

Note:

The following PDF is a scan of a monograph entitled “**Arbuthnott**”, relating to the life and times in the Arbuthnott Parish in Kincardineshire, Scotland around 1907 and sixty years before. It was originally printed in 1908 in association with a Bazaar in Bervie Burgh Hall, to raise funds to build a Parish Hall at Arbuthnott. The scan is of a 1992 reprint of the original. The reprint was purchased from the Lewis Grassie Gibbon Centre, located adjacent to the Arbuthnott Parish Hall on the Bervie Road (B967), which runs from Inverbervie (referred to as Bervie in the book) on the East coast of Scotland between Montrose and Stonehaven, and Fordoun to the West on the A90.

The scan is provided for genealogical research purposes, and if you are interested in a bound hard copy, as at January 2008, the 1992 reprint of the “Arbuthnott” book can be purchased for £4.50 by mail order from the Lewis Grassie Gibbon website:

www.grassiegibbon.com/

The book includes a text prepared by Geo. Clark Suttie, F.S.A Scot., of Lathlan, entitled:

ARBUTHNOTT
WITH REMINISCENCES
OF THE
PARISH
SIXTY YEARS AGO.

This means the reminiscences date back to around 1850, making it a valuable historic document for families with connections in the area.

The book also contains information on the 1908 Bazaar, the committee members and stall holders and the advertisers who supported the publication of the book.

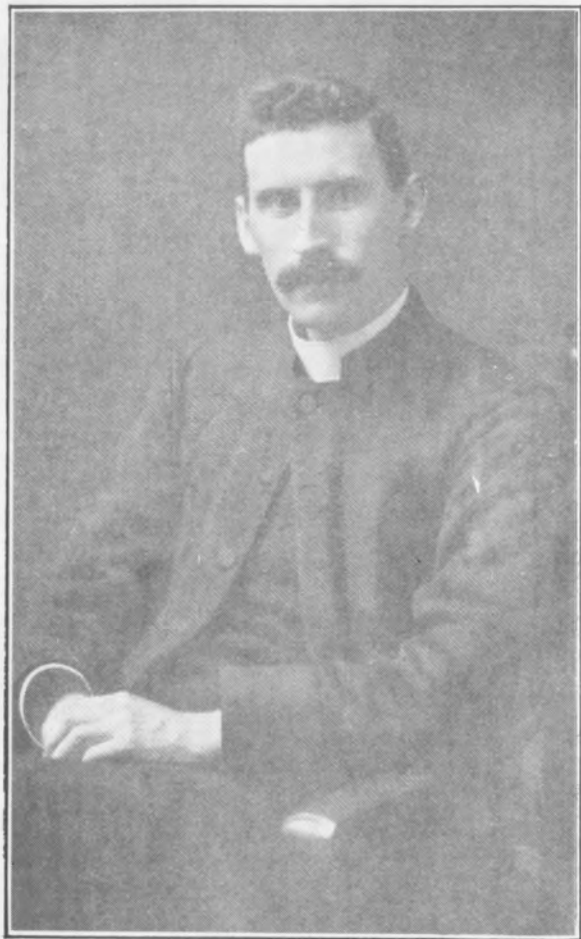
If you wish to print a hard copy, it is suggested you print the file two pages to the page.

ARBUTHNOTT



BY
Geo. Clark Suttie, F.S.A. Scot.,
of Lalathan.

Price, One Shilling.



REV. CHARLES DUNN, B.D.,
MINISTER OF ARBUTHNOTT.

This Book

IS ISSUED IN CONNECTION

WITH

BAZAAR

HELD IN

BERVIE BURGH HALL,

AUGUST 21st and 22nd,

1908

Editorial Note.

IN issuing this Book of the Arbuthnott Bazaar of 1908, the Editor, on behalf of the Committee, has acknowledgments to make. In the first place many thanks are due to George Clark Suttie, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., of Lalathan, for the very interesting "Short History of the Parish and Reminiscences of Sixty Years Ago." The "Reminiscences" were delivered as a lecture to the parishioners in 1907, and the MSS. were generously handed to the Editor in order that he might add them to the collection of matter he has already made for a more extended "History of the Parish." When it was suggested that the lecture should be issued on the present occasion, and in this form, Mr. Suttie kindly acquiesced, and gave every assistance in its publication.

It is to be hoped that Arbuthnott folks, old and young, will welcome the publication of these "Reminiscences," which give the book more than a passing interest. There is much in them to interest many who are outwith the parish, as well as Arbuthnott folks who have gone to other lands.

The advertisers are thanked for their generous aid in making the book what the Committee hope it may be, a source of profit to the Bazaar Fund.

A. M.

The following Appeal for Funds for a Hall for the Parish of Arbuthnott was issued in January, 1908, under the distinguished patronage of:--

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, K.G., G.C.S.I.,
G.C.M.G., G.C.S.E.

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THE HON. MRS. STUART, of Laithers.

ARTHUR BADENOCH NICOLSON, Esq. of Glenbervie.

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„ STEWART.

Miss B. ARCHIBALD.

„ WEBSTER.

„ BANNERMAN.

—:O:—

THE want of a Hall for the Parish of Arbuthnott has long been felt, but as it was generally held that such a building should not be a charge upon the Ratepayers, the difficulty was how to find the necessary funds. Last year this difficulty was overcome when the members of the Women's Guild unanimously agreed that they would make an effort to raise funds to build a hall which would be available for parish purposes.

At present the only building available for the use of the parishioners is the Public School; but apart altogether from its constructive defects for recreation, etc., it is not conceivable that it could be used for all those purposes which are deemed so desirable if the people living in our country districts are to have some of the advantages of those living in our towns.

With regard to the cost, the Committee have called in an architect (Mr. James B. Scott) to advise them, and he has prepared provisional plans for a hall to seat 250 persons at a cost of about £800. The hall will be divided into two parts by a rolling partition (movable)—the one half to be used for recreation and the other for a reading room and lending library. If sufficient money is raised, two rooms would be added to complete the building as shewn on provisional plans.

The Committee, to insure the after success of the scheme, have determined not to commence building operations until the necessary funds are forthcoming. Towards the Building Fund the sum of £70 was raised locally by means of a Sale of Work held in December, 1906, and since then additions to the fund have been made as well as promises of help (financial and otherwise) received.

To complete the fund, the Committee intend holding a Grand Bazaar in August, 1908, and they appeal to the kindly generosity of those who are interested in the welfare and prosperity of rural life.



In aid of the above appeal, a . . .

GRAND BAZAAR AND FAIR

will be held in the BURGH HALL, BERVIE, on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, 21st and 22nd August, 1908.

The Bazaar will be opened each day at two o'clock. On Friday, by ROBERT VERNON HARCOURT, Esq., M.P. for the Montrose Burghs, and on Saturday, by GEO. CLARK SUTTIE, Esq., of Lalathan.

STALLHOLDERS.



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Mrs. BROWN, Manse, Bervie.
 Mrs. BARRON, Manse, Dunnottar.
 Mrs. BURNETT, Manse, Fetteresso.
 Mrs. CRUICKSHANK, Manse, Kinneff.
 Mrs. DAVIDSON, Manse, St. Cyrus.
 Mrs. GALBRAITH, Manse, Fordoun.
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 Mrs. NICOLL, Manse, Benholm.
 Mrs. SCOTT, Manse, Laurencekirk.
 Mrs. SPENCE, Square, Bervie.
 Mrs. STEPHEN, Manse, Garvock.



Bervie Stall.

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. AYMER. | Miss SPENCE. |
| Miss GREIG. | Miss A. SPENCE. |
| Miss C. GREIG. | Mrs. WEBSTER. |

and ASSISTANTS,



Stall No. 1.

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Mrs. J. STEWART. | Miss JAMIESON. |
| Mrs. PATERSON. | Miss MURRAY. |
| Mrs. RIDDOCH. | Miss K. BRUCE. |
| Mrs. SKENE, | |

and ASSISTANTS.

Stall No. 2.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. REID. | Miss M. MURRAY. |
| Mrs. ARCHIBALD. | Miss HALL. |
| Mrs. EDDIE. | Miss MACHRAY. |
| Miss MUTCH. | |

and ASSISTANTS.

**Game, Poultry, and Dairy Produce, &c., Stall.**

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
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| Mrs. M. STEWART. | Mr. G. BRUCE. |
| Miss M. STEWART. | Mr. PATERSON. |
| Mr. A. BLACK. | Miss WALKER. |
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and ASSISTANTS.

**Confectionery Stall.**

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Miss BANNERMAN. | Miss B. BLACK. |
| Miss A. ALLISON. | Miss L. EDDIE. |
| Miss L. BANNERMAN. | Miss A. PREDDY. |
| Miss H. BLACKWOOD. | Miss MADGE ARCHIBALD. |
| Miss MARION JOHNSTON. | |

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| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. MASON. | Miss MUNRO. |
| Mrs. PREDDY. | Miss FOTHERINGHAM. |
| Mrs. ALLISON. | Miss J. FOTHERINGHAM. |
| Miss J. ARCHIBALD. | Miss KING. |
| Miss B. EDDIE. | Miss PETER. |
| Miss SMART. | Miss PETRIE. |
| Miss LAIRD. | Miss B. MILNE. |
| Miss CUSHNIE. | Miss McINTYRE. |
| Miss CLARK. | Miss INVERARITY. |
| Miss HOOD. | |

**Jumble Stall.**

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. BANNERMAN. | Mr. EDDIE. |
| Mrs. BLACKWOOD. | Mr. J. STEWART. |

COMPETITIONS.



Cookery Competitions.

Open to all. Entry Free. Handsome Prizes.

SCONES (Sweet Milk). SCONES (Butter Milk).

SCONES (Drop).

FRUIT CAKE (Sultana), 1 lb. or over.

OATMEAL CAKES and BANNOCKS. SMALL TEA CAKES.

Strawberry, Raspberry, and Gooseberry JAM, 1 lb. or over.

Best 1 lb. Section of HONEY.

1 lb. BUTTER (fresh). 1 lb. BUTTER (salt).

For further information apply to Secretary—Miss ARCHIBALD, CLUSEBURN. Goods must be lodged with the Secretary at the Hall not later than 12 o'clock on FRIDAY, 21st August.

Brown & Polson Competition.

Valuable Prizes will be given by Messrs. Brown & Polson.

For recipes and conditions apply to Secretaries.



Entertainments.

SHOOTING GALLERY—The property of Mr. Cobb. Prizes for best scores.

NAIL DRIVING COMPETITION for Ladies. Entry Money 1d. 4 Prizes. In charge of Mr. Reid.

WASHING and MILLINERY COMPETITIONS for Men, &c., &c. In charge of Mr. G. Gray. Entry Money 3d.

