

55. THE PARISH OF METHVEN

by REV. G. MACLEAN WYLIE

Physical Basis. The parish lies almost in the middle of Strathmore which extends from Stonehaven in the east to Dumbarton in the west, with the Grampians to the north and the Ochill hills to the south. No change in the civil parish has occurred since the *New Statistical Account* was written. Ecclesiastically, it was affected by the Union of the Churches in 1929, when the parish was delimited and a portion to the east was taken away to help to form the new parish of St Serf's, Almondbank. As it now stands, the parish is bounded on the north by the river Almond; on the east by a line between Balcrue Bridge and Tibbermore railway station; on the south by the railway and on the west by the parishes of Findo Gask, Madderty and Fowlis Wester. In extent it is roughly five miles long and four miles wide.

History. Much of the history of the parish centres round the castle and the church. Methven Castle, built towards the end of the twelfth and the beginning of the thirteenth centuries, has from time to time been occupied by many whose names are well known in Scottish history. Mowbrays, Athols, Lennox, all figure in its history. In 1664, it was purchased by the Smythe family who retained it until 30 years ago. The history of the parish records the names of not a few who have attained distinction in the service of their country and their fellow men. Lord Lyndoch of the Peninsular War; the Rev. Dr. James Oswald, whose election to Methven Church in 1750 was strongly opposed, became one of its most outstanding ministers and a Moderator of the General Assembly; more recently two sons of the parish have been knighted: Sir A. K. Wright and Sir William Christie; Charles Smythe became first prime minister of Natal. His grandson, Quentin Smythe, was one of the three South Africans who won the Victoria Cross for service in North Africa during the Second World War. Other names might be mentioned, less conspicuous perhaps but no less honourable; sons and daughters of Methven who have gone out into the world and brought honour to their native parish. Others who remained at home, carved out for themselves a place in the love and esteem of their neighbours and are still remembered with affection. Methven has produced no outstanding figure in music, art or literature but it has had its own minor poets who have sung of 'The Auld Bell Tree,' 'The Green Woods of Cloag' and the beauty of Meffen Den.

Population. So far as population is concerned, Methven's most prosperous days were in the past. The highest population ever recorded was in 1821 when it reached the figure of 2,904. Thereafter there was a decline which was more or less continuous until in 1961 the figure was 1,530. Various reasons may be given for this. Small crofts have been absorbed by large farms; as elsewhere, the size of families has become progressively smaller; local and semi-local industries have disappeared such as jute weaving and the slate quarries at Logiealmond which gave employment to a number of local men. There followed the necessity of finding employment and a home somewhere. Emigration too has taken its toll of Methven folk. Throughout the years, many have left the parish to seek their fortune in different parts of the world. That they carried with them a deep affection for their native place is testified by the fact that Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand each possess a township bearing the name of Methven. Periodically the village is visited by the descendants of those emigrants,

eager to trace their family connections. About 40 per cent of the population were born in the parish. The remainder have come from other parts of Scotland and some from England, Wales and Ireland, in a number of cases ex-servicemen who married local girls during the Second World War. The agricultural labouring population is in a constant state of flux as farm workers move from one situation to another. Very few families can claim a long connection with Methven.

Housing. Many of the houses in the village were built during the first half of the nineteenth century; a few go back to the seventeenth. Of the latter some are still inhabited and in certain cases have been repaired and modernised. A few boulder and clay built houses still stand. At a time when thatching was still common, Methven had more slated houses than most villages. This was largely due to the proximity of the slate quarries at Logiealmond. The last thatched house disappeared in 1902, some of the older houses now stand empty and derelict and there is much room for further improvement. Between 1850 and 1926 probably not more than 20 new houses were built; but after that date new houses went up at a pace which was greatly accelerated at the close of the Second World War. The village now possesses 229 houses of which nearly 50 have been erected by the county council since 1945. Tenanted houses number 170; the remaining 59 are owner-occupied. Some of the older houses are still without modern amenities but their rents are small. The new houses are well equipped with every modern convenience and their rents are correspondingly higher. They contain from three to five apartments. Ten of the pre-fabricated type; eight are built of Swedish timber; four of concrete slabs, known as the 'Tarran' House. The remainder are of brick and roughcast. Eight of the new houses are reserved for agricultural workers. As a consequence of all this, the size of the village has been considerably increased. To the north-east there is quite a new housing area. Most of the tenants are young married couples belonging to the village who previously lived in furnished rooms. Others are families who have moved out of old condemned houses. Most of the houses have gardens which, on the whole, are well cultivated. These, together with the cream washed walls and red roofs of the new houses, give a colourful effect to the village and add to its attractiveness.

