

# EDINBURGHSHIRE

## PARISH OF TEMPLE.

**PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.**

**THE REV. JAMES GOLDIE, MINISTER.**

[In drawing up this Account, the minister has to acknowledge the assistance of the Rev. Hew Scott.]

### I.- TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.* - The parish retains its ancient name, derived from an establishment for the Templars, or Red Friars, founded by King David I. of Scotland. [For an account of this ancient religious fraternity, see Spottiswood's Account of Religious Houses, appended to Keith's Catalogue of the Bishops, original edition, p. 265, and Chalmers' Caledonia, ii. 767 and 812.]

*Extent and Boundaries.* - Its extent may be about 9 miles at its greatest length, and its greatest breadth is about 5. Besides this, however, there is another portion, four miles eastward, entirely separated by a section of Borthwick parish, consisting of about 300 acres. It is bounded on the south and south-west, by the parishes of Eddleston and Innerleithen; on the west, by Penicuik; on the north-west and north, by Carrington; on the north-east and east, by Borthwick; and on the south-east, by Heriot.

*Topographical Appearances.* - The only mountain range is that of Muirfoot, a continuation of Lammermuir, and running almost north-east to south-west. The highest of this range appears from the survey of Generals Roy and Mudie, to be 1850 feet, while Lawrie's Map of Mid-Lothian states it only at 1500 feet. In Knox's map of Mid-Lothian, taken from actual survey, the principal elevations of this range are stated thus: Huntly Cot-hills, 1606 feet above the level of the sea; Long-Shank Hill, 1687; The Kips, 1785; Bowbeat Hill, 2096; Blakehope Scaurs, the highest in the county, 2193.

*Hydrography.* - The South Esk takes its rise from the Muirfoot Hills, and runs through the parish for about twelve miles in a north-easterly direction, when it is joined by the North-water, which, taking its rise from the West Loch, in the parish of Eddleston, runs in a more circuitous course, bounding and watering the parish on the north-west. After leaving the parish, it flows in a similar direction, until it joins the North Esk in Dalkeith Park, when they proceed until they join the Frith of Forth at Musselburgh. The Gore-water, one of the tributaries to the South Esk, also bounds the eastern district of the parish on the west.

*Geology and Mineralogy.* - The Muirfoot Hills are of greywacke, and most part of the parish abounds with lime and freestone, while the detached district in the eastern part is full of coal.

The only species of fossil organic remains hitherto found are shells in limestone.

*Soil.* - The lower part of the soil of the western district of the parish is chiefly dry and sharp on a gravel bottom. In the higher part, there is a considerable portion of mossy soil, from three inches to four feet deep. The eastern district of the parish is chiefly made up of strong

clay. The light soils are much infested by quickens and tussilago.

*Zoology.*- The cattle bred here are chiefly of the short-horned species, and the sheep of the black-faced kind. The rivers contain trout, &c. Formerly salmon and sea-trout came up for spawning; since the erection, however, of dam-heads, &c. for carrying on various manufactories, farther down the rivers, their ascent in this direction has been entirely prevented.

*Botany.*- The parish has been much adorned by plantations formed by the late Lord Chief-Baron, Messrs Hepburne, formerly proprietors of the lands of Clerkington and Muirfoot, and the present Earl of Rosebery, now in possession of these estates. The largest ash-tree is in the garden belonging to the manse, and cannot be equalled in appearance and value by any in several of the surrounding parishes.

## II. - CIVIL HISTORY.

An old account of the parish is lodged in the General Register House at Edinburgh, [Printed with forty-eight others of the same period, for the use of the Maitland Club.] drawn up about 1627, apparently with a view of ascertaining the teinds, from which it appears, the parishes of Clerkington and Muirfut were united to Tempill "be ane decreet of the platt, anno 1618;" that a school was then established, though no provision was made for it; and that the communicants amounted to 800, being much the same number as at present. In the name of seven "commissioners electit and sworn for the paroche of Tempill," by whom the report was drawn up, it appears from the subscription of a notary, that, he was requested to adhibit his subscription "because we cannot wryte oursellffes."