Bervie FISH PONDS (lessee of Pond, Mr. G. Bannerman). Cost 3d. DIPS, &c. 2d. and 6d.

GRAND ART GALLERY.

Pictures on loan from, and after, Present and Past Masters. Guides, Messrs. J. Black and D. McIntosh. Admission, including Guide, 1d. Open all day.

SELECTIONS of MUSIC, CONCERTS, THEATRICALS, &c.

Under the charge of Messrs. Watson, Davidson, and Riddoch.

The following Musicians have kindly agreed to give Songs during the afternoon and evening :—Rev. R. Galbraith, Fordoun ; Mr. Sheriffs, Bervie, and others. A DRAMATIC SKETCH, entitled “Leave it to me,” will be given each evening by the following Artistes :—Misses Black and Eddie and Messrs. J. Black, G. Bruce, D. Eddie, and G. Webster.

**A Bazaar Book.**

SKETCH of ARBUTHNOTT, by GEO. C. SUTTIE, Esq., of Lalathan, will be published in connection with the Bazaar. PRICE ONE SHILLING.



TICKETS of Admission, 6d, entitling holder to Sixpence worth of Goods at the Bazaar, may be had from Mr. Preddy or Mr. Mutch.

CONVEYANCE.—To convey visitors to the Bazaar, Motor Cars will be run by Messrs. Davidson, Bervie, at reduced rates to and from Fordoun and Stonehaven Stations. Hours of departure in “Laurencekirk Observer,” August 14th.

**Secretaries :**

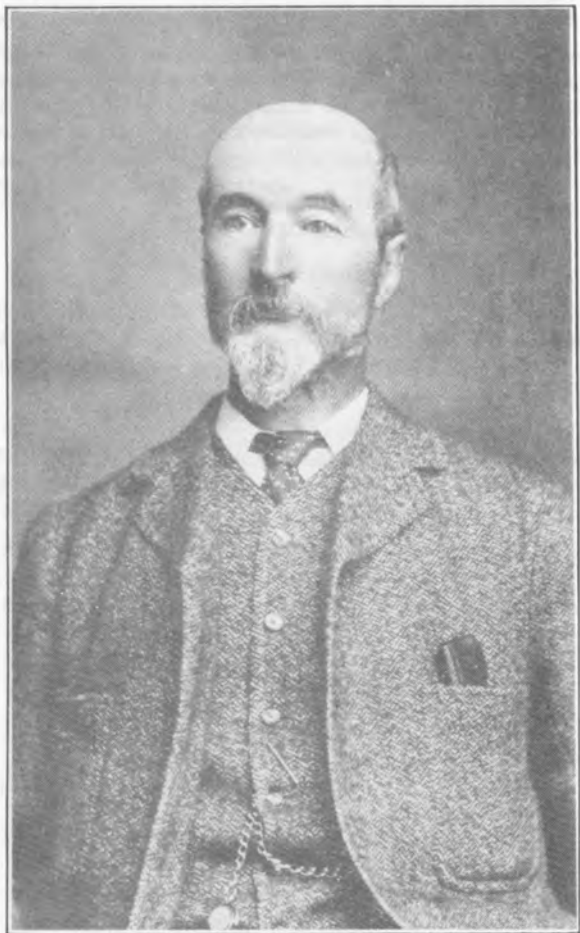
Miss ARCHIBALD, Cluseburn.

Mr. D. EDDIE, Milltown.

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Mr. STEWART, Pitcarles.

Mr. WM. BANNERMAN, Gourdon.



GEO. CLARK SUTTIE, ESQ., F.S.A. SCOT.

ARBUTHNOTT

With some Reminiscences

of the

PARISH

Sixty Years Ago

BY

GEO. CLARK SUTTIE, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.,

OF LALATHAN,

1907.

PRINTED BY WILLIAM JOLLY, MONTROSE.

1908.

Arbuthnott's Woods and Braes.

Through vistas of the long gone by,
Past scenes revive to memory's eye,
And many a reminiscence sweet
The old-time tales again repeat ;
Till to the THEN the NOW doth flee,
And evermore brings back to me
The golden haze of youthful days,
To gild Arbuthnott's woods and braes.

Preface.

IN the following notes we shall endeavour to place before you a brief account of the parish of Arbuthnott : its pre-historic remains, its medieval and later history, its condition at the end of the 18th century as gleaned from contemporary records, with some reminiscences of the parish and its inhabitants from our recollections of them sixty years ago.

Gaelic scholars tell us that the name Arbuthnott is of Gaelic origin, and is derived from *Aber*, the influx of a river into the sea, or of a small stream into a larger one ; *Both*, or *Bothena*, a dwelling, or baronial residence, and *Nith*, or *Neoth-ed*, the stream that descends or is lower than something else in the neighbourhood—a description which applies to the site of Arbuthnott House, on which had probably stood the residence of the chief of a tribe in very early times. All the older place-names in the parish of Arbuthnott are of Gaelic origin, such as Pitcarles, Reisk, Dunream, Drumyochar, etc. Kirkton, Milton, Townhead, Hillhead, etc., are purely Saxon names, and probably indicate that these farms were not brought under cultivation, or much used as residences, until Gaelic had ceased to be the spoken language of the district.

With these introductory remarks we shall, like the old-fashioned ministers, divide our subject into heads :—

1. PRE-HISTORIC.
2. MEDIEVAL AND MODERN ECCLESIASTICAL.
3. FEUDAL AND BARONIAL FAMILIES.
4. CASTLES AND MANSIONS.
5. MILLS.
6. EMINENT NATIVES OF ARBUTHNOTT.
7. MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND RECOLLECTIONS
OF ARBUTHNOTT SIXTY YEARS AGO.

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ARBUTHNOTT HOUSE.

Arbuthnott



Pre-Historic and Feudal Medieval.

REMAINS of the stone and bronze ages were formerly as plentiful in the Parish of Arbuthnott as in other parts in Scotland. During the first half of the 19th century, when much waste land was brought under cultivation, some bronze and a large number of flint and other stone weapons were found, but as fire was then produced by flint and steel, most of the flint weapons found their way into the tinder boxes, or were used to ignite "match-paper" for lighting pipes ; and thus many fine specimens of the flint weapons of our savage ancestors were chipped away. Had lucifer matches been invented a century earlier than they were, thousands of stone weapons, now destroyed, would have enriched our museums.

In Montrose Museum are shown a bronze hatchet or "palstave" and a flint spear head found at Arbuthnott, and the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Edinburgh, contains a number of flint arrow heads from the parish of Arbuthnott, including a flint knife found at Pitforthie in 1876, a stone axe found at Pitcarrie in 1882, a bronze spear head $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, with centre rib and a projecting loop on each side, found at Auchindreich ; also a bronze flanged axe ploughed up at Nether Craighill, and about 1836 a small bronze axe head was found on the farm of Townhead. Many other bronze and stone weapons may be in private hands.

When a bog known as the Hogg's Hole, between Mains of Kair and Oldcake, was drained about the

beginning of last century, a considerable quantity of bones and horns of the original wild cattle of Scotland, as well as the bones and antlers of gigantic deer, were found. The skull and antlers of at least one of these latter adorns the entrance hall of Arbuthnott House.

The writer of the statistical account states that a stone hatchet and metal head of a battle axe were found near the "Hogg's Hole," and that vessels of rude workmanship, no doubt urns, had been dug up on the farm of Laes.

Many remains of a similar character, and of bog oak, are said to have been found when the bogs of Arbuthnott, Montgoldrum, Pitforthie, and Thriepland were drained. In 1906 a large piece of bog oak was found on the farm of Greenden, specimens of which are now in the hands of the schoolmaster of the parish. When the bogs of Thriepland were drained about the beginning of the last century, an ancient road or stone causeway was discovered. This causeway extended for a considerable distance from the Forthie Stream towards the lower part of the farm of Bankhead, and was supposed to have formed part of the old Roman Road leading from the south to the camp at "Raedykes." When this ancient roadway was trenched, the stones of which it was formed were used for filling drains.

On the Hill of Montgoldrum is a stone, or Druid's Circle, known locally as the "Camp." The diameter of this circle is about forty feet, and the height of the rampart less than three feet.

About a mile to the north-east of Montgoldrum Hill, on the farm of Leys of Allardice, stands a large stone of diorite, about five feet in height, known as the "Moray-Stone." From the appearance of the surrounding ground it is not improbable that this stone may be all that is left of a Stone Circle. An old road from Stonehaven to Arbuthnott is said to have passed near this stone in former times. On

Barclay Hill, near Cotbank of Barras, is a stone circle, but in a very ruinous condition; its diameter is probably about twenty yards.

In a field on the Hill of Millplough stands a huge stone of conglomerate, not unlike a section of a stone wall, about $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length by about two feet thick and five feet high. This monolith in all probability at one time formed part of a stone circle. About one hundred and fifty yards to the west of this stone, in the little rocky moor overlooking the Den of Pitcarles, are several large standing stones, no doubt the remains of another stone circle.

The field on the farm of Kirkton, on the south side of the Bervie road where it crosses the Den of Pitcarles, was moorland until about the second quarter of last century, and when it was brought under cultivation a number of hut circles, the remains of primitive dwellings, and a large number of flint flakes and flint arrow-heads are said to have been found, indicating that during the Stone age a village had existed here in which the manufacture of flint weapons was carried on. This pre-historic village was situated within a mile, and in full view, of the standing stones on the Hill of Millplough.

A few hundred yards to the south-west of the site of this ancient village, and also on the farm of Kirkton, is a field known as "Castle Dykes." This field is bounded on the east side by the "Chapel Den," on the south by the river Bervie and the precipitous slope known as "Kirkton's Rocks," and on the west by a steep slope; and forms a flat promontory, the north side of which was cut off from the adjacent field by a ditch and earth rampart, the soil from the ditch having been thrown to the inside of the camp, thus forming a strong rampart of over one hundred and twenty yards long, and between twenty and thirty feet wide, including the ditch, and enclosing a piece of ground of between two and three acres in extent. If, as is very probable, the earthen rampart

was surmounted by palisading, the camp would have presented the appearance of a "Maori Pah" or "Zulu Kraal," and may possibly have been the principal tribal stronghold of the locality. Towards the middle of last century this old camp was brought under cultivation. The ditch was filled up, the rampart levelled, and the site was added to the adjacent field. In breaking up the ground a number of hut circles, the remains of primitive dwellings, were found, in and around which was a considerable quantity of charcoal. Numbers of flint flakes and flint arrow heads were also discovered, but, so far as we are aware, the only object of metal found was a small "Cartow" or cannon,—a portion of the muzzle was wanting. This old cannon lay about the farm of Kirkton for years, but its ultimate fate is unknown.

