

11
GUIDE

TO

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY 4

BY

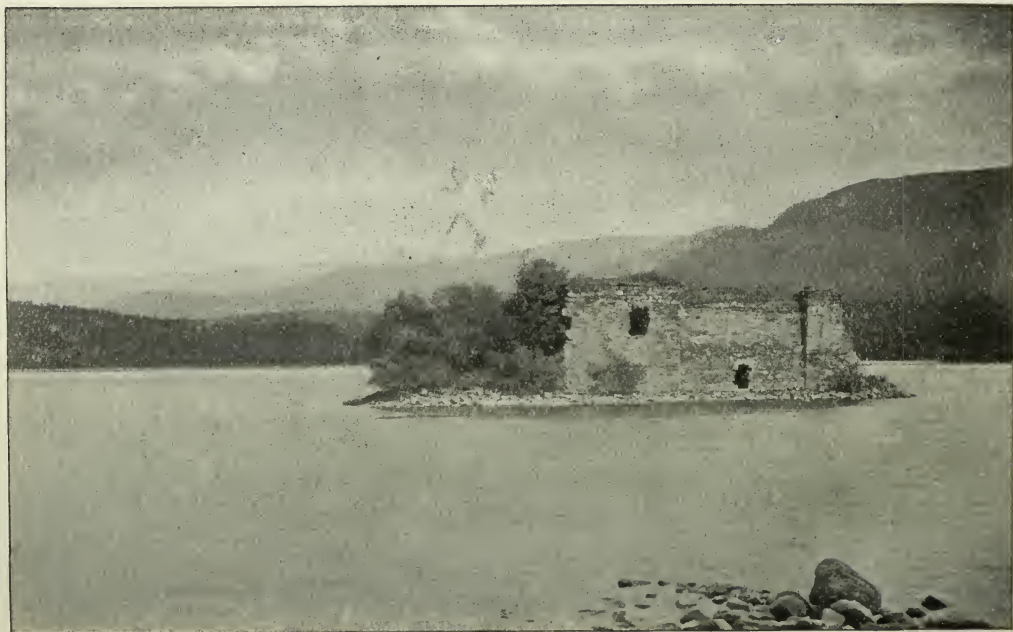
ALEX. INKSON M^CCONNOCHIE

SECOND EDITION

AVIEMORE

J. S. LAWRENCE, POST OFFICE

1907



Loch an Eilein

DRIVES.

THE following List of Drives includes all the favourite excursions which are generally made by visitors at Aviemore. The figures within brackets refer to the pages of the Guide where descriptions will be found. For hires, etc., apply at the Post Office.

- I. Loch an Eilein (18), 3 miles, and Loch Gamhna (22), 4 miles, *via* Inverdrue (14) and The Croft (18); return *via* Polchar (18) and Inverdrue.
- II. Lynwilg (33), Kinrara House (34), and Tor Alvie (33).
- III. Round by Kinraig—passing Lynwilg (33), Loch Alvie (36), Tor Alvie (33), Kinraig (41), Loch Insh (42), Insh Church (42), Feshie Bridge (45), Rothiemurchus Church (14), The Doune (14), and Inverdrue (14); or *vice-versa*.
- IV. Glen Feshie (45) *via* Kinraig (41), returning from Feshie Bridge as in No. III.; or *vice-versa*.
- V. Carr Bridge (63), 7 miles.
- VI. Round by Boat of Garten *via* Carr Bridge road to Kinveachy (63), Boat of Garten (66), Kincardine Church (52), Loch Pityoulish (51), Coylum Bridge (24) and Inverdrue (14); or *vice-versa*.
- VII. Loch Eunach (26) *via* Inverdrue (14), Coylum Bridge (24) and Glen Eunach (24). The return journey may be made *via* Loch an Eilein (18) and The Croft (18), or Polchar (18). Braeriach, Cairn Toul and Sgoran Dubh are best ascended from Glen Eunach.
- VIII. Auldrue (27) *via* Inverdrue (14), Coylum Bridge (24) and Cross Roads (27). The entrance to the Larig Ghru (27) is near Auldrue. Ben Muich Dhui or Braeriach may be ascended from the Larig Ghru. Tourists for Braemar may arrange to have carriages waiting at Derry Lodge.
- IX. Glenmore Lodge (29) *via* Inverdrue (14), Coylum Bridge (28), Glen More (28), and Loch Morlich. The ascent of Cairngorm is usually made from Glenmore Lodge. The return drive may be made by the Little Green Loch (31), Rebhoan (31), and Nethy Bridge (50), or by Loch Morlich (29), the Sluggan (29), Loch Pityoulish (51), and Coylum Bridge (28).

DISTANCES BY ROAD AND RAIL FROM
AVIEMORE.

				Miles by Road.		Miles by Rail.
Carr Bridge	...	...	...	$7\frac{1}{4}$	...	$6\frac{3}{4}$
Tomatin	...	...	...	—	...	$15\frac{3}{4}$
Freeburn	...	...	...	$16\frac{5}{8}$	...	—
Moy	...	...	...	$20\frac{3}{8}$	...	20
Daviot	...	...	...	—	...	$23\frac{3}{4}$
Craggie Inn	...	...	...	$24\frac{5}{8}$	...	—
Culloden Moor	...	...	...	—	...	28
Inverness	...	...	...	32	...	$34\frac{3}{4}$
Boat of Garten	...	...	...	7	...	5
Broomhill	...	...	...	—	...	$8\frac{3}{4}$
Grantown-on-Spey	...	...	...	15	...	$12\frac{1}{2}$
Dava	...	...	...	—	...	21
Lynwilg	...	...	...	$2\frac{3}{8}$	...	—
Kincraig	...	...	...	$6\frac{1}{2}$	...	$5\frac{3}{4}$
Kingussie	...	...	...	12	...	$11\frac{3}{4}$
Newtonmore	...	...	...	$14\frac{3}{4}$	...	$14\frac{1}{2}$
Cluny Castle	...	...	...	20	...	—
Laggan Bridge	...	...	...	$22\frac{7}{8}$	...	—
Loch Laggan	...	...	...	$29\frac{7}{8}$	...	—
Ardverikie	...	...	...	32	...	—
Dalwhinnie	...	..	...	26	...	$24\frac{3}{4}$

POST OFFICE, AVIEMORE.

Hours of Business.

Week Days, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sundays, Telegrams, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

,, Letters to Callers, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Letter Deliveries.

To Callers at 8 a.m. Deliveries at 9 a.m. and 12'55 p.m.

To Callers at 3'40 p.m., 1st July to 31st October.

Letter Box Cleared.

8'10 a.m. for North and Aberdeenshire.

9'20 a.m. for Glasgow, 1st June to 31st October.

12'10 p.m. for South and East. 4'30 p.m. for South and East, etc.

SUNDAYS—11'35 a.m. for North. 12 noon for South.

Parcels accepted. (Week days only.)

8 a.m. for 8'10 a.m. Despatch North and up to 11'45 a.m. for South.

DOCTORS.

DRS. CRICHTON MILLER and BALFOUR, Craiglea, Aviemore. (During the season Dr. Balfour resides at Craig-ellen, Carr Bridge).

CHURCHES.

Rothiemurchus Parish Church. Rev. D. McDougall. Service 12 noon.

St. Andrew's Established Mission Church. Served by special Preachers during June, July, August, and September. Services 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. During the other months by Mission Preacher, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. every alternate Sunday or as may be arranged.

United Free Church, Rothiemurchus. Rev. A. McLeod. Service, June, July, August, September, 11 a.m. During other months, 12 noon. In the Aviemore Hall, 6 p.m.

Episcopal Church in Scotland. Chaplain, The Rev. H. E. Barton. Mission Chapel of St. John Baptist, Rothiemurchus.

Services from 26th May to 13th October, 1907, inclusive.

Holy Communion—Sundays, 8'15 a.m. Also on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month after Matins. Holy Days according to notice on previous Sunday, 8'15 a.m. Matins, Litany, and Sermon—Sundays, 11'30 a.m. Evensong and Sermon—Sundays, 5'30 p.m.

Remainder of Year—First Sunday of each month, Holy Communion, 8'15 a.m. Matins, Litany, and Sermon, 11'30. Christmas Day, Holy Communion, 8'15 a.m. and after Matins. Matins, 11'30. Easter Day, Full Services, viz:—Holy Communion, 8'15 and after Matins. Matins, Litany, and Sermon, 11'30 a.m. Evensong and Sermon, 5'30 p.m.

Alvie Parish Church. Rev. James Anderson. Service, 11'30 a.m.

ROTHIEMURCHUS GOLF COURSE.

A very fine sporting nine hole course amidst the finest scenery in Scotland, surrounded by magnificent mountains. A perfect course, with a large and modern equipped Club House and Cycle Shelter, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

By the courtesy of C. A. Moreing, Esq., Lessee of the Rothiemurchus Forest, and J. P. Grant, Esq., of Rothiemurchus, I am permitted to state that the private driving road to Loch Eunach will, during their pleasure, be open to the Public, except during the shooting season, from 12th August to 15th October.

Mr. Moreing also kindly intimates that parties going there may use his Bothies, on the condition that the Public respect his sporting rights, and do not trespass in the Forest during the time the road is closed.

Dogs must not be taken into the Forest, neither is fishing allowed.

I think it well to warn the Public that in the deer-stalking season it is extremely dangerous to go into the forest or woods, owing to the present practice of using long range modern rifles in this sport.

J. S. LAWRENCE.

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MAP.

GUIDE

TO

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY.

I.—AVIEMORE AND ROTHLEMURCHUS.

With frowning front Craigellachie, with awful brow
Cairngorm,
Tower, giant-guardians of the strath, and shield it
from the storm.

NATURE has been prodigal of her choicest gifts, and has made Aviemore the grandest, as well as the most beautiful, of the many lovely reaches of the Spey. Here we have forest and glen, mountain and crag, loch and burn, in such charming profusion that one is almost bewildered with the richness as well as the extent of the prospect. The scenery is on such a gigantic scale that the eye fails to grasp at once the picture before it; we know no district which grows so much on one by repeated visits as Aviemore. The more romantic spots have to be sought out, for they are concealed between outstanding parts of the landscape; the visitor has the charm of discovery as well as an unfolded panorama for his admiration. The Cairngorm Mountains, never failing to attract attention with their summits snow-clad the greater part of the year,

are best seen and easiest climbed from Aviemore. The ancient forests of Rothiemurchus and Glenmore, of old famed for their pines, are now the haunts of red deer; the great wooded plain stretching from the Spey to the base of the Cairngorms is still the admiration of every lover of nature. The mountains hold many a lonely tarn, while the pines hide some of the finest lake scenery in the Highlands of Scotland. The tree-clad front of Craigellachie extends for more than a mile along the river, facing it and Glen More. A "dry-stone" dyke runs up Craigellachie and forms the "march" between the parishes of Alvie and Duthil-Rothiemurchus, and the districts of Badenoch and Strathspey. It also forms the "march" between the properties of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon and the Countess-Dowager of Seafield. Aviemore is in Duthil, the Spey being the boundary between Duthil and Rothiemurchus. The principal landowner in Duthil is the Countess-Dowager of Seafield, in Rothiemurchus, Mr. John P. Grant; Glen More, in the old parish of Kincardine now united with Abernethy, belongs to the Duke of Richmond and Gordon.