*Land-owners.*- The principal heritors are, Robert Dundas, Esq. of Arniston, and the Earl of Rosebery. [That part of the parish of Temple which was anciently called Clarkington, and a separate parish under that denomination, was in 1695 in possession of Sir John Nicolson, and formed a barony named Nicolson. In that year, it was sold to Primrose of Dalmeny, in Linlithgowshire, second son of Sir Archibald Primrose of Carrington, Bart. Lord Register and Justice-General of Scotland, who the same year obtained a charter under the Great Seal, by which this, with other contiguous lands, was erected into a new barony under the name of Rosebery, which he assumed as his title on being created a Viscount in 1700. This estate was sold by the first Earl of Rosebery in 1712, to the Marquis of Lothian, who gave it the name of New Ancrum, but it remained only a short period in his family, as it was disposed about 1749 to Mr Hepburne, who restored to it the original name of Clarkington. It was purchased in 1821 from his descendant, by Archibald John, fourth Earl of Rosebery, who again gave the barony the name which it bore when formerly in his family, and who was created a Peer of the United Kingdom, under that appellation, in 1828. The large and ancient mansion-house of the barony was began to be pulled down by Mr Hepburne in 1805, and completely rased in 1812: he erected a small house nearly on the same site, which is now occupied by the principal tenant.] The only other heritors are, James Dewar, Esq. of Vogrie, and William Tait of Toxside. The valued rent of the whole is as follows: Arniston, L. 2291, 3s. 4d.; Rosebery, L. 1669, 1s. 2d.; Vogrie, L. 287; Toxside, L. 152, 5s. 6d.; total, L. 4399, 10s.

*Parochial Registers.*- The parochial registers of baptisms and marriages commence from the ordination of Mr David Walker at the meeting-house at Nicolsone, and then in Temple, 14th November 1688: and the register of discipline commences 22d June 1690. They form altogether four volumes, besides fragments, but are by no means in a good state of preservation. The records of births and proclamations, however, are now preserved with considerable accuracy.

*Antiquities* - The old church of Temple is very ancient; said to have been built by David I. of Scotland. On the east gable immediately below the belfry are inscribed in lead put into the stone,

VÆSAC  
MIHM.

an inscription of which no antiquarian who has hitherto seen it, can give any explanation. About ten or twelve years ago, a medal of Oliver Cromwell the Protector was found on the farm of Rosebery, and is now in possession of the Noble proprietor.

*Modern Buildings.* - The only modern building worthy of notice is the church, finished in 1832, which is very neat and commodious; and is placed on a very fine site.

### III.- Population.

The earliest, account of the population occurs in the return to the Rev. Dr Webster in 1755, when it amounted to 905. Seventeen years later, the examinable persons (above eight years of age) were found to be 604.

The population, according to the Parliamentary returns, was, in	1801, - 801
	1811, - 1058
	1821, - 1156

In 1831, the population reached to 1255, being 659 males and 603 females.

The greatest increase in the population has taken place at Gorebridge, caused by the erection of extensive works for the manufacture of gunpowder.

The village of Gorebridge contains about 300, and Temple about 200: the remaining population is scattered over the different farms.

The yearly average of births recorded for the seven years preceding 1835, is 26, and of marriages, 8. No register is kept of the mortality.

The only resident proprietor is William Tait, Esq.

Arniston House, the residence of the distinguished family of Arniston, borders on the parish; but only the grounds and garden attached to it are situated in it.

The number of families in 1831 amounted to	250
chiefly employed in agriculture,	91
trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	89
of inhabited houses at the same period,	238
of uninhabited houses, (while none were building at that period),	4

There are 4 insane or fatuous persons.

### IV. - Industry.

*Agriculture.* - The trees planted are mostly oak, ash, elm, beech, and various kinds of pine. About 100 acres are under wood.