While there is little doubt that the camp or fort of "Castle Dykes," was pre-historic, it had probably been occupied at different periods in later times, and the broken cannon found may have belonged to the time of the Marquis of Montrose.

Near the junction of the turnpike road and Montgoldrum Farm road, on the north side of the latter, stands a hillock in which was a gravel pit, from which material for repair of the roads was obtained, and in this gravel pit several "stone cists" or coffins containing urns have been found. The sides of these graves were composed of undressed stone slabs set on edge, and the covers were of the same material. It is not known if any stone or bronze weapons were found, nor is it known what became of the urns found, which are understood to have been of the food vessel type.

In a hillock at the side of the road leading from the Bervie turnpike road to Mill of Allardice, at the back of the cottar houses of the mill, is a pit from which gravel was dug for the repair of the road, and in this pit several stone "cists" containing urns have been found; these graves and urns were similar in construction to the ones found at Craighill. It is

understood that weapons were found in the Allardice graves, but their fate and that of the urns is unknown.

In a gravel pit on the side of the private road at the end of the Chapel Ward wood, near the cottage of Steps, workmen unearthed the side of a stone cist containing a skeleton in a sitting posture, and an urn. A messenger was at once despatched for Dr. Spence, but before his return, exposure to the air had caused both skeleton and urn to crumble to dust. No weapons were found, or if so, the workmen did not connect them with the graves.

On the highest part of the Hill Park wood, a short distance south from the farm of Upper Craighill, are several small mounds and one large mound, apparently artificial, and probably "sepulchral barrows," being similar in appearance to those found on Wiltshire downs and Yorkshire wolds, many of which have been opened and found to contain graves and relics of the stone and bronze periods. So far as is known no attempt has been made to excavate the barrows in the Hill Park wood. We have vague recollections of having heard of the discovery of other pre-historic remains, but cannot recall the circumstances with certainty, though, no doubt, many more discoveries of a similar nature must have been made; but owing to the ignorance of the workmen who made them, and the indifference of those of whom a more intelligent appreciation of their interest and value was to be expected, no record of them has been made.

In the centre of a field in the north bank of the river Bervie, a short distance to the east of Arbuthnott House, is a large oval mound, flat on the top, and known as the Criminals' Hillock, Gallow Hill, or Court Hill, where tradition says the courts of the Barony were held in the olden time. It is also said that tournaments and other military exhibitions were held in the field, which forms the bottom of a natural amphitheatre, and is admirably suited for such exhibitions. The mound referred to is evidently of

artificial formation, and the traditional account regarding it is that it was formed by criminals, who, as a punishment for their misdeeds, had to carry the soil of which it is formed on their backs from a distance : by no means an improbable thing.

In Arbuthnott House is still preserved the two-handed sword of Hugo le Blund. This sword is in a wonderfully good state of preservation, and is a very good type of that description of weapon which is said to have been carried on the back, slung over the shoulder.

In the workshop of John Carchary, for many years one of the estate carpenters at Mains of Arbuthnott, there used to lie a huge iron key, which John said was the key of the old castle of Arbuthnott ; but what authority he had for saying so, or what became of the old key after his death, we do not know. That the key was an ancient one there can be no doubt.



Medieval and Modern Ecclesiastical.

CHRISTIANITY was probably introduced into Scotland at an early period ; for we learn that Ninian, a Cumberland prince, visited Rome about the end of the 4th century, where he was ordained a missionary, and sent to preach the gospel to the pagan tribes of Caledonia.

St. Ninian died A.D. 432, and about that time Palladius was sent from Rome on a mission to the Scots of Ireland, but is afterwards supposed to have come to Scotland, and is said to have ended his days at Fordoun, of which church he is the patron saint. As Arbuthnott is in the Presbytery of Fordoun, Fordoun may possibly be looked upon as the senior or mother church of the Mearns, though Arbuthnott is dedicated to St. Ternan, who has been called the apostle of the Picts, which was the name of the tribe which inhabited Kincardineshire and the north-east of Scotland at the time of the introduction of Christianity.

Though there is evidence that the division of the country into parishes had commenced as early as the time of King Malcolm Canmore, who ascended the throne in 1057, it was not until the reign of King David I., who ascended the throne in 1124, that the parochial system, as it now exists, was established.

It was said that in this reign every Baron's manor became a parish ; and though the early history of Arbuthnott, like that of most old parishes, is very obscure, we cannot be far wrong if we assign its formation to about this period, though it is very likely that there may have been a Culdee church, or place of worship, on the site of the present church for centuries before the time of King David. No doubt the original church of Arbuthnott was a very small

and primitive structure, with walls of wattles plastered with clay, and the roof thatched.

In addition to the church of Arbuthnott, the chancel of which, judging from the Norman arch which connects it with the lady's chapel, must be very ancient, there were at least two other churches or chapels in the parish—one near "Steps," the other on the east side of the farm of Kirkton. Traces of the chapel at Steps still exist in the chapel well, in the chapel ward wood, near Steps, in the chapel bog, now drained and planted with wood, and in the chapel ward field, in which, at a spot not far from the chapel well, the chapel is supposed to have stood. The soil of the supposed site of the chapel and graveyard is of a darker colour than the rest of the field, and traces of lime and fragments of dressed sandstone were formerly frequently turned up by the plough. Tradition is silent as to the name of the patron saint, but it is said that the cottage at Steps was built from the stones of the old chapel, and if so, its remains must have been cleared away towards the end of the 18th century.

In the case of the chapel of Kirkton, there is still the chapel croft and the chapel well, but no trace of remains, and it is not known to what saint it was dedicated.

Tradition says that at or on the farm of Peattie there was a chapel dedicated to St. Mary, but it is not known whether the site was in the parish of Arbuthnott or Bervie. Jervise says that in 1567 the parishes of Catterline, Kinneff, Bervie, Arbuthnott, and Garvock were served by one minister, Alexander Keith, who had a stipend of £26 Scots—£2 3s. 4d.

CHURCH OF ARBUTHNOTT.

The church of Arbuthnott, as you are well aware, consists of three divisions—the chancel, or choir, the nave, and south transept, or lady's chapel.



CONSUL BRAND.

Of these, the choir and wall, with Norman archway connecting it with the lady's chapel, are undoubtedly the oldest portions, and in the south wall of the choir, near where the altar had stood, the piscina may still be seen. After the Reformation the choir had been cut off from the nave by a partition, and was used by the Allardice family as a burial place, and, within our recollection, by the grave-digger as a storehouse for his tools and planks ; in fact, as a general lumber room in which, and in the lady's chapel, the school children used to play in bad weather, and hunt for the nests of bats and pigeons. In the south wall of the nave, and close to the door on the east side, is a holy water font, or stoup, the lip of which was broken off when the church was repaired in 1850-51, to allow of the wall being plastered. Previous to the repairs of 1850-51 the floor of the nave was of earth, with narrow planks between the seats as foot rests, and in winter, or wet weather, pools of stagnant water formed under the seats. As the church was not heated, one can easily imagine how uncomfortable and unwholesome it was on the ground floor. The pulpit and lectern stood against the middle of the south wall, and a gallery surrounded the church on all but the south side.

In 1850-51 the earthen floor of the nave was removed, when it was found that the church was a veritable charnel-house, the floor having been used at some period as a place of interment. Hundreds of barrow-loads of earth, mixed with fragments of human bones, were removed from the floor and emptied over the bank in front of the Kirk-gate.

A comfortable wooden floor was substituted for the former earthen one, a stove for warming the church was introduced, and the church remained practically unaltered till accidentally burned down in 1889.

The nave, or at any rate the early English chancel arch, is undoubtedly newer than the Norman

arch between the chancel and lady's chapel, and the newest portion is the lady's chapel, which was built in 1505 by Sir Robert Arbuthnott, no doubt on the site of an older building, probably of the same age as the Norman arch.

In 1242 the church was consecrated, more probably re-consecrated by David de Bernhame, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Chancellor of Scotland, and there can be little doubt that the existing choir is a portion of the church then consecrated.

The ground floor of the lady's chapel, which has been long used as a burial-place for the Arbuthnott family, contains two monuments—one a plain slab, the other an altar tomb, on the top of which is a recumbent effigy of a warrior in armour, with the figure of a dog at his feet.

This latter is said by tradition to be the tomb of Hugo le Blund, but Jervise is of opinion that the slab, embellished with a cross, two shields, and a sword, is more likely to be the tombstone of the famous Hugh, or perhaps of Hugh, the founder of the family, as its style is that of the 12th or 13th centuries. In the wall is a recess, or awmrie, and near the altar tomb in the wall, a piscina, in which lies a ball of iron, which tradition says was the weapon with which Hugo le Blund killed a dragon, or other monster, which had its lair in the Den of Pitcarles, from which it devastated the surrounding country. No doubt the proximity of the ball to the monument had given rise to the legend, but we have heard that the iron ball in question was a cannon ball, which was fired by a French ship of war, which, about the end of the 18th century, chased a small sloop into the mouth of the river Bervie. The ball was brought to Arbuthnott Manse as a curiosity, and was used in a wooden cap for crushing mustard, but how it came to be placed in the chapel is not known. The old people of the parish used to say that the upper part of the staircase tower contained one or two bells, and two rope holes

in the stone floor of the priest's room seem to confirm this. These bells are said to have been removed towards the end of the 18th century, and one of them is said to be still in use at the works of the Montrose Rope and Sail Company, but the bell referred to has no inscription.

The upper flat of the lady's chapel is known as the priest's room, one of the windows of which is protected by an iron grating, a very fine specimen of the blacksmith work of the 16th century, resembling in appearance and design the iron gate of Dumbarton Castle, now in Paisley Museum. Most, if not all, the windows were protected by similar gratings, but when the building was repaired in 1850-51 they were removed, possibly for greater convenience in inserting new frames for the glass, and never replaced.

Previous to repairs of 1850-51 the priest's room contained the old bier, on which it was said the dead were carried during the time of the plague. The bier resembled a long narrow hand-barrow with a board raised at one end, not unlike the front of an ordinary barrow. This interesting relic of a bygone age was broken by some drunken workmen, and the fragments have now disappeared.

The parish mortcloths were kept in a press in this room. There was also another press containing a number of torn old books, printed in what we now know to have been black letter, and said to be the remains of the library bequeathed by the Rev. John Sibbald, minister of Arbuthnott (died 1662), for the use of the clergy of the county.

The writer of the statistical account of the county, written in 1838, states that "of these books not a fragment remains. They appear to have been carried off upwards of fifty years ago." This statement, however, is not literally correct, as the ragged books referred to were in existence up to the time of the repairs in 1850-51, after which they disappeared, having probably been burned as useless rubbish.

