

the most striking in appearance of the six peaks of Bennachie (*benna-heé*) (1,698 feet).

A remarkable old hill fort on the summit is approached by the "Maiden Causeway," an ancient paved road. Each of the six summits of the ridge, which extends for $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, commands an extensive view. *Oxen Craig*, the loftiest, has a height of 1,733 feet. Though the mountain presents a steep face to the north, the ascent is easy. From Pitcaple or Oyne Stations by road to Pittodrie and thence good path to the summit. Motorists from the south should leave the main road at Drimmies, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles beyond Inverurie, and proceed by a steep road to Chapel of Garioch and Pittodrie. One mile beyond Chapel of Garioch an interesting sculptured stone 10 feet high stands by the roadside. It is called the Maiden Stone. From the summit of the Mither Tap is an excellent view.

The **Garioch** (pronounced *Gairy*, the *g* hard), one of the ancient territorial divisions of Aberdeenshire, is celebrated for its exceeding fertility—it is the "girmel," or granary, of Aberdeenshire.

Three and a half miles beyond Inverurie we pass Inveramsay Station, the railway junction for the branch line to Macduff. Three miles farther on the road forks. The right-hand branch is the more direct and the better road to Huntly, but it is not so interesting as that *viâ* Oyne and Inch. At **Newton House**, at Inch, there is a stone bearing inscriptions in Ogham and minuscule characters. One mile beyond the little town the **Hill of Dunnideer** rises like a pyramid from the plain. It bears the ruins of an ancient hill fort. *Christ's Kirk*, the hill on the left of the road, is supposed to be the place referred to in the old poem, "Christ's Kirk on the Green," ascribed (doubtfully) to James V.

Now the route gets more among the hills as we pass from the Garioch into **Strathbogie**. Nearing Gartly there is a good view of the **Tap o' Noth** (1,851 feet) on the left. The summit is marked by a very fine vitrified fort, the walls of which rise in some places 8 feet from the ground.

Forty miles from Aberdeen is **Huntly** (*Gordon Arms* (16 rooms; *R. and b.*, fr. 6s. 6d.), *Argyle* (*temp.*) (18 rooms; *R. and b.*, fr. 5s. 6d.), *Royal Oak*, *Strathbogie*), a neat town at the meeting-points of roads running in every direction and with golf and good fishing in the vicinity.

ABERDEEN TO INVERNESS VIÂ HUNTLY.

For the route *viâ* Cruden Bay, see p. 392; *viâ* Old Meldrum, see p. 396.

THIS is the principal motor route between Aberdeen and the north-west of Scotland. As far as Keith the L.N.E.R. serves places en route, thence to Elgin and Inverness, L.M.S. territory.

Leave Aberdeen by George Street, which in a mile or so turns westward beside the *Don*. Beyond Bucksburn is the Rowett Institute, where the University and North of Scotland College of Agriculture carry on research into animal nutrition. Half-way between the fifth and sixth milestones a lane on the right leads to the *Standing Stones*, twelve in number and the largest Druidical circle in Aberdeenshire. Just over a dozen miles from Aberdeen is **Kintore** (*hotels*), an ancient place with a quaint town hall. A mile to the west are the ruins of *Hallforest Castle*, said to have been a hunting tower of the Bruce, who gave it to Sir Robert Keith, from whom were descended the Earls of Kintore. Vast numbers of seagulls nest in the vicinity. A mile or so beyond Kintore the *Don* valley (p. 402) goes off on the left, but our road crosses the river and turns into **Inverurie** (*Gordon Arms*, *Kintore Arms*), a pleasant little royal burgh in a fine agricultural district. Golf and fishing are among its attractions. On the eastern side of the river is modernized Keith Hall, the seat of the Earl of Kintore.

The neighbourhood of Inverurie has been the site of two important battles. One was fought on *Barra Hill*, between the fork of the *Don* and the *Urie*, in 1307, the Bruce overthrowing his great rivals the Comyns. The second battle was fought at *Harlaw*, in 1411, when Aberdeen was threatened with pillage by a Highland host gathered by Donald, Lord of the Isles. The opposing force, under the Earl of Mar, was reinforced by citizens and the invaders were routed. A monument marks the battlefield, about 2 miles north-west of Inverurie.

Now there comes into view on the left the *Mither Tap*,

(Apply Town Clerk.) The chief sight of the town is the ruin of Huntly or Strathbogie Castle, the cradle and seat of the Gordons, Earls (afterwards Marquesses) of Huntly and Dukes of Gordon. (*Admission: weekdays, 10-4, 6 or 7; Sundays 11-3 or 4; 6d.*) The principal feature is a large keep with a great round tower at the south-west corner and a smaller round tower at the opposite corner.

The earliest castle here was a Norman peel built in the latter part of the twelfth century by Duncan, Earl of Fife, who, following a grant of land from William the Lion, became the first lord of Strathbogie. In the peel Robert Bruce found shelter in 1307, but shortly before Bannockburn the then lord of Strathbogie turned against Bruce and his lands were taken from him and given to Sir Adam Gordon of Huntly, in Berwickshire, whose descendants became Lords of Huntly, Marquesses and Dukes of Gordon, and were for many generations all-powerful throughout a wide district, the head of the family being for centuries known as "The Cock of the North." A successor to the Norman building was the scene of the marriage of Perkin Warbeck. It was despoiled by Mary's troops in 1562 and "cast down" by James VI in 1594: only the underground basement and dungeon of this work are left, the remainder of the ruin dating from about 1550-1600. Ordinary processes of disintegration were assisted by the builders of Huntly Lodge in 1742, who found the Castle a convenient quarry. Since 1923, however, the ruin has been under the care of H.M. Office of Works.

To many Huntly is interesting as the birthplace of George Macdonald (1824-1905; a tablet marks the house in Duke Street), who sketched it and its castle in *Alec Forbes of Howglen*.

Westward from Huntly a road (motor services) runs to the *Haugh of Glass* and *Dufftown* (p. 345); a branch southward 6 miles from Huntly goes up the Deveron valley to *Cabrach*, up in the hills, thence turns eastward to join the Alford-Huntly road (p. 402) at *Rhynie*: a very enjoyable 25-mile run.

Ten miles north-west of Huntly is Keith (*Royal, Gordon Arms*), a busy town in Banffshire at the intersection of roads between the coast and Strathspey, etc. The pediment of the Roman Catholic Church is distinguished by two colossal figures of St. Peter and St. Paul.

In 1650 the churchyard of Old Keith was the scene of the unmanly ranting of the parish minister at the fallen

Marquis of Montrose, who was compelled to attend the service in the ragged and unkempt condition in which he was captured. Fifty years later it was the scene of the capture, by Duff of Braco, of the freebooter James Macpherson, whose manner of facing his subsequent execution inspired Burns to the lines:

"Sae rantingly, sae wantonly,
Sae dauntingly gaed he;
He played a spring an' danced it round,
Below the gallow's tree."

Keith proper is connected with Fife Keith, across the Isla, by a bridge dating from 1609. Near the churchyard of Fife Keith is the *Gaun Po*, or Pool, in which witches were drowned. *Newmill*, a mile northward, was the birthplace in 1794 of James Gordon Bennett, founder of the *New York Herald*.

From Keith an increasingly fine road runs south-west to *Dufftown* (see p. 345) and so to Strathspey; north and east roads run to *Cullen* (p. 400) and *Banff* (p. 397); westward a road runs to the Spey at *Boat o' Brig*, the site of a ferry. From *Mulben*, 6 miles from Keith, a pretty road goes south-west to *Craigellachie* (p. 345).

