

# PARISH OF COLINTON.

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. LEWIS BALFOUR, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THIS parish originally bore the name of Hailes, and was probably so called from that being the name of the property, out of which land had been appropriated for the glebe, and for the site of the church and manse. Afterwards, the name of Colinton was bestowed upon it, probably in compliment to the principal family in the parish, which possessed the lands bearing that name. Though the parish is described by the name of Colinton, without any addition, on the communion cups, which were purchased in 1680, the name Hailes is applied to it in the church records till 1697, when it is written "Hailes, alias Collingtoune." This form is used, most generally, when any date is given, till 1747; after which, except in one or two instances, the name of Colinton alone is employed. On one of the plates used at the communion, is this inscription, "1758. Collintoun, alias Hailes' Kirk." *Hailes* is said to be a plural word signifying "mounds or hillocks;" a meaning which aptly enough describes the lands to which it is applied. Colinton may mean the town of Colin; or it may be derived, we are told, from a Gaelic word signifying "a hollow;" or from a French word, (*colline*), which bears the opposite meaning of hilly, and so coincides with the original name of Hailes. The position of the church is aptly described by either of the names, for it is the church in the "hollow," and at the same time among "the hillocks."

*Extent, &c.*—The parish lies to the westward of Edinburgh. The point nearest to that city is about three miles from the General Post-Office; and the church is about five miles distant from the same place. The parish is an irregular four-sided figure, extending in its greatest length about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from north to south; and in its greatest breadth, about 3 miles from east to west;

it contains about 8 square miles. It is bounded on the north-west, by the parishes of Corstorphine and St Cuthberts; on the north-east, by the parishes of Morningside (a new parish, *quoad sacra*, separated from St Cuthberts,) and Liberton; on the south-east, by the parishes of Lasswade and Glencorse; and on the south-west, by those of Penicuik and Currie.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The appearance of the parish is beautifully diversified. The northern range of the Pentland Hills, which is its south-east boundary, rising 1600 feet above the level of the sea, forms a fine Alpine back-ground from which the land falls in various undulations towards the flats of Corstorphine. The descent is arrested towards the north-east by the romantic rising-grounds of the fir hill and Craig-Lockhart hill; while a little farther down, it is intersected for nearly three miles, by the dell in which the interesting Water of Leith flows. The whole scene is beautified by hedge-rows, by the trees which surround the houses of heritors and others, and by the denser masses of plantation on the lands of Hailes, Colinton House, Redhall, Craig-Lockhart, and Dreghorn. There, ever-greens and deciduous trees are blended together, whose various forms and foliage, whether viewed in spring, when their fresh and contrasted verdure clothe anew the naked groves, or in autumn, when their changing hues sympathize with the yellow fields, and render that season the most attractive in the year, throw a richness and variety over a landscape scarcely equalled in the vicinity of Edinburgh. Beyond the bounds of the parish are seen the capital of Scotland, with its spires and romantic Castle; the Frith of Forth and the fertile coast of Fife,—the more distant Ochils, and the bold Grampians towards the north-west closing the view.

The arable lands in the parish lie from 250 feet to 600 feet above the level of the sea. Some lands have lately been subjected to the plough on the farm of Swanston, lying at the east end of the Pentland hills, which are perhaps 100 feet higher. The church at Colinton stands 300 feet above the level of the sea; Colinton House, 386; Bonally, 482; Dreghorn Castle, 489; Hunter's Tryst, 517; Swanston, 616; Caerketan (*vulga*, Kirkyetton) hill, 1565; and Allermuir hill, 1616.

*Hydrography.*—The principal stream in the parish, the Water of Leith, flows through the lower part of it for nearly three miles, and though it has no great breadth, being only about 50 feet from bank to bank opposite to the manse, it is an important

aid to the industry of the parish, within which it is employed in sixteen mills and one bleach-field. It has, however, the disadvantage belonging to all small streams, that its supply of water is very unequal. There are seasons when the water almost disappears among the stones; and there are times when the swollen torrent rushes along with the power of a giant. In October 1832, this stream was very heavily flooded for three days, in consequence of which, twelve dam-heads were injured in its course, and the bridge at Slateford, which had stood for seventy years, was broken down. It was proposed, some years ago, to form a reservoir towards the source of the stream for the treasuring up of the superfluous waters of the wet season, to be again distributed in the time of need. But this plan has never been carried into effect. This stream flows into the Frith of Forth at Leith, constituting the original harbour of that place.—There are also three burns in the parish; the Murray-burn, forming its north-western boundary till it falls into the Leith at Longstone, a little below Slateford; the Braid-burn, which takes its rise chiefly in the hills about Bonally and Dreghorn; and the Burdiehouse-burn, which comes down from Swanston. There are, besides these, many excellent springs in the lands of Comiston, Swanston, and Dreghorn, from which the inhabitants of Edinburgh were long chiefly supplied with water. Maitland, in his History of Edinburgh, states on this subject, that, in 1621, means were first thought of for bringing in the water from Comiston to Edinburgh; but that nothing was effectually done till 1672, when a fire-hearth tax was laid on the town by Act of Parliament, in order to raise the necessary fund. In 1681, Peter Brauss brought in the Tod spring from Comiston, at the expense of L. 2900 Sterling, and gave so much satisfaction to his employers that they gave him a present of L. 50. In 1698, the Hare and the Mowbray springs, with all that might be between them, were rented from the proprietor of Comiston for a season, at L. 18 per annum, and brought also into the good town. In later times, to add to the various supplies of water, two ponds were formed on the lands of Spylaw, above Bonally, and their contents directed into the same channel. Since, however, the abundant waters of the Crawly spring have been carried into Edinburgh by a Water Company formed in 1819, these ponds have been superseded. Still, with all this abundant supply of water, there are places in the parish where it is not to be had in sufficient quantity, though there can be little doubt, that, were it properly sought

for, it would generally be obtained. There is no peculiarity in the climate of the parish.\*

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The geological character of the parish is varied and interesting. The whole parish is of the secondary formation, interspersed with rocks and minerals in endless variety. The Pentland Hills are of porphyry, of which the prevailing kinds are claystone porphyry and felspar porphyry. The general contour of these towards the north resembles the Andes, while, towards the south, they imitate exactly the aspect of the Malvern range in Worcestershire. Caerketan Craggs are different in their composition from the rest of the hills,—the bulk of them being clayey felspar, which, but for a strong impregnation with black oxide of iron, would be extremely useful to the potter. This is called *Petunse Pentlandica*, from its resemblance to the Kaoline or Petunse, so valuable in the Chinese potteries, from which the best china is made.

