

PARISH OF ELIE

THIS PARISH, containing the post town of its own name, is on the south coast of the County. It is bounded by the Firth of Forth on the south, by Abercrombie on the east, and by Kilconquhar and Newburn on the north and west. It comprises a main body of about two miles in length from east to west, by nearly one in breadth, and two detached portions to the north-west, the one containing two farms at the distance of two miles, and the other, one farm at the distance of three miles. There are no hills and scarcely a rising ground in the Parish, the whole surface being flat, and a considerable portion near the sea-shore forming sandy links. The promontories which form the two extremities of the bay of Elie consist of amygdaloid and basalt, the latter exhibiting sometimes a columnar structure. Between these head-lands the beach is low and composed of alternate thin beds of sandstone and shale, with occasionally seams of coal and strata of limestone--the whole inclined at high angles and in different directions, and without any regularity. Basalt occurs in various places extending in long reefs far into the sea.

The greater portion of the Parish originally formed what was called the Barony of Ardross; and about the beginning of the seventeenth century came into the possession of Sir William Scott, who held the office of Director of Chancery during a part of the reign of Charles I., and was sold by his descendants to Sir William Anstruther, of Anstruther, about the end of the same century. A few years ago the estate was purchased from the representative of the Anstruther family, by William Baird, Esq., one of the Messrs Baird, of Gartsherrie, who during the present generation have realized immense fortunes by the manufacture of iron. The ruins of the ancient Castle of Ardross, the manor place of the barony, still remain about a mile to the eastward of the village. Elie House, the present mansion-house, is situated a little to the north of the village; the grounds are beautifully wooded, and have been laid out with great taste. The Parish was originally a part of Kilconquhar, and became a separate erection about the year, 1633.

The village of Elie stands at the head of Elie Bay, five miles east south east of Largo, and about the same distance west south west of Anstruther. It is a Burgh of Barony, and stands near the sea, the water frequently washing the walls of the houses; and so nearly does it adjoin the suburbs of the Burgh of Earlsferry, in the parish of Kilconquhar, that, though treated and spoken of as different towns, no stranger would consider them separate places. Elie has the appearance of having formerly been a place of greater importance, as a number of the older houses have evidently been inhabited by families of distinction; and although now a place of little trade, the whole is well built, and the streets are clean, wide, and regular. It is well sheltered from the east and north winds, and has long been a place of resort for sea-bathers during the summer. Indeed its chief importance and support is owing to that cause, a great number of the inhabitants letting a portion of their houses to visitors during the season; and no place on the south coast, to the east of Burntisland, is so well adapted for sea-bathing as Elie, and the advantages it holds out in that respect seem every year to be more and more appreciated by the public. The harbour is naturally a good one, and has recently, at much expense, been greatly improved and extended by the proprietor of Elie. It is easily accessible to boats and vessels, many of the former having to flee to it for shelter during a storm from the east and north-east, when it would be dangerous to attempt the harbours to the eastward. The only winds to which it is exposed are those from the west and south-west. Elie seems peculiarly adapted for a fishing station, yet, strange to say, the

inhabitants derive little advantage from that branch of industry, for the fishermen connected with the place scarcely supply the wants of the village and neighbourhood.

There is no particular branch of industry carried on to any considerable extent in the Parish. A few are connected with agriculture, and a number are employed as village shopkeepers and tradesmen. A considerable number eke out a limited income by letting out either the whole or a part of their premises to country visitors during the bathing season; while a number more may be described as being in easy circumstances, and independent either of trade or profession.

The main road from Anstruther to Kirkcaldy passes through the Parish; and the Kilconquhar station of the East of Fife Railway is within a mile of the village, and coaches run to and from the station in connection with all the trains. A Bill passed through Parliament in 1861, for the purpose of carrying on the Railway to Anstruther; the extended line passes close to the village.