In the priest's room was kept the cutty stool, or stool of repentance,—a stool, of which a somewhat narrow board perhaps three feet long formed the seat, two similar boards formed the ends, while another board formed the back. It was too narrow to stand safely alone, and must have been set against a wall. Tradition said that it stood immediately inside the door of the church when in use, and that a very aged man resident in the parish sixty years ago was the last person who occupied it. If this was correct, then this antiquated mode of doing penance must have been in use in the parish down to perhaps 1780.

Tradition says that the Arbuthnott Missal, Prayer Book, and Psalter, were written in the priest's room, but if so, it must have been in the priest's room of the earlier building, as the present building was only erected in 1505, and these beautiful specimens of 15th century penmanship were written—the Psalter in 1482, the Prayer Book in 1482-83, and the Missal in 1491. As most of you are aware, these historically interesting books were purchased for a very large sum of money from the Arbuthnott trustees by a Paisley millionaire, and placed in the Paisley Free Library, where they may be seen in a glass case, and are justly regarded as the most valued possession in the building. An old parishioner of Arbuthnott has placed photographs of Arbuthnott church and the priest's room in the case along with them.

Feudal and Baronial Families.

WHILE other great families may have owned land in the parish at one time or another, the three outstanding families were the Arbuthnotts of Arbuthnott, the Allardices of Allardice, and the Sibbalds of Kair. The family of Arbuthnott is descended from Hugo de Aberbothenoth, who in the reign of King William the Lion took his name in 1105 from lands which came to him by marriage with the daughter of Osbestus Oliphard or Oliphant, Sheriff of Mearns. These lands now form a considerable part of the Parish of Arbuthnott, and have passed to the present Viscount through no less than twenty-three generations.

As the name Oliphard or Oliphant is Norman, or at any rate not Celtic, the Oliphards must have been very recent settlers in the county, and it is quite likely that Osbestus may have married the daughter of the Celtic chief who owned Arbuthnott, and, if so, the old tradition that the lands of Arbuthnott have never changed owners except by marriage would be correct.

From time to time the names of the barons of Arbuthnott appear as witnesses to gifts and charters, or as themselves giving gifts to the church. In 1206 we read of a dispute between Duncan of Aberbothenoth and William, Bishop of St. Andrews, regarding the Kirkton of Arbuthnott. In 1242, in the reign of Alexander II., Duncan de Aberbothenoth was witness to a donation by that sovereign.

At a later period the same Duncan, and his son Hugh, were witnesses to a charter given by a baron to the Monastery of Arbroath.

Hugo le Blund (or fair haired), whose two-handed sword is still preserved in Arbuthnott House, was laird of Arbuthnott in 1282, in which year he bestowed

the patronage of the kirk of Garvock on the Monastery of Arbroath for the safety of his soul ; and along with the patronage he gave an ox-gang of land lying adjacent to the kirk of Garvock for pasturage for 100 sheep, 4 horses, 10 oxen, and 20 cows.

In 1355 Philip de Arbuthnott was a benefactor to the church of the Carmelites in Aberdeen.

About 1420, Hugh, the then baron, was, according to tradition, involved along with some neighbouring lairds in the barbarous murder of the Sheriff of Mearns at Brownies-Kettle in the parish of Garvock, where, it is said, the body of the murdered man was boiled in a cauldron, from the contents of which each one supped a spoonful. The laird of Arbuthnott claimed protection from punishment under the law of the clan Macduff, and the deed of pardon is said to be still in Arbuthnott House.

For his loyalty to King Charles I., the then laird of Arbuthnott was in 1641 created Viscount Arbuthnott and Baron of Inverbervie. In 1685 the then Viscount Arbuthnott signed a declaration abjuring the Covenants.

Among the best known younger members of the Arbuthnott family may be mentioned Alexander Arbuthnott, the first Protestant Principal of King's College, Aberdeen ; Dr. Arbuthnott, who was known as one of the wits of Queen Anne's reign ; and the late General the Honourable Sir Hugh Arbuthnott, a brave soldier, who for many years represented the county in Parliament, and died about 40 years ago.

THE ALLARDICE FAMILY.

Nesbit says that William the Lion gave charters of the lands of Alrethis or Allardice, locally pronounced "Airdis," in the Mearns, to a person who afterwards assumed that name, and the Baron of Allardice did homage to King Edward in August, 1296. The lairds of Allardice are occasion-

ally referred to as witnessing charters, etc., and as taking part in the public business of these remote times. In the parliament of 1560, held in Edinburgh, the laird of Allardice, whose wife was a daughter of Robert Arbuthnott, voted for the abolition of the Papal Jurisdiction in Scotland. About 1660 John Allardice of Allardice was created a baronet. Sir George Allardice, who died in 1709, was sometime member of Parliament for the burgh of Kintore, and strongly supported the Union. He was also the Master of the Scotch Mint.

Sarah Ann, great-grand-daughter of Sir George, became heiress of Allardice, and married Robert Barclay of Urie, who assumed the additional name of Allardice. This lady died in 1833, and was succeeded by her son, Captain Robert Barclay Allardice, the celebrated pedestrian, after whose death the estate of Allardice was sold to Lord Arbuthnott, and now forms part of the Arbuthnott estates. The Allardice family became Quakers, which may account for their intimacy with the Barclays which led to the marriage referred to. The head of this ancient family is now, we believe, Mr. Barclay Allardice, mayor of Lostwith-eal, in Cornwall, who is at the present time a claimant for the dormant titles of Earl of Airth and Menteith.

THE SIBBALD FAMILY.

The estate of Kair was for many generations owned by a family of the name of Sibbald, a family who held lands in various parts of Scotland, and a member of which, James Sibbald, vicar of St. Ternan's Church, Arbuthnott, who died in 1507, was the writer of the Arbuthnott Missal and other books now in Paisley Museum.

Dr. David Sibbald, laird of Kair, was preceptor or tutor to the Duke of Gloucester, son of King Charles I., and was imprisoned for his adherence to that monarch, but lived to see the restoration, and

died in his house of Kair in 1661. The Rev. John Sibbald, son of Andrew Sibbald of Kair, and Margaret Arbuthnott, grand-daughter of Robert Arbuthnott of Arbuthnott, was minister of Arbuthnott, and noted for his learning and religious life. He was instrumental and contributed liberally for building an edifice for training of youth (possibly the old parish school), and mortified money for the maintenance of a schoolmaster and for the poor of the parish. He also bequeathed his books to the Aisle of Arbuthnott, worth more than 1000 merks—£56 5s—for the use of his successors, incumbents in that place.

The Sibbalds were succeeded in Kair by a family of the name of Kinloch, and one laird of Kair of that name was, we believe, clerk of the robes to the late Queen Victoria, and had apartments in Hampton Court Palace, but within recent years the estate has changed owners several times.





ALLARDICE CASTLE

Castles and Mansions.

THE parish of Arbuthnott contains the modern mansion house of Kair, the Castle of Allardice, and Arbuthnott House, the last two being probably 16th century erections, though a considerable portion of Arbuthnott House is modern. The house of Kair, though only about a century old, probably occupies the site of the old mansion of the Sibbalds; and the Castle of Allardice, a portion of which, it is said, was erected in 1662 by Sir John Allardice, who in that year married Lady Mary Graham, daughter of the Earl of Menteith and Airth, probably occupies the site of a much older residence.

Tradition says that Arbuthnott House occupies the site of a Mediaeval castle, and this is highly probable, as it stands on a promontory with steep natural banks on two sides, the third side being protected by a moat, of which it is said traces existed down to the time when the new portion of the house was built. The top of the north-west corner of the bakehouse at the bottom of the back court bears date 15—, and on the east end of the same building, at the top of the back brae, are loop holes in the wall for defending the narrow entrance into the court. The milk house, now entered from the court, is said to have been the old kitchen of the house, and is probably a 16th century building. The roof is vaulted, and contains some iron rings, and the wall which separates it from the rest of the house shows traces of a large arched fireplace.

The new part of the mansion was erected about the end of the 18th or early part of the 19th century, and the magnificent bridge across the den, the carriage drive, and gate lodge, date from 1821. At the top of the dark avenue stood, until about the end of the 18th

century, the Mains, or home farm of Arbuthnott. The New Mains was built, we believe, about 1792 on a lower site in order to get a supply of water for the threshing and saw mills, and for other purposes. It was then considered one of the finest farm steadings in the county, and is probably not surpassed by any homestead in the county even now. The tower at the farm contains an excellent clock and good bell, by T. Mears, of London, dated 1823, which also serves as a clock bell.

THE MANSE, SCHOOLHOUSE, AND SCHOOLS.

The oldest part of the manse is probably a 17th or 18th century erection, and part of the walls are said to be built with clay for mortar and pointed with lime. No doubt it occupies the site of a much older building, and it is reasonable to suppose that when the yew trees, estimated to be over 400 years old, were planted, they were planted in the garden at the then entrance to the priest's house.

Over the door of the schoolhouse is the date 1713, and both school and schoolhouse must have been as good as any in the county at that time. The walls, we understand, are built with clay for mortar, and pointed and harled with lime.

Until the rebellion of 1745 there was an Episcopal meeting-house or chapel at Boghall, of which, in 1744, the Rev. Mr. Leith, Presbyter, was minister.

WOODS AND "AULD KIRK BRIG."

Robertson, in his "Survey of Kincardineshire," states that in 1807 there were only 80 acres of woodland in the parish of Arbuthnott, most of which was situated round Arbuthnott House and Allardice Castle. There was, however, a fir wood on the hill of Allardice, a few old trees around the house of Kair, and, no doubt, the beech wood of the

hill park. A piece of ground about 1000 feet square at the bottom of the back brae and garden contained, until about 50 years ago, 16 beech trees of great size, and was said to be the most heavily timbered piece of ground in Scotland. One of these trees, blown down by the wind, was examined by the late Rev. W. Chrystall, who, by carefully counting the concentric rings, found its age to be about 300 years, and this is supposed to be the age of the dark or beech avenue.

The two great yew trees in the manse garden are undoubtedly two of the finest in Scotland.

In the meadow by the riverside, to the west of the church, is a green mound, apparently of artificial formation, but which is said to have been formed by a landslip from the south bank of the river, which for a time filled up its channel and diverted its course to the north side of the meadow, where traces of the old river bed may still be seen. In course of time the river cut its way through the debris of the landslip, and returned to its old channel on the south side of the green mound referred to.

