to perhaps only a small portion of the fishing season, and who would never think of leasing a stretch of the river all to themselves ; and it also benefits the hotels by bringing numbers of visitors outside the ordinary tourist season.

The tributaries of the Dee, though many of them yield good baskets of trout, and in the end of October and early part of November may swarm with spawning salmon, are not generally of much account for salmon fishing, and the summer is usually well begun before any are caught. Some salmon and grilse are got in the lower five or six miles of the Feugh (in June and July and again in October they make a fine show passing the falls), as well as in the Gairn, Clunie and Callater. One day in August, 1897, nearly fifty salmon were caught by net in Loch Callater, and more moderate numbers are got not infrequently. Salmon were killed by the spear in Braemar within about thirty years from the present time, the spearman usually aiming his weapon at the salmon from a projecting rock in the river or on its bank, though sometimes the fish were killed in a more wholesale manner. When the river was low in summer a number of stalwart men waded up the pools, and approaching in "canny" fashion the spots where the fish lay, transfixed them with the spear and handed them out to the bank. So many fish were killed that no exact count of them was kept, and any one walking along the banks after the day's proceedings were over might easily have helped himself now and again to a salmon that had been left behind when the spoils of the day were collected. To crown the record, I may mention that I have seen salmon despatched by shooting. The marksman stood

on Invercauld Bridge (from the top of which salmon may be seen almost any day), and having selected his victim, waited till it rose close to the surface of the water, and then fired, the bullet entering obliquely at the back of the head on one side and passing out at the other. The dead fish floated down into shallow water, and was easily secured by a little wading.

SKENE is a parish meeting the northern border of Peterculter and draining to the Dee, though itself some distance from the bank of the river. It has only two hills above 700 feet high, but is not naturally very fertile, there being a good deal of plantation and moss, though about two-thirds of the area are under tillage. The Loch of Skene, with an area of 312 acres, is at the western border, slightly within the parish of Echt. It is very shallow (nowhere more than twelve feet deep), contains pike, is fed by the Kinnernie burn, and drained by the Leuchar burn. The lands and Loch of Skene were held by a family named Skene from the days of Bruce till 1827, when they passed to the Earl of Fife. They were disposed of by the present Duke shortly after his accession. The main road from Aberdeen through Echt and Midmar to Tarland passes through Skene. A bus runs daily from the city to Skene, Echt and Midmar; and there is a movement for the construction of a light railway to Echt, which would of course serve Skene as well.

SLUGGAN BURN is a small stream, rising four or five miles north-west of Invercauld, almost within sight of the Quoich, flowing through a narrow uninhabited glen with some birches in its bottom, and fir woods near the lower end, receiving the Glassalt and some other burns from the north, and entering the Dee opposite Mar Castle.

An artificial channel of about four miles was excavated with a view to divert the Glassalt burn to drive mills at the Invercauld home farm of Keiloch, but there was so much leakage that the water was dissipated before reaching the end of the course. A small shooting lodge at the upper end of the Sluggan burn has been shifted from the high ground on which it formerly stood to the bottom of a deep, damp den, to keep it out of sight from the deer. A path through the Sluggan Glen leads to Beinn-a-Bhuird.

SLUG MOUNTH is an old hill route, now provided with a good road, diverging from the south Deeside road barely two miles to the east of Bridge of Feugh, at a point from which Stonehaven is thirteen and three-quarter miles distant, connecting also with a road from Crathes Bridge, and crossing the lessening ridge of the Grampians to the west of Cairnmonearn. Though not free from ups and downs, it is a tolerable cycling road.

SPITAL. In old times when hill routes were much in use, even "in winter and rough weather," the Church cared so much for the welfare of travellers as to establish houses for their accommodation and refreshment on the outskirts of the inhabited country near the foot of the main hill to be crossed, and "Spital" (Hospital) has become a common name in such localities. Thus on the Cairnwell route there is the Shean Spital in the upper part of Glenclunie, as well as the Spital of Glenshee on the Perthshire side; on the Capel Mounth route the Spital of Muick; and on the Cairn o' Mount route the Spital in Glendye. Innkeepers took up the business at a later stage, but since the development of railways the old routes have been all but deserted, save for occasional summer pedestrians, and the inns are all gone too, excepting only Spital of Glenshee.