On the summit of the Pentland Hills, boulders of primitive rock, such as granite, gneiss, &c., are met with, whose original site is not less distant than sixty miles, viz. at Benlomond and Dunkeld. Malactite or green carbonate of copper is found among the Pentlands. Jaspers are frequently met with, and some of these are very beautiful. A piece of fluor spar was picked up in the burn above Bonally, which Professor Jameson does not consider indigenous, but which, if it were so, would be a subject of mineralogical interest. Craig Lockhart Hill is a fine specimen of basaltic rock, studded with some interesting minerals, as Olivine, Humboldtite, augite, prehnite, with drusy cavities, zeolite, &c. In the bed of the river, immediately below the manse, there is a beautiful specimen of the "dike" fully exposed, the strata being nearly in a vertical position: and about 200 yards above the manse, in a cavity in the bed of the river, is a tufa rock, showing that the disturbance in the strata has proceeded from volcanic influence. A little below the dam-head of Colinton barley-mill is found, on the Hailes side of the stream, an excellent millstone rock. The millstones, however, require to be built, as the rock cannot be raised in pieces sufficiently large to make them entire. The access to the quarry is difficult; and there are not many stones taken out of it. Indeed, the bed of the Water of Leith in this parish presents

\* "1652 was a very early year. Corn was sown in June, and harvest finished in August, without wait, storm, or tempest. It also produced ripe wine berries and grapes, and abundance of Scotts chastanes, openlie sauld at the mercat cross, and baken in pasties at Bankittes."—Nicoll's Diary.

1626 was a similar season. Corn was cut between Colinton and Edinborough in June O. S.; and in August O. S. harvest was finished. Chestnuts ripened at Craig-Lockhart House in this parish.

to the geologist a great variety of very interesting matter. Petrifications of wood and shells, impressions of leaves, and, in one instance, the impression of a fish have been found in it. There are quarries of good sandstone or freestone in the parish; in one of these—Hailes quarry—masses of sandstone in spherical concretions, are found imbedded in the clay which occurs between the freestone strata. Curious impressions of plants are also occasionally noticed in this quarry. Neither coal nor lime are wrought in the parish, though some people suppose that there are indications of the presence of both.

The more remarkable birds found here are, the kestrel hawk, which breeds in the rocks at Craig Lockhart, the brown owl, the snowflake, brambling, Bohemian chatterer, long-tailed tit-mouse, golden-crested wren, butcher-bird, ring-ousel, water-hen, and king's-fisher. Dr Walker, in his account of the parish, says that this last bird remains only a few days in the parish; of late, however, it has remained for months, nay, it is even surmised that, on one occasion, it remained over the summer, and had a nest near Slatford. It has been much hunted of late years for the sake of its plumage, and has, in consequence, become very rare. It is understood that the missel-thrush has here, as elsewhere, very much usurped the place of the common thrush.

*Botany.*—As the parish is greatly diversified by hill, vale, and stream, it is a rich treasure of botanical productions. Some plants, both cryptogamous and phenogamous, are very rare. It is unnecessary, however, to enter into any enumeration of these here, as a list of all the plants within ten miles of Edinburgh has been long before the public. It may be noticed, however, that a small yellow poppy, perennial, made its appearance in the manse garden soon after the present incumbent took possession, which is said to be found in some of the plantings near Woodhall, but whose habitat is the mountains of Wales.

There are plantations around the houses of the heritors and at Woodville; on the banks of the river belonging to Woodhall, Spylaw, Colinton House, Hailes, Redhall, and Craig Lockhart; on Craig Lockhart Hill, fir-hill, above Swanston, (planted by Mr Trotter of Mortonhall in 1766,) and on the lands of Mr Trotter of Dreghorn. The plantations on this last-mentioned property, which are of considerable extent, and run far up the White-hill, are the most recent in the parish, and are in a thriving condition. It is remarked, however, that though the soft wood in these plantations flourishes well for a time, it soon begins

to decay, while the hard-wood, especially ash and elm, continues to thrive. There are two pretty large yew trees in the parish,—the one in Woodhall garden, and the other at the manse. In Redhall grounds, there are two or three white acacias, as large as forest trees. At Colinton House are several cedars; the seed from which they were raised is said to have been sent here from the East, when Mr Drummond was Consul at Aleppo. There are also very lofty holly hedges around the gardens connected with the old House of Colinton. There were similar hedges running across the centre of Hailes garden, which have been lately cut down to the height of ten or twelve feet, for the sake of the garden.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Notices.*—On the barony of Redhall, and not far from the site of the present house, there once stood a castle which was used as a place of strength, and which proved to have been so in former times. Of this house it is stated, that, in 1572, it was, with other places about Edinburgh, garrisoned “by the Regent Marr, and the King’s favourers.”—(Pollock’s MSS. Life of Napier of Merchiston.) In 1650, this castle endured a regular siege from Cromwell’s army, of which the following interesting account is given by Nicol in his Diary, (Ban. Club.)—“Cromwell pushed from Berwick to Collingtoun, without opposition, until he came to the house of Reidhall, within three miles be west Edinburgh. In the whilk house of Reidhall the Laird of Reidhall with threescore sodgeris, lay with provisions and keepit and defendit the house aganes the Englishes, and gallit his sodgeris, and put them back several times, with loss of sindry sodgeris. (Civil wars of Great Britain and Ireland, say that in Reidhall Lord Hamilton and Major Hamilton were taken.) The English General taking this very greivously that such a waik house sould hald out aganes him and be an impediment in his way, he and his army lying so neir unto it, thairfor he causit draw his cannon to the house, and thair, from four hours in the morning till ten in the foir-noun that day, he causit the cannon to play on this house, encampit a great number of his sodgeris about it with pike and musket, but all to lytel purpose; for the Laird and the pepil in the house defendit it valiantly ever till thair powder failed: and efter it failed, they did not give over, ever lucking for help from our awin army, wha was then lying at Crosstorfyn, within three-quarters of ane myle to the house: of whas help thair war disappointed. General Cromwell percaiving their powder to be gone, and that no