About eighty-five years ago a lady writer thus described the inn at Aviemore—"There was no such inn upon the road; fully furnished, neatly kept, excellent cooking, the most attentive of landlords, all combined to raise the fame of Aviemore. Travellers pushed on from the one side, stopped short at the other, to sleep at this comfortable inn." The inn still stands, peel-like, in the village, now serving as a shooting-box, but a great transformation has been effected since it closed its doors on the travelling

public. The opening of the direct line to Inverness *via* Carr Bridge, has made Aviemore an important railway junction, and still further popularised the district. The station is large and commodious, as all trains stop there, and so it is a very convenient centre for excursions. The morning newspapers from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen, can be obtained before 8.30 a.m. Every year additional accommodation is being provided for the summer and autumn visitors, and the first year of the century saw the opening of a very fine hotel, which in its turn has increased the number of those who make a temporary sojourn under the shadow of Cairngorm. Picturesquely situated at the foot of Craigellachie and facing Braeriach, Ben Muich Dhui and Cairngorm, with the dark pines of Rothiemurchus and Glenmore on the other side of the Spey, the Station Hotel is one of the best equipped in the Highlands. Within the extensive grounds is a private Golf Course of nine holes. Recently the private Cairngorm Hotel has been erected near the station, and a small Temperance Hotel on the other side of the railway. Thus the convenience of visitors of all classes to the "Sanatorium of the British Islands", as Sir Andrew Clarke described Strathspey, is well provided for.

Truly times are changed when one reads that previous to 1813 the mails for Aviemore and Rothiemurchus went round by Aberdeen to Inverness and thence to their destination. In that year "a stage coach was started to run three days a week between Perth and Inverness." Now, during the season, day after day, month after month, the express

trains, often duplicated, convey such loads of humanity to the north that one wonders, as one scans the carriage windows, whence they come and whither they go. Thus wrote, in 1873, the celebrated Dr. Martineau, long a season-resident at Polchar in Rothiemurchus :—" We are in delightful quarters here in the very heart of the Grampians. Yet, no retreat of forest or mountain carries one in these days into shades of solitude and forgetfulness. The lights of civilization have become wandering stars, and you cannot get out of their way. Here is Jowett at Grantown already, and Herbert Spencer is soon to follow, and one is in danger of encountering Hegel in a fishing excursion, and being pursued by Evolution to the top of Cairngorm." Dr. Martineau was deservedly a great favourite in Rothiemurchus ; both he and his family benefited the district in many ways. The Inverdrue Library was renewed by him, while wood-carving, drawing, etc., are practically taught free.

Craigellachie affords the best local view at Aviemore—the mountain panorama cannot be equalled in any part of the Highlands : three of the five highest mountains in the United Kingdom are in sight and within ten miles. The climb need only be one of about 750 feet to ensure an extensive prospect, but even from the south platform bridge at the railway station the view of the Cairngorms is the best that can be obtained of these noted mountains from any point near a public thoroughfare with the minimum of trouble. "Stand fast, Craigellachie!" was the "slogan" of the Grants. Ruskin says—"You may think long over these few words without exhausting the deep wells of feeling and thought

contained in them—the love of the native land, and the assurance of faithfulness to it.” Behind the station, at the foot of Craigellachie, is Loch Polladdern, a little loch, “which during the earthquake at Lisbon was strangely agitated, dashing about in its small basin in a way not soon to be forgotten”.

The mountain view as seen from the station platform bridge includes the following (left to right)—Cairngorm (4084 feet), Castle Hill (2366 feet), Creag na Leacainn or the Lurcher’s Rock (3448 feet), Ben Muich Dhui (4296 feet), Carn Elrick (2435 feet), Braeriach (4248 feet), Cadha Mor (2313 feet), Creag Dubh (2766 feet), the Argyll Stone, Sgoran Dubh Mor (3635 feet), Ord Bain (1405 feet), Geal Charn (3019 feet), and Creag Mhigeachaidh (2429 feet). The corries of Cairngorm and Braeriach are seen to excellent advantage, especially when slightly patched with snow. Perhaps the most striking feature is the Larig Ghru, the great pass from Aviemore to Braemar. The *col* is a gigantic V between Ben Muich Dhui and Braeriach; the north entrance is between Castle Hill and Carn Elrick. The foreground of the view is a great tree-covered plain formed by the forests of Glenmore and Rothiemurchus, which, from their numerous rights-of-way, are always open to the public. Rothiemurchus is said by some authorities to signify “the plain of the great pines”.

The Spey is crossed at Aviemore by a girder bridge, replacing a wooden structure which succeeded a ferry about half a mile farther up. The short river Druie, a combination at Coylum Bridge of streams from the mountains, flows into the Spey just below the bridge; it is said to have joined half a mile farther south

in old times. The bridge connects the roads on the two sides of the Spey, the east junction being at Inverdrurie, a hamlet about a mile from Aviemore. The Spey rises in Badenoch on the borders of Lochaber, having its source in Loch Spey in the parish of Laggan. It has a length of 98 miles, being only half a mile shorter than the Clyde, the longest river in Scotland.

Between Aviemore station and Inverdrurie we pass Inverdrurie Sawmills, which in their time have done much work, and an Episcopalian Church.

Inverdrurie. The hamlet, which formerly boasted of a market, contains the United Free Church, the Public School, and the Library, as well as several other buildings. The Rothiemurchus Golf Course, opened in 1906 by Lady Mary Grant of Rothiemurchus, is about three-quarters of a mile from the station, and is beautifully situated near Inverdrurie. Proceeding southward from Inverdrurie, The Doune will be passed on the right at a distance of about three miles. The mansion, which is close to the river, has one of the finest situations in

The Doune. Strathspey. The different varieties of trees which surround it, and which so plentifully grace Tor Alvie on the other side of the Spey and Ord Bain to the south of the house, and the majestic river close at hand, make The Doune an ideal residence. The church of Rothiemurchus is a short distance to the south of the house, and shares in the beauty of the scene.

The authoress of "Memoirs of a Highland Lady" has, naturally, much to tell, legendary and otherwise, about The Doune, which was practically rebuilt by

her brother, Sir John Peter Grant, K.C.B., who was employed in the Indian Civil Service from 1828 until 1862, where he had a distinguished career, becoming Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in 1859. In 1866 he was appointed Governor of Jamaica in succession to Governor Eyre. The Doune had formerly been a fortified building; the moat was "perfect" in Mrs. Smith's time.

The original possession of Rothiemurchus by the Grants is itself based on a legend. In 1570 the chief of the Clan Grant, now represented by the Earl of Seafield, presented his second son, Patrick, with the Moor of Muckerach, on which he built a tower or castle; and the Shaws having displeased the Government by repeated acts of insubordination, their lands were confiscated, and the Rothiemurchus portion presented to the Laird of Muckerach, "gin he could win it"—which (as Mrs. Smith naïvely puts it) "without more ado he did". The Shaws proved troublesome for a few generations, and their last chief, killed in a fight between the two clans, was importunate even in death, for his corpse was continually raised, until the laird of Rothiemurchus buried it deep down within the kirk beneath his own seat, "and every Sunday when he went to pray he stamped his feet upon the heavy stone he had laid over the remains of his enemy". The "great man" of the Rothiemurchus Grants was a Patrick Grant, surnamed Macalpine—a kind of despotic sovereign, who went about with "a body of four-and-twenty picked men gaily dressed," and dispensed (and executed) speedy justice, not only over his own small patrimony, but over all the country round. He left a widow (a second

wife), who was sadly persecuted by the wife of his eldest son and heir, and who made public her grievances in this peculiar fashion—"Once after the service in the kirk was over, she stepped up with her fan in her hand to the corner of the kirkyard where all our graves are made, and, taking off her high-heeled slipper, she tapped with it on the stone laid over her husband's grave, crying out through her tears, 'Macalpine ! Macalpine ! rise up for ae half-hour and see me richted !'"

Mrs. Smith thus picturesquely describes scenes in the forest when timber was being cut down and prepared for the market—"The logs prepared by the loppers had to be drawn by horses to the nearest running water, and there left in large quantities till the proper time for sending them down the streams. It was a busy scene all through the forest, so many rough little horses moving about in every direction, each dragging its load. . . . This driving lasted till sufficient timber was collected to render the opening of the sluices profitable . . . The Spey floaters lived mostly down near Ballindalloch, a certain number of families by whom the calling had been followed for ages, to whom the wild river, all its holes and shoals and rocks and shiftings, were as well known as had its bed been dry. . . . A large bothy was built for them at the mouth of the Drue. . . . The carpenter, the smith, the fox-hunter, the sawmillers, the wheelwright, the few Chelsea pensioners, each had his little field, while comparatively large holdings belonged to a sort of yeomanry coeval with our own possession, or even some of them found there by our ancestor the Laird of Muckerach,

the second son of our Chief, who displaced the Shaws, for my father was but the ninth laird of Rothiemurchus; the Shaws reigned over this beautiful property before the Grants seized it, and they had succeeded the Comyns, lords not only of Badenoch but of half our part of the north besides. The forest was at this time so extensive there was little room for tillage through the wide plain it covered. It was very pretty here and there to come upon a little cultivated spot, a tiny field by the burn-side, with a horse or a cow upon it, a cottage often built of the black peat mould, its chimney, however, smoking comfortably, a churn at the door, a girl bleaching linen, or a guidwife in her high white cap waiting to welcome us, miles away from any other spot so tenanted. Here and there upon some stream a picturesque sawmill was situated, gathering its little hamlet round”.

There is a good anecdote told of the laird of Rothiemurchus during the time that General Wade was road-making in the district, when he occasionally took up his abode at The Doune. The laird was an ostensible supporter of the Government, but inwardly detested the General and all his tribe, and so at last fell on an expedient to get rid of his uninvited guest. One day after dinner, when they were left alone, the laird, having first locked the door, assumed a knowing manner and thus addressed his astonished guest—“General! it’s needless for you and me to play fause to ane anither ony langer. We ken ane anither’s real sentiments, whatever we may think fit to profess. I therefore now propose that we drink on our bended knees the health of King James VIII.”

There is a remarkable inscription on a tombstone

in the Churchyard ; it is modern, of course, but no reason has been adduced for doubting its truth : “ In memory of Farquhar Shaw, who led and was one of the thirty of his clan who defeated the thirty Davidsons of Invernahavon in the famous combat on the North Inch of Perth in 1396. He died in 1405, and was buried here”. It is stated that fourteen Shaws fell at Harlaw in 1411.