STRACHAN, the largest and hilliest parish in Kincardineshire, reaches the Dee at Blackhall in the western part, but farther east part of Banchory intervenes. Only a small portion of the area is under cultivation, and this is mostly on the banks of the Feugh, though there are some patches of tillage in Glendye. The small village of Kirkton, barely four miles from Banchory, has substantial houses, a Parish Church, with a fountain in front, a Free Church and a school, and is shaded with tall trees. The Feugh is crossed by a bridge at Kirkton, and the road over it communicates with Cairn o' Mount road. Two and a quarter miles above Kirkton, on the borders of Birse, is Whitestone or Feughside Inn. Mount Battock (2555 feet) is the highest hill, and is situated on the western border of the parish, at the meeting point of Kincardineshire, Aberdeenshire and Forfarshire, while Clochnaben, conspicuous by a projecting mass of granite, like a stranded iceberg, on its top, is about midway between the Aven and the Dye. Kerloch (1747 feet), with a long, gently curved sky line is the principal hill to the east of the Dye, while Scolty (982 feet), closely covered with plantations, faces the Dee from the south, and has a round tower on its summit in memory of General Burnett, a local laird. To those who relish hill-climbing, Clochnaben is the main attraction, and it may be easily climbed from Feughside Inn, an old moss road extending far up the hill and facilitating the ascent. There is much wood on the hills of Scolty and Gouach facing the Dee, and a good deal in the lower part of the Dye and elsewhere. The hills under pasture afford good grouse shooting, and part of Glendye has been turned into deer forests.

The Aven (also called Aan or A'en) and the Dye rise on the west and east side of Mount Battock respectively, and flow north-east to join the Feugh, the former along the parish boundary, and the latter through the hilly

interior. The Feugh, from Birse, traverses the north end of the parish and passes into Banchory for about a mile before joining the Dee. The road from Potarch on Deeside crosses into Strachan, passes near Feughside Inn, and proceeds up Glendye. After passing Glendye Lodge, pleasantly situated among woods near the burn, and crossing the Dye by an old high-backed bridge, the road has a long slanting ascent to cross the eastern shoulder of the Cairn o' Mount, after which it descends to Fettercairn, Laurencekirk, etc. Some distance above the Bridge of Dye there was in old times a "Spital" for the accommodation of travellers, and this was succeeded by an inn, which has long since gone the way of the "Spital". Before the nineteenth century, the Cairn o' Mount road was one of the main thoroughfares north and south over the Grampians, and there are lingering legends of drovers, robbers, and adventurers. In 1689 Dundee rode north by this route to raise the clans, and shortly returned to the neighbourhood of the Cairn, expecting to be joined by the dragoons of a cavalry regiment formerly under his command, then stationed at Dundee, with whom some of his agents were intriguing. But Mackay with greatly superior forces was in the neighbourhood of Brechin, and Dundee, to mislead him, made a feint as though he would pass through Braemar to the south, and then turned once more to the north. Glendye had formerly a family of Cants, from whom Andrew Cant, a notable Covenanting divine, was descended. It was rather an unsavoury name for a minister, but "what's in a name?" It is said that Immanuel Kant, the great German philosopher, was descended from a Scottish family named Cant, but probably his ancestry could not be traced to Glendye. However, Thomas Reid, the founder of "Common-Sense" philosophy, was a genuine native of Strachan, and a credit to the glen, though the

lapse of a century has somewhat dimmed his fame, as it will doubtless dim the fame of other founders and expounders of philosophical systems.

Strachan is a modification of Stra' (for Strath) Aan—the strath of the Aan or Aven—and the local pronunciation Straan accords pretty well with the etymology.