assistance was given thame, he causit Pittardis to be brocht to the house, quhairwith he blew up the dures, entered the dures and windowes, and efter slaughter on both sides, (but much moir to the Englishes than to the Scottis), tuik all that were in the house prisoners, tirred them naked, seased on all the money and guides that were thairin, quhilk was much, be reason that sindry gentlemen about haid put thair guides thair for saiftie. So this house and pepil thairin were taken in the sicht and face of our airmie, quha thocht it dangerous to hazard thameselves in such ane expedition, the enemy haiffing the advantage of the ground and hills about him for his defence." "Efter the enemie had taken the Laird of Reidhall prisoner, he thairestir put him to liberty, commending much his valour and activitie for halding out so stoutlie aganes him that house of Reidhall."

The Covenanters came from the west to Colinton village on 27th November 1666, where they remained all night: on the 28th they marched by Ingliston bridge, in the point of Pentland hills; and the battle of Rullion Green took place that evening. And in 1745, Prince Charles Edward in his way to Edinburgh took up his abode in the farm-house at Gray's mill immediately below Slateford, on Monday the 17th September; whence he proceeded next day by Buckstane-head and Newington, to the palace of Holyrood House.

*Family of Foulis.*—Foulis of Colinton is the most ancient family in the parish. Foulis is supposed to have come to Scotland from France (as the name intimates) in the eleventh century, in the reign of Malcolm Canmore. The family acquired the lands of Colinton in 1519, James Foulis of Colinton was made King's Advocate in 1528, and Clerk Register in 1531. He was concerned in all the public transactions of his time, was one of the commissioners appointed, 25th August 1543, to negotiate a marriage betwixt Mary Queen of Scots and Prince Edward of England, which negotiation, however, failed; was appointed one of the members of the College of Justice at its institution in 1532, and acted in every situation with fidelity and honour. He acquired considerable property. In the beginning of the seventeenth century the James Foulis of that period was a favourite with the King, and was, while young, knighted by him. His son, Alexander Foulis, was created a baronet in 1634. His son, Sir James, became a Senator of the College of Justice in 1661 by the title of Lord Colinton, and was appointed Justice-Clerk in 1684; he died in 1688. His son, Sir James

Foulis, was also raised to the Bench during his father's lifetime. (in 1674,) by the title of Lord Redford. He was a member of the last Scottish Parliament, and of the first British one. These two, as may well be supposed, from the places which they held, agreed with the Court in its views and measures. This ancient and honourable family still has a representative in the parish, though the lands of Colinton have passed into other hands, the title being now enjoyed by Sir James Foulis of Woodhall, Bart., whose ancestor was George, the second son of James Foulis, who held the lands of Colinton in 1581. \*—John M'Laurin, son of the famous Colin M'Laurin, when raised to the Bench, on which he sat for eight years, took the title of Lord Dreghorn, from a small property which he held in this parish. The touching and impressive inscription which he caused to be put upon the south-west corner of Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh, in memory of his father, deserves to be inserted :

Infra situs est  
Colin M'Laurin,  
Mathes. olim. in Accad. Edin. Prof. electus suo Newtono suadente,  
H. L. P., F.

Non ut nomini paterno consulat,  
Nam tali auxilio nil eget ;  
Sed ut in hoc infelici campo.  
Ubi Luctus regnant et pavor,  
Mortalibus prorens non absit Solatium,  
Hujus enim Scripta evolve,  
Mentemque tantarum rerum Capacem,  
Corpore caduco superstitem crede !

The parish is still connected with the College of Justice, by the residence at Bonally, of the Honourable Lord Cockburn, who was raised to the Bench in 1834.

Dr Alexander Monro, Secundus, who taught anatomy and surgery most successfully in the University of Edinburgh for the long space of forty years, maintaining and advancing the celebrity of that University as a school of medicine, purchased the proper-

\* *Foules of Colinton.*—This family seems at one time to have possessed nearly the whole of the parish of Hailes. 1609, James Foulis de Collingtoun was ratified in the lands of Collingtoun, Swanston, Dreghorn, Boneyley, Baddie, Pitmure Ovgangs, Comiston, Reidhall. 1641, Sir Alexander Foulis is ratified in Collingtoun Ovgangs, the vicarage of Hailes, in the teinds of town and lands of Craiglockhart Ovgangs, portions of Boneyley, Dreghorn, and Swanston. 1661, July 12, anent Lord Collingtoun's losses, *inter alia*, in 1650, his whole tenement, tenant-houses, barnes, byres, and hail onsets, in the town and lands of New Mains, Craiglockhart, and Benbridge, burned by the Usurper's army, L. 4000 Scots. The whole of his plenishing within the manor place of Collingtoun, burnt or taken away, all the doors and windows, iron work, and much of the lottsies and roof were burned, pulled down, destroyed, or taken away, by the said Usurpers, and that he had several other houses destroyed, and much of his planting cut, all estimated to L. 10,000 Scottis, his corns destroyed, estimated at L. 2083 Scots.—Acts of Scottish Parliament.

ty of Craig Lockhart, in this parish, about 1780. Although he had no residence on the lands, he took great pleasure in adorning them, and frequently betook himself to country occupations, as a cheering and useful recreation. He died in 1817. The property still remains with his eldest son, and successor in the Anatomical chair.

A small part of the lands of Colinton, containing the site of the old house, was purchased towards the end of the last century, by Sir William Forbes of Pitsligo, Bart. Banker in Edinburgh, a man distinguished not more by his manners and accomplishments, than by the integrity of his character, and the enlarged benevolence of his heart. He wrote an able and interesting life of Dr Beattie, with whom he had been intimate for forty years. He died in 1806, leaving for the public good his mantle on his family, who have nobly maintained the reputation of their father. His grandson, Professor James D. Forbes, now holds the Natural Philosophy Chair in the University of Edinburgh, with honour to himself and advantage to the students: and with him the parish feels honoured in being connected.