The main Inverness highway, however, goes north-westward from Keith, throwing off a branch to *Portgordon* (p. 401) in about 2 miles, and thence running beautifully through woods to *Fochabers* (*Gordon Arms, Grant Arms* (10 rooms; *R. and b.*, 6s.)), a prettily situated village at the entrance to the grounds of *Gordon Castle* (the Duke of Richmond and Gordon), one of the most magnificent mansions in the north of Scotland. Built round an ancient square tower, it has a front 700 feet in length. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon is a direct descendant of Charles II, and besides the three dukedoms of Richmond, Lennox and Gordon in Great Britain, holds the French dukedom of D'Aubigny, conferred by Louis XIV, on his ancestress, Louise de Perrencourt de Querouaille, Duchess of Portsmouth. The Spey is here crossed by a bridge from which there are good views upstream, Ben Rinnes being seen to advantage. One and a half miles south of Fochabers there is a remarkable gorge on the east bank of the Spey, the *Allt Dearg*, where there are some fine examples of rain-eroded pillars of old red conglomerate and boulder clay. From Fochabers to Elgin the way is pleasant but unremarkable.

A road on the right leads to **Garmouth and Kingston**, at the mouth of the *Spey*, the former a quaint little village with some historical interest as the landing-place of Charles II in 1650. There is no way across the river for motors below the bridge at Fochabers. For *Spey Bay*, see page 401. For *Lossiemouth*, to which another right-hand turning leads, see page 383.

ELGIN.

Distances.—Aberdeen, 66 m.; Inverness, 38 m.; Forres, 12 m.; Keith, 18 m.; Lossiemouth, 5½ m.

Early Closing.—Wednesday.

Hotels.—*Gordon Arms, Station* (20 rooms; R. & b., 9s. 6d.), *Gordon (temp.)*, (21 rooms; R. & b., 6s. 6d.), *City* (7 rooms; R. & b., 5s.).

Population.—About 9,000.

Railway Access.—From the south by L.N.E.R. *via* Aberdeen and by L.M.S. *via* Grantown and Forres.

Sports.—Free fishing in the *Lossie*, bowls, boating, golf (2s. day, 12s. 6d. week, £1 10s. month), etc.

Elgin is an attractive little city (it claims the title as a Cathedral town of old) on the south bank of the *Lossie*, about 5 miles from the coast and some 38 east of Inverness and 66 from Aberdeen. It is the centre of a fertile district known as the Garden of Moray, and its climatic and other advantages have drawn to it as residents a number of retired Anglo-Indians.

The ruins of the **Cathedral**, the principal feature of interest, are reached by turning out of the main road a few hundred yards west of the level crossing (which should be noted by motorists using the main road). The ruins are accessible weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sundays, 10–8 (October–March, 8–dusk weekdays, closed on Sundays) (*tickets, 6d., at the lodge at west end*), but at other times a very good idea of their beauty can be gained from the road skirting the enclosure. The most notable feature is the fine western doorway.

The Cathedral, the "Lantern of the North," was founded in 1224 by Andrew, Bishop of Moray, but of the structure then erected the remains of the south transept and the towers are the chief portions, the rest of the church as it exists to-day having been built after a fire in 1270.

The building again suffered from fire in 1390, through the act of Alexander, Earl of Buchan, commonly known, on account of his rapacity, as the Wolf of Badenoch, who, having been excommunicated for deserting his wife, sought to be revenged. Under compulsion by his half-brother, Robert III, who feared terrible ill might follow the outrageous sacrilege, the earl helped to repair the damage he had done.

In 1506 the great steeple fell. With the Reformation came the beginning of the final destruction of the beautiful building, for in 1568 the Regent Moray and his Privy Council, being hard pressed for money wherewith to pay their soldiers, ordered the lead to be stripped from the roof and sold for their benefit. It was bought for about a hundred pounds by a mercantile company in Amsterdam, but was sunk with the ship off the rocky headland of Girdleness, just outside the harbour of Aberdeen. After this act of vandalism the building was allowed to fall into decay as "a piece of Romish vanity too expensive to keep in repair."

For nearly a hundred years the ruins lay utterly neglected, except by those who found the fallen walls a convenient quarry and, near the end of the period, by an enthusiastic antiquary, one John Shanks, who set himself the task of removing what had become mere rubbish and laying bare the ground plan of the building.

The style of architecture is the First Pointed Order, and the building is perhaps the best specimen of ecclesiastical architecture in Scotland. When entire, to quote an authority, Elgin Cathedral was "a building of Gothic architecture inferior to few in Europe." The edifice was 289 feet long; greatest breadth, 87 feet; western towers, 84 feet in height.

The best preserved portion is the early fifteenth-century **Chapter House**, at the north-east corner. In the centre is a massive pillar, some 9 feet in circumference, having the form of a cluster of sixteen slender shafts.

Between the Chapter House and the vestry is the Sacristy, containing a lavatory, the water basin of which was the cradle of General Anderson, the founder of the local institution bearing his name (*see below*).

In the Chancel is the tomb of the founder of the Cathedral, and to the right, in St. Mary's Aisle, is the burial-place of the Gordon chiefs. The first Earl of Huntly lies here and also the last Duke of the male line.

A portion of the Deanery has been incorporated with the house known as North College; South College is the Sub-Dean's residence, modernized. The wall at the rear of South College garden leads to *Panns Port*, the only one remaining of the four entrances to the Cathedral precincts. Close at hand is **Anderson's Institution**, a Corinthian building "for the support of old age and the education of youth," which is also the memorial of the romantic career of Lieut.-General Anderson. At his father's death his mother was so destitute that she was forced to find a dwelling among the Cathedral ruins (*see above*). Later the boy enlisted as a drummer in the

Honourable East India Company, rose to the rank of Lieut.-General and died in 1824, leaving about £70,000 for the foundation of the institution which bears his name.

In **Cooper Park**, across the road from the Cathedral, is *Grant Lodge*, the dower house of the Earls of Seafield; the mansion contains a public and rural library. The policies of the house now form Cooper Park (named in honour of the donor). Towards the eastern end of the main street of Elgin is the **Little Cross**, supposed to have marked the eastern limits of the burgh; opposite is the *Museum of the Elgin Literary and Scientific Institution* (*weekdays, 10-6; 3d.*). About the middle of the street is the **Muckle Cross**, beside the Parish Church, a large Classic building. To the north side of the street is **Lady Hill**, crowned by a monument commemorating the last of the old Dukes of Gordon, "a benefactor of agriculture in the North." A Charter of 1106 mentions a Castle which stood upon the hill and which was the residence of early Scottish kings. The remaining fragment is named *Duncan's Castle* (King Duncan, of *Macbeth*, is believed to have died a few miles away, at Pitgaveny).

The ruins of an old *Greyfriars' Abbey* (founded by Alexander II) have been restored and incorporated with a chapel. For permission to view apply at Convent in Abbey Street.

The *Ladies' Walks* are an attractive series of paths beside the Lossie.

Southward from Elgin a road traverses the **Glen of Rothies** to Rothies and Craigellachie, in Strathspey. **Birnie**, to the west of this road, about 3 miles from Elgin, has "the oldest bishop's church in the diocese of Moray." It belongs to the eleventh or twelfth century, and is still strong and perfect. It has no east window, contains a copper bell, called the "Ronnell Bell" (the only one in Britain), and has a distinct chancel and nave with separate roofs—a feature unique in the north of Scotland.

Rothies, a distilling centre, is commanded by a ruined Castle of the Leslies, in which Edward I quartered himself in 1296 during his southward march from Elgin. For **Craigellachie**, see page 345.

Pluscarden Abbey, 6 miles south-west of Elgin, was founded by Alexander II, in the thirteenth century, and the walls of the church having remained in a good state of preservation, the edifice was restored and part of it

fitted up for Divine service in 1898 by the Marquess of Bute, who acquired the building by purchase. The fittings are rich in carving and the altar is one of the finest in the north of Scotland.

