

Parish of Dornoch.

1. NB. Speaks of Strath Achvaich "near the source of the river ~~the~~ Evelix
2. Mild climate - pheasants introduced 'recently' at Skibo, doing well, also figs ripen in the garden there. "Not the same heavy and long-continued falls of snow and the same intense frosts as in former times."
3. The tide at one time flowed on the sands of Totbell, until arrested by the Earthen Mound.
4. The Evelix rises at the head of Strath Achvaich and "after running about eight or nine miles, with a considerable population on each side of it, and its banks beautifully wooded with natural birch + alders, it empties itself into the Dornoch Frith" - liable to flooding with considerable damage to corn lands.
5. Coal found at Clashmore, sim. to that at Brora. Seam goes across to Coigach (N. of Ullapool)
6. A considerable freestone quarry nr Dornoch, another nr. Embo - stone for houses + fences
7. Eminent men - Lord Duffus, Skelbo. Sir Orford Gordon, Embo (lives in England). George Dempster, d. 1818 aged 86. His bro. John Hamilton Dempster. G.D. bought Skibo in 1786, + his bro. soon bt Pulrossie + Overskibo, all from Gray. But "for a few years previous to the last Mr Gray", the estate was possessed by the Hon Geo. Mackay of Reay "by whom the older portions of its woods were planted," and to whose taste + industry that part of the parish is much indebted." G.D. "a gentleman of great benevolence and suavity of manners -- much respected by all ranks -- kind and indulgent to -- tenants."