James Gillespie, founder of the hospital in Edinburgh which bears his name, is supposed to have been a native of Roslin. He became a tobacconist in Edinburgh; and by the exercise of patient industry and frugality, at a favourable time, he acquired considerable wealth, and purchased the property of Spylaw, in this parish, where he spent the close of his days. He left the greater part of his fortune for the endowment of a charitable school, and of an hospital for the lodging and maintenance of old men and women. The hospital was opened in 1802. Fourteen males and eighteen females are maintained in it, who are comfortably lodged and fed. The free school was opened in 1803, and in it 150 boys are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

*Land-owners.*—The parish is divided among 11 proprietors, viz.

	Rentals.
Alexander Trotter of Dreghorn, Esq. having of valued rent,	L. 729 0 0
Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael of Hailes, Bart.	656 14 1
Richard Trotter of (Mortonhall) Swanston, Esq.	552 0 0
Sir James Forrest of Comiston, Bart.	536 0 0
John Inglis of Redhall, Esq.	535 1 4
Sir James Foulis of Woodhall, Bart.	444 9 10
Gillespie's Hospital, proprietor of Spylaw,	430 13 6
Dr Alexander Monro, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, of Craig Lockhart,	338 6 8
Sir John S. Forbes of Pitsligo and Fettercairn, Bart. of Colinton House,	162 0 0
J. Home Rigg, Esq. of Colinton Mains,	130 0 0
Andrew Grieve, W. S. of Hole Mill,	8 4 7
<b>Amount of valued rent,</b>	<b>L. 4514 10 0</b>

Alexander Trotter, Esq., John Inglis, Esq., Sir James Foulis, Bart. and Dr Monro, reside in the parish, at least during the summer, sometimes throughout the whole year. To this list of residents the name of Sir James Forrest, Bart. ought perhaps to be added, though for the present his duties as Chief-Magistrate of Edinburgh have withdrawn him from the country. Sir John S. Forbes, though he has ceased to occupy Colinton House, still, with all the generosity of his family, delights in doing good in the place which he has left;—his benevolence falls on many a needy one, as dew upon the tender herb.\*

Families from Edinburgh often reside in this parish during the summer months. Most of these, however, are transient visitors. But there are two whose connexion with the parish is more permanent. Dr W. P. Alison, Professor of the Theory of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, resides at Woodville, a small but pretty property; the remainder of a very long lease of which was purchased by himself and his father, the late Rev. Archibald Alison, LL. B. of St Paul's Chapel, Edinburgh, about seven years ago; and Alexander Clapperton, Esq. merchant in Edinburgh, who, with his family, resides regularly during summer at Spylaw Bank, a small farm which he has in lease from Gillespie's Hospital, and to the house on which he has this season made a comfortable addition.

*Parochial Registers, Reader, &c. at Hailes.*—From a register of ministers (Maitland Club,) we learn that, in 1576, Alexander

\* Hailes.—1592. The kirklands of the kirk of Hailes, pertaining sometime to the preceptory of Sanstanthope, with glebe, manse, house, biggings, and all other pertinents ratified to the clerk of registration, and Mr John Hay, his son.—Acts of Scottish Parliament.

Redhall.—7th April, 4th year, Robert II. (1375,) Meygmars conveyed to Robert, Earl of Fife, and Monteith, (the King's son,) his barony de Redehall, except the lands de Dreghorne and de Woodhall, which had been given to others.—Index of Charters under Great Seal.

1595.—Adam Ottirburn, Provost of Edinburgh, 1598. A. O. of Reidhall. 1616. Sir Thomas Ottirburn of Reidhall, had an only daughter, who married Sir James Hamilton of Hoperig. Knight, on whom, and their heirs-male, Redhall was settled. 1672. John Christy of Dalry possessed Redhall. 1681. James Brand, younger of Baberton, was ratified in these lands. (This family called their whole property Castle Brand, by which denomination it is mentioned in the old parish registers.) The creditors of George Brand sold Redhall to John Davidson, W.S. in 1749. Mr Inglis bought it in 1755, and resumed the old name of Redhall.—Acts of Scottish Parliament, and information from present proprietor.

Woodhall.—1663. Cunnyngname of Cunnyngname,—head heir of 32 oxgangs of Woodhall and Bonally, in the barony of Reidhall. 1672. John Cunnyngname of Enterhain ratified in 32 oxgangs of land old extent of Woodhall and Bonally.—Acts of Scottish Parliament.

Craig Lockhart.—1680, 17th February. The lands of Craig Lockhart were by Act of Parliament disjoined from the parish of West Kirk, and added to the parish of Hailes. 1682, 3d September. Sir John Gilmour of Craigmillar, president of the College of Justice, ratified in the lands of Craig Lockhart, with the tower, fortalice, manor place, &c.—Acts of Scottish Parliament.

Forrester was Reader at Haillis, "his stipend xlii. xs. and 9d. together with the vicarage pensionarie of Haillis, to be payit out of the thrid of the Hospitale of Sanstanthonis in Leith."

From records of the Kirk of Scotland 1639, we find that William Ogstane, minister at Colingtoune, had been deposed in 1638, for deserting of his flock, causing his people after a superstitious way to sit on their knees when he examined them, meddling with the poor folk's box, &c. and that his case was in 1639 referred to the Commission that was to be appointed.

