

TREMENDOUS STORM IN SCOTLAND.

From the Inverness Journal.

During the past week we have had in this quarter a visitation of so tremendous a character in the shape of flood and storm, as has been preceded by no example, either in the memory of man, or in the annals of our districts. The finest structures in our country have fallen before it. The magnificent bridge, built by the Duke of Gordon, over the Spoy at Fochabers—the beautiful structure over the Findhorn at Forres, both on the great coast road—the bridge over the Findhorn at Freeburn—the bridge at Moy—the bridge at Dalmagario—and other bridges on the Highland road, have been carried off; as have also the bridge over the Spoy at Grantown—the bridge of Noth—the bridge of Curr—the bridge of Dava—the bridge of Craggan—the bridge of Dulisio, &c. The coaches both on the Highland and coast roads have consequently suffered interruption. We are glad to understand that the floods have done comparatively little damage in Rosshire. The fall of rain seems to have been heaviest in the higher grounds of Invernesshire.

The river Findhorn has done much damage, by overflowing the low grounds destroying the corn, and carrying it off in many instances. A girl, daughter of a cottor, lived near Freeburn, was swept away by the current, and drowned. A poor woman named Speedy, residing at Broom of Moy, who had been confined to bed, was drowned by the water coming into the house, which she was unable to quit.

The river Nairn has also done much injury, particularly at Kiltavock and Cantray. Two wooden bridges, one at Culchlachy, and another at Culdoich, have been carried off; and several tenants, whose houses were near its banks, and inundated, were compelled to make a speedy retreat to the higher grounds, there being from three to four feet water in many of their dwellings. The fields on the farm of Culhog have been flattened to the ground; and the crops belonging to the tenants of Rosefield, Kildrummie, and Allanha—indeed, all along the banks of the river to Househill—have suffered severely; and the gardens at Cantray and Holm have been much spoiled with the sand brought down by the current. At the farm of Tir of Ghreim, the dwelling-house, barn, and byre, were swept off. At Kildrummie, part of the mill, and the whole stables, are damaged, and the miller had a litter of swine carried off. At Fallie, part of a house and carding-mill, with a dye-house and dying utensils, the property of Mr. Davidson, the tenant, were swept away, and totally destroyed, and all the temporary bridges across the river were thrown down. On Thursday, the tenants were busily engaged, on the banks of the river, collecting the scattered remains of their property.

The following communication, dated Wednesday, is from a respectable correspondent in Fochabers:—

“Yesterday morning, all the low grounds near the river were covered to the depth of twenty feet; and several of the poor inhabitants of Inchberry were seen sitting on the roofs of their houses, waiting their turn till the boats could be sent to their relief. Many of them have lost every thing; numbers of cattle have been drowned, and it is much to be feared many human beings. From the bank on the Speymouth side of the river, to the brae at Upper Dallachy, was one uninterrupted sheet of water, variegated only by the dwellings of the miserable inhabitants, the tops of which alone, in many cases, were to be seen. The crops, of course, are entirely destroyed, and many persons will be reduced to beggary.”

The distillery at Dandalceith, has been wholly swept off. Many fields near the mouth of the Spoy have been ruined; and at Garmouth and Kingston more than twenty houses have been destroyed.

The Nethy, Drnie, Dulnan and Avon, swelled higher than the oldest inhabitants in the districts ever recollected to have seen them; bridges, houses, and the soil of rich fields, were swept away by the torrents. The Nethy carried off a handsome bridge near Culachyle, and several houses were thrown to the ground. The bridge at Curr has also fallen by the violence of the Delnaka, which overflowed its banks at Tullochgriban and other places. All the burns and smaller streams in Lochaber, Badenoch

and Strathspoy, have overflowed their banks, and many of them have done irreparable damage. Two bridges at Grantown, one at Craggan, and many others in the neighbourhood, have also fallen.

From the Elgin Courier.

When the storm and rains had somewhat abated, we visited several parts of the town and neighbourhood, to witness the effects which their united influence had produced; and never, truly, did we gaze on so mournful a scene—scarcely, indeed, has it failed to the lot of mortal to witness such a one as we then beheld. In whatever direction we cast our eyes, we saw nothing but desolation staring us in the face—large trees uprooted, their branches broken—the gardens prematurely stripped of almost all their fruit—extensive fields of corn, nearly ripe, prostrate with the earth out of which it sprung, and, in many instances, entirely under water. The river Lossie, which runs betwixt Bishopmill and Elgin, overflowed its bank to an extent which certainly has not been paralleled within the memory of man, perhaps not for a series of centuries. Let those of our distant readers, acquainted with the localities of Elgin, only imagine, that from the hill south-westward of Oldmills to the Bleachfield, and from the Morrison Braes to the road leading by the north side of Ladyhill, by the English Chapel, they see nothing but one vast sheet of water, excepting the tops of a few white-bushes, &c. on a rising ground, and they will form some idea of the extent of this dreadful inundation.