The Abbey is beautifully placed in the narrowing glen of the Lochty, and the road may be followed onward to Forres (p. 385), passing **Blervie Tower**, an ancient structure five stories high, commanding a grand view.

The road north from Elgin to Lossiemouth passes near the remains of **Spynie Palace**, for many centuries the residence of the Bishops of Moray. It was inhabited by Roman Catholic Bishops up to 1573, and then for upwards of a hundred years by Protestant Bishops. Its extensive ruins comprise a very fine keep. *Spynie Loch*, on the other side of the railway, was originally an arm of the sea, but has been gradually drained or silted up and for the most part is rich meadow land. *Pitgaveny*, near the south end, has already been mentioned as the traditional scene of Macbeth's murder of Duncan.

Lossiemouth.

Early Closing.—Wednesday.

Golf.—The Moray Golf Club has a very fine course of 18 holes, besides smaller courses. Visitors—June to September: 5s. per day; £1 1s. per week; £3 3s. per month; other months: day, 2s. 6d.; week, 10s. Ladies: 2s. 6d. per day; 10s. per week, £2 per month all year round.

Hotels.—*Stotfield* (70 rooms, R. & b., fr. 8s.), *Marine* (31 rooms; R. & b., 10s. 6d.). Numerous boarding-houses and apartments.

Population.—3,900.

Railway Access.—Lossiemouth is served by a branch of the L.N.E.R. from Elgin, 5 miles south, and which may be reached from the South either by Aberdeen and the L.N.E.R. or by L.M.S. to Forres. There is also a good bus service between Elgin and Lossiemouth.

Lossiemouth is composed of the ancient fishing settlements of Seatown and Old Lossie, the newer settlement of **Branderburgh**, which dates from about the middle of last century, when a new harbour was constructed, and, lastly, the hamlet of **Stotfield**, a district of modern villas. It is built on and around a headland rising from the **Laigh of Moray**.

It would not be easy to find another resort in the North which has grown so rapidly and has so quickly obtained such a wide reputation. Modern Lossiemouth is almost entirely a creation of the present century. It has received frequent mention of recent years as the birthplace of James Ramsay MacDonald, the first Labour Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Lossiemouth has bracing air; a low rainfall (an average

of only 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches); a long, broad sandy beach; and around are extensive prospects which charm the eye. It also offers golf, bowling, putting, tennis, trout and sea-fishing and boating.

West of Lossiemouth, about 3 miles, is Covesea (pronounced *Covsie*), with a tall white lighthouse and interesting rocks and caves. One of these was supposed to have communicated by an underground passage with Gordons-town, half a mile distant, long the seat of the Gordons. In this direction also are *Drainie* and *Duffus*, with ruined churches. The few ruins of Duffus Castle are noteworthy as marking the original extent of Spynie Loch, which once lapped the castle walls.

Westward again from Covesea are the fishing village of Hopeman and the busy little port of Burghead, where is the British Broadcasting Corporation's 60-kilowatt station for transmitting to the North of Scotland in connection with the Scottish Regional transmitter. Burghead is also interesting to the antiquary.

Across the neck of the elevated promontory are the remains of a triple breastwork and of inner ramparts, within which is a chamber cut in the solid rock, with a cistern and spring in the centre—the so-called *Roman Well*. All these were formerly reputed to be of Roman workmanship, but are now regarded as Celtic. On the crest of the promontory—supposed to be the "Ptoroton" of Ptolemy—the *Clavis*, a relic of ancient fire-worship, now a tar barrel on the end of a pole, is kindled and carried in procession by the fishermen on New Year's Eve (Old Style, i.e. January 12), to ensure a successful year's fishing.

Burghead and Hopeman have each a golf course and fine bathing sands.

The 12-mile run from Elgin to Forres is across the fertile *Laigh of Moray*; to the left are good hill views; all around are prosperous farms—many of considerable extent. The hill known as the *Knock of Alves* is crowned by a monument to the Duke of York, son of George III. Nine miles or so from Elgin roads on the right lead off to *Kinloss*, where are the ruins of an Abbey founded by David I in the mid-twelfth century. Edward I and Edward III lodged here, and the Abbey was able to provision the entire army of the former monarch for three weeks. After the Reformation the Abbey, like so many others, became just a builders' quarry. From Kinloss a straight road goes north-west for 3 miles to *Findhorn (Cubbin Sands Hotel (12 rooms; R. and b., 8s. 6d.))*, a

village lying at the edge of the lagoon-like Findhorn Bay. There is bathing, boating, fishing and golf, and with good accommodation, Findhorn is likely to become a very popular little resort.

Findhorn Bay is actually the result of the difficulty the *Findhorn* river has in finding a way through the sandhills to the sea. The river crosses the main road about a mile west of Forres, above which point it provides some of the finest scenery in the north of Scotland. (See p. 386.)

Forres.

"How far is't call'd to Forres?"—*Macbeth*.

Angling.—For salmon, grilse, sea-trout and finnock fishing in the lowest 5 miles of the Findhorn, between Red Craig and the sea, apply *Forres Angling Association*.

Distances.—Aberdeen, 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Elgin, 12 m.; Granttown, 22 m.; Inverness, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Nairn, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Perth, 121 m.

Early Closing.—Wednesday.

Golf.—Visitors: day, 2s. 6d.; week, 10s.; month, £1 10s.

Hotels.—*Carlton, Royal Station, Victoria, Commercial* (14 rooms; R. & b., 6s. 6d.), *Cluny Hill Hydrophatic* (100 rooms; R. & b., 10s. 6d.).

Population.—4,168.

Forres, dating from very ancient times, stands on gently rising ground on the eastern bank of the Findhorn, and is largely resorted to by sportsmen and tourists—the former for the salmon and trout fishing, the latter by reason of the exquisite scenery and the sweet and balmy climate of the district. The *Market Cross*, erected in 1844, was modelled upon the Scott Monument at Edinburgh. The *Falconer Museum* in Tolbooth Street is open weekdays, 10–5, 3d. (Saturday, free). Two sons of Forres who have been benefactors of the place are Lord Strathcona (1820–1914) and Sir Alexander Grant, the former born in a thatched house which stood until lately at the west end of the town, between the *Burn of Mosset* and the mound that is the site of "King Duncan's Castle," the foundations of which have been excavated. A monument to Nelson crowns the summit of Cluny Hill and affords grand views. At the foot of the hill is charming Grant Park.

At the eastern end of the town, a few hundred yards along the Kinloss road, is one of the most remarkable stone obelisks of old-world date in Britain. Known as *Sueno's Stone*, it stands 23 feet above ground and bears carvings of warriors, animals and Celtic knots. In popular belief it records the final defeat of the Danes in 1014.

Between Forres and Nairn (10 miles) the direct road (see below for preferable route) passes Brodie Castle

(4½ miles), the seat of Brodie of Brodie. The splendid park, in which is a noteworthy "Pictish Stone," with oghams, is always open to the public, but special application must be made for admission to the Castle, which is of great antiquity.

Away to the right are the Culbin Sandhills, with *Buckie Loch*, famous for its aquatic plants. These sandhills were formed in 1694, when during a violent storm the sand began to drift inland and overwhelmed the barony of Culbin, a fertile tract of land formerly known as the granary of Moray. Of this estate (including the mansion house of Culbin and sixteen prosperous farms), only a single farm escaped. Since then the dunes have been steadily moving eastwards, but attempts are being made with some success to stay their advance by planting sand-grasses and sedges and finally pine forests. The dunes present a gentle slope to the west with a steep eastern declivity, and some reach a height of 100 feet.

Westward of the Culbins, between road and railway, comes a part of *Hardmuir*, the "blasted heath" on which Macbeth is supposed to have met the witches, the traditional spot being a pine-crowned knoll on the left known as *Macbeth's Hill*. About a mile farther westward are the ruins of *Inshoch Castle*, also popularly associated with Macbeth.