The parochial registers are contained in seven volumes, which are all in good condition. These volumes contain the proceedings of the kirk-session, the distributions made to the poor, and the minutes of the heritors, of which last there are very few; but since 1716, the poor's matters have been separately recorded, and since 1757, the minutes of the heritor's meetings. The registers of marriages, baptisms, and burials, have always been kept in separate volumes. The first minute of session wants the date, but it mentions the return of the minister from Fife, whither he had fled about a year before, in consequence of Cromwell's victory at Dunbar, 3d September 1650, and the next minute is 14th September 1651. These records are minutely kept until July 1733, between which date and 1746, the payments made to the poor only are recorded. From that period till 1783, matters of discipline are again introduced; but thereafter, until 1823, very few entries appear on the record. From these books it appears that since 1650, the thirteenth minister is now in possession of the cure of Colinton. 1. John Charteris; 2. Robert Bennet, admitted 1659, desisted preaching 1681; 3. Thomas Murray, admitted 1682, left 1685; 4. Samuel Nimmo, admitted 1686, deposed by General Commission of the church 1691; 5. James Thomson, ordained 1694, translated to Elgin 1696; 6. Thomas Paterson, ordained 1697, translated to West-kirk 1699; 7. Walter Allan, ordained 1700; 8. George Gibson, ordained 1733; 9. John Hyndman, 1746, translated to West-kirk 1752; 10. Robert Fisher, from Lauder, 1753; 11. Dr John Walker from Moffat, 1783; 12. John Fleming, from Carrington, 1804; 13. L. Balfour, from Sorn, 1823. With the minister in 1651, returned the schoolmaster, and since that period the sixteenth schoolmaster is at present in possession of the charge. Of the first, John Crow, it is stated that he was deposed in 1655 for brewing and selling drink in the school-house, "so near the kirk and minister's yett." From these records we learn that there

were always elders in the parish, even during the most troublous times; that the elders who collected, did thereafter during divine worship visit the village of Colinton, and sometimes the more distant villages, to correct abuses: that the collections were good, the poor on the funds few, and the money so abundant, that some of the heritors borrowed from the session to pay their proportion of expenses in repairing the church, while they seem to have forgotten to repay: that in 1680, two silver cups to be used in the communion were bought out of the session funds, the one inscribed, "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? I am the vine, ye are the branches;" and the other, "This cup is the New Testament in my blood which was shed for you. I am the Vine, &c.;" on both it is stated that they belong to "the kirk-session of Collingtoun:" that the kirk-session gave authority to erect seats in the area of the church; that under date 12th September 1680, it is stated that some parishioners, having been displeased with the erection of a seat in the body of the church, though allowed by the kirk-session, applied to that body to have the nuisance removed, but the session determine "that they can do nothing in the matter without the bishop and the Presbytery," (N.B. This is the only instance where the bishop is alluded to in the records;) that there was no meeting of kirk-session from January 1662 till March 1663, "by reason that all the kirk-sessions of the Church of Scotland were discharged by a public declaration of the King's Majesty:" that in 1679, the communion was delayed by reason of the troublous times, the country being in confusion in consequence of the fight of Bothwell Bridge: that in 1677, on a complaint, the kirk-session pass an act prohibiting the lending out of the communion tables and forms for the use of penny weddings: that the sacrament was not dispensed in the parish from 1688 till 1702, for which no reason is assigned: and that during the whole of the period included in these volumes there has been only one Presbyterial visitation of the parish which took place on the 8th June 1714. The following notices are curious: 1680, February 8, A woman is taken up on suspicion of having murdered her illegitimate child, and the matter is enquired into: "There is one thing (say the minutes) very observable in that business, that when the mother laid her hand upon the child's nose, there came a little blood from it, which was seen by many present." This refers to the superstitious idea which used to prevail, that a murdered body

would bleed when touched by the murderer. The poor creature was delivered over to the public prosecutor, tried, condemned, and executed in the Grassmarket on the 15th day of August, the same year. 1714, November 9, Isabel Colquhoun was summoned to the session for disturbing her neighbours in time of sermon. Having appeared, she stated, "that she being the oldest possessor of a chair in the body of the kirk, she thought that the neighbours in Bonally should have more respect to her than to toss her chair up and down the kirk, as they often did, and that all the noise she had made was to get back her chair where it had stood three-score years; but that she was sorry, &c."—She was rebuikit:

*Antiquities.*—"On the lands of Comiston once stood the remains of a large encampment. Adjacent to this camp, and near the house of Fair-mile-head, an extensive and important battle had been fought, and two very large conical cairns erected; on demolishing which for the purpose of making the turnpike road, remains of human bones were found in them, and several fragments of old arms, two of which are still in the possession of Mr Trotter of Mortonhall, the proprietor of the ground. Not far from these cairns there had been erected an upright pillar stone, which still remains. It is a rude massy block of whinstone, of a flat shape, "nine feet" above the surface of the ground, and four feet below it. It is called the Kel Stane, an old British word signifying the battle stone. It has also passed immemorially by the name of Camus Stone, which would seem to intimate its connection with some Danish commander." The Roman road which extended from York to Carriden near Abercorn, passed through Comiston farm, and the high road between the toll and Bow Bridge, is very nearly on the line which it followed. The ruins of a small fortalice stand beautifully situated at the north base of Craig Lockhart hill. Part of the cover of a stone coffin was lately taken out of the rubbish in the floor of the church. It bears on it the rude outlines of a sword and mace, the latter consisting of a simple handle, and ending in four circles, meeting in a common centre.

Inscription on a tablet in the aisle of Colinton church:—**HERE .  
LYIS . ANE . HONORABIL . VOMAN . A . HIRIOT . SPOVS . TO . I .  
FOVLIS . OF . COLLINGTOVN . VAS . QVHA . DIED . S . AVGVST .  
1593.**

*Modern Buildings.*—Colinton House was built at a very considerable expense about the beginning of this century, by the late Sir William Forbes, Bart. It stands on the brow of the lawn, and

looks over a fine expanse of country to the north and east. The old house has been converted very adroitly into a decorative ruin, which has attached to it two old fashioned gardens, flanked and divided by the lofty holly hedges already referred to. Dreghorn Castle was built about the same time with Colinton House, by Alexander Trotter, Esq. It is embosomed among trees, some of which are stately beeches belonging to the olden times, but the greater proportion have been planted by the present proprietor, and are in a very thriving condition. These are built of hewn freestone. Comiston House, the residence of Sir James Forrest, Bart. was built in 1815. And Craig Lockhart House was built by Dr Monro, about fifteen years ago. It is sweetly situated on the verge of the sloping wooded bank which runs down to the Water of Leith. Lord Cockburn having feued a portion of land from Gillespie's Hospital, at the foot of the Pentland hills, and having greatly ornamented the place, built as an addition to the small house at Bonally, a Peel Tower, which was finished this season. It is situate in a hollow, commands the pass through the hills, and has a most interesting air. It is the *lion* of the parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