Rothiemurchus is redolent with story and legend of the Comyns, the Shaws, and the Grants ; we must content ourselves at this point with one more anecdote in which the churchyard is prominent, and then pursue our way. It seems a certain member of the Grant clan fixed on a spot for his own interment as near as possible to the gate and at a distance from the “ lairs ” of the Shaws, who were buried nearer the church. On being questioned why he chose such an isolated position, he replied that he had good reason, as at the resurrection he wished to be able to make good his escape from his time-immemorial enemies !

Ord Bain stands between the church and Loch an Eilein ; there are two roads to the loch from Aviemore—

one by the route we have just used,

Loch an Eilein. but turning to the left at Polchar—

for about twenty years the summer

and autumn residence of the famous theologian, Dr. Martineau ; the other by taking the road to the right at the United Free Church, which takes one to the loch *via* Blackpark and The Croft. The better plan for the visitor is to go by the one and return by the other. Much has been written about Loch an Eilein, so much indeed that some may think it over-praised, but it is really one of the most beautiful spots in

Scotland. Certainly nothing can equal it in Strathspey. In summer and autumn it is daily visited in all manner of conveyances, from Kingussie on the one hand and Grantown on the other, not to mention hundreds who in the course of the season make a special journey from much greater distances.

The beauty of Loch an Eilein was appreciated even in the end of the eighteenth century, for the "Statistical" writer refers to the scene here as "most picturesque and beautiful". Artists declare that the "composition" of the picture is faultless. The situation is so sequestered that the loch bursts on the visitor in quite an unexpected manner; yet the railway station is not three miles distant. The size of the loch is somewhat insignificant—only about a mile in length and little more than a third in breadth. Its charms are in the surrounding mountains, the pines that fringe its banks, the irregularity of its outline, which produces numerous miniature bays, and, perhaps as much as all these, the tiny islet with its hoary ruin of a castle, once a residence of the notorious Wolf of Badenoch. The view from Boat Bay, near the outlet, is a remarkable one. Looking across the loch we have four parallel ridges of the Cairngorms stretching Speywards, from Sgoran Dubh, Braeriach, Ben Muich Dhui, and Cairngorm respectively, the top of the last being in full view. Cadha Mor bounds the loch on the south side, Ord Bain on the north-west, and Kennapole Hill on the south-west. Its waters were turned to account in tree-felling days, as a sluice still bears witness. The char, for which it was long noted, have disappeared, but the pike have left their name in Pike Bay on the east side, where they may

still be found. The pines and birches at the foot of Ord Bain are very graceful and have attracted the attention of many artists. MacWhirter, in particular, has depicted them on more than one canvas.

The island, which is believed to be wholly, or at least partly, artificial, is almost covered with the ruins of a castle "built time immemorial". It was a ruin nearly three centuries ago, and its history, which is mixed up with that of Rothiemurchus, is very obscure. Rothiemurchus was "leased" by the Bishop of Elgin to the Shaws, who thus ousted the Comyns. The latter appear to have made the castle their chief stronghold. When the Grants came into possession the first laird of that name repaired the castle, as he found the Shaws still troublesome. "During the troubles of 1688 'Grizzel Mor' [the laird's wife] successfully defended the castle from an attack made upon it after the battle of Cromdale by a party of the adherents of James II. under General Buchan". Mrs. Smith thus describes the castle—"A low, long building with one square tower, a flank wall with a door in it, and one or two small windows high up, and a sort of a house with a gable-end attached, part of which stood on piles. The people said there was a zig-zag causeway beneath the water from the door of the old castle to the shore, the secret of which was always known to three persons only. We often tried to hit upon this causeway, but we never succeeded".

The ivy-topped walls are of considerable thickness, while the interior of the castle is covered with mountain ash, birch, willow, barberry, and rose trees, and a dense crop of nettles. The entrance is only about $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height; inside there is a

small courtyard, with, on the south, the "Ospreys' Tower", an erection believed to be at least a century later than the main building, and, on the north, two vaulted rooms. The building was almost square, the west wall having a frontage of about 73 feet; the other main walls are now practically fragments of fallen masonry. There is a central staircase, of which about thirty steps, by no means perfect, still remain.

The castle ruins have long been noted as one of the few breeding places in Scotland of the osprey. Every possible protection is afforded the birds by the proprietor of Rothiemurchus, who depends upon visitors causing them no molestation. *Please do not shout at them*, for ospreys are very easily frightened away from their eyries, and there is great danger that the birds will permanently forsake the district. The nest is on the southern tower, and is well seen from the shore of the loch; it suffers most from the impudent jackdaws. The Rev. Dr. Macmillan, another Rothiemurchus summer visitor, wrote that he "was fortunate enough to see the male bird catching a large trout, and soaring up into the sky with it, held parallel to its body, with one claw fixed in the head and the other in the tail. After making several gyrations in the air, with loud screams, it touched its nest, only to soar aloft again, still pertinaciously holding the fish in its claws. A sea-gull pursued it, and, rising above, attempted to frighten it, so that it might drop the fish; but the osprey dodged the attacks of the gull, which finally gave up the game, and allowed the gallant little eagle to alight on its nest in peace, and feed its clamorous young ones with its scaly spoil".

There is a memorial stone between the "Tea

House" (the cottage opposite the castle) and the loch, with the following inscription—"This stone was erected by the people of Rothiemurchus, in affectionate remembrance of Major-General Walter Brook Rice, who was accidentally drowned while skating near this spot, 26th December, 1892". General Rice was a regular winter visitor of the district.

The neighbourhood of Loch an Eilein and Loch Gamhna suffered from an accidental forest fire on 24th August, 1899, when about 450

Loch Gamhna. acres were affected. Loch Gamhna is a small loch at the upper end of Loch an Eilein; the name signifies "the steers' loch", and has probably some connection with an exploit of Lochaber reivers. Loch Gamhna has also a beautiful situation. It is adorned with water lilies, which visitors are expected to leave untouched. Ospeys bred for some time, near its south-east shore, on a tree, which was blown down in 1879. Then the birds went to the north-west shore, but did not finish the nest, certainly never used it. According to "A Fauna of the Moray Basin", "the wide valley under the shadows of Cairngorm was the cradle of the ospreys".

Kennapole Hill, which over shadows the upper end of Loch an Eilein, has an interesting memorial of the time when the Duke of

Kennapole Hill. Bedford was tenant of Glenfeshie Forest and The Doune of Rothiemurchus. It is a cairn with the inscription—"Iohannes Bedfordiæ Dux Posuit 1834. To her whose eye explored and whose steps marked, with discriminating taste, this little path from Loch Gaun [Gamhna] to the Cats' Den and round the craig of Kinapole to its

summit. This simple tablet is inscribed by a sincere and affectionate friend, A.D. MDCCCXXXIV., Bedford". The Duchess of Bedford was a daughter of Jane Maxwell, the celebrated Duchess of Gordon, who latterly retired to (and died at) Kinrara on the opposite side of the Spey.

The Cats' Den is on Creagan a' Chait of Kennapole Hill, and is a curious recess in the rock. It is associated with the legendary history

The Cats' Den. of the Grants of Rothiemurchus, but the main incidents which we are about to narrate are, we are assured on good local authority, actual occurrences. About a century ago The Croft was occupied by a younger son of the laird, whose housekeeper had presented him with several children. There were grounds for fear at The Doune that these children and their mother might be left money which otherwise would find its way to the laird, so a diabolical plot was conceived to make the personal appearance of the housekeeper repulsive to her master. "Black Sandy", an unscrupulous character, was appealed to, and, watching his opportunity, waited till he found the housekeeper alone, when he cut off one of her ears. He had taken the precaution to disguise himself, so the poor woman was unable to identify the man who so cruelly treated her. Black Sandy, however, found it judicious to remove to Revack, near Grantown, where he took to sheep farming. He had a difference with a drover, which ended in his leaving him for dead near Spey Bridge. Once more he had to flee; this time he retired to the Cats' Den. The drover by and by recovered, much to the astonishment of his friends;

as for Black Sandy, he now left the district altogether, ultimately emigrating to America, where he became at least moderately prosperous. One of his descendants was no less a person than General Grant, President of the United States, who, when he visited Scotland, did not forget Speyside.

Ord Bain (1405 feet), which has a curious rock formation, mostly primitive limestone and mica-schist, is a beautifully-wooded hill, on which, in

Ord Bain. olden times, signal fires were lighted.

An excellent distant view may be had from the summit, but Badenoch and Strathspey are the chief features in the landscape. Half a dozen of the neighbouring lochs are visible, and the forests of Glenmore and Rothiemurchus are seen as a great wooded flat extending south-westwards from the pass of Rebhoan.

Coylum Bridge is both a bridge and a hamlet, about two miles from Aviemore station, and is reached from Inverdrue by taking the road

Coylum Bridge. on the left at the United Free Church. The meeting of the waters here and the little bridge itself form a picturesque scene. Just above the bridge two streams unite and form the Druie; one is the Bennie from Glen Eunach, the other the Luineag

Glen Eunach. from Glen More. We may be said to enter the former glen at two iron gates, the smaller denoting the right-of-way through the Larig Ghru, a few yards from the west end of the bridge

Tullochgrue, which will be passed on the right, is noted for two wells, the Lady's Well and Macalpine's

Well; near by, Lord Lewis Gordon hid for some time, and was there fed by his cousin, the wife of the laird of Rothiemurchus. Near The Croft, at the north-west foot of Tullochgrue, is a cup-marked stone, which may be visited on the way to Loch an Eilein. For the first two or three miles the forest road is among trees; it is not till we are abreast of Carn Elrick and Cadha Mor that we feel we are in a glen. Pine and birch, juniper and rowan fringe the wayside and the lower slopes of the hills. The Bennie is a most interesting brook for miles, as it clatters over boulders and pebbles, and occasionally clasps an island covered with trees and shrubs. A halt should be made at the "Outlook", at a little bend of the road just before it begins to descend to the Bennie. The view here is particularly fine; below, the tree-clad banks of the stream—in the distance, the summit of the Sgoran Dubh range.

The Little Bennie joins the main stream near a bothy which we pass on the right; on the other side of the Bennie, but not in sight, is Loch Mhic Ghillechaoile, "the loch of the lanky man's son". Here, as the story goes, a party of Lochaber reivers was overtaken on a certain Sunday by a Rothiemurchus man. A scuffle ensued, in which he was killed. The Camerons concealed the body, and, leaving their prey behind them, made off as quickly as possible. When the main body of pursuers got up the glen they could find no trace of the young man; his corpse was not found till some weeks afterwards, when a Lochaber woman set the relations on the track. The loch received its name from the brave pursuer of the reivers, and the story is so far confirmed by the fact that not many

years ago an old dirk was found by the side of the loch.

The driving road ends at a bothy near the lower end of Loch Eunach at the head of the glen. The pony path on the left leads up Coire Dhoundail to Braeriach and Cairn Toul, that on the right (Ross's Path) zig-zags towards Carn Ban and Sgoran Dubh, from which one may descend into Glen Feshie. Glen Eunach is noted for moraines, particularly at the base of Sgoran Dubh below Loch Eunach.

