

A Digest of Parochial Returns Made to the Select Committee Appointed to Inquire into the Education of The Poor 1818 (*session 1818. Vol. I, National Library of Scotland*)

Document type: HOUSE OF COMMONS PAPERS: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The details shown are: name of the Parish and name of the minister signing the return; the population of each Parish; particulars relating to Endowments for Education of Youth, other Institutions for the purpose of Education; observations.

COUNTY OF ELGIN

ALVES

922 Lewis Gordon

The parochial school containing 45 children, 6 of whom are taught for a mortification of £1. 2s 6d bequeathed some years ago, to the master and his successors for ever, and 2 or 3 gratis; the teacher has a salary of £16. 13s 4d and half a chalder of barley, besides a house, and two bolls of barley in lieu of garden, and the fees amounting to £20.

A Sunday school, consisting of 80 children, the master of whom is allowed £5 per annum, by the Edinburgh Society for prompting Religious Knowledge.

The Poor have sufficient means of instruction.

BELLIE, part of

1,904 J Anderson

The parochial school, containing from 45 to 60 children, the master of which receives a salary of £12.10s, 14 bolls of meal, and fees and emoluments amounting to £48. 10s including £10 allowed by the Duke of Gordon.

A School, containing from 90 to 100 children, established under the first patent, by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and in which the poorer classes are taught gratis. The master is allowed £15 per annum, besides quarterage from those who can afford it, and certain allowances from the heritors. Two schools under the second patent, established by the same Society, comprising from 40 to 50 girls; to these schools are attached salaries of £8 and £5 and those for whom the parents are unable to pay, are taught gratis.

The poor possess the means of education.

BIRNIE

357 James Paterson

The Parochial School, containing 25 children, the salary of the master is £15 being with his other emoluments, equal to £21 per annum.

None

The poorer classes have the means of instructing their children.

DALLAS

872 Francis W Grant

The parochial school, consisting of 25 children, the salary of the master is £16, 13s 4d besides emoluments, amounting to £5 10s 9d and fees £9.

One school, containing from 30 to 42 children, supported in part by a small subscription, and to the teacher of which the Earl of Fife gives a house, garden, and three guineas per annum. Two Sunday schools, containing together about 100 children, taught at their parents' expense.

In those parts of the parish, which are at a distance from the parochial school, the children of the poor have not sufficient means of education, but are very anxious to possess them.

DRAINY

911

no information given

DUFFUS

1623 John Gordon

The parochial school, containing 30 children, 4 of whom are taught gratis, the master's salary is £22. 4s 5d including 12 bolls of barley, at £1 per boll and emoluments and fees amounting to near £26.

Three schools, one of which contains 70 children, the master has a house and school-room, and £10 per annum, allowed by the inhabitants, besides his school-fees; the others taught by women; and contain together between 30 and 40 children. A Sunday school, containing 86 children, the master of whom has £3 per annum allowed by the Edinburgh Society.

The poorer classes have sufficient means of education.

DUTHIL/ROTHIEMURCUS

1,143 (Consolidated Parishes) John Grant, William Grant

The parochial school, consisting of 120 scholars, one-third of whom are taught gratis; the master has a salary of £16. 13s 4d and emoluments, making it £26. 13s 4d per annum.

One school, containing about 40 children, which is in part supported by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge and partly by Colonel Grant, who gives a house, garden and cow's grass, with £8 per annum.

The poorer classes are not precluded by distance from enjoying the benefit of educating their children, but many are from poverty, and are desirous of possessing the means.

DYKE and MOY

1427 (consolidated parishes) James Smith

The parochial school, consisting of 45 children, from 2 to 5 of whom are taught gratis; the master receives from the heritors a salary of £10 and 14 ½ bolls of barley meal, the interest of a bequest of 1,000 merks, or £55. 11s 1d which with other emolument, amounts to £9 and his fees are about £12. A school for girls, the mistress of which has £6 18s 11d, the interest of a mortification of 2,500 merks (£138 17s 9d), and a house and garden from the heritors, besides 2s per quarter from each scholar.

In different parts of the parish, old women are employed to teach young children, but the numbers are very fluctuating.

All the poor have the means of educating their children, and for the most part take advantage of them.