Before the middle of the seventeenth century this parish appears to have had but few inhabitants. Their number, however, continued rather on the increase till the time of the seven years famine, that is, from the year 1695 till 1702, during which period it is said to have much diminished. In an information presented to the Court of Teinds in 1709, this parish was said to contain 318 examinable persons; if to these a third part be added for unexaminable persons, the whole inhabitants would appear to have then amounted to 424. From a record in possession of the church, it appears that about the year

1750,	the population amounted to	792
1755,	by Dr Webster's report,	792
1791,	-	1895
1801,	-	1892
1811,	-	1605
1821,	-	2019
1831,	-	2232

Of this last number 1076 were males; and 1156 females.

The population has since decreased, the amount in 1838 being 1982. The cause of this diminution, perhaps, is to be found in the facts, that the extra work on many of the farms has been completed; that in Hailes Quarry, many fewer hands are employed of late, while Redhall Quarry is not wrought; and that machinery has been introduced into three of the paper-mills, producing a great diminution in

the number of hands required. The population is divided among five considerable villages, as many hamlets, and various small knots of houses connected with farms and mills. The villages are,

Colinton, containing	61 men,	58 women;	total,	119
Swanston,	49 men,	54 women;	do.	103
Juniper Green,	166 men,	172 women;	do.	338
Hailes Quarry,	69 men,	76 women;	do.	145
Slateford,	95 men,	116 women;	do.	211

Dr Walker says in the old Account, that in this parish, the registers of baptisms and marriages have been regularly kept since 1655; and that of burials since 1728. This continues to be the case. Only, it must be observed, that many of the Seceders do not register the baptism of their children; and that individuals who die in the parish are sometimes buried elsewhere, and consequently are not registered here. This last source of error in any calculation, founded on the register of burials, is understood to be compensated by the burials which take place here from other parishes.

The births from 1827 to 1836 inclusive, were 241 males, 227 females, in all 468; of these 27 were still-born, or died before being baptised; 10 were twins, and 12 were illegitimate. The burials in the same years amounted to 429; of these 182 were under twelve years of age; and 71 were seventy years old and upwards. The marriages during the same period amounted to 127.

The number of families in the parish is 440; the average number of individuals to each family is  $4\frac{1}{2}$ . There are in the parish 445 houses, and there are 52 dwelling places empty.

There is, at present, only one pauper lunatic connected with the parish, and two residing in it. There are 2 blind persons, 2 fatuous, and 1 deaf and dumb.

There are no customs peculiar to the parish. The people are on the whole attentive to cleanliness, dress well on the Sabbath, and, if they would act aright, have the comforts and advantages of society in a reasonable degree. They are not generally given to reading. Some years ago an attempt was made to cherish the practice, by introducing among them itinerating libraries,—the first year's expense having been kindly defrayed by a friend. But the experiment came to a close at the end of the fourth year, when the money drawn from the readers' was not equal to the hire of the books. One vice prevails greatly among the people, which eats out a man's heart, and renders him indifferent to religion, to knowledge, and to his nearest and dearest friends, viz. the drinking of ardent spirits. It was ascertained that the drinking portion of the working classes in the parish must have spent L. 2300 for spirits in

1834. How ruinous is that appetite which withdraws so large a sum in so small a society from ministering to its comfort and improvement. With the view of correcting this great evil, a Temperance Society was formed in the parish in the end of 1830. This brought much to the knowledge of the people, concerning the extent and consequences of drinking, of which they had previously been wholly unaware, and was productive of real good even to those who did not join it. But the novelty of the thing wore off, the lover of drink returned to it again, and though the society still exists, its influence is little felt beyond the range of those who have conscientiously entered it; while the evil practice is spreading its influence even among the female part of our population. Need it be wondered at, that, among those who thus serve their appetites, the truth makes but a feeble impression? that many turn away from it altogether, and that the concerns of time usurp that place in the thoughts which is due only to those of eternity. Still there are many whose conduct is regular and becoming, and who value the truth as it is in Christ.

It is understood that much poaching goes on in the parish, though the poachers are believed to be chiefly visitors from other places.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.\*

The parish contains about 5070 acres; of these there are in tillage, or fit for tillage, though in pasture,		8436 acres.
	In hill pasture,	1356
	planting,	278
	Total,	5070 acres.

There is no undivided common in the parish.

The arable land may be valued at	L. 8246	8	0	per annum.
pasture at	822	2	0	

In all, L. 8568 10 0

Besides 278 acres in wood.

This parish, reaching in its north-east direction to within about two miles of Edinburgh, probably contains a greater variety of land than any other at a similar distance from the city. This arises from its extending southward to the summit of the Pentland hills, and thus including in its bounds not only the level fields which stretch out from the bottom of the hills, but also the most part of the northern face of the northern range. There is, however, little of the land capable of improvement, if any, that has not already been submitted to the plough and harrow; and much

\* Furnished by Mr Scott, farmer, Craig Lockhart.

has been done within the last twenty years towards its general improvement, by deep draining, and a judicious system of cropping.

*Rent.*—The arable land, from the difference of soil and situation already alluded to, varies in rent from about L. 1, 4s. to L. 3, 19s. 6d. per imperial acre; but the average may be stated at L. 2, 8s. The pasture lands on the Pentland hills, of which there are about 1308 acres, let at about 4s. 9d. per acre; while the other pasture lands, which, with the exception of Craig Lockhart hills, consist of enclosures connected with villas, or the houses of the heritors, let at from L. 1, 12s. to L. 3, 4s. per acre. There is no such thing known in the parish as letting pasture land at so much per ox or sheep.

