

This important suburb was but a sorry village, at the time the bridge was built. The road to Dundee passed down the narrow street of Bridgend, which consisted of a few thatched hovels, except the house at the shore, now in ruins, where the ferry boats for some time landed: this, and the houses of Rosemount and Potterhill, were the only respectable buildings in that quarter. The road leading to Scone ran through a dirty narrow lane, sunk about eight feet below the upper bank on the side, which was lined with very mean clay huts. The building of the bridge made a complete revolution in the place. New lines of roads were formed to Scone, Coupar-Angus, and Dundee, and good substantial houses, many of them elegant, were betimes reared. About 1786, the toll on the bridge was removed. At the same time, ground was feued, and beautiful villas built, along the side of the hills as far east as Barnhill, where the most of Mr Muncriff's property is laid out in small possessions, yielding a very high rent.

Bridgend, or Kinnoul, is a burgh of barony, under the Earl of Kinnoul, and is entitled to hold a weekly market, and four annual fairs; but owing to its identification with the city, by the erection of the bridge, these markets are not held. Shortly after the completion of the bridge, a nursery was begun in this parish, opposite Perth, by Messrs William Dickson and James Brown, which has continued as a very extensive and useful establishment of the kind in this part of Scotland. The ancient church of the parish was long a rectory in the proprietary of the monastery of Cambuskenneth, and was dedicated to rather a rare saint, Constantine, who was a king of Scots in the tenth century, and who became a monk among the Culdees of St Andrews. The new church of Kinnoul is a neat edifice, built on a bank, overhanging the Tay, south from the bridge. Among other establishments are a tannage and a brewery (Clockserie). The latter in connection with a distillery, at one time, did much business. The bridge, though justly admired at the time it was built, is found to be too narrow for the intercourse of the county, and several unsuccessful attempts have been made to widen it. The people

in business meet annually, and elect magistrates from among themselves; after which they dine together. These magistrates, although not legally constituted, have frequently been very successful in healing differences.

*Murray's Royal Lunatic Asylum*, an establishment which is one of the most perfect in the kingdom, is situated in a park of 12 acres, on the declivity of Kinnoul-hill, and has a delightful view of the Grampian mountains, the Tay, and surrounding country. The house, which was built from a plan of Mr Burns, architect, consists of three floors, 256 feet in length; and was opened for the reception of patients in 1827. This establishment, the admiration of strangers, and allowed to be the first of the kind in Britain, both for cleanliness and attention to the unhappy inmates, has just been extended by an additional building, calculated to accommodate about 80 additional patients. The extensive inclosures afford ample room for exercise to the inmates, and where those able to work are employed,—a course which has been found to be attended with the most salutary effect in restoring bodily and mental vigour. During the winter season, and in rainy weather, the patients promenade in long galleries, open on one side to the air. The meanest patient is well fed and clothed, and those from among the higher classes who can pay for it, are as well lodged and cared for, as they could be in a palace.—No coercion is used; everything is mild and soothing to their feelings. On Sundays, the whole are assembled in a chapel, divided by a partition about 6 feet high, the men on the one side, the women on other; so that the inmates do not see each other; the desk from which the governor reads the service, being so placed, that both parties see and hear him. Each person has a separate room. To frustrate any attempt on their lives, the curtains of the beds are hung from the roof in such a way, that if eight pounds weight were attached to them, the whole would come down. This excellent establishment was founded on a legacy by one of two brothers, of the name of Murray, who were day labourers in Perth, at the time it fell into their hands; which was left to them by a brother in India. Mr James Murray having no family, bequeathed his portion for the purpose of founding a lunatic asylum, which has since obtained a Royal Charter. It is governed by a patron, David Beatson, Esq., one of the trustees, and a number of directors appointed by the charter. Mr Simmonds, the present governor, has much credit for his manner of treating the unfortunate individuals under his care.

*The Hill of Kinnoul*, rising from the Tay, opposite, and within view of the town of Perth, is one of the very finest objects of the

kind in great Britain. It is crowned and highly embellished with wood, and has a variety of villas environed in shrubberies and gardens of the most exuberant description, the whole only paralleled in beauty and salubrity of situation by Richmond Hill. The eastern part of Kinnoul-hill is the property of Lord Gray; the centre, which contains the most elevated point, belongs to the Earl of Kinnoul; and the western promontory, to Matthew Moncrieff, Esq. Thomas, late Earl of Kinnoul, planted his part of it with spruce and larch fir, which, for many years, had a beautiful appearance. Of late a great part of the wood has been cut and sold, at good prices. Earl Thomas caused a carriage-way to be made through the plantation to the top of the hill, which he annually visited. This road was termed the serpentine walk, and was considered one of the most delightful trips that could be taken in the whole country. The late Earl Robert, caused a large stone-table to be placed on the top. For many years his Lordship and family with a few friends made an annual visit to this delightful spot, and dined at the table. Until recently, this walk was open to the public, and was visited by great numbers, to enjoy the magnificent view commanded from the summit—a view which perhaps is not surpassed in the world, and only equalled by the prospect from the opposite eminence of Moncrieff hill. Lord Gray has also ornamented the highest point of his property, by erecting a building which represents a ruined tower. At the close of the last century, the face of the hill below the rock was covered with sloe bushes and brambles, and was much resorted to by the youngsters from Perth, in search of wild fruit. The brushwood has since been rooted out, and replaced by a thriving plantation, which adds much to the beauty of the scenery. Lord Gray has also cut some delightful walks at the foot of the rock, which traverse the hill at different heights. In the face of the rock is a cave called the *dragon's hole*, which, like the human stature, is related to have been formerly much larger. At present it is capable of holding about a dozen of people, the height being about ten feet: it used to be reckoned no small feat for the boys to scale the rock up to this hole. To the eastward is a deep hollow in the hill, named the *windy gowl* from the currents of wind constantly blowing up the ravine; at one point there is an echo which repeats a syllable several times, with great distinctness; although by no means equal in politeness to the celebrated one in Ireland, which, on any one saying "How do ye do, Paddy?" replied, "Very well, I thank you!" Before the front of the hill was planted, many beautiful pebbles were found amongst the soil at the foot of the cliffs. Several people obtained a living by digging for them, and carrying them to Edinburgh for sale. Hawks, kites, ravens, and hooded crows, build their nests in the face of

