

# EDINBURGHSHIRE

## PARISH OF BORTHWICK.

PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

**THE REV. THOMAS WRIGHT, MINISTER.**

### I. - TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Situation.* - This parish lies about twelve miles south from Edinburgh, near the foot of the Lammermuir-hills, - and at that part where the pastoral vale of the Gala commences its long course of twenty miles, from Fala-hill on the north, to Galashiels on the south.

Borthwick, thus lying along the northern boundary of the Lammermuirs, is at the commencement of that fertile and extensive tract of comparatively level country which stretches over the whole of the Lothians. Any district so situated has a tendency to throw itself into elevations less commanding than those of the mountain range in its neighbourhood, - and not unfrequently, as in the case of this particular locality, to assume the aspect of a tempestuous sea, beginning to subside, but still rolling its mountain billows. Being also of different materials from those employed in the formation of the mountainous districts, it shews this difference of material both in the peculiar shape of its rising grounds, and in the scope and outline of the intervening valleys, - peculiarities which at once mark the different nature of the materials employed and the more recent epoch at which the formation has taken place. The valleys of such districts are commonly traversed by streams of greater size than the mountain rivulets which have contributed to form them, but less than the broad rivers which sweep with their accumulated waters through the more level country. The valleys themselves are often both possessed of native fertility of soil and remarkable for the picturesque views which they open of the more distant and level landscape, and they have always been selected as favourite stations for such castles as were common during the middle ages, and whose ruins still give so much grace and interest to the secluded spots in which they now are found.

*Extent.* - The parish of Borthwick is about 6 miles in length, from Castleton on the west to Ford on the east - and 4 miles broad, reckoning from Shank on the north to Cowbrae hill on the south. The form of the parish, however, is by no means regular - for towards the east it stretches into a long and narrow neck of land - towards the west it embraces a considerable breadth of more elevated ground - and the valley of Borthwick itself, with its imposing old castle, occupies the centre of the parish - and forms a basin of some extent, traversed by a lively and winding stream - and bounded on all sides by undulating tracts of hilly ground, which give to it a peculiar character at once of mountain scenery and of rural seclusion.

*Hydrography.* - The higher part of the parish is traversed by two streams, which have their origin in the moorland lying at the foot of the transition hills on the south. They are

severally designated as the South and North Middleton Burns - they unite precisely at the termination of that neck of land on which the Castle of Borthwick stands - they then assume the name of the Gore - which, after winding through the whole extent of the valley, and passing along the foot of the rising grounds on which the modern village of Gore Bridge reposes, enters the South Esk at Shank Point - one of the most picturesque and pleasing localities in the whole district.

From the proximity of these united streams to their sources and feeding rivulets on the neighbouring moorland, they often descend in torrents very rapidly - and are as speedily restored to their usual channel. If a heavy fall of rain occurs during the evening or through the night, we perceive, when day dawns, that the water has been down during the night, and left evident tokens of its ravages and unusual height - though, by the time that we have opportunity to observe its course, it has again been restored to nearly its more ordinary state.

The haugh grounds in the valley of Borthwick are especially apt to suffer during such occasional inundations - in particular, the small farm connected with the castle, and which lies along the low grounds by the side of the stream, often sustains serious damage, Its crops are laid down - the soil is carried away - a layer of sand is spread over a great part of the surface - and sometimes the corn stacks have been seen steeped in water almost to their sloping roofs. Such rapid descents of water are especially frequent during the autumnal and winter months.

In the month of August 1837, the quantity of water which usually comes down during such great falls of rain was prodigiously augmented by another cause. A pond on the estate of Middleton gave way - the river itself had been raised to great power and size by the water which had previously fallen from the atmosphere - and the united mass of the pond and the augmented stream together descended with a force which threatened very serious effects throughout the whole of its course. During its progress through the deep ravine of Currie wood, it must have presented an impressive spectacle, if day-light had permitted the neighbours to witness its course - for the wooded banks of the ravine are in close proximity to each other,- and when the mighty flood had passed, and opportunity was afforded of tracing its effects, what struck all observers was, that it seemed to have played with masses of stone many tons in weight, as if they had been pebbles of ordinary size - the solid rock was in several places torn from its foundations, - deep pools were formed., where previously the tiniest foot of "wood-nymph or lady fair" might have stepped without hazard of being wetted,- and at one place, for about a space of three or four hundred yards, not one particle of soil or of loose rock was left upon the surface - but whatever had been gathering since the chaotic waters first retired, or what they perhaps had deposited, was swept off - and only the bare surface of the subjacent rock was exposed to the eye of the observer. This descent of the waters occurred during the darkness of a peculiarly cloudy and tempestuous night, and it was not a little curious and impressive to witness the lights of the anxious cottagers by the water side, as they watched on the opposite banks the descent of the mighty and resistless mass - saw their bridge borne away by the tumultuous torrent - and shouted to each other to give information of what was occurring that seemed most worthy of notice.

After long-continued snow storms, when the snow melts and the waters are swollen, the appearance of the valley and of its bordering haughs, is often very striking. I have repeatedly

seen the whole valley in a state of inundation on such occasions - and men with long poles breaking the ice, and endeavouring to clear the course of the stream, as if they had been natives of some of the far northern or polar regions. On one occasion the valley was so completely covered, that nothing appeared above water but the castle and the green knoll on which it stands - and persons were seen making their way home, by first scrambling along the tops of stone walls, and then plunging more than knee-deep into the turbid and ice-covered waters that surrounded them on every side. There was no danger, except from cold or moisture - but the scene at any rate was unusual - and in some respects ludicrous.

When the stream is in its usual state, flowing quietly down the valley, most strangers are apt to remark, that it seems to them to be flowing in a direction different from that which they had expected. Its course through the valley is to the north-west, and the first impression of strangers is that it ought to have flowed to the north-east, or eastwards by Crichton Castle. The truth is, that the stream flows during the first portion of its course towards the north-east, but it suddenly turns round the knoll on which the castle is situated, and then its course is in the opposite direction towards the north-west - but strangers not being aware of this turn of its course, naturally express their surprise that it seems to them to be running the wrong way. Almost every stranger falls into this mistake, and there is scarcely one of them who does not express his surprise in nearly the same words.

Many springs of pure and salubrious water issue from the lime-stone rocks which form the chief material of the district - and often in such abundance at their very first appearance on the surface, as to be highly useful to the inhabitants, and at all times to afford a pleasing subject of observation and study.

One of the most copious of these springs opens from a limestone rock exactly below the arch of the bridge which crosses the road close by the little inn at North Middleton. It passes immediately into the mill-dam - and is the chief means of working a thrashing-mill on the farm of Torcraik. The whole of the valley between that bridge and the manse abounds in similar springs - and there are several on the glebe - one of which is worthy of notice for the excellence of its water, and its traditional history. It goes by the name of Charlie's well, from the name, I believe, of an old and favourite servant of a former minister, who was very partial to it.

*Topographical Appearances.* - The general aspect of the parish is not that of a rich or very highly cultivated district - for there are considerable tracts of barren moor in it - and the land in many places lies high, and has but a scanty covering of soil. Yet agriculture is doing much to improve the appearance of the most barren portions of the district - the long and bleak moor which stretches along the base of the Lammermuirs is beginning to be extensively covered with cultivated fields and to wave with valuable crops - the spongy sides of the streams are now under an active system of draining and made available for useful purposes - the low-lying swamps are intersected by deep drains, are cleared of their encumbering growth of wild wood, and taken into the general tract of cultivated land - numerous plantations are now covering the sides of the rising grounds with a promising growth for future years - and a spirit of active and rapid improvement is visible over the greater part of the locality. Still it is not unlikely that the traveller may form a very inadequate and erroneous idea of the character

of the district from such appearances as are obvious to him while pursuing his way along the high road by which the parish is traversed - for most of its beauties lie along the banks of the streams, and in secluded recesses which the eye of a passing observer cannot be expected to descry - and both the picturesque banks of the Esk, and the less prominent beauties of the valley of Borthwick itself, as well as of several other similarly situated portions of the general territory, may not even be suspected to exist by such an observer. This remark applies, indeed, to a great portion of Scottish scenery, as well as to that under our present consideration - but the search after such unobtrusive portions of natural scenery is commonly well repaid to those who take the trouble to look for them - and assuredly this locality is as likely to afford the gratification that is sought for as most others to which the steps of the curious observer of nature could be directed. We shall have occasion, however, to allude more particularly to the most remarkable of these spots while glancing cursorily at the seats of the different proprietors.

*Geology.* - The geology of this district affords no very great scope for illustrative observations. The Lammermuir-hills, which bound the parish on the south, are known to belong to the transition series, and they consist almost entirely of what has been called the greywacke rock. The extensive moor which stretches along the base of these hills, and which forms the higher and more southern portion of the parish, almost completely hides the junction of the transition with the more level country; nor do I know of any one point at which the subjacent rock has been laid open. The secondary rocks, which constitute the chief material of the district, are first exposed, on a great scale, in the course of the stream which passes through Currie wood.

I have not observed that the alluvial deposits, either of an older or more recent date, are more numerous or of greater depth in the neighbourhood of the hills than near the present level of the sea, although the contrary seems to be an opinion generally entertained by geologists, and which, it may be, is verified by appearances in other places. In a quarry which was lately opened near the upper part of Currie wood, the alluvial deposit which covers the rocks of the quarry contains many exquisitely formed discs of a very friable sandstone, of a rich purple or violet or red colour. They are so perfectly formed, that the nicest operation of the chisel could present nothing more complete. They easily fall to pieces when attempted to be broken, and stain the hand of a rich colour, according to the peculiar tint of the specimen. The alluvial matter itself, where it is not absolutely formed into such discs, shews in many places, and on a greater scale, the same tendency to the disc form, - and the whole phenomena indicate a very peculiar and not yet understood action of the attractive and arranging forces at the time when the waters were retiring, and the alluvial deposit was in the process of arranging itself.