Loch Eunach, about ten miles from Aviemore, is a narrow sheet of water, over a mile in length, hemmed in by Braeriach on the east,

Loch Eunach. Sgoran Dubh on the west, and precipitous rocks at the south. A burn from Lochan nan Cnapan falls over these rocks in a series of cascades. The altitude of Loch Eunach is 1650 feet above sea level; the rocky side of Sgoran Dubh towers 2000 feet above it, so it is a formidable rival to the more famed Loch Avon. Char, salmo ferox, and trout are to be found in the loch, and the deer have excellent feeding ground at the upper end in Coire Odhar. There a Grant of Rothiemurchus was born in a shieling, the *larach* of which is still pointed out. This Grant, John of Corour (Coire Odhar) as he was called from the place of his birth, was the second son of Patrick (Macalpine), the fourth Grant of Rothiemurchus, who died *c.* 1743. John of Corour entered the army, and, having acquired a moderate competence, "left money to build Coylum Bridge and a house at the head of Loch Eunach which should always have meal in it."

A boulder about sixty tons in weight, which at some remote period had fallen from Braeriach, turned

over, some twenty years ago, and moved along a good few yards nearer to the head of the loch. Probably an avalanche was responsible for the movement, but that explanation was not accepted locally.

The north entrance to the great pass, Learg Ghrumach or Larig Ghru, is at Coylum Bridge. The ancient right-of-way keeps close to the Bennie, Larig Ghru. but the driving road up Glen Eunach is generally taken as far as Cross Roads—near a sawmill site—where we hold to the left towards the Bennie. That stream is crossed by a foot-bridge and a ford, the road leading past the confluence of Allt na Leirg Gruamaich with the Bennie. The ruins of the steading of Auldrue attract attention from their prominent situation on raised ground in the fork of the Bennie and Allt na Leirg Gruamaich. The farm of Auldrue was given by "Macalpine" Grant to a Macgregor—one of two men who had been left in Rothiemurchus by Rob Roy, and who had married a natural daughter of "Macalpine" himself. The Macgregors remained in Auldrue till the time of Hamish when they had to make way for deer, Hamish dying at The Doune in 1890. When Rothiemurchus was afforested in 1843, the fawns, which were brought from Mar Forest, were placed under the care of Margaret Macgregor. They followed her, it is said, like dogs, even when grown up, and answered to the names which she bestowed on them. From Auldrue the road leads eastward for about half a mile to a cairn and a direction post which indicate the "road to Braemar". Thereafter there is no mistaking the route, however narrow or rough the path. The

pedestrian is vexed in turn by long heather, tree roots, bits of bog, cobble stones, and crossing streams, and, as the *col* is neared, enormous patches of stones which have fallen from Braeriach on the right and Ben Muich Dhui on the left. Aberdeenshire is entered at the *col*, and the Pools of Dee are thus reached, from which the mountains just named may be ascended. The Larig may be left at two other points for the ascent of Ben Muich Dhui—just before coming abreast of Creag na Leacainn, or at the March Burn, the stream on the left before the *col* is reached.

At the eastward end of Coylum Bridge three roads spread out—the middle leads to Drumintoul Lodge, the shooting-box of Rothie-Glen More. murchus deer forest, and is private; that on the left is the Speyside turnpike; the other leads up Glen More.

And such a phantom, too, 'tis said,
 With Highland broadsword, targe, and plaid,
 And fingers red with gore,
 Is seen in Rothiemurchus glade,
 Or where the sable pine trees shade
 Dark Tomantoul, and Auchnaslaid,
 Dromouchty, or Glenmore.

Thus Scott in "Marmion." "The forest of Glen More is believed to be haunted by a spirit called *Lham-dearg*, in the array of an ancient warrior, having a bloody hand, from which he takes his name. He insists upon those with whom he meets doing battle with him; and the clergyman who makes up an account of the district, extant in the Macfarlane MS. in the Advocates' Library, gravely assures us that, in his time, *Lham-dearg* fought with three brothers whom he met in his walk, none of

whom long survived the ghostly conflict". Mrs. Smith says, "The gigantic figure is said to offer battle to the belated traveller through the woods ; to him who boldly accepts it no harm is done, but a display of terror is punished by death".

The Glen More road keeps by the right bank of the Luineag all the way, and affords many opportunities of excellent views of the Cairngorms. About a mile north-east from Coylum Bridge is the steading of Achnahatnich, where once stood a chapel dedicated to St. Eada ; the old burial-ground may be recognised by the ruins of a kiln in it ! Human remains were displaced when the kiln was built. Two mineral wells will be passed on the right as we proceed up the glen. They formerly enjoyed a great reputation ; cripples came on crutches and left on foot !

There are few houses in the lower part of the glen, and only one, Glenmore Lodge, in the upper. The *larach* of Inchonie passed, we leave Rothiemurchus and enter Kincardine, and soon find ourselves at Loch Morlich. The road keeps along the north shore, a branch at right angles near the lower end leading northwards *via* the Sluggan to the church of Kincardine. The Thieves' road, however, skirted the south side of the loch ; we are already familiar with it at Loch an Eilein.

Loch Morlich is a mile long by five furlongs broad. It lies at an altitude of 1046 feet, and has at the upper end a bank of sand driven up by the wind. At the north-west corner, where the Luineag debouches, sluices, used for damming up the loch in the tree-floating days, will be observed. A particularly large pine was selected by ospreys for nesting, but they

have not bred there for several years on account of the persecution to which they were subjected. The loch, once famous for trout, is now, perhaps, more noted for its pike.

Glenmore Lodge is situated near the head of Loch Morlich, facing Cairngorm; its position is one of the finest among shooting-boxes in the Highlands. Sheep were removed from the glen only in 1859, though deer were preserved long before that year, but the shootings were not let. Glen More was formerly a royal forest, and latterly was the hunting ground of the Stewarts of Kincardine.

A plank of Scots fir, 5 feet 7 inches wide, was presented in 1806 to the Duke of Gordon, with the following inscription—"In the year 1783 William Osbourne, Esq., merchant, of Hull, purchased of the Duke of Gordon the forest of Glenmore, the whole of which he cut down in the space of 22 years, and built during that time at the mouth of the River Spey, where never vessel was built before, 47 sail of ships of upwards of 19,000 tons burthen. The largest of them, of 1050 tons, and three others but little inferior in size, are now in the service of His Majesty and the Honble. East India Company. This undertaking was completed at the expense (for labour only) of above £70,000. To His Grace the Duke of Gordon this plank is offer'd as a specimen of the growth of one of the Trees in the above Forest by His Grace's most obedt. Servt., W. OSBOURNE. Hull, Sept. 26th, 1806". This tree seems to have been 19 feet in girth at the bottom where the plank was cut, and must have been about 260 years old. "Christopher North" graphically described the

denuded forest, but time, the healer, has been kind, and much of the lower ground is once more beautifully covered with pines.

In the Pass of Rebhoan, at the head of Glen More, there is a beautifully-situated little tarn, An Lochan Uaine, better known as the Little Green Loch. The tree-clad hills rise steeply on each side, and the lochan, which has neither inlet nor outlet above ground, has its waters of a delicate green colour and exquisitely clear. It is frequently visited by tourists.

The Glen More road joins the Strath Nethy road near Rebhoan, a short distance above the Little Green Loch, and thus a beautiful circular drive may be obtained between Aviemore and Nethy Bridge.

At one time the tenants on the lower estates of the Duke of Gordon had the right to make an annual visit to Glen More for "torch-fir". They "sorned" so much on the natives that their visits began to be resented. An appeal, however, to the Duke was unnecessary, as the "Giant Fairy" of the glen so frightened the low-countrymen that they gladly undertook to give up their annual excursion!

The ascent of Cairngorm is usually made from Glenmore Lodge; the climb, which presents no difficulty, and is often made by ladies, takes from three to four hours. In about two hours more the summit of Ben Muich Dhui may be reached.

"Memoirs of a Highland Lady" has already been mentioned: readers are also referred to "In the Shadow of Cairngorm" and "Highland Homilies" by Rev. Dr. Forsyth; "Rothiemurchus" by Rev. Dr. Macmillan; and *The Cairngorm Club Journal*, Aberdeen.

II.—AVIEMORE TO KINCRAIG.

Hurrah for the Highlands!—the stern Scottish Highlands!
The home of the clansmen—the brave and the free;
Where the clouds love to rest on Cairngorm's rough breast
Ere they journey afar o'er the vale of the Spey.

THERE are two roads between Aviemore and Kincaig, the principal one being on the left bank of the Spey by the foot of Craigellachie, passing Lynwilg and Loch Alvie; the other by the right bank, *via* Inverdrurie, Rothiemurchus church and Feshie Bridge. The visitor may thus indulge in a little circular tour. The pedestrian may avoid the detour by Feshie Bridge by taking a path, *via* Dalnavert, to Iosel footbridge, thence along the river by Speybank to Kincaig. Dalnavert was the birthplace of the mother and wife of the late great Canadian statesman, Sir John A. Macdonald. Now on The Mackintosh's estate, it is described by Mrs Smith as "the sole remnant of the Shaws' once great possessions"; it was noted in the early years of the last century as the place where the local company of volunteers assembled for drill. Lochan Geal, "the white lochan", a little to the south-west of Dalnavert, was fabled to be bottomless, and to contain pike and trout covered with hair.

The scenery along the Spey between Aviemore and Kincaig is very fine; we make bold to say that it is superior even to the beautiful stretch of the valley between Balmoral and Castletown of Braemar. Thus wrote Lord Cockburn ("Circuit Journeys")—

“The approach to Aviemore becomes interesting soon after the waters begin to flow Spey-ward, till at last the full prospect of these glorious Cairngorms, with their forests and peaks and valleys, exhibits one of the finest pieces of mountain scenery in Britain”.

Passing along the foot of Craigellachie we cross the Dubh-allt, “Black Burn”, at Easter Lynwilg, where, on high ground to the right, near the old bridle-path leading from the Spey to Fort-Augustus, is situated Allt na Criche, the Highland residence of the famous singer and composer, Mr. Henschel. At Lynwilg Cottage, where the turnpike closely approaches the railway, a road branches to the left, leading past the Bogach to Tor Alvie and Kinrara House. The Bogach, which is fed from Loch Alvie, is a great swamp or marsh, filled with monster pike, and is an ideal home for wild-fowl.

Lynwilg Hotel is situated near the east side of Loch Alvie. A noted hostelry in coaching days, it is now a convenient centre for

Lynwilg. exploring the neighbourhood and the Cairngorm mountains, though a detour to Aviemore has now to be made in order to get across the Spey.

Tor Alvie, a finely wooded hill, which is only about 300 feet higher than Loch Alvie, commands an extraordinary view of Strathspey.