Public Services. Change in the means of transport has greatly influenced the life of the village and parish. In the early years of the past century, the only way to reach Perth, apart from walking or horse-drawn vehicles, was by means of the Perth, Almond Valley and Methven Railway. Originally this line terminated at Methven, but later, when taken over by the Caledonian Railway Company, it was extended to Crieff from a point south of Tippermallo, subsequently known as Methven Junction. With the advent of the bus, offering a cheaper and more convenient service, travel by train to and from Methven declined and ultimately was discontinued. The entire line from Perth to Crieff has now been closed to passenger traffic. Goods trains, however, still run and at the local station a considerable quantity of timber and potatoes and other goods are dealt with although even this is not what it once was. Motor haulage firms now carry by road what was formerly carried by rail. Two local contractors are responsible for a large proportion of this type of haulage in the parish. An hourly bus service between Perth and Crieff passes through the village and a local bus proprietor operates a service to Logiealmond and transports children to and from school. Until 1929 the water supply was drawn from two pump wells with water taps at certain points throughout the village fed by pipes leading from one of the wells. Thereafter a gravitation water supply was installed. The waters of the Methven

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Burn and its tributaries are collected in a reservoir above North Cassochie Farm, piped to a filter plant at Grundcruie and thence to a break-pressure tank at Drumbachly. While the scheme so far has been adequate, the new houses being erected and the enlargement of the area supplied make it necessary to embark on a larger and more comprehensive scheme. In 1930 a drainage scheme was inaugurated. A semi-automatic sewage disposal plant was erected half a mile to the south of the village. The filtered effluent is discharged into the lower reaches of the Methven Burn. Until the beginning of the century under review, the most common source of light throughout the parish was, as elsewhere, the paraffin lamp. It is used now only in emergencies. In the sixties, the Methven Gas Light Company Limited was formed 'to build gas works and supply coal gas to the village of Methven and immediate neighbourhood.' The company operated until 1919 when it was taken over, the local plant scrapped and the gas supply led by pipe from Perth. Gas is still used for cooking purposes but since 1939 it has gradually given place for lighting and power to electricity, supplied by the North of Scotland Hydro-electric Board. Many farms and houses in the parish which come near the Board's operations are electrified throughout. Some not in that happy position, have private installations or use Rural Gas for cooking. The roads throughout the parish are well surfaced. The fact that the main street of the village is part of the road between Perth and Crieff has ensured it being kept in good repair by successive road authorities. Until 1908 the roads were surfaced with water-bound macadam. It was not until the First World War that tar macadam was used extensively. The main street and adjoining roads are regularly swept and the grass verges cut and kept tidy. In 1898 the parish council instituted a scavenging scheme in the village. At first the operative force was a local woman who, equipped with a wheel barrow, a shovel, a broom and a tin of disinfectant, dealt with the village's scavenging problem. The collected refuse was deposited in the Methven Burn. This good woman was followed by a succession of men who, using a horse and cart, worked on a contract basis. Their duties extended beyond the village to Almondbank and Huntingtower. In 1948 a regional scheme for scavenging was initiated. Now all refuse is quickly and efficiently collected by two men with a specially designed motor truck. The scheme embraces, in addition to Methven, the villages of Luncarty, Bankfoot, Stanley, Almondbank and Huntingtower. All refuse is taken to Perth and burned in an incinerator. In 1875 street lamps were erected at certain strategic points and a 'leerie' appointed at a salary of £5 to light, extinguish and maintain the lamps. The cost of this service was met by public subscription but afterwards became a burden on the local rates. At the close of the Second World War, gas gave place to electricity and now the main street of the village is illuminated with mercury-discharge lamps. The 'leerie' has disappeared. The whole electric system is controlled by a clock-work device which switches it on and off and can be adjusted according to the hours when it is required. This excellent system of street lighting was introduced largely through the enterprise and initiative of the local District Councillor, W. M. Robertson. The cost was defrayed from a fund raised during the War for the benefit of the village.