The Parish Church is a neat structure with a Spire. The precise date of its erection is not known, but it must have been somewhere about 1640. The Spire was built in 1728, and in 1831 the Church, which contains 600 sittings, underwent a thorough repair. The only other place of worship is the Free Church, which is also ornamented with a neat Spire. The Parish School and School-House is a very commodious and handsome building, built in 1860, and reflects great credit on the proprietor of. Elie estate, who erected it at his own expense. The only other School in the Parish is an Evening School, taught for the last forty years during the winter months, by Mr James Clark, Gardener. The branches chiefly taught are, writing, arithmetic, and trigonometry. Mr Clark, as a non-professional teacher, deserves credit for the zeal and tact he has so long displayed in the education of the neighbouring youth.

Elie is the POST TOWN for the district, Ann Gourlay, Post Mistress.- Letters are delivered in Elie and Earlsferry twice a day, commencing about 9.30 A.M. and 6.45 P.M., and are despatched at 6.30 A.M. and 2.45 P.M.

BAKERS.

Alexander, Andrew, South Street

Philp, Robert, West End

Tod, William, High Street

BANKS.

NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, High Street. William R. Ketchin, Agent

SAVINGS' BANK, for Elie, Earlsferry, and district, open daily. Henry Randall, Manilla Cottage, Manager

BLACKSMITHS.

Dall, John, Back Dykes

Edwards, John, East End

BOOT & SHOEMAKERS.

Bowers, William, High Street

Boyd, James, do

Boyd, Peter, South Street

Dick, William, High Street

Herd, John, Park Place

BUILDERS.

Currie, Thos., (& Architect) South Street

Given, David, Vennel

Given, William, High Street

CARRIERS.

Brown, William, from Elie and Kilconquhar to Cupar, every Thursday

Mackie, Alex., from Kilconquhar (calls :at Elie) to Kirkcaldy, every Tuesday

Railway, East of Fife, Station at Kilconquhar, about one mile north-west of Elie, T. S. Walker,
Agent

CARTERS & LAND LABOURERS.

Adamson, Alexander, Toll Wynd

Given, William, High Street

CHINA MERCHANTS.

Duff, Miss, South Street

McRuvie, Mrs D., Park Place

Watson, Mrs J., Soapwork Street

CLERGY.

Buchanan, Robert, Parish Church, Manse

Longwill, David, Independent Chapel, Park Place

Wood, Walter, Free Church, South Street

COACHES.

Marshall, Mrs, from Kilconquhar Station, by Elie, to St Monance, Pittenweem, and Anstruther,
on the arrival of the morning and afternoon trains

Smith, Thomas, from Kilconquhar Station, by Elie, to St Monance, Pittenweem, and Anstruther,
on the arrival of the forenoon and evening trains

DRAPERS.

Birrell, George, West End

Foggo, John, High Street

DRESSMAKERS & MILLINERS.

Alexander, Miss, High Street

Davidson, 'Miss Christina, (& Straw Bonnets) High Street

Gourlay, Miss Elizabeth, East End

Murray, Misses B., & M., Toll Wynd

Sime, Misses, South Street

FARMERS.

Allan, Andrew, West End

Brown, John, Wade's Lea, East End

Currie, Thomas, South Street

Curror, William, Ardross

Fortune, William R., Esq., Muircambus

Galloway, Andrew, Millburn

Luke, James, Muircambus Mill

Luke, John, (Bowhouse) East End

White, Robert, Park Place

GARDENERS.

Brown; John, Elie House Gardens

Clark, James, (& Seedsman) School Wynd

GENTRY & PEOPLE OF INDEPENDENT MEANS.