On the summit of Cowbrae hill, which is at the upper boundary of the parish, and from which there is one of the richest and most extensive views in this part of the country, an immense mass of rock of the same material as the neighbouring hills, (the grey-wacke), is found lying at almost the very highest point of the hill. It is quite detached from the rocks constituting the hill itself, and the inquiry which naturally offers itself to all visitors is, whether it has been laid there by human art, or been transported by the agency of water, at a very early epoch of the history of our globe. There can be no doubt in the minds of those who are

accustomed to such speculations, and who have seen many such appearances, that the latter of these two causes was the one which actually operated in this instance; but the curious circumstance still remains of the deposit being at precisely such a point as human art would have chosen, had it sought to rear a magnificent altar, from which the offerings of the ruder and earlier inhabitants of the world might have ascended with peculiar pomp; the point on which the alluvial mass rests being one of the most elevated and best fitted for an extensive view over the whole surrounding landscape. [I have since understood, that a stone coffin and some other signs of the spot having been used as a place of burial, have been found in the neighbourhood of this stone - so that, however it may have originally come there, it seems to have been afterwards used either as a monumental record or for the purpose of Druidical sacrifice.]

Masses of a deep-coloured basalt are frequently met with, - and, very near the eastern boundary of this parish, upon the farm of Sauchland, there is one great accumulation of this material, which might seem to be a quarry in its original state, but which is, in fact, a great alluvial deposit.

The stratified rocks, as seen on the precipitous sides of Currie wood, consist of layers of a red-coloured and coarse-grained sandstone, with intervening portions of a lighter-coloured variety of the same material, and with unformed masses of a substance composed partly of sandstone and calcareous matter, and partly of indurated clay, intersected by minute and lozenge-shaped veins of calcareous spar. Sandstone, limestone, and the coal metals are the rocks everywhere occurring throughout the district.

In general, the sandstone is much intermixed with calcareous matter, and is not considered as good for the purposes of architecture, - although there are some quarries which are regarded as valuable for such humble purposes as are most required in a rural district. The grain in general is coarse, but when exposed to the air, the stone hardens into a durable and not unseemly mass.

From the great quantity of calcareous matter intermixed with the sandstone, the stone dikes often fall to pieces after they have been for a few years exposed to the action of the atmosphere. Yet the durable quality of the stone of which the Castle of Borthwick itself is built, and the fine edge which it still retains, have been subjects of admiration with all who have visited the ruin. There is reason to believe that the quarry from which its materials were obtained is in the heart of Currie wood, which is in its immediate vicinity; so that there must be some stone of a peculiarly excellent kind under the surface in this neighbourhood, although that which is commonly obtained is liable to the waste we have already noticed. Crichton Castle presents a sad contrast, in this respect, to the present condition of the stone which has been used in the building of Borthwick Castle - the former being much crumbled and rounded in all its edges, while the latter is generally in as perfect a state as if it had been exposed for a comparatively short period to those wasting causes which are incessantly at work.

The limestone and coal of the district are excellent, and much sought for both by the inhabitants of Edinburgh, and by purchasers from the more southern towns of Scotland - some seams of the latter, on the estates of Arniston and Vogrie, being reckoned but little inferior to the famed caking coals of the English counties.

*Botany.* - The oldest trees in the parish are - those in the immediate neighbourhood of Arniston House - the venerable sycamores which surround part of the church-yard of Borthwick - and a remarkable row of trees, amounting to twenty, which stand in the middle of

a field on the north side of the valley of Borthwick. Strangers are apt to enquire why such a row of trees should present themselves in the middle of a cultivated field. The fact is, that the road into the valley passed in former times along the upper side of these trees - and it is traditionally known, that the ancient custom of the parish was, that when the coach of the Dundas family entered the western extremity of that row, on Sabbath days, the church bell was expected to begin to toll. There are also some fine old trees around the garden and ruinous house of Shank, and on the estates of Vogrie and Harvieston. A row of very aged hollies stands near the western end of the manse - and in the glen between Borthwick and Crichton, there are many large specimens of the same tree (the holly), which seems to be native to the district. The present manse of Borthwick was formerly enclosed on the south by three large sycamores, but the former incumbent cut down two of them, for the purpose of admitting more light into the rooms. A row of large limes surrounds the old garden belonging to the Castle, which formerly occupied the sloping bank descending on the south-west of the Castle, towards the small stream which flows by the manse. The remarkable oak roots in Currie Wood are the remains of a forest of great antiquity, which has frequently been cut down, and from which at present but a few slender saplings are observed to be springing.

A great deal of excellent old wood has been cut down on almost all the properties of the parish within the last twelve months; and many of the glens and banks of the streams, which waved a few years since with trees that had resisted the storms of centuries, are now almost without a stem which bears on it the marks of age. However, young plantations have everywhere been forming on an extensive scale; and there can be no doubt that the proprietors are in every instance acting on deliberate views, both of their personal interests, and of what is likely to be for the eventual good of their estates.

Generally, it may be said, that wood grows freely, and of good quality, throughout the different parts of the parish. It is known, however, to persons conversant with such matters, that the best woods for use are not always obtained from spots which are most remarkable for the speedy growth, and the luxuriant beauty of their living trees. It is also known that places which are in close proximity to each other are sometimes very differently disposed to the production of the hardest and most valuable woods; and it is equally true, that the same quality of soil which is favourable to the most perfect formation of one kind of wood, is not equally propitious to the most healthy and useful condition of trees of another species. This variety seems in some measure to depend on causes which are not yet quite understood, and which cannot be entirely resolved either into the mere height of the climate, or the more speedy or tardy growth of the wood. But in general it is believed that the wood of this district is of a superior kind. The tree which seems to be most native to our glens and river sides is the ash.

Of inferior plants, the deadly nightshade used to grow in too luxuriant crops among the ruins of the Castle, but of late I have found some difficulty in tracing the plants, perhaps because, in my fear lest the children of the parish might suffer from the use of the glossy and inviting berries, I have been in the habit of cutting down the plants before the fruit was perfectly ripe.

Abundance of wild roses, some of which are of superior tint and flavour, blossom on all the hill sides; and the soil under the shade of the more luxuriant woods, and along the banks of

the different streams, is often thickly overlaid with a gorgeous carpet, woven of the most beautiful and elegantly formed of the productions of Flora.

The present Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh, who wisely accustoms his students to researches in the open fields, frequently makes this neighbourhood the scene of his exploratory rambles with his pupils. The sides of the streams on the estate of Arniston are peculiarly rich in such plants as grow under the shade of lofty trees, and in moist and cool situations. The swampy glens between Borthwick and Crichton are equally prolific of such plants as usually grow in such situations. The sloping braes are often beautified by flowers which every botanist delights to meet with; and the upland moors, which are so delightful on many accounts, are not the least so from the beauty and elegance, and often the minute forms, and fine odours of the plants which there "blush unseen, and, waste their sweetness on the desert air."

On one patch of moorland lying near the eastern boundary of the parish, there is a species of dwarf whin, not much exceeding in size the common crowfoot, which it much resembles, and for which, with its yellow and scarlet streaked flowers, it might readily be mistaken. The curious in such matters would value it highly.

Generally, this neighbourhood is an excellent field for the rambles of a young botanist. The plants are both numerous, and of considerable variety, corresponding with the character of the ground which the explorer may select. I have not observed any thing, however, which could be considered as of great rarity.

*Zoology.* - The castle is the seat of a colony of jackdaws, whose flights and chatterings take something from its loneliness during the day time. Like all other colonies of the same bird, they contrive to keep up their number, but never are observed to have increased it. No person remembers them to have been more or less in number than at present.

The white owl regularly issues towards evening, with a triumphant scream, from the upper windows of the castle, and hunts for mice and other food of a similar kind over the glebe and the adjoining fields. It flies when on this search so low, that I was once almost struck by it, when circling the base of a green knoll, from the other side of which it was coming, without having observed me. I had full time to observe the brilliant and ruby-like lustre of its large eyes, as it keenly surveyed the ground for its prey.

Starlings frequently breed in the ruins of the old church, and in the cavities of the aged sycamores which wave over it. Two summers ago, three pairs of these birds built their nests in these places. They used regularly to fly off about mid-day to the upland, at some distance, in search of food.

The heron is often seen fishing in the hollows, through which the burn flows, - and rises slowly and heavily into the air when alarmed. His higher flight is vigorous and swift.

Flights of wild geese regularly pass over us to the moors, where they have their favourite feeding-grounds. These birds are proverbial for leading men on a perplexed and fruitless search; but I once witnessed a puzzled and diverting condition of their own phalanx. The day had suddenly become foggy to an uncommon degree. As I was amusing myself in my garden, I heard the wild geese advancing at some distance. When they had come almost directly over the spot where I was, they seemed to have become seized with an immediate

panic, from an apprehension that they had either lost their way, or could no longer proceed in safety through the mist. The noise they made in consequence was like the twanging of a thousand instruments of brass. Sometimes they seemed to descend in a body so near the earth, that a stone thrown vigorously from the hand might, as it seemed, have brought some of them to the ground. Again they mounted to a much greater height, - and the noise and the perplexity continued for about twenty minutes - the birds still hovering over nearly the same spot of ground. No person who heard the noise could doubt that their fear and perplexity were extreme. At length they found some way of escape, - but whether a breeze had opened up to them the distant prospect which they sought for - or whether they had ascended to a higher region above the fog - or whether some goose more sagacious and possessed of greater authority than the rest had undertaken to pilot them through the mist, I was not able to determine. The impression, however, on my mind at the time was, that they were a very fit emblem of some popular assemblies which I have seen, when, like the wild geese, they too are at a stand about some puzzling question, and know not how to proceed. The noise and the dissonance were very much of the same kind.

The blackcock is a much rarer bird in this district than in former years - but grouse, snipes, plovers, and woodcocks abound on the moors and in the swampy grounds. Fieldfares come regularly in flocks to feed on the berries of the old hollies beside the manse, and pheasants are in great plenty in all the woods. The water-hen and water-crow are frequent in the course of all the streams.

In severe winters several strange birds visit us. During the singularly severe and long-continued storm of 1822 - 23, we were visited by some of the swans which at that time were seen in different parts of the island. I did not suspect what they were, till they rose from the side of the stream with their fine musical note, and made their way with great magnificence of wing to a more distant scene.