Until about 1846, the river was spanned by the "Auld Kirk Brig," which stood opposite the church. It was a narrow stone erection of one arch, by which the road that led by Bamph brae crossed the river. The bridge was a well-built substantial structure of ashler work, which bore some resemblance to the walls of the lady's chapel. The fall of this interesting old bridge was caused by a flood, which undermined it at the south end. A few minutes before the bridge fell, Mrs. Scott, better known by her maiden name of Mary Watson, crossed it with her pails to fetch water from Saunders Black's well at the waulk mill, which stood at the bottom of Bamph brae. When Mrs. Scott was within a few yards of the south end of the bridge, on her way back with her supply of water, the bridge fell, and she had to ford the river before she got home.

Mills.

AN important institution in every ancient barony was its mill, to which all the tenants were thirled—that is, bound to bring their corn to be ground. Water mills have certainly been in use in Scotland since the beginning of the 12th century, and probably earlier. In ancient times there was a Mill of Peattie, just on the border of the parish, a mill of Allardice within the parish, and the Waulk Mill already referred to, opposite the church, for the finishing of home-made cloth. The mill of Arbuthnott formerly stood at the south-east corner of the garden, about 100 yards from the mansion house, where the “ark” in which the water wheel revolved may still be seen. The mill was removed to its present site about 1839.

Close by the old mill, in the building, part of which is now the head-gardener's house, were large grain stores and the laird's malt barns. The Arbuthnott coat-of-arms and a date still adorn the south gable. The wooded slope to the west of Arbuthnott garden still bears the name of the Kiln bank, indicating its connection with the mill and kiln. As in former times, the kiln did not always stand near the mill. The kiln bank was probably the place where, before the introduction of fanners, the grain was tossed in the wind to separate it from the chaff, and the meal from the seeds and husks ; as near many old mills and farms, a spot of high ground still bears some distinctive name connecting it with this old-fashioned process of winnowing the grain and freeing the meal from seeds. On the south side of the river, opposite “Kirkton Rocks,” stood the mill of Peattie, which appears to have been demolished early

in the 19th century. A cutting in the rock still shows the course of the mill stream, and on the top of the bank the foundations of the miller's house and other buildings may still be seen.

About a mile lower down the river, also on the south side, stands the mill of Allardice, near the old castle of that name, which has probably been from early times the mill of the barony of Allardice.

The old waulk mill of Arbuthnott stood at the bottom of Bamph brae, opposite the church, and was discontinued as a waulk mill about the time that the present mill of Arbuthnott was built; as at the upper part of the present mill dam stood the dam dyke, which diverted the water of the river into the waulk mill lade, which flowed down the bottom of the brae and re-entered the river at the "Hare Den Pot." The last waulk miller was, we believe, old Saunders Black, and the last vestiges of this relic of the age of home-made cloth was cleared away about 40 years ago.

The upper mill of Bervie and Pitcarry Mills probably date back to the end of the 18th century, and are said to have been amongst the earliest mills introduced into this part of the country for the manufacture of cloth.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUND.

When the old parish school was in use the playground for the girls attending it was on the green terraced brae to the west of the church gate, known as the "craftie," a sweet sunny well-sheltered spot. The playground for the boys was on the haugh beside the mill, where, out of sight of the master, every schoolboy, like Robinson Crusoe, felt himself master of all he surveyed. In winter, when frost prevailed and snow covered the ground, the boys amused themselves by sliding and skating on the river, or by tobogganning on the surrounding braes;

or if the weather was too inclement for these amusements, the kindly miller allowed the boys to shelter in the "kiln hole," and he was a proud boy who was allowed to feed the kiln fire—the husks of the grain being the fuel then generally used for that purpose.

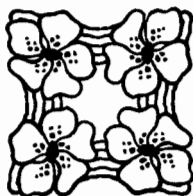
In summer the ordinary sports were varied by bathing and fishing, and occasionally by an attempt at boating when a big plank or tub was got hold of. With such scope for recreation, it is hardly necessary to say that the Arbuthnott schoolboys of sixty years ago contrived to enjoy life fairly well.

BERVIE ROAD.

In the statistical account, dated 1838, it is stated that an excellent road had lately been made from the bridge of Bervie to Whiteriggs ; but we have understood that the embankment across the Den of Pitcarles was not made until some years after that date, and have been told by men who were employed at the work, that for the first time in the county small waggons or trucks were employed to remove the earth from the cuttings to the embankment. A strong tree was sunk in the ground, to which was attached a grooved wheel, and round this wheel a rope worked, having a truck at each end, the loaded truck as it ran down bringing up the empty one to be refilled. This simple contrivance was then considered the acme of engineering skill.

It is difficult to trace the course of the track, which from early times did duty as a road between Arbuthnott and Bervie, but we have been told by the late Mr. Anderson, farmer, Pitcarrie, that from the old brig of Bervie it ran parallel to the river as far as the mill of Pitcarrie, where a stone bridge spans Pitcarrie Burn ; it then ascended the west side of Pitcarrie Den and crossed the fields to the lower part of the farm of Mains of Allardice, along the back of the policies of Allardice Castle to the back of the cottar houses of

the mill, where traces of it may still be seen at a small bridge. It then skirted the bottom of a green bank, crossed the bottom of the Den of Pitcarles and up the brae to the chapel croft, where it divided, one road going to the kirk of Arbuthnott and another towards Miltonmuir.



Eminent Natives of Arbuthnott.

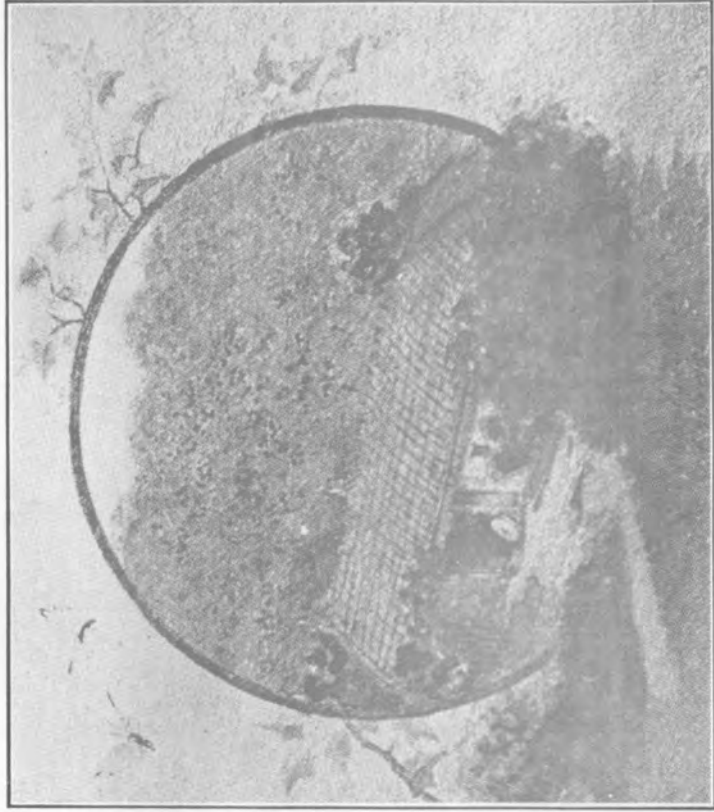
JAMES SIBBALD.

THOUGH, no doubt, many of the barons of Arbuthnott and Allardice were men of mark in their day, yet, owing to the remoteness of the time in which many of them lived, we know little regarding them except their names.

Among the most distinguished natives of the parish, at least as a caligraphist, was the Rev. James Sibbald, vicar of the church of St. Ternan of Arbuthnott, born probably in the second half of the 15th century, who wrote the Arbuthnott missal, the Arbuthnott prayer book, and the Arbuthnott psalter, now in Paisley Free Library and Museum. Mr. Sibbald died in 1507.

ALEXANDER ARBUTHNOTT.

Alexander Arbuthnott, son of the laird of Pitcarles and grandson of the baron of Arbuthnott, was born in 1538. After studying for the legal profession, he entered the Church, and in 1568 was appointed minister of Logie Buchan, and in 1569 became first Protestant Principal of King's College, Aberdeen, and in the same year was appointed minister of Arbuthnott, thus holding all three offices at the same time. In 1573 he was chosen moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. His services to the Church were very great. In addition to other literary works he wrote a history of the Arbuthnott family, "*Originis et incrementi familie Arbuthnoticæ descriptio historica*," and at least three poems are attributed to him. He died in 1583.



BIRTHPLACE OF WILLIAM KINLOCH AND GEORGE BRAND.

ROBERT ARBUTHNOTT OF ARBUTHNOTT.

FIRST VISCOUNT.

Robert, laird of Arbuthnott, was first knighted by King Charles I., and afterwards for his steadfast loyalty he was created Viscount Arbuthnott and Lord Inverbervie.

The Hon. Alexander Arbuthnott, one of his sons, was created one of the barons of the Court of Exchequer in Scotland at the Union in 1707.

DR. JOHN ARBUTHNOTT.

Dr. John Arbuthnott, one of the most eminent literary men of the reign of Queen Anne, was a son of the minister of Arbuthnott, and related to the baronial family.

GEORGE ALLARDICE.

George Allardice, second son of Sir John Allardice of Allardice, was for sometime member of the Scottish Parliament for the burgh of Kintore, and master of the Scotch Mint. He was a zealous supporter of the Union, and died in 1709.

WILLIAM KINLOCH.

A low thatched cottage, once an inn, which formerly stood on the rocky hillock to the south-east of the dog kennels, is said to have been the birthplace, sometime in the second half of the 18th century, of William Kinloch, who began life in poor circumstances, but went to Calcutta, where he amassed a considerable fortune, and dying in 1812, bequeathed to the kirk-session of Arbuthnott, in trust for the native poor of Arbuthnott, the sum of £2700. This sum is invested in the funds, and the annual interest divided among the poor according to the discretion of the kirk-session, and is known as the Kinloch Fund.

GEORGE BRAND.

In the same cottage, and soon after the time that Kinloch died, was born George Brand, who, beginning life as a bare-footed herd boy, died British Consul at Lagos, in Africa. As a lad he worked as a mason's labourer under the late Mr. Caird, builder, devoted his spare time to study, and, assisted by the late Rev. Wm. Chrystall, parish schoolmaster, he proceeded to the University of Aberdeen, where he was successful in obtaining a bursary which enabled him to pursue his studies, and in the summer he returned to his old occupation of mason's labourer. In due course he graduated, and was appointed private tutor to the then Lord Haddo; after which he entered the consular service and became vice-consul at St. Paul de Loando, from which he was promoted as Consul to Lagos, where he died still in the prime of life, leaving behind him a high reputation as an able and conscientious official, a scholar, and scientist. A mural monument to his memory, erected in the church of Arbuthnott by his fellow-consuls, was unfortunately destroyed when the church was burned in 1889.

GEORGE CAIRD.