Archibald, Miss, High Street

Baird, W., Esq., Elie House (occasionally resident)

Beale, Mrs A., Soapwork Street

Bennet, Misses, Park Place

Brown, Misses, South Street

Carey, Lieutenant, R. N., West End

Chapman, Misses, Braehead

Christie, Alexander, Elie, Lodge

Couper, Mrs, High Street

Cumming, John, Mill Hill

Cumming, Robert, Mill Hill

Currie, Peter, High Street

Douglas, Mrs, Park Place

Edie, Miss Agnes, South Street

Fairbairn, Misses, Park Place

Fraser, Dr. Peter, South Street
Fortune, Miss Ann, High Street
Fortune, Wm. R., Esq., Muircambus House
Gentle, Misses, High Street
Gourlay, James, Esq., Park Place
Grieve, John, Esq., South Street
Laing, Mrs, Soapwork Street
Luke, James, Esq., Muircambus Mill
Luke, Mrs David, East End
McDonald, Mrs A., High Street
Milligan, Mrs, South Street
Milne, Miss Charlotte, High Street
Morrison, Rev. John, Braehead
Porteous, Mr James, Mill Hill
Raines, Richard, Esq., South Street
Richard, Mrs, Middle Wynd
Russell, Miss Anabella, Henderson House
Russell, Miss Janet, South Street
Robertson, Mr Andrew, Park Place
Telford, Mrs, West End
Thomson, Miss Isabella, Braehead
Wood, Miss, Middle Wynd

GROCERS.

Those marked thus*are also Spirit Dealers. *

Cook, Andrew, High Street

Duff, Miss, South Street

* Foggo, William, High Street

Glass, Robert, East End

* Keddie, M., & E., South Street

Kier, Jane, Stenton Row

*Kidd, Mrs Agnes, High Street

Thomson, Charles, High Street

Thomson, John, South Street

White, Alex., (& Ironmonger) Park Place

INSURANCE AGENTS

Birrell, Geo., Draper, City of Glasgow, life.

Currie, Thomas, Builder, Scottish Union, fire and life

Foggo, John, Draper, Life Association of Scotland, life

Gilchrist, William, Bookseller, Caledonian, fire and life

Ketchin, W. R., Banker, Phoenix, fire, Insurance Co. and Scottish Provident, life

JOINERS & WRIGHTS.

Currie, Thomas, South Street

Hunter, Thomas, Back Dykes

White, Alexander, Park Place

White, Robert, do

PAINTERS & PAPER-HANGERS.

Bain, James, & George, Middle Wynd

Gibb, Robert, South Street

SHIPMASTERS.

Ballingall, Thomas, South Street

Gray, Archibald, High Street

Gray, John, High Street

Nicol, Walter, North Street

Ovenstone, William, Park Place

Smith, Robert, South Street

Stewart, Robert, do

TEACHERS & SCHOOLS.

Clark, James, (Evening School during winter) School Wynd

Riddock, G., Parish School, (& Registrar) Park Place

TAILORS.

Those marked thus* are also Clothiers.

Adamson, Alexander, High Street

* Birrell, George, West End

Brodie, William, Soapwork Street

*Philp, Benjamin, East End Philp, Robert, do

VINTNERS.

Aitken, Alex., (Hotel license) High Street

Simpson, Peter, Ship Inn, John's Place

MISCELLANEOUS.

Binbridge, Lieutenant, R. N., Coast Guard Officer, West End

Bell, Thomas, Salmon Fisher and Fish Merchant

Cumming, William, Ship Carpenter

Elie Subscription Library, James Boyd, Shoemaker, Librarian

Foggo, John, Manager of Elie and Earlsferry Gas Works, Elie

Gilchrist, William, Bookseller, Stationer, & Binder, High Street

Latto, Alex., Parish Beadle, Little Wynd

Leitch, George, Currier & Leather Merchant, South Street

Luke, James, Corn & Flour Miller, Muircambus Mill

McIntosh, Mrs, Straw Bonnet Maker, East End

Oliphant, William, Flesher, Toll Wynd

Philp, John, Brewer & Maltster, West End

Pousty, Andrew, Coal Merchant, East End

Simpson, Peter, Harbour Master

Thomson, Charles, Chemist & Druggist, High Street