Auldearn was the scene of a battle in which Montrose brilliantly defeated the Covenanting General Hurry in 1645, and it has an interesting old churchyard.

For *Nairn*, see p. 388.

Motorists not pressed for time, however, are recommended to travel from Forres to *Nairn* by way of the *Findhorn Valley*, one of the most charming roads in Scotland, with good and varied scenery all the way.

The road turns off from the main highway by the *War Memorial* at the west end of Forres and soon reaches an area of rich heath and woodland—*The Forest of Altyre*. The *Findhorn* runs below on the right, and beyond the valley a glimpse may be caught of *Darnaway Castle*, one of the seats of the Earl of Moray. It is a modern building incorporating fragments of a castle built by Randolph, Earl of Moray, Regent of Scotland. At the fork about 6 miles from Forres turn down to the right. Here is *Relugas*, one of the points at which admission is gained to the lovely *Findhorn Glen*.

The most charming part is between *Sluie* and *Relugas*, though to visit *Altyre* or *Relugas* grounds special permission would have to be obtained. On account of the winding of the stream, the length of the Glen between the places named is 3 miles. The path along the eastern bank is always open to the public. So long as no trees are damaged or litter left, admission is granted daily to *Randolph's Leap*, except on Monday. (On that day those coming from a distance may be admitted.) Visitors who proceed to the Glen in hired vehicles are either set down at *Sluie* and picked up at *Relugas*, or *vice versa*. Pedestrians may shorten the walk by taking train to *Dunphail*. From the station they must walk back to the bridge over the *Divie* at *Relugas* (1½ miles). Cross the bridge and a wall a little beyond it (there are steps over the wall). Then follow a path which leads back to the bridge, past *Randolph's Leap*, a narrow rocky gorge in the grounds of *Relugas House*, a short distance above the confluence of the *Divie* with the *Findhorn*. It takes its name from a supposed feat of *Randolph*, the first Earl of Moray and the builder of *Randolph's Hall* at *Darnaway Castle*. From the bridge follow the path above the east side of the *Findhorn* to *Sluie*, where the high-road may be reached, or the river bank may be followed to a point only 3 miles from *Forres*.

Even those who do not leave the highway can enjoy the fine scenery of the Glen, beyond which the road climbs to heathery uplands about *Ferness*, 12 miles from *Forres* and a few miles north of *Lochindorb* (see p. 342) on the *Grantown* road. From the vicinity of the loch there are grand views of the mountains to the south.

For *Nairn*, however, turn sharp back to right at the fork at *Ferness* and after crossing the river by *Logie Bridge* climb the far side of the valley for the lovely run onward. Just beyond *Logie Bridge* a road on the right runs down the west side of the valley to the main road about 3 miles west of *Forres*, passing through *Darnaway Forest* and near the *Castle*. All delightful scenery.

The road to the left at *Logie Bridge* leads in about 4 miles to *Duistie Bridge*, a very beautiful part of the *Findhorn*. It may also be reached from the *Forres-Duthil* road, but this involves crossing the *Tom-lachlan Burn* by a ford which may not be possible when the stream is in flood.

Those bound for *Inverness* and with no special reason for visiting *Nairn* should turn off on the left about 2 miles south of that town by a road following the southern side of the *Nairn* valley and passing *Cawdor Castle* (p. 388). The river may then be crossed at various points: the third turning on the right, about 9 miles west of *Cawdor*, leads up from near the *Clava Stone Circles* (p. 391) to the main road close to the *Cumberland stone* on *Culloden Moor* (p. 391).

Nairn.

Angling.—Trout and salmon fishing in the *Nairn*. (Apply *Nairn Angling Association*.)

Distances.—Forres, 10½ m.; Elgin, 22 m.; Fort George, 8 m.; Inverness, 16 m.

Early Closing.—Wednesday.

Golf.—The *Nairn Club* has an 18-hole course, 3¼ miles in length, upon the seashore, besides a short 9-hole course (*Newton*). Visitors (introduced); June—Gentlemen, 8s. 6d. per day; 15s. per week. Ladies, 2s. 6d. per day; 10s. per week. From July 1 to September 30—Gentlemen, 5s. per day; £1 per week; £3 per month. Ladies, 2s. 6d. per day; 10s. per week. Winter months, 2s. 6d. per day; 10s. per week (ladies 5s. per week).

Newton Course.—Gentlemen, same as above. Ladies and juveniles (June to September), 2s. per day; 10s. per week; 25s. per month.

Dunbar Course, eastward of the town, 18 holes. Visitors: 2s. 6d. per day; 8s. per week; £1 5s. per month.

Hotels.—*Highland* (34 rooms; R. & b., 11s. 6d.), *Royal Marine* (60 rooms; R. & b., fr. 10s. 6d.), *Caledonian, Star, Golf Links, Golf View* (65 rooms; fr. 21s. per day), *Royal, Waverley (temp.)* (20 rooms; R. & b., 7s. 6d.). Numerous private lodgings and furnished houses.

Population.—4,201.

Sports.—Golf, bowls, cricket, tennis, pleasure cruises on Moray Firth, motor trips, rowing and bathing. Highland games, golf and tennis tournaments are held during August.

Nairn is a prosperous-looking town situated on the *Nairn* river, where it flows into the Moray Firth. The western end has been very attractively laid out, with a large green, known as the Links, overlooking the shore and used as a cricket ground in summer. There is splendid bathing, the sands extending for miles. Medical and other baths may be had at the swimming bath. There are three golf courses and facilities for tennis, bowls and other sports, and the residential portion of the town is very pleasant. The main street is dominated by the Town and County Buildings, beyond which it runs north to the fishermen's quarter and the harbour.

The surrounding district has many historical associations. To the east is *Hardmuir*, Macbeth's "blasted heath"; to the west is the *Height of Balblair*, the site of Cumberland's last camp before proceeding to the battlefield of Culloden; Cawdor Castle is within easy reach, and on the hills south of the town are the vitrified remains of Castle Finlay and the ruins of Rait Castle (fourteenth century).

Cawdor Castle is 5 miles south-west along a road leaving the Grantown highway about 2 miles out of Nairn.

Cawdor Castle.

(The public are no longer admitted to the Castle.)

The seat of Earl Cawdor, the Castle is built on the rocky bank of a mountain stream which flows into the River Nairn. It is popularly supposed to have been the scene of the murder of Duncan, and there is a room in which the crime is said to have taken place, but the foundation of the building dates only from

1454. The square keep is approached by an old drawbridge, the most perfect specimen, perhaps, of such entrances now in existence. In the interior are great stone mantelpieces, wrought with quaint devices; tapestries that were bought at Arras in 1682 and represent among other subjects the adventures of Don Quixote; mirrors that have been in use for a couple of centuries, and other old-world furniture. A design on the drawing-room mantelpiece represents a fox smoking a pipe. This relic of ancient Scottish art bears date 1510, seventy-five years before the traditional introduction of tobacco by Sir Walter Raleigh. A legend relating to the erection of the castle declares that the then thane, having obtained permission from his sovereign to erect a fortified castle, consulted one proficient in the "black art" as to the site. The soothsayer directed him to put his treasure on an ass and to raise the walls around the first tree at which the animal stopped. The thane obeyed, and the hawthorn tree where the ass halted is still to be seen in the dungeon, the iron chest in which the treasure was carried being preserved beside it. The Cawdor Toast is "Flourish the Thorn!" The Castle was built (1454) by the Calders, Thanes of Calder or Cawdor, on the site, probably, of a still older keep. The abduction in 1499, by a party of Campbells, of little Muriel Calder, "the red-haired lassie," gave rise to the saying, "It's a far cry to Lochow," according to one story. This child was the sole heiress, and her marriage with Sir John Campbell, 3rd son of the 2nd Earl of Argyll, founded the house of Campbell of Cawdor. (See also p. 208-9.)