TARLAND, the chief village in the Cromar district, about five and a half miles north-west of Aboyne and five north-east of Dinnet, is situated on slightly elevated ground to the north of the Tarland burn. There are some old ash, sycamore, and other trees between the bridge over this burn and the main part of the village, on reaching which the Aberdeen Hotel, a neat but not a large establishment, faces the traveller. There is another small hotel in the place, as well as a post office, two bank offices, a number of shops, a Parish Church on the eastern outskirts, and a Free Church on the edge of a wood, a little farther away, on the west. The population is close on 400. Though there are a few broom-thatched houses towards the back, the village is in the main substantially built and tidy, but Tarland, like Kincardine O'Neil, suffers from being at a distance from the railway. Formerly Tarland had several important fairs, and a Sheriff Court was held at periodic intervals; but local fairs have dwindled since the rise of great auction sales, and the Small Debt Court has long been a thing of the past. On a Sunday in February, 1746, the laird of Monaltrie and Gordon of Blelack marched northward from Tarland with a body of 300 of Prince Charlie's followers, and other detachments of the insurgents likewise passed this way. A Tarland man who settled in Edinburgh as a bank clerk was the father of Robert Ferguson (1750-74), the strains of whose Doric lyre stimulated the early efforts of Burns and furnished models of versification for a number of his pieces.

Carlyle gives a vivid description of the later and greater bard struggling with slender means and against formidable difficulties, "with no furtherance but such knowledge as dwells in a poor man's hut and the rhymes of a Ferguson or Ramsay for his standard of beauty".

Tarland parish includes some territory in Strathdon, and is rather detached, like the county of Cromarty. Tarland burn rises near Tilliepronie in the northern part of Cromar, and flows in a south-easterly direction past the village of Tarland, the church of Coull and the castle of Aboyne, as well as the eastern border of the village of Aboyne. Apparently reluctant to join the Dee, it slants downward till nearly opposite the church of Birse before entering the river.

TILQUHILLIE is a small estate in the part of Banchory-Ternan south of the Dee and east of the Feugh. The mansion house (usually called a castle), not far from the Durris border, stands amid open, sloping fields, with a northern exposure, and must be described as in the Scottish agricultural rather than the Scottish baronial style of architecture, looking like an overgrown farmhouse. It is a compact old building, with small windows and crow-stepped gables. There is a flagpole at the western gable, which, looked at from the front, seems to have its lower part stuck into the chimney, but when a full view of the gable is obtained one sees that the flagpole reaches down to the ground. In the fifteenth century Tilquhillie was held by Ogstons, but through the marriage of an heiress the estate passed into the Douglas family, the first laird of that name being a kinsman of the Earl of Morton. With the Douglasses it remained till the early part of the nineteenth century, when it was sold. However, a descendant of the last Douglas laird having made a fortune abroad, returned and purchased again the old

lands of Tilquhillie, bettering the transaction by adding to them the adjoining lands of Invery.

TOLMOUNT (3143 feet), a mountain on the Aberdeen and Perth border, to the south-west of Loch Callater. The route from Braemar through Glencallater and Glendoll to Clova (usually called the Glendoll route) passes through a hollow on the east side between Tolmount and the Knaps of Fofernie. Fifteen or eighteen years ago an attempt was made by the proprietor of Glendoll to close the path, but fortunately it proved unsuccessful, and even the House of Lords acknowledged the right of the people to use this route. A number of old people belonging to Braemar were examined as witnesses in the course of the legal proceedings which took place.

TORPHINS (twenty-four miles from Aberdeen) is within the parish of Kincardine O'Neil, and is the usual station for the village of that name, two and seven-eighth miles to the south-west, Dess Station, though appreciably nearer Kincardine O'Neil, involving an additional distance of six miles from Aberdeen. The houses and buildings at Torphins are mostly in a line between the turnpike and the railway, but some of them to the north of the latter. There is a post office, a church, a recently built public school, and a hotel, with a small fountain near it commemorating the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign. The hotel is in course of being renewed, so as to form a handsome and commodious establishment. The highest point on the Deeside line (about 700 feet) is a little distance to the west, and Torphins must be not very far behind Ballater in respect of elevation. The outlook is to the south, with a comparatively open undulating space in front, bounded by low hills with stretches of wood in most directions. There are fairer spots on Deeside, but



the Torphins people have successfully bestirred themselves to make the most of the place, and as a summer and autumn resort it seems to be gaining in favour. Learney House, the residence of Lieut.-Colonel Innes, is about two miles to the north, with woods round about and Learny Hill on the west. There is a Free Church on the north side of the railway, about a mile outside the village to the east, and Craigmyle House is almost directly north from it. On the hill behind Torphins there is a golf course, and Beltie burn passes in front of the village and drives a small mill in the vicinity.