Foxes frequently breed in the *Chirmat*, (a piece of wooded hill which fronts the windows of my room.) I have amused myself occasionally with observing the gambols of the young ones, who come to the hole's mouth about the time of the setting sun, and frolic with much apparent want of suspicion as to their obnoxious character. The mother is commonly on the watch at the same time, and screams fearfully if she thinks her young ones in danger. The old foxes, at certain seasons, come down, after it is dark, to the side of the stream, and amuse us with their barking.

At this moment there is a litter of young badgers in the same place, (the *Chirmat*). The country is much overrun by rabbits. The white weasel, with its tail tipped with black, is sometimes seen hastening to its hole in the old stone walls. Hedgehogs are very common - a fact of which I was not aware, till I observed the numbers caught by my dog in his rambles - and squirrels gambol on all the trees of the larger woods. Rats are in great plenty along the course of all the streams - but they too are better known to my poodle, who has studied their migrations, among all the tree roots and by the water courses, with great assiduity, and sometimes very *profoundly*, by day and by night, for the last ten years. - I know not whether the popular opinion be well founded, that rats will not come where goats are kept, but certain it is, that, though they have occasionally been troublesome to my neighbours, they have never



come near my house, on the braes beside which a picturesque white goat has long browsed.

The glow-worm, which has probably been seen by but a few of the inhabitants of the neighbouring metropolis, and which is not often met with in Scotland, is one of the most attractive objects to persons who occasionally visit our valley in search of what is beautiful and rare. During most of the summer evenings it may be seen in considerable numbers along the valley which intervenes between the castles of Borthwick and Crichton, - although from the extensive drainings which have lately taken place in this glen, the worms are less abundant than they were in former years. Their beautiful greenish light among the dewy grass or by the sides of the footpath, never fails to awaken the admiration of all observers, and would form a treat worthy of a visit on purpose - were it not that the later hours of the evening are the only time for witnessing the sight - to a great many persons, who have never actually witnessed one of the most lovely spectacles presented by the minuter works of nature; though there are few persons who have not some pleasing impressions gained from reading, and especially from poetic description with this phenomenon. [The glow-worm (*Lampyris noctiluca*), when seen by daylight, is a short and thick worm of a dingy and by no means inviting appearance. No person would suppose from its daylight aspect, that its brilliancy during the later hours of evening could be so beautiful. The light, which the worm has the power to extinguish at pleasure, proceeds from three whitish-coloured rings towards the extremity of the body - the luminous matter is a yellow substance contained in vesicles, - when these vesicles are removed entire, they shine for some time - but when lacerated they are speedily extinguished. The worm can at any time extinguish its light, when it is handled or put into a state of fear.

These worms begin to shine in the month of June, and may be seen till September. I have remarked that they are seen in greatest numbers on misty and warm evenings. They put out their lights between eleven and twelve at night. If they are put under a glass cover they give light, within doors, for several weeks - they gradually deposit the luminous matter and die.

The male is a dingy coloured scarabæus, and may be seen on every stalk of grass on which the light of the female is shining. The light, besides its extreme beauty, is a remarkable provision of Nature afforded to so unlikely a creature - and so far as we understand for such a purpose.

I have occasionally met in the same glen in which the glow-worms are found, with that curious appearance, sometimes called by the country people the fallen star. - It is a clear gelatinous substance, resembling the medusa which is found along the sea shore. It has no definite shape - and I have never been able to satisfy myself as to its origin. It is only seen after broken weather - and my impression is, that it is a production of the atmosphere. Of this, however, I am not certain.]

## II.- CIVIL HISTORY.

*Family of Borthwick.* - The name Borthwick, which is one of the few that are used to designate at once a family and a possession, does not bear on it the marks of pure British origin, and there seems, therefore, to be reason for adopting the opinion very generally expressed by antiquaries, that it had come into this island with some of the families, that are known to have migrated from the continent during the earlier periods of our history.

It is certain, that the particular district of which we are now treating did not give its name to the family, but received its territorial designation from them, for it was anciently called Locherwart, and took the name of Borthwick only after it became the property of the family of that name.

There are the ruins of a very ancient castle on the estate of Harvieston, which are traditionally assigned as the seat of the family before it became possessed of the domain of Locherwart, to which it afterwards gave the name of Borthwick. These ruins go by the name of the old Castle of Catcune, and it is certain that the family were promiscuously designed by the titles of Catcune, Legertwood, and Herriot-Muir, before they assumed the title of Borthwick of that Ilk.

The family of Hay, which afterwards became possessors of the domain of Yester, and finally Marquisses of Tweeddale, were at that time occupiers of the domain of Locherwart, and are accordingly designated in all the writings of that period, Hays of Locherwart. The Borthwicks and the Hays appear to have been thus neighbours and extensive proprietors in this part of the country; and there is a tradition relating to the old Castle of Catcune, that while it was inhabited by one of the Borthwick family, the possessor had fallen in love with and married a lady of the family of Hay - and that it was in consequence of this connexion that the Hays, who had now become Lords of Yester, consented to give up a portion of their property to the Knight of Catcune, and to favour his plan of eventually building a more magnificent castle for the residence of himself and his lady. The more common tradition, however, is, that the lady belonged to the house of Douglas.

There seem to have been two persons of the title of Sir William Borthwick, who were occupiers of the Castle of Catcune - and who preceded that Sir William who built the Castle of Borthwick, and became the first Lord of that name.

This third Sir William was a person of great talents, - was often employed in important negociations - and made a figure in most of the public transactions of his time. He was created Lord Borthwick about the year 1430, and obtained from King James I., a special license for erecting upon the spot called the Mote of Locherwart a castle or fortalice, to surround it with walls and ditches, to defend it with gates of brass or iron, and to place upon the summit defensive ornaments, by which is meant battlements and turrets: he was further empowered to place in the castle so erected a constable, a porter, and all other persons and things necessary for the defence thereof. Such was the origin of the Castle of Borthwick.

In an aisle of the old church may still be seen two monumental statues, in a recumbent posture, and in good preservation, of this first Lord Borthwick and his Lady. His Lordship is in full armour - he has the countenance of a man of middle age, with a sagacious and manly expression, and such as was not unlikely to have captivated, in his more youthful years, any daughter that the house of Hay - or the still more renowned house of Douglas - could have furnished to him. His lady is a beautiful female figure, of a gentle and handsome cast of features, and dressed in the full robes of her time. Their monument was formerly surrounded by several infantine figures, which have now entirely disappeared; but the tradition is, that the parents had a numerous offspring, who are all buried in the same spot. The workmanship of the statues is exactly such as was common at that particular time, when the persons represented are known to have lived; - and it is interesting in the highest degree, both as giving us a perfect idea of the style of dress which was common at that period, and as exhibiting, which we have no doubt that it does, a pretty correct likeness of the features which actually belonged to the persons represented.

The second Lord Borthwick was one of the hostages, long before the death of his father, for King James's ransom. He was afterwards sent as ambassador to the Court of Rome, and, latterly, he was sent not fewer than three times as ambassador to the Court of England. He seems to have been, like his father, a man of superior talents, and much trusted by his superiors.

William, the third Lord, was also employed in a similar manner. He was slain, with

many of his brave countrymen and their royal leader, James IV., at the Battle of Flodden. The proprietor of the neighbouring Castle of Crichton also fell on that disastrous day.

William, the fourth Lord, married Margaret Hay, daughter of John Lord Yester, by whom he had a son, from whom all the subsequent Lords descended.

John, the fifth Lord, was "a great loyalist - a steady friend of Queen Mary, and never deserted her interest in her greatest distress, on which account he suffered many hardships." He died before the year 1572, and was succeeded by

William, the sixth Lord, who married Grizel, daughter of Sir Walter Scott, ancestor of the Duke of Buccleuch, by whom he had a son, James, the seventh Lord Borthwick, who married Margaret Hay, daughter of William Lord Hay of Yester, ancestor of the Marquis of Tweeddale. He was succeeded by his grandson,

John, the eighth Lord Borthwick. He is described as having been a man of great honour and loyalty. He adhered firmly to the cause of the royal family, during all the time of the civil war. After the murder of the King, he held out his Castle of Borthwick against Cromwell; and, at last, when forced to surrender, obtained very honourable terms, viz. liberty to march out with his lady and family unmolested, having been allowed fifteen days time to remove their effects.

He was succeeded by his son, John, the ninth Lord Borthwick, who married the daughter of Robert Earl of Lothian, and died without issue in 1672.

After the death of this ninth Lord, the castle and barony became the property of John Dundas of Harviestone, nephew of the deceased Lord Borthwick, and grandson of Sir James Dundas, of the distinguished family of Arniston, It passed afterwards, by purchase, into the family of Dalrymple of Cowsland, - from them to the family of Mitchelson of Middleton, - and is now in possession of John Borthwick, Esq. of Crookston, - a branch of the ancient family from which the ruins derived their name, and who "is equally interested in their preservation, and disposed to attend to it."

We may now look back on a few remarkable incidents which are ascertained to have occurred during the period of which we have been treating. The following whimsical incident occurred at the Castle of Borthwick in the year 1547. We give it in the words of Sir Walter Scott, who has published his authority in an extract from the Consistory Register of St Andrews: the story may therefore be relied on as a fact.

"In consequence of a process betwixt Master George Hay de Minzeans and the Lord Borthwick, letters of excommunication had passed against the latter, on account of the contumacy of certain witnesses. William Langlands, an apparitor or macer (*bacularius*) of the see of St Andrews, presented these letters to the curate of the church of Borthwick, requiring him to publish the same at the service of high mass. It seems that the inhabitants of the castle were at this time engaged in the favourite sport of enacting the Abbot of Unreason, a species of *high jinks*, in which a mimic prelate was elected, who, like the Lord of Misrule in England, turned all sort of lawful authority, and particularly the church Ritual, into ridicule. This frolicsome person with his retinue, notwithstanding of the apparitor's character, entered the church, seized upon the primate's officer without hesitation, and dragging him to the mill-dam on the south side of the castle, compelled him to leap into the water. Not contented with this

partial immersion, the Abbot of Unreason pronounced, that Mr William Langlands was not yet sufficiently bathed, and therefore caused his assistants to lay him on his back in the stream, and duck him in the most satisfactory and perfect manner. The unfortunate apparitor was then conducted back to the church, where, for his refreshment after his bath, the letters of excommunication were torn to pieces, and steeped in a bowl of wine; the mock abbot being probably of opinion that a tough parchment was but dry eating. Langlands was compelled to eat the letters, and swallow the wine, with the comfortable assurance, that if any more such letters should arrive during the continuance of his office, they should 'a' gang the same gait." This incident happened, we have said, in the time of the fifth Lord Borthwick, and in the year 1547,- that is to say, at a period when the principles of the Reformation were in active operation among all ranks, - and when the ceremonies and power of the ancient church were beginning to be treated with a license at least as great as had been the slavish power with which they previously had been regarded. Certainly, at no other time would such an insult to an officer of the church have been thought of.