Tor Alvie. In 1830 human remains, with sword blades, buckles, etc., were found in tumuli on the Tor. There are two monuments on it—one to the fifth and last Duke of Gordon, and another in memory of Highland soldiers who fell at Waterloo. The Duke’s memorial was erected in

1840; it bears inscriptions in Gaelic, English, and Latin, and is a pillar 90 feet high, a most conspicuous object from Aviemore and neighbourhood. The Waterloo Cairn was built "To the memory of Sir Robert Macara, of the 42nd Regiment of Royal Highlanders; and Colonel John Cameron, of the 92nd Regiment, or Gordon Highlanders, and their brave countrymen who fell gloriously at the battle of Waterloo in June, 1815. Erected by the Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly. August 16th, 1815". Tor Alvie was climbed by Prince Leopold, afterwards King of the Belgians, when on a ten days' visit in 1817 to Kinrara. Kinrara House is at the foot of the Tor close to the river in a most picturesque situation, hence the phrase "beautiful Kinrara". The combination of hill, wood, and river seems

Kinrara. here almost perfect; little wonder that Maculloch, fastidious at times, thus wound up his description—"A week spent at Kinrara had not exhausted its charms; and when a second week had passed, all seemed still new". Kinrara is much associated with the memory of Jane Maxwell, Duchess of Gordon, who died in 1812. The Duchess, who was the mother of the last Duke, had a romantic attachment to the place, and spent a considerable part of each year here. At Kinrara she was visited by persons of the highest distinction from all parts of the United Kingdom, "the Duchess having perpetual dances, either in the drawing-room or the servants' hall. When in a few weeks a whole regiment of soldiers could be raised on the Gordon estates, the influence of her Grace became apparent. She attended fairs and country meetings,

and the intrinsic value of the enlistment money was considerably enhanced by the promise of 'a kiss from the Duchess of Gordon'. She was buried at Kinrara at her own request, her grave being marked by a granite monument on the site of St. Eada's Chapel. Many side-lights are thrown on the Duchess's manner of life at Kinrara in "Memoirs of a Highland Lady". It also tells of a particular visit the Marquis and his bride (he married a Brodie) paid to The Doune, the Marchioness in a little phaeton drawn by four goats. "At every horned head there ran a little foot-page, these fairy steeds being rather unruly". The residence of the Duchess was only a small farm-house: the kitchen was transformed into her sitting-room; "a barn was fitted up into a barrack for ladies, a stable for gentlemen".

The following verses from "The Book of Scottish Song" are stated there to have been written by the Rev. Alexander Allardyce (died 1833), minister of Forgue, but they were really written by his widow, who died at Cromarty in 1857:—

LAMENT FOR THE DUCHESS OF GORDON.

Fair in Kinrara blooms the rose,
 And softly waves the drooping willow,
 Where beauty's faded charms repose,
 And splendour rests on earth's cold pillow.
 Her smile, who sleeps in yonder bed,
 Could once awake the soul to pleasure,
 When fashion's airy train she led
 And formed the dance's frolic measure.

When war called forth our youth to arms,
 Her eye inspired each martial spirit;
 Her mind, too, felt the muse's charms,
 And gave the meed to modest merit.

But now, farewell, fair northern star ;
 Thy beams no more shall courts enlighten,
 No more lead forth our youth to arms,
 No more the rural pastures brighten.

Long, long thy loss shall Scotia mourn ;
 Her vales, which thou wert wont to gladden,
 Shall long look cheerless and forlorn,
 And grief the minstrel's music sadden ;
 And oft amid the festive scene,
 Where pleasure cheats the midnight pillow,
 A sigh shall breathe for noble Jane,
 Laid low beneath Kinrara's willow.

Loch Alvie, three miles from Aviemore, "which lies at the gates of Kinrara, is a jewel in this 'barren' road". It is at the base of

Alvie. Geal-Charn Mor (2702 feet), one of the Monadhliadhs, a rather bare, featureless hill. The church and manse are picturesquely situated on a little peninsula on the south side of the loch, with, on the south, a tiny tarn known as Loch Beag. The shores of the loch are beautifully irregular, and its surface is adorned with water-lilies ; it is frequented by water-fowl, and trout are plentiful, a right to fish going with the glebe.

In the course of excavations for the repair of the church a remarkable discovery of skeletons was made, all lying head to head. They were reverently interred in the churchyard and a stone erected with the following inscription—"Buried here are Remains of 150 Human Bodies Found, October 1880, Beneath the Floor of this Church. Who they were, When They Lived, How They Died, Tradition Notes Not.

' Their bones are dust, their good swords rust,
 Their souls are with the Saints, we trust '".

The church of Alvie was dedicated to St. Drostan; the original site has never been without a place of worship.

The principal landowners in Alvie, the population of which is 533, are:—The Mackintosh (Kincraig shootings, part of Glenfeshie forest. Kinrara and Dalnavert shootings, Dunachton Lodge and shootings, etc.); Sir George Macpherson-Grant, Bart. (Dalraddy shootings, part of Glenfeshie forest, Invermarkie shootings, etc.); Mr. R. B. Whitehead (Alvie Lodge and shootings, etc.); Mr. Charles J. B. Macpherson of Belleville (Balavil) (Balavil House and shootings, etc.); and the Duke of Richmond and Gordon (Kinrara House and shootings, etc.).

The Argyll Stone has attracted the attention of many travellers as they journey between Aviemore and Kincraig, but they have generally **Argyll Stone.** to be content with an explanation which leaves much to be explained.

Even Queen Victoria, who records that Lord Alexander Russell “was so good as to explain everything to us”, was told that “the Duke of Argyll’s Stone” was “a cairn on the top of a hill to our right, celebrated, as seems most probable, from the Marquis of Argyll having halted there with his army”. Truly a strange place for the “Marquis” to halt in such circumstances!—the altitude being nearly three thousand feet above sea level. The Rev. Mr. M’Dougall, of Rothiemurchus, has supplied us with the following account—On the summit of the mountain ridge running parallel to the Spey, between Glen Eunach and the Spey valley, may be observed a large tor known as the Argyll Stone—a

conspicuous object in the landscape as seen from the strath below. It has been so called from the time of James VI., obtaining its name in connection with one of the political troubles of that monarch's reign, in which the then Earl of Argyll took an active, though not very successful part. This event was an alleged attempt by the Earl of Huntly and one or two other noblemen to restore Catholicism as the recognised religion of the country, when Argyll was sent at the head of a large force to check the movement, and, if possible, to secure the arrest of Huntly and the Earl of Erroll, the leaders of the rising. History records that Argyll, with a vastly superior force, was completely routed by Huntly and Erroll's men at the Battle of Alltacoileachan, in Glenlivet, in October, 1594, and compelled to retreat with all possible haste. There was little inclination to halt until they felt themselves comparatively safe, on friendly territory, as they approached Badenoch. Their first halt since quitting the battlefield was on the northern portion of the Sgoran Dubh ridge. There, beside this rocky pile, they partook of such a humble repast as the scanty means at their disposal afforded. From this ridge they could easily keep a look-out on all sides, and readily discern signs of danger at a great distance. But Huntly was unable to follow up his advantage, and so allowed the fugitives to retreat without molestation. It was usual with every Highlander, when engaged in any war-like expedition, to carry a little oatmeal, rolled up in a piece of cloth or small bag, to use as required; and sometimes a bannock or two of home-baked bread formed part of their equipment, on which they could

at any time make a hurried repast. Of such materials they made their homely breakfast on this occasion, sitting or lying around the stone, which, in memory of the incident, has ever since been called "The Argyll Stone". After resting for a time they descended towards Glen Feshie, where they further enjoyed such hospitalities as the cottagers of the glen could bestow on them. Indeed, so pleased were they with the reception accorded them that not a few of their number stayed behind for several weeks after the greater portion had taken their departure for their homes in the west. In company with the native residents of Glen Feshie, the evenings were devoted to mirth, music, and dancing, and other festivities, the place of meeting being the old Black Mill of Invereshie. One of the Argyll pipers, who had stayed behind with his clansmen, composed in honour of their place of meeting a "Strathspey", known by the name of the Muileann Dubh, or Black Mill—a piece of music which to this day retains its popularity among all lovers of Highland music and dancing. The Mill itself has been celebrated in song, the verses setting forth its merits associating it with many things curious, fanciful, and uncommon.

Another version of the origin of the name refers to Montrose taking refuge in the wilds of Badenoch when Argyll followed him from Blair Atholl. The route was through Glen Bruar and by the head of Glen Feshie along the ridges to the point marked by the Argyll Stone. Then he descended to the valley, crossed the Spey and defeated Montrose at the east end of the Moor of Alvie. The latter escaped with only a few followers towards Fort-Augustus (1642-3).

Captain Cumming, Putney, and his brothers, when their father was tenant of Dalraddy, found several pieces of armour on the field of battle, and these the captain still retains.

Resuming our journey to Kincaig, we enter the Moor of Alvie about two miles from Kincaig station. Markets were at one time

Delfour held at the Moor. A short distance **Stone Circle.** west is Delfour, where there is a stone circle, about four miles south-west from Aviemore station and two miles north-north-east from Kincaig station. It is about half a mile westward from the turnpike, from which it may be approached by a side road, a furlong south of the milestone marked "12 miles from Carrbridge, 8 miles from Kingussie." But for the presence of a standing stone of striking appearance (according to Mr. C. G. Cash, F.R.S.G.S., in the *Cairngorm Club Journal*, vol. v.), the circle might easily be supposed a mere heap of stones cleared by the farmer from his fields. And a little examination shows there is much truth in this first impression. "The New Statistical Account of Scotland" definitely speaks of an inner circle 25 feet in diameter, and there can be no doubt, therefore, that the clearings of the surrounding land have largely been piled on the site of the circle. Of the outer circle of megaliths, if it ever existed, only one—the standing stone already referred to—remains. It stands $22\frac{1}{2}$ feet to the south-west of the "middle circle", which is 60 feet in diameter. The inner circle is probably buried by the agriculturist. Alvie Lodge is to the west of the road, and is surrounded

by pines and birches; there are several beautiful ponds near by, as well as a waterfall.

Passing the United Free Church and Baldow we reach Kincaig. Alvie Parish Hall is at the point where the road turns to the left; within the grounds is a granite Ionic cross. This monument was raised through Mr. Henschel's efforts, and was erected to the memory of Piper Peter Stewart and his brave comrades of the Cameron Highlanders who fell in the battle of Atbara on the Nile in 1898.

Kincaig has in recent years advanced considerably as a holiday resort, a circumstance which its situation fully warrants; its railway

Kincaig. station has, we think, the finest position of any station on the Highland Railway, and that is saying a good deal. An Suidhe (1775 feet), with its well-defined summit, affords shelter from the north winds; the prospect to the south includes Loch Insh and Glen Feshie with its great mountains. Looking north-east, the valley of the Spey, with Tor Alvie and Ord Bain, makes a charming piece of landscape. A keen observer writes:—“Perhaps few places in Scotland can boast of such lovely birches as are to be seen about Kinrara and Aviemore, or near the mouth of the river Feshie”.

Kincaig station, which is the nearest for Feshie Bridge and Glen Feshie, was originally called Boat of Insh, but the ferry has been displaced by a convenient bridge across the Spey. The outlet of Loch Insh is about a mile above the confluence of the Feshie; Invereshie House stands between the loch and the Feshie, while the church of Insh is close to the Spey,

near the outlet of the loch. The Invereshie deer forest extends to 9270 acres.