A local practitioner attends to most of the medical needs of the parish though some are met by doctors from Crieff and Perth. There is also a district nurse. Most people requiring hospital treatment go to Perth Royal Infirmary; special cases requiring special treatment, to the hospital at Bridge of Earn. Infectious diseases are dealt with at King's Cross Hospital, Dundee. Periodically the school children are examined medically and dentally by the county education authority's doctor and dentist. The health of the community generally has greatly

improved and the average longevity of the population stands high. There is a police station with a resident police constable. At one time the prevalence of drunkenness and its after-effects contributed in no small measure to his duties. Happily, in this direction, there is a decided change for the better and little crime of a serious nature has to be dealt with. The local post office serves not only the village but the large rural area beyond with a staff consisting of five men and two women engaged on delivery duties. One household in eleven possesses a telephone.

Education. The education of the children of the parish was conducted, until 1911, in two schools; an infant and a senior school. In that year the main building of the present school was opened which brought all the children under one roof. In 1946 the raising of the school leaving age to 15 came into force and the school was raised to the status of a junior secondary school. The school now has primary and secondary departments with a roll varying between 240 and 300, a majority of whom are in the secondary department. Six or seven primary schools in the area send in post-primary pupils. The boys follow technical and the girls home-craft courses while all pupils receive instruction in rural science. Visiting teachers are responsible for physical education, art and music. As the school buildings are overcrowded a new extension has been under consideration for a period of years and it now seems likely that a building programme may be started in the near future.

While dealing with education, mention must be made of Trinity College, Glenalmond, situated to the north of the parish and overlooking the river Almond. Its fine buildings are an outstanding feature of the countryside and the parish itself takes a certain pride in the fame which the college has acquired. Founded in 1841 by W. E. Gladstone as a theological college of the Scottish Episcopal Church, in 1847 it became also a boarding school for boys. In that year 14 boys were admitted. Following a fire in 1876 the theological students were transferred to Edinburgh and the college was devoted entirely to the education of boys. Since then its reputation as a boarding school has become steadily enhanced and its roll of pupils has increased to approximately 350. To accommodate the extra boys, the Cairnies House was acquired in 1946 and now a second house in the grounds is being built. The college is an independent school, controlled by a governing body comprising the bishops of the Episcopal Church and a number of eminent laymen, many of them Old Boys. Until 1938, by statute, the Warden of the college had to be in Holy Orders, but the last Warden and the present one, Mr R. M. M. Barlow, are laymen. Under the Warden work a staff of 27 masters, preparing the boys for G.C.E. at Ordinary and Advanced level and for university scholarships and bursaries; in the past three years 20 of these have been won. From the university, and from Glenalmond direct, boys have entered the armed services, the learned professions, and, in increasing numbers, commerce and technical industry. In the last six or seven years, much new building has gone on; the capacity of the laboratories has been doubled and workshops for carpentry and engineering erected. Two squash courts, two more tennis courts and three football grounds have been added, while much new decoration has been carried out, notably in the hall and chapel, the latter to the design of Sir Basil Spence.

Church. The village is dominated by the parish church, built in 1783, with its graceful spire and clock erected by public subscription in 1826. The church which it replaced, almost on the same site, was founded as the Provostry or Collegiate Church of Methven by Walter Stewart, Earl of Athol who amply endowed it with