It was during the lifetime of the same Lord, that the beautiful and unfortunate Queen occasionally visited this castle, and at last took refuge in it, before she entered on the long series of her humiliations and griefs. We find in Cecil's Journal the following entries respecting her occasional visits. It must be kept in mind that Bothwell was Lord of Crichton Castle, and that, therefore, he and the Lord Borthwick, as near neighbours, were likely to take the part of each other.

"October 7, 1566. My Lord Bothwell was hurt in Liddisdale, and *the Queen raid to Borthwick*.

"June 7, 1567. He (Bothwell) purposed and raid against the Lord Houme and Fernherst, and so passed to Melrose, and *she to Borthwick*.

"June 11, 1567. The Lords came suddenly to Borthwick; Bothwell fed to Dunbar, and the Lords retired to Edinburgh, she followed Bothwell to Dunbar disguised."

"This," continues Sir Walter, "might, in any ordinary historical investigation, seem a sufficient notice of what passed. But the history of Mary Stuart is invested with an interest as well as a mystery which attaches to no other part of Scottish history." - "The following more minute detail of the anxious moment in which she escaped from Borthwick is taken from a letter of James Beaton, the Archbishop of Glasgow, written to his brother, Andrew, for the information of that active prelate, dated 17th June 1567." The writer, who had faithfully conveyed to Mary the news of the disasters that seemed to threaten her, says, that he found her "so quiet at Borthwick, that there was none with her passing six or seven persons."

"Ye sall understand," continues the letter, "how the said (11th June 1567) day my Lords of Morton, Mar, Hume, Lindsay, &c. with sundry odderris barronis, to the nommer of nine hundredth or a thousand horsemen, arryvit in the morning about Borthwick, in deliberation to comprehend and tak my Lord Duk, wha was in the said place with the Queenis Majestie. My Lord Duk hearing of this enterprize, thinking well he could be in mair securitie in the field than in ane house, passit forth and red away.

"Her Majestie, in mennis claithes, butit and spurrit, departit that samin nicht of Borthwick to Dunbar, quhair of na man knew saif my Lord Duk and sum of his servants, wha

met her Majestie a myll off Borthwick, and conveyed her hieness to Dunbar."

"There seems," says Sir Walter, "to have been an interval of nearly two days betwixt the escape of Bothwell from Borthwick Castle and the subsequent flight of the Queen in disguise to Dunbar. If during that interval, Mary could have determined on separating her fortunes from those of the deservedly detested Bothwell, her page in history might have closed more happily." [The place at which the Queen is understood to have met with the servants of Bothwell when she escaped from Borthwick Castle, "butit and spurred, and in the guise of a page," - is Cakemuir, which lies at a short distance across the moor towards the south-east. Mary's flight, therefore, was necessarily across that wild and open tract of heathy country, which intervenes between Borthwick and Cakemuir. A room which she occupied in this latter castle is still shewn. She proceeded from this, in company with Bothwell's servants, towards Linton on her way to Dunbar. At Linton she met Bothwell, and came back with him to Faside Castle and Carberry hill, - where, exactly one month after their unfortunate marriage, they parted for ever, - he to become a pirate and a madman, and to die in a dungeon in Denmark - and she to endure a long life of captivity and sorrow, and at last to perish by a bloody execution.]

As the fifth Lord Borthwick was a faithful adherent of Queen Mary, his great grandson, John the eighth Lord, was a follower of the King during the great civil war. After the unfortunate battle at Dunbar, and while the victorious troops of Cromwell were devastating the Lothians, Borthwick Castle held out gallantly, and the garrison employed themselves to the last in annoying the enemy. This soon drew upon them the vengeance of Cromwell, who sent the following characteristic summons, dated at Edinburgh 18th November 1650, and endorsed, "For the Governor of Borthwick Castle, these: - Sir, - I thought fitt to send this trumpett to you, to let you know, that if you please to walk away with your company, and deliver the house to such as I shall send to receive it, you shall have liberty to carry off your armes and goods, and such other necessaries as you have. You harboured such parties in your house, as have basely and inhumanely murdered our men; if you necessitate me to bend my cannon against you, you must expect what I doubt you will not be pleased with. I expect your present answer, and rest your servant, O. CROMWELL."

Notwithstanding this very significant epistle, the Governor of Borthwick Castle, supposed to have been Lord Borthwick himself, held out the fortress, until artillery was opened upon it, and then surrendered it upon honourable terms. The place where the Protector's cannons were stationed, seems to have been the rising ground immediately behind the house at present occupied by the proprietor of Currie; - and whether by good luck, or by advice from within, Cromwell seems to have directed his artillery against the very part of the wall, which was most likely soon to yield to his strength, there being a chimney at that place, which renders the wall less thick there than it is throughout the rest of the building. The effect of the cannonading is still visible on the eastern wall of the castle. Attempts, it is said, have been repeatedly made to repair the damage done to the wall; but, from the difficulty of uniting the ancient and the modern masonry, these attempts have been unsuccessful.

It appears from the foregoing review, that the Lords Borthwick were, throughout the whole series of them, men of superior talents, and of great respectability of character. They took an active part in all public and important transactions,- nor are there any names that occur more frequently as attending on the Scottish estates of Parliament. The vicinity of the family residence to Edinburgh may no doubt in some measure account for the latter circumstance; but it has also been well suggested, "that their power and talents, unquestionably, rendered them able counsellors and powerful assistants of the royal authority."

The possessions belonging to this family seem at one time to have been immense. In the conveyance of the Borthwick estates, executed August 1st 1538, there are comprehended the Moat of Lochquarret, the Castle of the same, called the Castle of Borthwick; half of Bateland in the county of Edinburgh; Borthwick in Selkirkshire; Legerwood, Glengelt, Colinlaw, and Brown House in Berwickshire; Ormiston, Herriot, Herriot-Muir, Hethpule, and Whitfield in the county of Peebles; and Aberdour in Aberdeenshire; which lands, by this deed, are destined to William, Lord Borthwick; John Borthwick, his son, and apparent heir; Sir John Gordon of Gordon Hall; and William Borthwick of Crookstone, and their heirs-male respectively.

But families, like everything else under the sun, have their times of rise, of grandeur, and of ultimate decline - nor will even general propriety of conduct altogether reverse this universal law. The immense possessions of this once powerful and respectable family have long fallen to other occupants - their race has become almost extinct - and the scene of their greatness and splendour is an uninhabited and fast crumbling ruin.

It is solemn, amidst such thoughts, to stand, while the shadows of evening are falling on the surrounding glen, beside the ever-murmuring brook that hastens down the valley - and to permit the scene before us, to make its natural impression on our minds. A few scattered lights are beaming from the humble windows of the lowly cottages that lie under the shadow of the ruin - the castle itself, in all its gloomy and solitary grandeur, still lifts its imposing mass into the dusky air - and over all are the enduring lights of heaven, which have witnessed, without change, so many revolutions among the dwellings of men - and which are destined, through the long coming years of the history of our race, to shine on so many myriads who have as yet no intimation of the wonders of that ever-varying scene into which they are eventually to be ushered. The present, the past, and the future, are thus brought, by the different features of the scene, at one moment before us - and each portion of the picture derives additional interest from the others with which it is associated. The effect of the whole is an impression that is at once solemn and imposing.

After the termination of the male line in the ninth Lord, who was lineally descended from the first son of the third Lord, the line of succession reverted to the descendants of Alexander, the second son of the third Lord Borthwick - that is, of him who fell at Flodden. The last person of this line who claimed the titles and honours of Lord Borthwick, and whose claim was admitted, was Henry, commonly called the tenth Lord Borthwick. He obtained the title in 1750 - and had voted at all elections of the Peers from 1734. His claim, however, was afterwards disallowed.

The title and honours are now disputed - nor does there seem to be any probability that the dispute will soon be decided.

The name of Borthwick still belongs to several persons in this neighbourhood, most of whom have some traditional story to tell of their connexion with the distinguished and noble family to whom the castle once belonged. There is in fact, a general cast of features, which may be traced as belonging to most persons bearing this surname.

It is pleasing to recollect, that the castle, of whose occupants we have been detailing the history, has not been stained or rendered in any respect horrible to the imagination by the perpetration of any of those darker and more atrocious crimes, which were so common in

Scotland during the times of the Jameses, and which still seem to adhere in gloomy colours to the ruins that awaken our interest. Even the festivities of Mary, with her profligate paramour, were but acts of friendly and liberal hospitality to the distressed on the part of the noble family by whom that hospitality was afforded - and it deserves to be remarked, that the warning note of insurrection and of coming vengeance was first heard amidst the hospitable festivities of this place, as if it had been intended to intimate that its long course of domestic respectability must no longer be sullied by such a contrast. Scarcely any recollection, accordingly, haunts the visitant of this castle, but such as is genial and pleasant to be indulged.

*Eminent Men.* - The person whose connection with this parish will probably in all future times be considered as its highest honour, was the late learned and celebrated Principal Robertson. He was born in the present manse of Borthwick in the year 1721, and retained to his last hours an affectionate recollection of the scene of his boyish sports and early aspirings after fame.

Few families in any country have had the good fortune to give rise to such an unbroken series of distinguished men, as those which have sprung from the house of Arniston.