EDINKEILLIE

1215 Thos McFarlane

The parochial school, consisting of 24 children, the master's salary is £21 and emoluments £5. 12s, besides fee. Two schools, established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, aided by a bequeathment in 1714, by Dr. Duncan Cumming, of £261. 12s 7d; the first contains 70, the other 40 scholars, more than half of whom are from other parishes; both salaries amount to £80 per annum including emoluments.

A school, taught by women, containing 10 children.

The parochial school is about the centre of the parish, but all cannot avail themselves of it.

ELGIN

4,602 Lewis Gordon and Wm Gordon

An academy, divided into three distinct schools, and consisting of 230 children, the first master has a salary of £40 and the two others £35 each. The funds arise from 24 acres of land, granted by King James the 6th, the money rent of the lands of Maison Dieu, amount to £23 per annum, and the victual rent to 16 bolls of barley, which were to sustain a qualified master of church music, and maintain 4 decayed tradesmen of the town; the money is appropriated to the payment in part of the above salaries, and the remainder is paid for out of the common good of the town; and the bolls of barley are divided among the tradesmen. There are also 9 acres of land bequeathed for the instruction of 6 poor children for three years, who attend the parochial school, and the proceeds are paid to the bursars, who receive from £4 to £5 per annum each.

A school, containing 65 children, kept by a master; and nine schools, kept by a master; and nine schools, kept by women, attended by 207 scholars; of the above children, 90 are paid for, and books furnished them from a subscription fund formed by the ladies of Elgin. Two boarding schools for young ladies. At a part of the parish, called Pluscarden, the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge appropriated about £10 to a master, but the charity has been lately withdrawn; and to remedy which, the Earl of Fife has given £5 and the small farmers the same sum, and with this slender and inadequate provision, the poor people have obtained a teacher, who instructs 40 scholars; and a school, containing 20 children, in Mosstourie, to which the Earl also allows £2. 2s.

At the parts of the parish, called Blackhills and Longsmorton, the poorer classes from poverty are unable to have their children educated, the poorer classes from poverty are unable to have their children educated, but in the other parts the means are sufficient; and the poor highly appreciate the importance of having the opportunity of instruction. A school is now building at Clackmarris, which is supposed will afford the means of instruction to about 30 or 40 children.

FORRES

2,925 John Macdonell

Two burgh schools one a grammar school, containing 50 children, the other an English one, consisting one, consisting of 80. The master of the former has a salary of £40 and fees, making £70 per annum; the master of the latter has a salary of £30 and fees making together £60 a year. These salaries are paid from the Burgh funds.

A subscription school, containing 60 scholars, and two Sunday schools, attended by 150 children, taught gratis. A boarding school for young ladies, consisting of 20.

All classes are anxious to have their children educated. A school is to be established shortly, and to be wholly supported by mortification.

KINLOSS

1,052 William Robertson

The parochial school, containing 40 children, 2 or 3 of whom are taught gratis; the master's salary is £22. 4s 5d, which, with 7 bolls, 1 firloft, 2 pecks of barley, makes his salary amount to £30 and his fees and emoluments to £27. 10s; two schools, consisting of 47 children.

A few of the poorer classes, from poverty and distance from the parochial school, are without the means of education, and are desirous of possessing them, and the minister states that a Sunday school is an institution much wanted, especially in the town of Findhorn.

KNOCKANDO

1,332 Lachlan McPherson

Two parochial schools, one containing 61 children, 18 of whom are taught gratis, the other 30, and 10 of them are instructed gratuitously; the master's salary of the first is £16. 13s 4d making, with other perquisites, £31. 13s 4d per annum; of the second £16. 13s 4d and with fees, equalling £19 16s 4d per annum.

A school, containing 20 children, of whom 12 are taught gratis, supported by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, who allow the master £16 per annum, and his emoluments from the scholars are £1. 10s.

The poor have sufficient means of education.

RAFFORD

974 George Mackay

The parochial school, consisting of 25 children; the master's salary is £16. 13s 4d, and with fees amounts to £24 3s 4d per annum.

The initiatory schools, kept by women, containing each 20 children.

When one or two other dame schools are established, the means of instruction may be said to be adequate to the wants of the parish, their being none so poor as to be unable to afford their children education at the said schools.

ROTHES

1,605 G Cruickshank

The parochial school consisting of 100 children, 20 of whom are for the most part taught gratis; the master has a salary of £22. 4s 5d with a house and garden, and emoluments and fees, producing £45.

A school, containing 40 children, supported partly by the landed proprietors, and by school fees; a school consisting of 20 girls, supported by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge who allow the mistress £6 per annum, and Lord Seafield pays the rent of her house.