Insh Church, which was dedicated to St. Adamnan, is one of the most interesting in Strathspey. It is believed to date from Culdee times,

Insh Church. and still possesses a bronze bell of that period, though in a slightly damaged condition. This bell was once removed to Perth, but as it kept crying "Tom Eunan, Tom Eunan", it was carried back to the hillock, or moraine heap, of that name, on which the church stands. The church is believed by ecclesiologists to be the only Scottish church in which divine worship has been continuously celebrated since the seventh century. On our first visit we found that the church was partly floored with cobble stones, but that reproach has now been removed and the interior modernised.

Loch Insh is embosomed among trees, and has a length of nearly a mile, with a breadth of half a mile. Draining was once attempted,

Loch Insh. but unsuccessfully, on account of the slight fall of the river—a drawback which a noted geologist says may be overcome by diverting the mouth of the Feshie some distance to the north-east. We should not like to see Loch Insh effaced; but very properly the landowners would rejoice if an economical plan could be devised which would improve the run of the river from Kingussie downwards, and so prevent the disastrous floodings which are almost of yearly occurrence. These floodings are as expensive as they are offensive in their results on the face of the landscape when they subside. Great floods in the Spey, particularly

in the Badenoch region, occurred in the end of January, 1903. They reached their greatest heights on the last day of that month, and exceeded all previous records,* all the old flood marks, so far as known, being obliterated. The appearance of the river was thus described at the time—the whole valley was a complete sea from side to side, nearly two miles in width, midway between Kincaig and Kingussie stations. From high ground at Insh on the south side the railway embankment could be traced like a dark thread on the opposite expanse of waters, but the great high banks extending for miles as protection to the meadows were entirely under water. The course of the Spey through the alluvial haughs between Kingussie and Loch Insh was indicated only by the tops of tree clumps known to grow beside the channel. Except these tree tops everything was under water over a tract of country six miles long by one and a half broad. For two days (30th and 31st January) all communication between the two sides of the river was cut off, all the way from Newtonmore to Aviemore; even the roadway south of the latter station was much under water all the way to The Doune. Between Boat of Garten and Grantown the valley was a huge surging lake, covering an area of over twelve square miles. Loch Insh, says a fishing authority, is “the home and hold of the big pike—of the small ones, too!—of the Spey, from which they forage in and over-run the contiguous reaches of the river, above and below”. Formerly the loch was regularly netted; there is a note of a certain occasion when sixty salmon were taken ashore at one haul. Large quantities of trout and char were formerly caught

when nets were in use. Now that that method of fishing has ceased, anglers cannot understand why comparatively so little sport is to be had. There is a beautiful islet, Tom Dhubh, at the mouth of the loch, and another, An t-Eilan Dhubh, above the Feshie confluence.

The Spey was crossed at Boat of Insh by Queen Victoria on Tuesday, 4th September, 1860. The account of this portion of Her Majesty's "Expedition" is thus given in "Leaves":—"We came upon Loch Insh, which is lovely, and of which I should have liked exceedingly to have taken a sketch, but we were pressed for time and hurried. The light was lovely; and some cattle were crossing a narrow strip of grass across the end of the loch nearest to us, which really made a charming picture. It is not a wild lake, quite the contrary; no high rocks, but woods and blue hills as a background. . . . The ferry was a very rude affair; it was like a boat or coble, but we could only stand on it, and it was moved at one end by two long oars, plied by the ferryman and Brown, and at the other end by a long sort of beam [a "sting"] which Grant took in hand".

Dunachton Lodge, which overlooks the west side of Loch Insh, is a modern building, which replaces an old residence of The Mackintoshes, **Dunachton.** which stood on the same site, but was burned in 1869. The "dungeon" has been turned to better account as a wine cellar! The situation is very fine, a grand view being obtained of the Cairngorm mountains. Tom a' Mhoid, "Court Hill", is to the west of the house, where justice was doubtless dispensed in the manner of the times; below the house there is an ancient burial-ground, where there had been a chapel dedicated to St. Drostan.

III.—GLEN FESHIE.

Or, if feast of Nature please thee,
In her rich and pictured show,
Come with me to lone Glen Feshie,
When the grey crags are aglow.

THE River Feshie, which is 22 miles long, rises on the borders of Perthshire on Leathad an Taobhain (2994 feet). At Feshie Bridge (about two miles from Kinraig station), where there is a post-office, and where formerly there was an inn, the river is crossed by the Speyside road; the piers are built on rock, the tree-lined river having here a rocky channel. Above the bridge the Feshie rushes swiftly along, but subsides into a deep pool below. The approach to the bridge from the north-east has a very awkward turn; fatal accidents there are not unknown. There are two rather rough driving roads up the glen, one on each side of the river. The one on the east is the more direct road, joining the other by a ford below Achlean; the west road branches off the turnpike at the Manse of Insh.

Passing through Lagganlia we cross Allt na Criche, at the confluence of which is Blackmill. We are here at the foot of Creag Mhigeachaidh (2429 feet), on the north-western face of the Cairngorm mountains. Its steep tree-clad front is very noticeable from Kinraig station; indeed, it is so precipitous that avalanches are frequent. On several

occasions deer have been carried down with the falling snow and killed; scaurs made by the avalanches can be traced in the miniature gorges which mark the crag.

Allt Ruadh joins the Feshie near Ballachchroichk. There is a path on the north side of the burn, which leads towards Sgoran Dubh, Carn Ban, and other summits of the Cairngorms. Achlean, near the confluence of Allt Fhearnachan with the Feshie, has long been the residence of the official fox hunter of the district. The present hunter's father "sat" to Landseer on many occasions, and his dogs are immortalised in the famous artist's pictures. The Feshie is crossed above Achlean by Polluach (foot) Bridge, below which is a deep salmon pool. The view looking up the glen is very fine; the sombre pines are relieved by the lighter green of the birches. Though confined in a narrow rocky channel at Polluach, the river has in many places a wide wandering course; indeed, it seems to delight in shifting its channel after every flood. Near this bridge, on the east side of the Feshie, is an old burial-ground. A way may be found by a deer-stalker's path up Allt Fhearnachan to the Cairngorms, particularly Braeriach and Cairn Toul.

Allt Garbhlach, which rises on Meall Tionail (3338 feet), is the next tributary of the Feshie; it has cut a long narrow gorge to the glen from Meall Dubh-achaidh (3268 feet). At the confluence, on the north side of the burn, there was one time a regular market held, which claimed to be the origin of the great Falkirk trysts. The farther north these markets were held the more the southern dealers objected, for they asserted that occasionally Donald

turned homewards with both money and cattle!

Glenfeshie is one of the most important deer forests in the Highlands. The shooting-box, below which the driving road ends, is finely situated on the left bank of the Feshie; on the other side is Ruighaiteachain, "an oasis in the desert", the loveliest part of the glen. The haugh is grandly wooded, as are the lower slopes of the adjacent crag-tipped mountains. There are many fine old pines among which are interspersed birches and clumps of junipers, with here and there beautiful patches of fox-glove and wild roses. The ground beneath our feet is redolent with thyme. The haugh is cut into strips by former channels of the Feshie, hence the term "The Islands"; another name occurring here is "The Huts". These "huts" are now represented by bits of gables, all that remain of a number of buildings erected by the Duchess of Bedford when lessee of the forest. Among her guests was Sir Edwin Landseer, who obtained in the locality sketches for many of his most famous paintings. On the plaster above the fire-place of one of the huts Sir Edwin drew a picture, part of which is still extant, showing three stags and a hind. In order to preserve this interesting memorial The Mackintosh has erected a building over the ruined fire-place, and through its windows the fresco may be seen with ease.

The glen is particularly picturesque between "The Huts" and Allt Coire Bhlair. The valley is very narrow, and the steep hills on the east side are scarred with storm torrents, the rocks worn and weathered into fantastic shapes, the water channels generally dry; though high up thin silver

streams may be seen, the thirsty screes drink them all up. These screes may be called stone-shoots, "shoots" of immense size, the depth indicated by the "buried" condition of the standing trees in their track. Yet here we have wild strawberries and rasp, cranberries, blaeberreries and juniper-berries; while on the west side birches and aspens clothe numerous little gorges where cascades tumble down the rocky slopes. The finest gorge in the glen is that of Allt Coire Bhlair on the right bank of the Feshie opposite Sron na Ban-righ (2406 feet). It is an exceedingly narrow gorge, rife with vegetation, and containing a linn, Landseer's Falls, over 150 feet in height. On the left bank of the burn, where it is crossed by the path, the *larach* of a hut may be seen where Landseer occasionally painted.

The so-called Maiden's Shroud is a chasm high up on the east side of the glen, full of snow which never melts—so the tradition has it. Long years ago a Glen Feshie maiden loved a youth who for some crime was ordered to be hanged by the laird. She sought his life with tears, but her prayers were unheeded. In her grief for the loss of her lover she committed suicide in this wild spot; the snow is her pall.

Sron na Ban-righ on the left bank of the Feshie recalls one of the numerous traditions as to the origin of the burning of Scottish forests. This particular legend credits Queen Mary with the destruction of the forest in Badenoch—"Her husband, it would seem, had on his return from a distant hunting expedition asked about the forest before he enquired as to his spouse, and she, grievously offended at this slight,

gave orders, as she was seated on Sron na Ban-righ, 'the Queen's nose', to set the forest on fire."

Queen Victoria passed through Glen Feshie twice—on 4th September, 1860, and 8th October, 1861. We quote from "Leaves":—"Then we came upon a most lovely spot—the scene of all Landseer's glory—and where there is a little encampment of wooden and turf huts, built by the late Duchess of Bedford. . . . I felt what a delightful little encampment it must have been, and how enchanting to live in such a spot as this solitary wood in a glen surrounded by the high hills. We got off, and went into one of the huts to look at a fresco of stags of Landseer's, over a chimney-piece".

Shortly after crossing the Eidart, about a mile and a half east of Allt Coire Bhlair, a path holding eastward will be observed. It crosses the county (Inverness-Aberdeen) march and so enters Glen Geldie. Geldie Lodge, a shooting-box in the forest of Mar, will be observed on the right; thereafter there is an excellent forest driving road, which joins the Braemar turnpike at the Linn of Dee. At the confluence of the Bynack Burn with the Geldie, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles short of White Bridge, a road holds southwards *via* Glen Tilt to Blair Atholl. The distance from Feshie Bridge to Glenfeshie Lodge is 7 miles; Glenfeshie Lodge to the Eidart, 6 miles; the Eidart to Geldie Lodge, 3 miles; Geldie Lodge to Braemar, 12 miles.

IV.—ABERNETHY.

O purple glory of the heather bells !
O mystic gleams where light and shadows play
On verdant slope and on the yawning gorge,
Where in wild mood the mountain cataract
Hath leaped and eddied in its rocky bed !