Across the river a mile west of Cawdor is *Kilravock Castle* (not shown), dating from 1460, and with additions said to have been designed by Inigo Jones. The Castle has been in the possession of the Rose family since 1290.

Near Kilravock Castle is the *Loch of the Clans*, to which Prince Charlie's army marched on the day before Culloden, intending to give battle to Cumberland's forces. The loch contains curious examples of crannogs or lacustrine dwellings.

From a fork on the main road 2 miles west of Nairn a road runs out to *Campbelltown* and *Fort George*, overlooking the Firth of Inverness. Fort George, now the depot of the Seaforth Highlanders, was built soon after the rising of 1745 to overawe disaffected clans. (Ferry between Fort George and Chanonry, a mile from Fortrose in the Black Isle (p. 417).)

The main road to Inverness from Nairn is characterized by some long straight stretches, but on account of the views over the Firth, the slower road across Culloden Moor is preferable, apart from its historic interest.

The Battle of Culloden.

In 1745 Prince Charles Edward, grandson of James II, determined to regain the crown which James II had lost for his

father, the "Old Pretender." After narrowly escaping a British cruiser, which disabled a French warship that was accompanying his vessel, the Prince, with seven or eight followers, landed on the west coast of Eriska island, in the Outer Hebrides, on July 23. Two days later he reached the Scottish mainland at Borrodale, in Arisaig, and set up his standard at Glenfinnan on August 19. Cameron of Lochiel, against his better judgment, joined the Prince. Other Highlanders followed the example, but on August 20, when Charles began to march through the country, the rebel force numbered only 1,600. The Government was unprepared for the outbreak, and Charles reached Edinburgh, where he took possession of Holyrood Palace, and caused his father to be proclaimed King as James VIII. A royalist force, under Sir John Cope, was defeated at Prestonpans. Early in November the Prince's force began to march southwards. In England he took the town and castle of Carlisle, evaded the royal forces, and advanced as far south as Derby. There he unwillingly turned back, Lord George Murray and other chiefs deciding that further advance spelt disaster. Few adherents had joined him south of the Border. At Clifton Moor, near Penrith, he checked the pursuit of the Duke of Cumberland. The Prince entered Glasgow on December 26, and having made the city, which was unfriendly, pay him £10,000, he went on to Stirling. Despite a victory at Falkirk on January 17, 1746, the Highland army, discouraged by failure to capture Stirling Castle, retreated to Inverness, which was reached on February 18. Two days later, the garrison surrendered and the Castle was razed to the ground. As the spring advanced numbers of the Highlanders scattered to their homes.

The Duke of Cumberland had been advancing, and on April 14 reached Nairn. The following day, his birthday, was spent in rejoicing. The Jacobite force, which had been drawn out from Inverness to Culloden, attempted a night attack, but Nairn was 10 miles or more away and they had not reached it when day began to break. Tired, dispirited and half-starved, they were forced to turn back. At Culloden there was nothing for them to eat, and while many were away foraging the Hanoverian army arrived. With the Prince were about 5,000 men. The Duke of Cumberland had 9,000 men and he was reputed one of the ablest tacticians of the day. The two forces were drawn up 400 or 500 yards apart. The battle began at 1 o'clock and lasted but forty minutes. The Highlanders broke the first of the three enemy lines, but were repulsed by the second and utterly routed. No mercy was shown to the fugitives. There are many sad stories of the brutality with which they were treated, and Cumberland, from the measures he took after the battle, gained the name of "the Butcher." The estimate of the Highlanders' loss on the field and in flight varies from 1,000 to 2,000. The royalists had only 310 killed and wounded.

Accompanied by a few friends, the Prince fled from the field

and for five months wandered about the Highlands, while a reward of £30,000 was offered for his capture. On September 20 a French vessel bore him away from the vicinity of the spot on which he had landed thirteen months before. It will be remembered that he sank into sottishness, and died in 1788. At the date of the battle he was between twenty-five and twenty-six years of age, having been born in December, 1720. The Duke of Cumberland was a little younger, being twenty-five on the birthday he celebrated at Nairn.

About half a mile west of Culloden Moor Station, beside the road from Nairn, is the **Cumberland Stone**, a huge boulder which owes its name to the tradition that from the top of it the Duke of Cumberland directed the movements of his army.

The principal cairn is about 400 yards westward, and in a rough semicircle on the other side of the road are the graves of the Highlanders, buried according to their clans. The English were laid to rest in the only arable land then upon the Moor.

The road that runs past the Highlanders' graves has been made since the battle. That which existed at the time was about a quarter of a mile farther north. It ran along the edge of the depression known as the **Stable Hollow**, from the tradition that some of the Duke of Cumberland's cavalry were rested and fed in it. The ragweed, which is a common plant here, is said to have sprung from seed introduced by the hay brought for the horses.

In the valley north of the Moor, 2 miles from the battlefield, and surrounded by plantations, stands **Culloden House**. The old Castle was partly burned not long after the Rebellion, and the present mansion has to a large extent replaced the house in which Prince Charlie lodged the night before the battle; but the old portion contains a small apartment in which seventeen officers of the Highland army were confined for three days before being shot by order of the Duke of Cumberland.

The road south-east from the Cumberland Stone leads in a mile to the **Clava Stone Circles**, "the most splendid series of circles and cairns on the eastern side of the island." Each of the principal cairns is surrounded by great pillars or standing stones, and contains a central chamber some 12 feet high and 12 feet in diameter. Near one of the cairns is what has been held to be the foundation of an early Christian church or oratory.

Near the western end of Culloden Moor the road joins

the main highway from Carrbridge and Aviemore (pp. 338-40). All the way down are splendid views of Inverness and the Black Isle, with Beaully Firth between.

For Inverness, *see* p. 404.

ABERDEEN TO INVERNESS BY THE COAST.

Though longer (143 miles) than the direct route (104 miles) *via* Huntly, already described, this puts one in touch with good coast scenery, and along the north coast are several quaint little fishing villages worth a detour.

The way out of Aberdeen is by King Street, opposite the Cross. The Don is crossed by the New Brig, about a quarter of a mile farther downstream than the picturesque old Brig o' Balgownie (p. 363).

North of Aberdeen, between *Don* and *Ythan*, is the district known as *Formartine*. North of that again, between *Ythan* and *Deveron*, is the old territorial division of *Buchan*, the most easterly knuckle of Scotland. The *Buchan* district is for the most part flat and treeless, but is richly cultivated, and to the tourist appeals chiefly through its coast scenery and its historical associations. The richness of its Doric is at once the delight and the despair of strangers.

Places in these regions are connected by motor-bus with Aberdeen, and by rail are reached by the *Buchan Line* of the London and North-Eastern Railway. By road, keeping near the coast (while the railway describes an arc inland), the distances are less, Ellon being 16½ miles from Aberdeen, Cruden Bay 23 miles.

Newburgh (Udny Arms (15 rooms; R. and b., 10s.)), a dozen miles north of Aberdeen, stands beside the mouth of the *Ythan*, and was formerly of greater importance as a port. The *Ythan* is a good angling stream, and the various villages in its valley are favourite headquarters. Besides salmon, sea and lake trout, brook trout, whiting, grilse and pike, the river contains pearl mussels: one of the largest gems in the ancient crown of Scotland was obtained from this stream. *Ellon (New Inn, Station, Buchan)*, a few miles inland from Newburgh, has a municipal golf course and other sports facilities in addition to fishing. A mile or so farther upstream is *Haddo House* (the Earl of Haddo); and to the south is *Udny* (an angling centre), overlooked by a castle rebuilt some fifty years ago.