TRUSTACH (587 feet), a small woody hill between the turnpike and the river, about four miles west of Banchory, with notable remains of ancient earthworks, regarding the origin and use of which nothing certain is known.

TULLICH was formerly a parish, but has long been merged in Glenmuick, Tullich and Glengairn. The dwindled hamlet of Tullich is about two miles to the east of Ballater, near the bank of the impetuous Tullich burn. It consists of a few cottars' houses with two or three farms and a mill in the vicinity, and a little way off the old ruined church of Tullich stands within the churchyard. There is an unverified tradition that the reel of Tullich was irreverently improvised in the old church one very cold winter Sunday—so very cold and wintry that it made the clergyman stay at home to take care of himself. The congregation waited rather impatiently, and began to stamp their feet and clap their hands to overcome the cold, till by-and-by they gave their thoughts to livelier movements, procured a fiddler and a supply of whisky, and “played a tune and danc'd it roun'” even within the kirk, the said tune and dance being the reel of Tullich. There is another equally credible tradition of a fifth

century St. Nathalan, who murmured against Providence on account of bad harvest weather, and afterwards becoming very penitent locked an iron girdle about his body and threw the key into the Dee at a spot still called the "Key Pool". Feeling the weight of his guilt and his girdle, he made a pilgrimage to Rome, and in a fish which he procured there found the key which he had consigned to the Dee at Tullich, and rejoiced in a sense of forgiveness. Had it not been thrown into the shade by the growth of Ballater, Tullich might have developed into a handsome modern village, standing as it does on a gentle elevation, with the impetuous burn flowing past, the Dee and Pannanich in front, Craigendarroch and the Pass to the west, and Lochnagar in the distance looking down on the scene over the heads of smaller hills. A good deal of birch and some few old oaks still grow in the neighbourhood, but the hillsides towards the Pass have been mostly cleared of their wood. The district of Tullich includes Cambus o' May, Dinnet (village, house, and moor), Loch Kinnord, and part of Loch Davan. Tullich burn rises by two or three head-streams from the southern aspect of Morven, and rushes down to issue from between the hills behind the hamlet of Tullich where it drives a mill. Lower down it turns sharply eastward to enter the Dee at an island nearly opposite Pannanich. Along this burn lies one of the routes to the top of Morven.

After Cromwell's "crowning mercy" at Worcester, and the escape abroad of Charles II., the cause of the latter still found supporters in the Highlands. The Earl of Glencairn set up the royal standard, and was soon joined by some of the Highland chiefs, young Cameron of Lochiel (long afterwards the hero of Killiecrankie) being one of his earliest and most important allies. In the spring of 1652 Glencairn's little army encamped at Tullich, and Colonel Lilburn, with Cromwellian forces much superior,

especially in cavalry, advanced to attack them. Lochiel and his men held a pass at some little distance, the description of which scarcely enables us to identify it with the Pass of Ballater, and it seems unlikely that the forces of the Commonwealth could then have been marching down Deeside upon Tullich. Lilburn halted and Lochiel had time to inform Glencairn, who fell back on a marsh or bog about two miles away, to protect his men from the enemy's horse, but being new to warfare, had not the presence of mind to give Lochiel orders to retire. The latter was several times attacked and drove back the enemy, galling their horses with discharges of arrows—for it seems bows and arrows were still used in Highland warfare. Lochiel also charged and broke, but durst not pursue, a body of 200 of Lilburn's men who had separated from the rest. By this time he had received orders to retire, but Lilburn, by fetching a compass round a hill, had now got between him and Glencairn. Lochiel, however, brought off his men by retiring up a hill where for roughness and snow the enemy could not follow, and managed to join Glencairn. Lilburn finding from the nature of the ground that he could not bring the Royalists to an engagement, retired to headquarters at Inverness. Thus Lochiel, "the Ulysses of the Highlands," as he has been styled by Macaulay, received part of his early military training at Tullich.