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lands and tithes. The north transept still stands and is used as the family burial-place of the Smythes of Methven Castle. A still earlier church was consecrated by David de Berbham, Bishop of St Andrews on 25 August 1247. No trace of this building remains and there is doubt regarding its exact site. A vague tradition locates it somewhere in the vicinity of Culdeesland, to the south-east of the village. The 700th anniversary of the consecration of this first church was celebrated by special services on Sunday 28 September 1947 conducted by Rev. Hugh Watt, Principal of New College, Edinburgh. At one time there were five churches in Methven: Church of Scotland, United Presbyterian, Free Church and two churches of the Original Secession. By the process of Church Union these have now merged into the one parish church. The church buildings, no longer used for public worship, serve the purpose of a furniture store, public hall, a potato merchant's store, and, after alteration, dwelling houses. A small Roman Catholic chapel is supplied weekly from Our Lady of Lourdes, Letham, Perth, serving Almondbank and the surrounding district. Mass is celebrated each Sunday and Holiday of Obligation and all church festivals are observed throughout the year. Some of the furnishings of the parish church reflect the loving interest of its members both as individuals and organisations. The church is fortunate in being well endowed. These endowments cover the greater part of the minister's stipend, the upkeep of the pipe organ, the Sunday school and the church fabric. The kirk session also administers a considerable fund for benevolent purposes. Several interesting links with the past remain; the church bell, cast at Malines, Belgium, in 1658 and two beaten silver communion cups, still in use, bearing the dates 1687 and 1688. Occupying a prominent position in the churchyard, stands the Lyndoch vault containing the mortal remains of the Lady Mary Graham, whose portrait by Thomas Gainsborough can be seen in the National Gallery, Edinburgh, and her husband, Sir Thomas Graham, afterwards Lord Lyndoch, who won distinction in the Peninsular War as second-in-command to General Moore. Until recent years there stood in a corner of the churchyard, the lifeless ivy-covered stump of what was long known as 'The Auld Bell Tree.' When it was a stately ash the adherents of the Reformation in Methven fixed a bell to one of its sturdiest branches to call them together to worship God, until the parish kirk and the belfry were built. According to one local poet:

'When Luther and Calvin were lads at the schule,
An' the aisle where the Meffin Lairds lie when they dee
Was a Kirk o' the Pope's, then the bell blythely swung
On the auld tree at Meffin - 'The Auld Bell Tree.'

Church attendance is not so common as it must have been earlier in the century. Congregations are smaller but, to a larger extent, they consist of worshippers who come because they wish to do so and not under the constraint of convention. Approximately one-third of the population are members of the local church. Others are connected with churches in neighbouring parishes. A few belong to the Scottish Episcopal or the Roman Catholic Church. The remainder are either lapsed members or they claim no church connection at all. One regrettable feature is the absence of farm workers from the services. This may be due to the frequency with which many of them change from one situation to another, a practice which does not conduce to steady church membership. As they can now claim the week-end off, the farmer himself finds that his duties make it more and more difficult to be regular in his church attendance. Services on special occasions, Communion, Christmas, Easter and Harvest Thanksgiving, are usually well attended. Any effort to raise funds for church purposes is always well supported

by the whole community. Most of the children are baptised, many at home, but an increasing number at a church service. Marriages too are coming more and more to be solemnized in church.

Social Activities. A number of organisations, not visualised at the beginning of the century, were started for the welfare of young people. For some years prior to the Second World War, a company of the Boys' Brigade flourished in the village. Later a troop of Boy Scouts was formed which ultimately gave place to the Cadets. A company of the Girl Guides continued for some years but had to close down for lack of leaders. A Youth Welfare Club formed in 1943 did excellent work among the young and adolescent of both sexes by providing opportunities for recreation and handicrafts. The majority of the children in the parish attend Church Sunday School. The minister conducts a Youth Bible Class and a Youth Fellowship for young men and women which meets on Sunday evenings during the winter months. The local branch of the Woman's Guild which has been in existence for a considerable number of years, provides Christian fellowship for the women of the congregation and an opportunity to give practical help to the local church and to the various schemes of the Church of Scotland in which they are interested. A branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute is well supported by the women of the parish. Its meetings are of a social and educational nature dealing with subjects in which women are specially interested. A special committee provides an outing in summer and a small gift at Christmas for blind and aged people in the parish. Help is also provided for chiropody treatment for the poor and the aged.

There is no evidence of any outstanding interest in the arts or letters so far as these are represented by their appropriate societies. For some years prior to 1939 the Methven Choral Society under the leadership of the schoolmaster, did much to encourage an interest in vocal music. A dramatic club, under the auspices of the church, was recently formed. Already it promises to have a successful career. For many years the village could boast of a football and cricket club but the latter has been discontinued. In 1934 a large field to the east of the village was purchased as a recreation ground. It is well equipped as a playground for children and there are ample facilities for football, cricket and other sports. Opposite the recreation ground are the bowling green, tennis courts and curling pond. The bowling club goes back to 1860 and the tennis club to 1926. Both are well supported. The curling pond is no longer used as curlers now find more comfortable conditions and an assured ice in Perth Ice Rink. Izaak Walton has many disciples in the parish and with the river Almond within easy reach, there is every opportunity for plying the rod. For many years the local anglers held an annual competition during the mid-summer holiday but that has long since been discontinued. Bee-keeping is also a favourite and a not unprofitable hobby with many. Not only in the village but also in the gardens of farm and cottar houses, it is not uncommon to see a row of hives.