The wide estuary of the *Ythan* is crossed a little above Newburgh, and then the road runs past the sands of Forvie, among which are the remains of a building said to have been the parish church. *Collieston* is a quaint and primitive fishing village famous for its speldrins (small fish split, salted and dried in the sun). The village is sprinkled over the cliffs surrounding a small beach, and in the vicinity are interesting caves (lights necessary for exploration). On a headland a mile or so north of *Collieston* are the remains of the old *Castle of Stains*, destroyed after the Counter-Reformation under the personal direction of James VI.

Between *Udny* and *Tarves* is *Tolquhon Castle (admission, 6d.; summer 8-8, winter 8-dusk; Sundays 1-7 or 1-dusk)*, built on the courtyard plan and an excellent example of Scottish architecture in the late sixteenth century.

CRUDEN BAY.

Distances.—Aberdeen by road, 23 m.; Peterhead, 9 m.

Golf.—A course of 18 holes; also a 9-hole course. Visitors staying at *Cruden Bay Hotel*: 3s. per day; 12s. 6d. per week; 35s. per month; Sundays, 3s. Other visitors: 4s. 6d. per day; 17s. 6d. per week; 50s. per month; Sundays, 4s. 6d.

Hotels.—*Cruden Bay* (100 rooms; R. & b., fr. 8s.), *Kilmarnock Arms*. Numerous apartments.

Sports.—Bathing, golf, angling in the *Cruden Burn*, boating and sea-fishing, tennis, croquet, bowls.

Cruden Bay is situated in the very centre of the most picturesque part of the *Buchan Coast*, noted for its bold and precipitous cliffs, its fantastically shaped rocks, and its numerous caves.

The bay itself is fringed with a clean hard sandy beach, over 2 miles in length, admirably adapted for bathing, and backed by an extensive stretch of sand dunes, the "Ward of Cruden," on which are the *Golf Courses* of eighteen holes and nine holes. The full-sized course is nearly 3½ miles long. Its greens are a special feature.

The hotel stands on part of the site on which was fought the final battle (1012) between the Scots and the Danes. The relics found include a neck-chain and a battle-axe that have been deposited in the museum at Peterhead.

Moat Hill, on *Ardiffery Farm*, near the station, is said to have been the seat of justice in feudal times.

To the south of the beach is a long low promontory, off which is a reef of sunken rocks called the Scaurs, or Skerries, running far into the sea. Over them the waves break at high water in misty foam, and upon them many a gallant ship has been wrecked. About the middle of the bay is a lofty headland, called the Hawklaw, from which there is a magnificent prospect. Inland from the Scaurs is Whinnyfold, a picturesque village in some favour as a quiet resort and a favourite haunt of picnic parties.

Aulton Road connects with the village of Port Erroll, which lies along the Cruden Burn and has a harbour that can accommodate a large number of fishing boats. Here pleasure boats can be hired.

On a granite headland above Port Erroll is the site of the now demolished Slains Castle (1836), formerly the residence of the Earls of Erroll. The old Castle of Slains is 5 miles south (see p. 393).

The neighbouring coast scenery is very fine. A little to the north of the site of the more modern Slains Castle is a rock pierced with two openings which is known as the *Twa Een* (i.e., two eyes), and a little farther north is the *Dun Buy* (Yellow Rock). Near this is a cave with two openings, one of them a little way inland, which has earned the name *Hell's Lum* (lum = chimney) from the way in which, during an easterly gale, the spume is forced out of the inner opening. The most striking feature of the coast, however, is at The Bullers of Buchan, a huge circular cavern, or basin, open to the sky and entered from the sea through a narrow arched opening. It is in a promontory on the north side of a narrow creek, at the head of which are a few cottages. The sides of the cavern are perpendicular walls of rock that in places are less than a couple of yards wide. In calm weather it is possible for those who have strong nerves to walk round the cauldron, but during storms the sea dashes quite over the lofty sides, and any human being in its way would be swept to destruction. One can well believe, on such an occasion, that "Bullers" is a corruption of "Boilers." In calm weather boats may be taken inside—a trip graphically described in Dr. Johnson's *Journey to the Western Isles*.

The Bullers is a popular resort. The nearest villages are *Longhaven*, 2 miles north, and *Boddam*, at Buchan Ness,

the most easterly point in Scotland. Boddam is given up to fishing. The headquarters of fishing in these parts, however, is Peterhead (*Palace, Royal, North-Eastern*), 32 miles by road from Aberdeen and the most easterly town in Scotland. Three hundred years ago Peterhead was celebrated as "the Tunbridge Wells of Scotland," and at various periods since it has enjoyed some fame as a health and pleasure resort. To-day it is one of the principal Scottish ports concerned with the herring fishery. In the bay south of the town is a huge National Harbour of Refuge.

From Peterhead a road runs westward to Macduff and Banff by way of *Longside* (John Skinner, 1721-1807, author of *Tullochgorum* and other favourite Scottish poems, was minister of the Episcopal church for over sixty years) and *Mintlaw*, near which are the remains of the *Abbey of Deer* (*weekdays 10-4 or 7, Sundays 11-3 or 4; 3d.*). A Cistercian Abbey was founded here in the thirteenth century, but fell to decay after the Reformation; in 1927 a re-dedication of the property took place. Long before the Cistercians came here, however, there was a Celtic Christian monastery at Old Deer: the most treasured relic is the celebrated ninth-century Book of Deir, now in Cambridge University Library.

Between Peterhead and Fraserburgh the road runs at some distance from the coast. Just outside Peterhead are the ruins of Inverugie Castle and those of Ravenscraig Castle. The landscape is flat, relieved by the lone height of *Mormond Hill* (769 feet), on one slope of which is a white horse made in 1700 and on the other the figure of a stag made in 1870. Eastward of the road is the uninteresting *Loch of Strathbeg*; at the south end is the old castle of Rattray.

Fraserburgh (*Royal, Saltoun* (17 rooms, *R. and b., 7s.*), *Station*) was founded in 1570 by Sir Alexander Fraser, ancestor of the Saltoun family, and is almost entirely given up to the herring fishery. During the season its normal population of about 10,000 is increased by several thousand workers who follow the shoals down the coast. The sight of the industry in full blast is memorable.

The northernmost part of the town is on *Kinnaird Head*, where are the remains of Sir Alexander Fraser's Castle, surmounted by a lighthouse. Near it is the Wine

Tower, the origin and use of which are unknown. The only entrance is on an upper storey, the wooden stairway to which is modern.

From Fraserburgh to Macduff the road winds among numerous hamlets, now almost on the cliffs, now some way inland. Along by Roseheart, Aberdour and Pennan (11 miles) the cliff scenery is wonderful and compensates for the shortcomings of the road. Near Roseheart are the ruins of *Pitsligo Castle*, the residence of the outlawed Alexander Forbes, Lord Pitsligo, after Culloden. Two miles west is a cave also bearing his name. Aberdour has the ruined Dundarg Castle and St. Drostan's Chapel and Well to interest antiquaries.

For the rest of the way to Banff, *see* pp. 398-9.

ABERDEEN TO BANFF VIA OLD MELDRUM AND TURRIFF.

This is the shortest route to the Moray Firth coast and serves several of the most popular resorts along that shore.

Aberdeen is left by George Street and so to Bucksburn (p. 376), where we take the right-hand road at the fork. Approaching Old Meldrum we have Udney (*see* p. 392), away to the right and to the left the hill of Barra (*see* p. 376). In Old Meldrum turn off to the right and so to Fyvie, beyond which the road skirts the lovely grounds of Fyvie Castle, a very fine example of "the rich architecture which the Scottish Barons of the days of King James VI obtained from France." On one of the turrets is the stone effigy of Andrew Lammie, celebrated in a "waeiful" ballad taking its name from the Mill o' Tifty, half a mile north-east of the Castle. Eastward from Fyvie is *Gight Castle*, once in the possession of the Byron family.