Between Sheriffmill and Gallowhill, there was nothing to be seen, during the whole of Tuesday last, but one vast expanse of water, the whole of the crops growing there being completely under the liquid element. Proceeding a little downward, we come to Sheriffmill, the houses of which adjoining Lossie were all entered to the depth of several feet. A few inches only of the large wheel of the mill were above the water. The town of Oldmills was literally surrounded with water, to such a depth, that a boat sailed a considerable part of the day round about it, rescuing pigs and other live stock from a watery grave. It was with great difficulty, and not without the aid of a boat, that some of the inmates of one of the miller's houses were saved from being drowned in their own house. The slated roof of the mill of Cothall was carried down the river entire: and, had it not been for the dreadful devastation witnessed all around, one would, in this instance, have enjoyed a good joke at seeing a great number of rats, which were carried along with it, running about the floating wreck, evidently in a state of the most dreadful alarm, and yet having such an instinctive dread of the water, as not to jump into it. What ultimately became of the numerous little four-footed crew, we know not.

On the lands adjoining the banks of the Findhorn, the Lossie, and the Spoy, exclusive of the damage done by smaller rivers in the county of Elgin, we may, we apprehend, state, with a melancholy accuracy, that there are many thousands of acres of fields of corn, turnips, potatoes, &c. almost, if not altogether, destroyed. And we fear we are not guilty of exaggeration, when we say, that, including all kinds of property destroyed and damaged, several hundred thousand pounds would not repair the injury done in our northern districts.

The destruction of the feathered tribe, of almost every species, occasioned by this tremendous storm, and these tremendous rains, is uncommonly great. The woods and plantations in some parts are literally strewed with them. Even the crows were so much exhausted and injured by them, that on Tuesday, when the rains had ceased, immense numbers allowed themselves to be taken by individuals, without attempting to escape. Partridges, grouse, &c. have also suffered to a great extent. Thousands of them have been drowned; and many of them that had in one sense escaped the rains, were destroyed after they had ceased, by alighting on those fields where they had seen the tops of corn, and which contained 18 or 20 inches depth of water.

Proceeding downwards to Garmouth, the place where Spoy empties herself into the sea, we have here also a melancholy tale to narrate. Here every now and then were seen floating about, vast quantities of various descriptions, of property, including great numbers of sheep, pigs, calves, &c. which had been carried down the river, in some cases, 50 or 60 miles. The damage done to the heritable as well

as to landed property in Garmouth, and its neighbourhood, is painfully immense. A considerable number of houses are entirely destroyed, while a great many others are irreparably injured. Among these destroyed are several houses, regarding which a process has been for some time before the Court of Session. This calamity will likely terminate the case.—Many thousand deals and other large planks of wood, were carried off into the sea at Kinghorn.

On Wednesday evening, we visited the Loch of Spynie, and there witnessed a scene which we would feel disposed to designate as truly grand, were not the contemplation of it mingled with a consciousness of the mournful fact, that besides large proportions of other individual's arable lands, there were four entire farms in the Watery Maines of Duffus, lying completely under the little world of water on which we were gazing with a feeling we cannot well describe. The distance from the eastern to the western extremity of this vast expanse of water is from six to seven miles—its breadth in many places can be little short of two miles—while it is generally of such a depth that vessels of an ordinary size might sail in it with the greatest ease.

The following are extracts from a letter from Banff, dated, Tuesday evening, nine o'clock:—“Torrents of rain fell on Monday morning, accompanied with a heavy gale from the northward. This morning, the whole of the market-place was covered with water, to the depth of six or seven feet, and the property in the shops there is consequently greatly injured. A great portion of the garden walls of Duff House have given way; and the water was swollen to such a degree in Bridge Street, that 30 or 40 families were taken out this morning by means of boats, from windows on the second floors. Early this morning, the water was level with the top of the door of the Royal Oak Inn. The flood is now abating; but at 8 o'clock this evening I crossed the gardens in a boat—the water was then four feet deep. The Shambles are in ruins. The mail, in entering Banff this afternoon, from the anxiety of the guard, who was informed on the bridge that he ought not to proceed, went on as far as the entrance to the Shambles, and had just passed the corner of Gillon's Inn, when the water, rushing from the door of Duff House garden, carried the horses off their feet, and three of them were drowned in the market-place; one was saved by cutting the harness. The guard and driver were taken from the coach by means of a boat; the passengers had come out at the bridge. The coach was forced up against Mr. Gillon's door. A great number of cattle are drowned in the Deveron. Banff is in complete confusion, and no communication but in boats; but I expect the streets will be clear in the morning, as the wind has fallen, and the rain ceased. Lord Fife's garden, at Duff House, is entirely destroyed, and the lower flat of Duff House is filled with water.”

From the Aberdeen Journal.

The Don, along its whole course, exhibited the picture of a frightful inundation. All that part of the Garioch which borders it and the Ury was one broad expanse of water. In the town of Kintore, such was the height of the stream, that a boat was made use of to effect a communication between the houses; and farther down, at Bridge of Dyce, the whole low grounds were flooded; and on the turpike road the top of the toll-gate was barely visible; so that the Banff mail had to turn aside, and the coach came in by the old road.

In the river Dee, the rising of the water was first perceptible on Monday afternoon, about four o'clock, from which hour it continued to increase: till a late hour on Tuesday morning, when it had attained an elevation of about eight feet above its ordinary level; and in some confined places not less than twelve feet; and the quantity of water discharged by it may be estimated from the fact, that at the time of dead low water, the whole expanse of Aberdeen harbour was filled to the height of an ordinary spring tide.

From the Aberdeen Chronicle.

Opposite to the manse of Towie, the river Don has completely altered its course, striking out for itself a new channel, and leaving its former bed, and the bridge which crossed it quite dry.

Either on Monday or Tuesday, a blacksmith, in rashly attempting to swim across the Don, at Towie, was drowned; and, on one of these days, the at-