Sir James Dundas, the first Baron of Arniston, Governor of Berwick and knighted by King James V., was the third son of George Dundas of Dundas, by Katherine, daughter of Lawrence Lord Oliphant.

His son, Sir James Dundas of Arniston, though not bred to the law, was made a Judge of the Court of Session in 1662. He lost his seat in the Court of Session for refusing to abjure the National Covenant, except in so far as it had led to deeds of actual rebellion. He retired to the family estate of Arniston, where he spent the remainder of his days in domestic happiness - and in cultivating a taste for polite learning. He died in 1679.

Robert, his eldest son, filled the situation of one of the Judges of the Court of Session, during the long period of thirty-seven years, with great honour and integrity.

His son became ultimately President of the Court, and is allowed to have been a person of surpassing talent both for eloquence and for legal business. He conducted the celebrated case of Carnegie of Finhaven, and established the right of Scottish juries to return a verdict on the guilt or innocence of the accused. He died, 26th August 1753.

By his first wife Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Watson, Esq. of Muirhouse, he left a son who became one of the most distinguished Presidents this country has ever had - and of his second marriage sprung the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville - than whom Scotland has seldom had a better friend, or Great Britain an abler counsellor.

The last President Dundas was succeeded in his estate by his son Robert, who ultimately became Chief Baron - and whose rare excellencies of understanding and of character rendered him an object both of admiration and of love to all classes of the community.

*Antiquities.* - The Castle of Borthwick is remarkable for the beauty of its proportions - the excellence of its masonry - and the impressive effect which it produces on all beholders. It has been pronounced by the best judges to be by far the finest specimen of that very numerous class of Scottish Castles, which consist of a single Donjon or tower surrounded by an embattled wall. The proportions are 74 by 68 feet without the walls - and about 110 feet from the adjacent area to the highest part of the roof. The walls, which are of hewn stone, are 13

feet thick near the bottom of the building - and gradually contract towards the top to about 6 feet.

The entrance was formerly by an outer stair and drawbridge - which are now in ruins; - they formed what in ancient times was called a perron or ramp. Besides the sunk story - the building consists of two large halls, the one above the other - and of two flights of bed-rooms, occupying two projecting portions of the building, as viewed from the west. The lower hall is one of the most elegant and finely proportioned of all those that can still be seen in any of the numerous ruins that give interest to the scenery of Scotland. "It is," says Nisbet, "so large and high in the roof, that a man on horseback might turn a spear in it with all the ease imaginable." The roof has been painted with such devices as occur in old illuminations, over one part of which is still legible, in Gothic characters, *Ye Temple of Honor*. "Stately and magnificent as the Hall of Borthwick is in itself, it is no less rich in associations. Here," it has been justly said, "we may suppose the Abbot of Unreason to have exercised his frolics. Here

"The stern Protector of the conquered land"

received the keys of the castle, into which his cannon had forced, an entrance. But, above all, the image of Queen Mary, feasting with her unworthy Bothwell, startled from revelry by the voice of insurrection, and finally obliged to escape in the disguise of a page, comes before us with that deep interest, which is excited by every vicissitude of her melancholy story." In pacing through the solitude of this august room, the words of the plaintive ditty can scarce be absent from the mind of the visitor:

" I feel like one who treads alone  
Some banquet hall deserted,  
Whose lights are fled, whose garland's dead,  
And all but me departed."

There is one small room in this castle, which is unique in its position, and unlike the rest in its dimensions; but, it has an indescribable interest attached to it. It goes by the name of the Queen's Room. Like all those celebrated in the history of Mary, it is of diminutive size; but bears marks of having been hung with tapestry. In most of the old castles, there was a room of this kind, which went by the name of the Lady's Bower; and there can be little doubt, that this was the identical room occupied by Mary during the few last days in which she could be considered as her own mistress; - from that room she went to all her sorrows.

The roof of the upper hall shows striking symptoms of decay. Should it fall into the hall beneath, the damage will be incalculable: and the present state of the neighbouring Castle of Crichton, one of the ancient towers of which now covers the court-yard with a hideous ruin, may serve as a warning of what will ensue, if the roof of Borthwick should in like manner be rent asunder.

No part of the castle has been inhabited for more than a century. Some of the ancient furniture, however, has been preserved, and is at present, I believe, in the possession of the proprietor, viz. an old oak chair, with low seat and arms, and a high back, covered with coronets, - an extremely curious clock, - and, I believe, a lamp, which last, however, I have not seen.



The old church of Borthwick, the ruins of which still stand in the churchyard, and which, from the style of its architecture, is evidently of the same age, nearly, with the castle, is well deserving of notice. It is beside what was formerly the place where the altar stood, that the effigies of Lord and Lady Borthwick are lying. When used as the parish church, it must have been an object of much veneration to the parishioners, and have harmonized finely with the other objects of antiquity in its neighbourhood. Indeed, it was of itself fitted to have given a character to the surrounding scenery. Its roof, like that of the castle, is covered with stone flags, curiously joined, and in some places laid diagonally. It was burnt in May 1775.

We have formerly noticed that there are some portions of the very ancient Castle of Catcune still remaining within the grounds of Harvieston. The ground in its neighbourhood shows that the building has at one time been extensive. The situation is retired and beautiful, but the architecture seems to have been rude and unornamented.

On the brow of the elevated farm of Halfla Hill, there were some years ago two stone troughs, placed on square pedestals. One of the troughs may still be seen in the churchyard of Borthwick. They were popularly called the Roman Altars, but antiquaries can find no resemblance to any thing Roman in them. Over the moor which forms the south part of the parish, there are cairns which, when opened, have been found to contain rude urns filled with burnt bones. Stone-coffins, too, have been dug up in some parts of the parish.

Currie-mill may also be mentioned, on another account, as among the antiquities of the parish. It was built, says tradition, by the original possessor of the surrounding domain, so that the Lord of the new castle might not be without hearing of the clack of its wheel. It continues a separate property to the present day.

*Proprietors' Seats* - There are six proprietors in the parish - all of whom, except one, are resident. They are, Dundas of Arniston - Mitchelson of Middleton - Dewar of Vogrie - Brown of Currie - Borthwick of Crookston - and Cranston of Harvieston. The mansion-house of Crookston is the only one not in the parish, it, being in the neighbouring parish of Stow, where the chief possessions of the proprietor lie. He has two farms in Borthwick parish, on one of which the castle is situated, of which, therefore, he is the present proprietor.

*Arniston House* is on a scale suited to the extensive possessions and influential character of the family. It is not a very ancient structure - but has a general aspect of baronial dignity and affluence - and its architecture is massy and imposing. It has long been celebrated for its open-hearted hospitality - and is very generally named with veneration and gratitude, both on account of the character of its inmates - and for the scenes of festive and manly enjoyment of which it has been the scene.

The land belonging to this property is not naturally of a very rich or productive quality - being rather spongy in its texture, and apt, unless well treated, to fall back speedily into its natural state - but much, as might be expected, has been done to augment its capabilities - and the progress of improvement is still carried on with spirit.

The original domain, which lies contiguous to the house, is remarkable for many old and venerable trees, and may easily be distinguished by the aspect of its wood from the neighbouring properties which have been successively added to it - and which now form with it one continuous domain.

The banks of the South Esk, within this domain, are of distinguished beauty and most picturesque effect. The banks of the North Esk, indeed, are more generally known, being more in the vicinity of the metropolis, and on a greater scale; - and though there is certainly nothing in the course of the more southern stream that can vie with Roslin - or Hawthornden - or even with the scenery in the neighbourhood of Lasswade and Springfield, yet there is much which is fitted to awaken the liveliest emotions of delight, and which might, with much effect, employ the skill of the professional draftsman, or of the amateur copyist of natural scenery.

Immediately around the mansion-house, and along the banks of the small stream which flows behind it, are several trees of rare occurrence, of majestic size, and with which a zealous botanist would be delighted to become acquainted. The successive proprietors of this domain have always been zealous improvers of their property by planting - and the late Chief Baron kept a small manuscript volume, in which he occasionally inserted such notices, as he could obtain, of the operations, in this line, of those who had preceded him - and of what had been done by himself for extending these operations.

*Shank Point*, which belongs to this property, has been celebrated by Graham in the subjoined lines, which may be considered as at once a correct topographical description of the locality - and a rich poetical picture of the scenery which surrounds it.

“What though fair Scotland's vallies rarely vaunt,  
The oak majestic, whose aged boughs  
Darken a rood breadth! yet nowhere is seen  
More beauteously profuse, wild underwood;  
Nowhere 'tis seen more beauteously profuse,  
Than on thy tangling banks, well-wooded Esk,  
And Borthwick, thine, above that fairy nook  
Formed by your blending streams. - The hawthorn there,  
With moss and lichen grey, dies of old age,  
No steel profane permitted to intrude:  
Up to the topmost branches climbs the rose,  
And mingles with the fading flowers of May;  
While round the brier the honeysuckle wreaths  
Entwine, and with their sweet perfume embalm  
The dying rose; a never failing blow  
From spring to fall, expands; the sloethorn white,  
As if a flaky shower the leafless sprays  
Had hung; the hawthorn, May's fair diadem;  
The whin's rich dye; the bonny broom; the rasp  
Erect; the rose, red, white, and faintest pink;  
And long-extending bramble's flowery shoots.

“The bank ascend - an open height appears,  
Between the double streams that wind below;  
Look round, behold a prospect wide and fair; -  
The Lomond hills, with Fife's town skirted shore,  
The intervening sea, Inchkeith's grey rocks,  
With beacon-turret crowned: Arthur's proud crest,

And Salisbury abrupt: the Pentland range  
Now peaked, and now, with undulating swell  
Heaved to the clouds: More near, upon each hand,  
The sloping woods, bulging into the glade -  
Receding then with easy artless curve -  
Behind, a grove of ancient trees, surrounds  
The ruins of a blood-cemented house  
Half prostrate laid," &c. - *Birds of Scotland*.