The main road passes under the railway about 2½ miles north of Fyvie, and about 2 miles farther the square keep of *Towie Barclay Castle* (1800) overlooks the road on the left. Yet another 2 miles, and the red sandstone castle of Haddon is on the right.

Turrieff (*Fife Arms*) is a busy little place, the centre of a prosperous agricultural district. The Old Church belonged to the Knights Templars, but only the choir and belfry remain. The "Trot of Turrieff" on May 14, 1630, was a Royalist surprise and a Covenanting flight,

but this skirmish saw the first blood shed in the Civil War in Scotland.

From Turrieff rail and road run down the east side of the beautiful valley of the *Deveron* to Banff.

About 4 miles from Turrieff is the ruin of Eden Castle, the ancient seat of the once powerful Earls of Buchan.

There is a legend of the murder, by one of the earls, of the only son of a widow. According to the story, the laird, at the earnest request of the woman, undertook the correction of her son, who had got beyond her control. By way of performing his task the laird took the youth down to the Deveron and having plunged him into the "pot," held him there till he was drowned. Meeting his mother, the laird told her what he had done. Resenting his too effective treatment, she pronounced as a curse on his castle the words: "Cauld blaw the win' about the Hoose o' Eden." In consequence of this imprecation there is said to be always a wind about Eden, even on the calmest summer day.

The name of King Edward (5 miles from Banff), a corruption of *Ceann-eadar*, is pronounced *Kin-edart*.

Banff and Macduff are twin towns respectively on the west and east sides of the mouth of the Deveron, across which is a seven-arched bridge designed by Smeaton. Each town has its harbour, each is busy with fishing and each has its golf and its residential portions. Of the two, Banff is more likely to appeal to staying visitors, being a clean and attractive town with hotels, lodgings, etc.

Banff.

Angling.—There is good sea-fishing, while guests at the *Fife Arms Hotel* may fish for salmon and sea-trout in the Deveron.

Golf.—18-hole course in the grounds of Duff House. Visitors: 1s. 6d. per round; day, 2s. 6d.; Sunday, 3s. 6d.; week, 10s.; month, 30s. Tarlair Course (*see* p. 308) is within easy reach.

Hotels.—*Fife Arms* (29 rooms; R. & D., fr. 10s.), *Royal Oak*, and several temperance hotels including *Seafield*, *Rose's*, *Crown*, etc.

Population.—3,518.

Tennis, Bowls, Boating.

Banff is the capital of the county of the same name and was the site of a royal castle which on three occasions was the headquarters of the English king Edward I. James Sharp—"Sharp of that ilk"—the famous Archbishop of St. Andrews, was born in it in 1613. The present Banff Castle is a house that was erected in 1750. The old churchyard contains remains of the ancient Parish Church and interesting gravestones. The shaft of the Market Cross is supposed to date from pre-Reformation days. Sharing a building with the Public Library is an excellent Museum, of which Thomas

Edward, the "Scottish naturalist" of Smiles's well-known work, was for thirty years curator. Westward of the town is a beautiful sandy beach, excellent for bathing, (shelters are provided).

Duff House, formerly a seat of the Earls of Fife, dates from the middle of the eighteenth century. In 1906 it was presented to the two towns of Banff and Macduff by the Duke of Fife, who gave with it that portion of the park immediately surrounding the house, covering an area of about 140 acres and including the gardens, stables, lodges and some rod fishing in the Deveron. Golf and tennis are played in the grounds.

Through the park is a path by the side of the *Deveron* to the **Bridge of Alvah**, 2 miles, where the river has scooped out a deep channel, the surface of the water being 40 feet below the bridge. **Montcoffer House**, a residence belonging to Princess Arthur of Connaught, on the east bank of the Deveron, overlooks the bridge.

Owing to engineering difficulties, the railway is not carried across the mouth of the Deveron, and Banff and Macduff are the termini of two separate branch lines (L.N.E.R.), the stations being connected by motor-bus.

Macduff (*Fife Arms, Plough, Fraser (temp.), Bay View (temp.), The Knowes (temp.)*) as a town dates only from 1783, when through the influence of the second Earl of Fife with King George III the existing hamlet of Doune was made a burgh under the name of Macduff, Viscount Macduff being one of his lordship's titles.

At **Tarlair** (where the Royal Tarlair Golf Club has its course: 2s. day, 7s. 6d. week), about a mile to the east, is the *Howe of Tarlair*—a picturesque bay enclosed on three sides by high cliffs. Within the Howe is Tarlair Spa (chalybeate); a Swimming Pool has been constructed under the shadow of the famous "Needle's E'e" Rock.

Eastward of Tarlair the coast is rocky and precipitous. The district has been of great interest to students of geology since Hugh Miller graphically portrayed it in his *Rambles of a Geologist*, and it is the scene of that Buchan classic, *Johnny Gibb of Gushetneuk* (1871), by William Alexander.

Specially conspicuous features in the contour of the coast are three promontories—Gamrie Head (or Mhor Head), Troup Head and Pennan Head.

On **Gamrie Head** are the ruins of **Gamrie Church**, said to have been built in 1004, in fulfilment of a vow made during a Danish raid.

In a narrow bay on the eastern side of Gamrie Head is the fishing village of **Gardenstown**, named after its founder, Alexander Garden, of Troup. It presents a very picturesque appearance, as it slopes up from the shore and clings to the steep side of an overhanging hill.

A rough footpath at the base of the cliffs connects Gardenstown with the smaller fishing village of **Crovie**.

Troup Head, a mile from Gardenstown, is the most northerly projection on this part of the coast. Hereabouts is "a rugged mass of broken hills, forming a cluster of remarkably wild glens, rich to exuberance in plants and flowers—a very garden of delights to the botanist." In the vicinity of the Battery Green a narrow opening on the slope of the hill bears the somewhat common name of *Hell's Lum*. From it a subterranean passage, nearly 100 yards in length, extends to the sea, and along this, on the occasion of a storm, the spray is forced till it finds its escape by the lum, or chimney, appearing like dense smoke. Not far from Hell's Lum is another subterranean passage, called the *Needle's Eye*. It is some 15 to 20 yards long, exceedingly narrow, and terminates in a large cavern called the Devil's Dining-Room, supported by huge columns of rock, and facing the sea, which runs into it.

Pennan Head protects a small harbour and the quaint little fishing village of **Pennan**. Hence to Fraserburgh, see pp. 395-6.

Westward from Banff the Elgin road and the Moray Firth coast-line of the L.N.E. Railway run past a succession of villages and small towns that for most of the year are immersed in the fishing industry and during summer are popular little holiday resorts. From Banff road and rail run inland behind rising ground and the sea is out of sight for some miles. In about 2 miles a road on the right leads over the ridge to **Whitehills**, a quaint fishing village with two harbours—one used by the fishing boats, the other a miniature affair into which only the smallest craft can wriggle. The coast is wild and rocky. There is an inn and lodgings can be had.

Hence to Portsoy the only feature of outstanding interest in view is *Durn Hill* (651 feet). **Portsoy** (*Com-*

mercials, Station) is a clean little fishing town with the double harbour characteristic of this part of the coast and excellent rock scenery in the neighbourhood. A beautiful serpentine, formerly quarried in the neighbourhood, is known as Portsoy Marble, some of which has a place in the Palace of Versailles. Portsoy is a favourite holiday resort; in addition to bathing, boating and fishing, there are bowls and tennis, and golf at Banff.

Two miles west of Portsoy is the tiny hamlet of **Sandend**, on a fine bay, and between that and Cullen are the ruins of *Findlater Castle*, perched on the cliffs and reached by a somewhat intricate path. The Castle ceased to be inhabited about 1600. On the south side of the main road is *Fordyce Castle* (1592), still inhabited, and those with time to spare might detour by Fordyce to Kirktown of Deskford and reach Cullen by the charming little glen extending to the coast a little west of the town.