THE River Nethy, which gives name to the parish of Abernethy, has a course of 14 miles, and, rising on Cairngorm, flows almost due north to the Spey near Broomhill station of the Highland Railway. The Nethy is crossed near its mouth by the road and the Great North of Scotland Railway at Nethy Bridge, where there are the village and station of that name. The Grantown station of the latter railway is also in the parish of Abernethy; and Boat of Garten station, the Speyside junction of the two railways, and Broomhill station are also conveniently situated. The Countess-Dowager of Seafield is the principal landowner. The population of the parish is 1279.

Nethy Bridge has an excellent situation, and deservedly shares in the practical results of the public appreciation of the virtues of Speyside. The forest of Abernethy and its denudation are almost proverbial, but the blanks have been so much replanted both by nature and by the proprietrix that the pines seem as flourishing as ever. The parish divides Cairngorm with Kirkmichael, and minor heights of 2000 or 3000 feet are numerous. There is no scarcity of lochs, and its streams are generally

of the impetuous, and therefore picturesque order.

Coylum Bridge crossed, our road holds northward. A short distance to the right is Guislich, with its inconsiderable stream making for **Loch Pityoulish**. Loch Pityoulish (Phitiulais). There is an old burial-ground on the left bank of the burn, but it has long ceased to show evidence of its original purpose. There is reason to believe that at one time the Luineag from Loch Morlich did not unite with the Bennie, but flowed into Loch Pityoulish. A small part of the upper end of the latter loch is in Rothiemurchus, but the greater portion is in Kincardine. Situated at an altitude of 674 feet, it has several physical as well as traditional features that render it noticeable. It contains an islet, which is visible when the water is low, and is therefore probably artificial; possibly, like Loch Kinord on Deeside, it had a crannog, and was used as a place of defence. There is a stone fort on Creag Chaistéal, the hill on the east side of the loch; on the opposite side is a height known as the Callort. Terraces may be seen here which are suggestive of the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy. "The goats are in the Callort" was the watchword of an old woman who there gave the signal for a memorable attack on the Comyns by the Shaws. According to "Highland Legends", the latter, "like maddened demons attacked their astonished victims, who had neither time nor opportunity to rally for their own defence, and in consequence were to a man put to the sword. The Comyns had been travelling in detached parties, and each succeeding party, being ignorant of the fate of its predecessors, soon mingled

with their gore in that den of death near the west side of the loch, which has ever since been known by the name of Lag-nan-Cuiminach, or hollow of the Comyns. The grassy mounds here mark the resting-place and commemorate the overthrow of one of the most savage races of men that ever existed among the Highlands of Scotland."

Proceeding onwards, we pass on the right the church of Kincardine, which was dedicated to St. Catharine. It is a plain and very **Kincardine.** old building, with, it is said, a leper window (otherwise "a squint"); there is a rude stone font near the door. The Barons of Kincardine were great men in their time; a modern tombstone in the little churchyard tells their story very briefly: "*Dominus Lux Nostra*—Sacred to the memory of Walter Stuart, grandson of Robert II. of Scotland, and his family, who possessed the Barony of Kincardine, 1374-1683—also of H. C. Stuart, M.A., Vicar of Wragly, one of their descendants, who died 16th September, 1884. To fulfil his wish this Memorial is erected". In erecting this stone, evidences were discovered of the burial of the second wife of the fifth Baron, who lived about the beginning of the fifteenth century. She was a daughter of Lochiel, and had as her dowry twelve clansmen (Camerons), some of whose descendants are still to be found in Abernethy. Kincardine was at one time a detached portion of Badenoch. As we proceed northward by the right bank of the Spey the old Barons are brought to mind at a small hamlet, Knock of Kincardine. John Roy Stewart was born at the Knock in 1700; his father, the grandson of the last

of the Barons, married as his second wife a daughter of John Shaw of Guislich, a descendant of the Shaws of Rothiemurchus. "It is said she was fifty-three years old when she married, and John was her only child". He received a good education, and was a man of considerable culture. He became famous both as a Gaelic poet and as a soldier, and was a great favourite with Prince Charles Edward Stuart. On Craiggowrie (2237 feet), one of the Kincardine hills south from the Knock, is Uaimh Iain Rhuaidh, "John Roy's Cave," where he took refuge for some time after the battle of Culloden. He joined the Prince at Cluny's "Cage", and sailed with him to France, from which he never returned. He raised the Edinburgh regiment, which numbered not a few Speyside men, the colours of which, known as the "Green Flag of Kincardine", escaped being burned by the common hangman at Edinburgh. The standard-bearer was James M'Intyre, and he took the flag home to Glen More, and once every year proudly unfurled it on the top of Cairngorm. It is now preserved in Gordon Castle.*

There is a convenient access to Loch Morlich and Glenmore Lodge by a branch road leaving the turnpike a short distance to the south-west of Kincardine church. This route is by Milton Burn and through the Sluggan.

* A relative of John Roy Stewart recently died in Abernethy three months short of 100 years of age. She was a most daring smuggler in her early days, and many good stories are told of her adventures with the gaugers. Along with her father she worked an illicit still in a remote corner of Glenmore forest, and her shop at Duack Bridge was a favourite resort for all who had a taste for mountain dew of home manufacture three-quarters of a century ago.

Loch Garten and Loch Mallachie, two small lochs, lie a short distance to the east of the Knock. Loch Garten is surrounded by pines, and **Loch Garten.** so is concealed from view. It had a Boddach or Spirit, who paid particular attention to the family of Gartenmore, its cries being always heard when the head of that house was on his death-bed. Loch Garten is connected with Loch Mallachie on the south-west. The latter loch is the source of Aultgharrach, or the Mullingaroch Burn (sometimes also called the Loch Mallachie Burn), which, passing the Knock on the east, enters the Spey half a mile south of Boat of Garten bridge. The "curse of Aultgarrach", according to tradition, came from a disappointed bride, whose groom there lost his life when on his way to visit her. The "curse" was believed to follow the water, and to fall specially on newly-married people. "So strong was the faith in its potency, that even in the last generation there were persons who would rather go far round than cross the stream on their wedding-day". There is a similar English tradition concerning a bridge at Hoxne, near Eye, in Suffolk, which bore the inscription, "Cursed be the wedding party that passes this bridge".

The name "Boat" of Garten has lost its *raison d'être*, as a bridge now spans the Spey. About a mile farther down the river we reach **Boat of Garten.** Gartenmore, where the Spey once more subsides to sluggishness after a short run among boulders above the bridge. It has been suggested that there was once a lake basin between Gartenmore and Broomhill, and another between Broomhill and Ballifurth. Below

Ballifurth the Spey begins to assume the appearance which is doubtless responsible for its reputation as the most rapid river in Scotland. The effect of the "flood" of 1829 in this part of Strathspey was well expressed at the time in a single sentence:—"I am satisfied that I might have sailed a fifty-gun ship from the Boat of Ballifurth to the Boat of Garten, a distance of seven or eight miles". The Nethy also did much damage on that occasion, as well as its tributary, the Dorback. Indeed, the latter stream has an evil reputation for unexpected risings, as may be gathered from the daily prayer, short but pithy, of a farmer on its banks: "From the storms of the Geal-charn, the floods of the Dorback, and the wrath of the factor, good Lord, deliver us".

Duack Burn, the western tributary of the Nethy, rises in the Tulloch district on the northern slopes of the Kincardine hills. Chapelton in

Tulloch. this district is so called from the former existence of a place of worship there; the site is still recognisable. The famous Reel o' Tulloch had its origin here; at least so the natives contend, but other places also claim that honour.

A walk or drive through the forest of Abernethy as far as Forest Lodge, or, better still, beyond it to the Pass of Rebhoan—returning

Abernethy Forest. by Loch Morlich, the Sluggan, and the church of Kincardine—makes an excellent round. Beyond Forest Lodge there is only one inhabited house in the strath, Rynettin, a forester's cottage on the eastern slope of Carn Rynettin (1549 feet). As we approach Rebhoan, a small shieling only in use during the season, we pass

on the right the *larach* of Rynuie, noted as the birthplace of William Smith, a noted "stalker" on the Cairngorm mountains and a fine Gaelic poet. "The Songs of William Smith breathe the very essence of poetry"; yet he was only a poacher, and died a soldier under Sir John Moore. As we have advanced up Strath Nethy we have been charmed with the mountain prospect, particularly Cairngorm and Ben Bynac. A bee line may now be struck for the former, but the easier route is through the Pass of Rebhoan, and past the Little Green Loch to a point near Glenmore Lodge. The forest suffered considerably from fire in 1746.

Two great rights-of-way across to Deeside—Glen Feshie and the Larig Ghru—have already been referred

to. There is a third, the Learg

Learg an Laoigh. an Laoigh, "the calves' pass",

from Abernethy to Braemar. This

ancient path is on the east side of the Nethy, but it will generally be found convenient to take the driving road from Nethy Bridge to Rebhoan, or rather a little beyond it, to a foot-bridge across the Nethy. Thence it is a foot-path only; it hugs Ben Bynac on the west, and makes for the Avon, which it fords, and then by the Dubh Lochan leads into Glen Derry, and so to the Dee. The year 1805 is memorable for the loss of five lives between the ford of the Avon and the Braes of Abernethy. Seven militiamen on furlough from Edinburgh were here overtaken by a snowstorm of so severe a character that only two of them were able to reach the Braes alive.

Above Rebhoan the Nethy flows through a narrow glen, and is known as Garbh Allt; on the one side

is Cairngorm, on the other Ben Bynac. At the upper end of this gorge is The Saddle, below which is the famous Loch Avon.

Loch Avon is at a height of about 2500 feet and has Cairngorm on its left shore with Beinn Mheadhoin on the right; at the upper end is Ben Muich Dhui. The length is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, while the breadth is little more than a furlong. The grandeur, the intense solitariness, the almost utter lack of life, and the noise of torrents that hurry down from the mountains to join the loch give a peculiar weirdness to the scene. The famed Shelter Stone is at the head of the loch. It is a huge piece of rock about 38 feet in length, with a breadth and a height each of about 20 feet, and from the position in which it rests it can afford quarters to about half-a-dozen people. Loch Etchachan, about 3100 feet above sea level, may be reached from the head of Loch Avon by keeping alongside a north-flowing burn to the latter loch; thence it is an easy walk to the cairn of Ben Muich Dhui. Loch Avon is in Kirkmichael, Banffshire, Loch Etchachan in Crathie-Braemar, Aberdeenshire.

Coulnakyle is on the east side of the Nethy, between the village and the confluence with the Spey.

Concerning it the Rev. Dr. Forsyth says in his "In the Shadow of Cairngorm":

"It has not only a name, but a history. Here Edward of England may have flaunted his banners; here the trumpets of Claverhouse have sounded; and here Montrose and Mackay have pitched their tents. Here chiefs of Grant have dwelt; here

Baron Bailies have held their courts; here the managers of the York Company resided. . . . Coulnakyle has been a centre of life and interest for more than six hundred years". The connection of the York Buildings Company with Abernethy dates from 1728, when they

York Buildings Company. bought 60,000 trees at a price of £7000. They added iron-smelting on the banks of the Nethy to the timber speculation, carrying the ore

all the way from the Lecht beyond Tomintoul. The "Iron Mill Croft" is half a mile above Nethy Bridge; the beams and framework may still be seen in the bed of the river. The company collapsed in 1735, but was nevertheless of considerable advantage in many ways to the natives.