This property, originally, was but of small extent - not exceeding, as I have been informed, 400 Scots acres. The first baron of Arniston was Sir James Dundas, who was knighted by James V., some time between the years 1530 and 1540. Most of the old trees in the neighbourhood of the mansion-house are believed to have been planted about that time. *Castleton* was the first accession to the property; - the last family that possessed it bore the name of Bryson. *Halkerston* and *Esperston* were a later purchase from a family of the name of Liddle, some of whose descendants are still in this neighbourhood. They had a peel or place of strength at Halkerston in the field where the hinds' houses now stand. No vestige of it remains. The baronies of *Shank* and *Haughhead* were purchased about the year 1756. The house of Shank is said to have been built by the Duke of Argyle or Earl of Bute. It was successively inhabited by families of rank and importance. It must have been for a considerable time in the possession of the Scots of Scotstarvet, as they had an aisle in the old church of Borthwick adjoining to that of the Arniston family. Afterwards Sir George Mackenzie, the celebrated King's Advocate, occupied the house. It was next tenanted by a family of the name of Grant, who seem from the following traditional story to have been of Highland descent, and to have been aware of the dignity which belonged to that celebrated clan. It seems that two brothers of the name of Whyte, ancestors of the present venerable tenant of the farm of Yorston, but at that time residing at the farm of Carrington Barns, when walking one day about the Shank braes, bargained with each other that one of them was to kiss the first woman they met. She happened to be a young lady of the family of Grant, then residing in the neighbouring mansion-house. The adventurous youth who had undertaken the wager immediately walked up to her and accomplished his purpose - upon which the lady, whether in wrath or in good humour is not stated, informed him, that it was well for him, that the scene had not been enacted in her country - the Highlands - otherwise he would have paid with his head the forfeit of his audacity. Lord Elcho resided in the same house about the year 1745 - and when the property of Shank was purchased by the Arniston family the mansion-house was inhabited by a Lieutenant Carnegie. The original march of the Shank property was within a few hundred yards of the front of Arniston House. The very aged oak tree which all visitors must have observed in front of the lawn - and which is believed to be the oldest tree on the estate - marks the boundary of the two original properties. About the year 1754 a small portion of the Harvieston property was purchased by the family of Arniston from a person of the name of Campbell.

*Middleton House* stands at the higher part of the parish, and is the most elevated in its situation of any of the seats of the proprietors. It is of inferior dimensions to the house of Arniston - though of the same general style of architecture, only suited to the smaller extent of

the property to which it is attached. From an inscription above the principal entrance it appears to have been built in the year 1710. - It is surrounded by an extensive wood of tall beech trees - and has a general air of quiet and genteel seclusion. Being in the immediate neighbourhood of Middleton moor and of the Lammermuir hills, it is considered to be a healthy situation - and is much valued for the advantages which it offers to persons who are fond of rural sports. Its extensive woods - its neighbourhood to the old and quiet-looking village of Middleton - and its proximity to the green hills which border the moor on the south, give it altogether an aspect which most persons regard with pleasure. The garden is kept in a very superior style, though the roots of the trees seem soon to find an unhealthy subsoil, which renders it expedient to keep their branches as low as possible. The ornamented grounds in the vicinity are the admiration of all visitors. The proprietors have repeatedly attempted to enhance the beauty of this locality by forming a pond in the centre of the ornamented grounds - but the site being in the course of the stream which passes behind the mansion house, has been found insufficient to resist the mass of water which occasionally pours from the streamlets of the moorland - and which has repeatedly borne all before it - and descended through the neighbouring valley, not without risk of considerable damage and danger to the inhabitants. It is not likely that the attempt to construct a pond will be repeated, nor is it desirable, though a great additional beauty to the grounds has thus been rendered impossible to be realized.

*Currie House* formerly stood on a piece of rising ground over-looking the old church and valley of Borthwick - and having an extensive view of the distant landscape and of the Pentland hills. It was surrounded by some old and valuable trees, and had an avenue leading to the garden, which lies on the haugh adjoining the stream which flows through the valley. The house was taken down about thirty years since - and a great part of the old wood was cut about the same time. The proprietor then took up his residence in what was originally a much smaller house upon his property, and which is said to have been, in former times an inn for the accommodation of persons, who, in travelling to the south, thought proper to halt for a short time to view the ruins of the castle, and the beauties of the adjoining valley. The house was improved by some excellent additions, and when seen from the high road or from any of the neighbouring points, embosomed as it seems to be amidst its sheltering woods, and reposing in the shadow of the ancient castle, it has a pleasing aspect of rural retreat and comfort. A considerable quantity of young wood has been planted - and the garden, which is of excellent soil, and beautifully situated, may be expected eventually to become one of the chief ornaments of the vicinity.

But the most attractive spot belonging to this property is unquestionably the precipitous and richly wooded piece of scenery known by the name of Currie wood. It is not generally known even to persons who have visited the neighbourhood for the purpose of becoming acquainted with its beauties, and who commonly see but the termination of this wood as it opens upon the level ground which lies in the immediate vicinity of the castle. It is, however, well worth a visit from persons of taste - and has seldom been so visited without drawing forth expressions of wonder that a piece of scenery so like some of the best of the Highland passes, though on a smaller scale, should not be more generally known. A path has been formed ascending upwards through the wood - and gradually rising to still wider and more beautiful

prospects, till at the upper extremity the whole scene bursts upon the eye with a grandeur and effect which might be transferred to the canvass of the most accomplished artist, without alteration, or addition to its parts. In the fore-ground are the deep woods with the stream winding far beneath at the outlet of the valley appears the venerable castle as if guarding the entrance into the enchanted scene - farther in the distance is seen the wide expanse of cultivated landscape that lies between the observer and the Pentland hills; - and lastly, those lovely hills themselves with their elegant outline, and ever-varying tints, complete a portion of Nature's scenery which she seems to have placed so as to elude the gaze of more careless observers - but which is not on that account the less dear to those who have been accustomed, without fear of intrusion, to dwell with delight on its secluded beauties.

In pursuing his way through this wood, the observer will be especially struck with the many magnificent roots of old oak trees, which now rise, often deeply covered with moss, from most of the projecting eminences and vantage grounds of the locality. They are evidently the remains of trees which flourished many centuries ago - which may have waved in the time of Bruce, - and beside which the steel-clad and grey-haired follower of Wallace may have rested his spear. Nothing can be more striking than the grotesque and varied forms into which these "old fantastic roots have wreathed" themselves - and in one instance a huge mass of stone is actually held suspended by one of them in the air, as if it intended by this phenomenon to intimate, with what living energy it once embraced the solid rock beneath - and what strength still remains to it even amidst the decrepitude of age, as a remnant of the surpassing and gigantic might of its years of youthful or of matured vigour.

*Vogrie House* is the seat of a proprietor whose possessions extend over the whole of the eastern and a great part of the middle portion of the parish. The house is of a kind, which is frequently met with in situations where external ornament did not seem to form any very desirable part of the building. It is narrow - long - high walled - evidently built with no view to a very extended duration, and with no pretensions to architectural embellishment. The late proprietor, however, had it in contemplation to build a house in a much more elegant and modern style - and the stables which were the first part of the proposed plan that was completed, afford a specimen of the taste and splendour with which the entire design would have been executed. Although this plan, however, has, from unavoidable circumstances, been left unfinished, much has recently been done for improving and beautifying the estate by extensive plantations, and by the formation of superb and judiciously arranged shrubberies. The glens in the neighbourhood of the house have always been objects of admiration to visitors - many fine trees spring from the bottom of the valleys with picturesque and commanding effect - and the garden is in the most improved style of such luxuries. Eventually, there is reason to believe, that *Vogrie* will be a highly cultivated portion of the general landscape - and will do honour to the taste and judgment of those who have lately devoted themselves to the improvement of it.

*Harvieston House* seems to have been originally of the same general style of building with *Vogrie*, though on a smaller scale, suited to the limited possessions of the proprietor of whom it is the seat. Some additions, however, have been made to it, which have somewhat improved its originally tame and unornamented aspect - and the adjoining lawn and shrubbery

grounds are not untastefully sprinkled with trees - some of which are of considerable size and value. The ground is naturally swampy, but every thing was done by the late proprietor to give to the place all the advantages of which it is susceptible. He used to say, that when he first got his property, a great part of it was in such a state that he could not walk over it; and that he had ultimately expended as much money in bringing it into its present state, as would have enabled him to cover it with bank notes. The bowling green, with its adjacent shrubbery, has an air of much neatness, and of tasteful arrangement.

### III. - POPULATION.

In 1755, the population of the parish was	. . . . .	910
In 1801,	. . . . .	842
In 1821,	. . . . .	1345
In 1831,	. . . . .	1470

There has been a gradual increase in the numbers till the present year, the increase seeming to depend entirely upon the improving state of the country, which renders more hands necessary for carrying on the labours of the field, and for supplying the accessory wants of those who are so employed.

The tenantry are almost all of them men of superior character and information; and few districts, it is believed, could produce a better specimen of Scottish yeomanry.

Although this parish is in the heart of a coal district, and though there are villages all round us peopled by colliers, it is but of late that any families of that class have had houses in this parish. At present there are not more than six or eight such families. The population, therefore, may be considered as almost entirely occupied in agriculture, and in such branches of commerce or of trade as are necessary in all communities.

The men who work at the powder manufactory must also, however, be taken into account. They are, in general, of a very respectable character.

	Males	Females
In 1821, the numbers below 15 years of age were	278	289
from 15 to 30,	156	179
30 to 50,	114	146
50 to 70,	83	96
70 to 90,	12	22
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total, 643	732
The yearly average of births at that time was about	30	
deaths, .	20	
marriages, .	11	
At present the average of births is about	35	
deaths, .	25	
marriages, .	16	

The number of illegitimate births in the parish within the last three years, is 16.

The number of families employed in agriculture is about	186
trade, . . . . .	60
other families,	<hr/> 51
Families in all,	297
Average number in each family,	4.5

The population having been increased by 100 since the census was taken in 1821, some allowance must be made in the relative proportions of births, deaths, and marriages, as adapted to the present numbers. I have not had an opportunity of ascertaining these numbers more precisely.

The situation of the parish is reckoned favourable to health, and some instances of persons attaining to a very advanced age are occasionally occurring.