Cullen.

Distances.—Aberdeen, 65 m.; Banff, 13½ m.; Elgin, 21 m.; Inverness, 40 m.
Early Closing.—Wednesday.

Hotels.—*Grant Arms, Seafield Arms, Royal Oak.*

Sports.—Angling in the Cullen Burn (permission from Seafield Trustees necessary); sea-fishing, boating, bathing; golf (2s. day, 7s. 6d. week); bowls and tennis and putting in grounds off Seafield Place.

Cullen is finely situated at the eastern end of its extensive bay. A feature of the main street is the manner in which the railway viaduct at its foot has been designed to imitate an ancient gateway—an excellent effort which might well have been followed elsewhere. The town stands on high ground, and the road to the sands winds down above the harbour and the fishing quarter. Adjoining the sands is the golf course, and light refreshments may be obtained at the pavilion by all. The rocks on the shore are dignified by the name of the *Three Kings of Cullen*. The charming grounds of **Cullen House**, with several miles of lovely walks, are open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cullen ("Portlossie") and Cullen House are depicted by George MacDonald in *Malcolm* and *The Marquis of Lossie*. The **Bin of Cullen** (1,050 feet), 3 miles south-west, commands a wide view, including the distant Cairngorms.

From Cullen to Fochabers the main road runs inland, through woods and with charming views, but an even more interesting road follows the coast closely and

introduces one to a number of delightfully quaint, unsophisticated little fishing villages which make excellent quarters for a quiet holiday. **Portknockie, Findochty** and **Portessie** have accommodation for visitors.

Buckie (*Commercial*) is a busy fishing port with an up-to-date and interesting harbour. Nets are spread to dry everywhere, and the Buckie trawlers, with their distinctive funnel mark "BCK," are known far down the East Coast. The numerous church spires suggest that the Buckie folk are as pious as they are industrious.

So by **Buckpool** and **Portgordon**—fishing villages in process of being "discovered"—to **Spey Bay**, a little past of the point where the *Spey* completes its long and adventurous journey from the Monadhliath Mountains beyond Kingussie and flows quietly into the Firth. The principal features of Spey Bay as a resort are the *Richmond Gordon Hotel* (36 rooms; *R. and b.*, 10s. 6d.), and the fine golf links (2s. round, 3s. day). Close to the river-mouth is the *Tugnet*, the headquarters of the Duke of Gordon's salmon fisheries, which extend for 10 miles along the coast. Spey Bay is four miles from Fochabers (p. 379), where the river is crossed by a bridge giving fine views up and down river.

Hence to **Inverness**, see pages 380-391.

THE ALFORD VALLEY.

This provides an alternative to the direct route between Aberdeen and Keith by Inverurie, and also provides the eastern portion of the fine cross-country route by way of Cock Bridge and Tomintoul to Strathspey. The road north of Cock Bridge called the **Lecht Road**, rises very steeply to a height of 2,114 feet and has many sharp corners. It was for many years in bad condition, but has been greatly improved in recent years. There is yet room for considerable improvement which would make the route one of the most important east-to-west routes in the Highlands.

From Aberdeen *via* Kintore (p. 376) or *via* Skene to Tillyfourie, where the two routes unite. Some 5 miles south-west of Kintore and between the two routes is **Castle Fraser**, a grand specimen of Flemish architecture in perfect repair, although mainly built about 1617, while the square tower is ascribed to the fifteenth century. **Cluny Castle**, a mile or so westward, is fifteenth century,

rebuilt in 1836. To the north is **Monymusk**, with Monymusk House, one of the finest mansions in Aberdeenshire. The mansion as well as the parish church is said to have been built from the materials of an Augustinian priory that stood near; a carved stone by the roadside is also ascribed to the priory. From Tillyfourie Station the road runs through a gap in the hills and enters the fertile *Howe of Alford*. A road on the right some 2 miles from the station leads to **Keig**, where is Castle Forbes, and in the vicinity of which the river scenery is particularly delightful. Beside the main road half a mile short of Alford is the ruined **Balfluig Castle** (1556).

Alford (*Forbes Arms* (20 rooms; *R. and b.*, 7s. 6d.), *Haughton Arms*) is a pleasant village which offers nice fishing and forms a very fair centre for a number of attractive short excursions. About 5 miles to the north is **Terspersie Castle** (1561); 5 miles south is **Craigievar Castle**, in a fine position overlooking the Leochel Burn. It is a capital example of the Scottish castellated style, and is still inhabited. Over the staircase is a coat of arms with the date 1668 and the injunction "Do not vaiken sleiping dogs." Still farther south is **Aboyne** (p. 365), on the Dec, and westward from Alford the main route continues to the old toll of **Mossat** (7½ miles from Alford), where the main road goes off northward through **Strathbogie** to meet the road from Aberdeen *via* Inverurie a few miles short of **Huntly** (p. 378). The **Tomintoul** road bears to the left at Mossat, and in a couple of miles reaches **Kildrummy**, where are the extensive ruins of a castle that is connected with the old Kings of Scotland and the history of the Bruce. Edward I captured the castle in 1306 and cruelly put to death Bruce's youngest brother. Thence through the narrow sylvan **Den of Kildrummy**, and the **Deeside** height of **Morven** is seen ahead. About 12 miles from Alford is the *Glenkindie Arms Hotel*, not far from **Towie Castle**, the scene of the pathetic Scottish ballad *Edom o' Gordon*, if it was the castle burnt by Adam Gordon, brother of the Earl of Huntly, in 1571, when the wife and children of Alexander Forbes, its owner, perished in the flames.

The *Kindie Water* is crossed, and not far beyond is **Glenkindie House**. In a small plantation in the second field on the right beyond that is a **Picts' House** containing two chambers—the most interesting of the many Picts'

houses in the district. Farther westward the road crosses the mouth of the *Buchat*, which flows for 7 miles down a wild glen, in which are **Badenyon**, famous in song, and **Glenbuchat Castle**, the latter (now a ruin) built in the sixteenth century, and situated near the main road.

In the next 3 miles there are first the farm of **Buchaam**, with an earth house in the garden, and then the grounds of **Castle Newe** (now taken down). About 2 miles beyond the latter **Upper Strathdon** is entered at **Bellabeg** (*hotel*). The church and manse of **Strathdon** are on the right bank. The ruined **Colquhony Castle** (begun in the sixteenth century) is said never to have been completed, because during its construction three of the lairds fell from the top and were killed. Hard by is the **Doune of Invernochty**, a once fortified mound. (A footpath, from the **Glen of the Nochty**, crosses **Cairnmore** and descends by the **Ladder of Glenlivet** into the valley of the **Spey**.) The road rises rapidly, and passes **Corgarff Castle**, which contests with **Towie** the repute of the tragedy of the **Forbes** family in 1571.

At **Cock Bridge**, 1,344 feet above sea-level, is the *Allargue Hotel*, for which its proprietor claims the distinction of being the highest permanently inhabited hotel in Scotland.

A motor-bus connects **Cock Bridge** (28 miles) and **Bellabeg** (19 miles) with **Alford**.

Cock Bridge to Ballater (13 miles).—A rough hilly road running in a fairly straight line. The route is described in the reverse direction in connection with **Ballater** (p. 367).

Cock Bridge to Braemar (23 miles) *via* **Inchrory**, which is situated in the valley of the **Avon**, 6 miles to the west of **Cock Bridge**, and is reached by following the road that runs close to the south side of the **Don**. The road from **Inchrory Lodge** to **Braemar** is described in the reverse direction on p. 372.

At **Cock Bridge** the highway leaves the **Don** and goes northward by a very rough and precipitous moorland route across the **Lecht** into **Banffshire**, attaining a height of 2,114 feet. Six miles farther (37 from **Alford**) it reaches **Tomintoul** (p. 344).