TULLOCHCOY, a farm among the birch-clad braes on the north side of the Fearder, overlooking Inver, the longest surviving of a number of separate small properties which formerly existed in Aberarder. It was bestowed on a son of Farquharson of Inverey, and his descendants held it for several generations. On a lintel of the old house of Tullochcoy, which now forms part of the farmstead, there may still be read the initials, J. F., A. O., with the date

1693. The initials are those of the laird, James Farquharson, and his wife, Agnes Ochterlony, a daughter of the minister of Fourdon. General Mackay devastated the country and burned twelve or fourteen hundred houses in 1690, and it seems quite probable that the house built in 1693 may have been rendered necessary in consequence of the bonfires with which Mackay inaugurated the reign of King William in the Highlands. There is a tradition that the laird of Tullochcoy with seven adult sons fought on the losing side at Culloden, and all the latter being slain, the succession opened to his youngest son Peter, born in 1733. Anyhow, Peter was the last laird of Tullochcoy, and sold it about 1770 to Invercauld, but retained possession of the small property of Balnabodach in Strathdon, and died in 1801. Farquharson of Corrachree in Logie Coldstone is a descendant, and therefore a representative of the old Farquharsons of Inverey.

TILLYPRONIE, a small estate, with a handsome modern mansion surrounded by plantations, high on the hill slope in the north of Cromar, ten miles from Aboyne and four from Tarland, owned by Sir John F. Clark, Bart.

U AINE, LOCHAN, the name of two small mountain lochs, one of which is situated at an altitude of 3142 feet, on the southern slope of Ben Macdhui, and gives off one of the head-streams of the Lui Beg; while the other, also more than 3000 feet above sea-level, is about two miles due west from the first, on the northern aspect of Cairntoul, facing the great gorge of Garchory. One or other of the Lochan Uaines (the Cairntoul one, I think), or rather the burn issuing from it, has been celebrated in a much admired Gaelic song, "Alltan Lochan Uaine," composed about a hundred years ago by a poacher, who afterwards turned soldier and ended his days in the Peninsular War.

VAT BURN, on its way from Culblean to Loch Kinnord, flows for some distance within deep banks, and rather more than half a mile from the loch ripples down over a rocky ledge, sufficiently high to make a picturesque fall if there were enough water, into a cavern, over the sandy floor of which it flows in several parted streamlets, and glides away below some huge detached masses of rock, which roof over the outlet, but leave at one side an opening through which one may easily walk into the cave. The lower part of the cavern, about fifty feet in diameter, is circular, and suggests the name Vat, while above, rocky walls rise on each side of the burn, reaching a greater height (perhaps about seventy feet) on the south, where some small birch, mountain ash, and aspen trees grow almost out of the bare granite. In some parts the walls of the cavern are comparatively smooth, and initials, names, addresses, etc., have been painted in large letters on the rock, by no means ornamenting the place. One of the "painters" has given a sample of his "pretty wit" by recording that somebody was "born drunk". In old disorderly times Gilderoy, a noted freebooter, made the Vat his retreat. The Vat rather takes one by surprise, making no sign till one comes suddenly upon it, but the scene is a strange one and well worth a visit.



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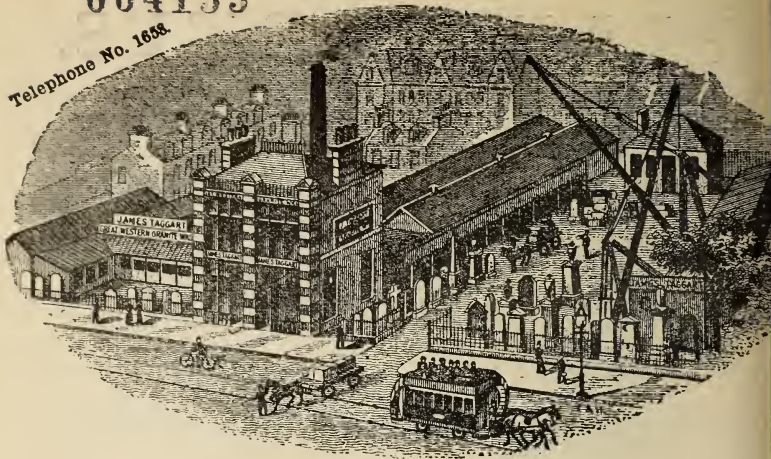
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