*Rent of Land.* - The average rent of arable land is about L. 1 per acre; grazing cattle for six months from L. 2 to L. 4 a head.

*Wages.* - Labourers receive wages about ls. 6d. a day on an average throughout the year.

Husbandry is carried on according to the most improved methods. A part of waste land has been recovered; but the price of grain is now so reduced, that it is unreasonable to expect an agriculturist will consume his means by improving, while so small a remuneration is held out for his encouragement. Irrigation is not practised to any extent. Nineteen years is the general duration of leases. Farm-buildings and enclosures are generally in a state of good

repair. It may be mentioned that the principal enclosure is the dry stone dike.

*Quarries and Mines.* - The quarries abound with freestone, lime, and coal.

*Manufactures.* - The first gunpowder manufactory in Scotland was erected by Hitchener and Hunter at Stobsmills in 1794, which has since been greatly extended. The works are on the property of Robert Dundas, Esq. of Arniston, and James Dewar, Esq. of Vogrie; they are chiefly in this parish, though partly in Borthwick. The situation is well adapted for carrying on the business. They occupy nearly three-quarters of a mile, and the different houses required in the more dangerous departments are all detached, and placed either between the natural projections of the glen, or artificial mounds planted with trees; consequently, when an explosion does occur, it seldom destroys any other building than that in which it originated. They are supplied by a water-power issuing from four dam-heads, which drive ten water-wheels, one of which is 30 feet in diameter. The number of men employed is from 50 to 60. The Company export gunpowder to almost every quarter of the globe, and during the late war had a contract with Government for a supply. They gratuitously educate about fifty children belonging to the workmen, and have given pensions to the widows and families of such as have been unfortunately killed. The most systematic care is observed to prevent accidents.

#### V. - Parochial Economy.

*Markets, &c.* - There is no market-town in the parish. Dalkeith, distant six miles, is the nearest; and is the best grain-market in Scotland. Some farmers, however, occasionally drive their grain to Edinburgh, where the prices are a little higher. It is distant eleven miles.

The only villages in the parish worthy of the name are those of Temple and Gorebridge, and a part of Stobhill, the greater portion of which, however, is in Newbattle.

The post-office for the parish is at Fushie-bridge. The turnpike road from Peebles to Dalkeith runs through the parish, from Tweeddale-burn to Carrington-bridge, an extent of about six miles. No public carriages travel on this turnpike road; but only the carriers going weekly from the villages of Temple and Rosebery to Edinburgh.

*Ecclesiastical State.* - After the Reformation, it appears the cure of Tempill was served by William Hudsoun, minister, whose stipend amounted only to fourscore merks, with the third of the vicarage, extending to L. 3, 6s. 8d., in all, L. 7, 15s. 6d. Sterling. [He was probably deprived, having subsequently officiated only as reader, (1574 to 1578,) when William Knox, brother to the Reformer, had the pastoral superintendence of Cockpen, Carrington, Clerkington, and Tempill.] At the same period Mr John Douglas was reader at Clerkington, and had of stipend L. 16, 17s. 9d., or L. 1, 8s. 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. Sterling, with the kirk land, paid out of the third of Corstorphin or kirk of Clerkington. [Register of Ministers, Exhorters, and Readers, and of their stipends (about 1567) after the Reformation, printed at Edinburgh, 1830, and presented to the Maitland Club by Alexander Macdonald, Esq. of the General Register-House, Edinburgh.] From that period, the cure of the parish devolved on Mr George Haistie, from 1590 to 1594; Mr James Haistie, 1595 to 1608; Mr Thomas Copland, 1620 to 1631; Mr Robert Couper, 1632 to 1655; Mr Robert Mowat, 1656 to 1662, when he was thrown out for non-conformity: he was restored (by act of Parliament) 1690, but does not appear to have again discharged the duty, though he survived till 1692; Mr Robert Spottiswood, 1663 to 1676; Mr Patrick Trent, 1676 to 1681, when he was deprived on account of not taking the test, and was obliged to give place to the old Presbyterian incumbent: Mr Alexander Burgess, 1682 to 1690, according to the act of Parliament; Mr David Walker,