The church of Abernethy is about a mile north from Nethy Bridge. It was dedicated to St. George, and like Kincardine church

Abernethy Church. has an old stone font. The Baptism Bowl, which is of massive silver, was originally a presentation in 1802 to the captain of the Eastern Abernethy Volunteer Company.

Castle Roy, immediately to the north of the church, is an interesting ruin, even being claimed as the oldest castle in Scotland. It stands on a little

Castle Roy. height, and the walls enclose a space of 80 feet by 53 feet. It is believed to have been built by the Comyns, and may have been their Abernethy residence. It would seem from an old charter to have been in occupation in the sixteenth century.

V.—AVIEMORE TO CARR BRIDGE

Spè, Dè agus Tatha,
Tri aibhnichean's mo' fo'n athar.

The three largest rivers that be
Are the Spey, the Tay, and the Dee.

THE old inn of Aviemore, an erstwhile stage in coaching days, now a shooting-box known as Aviemore House, is a conspicuous building on the left as we start northwards. The innkeeper during the '45 is said to have joined Prince Charlie's forces, but on the fatal day of Culloden he made his heels his friends, only slackening pace when he came in sight of his own house! Beyond Aviemore House is the Established Church opened in 1901, and some distance farther along is the United Free Church, also a new building.

There are three outstanding heights on the wooded ridge to the west—Cragenmore, An Lethchreag, and Beinn Ghuilbnich (1895 feet), the last locally known as Ben Gulapin. There is a precisely similar instance of this double naming in the Menteith Hills. The name signifies "the whaup's hill". An Lethchreag, the middle summit, is "the half rock"; it boasts a cave—now almost filled up—with a legend. A local farmer saw one of his goats disappear into a hollow; naturally he followed his wandering property. He found himself in a cave,

fitted up as an armoury and well stocked with arms of all kinds. He determined to pay it another visit with the view of helping himself to a few muskets. But, alas, when he returned he failed to find the spot—a characteristic incident in such Highland legends. It has been suggested that the legend owes its origin to the simple fact that when the hill was being planted the foresters found the butt-end of a musket in the cave. Tradition also tells how a local “rebel” found concealment here after Culloden.

The Muir of Granish, which we have just entered, is notable for its stone circles. One, close to the United Free Church, consisted

Stone originally (again according to Mr. Cash),
Circles. of three concentric circles, the outer one, of detached megaliths, had a diameter of about 75 feet; the middle (fairly complete), of close set stones, a diameter of about 42 feet; and the inner, as to which the evidence is imperfect, a diameter of about 26 feet. The Granish stone circle stands about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles E.N.E. of the station and about 350 yards east of the turnpike. It is close to the southern shore of Loch nan Carraigean, “the loch of the standing stones”. Originally there were three concentric circles; the outer one, of eleven or perhaps twelve megaliths, had a diameter of about 103 feet; the middle one, a diameter of about 56 feet; and the inner one, a diameter of about 24 feet. In connection with the removal of one of the megaliths, to be used as the lintel of the doorway of a byre. a curious story is told. When the byre was finished, difficulty was found in getting the cattle to enter or stay in the byre; they seemed overcome with fear. The

farmer sent for one of the "Men" of Duthil, and asked his advice. After religious "exercises", the "Man" informed the farmer that the cause of the terror of the cattle was the presence of this stone as the lintel, and ordered that it should be removed. The stone was removed, and another substituted, and thereafter the cattle occupied the byre in peace! Local report tells of the finding here of a number of coins, while pieces of charred wood have also been picked up. Within memory there have been several instances of infant burial within, or close by, the stone circle. A twin-stemmed pine within the inner circle affords a guiding landmark from the road. To the south-east of the circle, at a distance of 140 feet, is a low almost structureless cairn; on the north side of the lochan is another cairn, in a depression a little farther northwards known as the Hollow of Hurry (or Scurry). This name originated from the fact that the Macgregors were surprised here and had to beat a hasty retreat. Their chief was slain, and a house above the hollow still goes by his name. Shaw thus refers to the Muir as he tells (in his "Province of Moray") how, after the battle of Cromdale, "a party of Camerons and Macleans, who next day crossed the river, were pursued, and on the Muir of Granish, near Aviemore, some were killed, and the rest, taking shelter in Craigellachie, and Keppach, who, with their banditti, attempted to reduce the castle of Loch an Eilein, were by that laird and his tenants beat off with loss".

The Muir of Granish was planted about a hundred years ago, but the trees were cut down between 1852 and 1892. It is crossed by the two sections of the Highland Railway from Aviemore. The "Captain's

road"—named after a notorious freebooter who met his death at a point on the road—runs between the railway lines. This old road has been turned into arable land on Dalfaber, a farm between the Spey and the Forres section, but it may be recognised in the level crossing at Knockgranish. It runs almost parallel to and on the west side of the line to Boat of Garten, where it becomes lost. It reappears farther on, and is supposed to have been continued to Lochindorb by Clury, Balnaan and Auchnahannet. Kinchurdy, a farm between the railway and the Spey, opposite the church of Kincardine, was at one time a seat of a branch of the Grants of Grant.

Avielochan ("loch of the ford") is about three miles from Aviemore and $4\frac{1}{2}$ from Carr Bridge; pike are found in it. At the base of Beinn Ghuilbnich, near Laggantygown, between Avielochan and Loch Vaa, is the Tor, a birch-clad knoll. There are evidences of a fort with a moat on the Tor, though the only extant traditions are those of smuggling, traces of which may be recognised by the expert in such matters. The old military and coach road, leaving the (now) main turnpike about 300 yards short of the second milestone from Aviemore and running through the deer forest of Kinveachy, reappears at Avielochan, where it may be recognised by a bridge partly demolished. It passes in front of Kinveachy Lodge, and goes on by Lethendry to the Dulnan at Sluggan Bridge.

Half a mile beyond Avielochan the turnpike is crossed by the direct railway line to Inverness in the vicinity of Loch Vaa. Though close to the east side of it, the loch is not visible from the road; it lies at

an altitude of 752 feet, and is the largest as well as the prettiest of the numerous lochans by the way-side. It contains two tiny islets, one of them probably artificial, as it is not ordinarily visible and is said to be partly covered by the ruins of a castle. The loch is beautifully fringed with firs on the north side, while to the east and south grassy knolls—marked at intervals by giant birches—add to the charm of the scene. The ground to the south of the loch is interesting as having been at one time covered by erratic granite boulders, most of which have now been broken up. Two noticeable stones, however, still remain, one known as the Sharp Stone and the other as the Resting Stone.

About half a mile north from Loch Vaa is the little hamlet of Kinveachy; Kinveachy Lodge is a prominent landmark of the district. A short distance beyond the hamlet the road forks—to the right for Boat of Garten and Grantown, to the left for Inverness *via* Carr Bridge.

Carr Bridge, formerly a stage on the Perth and Inverness road, has again sprung into prominence with the opening of the direct
Carr Bridge. railway line between Aviemore and Inverness. The village, which is in the parish of Duthil, stands at an elevation of about 850 feet, and may be regarded as the little capital of Dulnan-side. The scenery is attractive, and the odour of the pines finds favour with asthmatic visitors. General Wade burned part of the forest on the left bank of the Dulnan to clear a way for his road, but nature has almost forgotten the outrage. The firs and birches of Kinveachy on

the south side lend a charm to the district. The old arch of the previous bridge over the river is still standing, and is a most interesting object. Sluggan Bridge, about two miles above the village, where the military road crossed the Dulnan, has a beautiful situation, and affords a fine circular walk. The valley was in ancient times known as Glenchernich, "the glen of heroes."

Prince Charles Edward Stuart, who was at Ruthven on February 12-14, 1746, on his way to Culloden, spent the next night "at the house of Grant of Dalrachny". The traditional halting place was the old house of Inverlaidnan, still standing, about three miles above Carr Bridge. There is a curious anecdote, characteristic of that period, of the laird of Dalrachny in "Highland Legends".

The Dulnan, which has a course generally parallel to that of the Spey, has a length of 27 miles. It rises in the parish of Alvie on the

The Dulnan. Monadhliadh mountains, at an altitude of about 2750 feet. The upper part of its course is bare, bleak, and uninteresting; it is not till it has entered Duthil, at a height of 1161 feet, that it approaches the region of trees and human habitations. It then acquires a certain picturesqueness, which it maintains all the way to Dulnan Bridge, where it is crossed near its mouth by the Grantown road. The Great North road and the Highland Railway cross the river at Carr Bridge, the chief points of interest below which are the church of Duthil and the ruins of Muckrach Castle.

The church of Duthil, which was dedicated to

St. Peter, was a prebend of Elgin Cathedral, to which it was given in the thirteenth century by Gilbert, eldest son of the Earl of Strathern. The Grants of Grant, who developed into Earls of Seafield, chiefs of the Clan Grant, have had their burial aisle here since 1585. The mausoleums are rather imposing structures; the older one dates from 1841. The churchyard contains the grave of Ian Manndach or Lom, the celebrated Jacobite poet.

Muckrach Castle is a picturesque ruin, and is beautifully situated about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Grantown on the Carr Bridge road. It dates from 1598, and was the original seat of the Grants of Rothiemurchus. The foundations indicate that at one time it must have been a considerable building.

Dulnan Bridge, which spans the river at a rocky part of its channel, about half a mile east of Muckrach Castle, was once known as Bridge of Curr; there is a straggling hamlet, Skye of Curr, on the south bank of the river. In the 1829 flood the force of the water was so great that it made the arch spring, in perfect semicircular form, fifteen feet into the air. There is a remarkable Cup-stone on Laggan, to the north of the bridge, with over fifty "cups" hollowed out in it.

Returning to the road-forking near Kinveachy, we now take the Grantown turnpike. In a short mile the road forks again—that on the right leading direct to Boat of Garten, the left to Grantown *via* Drumullie and Dulnan Bridge. The fork is at Deishar school,

near Wester Chapelton, a name which, along with Glebe of Deishar, suggests a pre-Reformation church. The site of the churchyard is now under cultivation, but is still traceable.

As we make for Boat of Garten the valley of the Spey opens out, and one can enjoy excellent mountain prospects from the heathy muirs

Boat of Garten. which are here so agreeable a feature of the landscape. The village which has gathered round the railway junction is gradually increasing ; it boasts a post-office, a hotel, a hall, and a mission church, and has “snuffed out” the hamlet of Drumullie, about a mile northward. The inn of the latter has vanished ; it is thus referred to in Queen Victoria’s account of her journey to Grantown :—“We stopped at a small half-way house for the horses to take some water ; and a few people about stared vacantly at the two simple vehicles”.

By crossing the Spey at Boat of Garten the visitor from Aviemore may return *via* Kincardine, Coylum Bridge and Inverdrue.

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