Less rain is said to fall in this neighbourhood than in the adjoining districts, - the clouds being detained or carried off by the Lammermuir hills on the south, and by the Pentland hills on the north-west. Yet the people who live along the open country between us and the Pentland range, commonly look to the appearance of the atmosphere over our valley for signs of the weather - and the ordinary command given to those who are sent out to obtain such information is, "Go see how the *bole* of Borthwick looks." This, however, arises not from our climate being more subject to rain than that of the level country - but from the peculiar configuration of our glen - which apparently stretches considerably backwards among the lower hills, as seen from a distance - and over which, consequently, the atmosphere is better distinguished in its varied shades, according as it is fitted to indicate clear and settled, or showery and troubled weather. We, again, look to the tints of the Pentland hills - or to the aspect of the clouds which settle on them, as our symptoms of weather.

Diseases in general are not more virulent with us than in any other portion of the country. Most of the diseases which have of late years been so fatal in some other districts have passed over us but slightly - such as cholera - typhus and scarlet fever. The small-pox is at this moment raging in one of our villages - but though the vesicles are very numerous, I have not yet heard of any mortal cases.

#### IV.- INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.* - A general spirit of improvement is apparent on almost every farm of this parish. The land is let chiefly on leases of nineteen years endurance. The course of tillage most successfully followed on the arable lands is what is called the five-course shift - two-fifths of the farm being in grass, two-fifths in corn, and one-fifth in fallow or drilled turnips and potatoes. The usual crops are wheat, oats, barley, turnips, potatoes, and hay. The manures usually applied are lime and farm-yard dung. Within these few years, however, bone-dust has been used with success. The extent of land in the farms under regular tillage varies from 90 to about 300 acres. Some of the largest farms in the upper part of the parish, containing each from 200 to 300 acres of tillage land, have fully an equal quantity of moorland attached to them, which is only partially and occasionally brought under the plough. The rent of the land in tillage varies from 15s. to L. 2 per acre. Some rich old grass fields let annually for pasture at nearly L. 3 per acre.

*Live-Stock, &c.* - The short-horned kind of cattle are those usually bred in the parish. The sheep bred and fed in the parish are generally of the Cheviot and black-faced breed. A cross betwixt the Leicester and Cheviot has been introduced with success - and that stock is now to be found on every farm of suitable extent. The local advantage of lime-kilns in the parish is duly appreciated by the tenantry. A large extent of waste land has within these few

years been reclaimed and strongly limed, and again laid down in pasture for rearing lambs of the improved breed, and feeding of stock generally. This change of system has produced a corresponding increase of turnip husbandry. The prices of cattle, grain, hay, and all kinds of farm produce are regulated by the Edinburgh and Dalkeith markets.- The greater part of the arable land is enclosed with thorn hedges.

*Wages.* - Married ploughmen, or hinds, as they are called, are usually hired by the year; and the wages are, for an able man, L. 8 in money, 6½ bolls of oatmeal, 2 bolls of grain, commonly barley and pease in equal quantities, a cow's keep, 1000 lineal yards of potatoes planted in the field, carriage of fuel, and a house and garden. By way of rent for the house, some person, provided by the hind, shears to the master for twenty days, or during the harvest; the master furnishing victuals only, but paying no wages. The hind also furnishes a person to carry the corn from the stack-yard to the barn to be thrashed.

The wages of ordinary labourers are from 9s. to 10s. per week; but able labourers, accustomed to work in quarries, drains, and the like, receive from 12s. to 14s. per week.

It is now very much the practice to execute by contract all kinds of work that will admit of being properly carried on in that way.

The bye-roads in the parish are in a very imperfect state; the amount of the legal assessment for statute labour being very inadequate to keep them in repair.

*Quarries and Mines.* - Freestone is abundant, and one quarry is wrought for sale. Limestone also abounds, and lime-burning is extensively carried on. Part of the lime is sent to Edinburgh for building; but the principal part of it is applied to agricultural purposes in the neighbouring districts. The lime usually sells at the rate of 1s. 9d. per boll of the old barley measure.

*Minerals.* - Coal, on the property of James Dewar, Esq. of Vogrie, is extensively wrought. The principal seams are from three to four feet in thickness. The Vogrie coal is reckoned of superior quality, and sells at a higher price than most of the coal wrought in the neighbourhood. The great coal sells at from 8s. to 10s. per ton. The smaller coal or chews, much used as fuel by the labouring classes, sell at from 5s. to 6s. per ton. Very little of the coal goes to Edinburgh; the chief consumpt of it is in the south country, towards Galashiels, Selkirk, and Peebles. [The preceding account of the Industry and Agriculture of the parish was furnished chiefly by the late Alexander Innes, land steward to James Dewar, Esq. of Vogrie. It has also been revised and enlarged by an intelligent tenant in the neighbourhood.]

## V. PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Villages.*- There are six villages of considerable size in the parish, with many groups of scattered cottages over the whole of the district. More than one-half of the population are collected in the villages - the rest being distributed either among the groups of cottages - or living as hinds upon the different farms.

*Ford* is portioned out between three adjoining parishes, which meet at the bridge in the centre of the village. It was once a beautiful and thriving place, quietly embosomed in its own little valley - but has lately fallen much into decay; - that part of it which belongs to the parish of Borthwick contains five families - and the number of the inmates is about 20.

*Dewarton* is one of the most considerable - and certainly the neatest looking village in



the parish. It consists chiefly of feus on the estate of Vogrie. The houses are ranged in one line along the road - the opposite side being occupied by a small plantation, along which a copious stream of pure water flows at all times, supplying the inhabitants with the means of cleanliness and comfort and adding much to the pleasant and healthful appearance of the place. When the present incumbent first knew it, it was chiefly tenanted by aged people - but of late years it has been occupied by persons in the prime of life, who have numerous families; - and there is now no part of the parish where a greater number of children may be observed, enjoying the sports of the evening, and giving an animated air to the village. Their education, however, it is to be regretted, is not in all instances so well attended to, as might be expected. The number of inhabitants is about 150.

*Newlandrigg* is a much older village than Dewarton, but it lies much out of the common thoroughfare, and has little connected with it to awaken a spirit of animation or of enterprise. Several of the houses are at present untenanted, and some are falling into entire decay. A considerable number of old people take up their residence in it. The entire number of the population is about 100.

*Clay Houses* derives its name from an ancient inn of the same denomination, which stood by the way side, when the road to Gala Water and the south passed in this line. A part of the old Clay House still remains though considerably altered by additions - and several other more recent cottages have been erected in the neighbourhood. The number of inhabitants is about 40.

*Stobbs Mills* is a village of recent date, having been built almost entirely with a view to the accommodation of the workmen employed in the neighbouring powder manufactory. The people, though employed in a hazardous occupation, are far from being reckless or unprincipled in their habits. On the contrary, the author has always found them to be among the most regular and exemplary of his parishioners - and they are at present superintended by a master who makes their religious and moral improvement an object of his conscientious attention. The number of inhabitants is about 70.

*Castleton* is a quiet village in the western extremity of the parish. It is tenanted by about eight families, who are chiefly employed in agriculture. They live in great harmony with each other, - and are, indeed, free from most of the ordinary causes of dissension or of vicious indulgence.

*Middleton* was formerly a place of some importance, and, indeed, the chief village of the parish. The great road to the south formerly passed through it - and it was one of the chief seats of the tinkers or gypsies. The new road, however, has taken a different line - the tinkers have resigned their former occupations, and have become mixed up with the native inhabitants - and this once stirring and adventurous village is now a place of great quiet, and chiefly remarkable for the retired and unobtrusive character of those who inhabit it. There are two farm-houses connected with it, in the employment of which several of the inhabitants are engaged, - the rest of the population being either old people, or persons occupied in such trades as are necessary for the accommodation of any similar collection of houses. The general appearance of the village is by no means unpleasing. The number of the inhabitants is about 120.

Besides these more considerable villages, there are, we have said, several groups of cottages in different parts of the parish, which can scarcely aspire to the dignity of villages, though they add much to the general effect of the landscape. The inhabitants are chiefly occupied in such miscellaneous employments as are demanded by the wants or conveniences of the surrounding country. The most remarkable of these are, - The *Brewery*, which takes its name from a building formerly used in the brewing of ale, but of which only one high and very hard wall now remains. - *Bell's Mains*, a collection of moss-covered cottages, which stand near the highway, and at that particular part where the old avenue to the grounds of Arniston formerly opened. - *Fushie Bridge*, well known to all travellers towards the southern districts. - *Catcune Mill*, still a place of active business, though several of the old cottages are now in a state of dilapidation. - *North Middleton*, a line of cottages by the way side, which have chiefly been built within the last twelve years - and *Borthwick* itself, which has fewer cottages now than in former days - and but two or three scattered groups, which form, however, no unpleasing contrast to the more imposing structures in their vicinity. These cottages are clustered round the very base of the castle - and with their mossy roofs - and simple structure - and small garden plots, serve rather to complete than to encumber the picture which the whole scene presents to the eye of taste and of sensibility.

*Farms*. - There are in all twenty-seven farms in the parish, of which the chief are the following: - Belonging to Arniston, six, viz. Halkerston and Haugh head, Arniston Mains, Shank Mains, Castleton, and Stobbs Mills. Belonging to Middleton, or formerly connected with it, Middleton Upper, Middleton Lower and Torcraik, Lime-kilns, and formerly Hayfield. Belonging to Currie, Currie Mains, Halfla Kill, Old Currie, and formerly Wright's Houses. Belonging to Vogrie, Ford, Woodhead, Vogrie Mains, Mount Skip, New House, Loquharriot, Borthwick Mains, Catcune, Hag Brae, Stobbs, and Fushie. Belonging to Crookstone, Borthwick farm and Cowbrae Hill. To most of these are attached the ordinary complement of hinds' houses and other cottages.