Until 1933 the political outlook of the parish was largely Liberal but since then it has changed to Conservative. There is a very active Conservative Association in the village and a branch of the Junior Unionists' Association. The parish is in the constituency of East Perthshire. The affairs of the parish are now the responsibility of the Bridgeton, Almondbank and Methven Special District Committee of the Perth County Council. Miss Smythe of Methven represents the parish in the Council. Free Masonry is represented by the Lodge Kildrummie No. 906. It was largely through the enterprise of the members of this Lodge that the village hall was acquired. Built in 1844 as a Secession Church, it became,

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through the process of church union, redundant as a place of worship. In 1902 it was bought by the newly-formed Masonic Lodge and an appeal was made by that body to the public for funds to carry out its conversion into a public hall. In 1921 a lesser hall was built adjoining the main building and the cost generously defrayed by a local farmer, John Graham of Tippermallo. The hall is managed by a committee consisting of four Free Masons and two non-Masons with the R.W.M. as Convener. Both halls provide an excellent centre for public functions and social intercourse and throughout the winter months are in almost constant use.

Agriculture and Industry. Agriculture continues to be the main industry of the parish. There are 39 farms, 5 dairy and the remainder arable and of these 26 are tenanted and 13 owner-occupied. They vary in size from 6.40 to 60 acres. At the beginning of the century covered by this *Account*, a considerable number of crofts were absorbed by the larger farms. Unfortunately, in the process of so doing, some of the land previously cultivated has reverted to moorland, particularly to the north of the parish. Crops consist chiefly of oats, wheat, barley, potatoes and turnips. As the use of silage has become more common, fewer turnips have been grown but potatoes, encouraged by government subsidies and acreage grants, have greatly increased. Some flax is also grown and, since the two World Wars, a greater acreage has been devoted to sugar beet. Recently one or two farmers have included peas amongst their crops for the canning industries. Cattle, so far as dairy stock is concerned, include mainly Ayrshires and Friesians, the former having displaced Shorthorns as the favourite breed for dairy purposes. Three farms possess T.T. herds: Cloag, Dalcrue and Methven Castle Home Farm. There has been a steady increase in the number of cattle imported for the beef market. These are usually a cross between Shorthorns and Aberdeen-Angus. Sheep are not so extensively reared compared with 50 years ago. Where they are kept, the favourite breeds are Suffolks, Cheviots and a cross between Leicesters and Black-faced. Within recent years the breeding of pigs on a large scale has attracted a number of farmers in the parish. The past century has seen in the parish, as elsewhere, a remarkable development in the mechanisation of agriculture. The reaper and binder has replaced the sickle and scythe and now the combine harvester is taking the place of the reaper and binder, and mechanical sowing has proved much more efficient than sowing by hand. The motor tractor does most of the work formerly done by horses with the result that fewer horses are kept and farmers have greater difficulty in finding men to work them. A good many women are engaged in domestic work at Glenalmond and also in seasonal labour in planting and gathering potatoes, fruit picking and harvest. Bothies are becoming less common. Cottar houses have undergone considerable improvement and few of the older type remain, most of the newer ones being equipped with modern sanitary arrangements, interior water supply and in many cases with electricity. At the beginning of the century, £12 to £18 per annum was a common wage for a farm worker. Since then wages have steadily increased. The formation of the Farmers' Union, the Farm Workers' Union and Young Farmers' Clubs have contributed in no small measure to improve working conditions, to the development of modern scientific methods in agriculture and to co-operative effort in many directions.

Prior to 1870 the weaving industry was well represented and many hand looms were operated in the village. These began to disappear with the advent of the power loom and in 1885 the last Methven hand-loom weaver gave up business.