The late Mr. George Caird, solicitor, Stonehaven, and procurator-fiscal for the county of Kincardine, was a native of Arbuthnott, having been born at Parknook, where his father, Mr. Charles Caird, a well-known builder, resided; and whose barn is now used as a place of worship by the members of the Episcopal Church.

JAMES JOLLY.

At Parknook was also born Mr. James Jolly, son of Mr. James Jolly, quarryman. Mr. Jolly removed to England while still a young man, and attained, we believe, to considerable eminence as an artist.

JAMES SCOTT.

In the old thatched two storey house, once an inn, which stood where the minister's gate and steps now are, was born Mr. James Scott, son of Mr. David Scott, quarryman. Mr. Scott became a millwright and engineer, and while still a young man went to Japan, where he married a Japanese lady, commenced business as a mechanical engineer, and has attained an honourable position in the land of his adoption.

GEORGE MONCUR.

Mr. George Moncur, now of Preston Lodge, near Prestonpans, is another Arbuthnott boy who has been a credit to his native parish. Mr. Moncur, as many of you are no doubt aware, was son of Mr. William Moncur, who resided in the Reisk. Mr. Moncur served his apprenticeship as a house carpenter under his father, and while quite a young man went to Edinburgh, where he devoted himself to the building of greenhouses and erections requiring to be heated artificially. His business has become one of the largest and most prosperous of its kind in the kingdom, and he now resides at Preston Lodge, near Edinburgh.

Poets.

ALEXANDER ARBUTHNOTT.

While Arbuthnott has never produced a Shakspeare or a Burns, it has, nevertheless, according to Alan Reid's "Bards of Angus and Mearns," produced at least three minor poets and one poetess. The first of the three was Principal Alex. Arbuthnott, only a few of whose poems have been preserved to us ; but among these may be enumerated the piece called "The Miseries of a Poor Scholar," and another called "The Prasis of Wemen."

GEORGE MENZIES.

George Menzies was born at Townhead of Arbuthnott in 1797, and died in Canada in 1847. He is described as one of the most handsome of men, slightly formed, but graceful and dignified in deportment, and was successively gardener, weaver, schoolmaster, and Canadian journalist. An edition of his poems was published in Forfar in 1822, and an enlarged edition in Aberdeen in 1827.

WILLIAM MCHARDY.

William McHardy, who wrote under the name of a "Mearns Laddie," was born at Townhead of Arbuthnott in 1847, was brought up in the parish of St. Cyrus, and was successively a farm servant, policeman, greenkeeper, and innkeeper. Many of his poems appeared in the Montrose newspapers, but we are not aware if they have been published in book form.

ELIZABETH TAVENDALE.

Elizabeth Tavendale was born at Arbuthnott in 1784, and was married to a farmer, whose death appears to have left her in pecuniary difficulties, and led to the publication of a small volume of poems by her at Aberdeen in 1820. Whether her venture was a profitable one we know not, nor do we know her later history.



Reminiscences of Sixty Years Ago.

THOUGH not a native of the parish of Arbuthnott, my recollections of it go back for nearly sixty years, and sixty years ago there were many people living in the parish whose recollections extended a good way back into the 18th century, and who had witnessed many changes in the manners and customs of the people, and in the agricultural methods of the county. Some of these old people, like Mrs. Rust, better known by her maiden name of Mary Tindle, had known people who had taken part in the stirring scenes of the rebellion of 1745, had seen the introduction of stage coaches, and had seen them superseded by the railway.

With all the curiosity and avidity of childhood, I drank in the old time stories they were so fond of telling, and being endowed with a fairly good memory I have retained the substance of much of what I heard from them, which, aided by personal observation and contemporary records, will, I trust, enable me to give a brief account of the parish and its inhabitants as they appeared 60 years ago, which may not be without interest to the present generation.

Sixty years ago the head of the Arbuthnott family was John, 8th Viscount, who was also lord-lieutenant of the county of Kincardine, and a representative peer of Scotland, a public-spirited nobleman, a considerate and popular landlord, a kind master, and a good neighbour. His brother, General The Hon. Sir Hugh Arbuthnott of Hatton, was then member of Parliament for the county of Kincardine. The "General," as he was familiarly called, was very popular with all classes of the community, and was an ideal specimen of an officer and gentleman,—as

attentive to his parliamentary duties and to the interests of his constituents, as he had been to his military duties when, as a young officer, he served under Wellington in Spain and at Waterloo. Many a young native of the county owed his start in life in both civil service and the army to the influence of the good old General.

REV. JAMES MILNE.

The Rev. James Milne was at this time minister of Arbuthnott. He was a kindly old man, but for years had been quite in his dotage. We remember him walking about accompanied by Mrs. Milne. When he stopped to speak to anyone he took from his pocket a few bright pennies, which, after his friend had looked at them, he took back and carefully returned to his pocket, sometimes much to the disappointment of the child to whom he had shown them.

The Rev. Mr. Walker was Mr. Milne's assistant, but, dying, was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Fraser, who married a niece of Mrs. Milne's, and became one of the ministers of Aberdeen.

REV. WM. CHRYSTALL, M.A.

The parish schoolmaster was the Rev. Wm. Chrystall, M.A., a gentleman of high personal character and scholarly attainments, of fine physique, dignified deportment, and a painstaking teacher. His favourite hobby was botany, for his knowledge of which he enjoyed a wide reputation. He held the offices of session clerk and registrar, and latterly, after the introduction of the poor law, he was inspector of poor. The duties of his various public offices were performed with scrupulous fidelity and care, and few public records show greater neatness or more beautiful handwriting than the books kept by Mr. Chrystall.

Mr. REID, SCHOOLMASTER, BOGHALL.

There was an unendowed school at Boghall. The schoolroom was, we believe, upheld and a small salary paid to the teacher by Lord Arbuthnott. The schoolmaster of our day was Mr. Reid, a native of Bervie, and an excellent teacher, who had at one time been a parochial schoolmaster. He was a bachelor, and a retiring allowance from his former parish, together with his salary and school fees, enabled him to live comfortably, if quietly. Mr. Reid was personally very popular, and was the life and soul of the convivial parties then so fashionable among the farmers of the parish.

MISS BROWN.

In the old thatched cottage near the dog kennels an infant school was kept by Miss Brown, who, for her day, was a well educated and intelligent woman. The daughter of a farmer in the parish of Glenbervie, she had spent most of her life in Edinburgh, and shortly before the time we refer to, had come to the parish to reside with her sister, the mother of "Consul Brand." In this school there would be sometimes as many as twenty or thirty children, who received a good grounding in the reading of Scripture history and the Shorter Catechism, and the girls in sewing and knitting. Every Saturday the children were drawn up in a circle and had to repeat in turn the Shorter Catechism, the one who did best taking the top of the class, the rest following in order of merit. In the Scripture lessons, when a difficult word occurred, the children were told that it was a big "dictionary word," which it was no use telling them as they would just forget it. This school was examined by the Presbytery like the other schools, and an awe-inspiring event it was to these little ones; the survivors of whom, now grown old and grey, look back with the fondest recollections upon their humble school and its kindly teacher.

MR. JOHN CARR.

The writer of the old statistical account, dated 1838, states that there were four unendowed schools in the parish ; but we only remember the two before mentioned, though, we believe, Mr. John Carr, a noted mathematician and brother of the then farmer of Gobbs, who lived at Nether Craighill, and who used to measure land and drains, taught a night school for young farm servants in the winter.

JAMES LOGIE.

Next in importance to the minister and parish schoolmaster, the most prominent parish officials were the precentor and church officer. The former office was held by Mr. James Logie, who occupied a small farm in the Reisk.

We well remember his tall spare form, as with tuning-fork in hand, he led off with some of the old-fashioned tunes of that day. We cannot remember that there was any choir, but what the congregation wanted in musical knowledge, they made up in the heartiness with which they joined in the service of praise. In his day Mr. Logie was esteemed a competent musician, and held the office of precentor for many years, till increasing infirmities, consequent on old age, caused him to retire probably more than fifty years ago.

WILLIAM ROBERTS.

The offices of church officer and grave-digger were held by Mr. William Roberts, who, we think, succeeded his father in the office ; at anyrate, he carried on business along with his father as a cooper, wheel and millwright, and carpenter at Miltonmuir ; and after his father's death he removed to Kirkton, where he carried on business up to the time of his death, probably over twenty years ago. William was frequently employed by the session in collecting money



ARBUTHNOTT CHURCH AND MANSE.

for poor persons whose cow or pig happened to die, and was regarded as a most persuasive collector. At the time to which we refer it was customary to give notice at the kirk style on Sunday of all rouns, raffles, of things lost and found, or any other matter of public interest. And as the kirk "skailed," William took his stand on the bank inside the kirk gate, and in stentorian tones read out, or "cried," as it was called, his intimations. William was a great favourite with the youngsters of the parish, and at "Auld Yule" used to present the children of his customers with beautiful "tee-totums" of his own making, presents which were much appreciated by the recipients.

GEORGE GIBSON.

Though not occupying such a prominent position in the parish as the precentor and church officer, George Gibson, the minister's man, was one of the best known parishioners. George, who lived in a cottage in the wood at the top of the kirk brae behind the dog kennels, was a feeble old man before we knew him, but, we believe, had been minister's man nearly all his life, and continued to go to the manse daily and do little jobs long after his ordinary duties had to be performed by others; and we believe we are correct in saying, that with that kindness which always characterised him, the late Rev. Dr. Spence gave George his allowance of meal and milk as long as he lived, though George was practically superannuated before the Dr. came to the parish. George and his wife, Jenny, were a worthy couple. Jenny was a great bird fancier, and used to assist the then Miss Arbuthnott, who was also a bird fancier, in the management of her feathered pets.

Tenants on the Farms

SIXTY YEARS AGO.

MR. ALLAN, CLUSEBURN.

SIXTY years ago the farm of Cluseburn was occupied by Mr. Allan, an elder of the parish, and a noted rearer of cattle, the large fields of broom which then grew on the upper part of the farm affording good shelter to the young stock during cold weather in spring and autumn. The steadings of Cluseburn was very old, the roofs thatched, and the doors so low that cattle and horses had almost to kneel before they could get out and in to the byres and stables. Consequently all the live stock kept upon the farm had to be reared upon it, as animals bred elsewhere could not adapt themselves to the doorways.

MR. JOLLY, SKENE.