*Husbandry.*—The rotation of cropping on the arable land in general is, 1. potatoes, turnips, or beans; 2. wheat or barley; 3. hay; 4. oats. But of late years, from the low price of grain or hay, and the comparatively high price of fat stock, a disposition has been shown on some farms to introduce for the third crop, two years of pasture, in place of the hay crop, making the rotation five in place of four years. Very few cattle are reared in the parish, and equally few sheep, except on farms containing portions of the Pentland hills, where the Cheviot breed are kept, and on Craig Lockhart, where a few Leicesters are kept. On other farms, where occasionally turnips are consumed on ground, stock is purchased for that purpose.

Potatoes form the greatest breadth of green crop, for which Edinburgh affords a near and ready market; while it also yields the principal supply of manure, at about 4s. per ton, exclusive of toll and carriage. Of this manure, from 24 to 32 tons are generally laid upon the acre for green crops.

Both bone and rape dust have been tried as manures. But where good dung can be had it is preferable to either; at the same time, when that article cannot easily be obtained, they prove valuable substitutes.

Although a great deal has already been done by deep draining to improve the soil, yet, as a great part of the parish is recumbent on clay, much may yet be done by furrow draining, and the use of the subsoil plough, to increase its productive powers.

*Wages.*—The wages of a married ploughman per annum are, cash L. 16, oatmeal 65 stones, potatoes 12 cwt. with four weeks' meat in harvest, free house and garden, and coals driven. Those able to stack and sow, get L. 1 or L. 2 per annum more. Farm-labour-

ers receive 10s. per week in the summer, and 9s. in winter. But old and infirm men are always to be had for less; and able bodied men who work in quarries get higher wages. Women and boys who work in the fields at hewing, &c. receive 9d. per day; but in the time of harvest and of lifting potatoes, their wages are regulated by the hiring market, which is held in Edinburgh every Monday morning during the season. Wrights and masons earn from 2s. to 3s. a day; blacksmiths generally work by the piece. They charge L. 3 per annum for shoeing a pair of horses, and keeping the plough and harrow, &c. in repairs.

*Leases, &c.*—The land is let on leases varying from twelve to nineteen years; but any lease under nineteen years is unfavourable to both landlord and tenant, as it invariably prevents the liberal investment of capital in improvement. The fences are generally good, partly thorn hedges, partly stone dikes. The farm-steadings are mostly very old, with thatched or tiled roofs, affording very indifferent accommodation when compared with those which have been recently built. In one or two instances, however, where new steadings have been erected, more attention has been paid to comfortable accommodation, and the roofs have been slated. A steam-engine for driving the thrashing-mill is found at Bonally steading, lately erected, and belonging to Gillespie's Hospital.

*Quarries.*—There are two good quarries of freestone in the parish, the one on the lands of Hailes, the other on those of Redhall. In Hailes quarry, the stone is of a slaty structure, and divides easily into thin portions forming excellent materials for the steps of stairs, and the pavement of lobbies, and of the foot-ways in the streets, for which purposes it is very extensively used; while the smaller portions are employed in rubble work. It is wrought to a great depth, about 90 feet, being kept free from water by a steam-engine which was erected in 1787, and is very productive. In 1825, when building in Edinburgh was pushed to a great extent, there were daily sent into that city from the quarry, 600 carts of stones; and the landlord, Sir Thomas Gibson Carnichael, Bart. who receives from the tacksmen, a lordship of 11s. in the pound, drew from it that year about L. 2000. But, in consequence of the building having been then overdone, for many years past not more than 60 or 70 carts of stones a day have been sent into town, and the produce to the landlord at present is only about L. 1500 a year. The Red hall quarry is a yellowish freestone. The bare is considerable, and the working expensive, so that the landlord receives only

6s. 8d. per pound of lordship. Nevertheless, it was actively quarried in 1825, and yielded for a season a considerable rent. It has not been wrought for some time. A third quarry, where the stone resembled that found in Redhall quarry, was opened in Hailes grounds, opposite to the house. But, after being wrought for a short time, it was deserted.

*Mills.*—The Water of Leith is a most serviceable drudge, and is by no means spared. There are at present 16 mills driven by it within the parish, and a seventeenth is in the course of building. In ten of these, flour, meal, or barley are prepared for the market; in four, paper is made,—a manufacture which has been carried on in the parish for more than a century; and three manufacture snuff. There was some years ago a fourth, which was employed in grinding snuff, but it has not been used of late; the new mill, which is in the course of being erected, is to be employed for that purpose. At one of the mills there is also machinery for grinding magnesia, &c.; at another, for sawing wood; and at a third, for beating hemp and foreign lint.

At Inglis Green, immediately below Slateford, there is an excellent bleachfield, under the direction of Mr. M'Whirter. But the plan of bleaching all within doors prevails now so universally, that the bleachfield does not yield the return which is necessary to reward the industry and care for which it calls. The rents of the mills as well as of the quarries add very considerably to the value of the parish. There is a small mill-wright business at Colinton, giving employment to three or four hands. Spinning has almost wholly disappeared. Thus the old are cut off from the employment, within the power of age and suited to its disposition, of "drawing out a thread wi' little din;" which used to keep time from being a burden, and to supply with the necessaries of life. There is but one weaver in the parish, whose work is not abundant. The washing of clothes is carried on to some extent, especially in the village of Swanston.

With the view of stimulating to improvement in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, and flowers, a Gardener's Society, which awards small prizes to the most successful cultivators, was instituted four years ago. It consists at present of 18 members, and meets in this parish once a fortnight from April to November. The result has been favourable.