1690 to 1737; he previously officiated in the meeting-house at Nicolson, in the parish, after the toleration granted by King James VII.; he then became the colleague of Mr Mowat: Mr Archibald Walker, 1738 to 1760; Mr Joseph M'Cormack, 1760 to 1770; Mr John Goldie from 1771 to 1788; Mr James Goldie, 1789. In 1590, Clerkington with Mont Lothian (now annexed to the parish of Penicuik) and Morphet formed another parochial cure served by Mr James Haistie, minister.

The church is situated nearly in the north-east corner of the parish, and is distant from the extremity most inhabited about seven and a-half or eight miles. Were the population at Gorebridge to attend, the situation is perhaps as convenient as any other. The people in that district, however, being nearer, generally attend the parochial ministrations at Borthwick.

The church is in the best state of repair, and is seated for 500 persons; and free-sittings are provided at the communion tables for about 40. The manse is an old building, and its last repair took place about thirty-six or thirty-seven years ago. The glebe consists of 14 Scots acres, and might be let for about L. 30. The stipend is the minimum, and is made up by Government, all payable in money.

About 100 families in the parish belong to the Established Church.

There is a Dissenting chapel at Gorebridge belonging to the United Secession, to which a minister was admitted in 1813. His stipend, which may be L. 100, (besides a house and garden,) is made up from the contributions at the door of the chapel, seat-rents, and other eleemosynary sources; and a meeting-house, for a small society of Anabaptists, is situated in that part of Stobhill which lies within the parish.

*Education.* - There are 8 schools in the parish, 1 parochial, and 2 unendowed, at Gorebridge, supported by individual subscription. The ordinary branches of instruction taught at the parochial school are, Latin, first principles of Greek, English reading, grammar, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, and geography. The subscription schools are nearly similar, but the higher branches are not there so much required. The salary of the parochial teacher is the maximum, and he has all the advantages allowed by law. His fees may amount to L 30 per annum; and he has about L 6 per annum from other sources. The general expense of education per quarter is, for Latin and Greek, 5s.; writing, arithmetic, mathematics, and geography, 3s. 6d.; English reading, &c., 3s. None between six and fifteen years, or above that age, are without the knowledge of reading and writing. All are fully sensible of the benefits of education, and do not fail to improve them.

Gorebridge, where the greatest population is assembled, is too far distant from the parochial school; but as there are two schools within the village, no inconvenience is felt. Children in the upper part of the parish have an opportunity of attending the instructions of a teacher at Tweeddale Burn, in the parish of Eddleston, and occasionally, the farmer at Muirfoot has a teacher for his own family, - whose instructions are also enjoyed by others in the vicinity. No additional schools are required.

*Literature.* - A subscription library was instituted at Gorebridge 14th December 1818; the number of subscribers is above 80, and of volumes 600, in almost every department of modern literature, adapted for the instruction and entertainment of general readers.

*Charitable and other Institutions.* - A Friendly Society has been established for about

ten years at Stobsmills; and a Savings Bank has been established in the parish, joined with that of Borthwick.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.* - The annual expenditure for the poor, including two lunatics, is about L. 80. The average number of persons receiving aid, exclusive of them, is from 16 to 18. The annual amount of collections at the church door may be about L. 7; and a small sum is raised from mortcloths, probably about L. 2 yearly. To cover the expense of the poor, however, it has been found necessary to raise an assessment, which is laid in equal parts upon the heritors and their tenants.

*Inns, Alehouses, &c.* amount to five or six, and they are attended with the usual bad consequences on the morals of the people.

*Fuel.* - Coal is procured from Vogrie in this parish, Arniston in Cockpen, and Barleydean in Carrington; none of these places above four miles distant. The price varies at the several collieries from ls. 3d. to ls. 10d. per tub of four cwt.

*August 1839.*