The neighbouring farm of Skene was occupied by Mr. Jolly, the representative of an old farming family. The steadings of Skene, like that of Cluseburn, was old, thatched, and ruinous ; and it was said that Mr. Jolly declined the offer of the laird to build a new one, on the ground that a steadings which had served his forbears was good enough for him, that a new steadings might mean increased rent, which the place would not afford, which was probably correct, as the soil was but poor. Mr. Jolly's dislike to innovations did not stop short at new steadings, but extended to new agricultural implements and modes of husbandry, and many antiquated implements were in use at Skene long after they had been discarded by the

neighbouring farmers. In spite of his attachment to the past, Mr. Jolly was a shrewd man of business, a good judge of stock, and in a market could buy and sell with the best "couper" of the day, and, taking him all round, was a fine type of the pawky Scotch farmer of a former age.

MR. CLARK, LEYS OF ALLARDICE.

Lays of Allardice was tenanted by Mr. Clark, of whom we have but little recollection, but we well remember a young Mr. Clark, probably a son of his, an exceptionally handsome man, who always dressed very neatly, and was familiarly known as "Beau Clark."

MR. WATSON, UPPER PITFORTHIE.

The farm of Upper Pitforthie was occupied by Mr. Watson, one of whose family bore a striking resemblance to the then Prince Consort, and was in consequence generally spoken of as "Prince Albert."

MESSRS. JOLLY OF KIRKTON AND BAMPH.

Kirkton and Bamph were occupied by families of the name of Jolly. In the former case the name and disposition of the tenant were in happy agreement, as Mr. Jolly was overflowing with wit and good humour, and always ready to crack a joke with anyone who came along, whether it was the laird or a herd-boy.

Mr. Jolly of Bamph was a fine looking old gentleman, who usually wore a black coat and dress hat. Whether he was possessed of an irascible temper we do not know, but we well remember an amusing incident which took place in school, regarding an illness from which he had been suffering. The teacher asked a somewhat comical boy, a son of a farm servant at Bamph, how Mr. Jolly was keeping. The reply

was, " Oh, hims better, hims up and out about, an' ragin' amon' hims folk again, and that's no a bad sign o' hims."

MESSRS. CARR, GOBBS AND NETHER CRAIGHILL.

The farms of Nether Craighill and Gobbs were occupied by tenants of the name of Carr. Gobbs had, we believe, been occupied by Carrs for many generations, and numbers of the family occupied farms in many of the surrounding parishes. The steadings of Gobbs occupied a different site from the present one, and was very antiquated, being similar in character to the steadings on Cluseburn and Skene.

MR. REID, LAES.

Laes of Arbuthnott was occupied by Mr. Reid, a common name in the parish at that time. Mr. Reid was an elder, and we remember him collecting the "bawbees" in the kirk with his "lang handled ladle"; and in the hands of an elder who understood his business, the ladle was a most effective weapon for extracting contributions. The elder stood stolidly in front of his victim holding out the ladle, until either he had received a contribution, or until the eyes of the whole congregation were fixed upon the blushing defaulter.

MR. ROBERT, LOANHEAD.

Mr. Robert, the tenant of Loanhead, was also an elder, a man of kindly, genial disposition and commanding presence.

MR. BROWN, TOWNHEAD.

Townhead was tenanted by Mr. Brown, a gentleman of quiet and dignified manner and portly figure, more like an English than a typical Scotch farmer.

His son and successor, Mr. William Brown, became in after years an enthusiastic volunteer and famous rifle shot, and, we believe, was the champion marksman of Angus and Mearns.

MR. DICKSON, ALPITY.

Alpity was occupied by Mr. John Dickson, a notable man in his day, who, beginning life as a herd-boy, became successively ploughman, cattle dealer, farmer, and landowner, having at the time of his death been proprietor of the landed estates of Limefield and Little Keithock, near Brechin. Mr. Dickson was a man of extraordinary energy and perseverance. In addition to being a successful farmer, he continued to carry on a large business as a cattle dealer ; and late on the summer nights after he had come home from markets, and when all his work people were in bed and asleep, he might have been seen sowing or thinning turnips, and doing various kinds of farm work.

MR. SMART, GYRATSMYRE.

Gyratsmyre was occupied by Mr. Smart, who carried on an extensive business as a sheep farmer and dealer ; while the neighbouring farm of Bringieshill was tenanted by Mr. Nicol.

MR. NICOL, BRINGIESHILL.

Mr. Nicol was the representative of a family which, we believe, had long occupied the farm. The steadings of Bringieshill was old and thatched, like those of Cluseburn and Gobbs. Mr. Dyce Nicol of Balogie, M.P., was one of the Bringieshill Nicols, but we cannot say whether he was born at Bringieshill or not. In early life he went to London, where he amassed a fortune, purchased the estate of Balogie on Deeside, and, on the retirement of General the Hon. Sir Hugh Arbuthnott, became member of parliament for the county of Kincardine.

MR. MITCHELL, DEEP.

The farm of Deep was occupied by Mr. Mitchell, a dapper, active man, quick at repartee, and fond of a joke. His only son became a distinguished clergyman of the Church of Scotland.

MR. WILSON, BAMPHILL.

Bamphill had for long been tenanted by a family of the name of Wilson, the farmer of our young day being Mr. John Wilson, a plain old-fashioned man who always dressed in cloth, the produce of his own sheep, and made in the style of his youth, when "George the III. was King." Mr. Wilson was a highly intelligent man, a walking compendium of old world stories and traditions, tales of fairies, witches, ghosts, brownies, and such like beings, and was possessed of the largest collection of "chap literature" we have ever seen.

MR. ANDERSON, PITCARRIE.

Sixty years ago the farm of Pitcarrie was occupied by Mr. Anderson, a man of fine presence and benevolent aspect. In winter he wore long woollen knitted overalls, which gave him a very comfortable appearance. Mr. Anderson was considered a good farmer, and was noted for his fine cattle. We are not sure to what religious denomination he belonged, but he and Mrs. Anderson drove regularly on Sunday to church at Sauchieburn, near Fettercairn.

MR. ANDERSON, MAINS OF ALLARDICE
AND MILLPLOUGH.

Mains of Allardice and Millplough were tenanted by a gentleman farmer also named Anderson, who lived in Allardice Castle, and who either died or left the farm soon after our recollections commence.

MR. RANKINE, AUCHINDREICH.

The tenant of Auchindreich was Mr. Rankine, a fine specimen of the old Scottish farmer. Mr. Rankine's speciality was sheep, of which he was considered an excellent judge. At the Disruption, Mrs. and Miss Rankine cast in their lot with the Free Church, but Mr. Rankine adhered to the church of his fathers, and it required very stormy weather indeed to keep Mr. Rankine out of his accustomed seat in Arbuthnott church. At his death he left property in Bervie, valued at over £200, to the kirk-session of Arbuthnott, the income from which was to be used for educational or church purposes.

MR. MURRAY, CRAIGHEAD.

Mr Murray was farmer at Craighead, but beyond his name we have no very distinct recollections of him.

MR. GEORGE NAPIER, MILL OF ALLARDICE.

The Mill of Allardice was occupied by Mr. George Napier, who carried on a large business as a miller and corn dealer. The Napiers claimed descent from Lord Napier of Merchiston, the famous mathematician.

MR. CARNEGIE, MILL OF ARBUTHNOTT.

The farm and mill of Arbuthnott, were occupied by Mr. Carnegie, a powerfully built and jolly man, who might have stood for the original of the famous "Miller of Dron." Mr. Carnegie carried on a large business, and was regarded as a very superior miller. He had a large family of sons and daughters, and there was no handsomer family in the parish than the miller's. The parish library was kept in the miller's house, and one of his sons acted as librarian. Previous to becoming tenant in the new mill, Mr. Carnegie was for many years manager at the old mill for Lord Arbuthnott, who kept it in his own hand.

OTHER FARMS AND FARMERS.

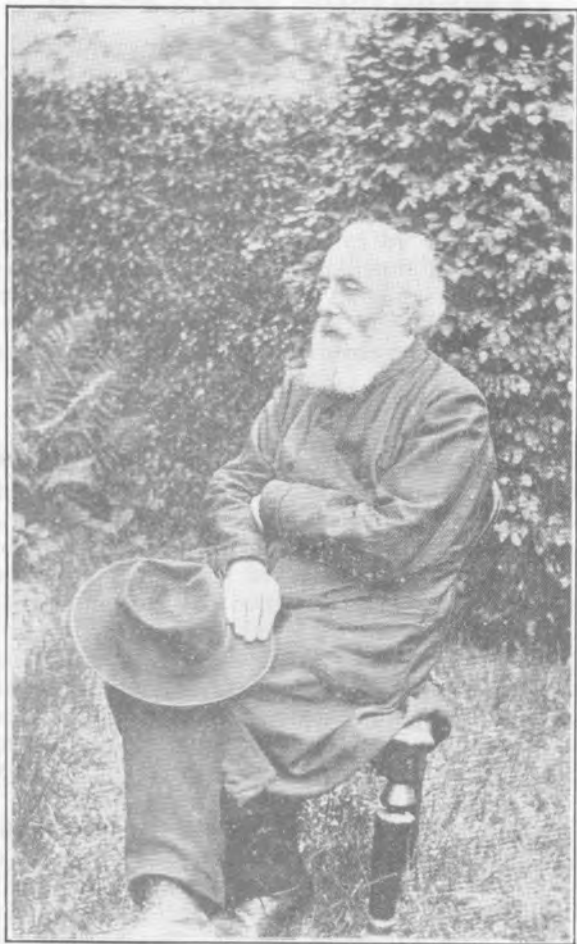
The farms of Nether Pitforthie and Milltown were both tenanted by families of the name of Crabb. Meikle Fiddes was occupied by Mr Fraser ; Oldcake and Drummyochar by families of the name of Fullerton ; Montgoldrum, by Mr. Hendry ; Mid Fiddes by Mr. McBain ; Upper Craighill by Mr. Mollyson ; Woodend or, as it is sometimes called, Bridgend by Mr. Rae ; Pitcarles by Mr. Valentine ; Meetlaw by Mr. Ross ; and Colliston by Mr. Taylor ; but of these farms and their tenants we have little recollection except the names, nor can we recollect who occupied the farms of Wairds and Thriepland.

“AULD MAVIS.”

One of the best known men in the parish was John Reid of Mavisbank, better known as “Auld Mavis.” In addition to farming the croft of Mavisbank, John was an enthusiastic and successful bee farmer, and acted as parish butcher ; and as at this time most of the cottagers kept pigs, and many of the farmers killed sheep for their own use, John was at certain seasons of the year a busy man, and being obliging and good-natured, always received a hearty and hospitable welcome wherever he went ; though frequently the hospitality of that time would not find favour with a modern good templar.

On one occasion John had an experience, told by himself, which, it is said, changed the habits of his life. On his way home after a busy day's pig-killing, John sat down to rest, and fell asleep. When he awoke a spring morning was dawning, and the first sounds that fell upon his ear appeared to be the notes of a bird singing, and the burden of the song was, “Drunken Mavis, see him, see him, drunken rascal, there he lies.”

