

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF FOULDEN.

(County of Berwick—Presbytery of Gbirnside—Synod of Merse
and Tiviotdale.)

By the Rev. Doctor DAVID YOUNG.

Extent and Soil.

THE parish of Foulden, in its form, approaches nearer to that of a square than any other; and, in breadth, is about 2 miles, and in length $2\frac{1}{2}$. The soil, on the S. side, is a strong clay; towards the middle of the parish it becomes more loamy, and on the N. it turns considerably light.

Cultivation and Produce.—The whole lands in this parish lay formerly *run-rigg*; which, however unfavourable to improvement, was indispensably necessary, as a bond of defence in those days, when the inhabitants of the Borders were in the practice of committing depredations upon one another. Although these acts of plunder were relinquished, after the revolution in 1688, it was not till within these 40 years, that a full divi-

sion of property took place ; but since the lands were divided, they have been in general well inclosed, and brought to a considerable degree of cultivation. They yield plentiful crops of wheat, barley, oats, pease, turnips, potatoes, and grafs.

Rents, Cattle, &c.—Although these lands fully bear the above description of soil and good quality, the best of them, excepting some crofts, were let no higher than 10s. per acre ; but since the old leases expired, they are now advanced from 10s., to 20s., 30s., and even 40s., which is not too high, considering the short distance from market and lime. Formerly, a large tract of land, on the north side of the parish, called *Foulden Muir*, was occupied by the residenters in the village, by way of stents, or pasture for cows and horses, and, in that state, paid very little rent. The grafs of these grounds being always in great plenty, and of good quality, suggested the advantage of bringing them into a state of cultivation. About 30 years ago, when improvements in agriculture were introduced into this part of the country, this piece of land was accordingly plowed up, and yeilded a profuse crop, from a good soil. It was soon after let out into different farms, which now pay about 300l. of yearly rent. Some part of this land has been found unfit for husbandry, and is lately planted with firs, which promise a good return in due time. Lime is very much used in this part of the country. There is shell marl in the parish, but it has never been properly tried ; and, for a number of years past, it has been entirely neglected. There is nothing remarkable in the mode of husbandry, nor in the instruments employed in it. The breeding or feeding of sheep has not been tried here, although great part of the lands are very fit for both purposes. The late proprietor had a fine taste for the breeding and feeding of cattle. His horses were the best in the country, and it is but 3 years since the last
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of his breed of oxen were sold. One ox weighed 128 stone, and was of a very fine shape and make.

Climate, River, &c.—This parish, and some other lands adjoining, stand upon a considerable elevation, which continues to rise, towards the N., for 2 miles; and then slopes gradually, until it reaches the sea banks, which are very high and rocky. There is a river, called *Whittadder*, which runs on the S. side, and empties itself into the Tweed, near Berwick. The bed of the river is very deep, being in no place under 40 yards, and in many places 50 yards, from the top of the bank. These banks are cut, upon the N. side, into very deep dens by nature, through which rivulets of water run, from the whole lands in the neighbourhood, throughout the year. These circumstances, added to an almost unbounded prospect to the S. and W., must contribute to render the air pure and dry, and consequently less susceptible of noxious or infectious taints. It has been frequently remarked here, that the diseases, which are peculiar to our climate, such as intermittent and common continued fevers, putrid fever, and sore throat, are scarce known amongst us, whilst they are sometimes very frequent and mortal, in the parishes immediately adjoining: These diseases have indeed made their appearance here at such times, but unaccompanied with that malignity, which rendered them so fatal to those attacked with them, in less elevated and more moist situations. For these 7 years and upwards, only one young person has died, a female of 16 years of age, and one child. Good health is enjoyed through life, with very little interruption; and, except these two, none have died (residing in this parish), during the above mentioned period, who had not reached at least 60 years; and it is not unfrequent to attain the age of 80, and even 90 years, in the full possession of every faculty.

Population.

Population.—As the records have not been regularly kept, the ancient state of the population cannot be precisely ascertained. A considerable village, containing about 60 families, being now reduced to 16 only, is supposed to have diminished the population; and it is the opinion of old residents, that the number of souls is not so great now, as it was 40 years ago; although, upon comparing the average of baptisms for the last 7 years, with that of the same number of years half a century ago, there appears to be very little difference. Hence some incline to think, that although a number of old people have died, and several others have left the bounds to reside elsewhere, the permanent population is still nearly the same; and the reason they give, is, that several new farms have been erected, with a number of houses, containing many families, which bear a near proportion to the reduction, which has taken place in the village. The former opinion, however, seems nearest the truth, the return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, having been

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And the number of persons at present (1793), being only		344
Decrease,	-	121

Annual average of births,	-	6	Persons under 10 years of age,	100
----- marriages,	-	1	----- between 10 and 20,	40
----- deaths,	-	1	----- 20 and 50,	170
Number of males,	-	170	----- 50 and 70,	30
----- females,	-	174	----- 70 and 90,	4

Ecclesiastical State.—The number of Seceders is very inconsiderable; so that the people, in general, attend the ordinances of religion in the parish church; which was rebuilt in 1786. The manse was built about 14 years before. The stipend, by a late decret of augmentation, is 56l. 10s. in money, and three chalders and a half of barley and oatmeal, equal parts. There is an allowance of 2l. 10s. for the expences of

the sacrament; and the glebe and garden is worth 20l. Sterling. JAMES WILKIE of FOULDEN, Esq. is patron*.

Antiquities.—There is an old ruin, called *Foulden*, which appears to have been a place of security and strength, in the times of the Border contests. There is also a property, called *Nunlands*, where there was an establishment of nuns in former times; but no record or tradition has been met with, that gives any history of either †.

Markets and Roads.—There are 2 fairs held annually in the village; but little or no business is done at them. A very few cattle appear sometimes for sale, and a small quantity of wool. Formerly, great quantities of shoes were sold at the fairs here, and were bought by the people in Northumberland.—The roads in this neighbourhood have lately undergone a great repair, in consequence of several turnpikes having been erected.

NUMBER

* The present incumbent succeeded Mr JOHN BUCHANAN, whose predecessor, Mr ROBERT PARK, was the first Presbyterian minister of this parish after the Revolution in 1688; the Episcopal clergyman having continued in the charge about eleven years after Presbyterian church-government was established in Scotland.

† There was also a fortified wall on the east end of the village of Foulden, the remains of which were taken down some years ago. The chief design of it seems to have been, for a defence to the residence of LORD ROSS, who took an active part in the wars between England and Scotland, and who was proprietor of the estate of Foulden in those days.