The poorer classes possess the means of education.

ST ANDREWS / LLANBRIDE

869 (consolidated parishes) George Hill, William Leslie

The parochial school, consisting of from 20 to 30 children; the master's salary is £11 2s 6d and 18 bolls of barley, besides £7 arising from fees and £1. 8s bequeathed in mortmain by an ancestor of the Earl of Fife.

Several schools in various parts of the parish; and at the east and west end, the landholders and tenants have erected a house and school house, and have given each teacher a small salary. An old soldier teaches a few poor children in the Village of Llan Bride the Westminster catechism and the Bible and to write for which the parents pay 4s or 5s per quarter for each child.

The poorer classes possess the means of education.

SPEYMOUTH

1,124 James Gillan

The parochial school, consisting of 34 children, 2 or 3 of whom are taught gratis; the master's salary from the heritors is £11. 2s 2d and 8 bolls of meal at 8s per boll, and 2 ½ bolls of barley, besides the interest of 2,000 merks, left for that purpose by a Mr Patrick Gordon, and settled in the hands of the Earl of Fife; £5. 7s 9d allowed him by the Duke of Gordon £12 from emoluments besides £16 from fees. A school in which 23 children are instructed; the master has £2. 15s 6d per annum bequeathed by an ancestor of the Earl of Fife, to which is added £15 by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, with a house and school-house, garden, and 3 bolls of oatmeal, allowed him yearly by the Duke of Gordon, as heritor,

who also gives him £1. 10s to purchase fuel, besides school fees; and such children as cannot afford to pay are taught gratis.

NEW SPYNIE

816 Thos Carmen

The parochial school, consisting of 20 children; the salary of the master is £22. 4s 5d besides fees amounting to £9 and his emoluments to £2. 17s 9d.

None

The poorer classes have sufficient means of education

URQUHART

936 A J Walker

The parochial school, consisting of 45 children; the master has a salary of 21 bolls of bear, besides 11 bolls of oatmeal, an endowment from the Earl of Dunfermline, equal to £11, which has been regularly paid for the last century; with a house and garden, valued at £6 besides fees amounting to £15.

An old woman teaches the alphabet to about 19 children.

The poorer classes are at all times enabled to procure sufficient education for their children.

COUNTY OF NAIRN

ARDCLACH

1,275 Hugh Macbean

The parochial school, containing 30 children, five sixths of who are taught gratis; the master's salary is £23. 12s 2d his emoluments £6 per annum, but the fees are very small; a school, consisting of 26 scholars, the master of which receives £1. 13s 4d arising from a mortification, and £1. 10s from his scholars.

A school attended by from 20 to 26 girls, supported by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge.

The poorer classes (being five-sixths of the parish) are without sufficient means of educating their children, partly owing to the poverty, and in many cases from their great distance from the parochial school.

AULDEARN

1,406 William Barclay

The parochial school, containing about 100 children, 4 or 5 of whom are taught gratis; the master's salary is on an average £30 and his emoluments and fees £46 per annum.

A school containing 10 or 12 children kept by a master, who is allowed a house free of rent, built by subscription, besides school fees; and a school consisting of the same number, kept by a woman.

The poorer classes have suffered means of education.

CALDER (part of)

943 not signed

The parochial school, containing 50 children; the master's salary is £22. 4s 5d and the fees and emoluments produce £24 per annum.

A school, consisting of from 30 to 40 children, supported by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge which allows the mistress £6 per annum and her fees are about £4; a Sunday school, containing 25 scholars who are taught gratis.

The poorer classes, with the exception of one small district of the parish, have sufficient means of education.

NAIRN

2, 504 James Grant

The parochial school, containing 100 children, one third of whom are taught gratis; the master's salary is £22. 4s 5d and his fees and emoluments amount to £31. 10s per annum.

A school, containing 50 children supported by the Society in Edinburgh which allows the master £15 per annum and a house and garden free, a school, attended by 20 scholars, and two consisting of from 20 to 30 each. Three Sunday schools, wherein 280 children are taught, supported by subscription. Two schools, taught by mistresses, one in which the children are taught, music etc the other an elementary one, containing together 40 children.

The parochial school is by no means fit for the education of one half of the children of the parish; and the situation of it is such, that the health of both teacher and children, is very much endangered.

Ken Nisbet (3)