Until about 50 years ago the manufacture of jute cloth was carried on in a building which had formerly been an Original Secession Church, a kirk which actually became a mill! It prospered for a time but was compelled to close down because, among other reasons, of the shortage of labour. There was no dearth of this commodity in winter, but in summer the workers preferred work in the fields where, if wages were no higher, the conditions were healthier. Some of the women were occupied in oak peeling. The bark was sent to a tannery in Crieff. The main village industry to-day centres round the saw mill of James Halliday and Son. Founded in 1893 at Grundcruie, it was removed to the village in 1912. It now employs 30 men. In the early part of the century the village could boast of three joiners' shops. There is now only one. In addition, an old established firm of blacksmiths, two building firms, two firms of slaters, one firm each of plasterers and plumbers, two motor haulage contractors and a garage give local employment to a considerable number of the male population. At this point special reference might be made to the 'smithy.' It has stood in its present position, in the middle of the village since early in the seventeenth century and has been in the hands of several generations of the same family – the Murries. No local industry has undergone so great a transformation within recent years. Horse shoeing is now the least part of the blacksmith's handicraft. From the mechanisation of the farm has evolved the mechanisation of the 'smithy.' The smith to-day is an accomplished artificer with every kind of modern equipment at hand such as electrical welding plant, and electrically powered lathes, to enable him to deal effectively with the problems of modern farming implements.

A considerable number of Methven people, of both sexes, travel by bus to Perth every day to the workshops, factories, shops and offices in that city. The Naval Stores at Almondbank and to a lesser extent, the works of Lumsden and Mackenzie at Huntingtower give work to many and Trinity College, Glenalmond, employs quite a number of village women in domestic service. Earlier in the century Methven was more of a shopping centre than it is now. At that time five cobblers, one saddler, six grocers and general merchants, one butcher, two bakers, two drapers and five tailors carried on business. To-day, with Perth made so accessible by bus and motor car, many people do their shopping there, with the result that the tailors', saddlers' and cobblers' shops have disappeared and the number of other shops is much smaller. At one time there were 13 inns in the village. There are now only two – the 'Methven Arms' and the 'Star' Hotel. The former is operated under the Gothenburg system. It is owned and controlled by the Methven Arms Hotel Society Limited who employ a manager. All profits remaining after five per cent has been allowed on its capital, go to local charities.

Way of Life. The passage of the years has inevitably brought changes in the way of life. It is broader, but it might be a fair criticism to say that it is less deep. It is better informed but less thoughtful. People possess more of the amenities of life but it is doubtful if they are happier. The increased traffic between town and country has tended to make Methven less rural and more suburban and the life of the parish less insular. To an extent undreamed of at the beginning of the century under review, every home, even the loneliest farmhouse or cottar house, is linked up with the larger world outside by means of the daily newspaper and other forms of journalism, wireless and television. Few houses are without an aerial. The sense of community is less than it once was but it is still very real. Transport and television have revolutionised the way of life of the community, especially so among the teenagers, who are attracted to the bright lights of the city. Games are not indulged in to any great extent. Apart from those already

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mentioned, there is no local football club or cricket club except from the day school and Boys' Brigade. Whist is played weekly during the winter months to help raise funds for the bowling club and an occasional dance is held in the public hall. Church life is at a very low ebb; a change of ministry, here or in a neighbouring parish, would lead to a 'linking' between the two parishes. Television, both channels, is to be found in the majority of the homes with a resulting decline in the social life of the community; the time when people made their own amusements is a thing of the past; here as elsewhere throughout the country one might call this 'the bored generation.' But there are more facilities, especially for young people, to spend their leisure hours profitably and enjoyably. In consequence, much that marred the records of the past is now disappearing, for example, petty crime, drunkenness and illegitimacy. Unfortunately, betting and gambling seem to be increasing, chiefly in the form of football pools. On the whole the people are law-abiding, industrious and neighbourly, sharing in each others joys and sorrows. A local wedding attracts many onlookers particularly among the women folk and when a bereavement occurs, not only is there general sympathy but many of the men folk follow the cortege on foot to the churchyard or cemetery. Extreme poverty is practically unknown thanks to the provision made by the state of old age and widows' pensions, health insurance and family allowances. Wherever straitened circumstances do occur, financial assistance is given from the funds of the Baxter Trust founded by Dr. Robert Baxter, a native of Methven, who left £1,060 for the poor of the parish and from a considerable fund administered by the kirk session.

Life in the parish now knows a prosperity perhaps greater than it has ever experienced. Higher wages, full employment, more and better houses and more social amenities give encouragement for a hopeful outlook to the future. If human life can be saved from the tragic interruption of another World War, there is every reason to be confident that this country parish, in common with many another, will go on from strength to strength.

January 1953.

Revised by the Rev. S. Kennedy, April 1962.