the rocks. Huge masses of stone, by the action of the weather, have, from time to time, been detached from the rocks, and precipitated with tremendous velocity. We remember of a small house standing on the farm of Lairwell, which one of these large boulders had struck, and, breaking through the back wall, killed a woman within. A number of medicinal herbs formerly grew on the face and top of Kinnoul-hill: amongst these, agrimony, hoarhound, lady's thistle, spleenwort, mountain flax, wild thyme, dwarf elder, &c.

On an eminence to the north of Captain Moncrieff's house of Woodend, stood the castle of Kinnoul. This place has given the title of Earl to the family of Hay of Errol, the first of the title being ennobled in 1627, as Lord Hay of Kinfauns, and elevated to be Earl of Kinnoul, Viscount Dupplin, in 1633. Here James the I. had an interview with the lady of Kinnoul, who was then above 100 years old, and blind. The king was very fond to hear her account of the changes and events, to which, in early life, she had been witness; having seen five kings, his predecessors, besides Wallace, the governor. She related the history of Wallace and Bruce, whom she had seen, and described both as being strong and handsome; but added that Wallace exceeded Bruce in fortitude. The king departed highly delighted with the old lady's narrative. So late as the year 1773, the remains of this old castle were to be seen.

About the year 1793, the western division of Kinnoul hill, at that time belonging to Sir Stewart Threipland, comprehending the lands of Bellwood, and all the Moncrieff property, was planted down to near the Dundee road. Mr Moncrieff rented the house and land below the road, on a life rent, lease and nineteen years thereafter; a large portion of the hill, indeed all he now possesses, was included in the lease, at a very moderate rent, with liberty to clear out any part of the planting, upon payment of three half-pence for each tree taken out. This property having come into the market, John Young, Esq., bought that portion on which the house of Bellwood is erected. Mr Dickson bought the land which he now occupies as nursery grounds; and William Stewart, Esq., bought the lot below the road on which Garry Cottage and other buildings are erected. The grounds under lease to Mr Moncrieff fell into his hands at a very low price, owing to the terms of the lease which he held. About 1800, when the different garden grounds about the town began to be feued for building, the lands of Barnhill came to be a speculation amongst gardeners, which, owing to the light soil and southern exposure, was found to be admirably adapted for raising early crops of vegetables. Lots were let at from L.8 to L.12 an acre, planted with trees and bushes. Encouraged by this, the proprietor built houses; and as fast as he cleared

out the wood, got it let at very high rents: at the same time the restrictions and total shutting of many of the Baltic ports against the British traders during the war, caused such an advance in the price of wood, that many of the fir trees grown on the Hill of Kinnoul were sold as high as 3s 6d the foot. The Hill of Kinnoul appears to consist of a mass of blue whin stone, interspersed with veins of fine limestone, part of which was at one time wrought, and burnt on the bank of the river below the old church.

The Boatlands consisted of that piece of ground on which Mr Paton's cottage now stands. It belonged to the Town of Perth, and was sold by them to Mr Chalmers in perpetual feu. Sheriff Chalmers sold it to Provost Marshall, who built the present cottage, and died just at the time he was about to take possession of it. Since the year 1800, many lots of ground have been fenced out by the different proprietors, on which some beautiful villas have been built, adding much to the ornament of the city and vicinity. In Bridgend there are now some very elegant well filled shops, and commodious inns. Mr Joseph Clark's establishment has stabling for nearly 200 horses, and can furnish a dinner table equal to any inn in the country.

It has already been observed that the noble family of Kinnoul took a warm interest in the bridge. A circumstance occurred some time after the toll was taken off, which deserves to be noticed. When the post-horse duty was first farmed out, the contractor, deeming the Bridge of Perth a most eligible place to collect the duty, erected a mean-looking gate in the same place where the former handsome one for collecting the pontage had stood. The late Earl Robert on receiving notice of the circumstance, came personally, with men provided with spades and picks, and with his own hands assisted to pitch the obnoxious obstruction into the river: declaring that, whilst he lived, a gate should never disfigure the bridge for that purpose. At the back of what was once the old church of Kinnoul (lately pulled down) stands an aisle, formerly the burying-place of the Kinnoul family. A beautiful piece of statuary, in white marble, size of life, of Chancellor Hay in his robes of state, is preserved here. The adjoining nursery, now the property of Archibald Turnbull, Esq., has been famed throughout Britain during the last half century, for the culture of fruit and forest trees, ornamental shrubbery, and flowers in endless variety. Vast quantities of plants are annually sent from this nursery to England. The late Duke of York, when laying out his pleasure grounds, procured the greater number of his ornamental shrubbery from this quarter.