John lay and listened for some time to assure himself that he really heard aright, so there could be



REV. R. M. SPENCE, D.D.,
MINISTER OF ARBUTHNOTT, 1850-1903.

no doubt of it. On opening his eyes he saw a bird sitting singing on a broom bush looking down upon him ; the bird at once flew away, but on looking round, John was horrified to see that he was lying on the brink of a quarry, with only a few inches between him and a fall which would have probably cost him his life. He then realised that it was not a bird but an angel from heaven that he had seen and heard, and that it had been sent to warn him against drunkenness ; so he then and there registered a vow that neither angels nor men should see him drunk again, and, we believe, he kept the vow during the remainder of his life.

TRADESMEN.

Sixty years ago there were blacksmith shops at Arbuthnott, Boghall, Allardice, and Goukhorn ; carpenter shops at Mains of Arbuthnott, Miltonmuir, Parknook, Townhead, and Reisk, while Mr. John Greig at Townhead, Mr. Reid at Puttieburn, and Mr. Logie at Miltonmuir, all carried on what were then considered big businesses as master shoemakers. Mr. Greig was famous for his shooting boots, which he supplied to sportsmen all over the country, while Mr. Reid had an equally high reputation for Wellington boots, which, we believe, cost a guinea, and like "the guidman's" marriage coat, were expected to last a lifetime. The mills of Arbuthnott and Allardice did a large business, and sent a number of cart loads of meal as far as Montrose every week ; and Mr. Caird, who lived at Parknook, was perhaps the largest building contractor in the county.

OLD TIME COSTUME AND CUSTOM.

Old Mrs. Gavin, who lived in a cottage near the minister's shrubbery, was the last person in the parish who came to church wearing a plaid over her head in

the old Scotch fashion—a comfortable and picturesque costume which still lingers in the west of Ireland.

FAMILIES OF JOLLY AND REID.

Sixty years ago the principal surname in the parish was Jolly, that name being borne by seven or eight different families. There was a tradition that the Jollys came originally from France. The name of Reid was also a common one in the parish. A Mr. Reid, who lived at Steps, and was spoken of as “Auld Steps,” was for many years ground officer on the Arbuthnott estate at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries.

GHOSTS, WITCHES, ETC.

Sixty years ago many of the old people of Arbuthnott were firm believers in fairies, ghosts, witches, will-o'-the-wisp, death candles, omens, water-kelpies, second sight, etc., but railways, telegraphs, and, above all, school boards have abolished all these time-honoured beliefs. Will-o'-the-wisp was often seen in the bogs; and before death occurred a candle might often be seen moving through the air from the door of the sick person's house, following the course the funeral party was to take, and disappearing in the graveyard at the spot where the grave was to be dug.

Several spots in the parish were frequented by fairies, notably the knaps at Dunream, where many a belated traveller going home from the inn at Milton-muir saw sights and heard sounds which caused his blood to run cold and his hair to stand on end.

At the time we refer to there was one real live witch in the parish in the person of old Jenny Griffiths, who lived at Parkside. Jenny was a quiet, inoffensive woman, but wonderful tales of her supernatural powers were told and firmly believed by all the young people and not a few of the old ones. Certainly nothing could have induced the most adventurous

schoolboy in the parish to quarrel with or play tricks upon Jenny, or to throw stones at her black cat, which was looked upon as being quite as uncanny as its mistress. How the name of witch came to be applied to Jenny, or how a woman bearing such a distinctively Welsh name came to be resident in the parish of Arbuthnott, we do not know.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

Whatever the people of Arbuthnott may be now, they were regular in their attendance at church in our young days, and an hour before the service began many were calling at the miller's house to get their library books exchanged, while in the churchyard, groups might be seen discussing the news of the day. A portion of the south side of the churchyard, just inside the gate, was sometimes irreverently spoken of as "the market." Here, in fine weather, might be seen, seated on a flat tombstone, a well-known miller and corn-dealer surrounded by a group of farmers, when, it was said, something like the following would frequently take place:—

Farmer shows miller a sample of grain. Miller says, "If this were not Sunday what would you be asking for that lot?" Farmer replies, "If this were not Sunday I would take ——— for it!" Miller says, "If this were not Sunday I would give you ———!" Farmer replies, "If this were not Sunday I would tak' your offer!" And probably next day the grain, the sample of which had been shown, would be sent to the mill or perhaps to the miller's granary in Gourdon. By such innocent devices did the worthy parishioners of that time endeavour to transact business and at the same time salve their consciences from the sin of Sabbath-breaking.

SINGING WILLIE AND SACKING SANDY.

Sixty years ago Willie Gall, or "Singing Willie,"

as he was called, and "Sacking Sandy," two well-known members of the tramp fraternity, often visited the parish. Willie worked in the farmers' gardens, and attended the feeing markets, where he sold ballads and sung songs of his own composition. Willie was an Irishman, with all the sparkling wit for which his countrymen are famous, and was a favourite both in the farmers' kitchens and the bothy. Willie always carried a stick dressed up like a huge doll, which he called his wife.

"Sacking Sandy" made his living by mending sacks to the farmers, but though, no doubt, a useful man in his own line, was not such a popular favourite as "Singing Willie."

JOHN DONALDSON,

(AN EARLY INVENTOR OF THE MODERN "BYKE.")

Sixty years ago Arbuthnott narrowly escaped being the birth-place of the modern "byke." In the gate lodge at this time lived an old couple named Donaldson, who had an only son named John, a gardener, one of the biggest and most powerful men in the parish, and a mechanical genius, for John could make or mend almost anything. He invented and constructed a machine of wood and iron propelled like a modern bicycle. Half the parish assembled to see the trial trip of the wonderful machine, which took place on the road at Arbuthnott smithy. John mounted his machine and went off in great style, and at a good pace. At the west lodge he attempted to turn back, but ran the machine into the ditch and broke it. It had to be dragged back to the smithy for repairs; but before these were accomplished the unfortunate inventor went wrong in his mind, and had to be removed to Montrose Lunatic Asylum, where he ultimately died. That the machine contained the germ of a great invention and a big fortune is

highly probable ; but no one then foresaw its possibilities. The Hon. Charles Arbuthnott, then at home on furlough from India, took a great interest in the machine, and, it was said, intended to have it exhibited at the great exhibition in Hyde Park, London, for which preparation was then being made ; but the insanity of the inventor put a stop to this, if it was ever really intended.

MR. GUTHRIE, UPPER MILL.

Mr. Guthrie, tenant of Upper Mill, Bervie, was a man of superior mental powers and attainments, and an enthusiastic amateur astronomer and microscopist. He had no fewer than three different descriptions of astronomical telescope, and nothing afforded Mr. Guthrie more pleasure than to allow a friend to see through his telescopes, and to explain the wonders of the starry heavens, which he had studied so closely. Mr. Guthrie was a very regular attender at Arbuthnott church, to which he was usually accompanied by several little pet dogs, one of which he usually led by a string, and spoke of as an "ungodly little wretch," which would not come to church unless compelled.

OLD COTTAGES.

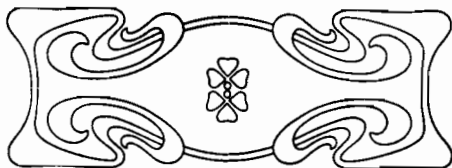
Sixty years ago all the old cottages were of stone and turf, thatched with straw ; but with the exception of Brenziesshill, Gobbs, Cluseburn, and Skene, all the old farm steadings of that class had been superseded by the steadings now existing, but, we understand, that Skene has undergone little change, and is perhaps the only specimen of an 18th century stading which has come down to our time.

Mr Robertson, who was factor on the Arbuthnott estates at the beginning of the last century, states that it cost from fifty shillings to £3 to erect one of these thatched cottages, and that a house and stading of this description, suitable for a farm of 100

acres, could be erected for £40 or £50 sterling ; though at a still earlier period the cost would not have exceeded as many pounds Scots (a pound Scots was 1/8 stg.)

RETROSPECT.

Looking back upon the parish and parishioners of sixty years ago, we feel that though the folks of that time had their faults and failings, as the folks of the present age have, these faults and failings were more the faults and failings of the age than of the individuals, and taking the parishioners as a body, they were hard-working and industrious, and did their duty honestly and faithfully according to their lights, and we trust that we may so live and act our parts that sixty years hence someone speaking of us may be able to pronounce a similar judgment.





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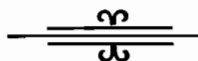
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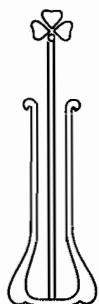


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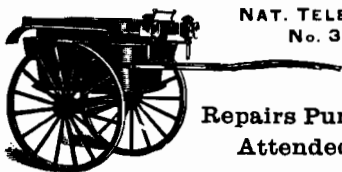
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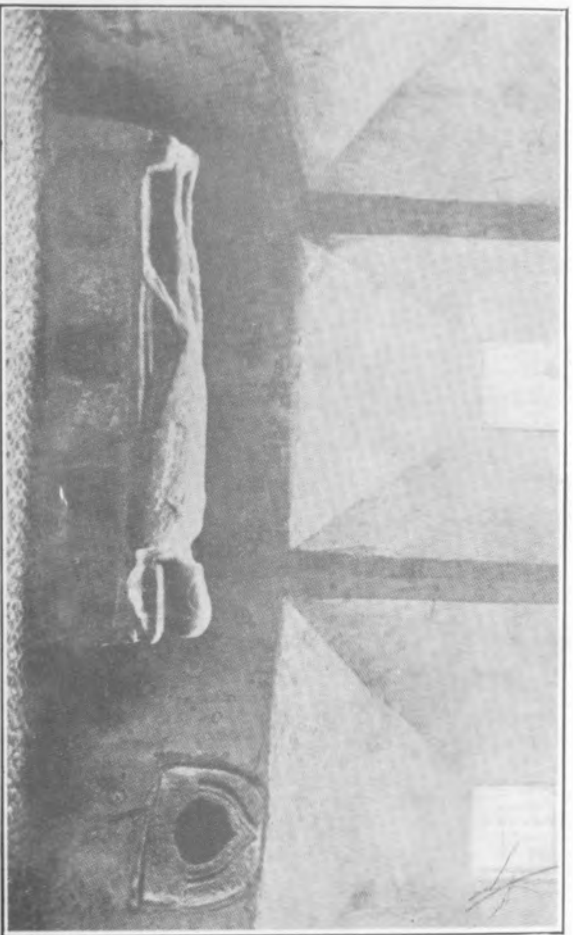
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