

water mark of spring-tides. One piece of this wall, weighing thirteen tons, was moved to a distance of 50 feet.¹

Rounding the promontory of Kinnaird's Head we see before us the long, straight, coast-line of Banff, Elgin, and Nairn stretching westwards into the Moray Firth. Exposed to the full sweep of the north-easterly gales, portions of these shores have suffered considerable loss within historic times. At Gamrie, for instance, a selvage of sandy ground formerly intervened between the grassy slopes and the beach. Some of the older inhabitants still remember when this sandy plain formed a small farm on which oats were grown. But this state of things has entirely changed. The farm has been swept away, the last relics of the dwelling-house having disappeared not many years ago. The waves now reach the edge of the grassy slope, and have cut away its projecting parts, turning them into cliffs of red sandstone. Several yards of the cliff on the south-west side of Gamrie Bay have been removed by the sea within the recollection of the present generation.²

The shores of the Moray Firth present some interesting examples both of loss and gain of land. There is a tradition that the low tract between Lossiemouth and Burghead Bay was in the 11th century a sea-strait through which the Danes piloted their war-ships. But owing to the remarkable way in which the tidal currents and waves drive shingle westward from the rocky Banffshire coast, and pile it up to the west of the Spey in ridges of gravel, there has been a great addition to the low ground of that region within the last few centuries. To this cause and the drifting of sand, Morayshire no doubt is indebted for having suffered less from the sea than her neighbouring counties. But where the

¹ T. Stevenson's *Design and Construction of Harbours*, p. 55.

² Information given to me by Mr. Ingram, Postmaster at Gamrie.