*Gypsies or Tinkers*. - We have already said that these do not now exist as a separate tribe in Middleton, but are much intermingled by marriage with the common people of this and the neighbouring parishes. In some instances they have accomplished matches of a yet higher kind. Their prevailing names are Baillie, Tait and Wilson. They are, in general, less under the influence of religious impressions than the native population, but are eagerly devoted to business, and retain, even in their mixed state, something of the adventurous and active spirit of their original condition. Their manners, when they are not excited, are courteous and plausible, - but they are terrible in their resentments, and subject to strong paroxysms of nervous feeling. They are clannish, though not proud, so far as I have observed, of their original descent. In occasional instances, the dark complexion, and well-formed features, and sparkling eye of the purer race may be discovered - but, in general, their colour is rather cadaverous, or of a darkish pale - their cheek-bones high - their eyes small and light-coloured - their hair of a dingy white or red colour, and wiry; and their skin drier and of a tougher texture than that of the people of this country.

Their wandering tribes still frequent the bye-paths and wood-sides of this district; they are then distinguished by the epithet of Campers - and during the summer months there are

few of the more retired lanes or hedge-sides where their tents may not be seen erected - their travelling-cart resting on its beams - their fire kindled and meat cooking - their asses feeding by the wayside - their children sprawling half-naked - the men busied in forming osier work or tin vessels - and the women hawking them among the neighbouring villages or cot-houses. So far as I have seen or experienced, they are a harmless, though sadly uneducated race; nor do I think that it is possible to reclaim them, except by intermarriage with the rest of the community. In proof of their former lawless habits, it may be mentioned, that when, about half a century ago, it was proposed to erect a grave-stone in the church-yard of Borthwick for one of them, and this was objected to by the natives, as a thing quite unusual in the case of tinkers, the objection was set aside by a sagacious heritor, who observed that in his opinion, the man deserved such an honour, as being perhaps the first of his race who ever came to so respectable an end.

*Ecclesiastical State.* - What now constitutes this parish belonged formerly to the collegiate kirk of Crichton. In April 1596, King James I. of England, dissolved from the said collegiate kirk the prebendaries of Ardnalestone, (now Arniston,) of Middleton first and second, and of Vogrie, of old called Loquharriot, with two boys or clerks to assist in the performance of divine service, with suitable salaries annexed to their office. These prebendaries, with the haill vicarage of Borthwick, fruits, rents, manse, and glebe thereof, were then, by a royal charter, erected into a distinct and separate charge, in all time coming, to be called the parsonage of Borthwick. This deed was afterwards, in 1606, solemnly ratified to parliament, and in 1609, confirmed by the Archbishop of St Andrews, as the undoubted patron of said prebendaries.

The old church, which, from the style of its architecture, seems to have been coeval with the castle, having been burnt in 1775, the present place of worship was finished in 1778. It is a substantial and commodious building, and was originally designed to contain 500 sitters, but from some subsequent arrangement of the seats, it does not at present contain so many. The number of communicants at present is 400.

The manse, being partly very old, is not in all respects so convenient as most of the houses which have recently been erected or repaired for the use of parish ministers, - but it is a venerable mansion,- and at no very distant period must be replaced by one more suited to the taste of the present times.

The glebe consists of rather more than 12 acres, some of which are of excellent soil and arable, - the rest marshy and formerly deemed incapable of improvement; but during the incumbency of the present minister, the whole of this part has been drained, and, with the exception of one small spot, made to carry excellent crops. It is rented at L. 28 per annum. The garden is large, and has a good variety of soil; it produces most abundant crops both of the larger and smaller fruits, and has indeed few rivals in so far as the size and quality of its gooseberries and currants are concerned. Apples, pears, and plums, also thrive well in it, and most of the common flowers ornament its borders.

The stipend, besides the manse and other usual appendages, consists of 124 bolls, with some additional firlots, pecks, and lippies of grain - the one-half being barley, and the other oatmeal, and L 78 of money.

The present incumbent is the nineteenth minister who has had the pastoral superintendence of the parish of Borthwick since the Reformation. The following is a list of his predecessors in office - with the years of their induction and removal: - Mr Thomas Cranston, 1567 - 1569; Mr John Colthen, 1586; Mr James Hunter, 1593; Mr Adam Scott, 1595 - 1596; Mr John Murray, 1596 - 1603; Mr Patrick Turner, 1604 - 1629; Mr James Porteous, 1629 - 1651; Mr Archibald Turner, 1648-1649; Mr John Weir, 1652-1657; Mr Thomas Paterson, 1657 - 1683; Mr Thomas Paterson, 1683 - 1689; Mr John Campbell, 1689 - 1690; Mr William Trail, 1690 - 1714; Mr William Robertson, 1714 - 1733; Mr Thomas Turnbull, 1734 - 1786; Mr James Finlayson, 1787 - 1790; Mr John Clunie, 1791 - 1819; Mr Robert Smith, 1814 - 1818; Mr Thomas Wright, 1818. [For the above list, the author is indebted to the Rev. Hew Scott, Minister of Anstruther, whose researches in this line are known to have been conducted with great perseverance and success.]

Of 300 families, which is about the number in the parish, 60 may be reckoned as belonging to the Secession - and 240 to the Established Church. But Dissenting meeting-houses commonly are so situated as to draw their attendants from several parishes. There is one meeting-house of Dissenters in the eastern extremity of the parish - but it can scarcely be considered from its situation as having any effect in withdrawing the people of this parish from the Established Church. There is another Dissenting meeting-house in the village of Gore Bridge belonging to the parish of Temple, to which most of the Dissenters in the parish are attached. But there has all along been a conciliatory spirit on the part of Churchmen and Dissenters, in this part of the country, to each other - and the Established clergyman has always had as free an access into the houses of the Dissenters as into those of his own communion. It is greatly to be desired that this kindly and truly Christian spirit may long be maintained.

The people connected with the Established Church are in general regular attendants on divine worship, and most exemplary in their demeanour, both during divine service, and whenever, in their own houses, any of the offices of religion are performed.

*Education.* - Besides the parochial school there are at present two other private schools, both of which, however, are at present but poorly attended. The average numbers in the parochial school are about 80. The parochial teacher has the maximum salary of L.34, 4s. 4½d. He has the legal accommodations in other respects - and draws the usual fees as session-clerk, heritors clerk, &c. There is a small mortification of L. 3, 17s. for the benefit of the teacher of the private school in Newlandrigg. This sum was mortified by a person of the name of Sir James M'Lurg.

The branches taught at all the schools are the usual elementary branches - viz. reading, writing, arithmetic, &c.

The present minister has been in the habit for many years of visiting all the schools once every month. He then prepares the scholars for undergoing an examination on the first Sabbath of every month in the parish church - and on the Monday after the dispensation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, an account is taken of all that has been done during the preceding months of the year - and prizes are distributed. This plan has had excellent effects, both in increasing the religious information of the scholars, and in promoting their attention to their daily and more secular studies. The teachers have all co-operated zealously with the

minister in the prosecution of this plan, and it has been universally acceptable to the parents and friends of the young.

*Literature.* - There is a library in the neighbouring village of Gore Bridge, which has a good and extensive assortment of books; and has been productive of many good effects. It owes its origin to the late James Mill surgeon - who foresaw the good it was likely to do, and zealously set himself to give a beginning to the scheme.

*Savings Bank.* - A bank of this kind was instituted in this parish in May 1815. Most of the leading proprietors and tenants became managers - and the institution having thus from the first obtained the entire confidence of the parishioners, has continued to thrive, while most of the other banks of the same kind, which were set agoing about the same time, in neighbouring parishes, have ceased to exist. The circumstance which has chiefly contributed to the success of our institution has been the perfect confidence reposed by the contributors, in the kindness and good faith and prudent conduct of all the persons entrusted with the management. The depositors are chiefly young men and women.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.* - The number of applications for parochial relief has been on the increase for a considerable number of years. The number at present on the regular roll is 25. These persons receive at an average 5s. 6d. monthly - and this is defrayed by the collections at the church door, by the money paid for the use of a mortcloth - and by an assessment on the heritors and tenants. The collections average about 13s. 6d. each Sabbath, or L. 35, 10s. annually. The mortcloth money is about L. 5, 10s. per annum - and the assessment on the heritors and tenants amounts at present to about L. 60 per annum.

The unwillingness to come upon the parish is not perhaps so great as it once was; but in general the people do not seem to ask relief till it is absolutely necessary - so that the heritors and session have seldom occasion to refuse the applications that are made.

Indeed, the fault is scarcely in any instance on the part of the aged applicants, who are always unwilling to be placed on the poor's roll. It lies with the younger generation, who are less disinclined than formerly, to have it said that their parents are obtaining parochial relief - and who leave them to that aid, that they may themselves enter into the married state.

*Inns.* - There are but 9 alehouses in the parish, but as the great south road passes through the centre of it, a great proportion of them are upon it, - and hence, a passing observer might be disposed to conclude that we are more than ordinarily provided with accommodations of this sort, although, in fact, when the entire extent of the parish is considered, our number is below the average allowed in other places. The most remarkable inns on the great road are, Arniston Inn, Fushie Bridge, Currie Inn, and Middleton Inn. All the inns are well kept, and have had no perceptible bad effect upon the morals of the people. As several of these inns are much frequented, there is, of course, collected in their neighbourhood, a considerable number of persons necessary for the operations required in them.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.**

Although the parish generally is in an improving state, yet it is notorious that most of the properties in the parish are very heavily burdened, and that thus the exertions of the proprietors for the improvement of their estates - and for the bettering of the condition of their

tenantry, are very much impeded.

The orderly and kind disposition of the people merits high commendation. No great vices are practised among them; they are most observant of the offices of religion; live in good agreement with each other, notwithstanding any differences of religious profession; and seem anxious to obey, even on a hint, the wishes of their superiors, both civil and ecclesiastical. Their respectful and decent appearance, during the public solemnities of religion, has gained the admiration of all strangers - and their minister would be ungrateful not to acknowledge, that they seem, on every occasion, to have almost anticipated his wishes.

Still the tendency to change, which is at present abroad over the world, may be descried by a close observer of events, even within the hitherto quiet precincts of our retired and romantic valley; and I have no doubt, that, when a few more years have elapsed, much that has characterized both the customs and the spirit of the people will have been succeeded by other habits and by new tendencies of thought. But whether the change shall be for good or for evil, is a question to which opposite answers will assuredly be given - and which no living man, perhaps, is able to answer satisfactorily.

*October 1839.*