**V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.**  
Edinburgh is the nearest market-town to the parish. There is a

post-office at Colinton, and another at Slateford, at which there are arrivals and departures twice a-day. Two branches of the turnpike road intersect the parish,—the one on the north going on to Lanark, the other, on the south, joining the Biggar road at Fair-mile-head. Their whole length within the parish is nearly eight miles. Parochial roads, well kept through the judicious application of the Statute labour money, perfect the means of communication in this parish. There are no tolls within the parish. The Lanark coach, and a noddy from Currie, pass through that portion of it traversed by the Lanark road. There are four bridges within the bounds. One on the Biggar road at Bow Bridge; a very romantic one over Braid-burn, at the gate entering into the Dreghorn grounds; one over the Leith at Colinton; and the fourth over the same stream at Slateford. This last was rebuilt in 1833; it is flat, broad in the roadway, light and handsome in its appearance, doing great credit to the gentlemen of the trust under whose care it was erected. The Union Canal, completing the connexion between Edinburgh and Glasgow, was opened in 1822. It enters the parish at Slateford, being carried over the valley of the water of Leith at that place, by a lofty aqueduct of eight arches, and it passes along the lower side of it for about two miles and a half. The parish by means of the Canal is supplied with coals from the west.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—A young friend has furnished me with the following statement concerning the antiquity of the church here: “The church of Hailes is very ancient. The lands of Hailes were granted to the Monks at Dunfermline by Ethelred, one of the sons of Malcolm Canmore, and confirmed to them by his brother, David I. and by Pope Gregory in 1234. The vicarage of Hailes, (for, not being held by the occupying incumbent, but by a bishop, it was never a rectory,) was taken from these monks, and given first to the Canons at Holyrood and then to the Canons of St Anthony at Leith, and confirmed by the famous Bishop Kennedy of St Andrews in 1445. This piece of prelatical revenge, as the story goes, was occasioned by these monks not having furnished the Bishop’s table with wine when he sojourned with them at the Abbey. The superiority of the lands of Wester Hailes remained with the canons till the Reformation; that of Easter Hailes remained with the monks of Dunfermline till the same period. The lands seem to have been the property of Lord Crichton, and to have been for-

feited in 1484. The tithes at one time belonged to Lord Carlyle."—(See Reg. St Andrews and Parliam. Rec.)

The patronage of this church was long held by the family of Lauderdale, but how it came into their hands I cannot learn. They never seem to have had property in the parish. 1661, April 9.—An act was passed in favour of John, Earl of Lauderdale, restoring what had been taken from him during the period of the Commonwealth, on which occasion Sir James Foulis of Collingtoun protests, "that this shall be in nowise prejudicial to his rights anent the patronage of the kirk of Hailes or Collingtoun."—(Acts of Scot. Parl.)—"Collingtoun protested that this should not prejudice his right to the town of Hailes."—(App.) This patronage was sold by Lord Lauderdale in 1828 to the Patronage Society for the large sum of L. 2000. The price was paid by a number of gentlemen, who held the patronage as their security. The society, with its auxiliaries, had raised, it is understood, L. 1500, when the General Assembly, in 1835, passed the Act upon Calls, which soon put an end to the labours of that society. Some of the gentlemen who had advanced the money having become anxious to have the whole repaid, the patronage was again advertised for sale, and it has been bought for something more than L. 400 by Mr Dunlop of Brockloch, in Ayrshire.

Some have stated, on what grounds I know not, that the church once stood where the mansion-house of Hailes at present stands. It has long, however, occupied a more humble and more beautiful position. It stands, and has stood since 1650, on a piece of ground by which the stream winds beautifully, and which is sheltered and adorned by the high and wooded banks belonging to Colinton House. In 1771, the old church having become quite ruinous, it was rebuilt in a plain manner. In 1817, it was found necessary to put a new roof on the church, and to raise the walls four feet. This was done at a considerable expense. In 1835, the whole seating of the church requiring to be renewed, and the accommodation being much too small for the population, (it contained only 470 sittings), it was proposed to enlarge as well as to reseat it. After some delay, necessarily arising out of the various arrangements which required to be made, the plan was happily accomplished, and the church was reopened for public worship on the 31st December 1837. David Bryce, Esq. architect, Edinburgh, gave the plans and superintended the erection. The external appearance is neat, though very plain; while internally it has a light and elegant look,

which gives universal satisfaction. The church is now seated for about 664. A heating apparatus has been fitted up in it by Mr Robert Ritchie, Edinburgh, which is found effectually to answer the end proposed. The tower also, which was too low for the church, has been raised according to a plan kindly furnished gratis, by Mr Bryce, and adds greatly to the appearance of the whole. The heritors alone paid for the repairs on the church; but the raising of the tower and the heating apparatus were obtained by means of a subscription. A new bell has since been added, completing the arrangements. The sittings of the church are divided among the heritors as usual. But the sittings employed at the time of the communion for that service are left in the hands of the kirk-session for the benefit of the people; of these there are about 80. Four silver cups belong to the kirk-session for the use of the parish, at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper; two were purchased in 1680, and two were given by the widow of Dr Walker in 1808. Two damask towels are also in the possession of the session given in 1706, by David Pitcairn of Dreghorn, on his getting a seat in church, and a burial-ground assigned to him. At the opening of the church in 1837, there were presented two beautiful damask towels to be used at baptisms, by one lady, and a beautiful damask table-cloth with two towels corresponding, to be used in dispensing the communion, by another lady; as is fully narrated in the session records. The position of the church is sufficiently central for the population of the parish, nobody being at a greater distance than two and a half miles. There are two benefactions to the parish, proper to be here noticed. The late Samuel Anderson of Moredun, Esq. after residing some time at Hailes, placed in the hands of the kirk-session L. 100, with directions to expend the interest thereof at every returning new year, on meal, to be divided among the industrious poor. And the late Rev. John Fleming of Craigs, minister of Colinton, left a sum for the education of poor children, which, after deducting charges, amounted to L. 216. The money is in the custody of the kirk-session, the patronage in the hands of those five tenants who pay the highest rents.

The present manse was built for Dr Walker, in 1784; was repaired, altered, and had new offices erected, while Mr Fleming held the cure; and, being too small for the accommodation of a family, had a very useful addition made to it during the last vacancy. It now forms a very comfortable dwelling. It is beauti-

fully situated on a flat piece of ground lying between the church and the river, and extending to about three-quarters of a Scots acre. The glebe, which is at a short distance from the manse, consists of about 7 acres, 3 roods, 20 poles, and is at present let at L. 27 per annum. The stipend consists of wheat, 92 bushels, 3 pecks,  $7\frac{5}{8}$  pints: barley, 355 bushels, 1 peck, 1 gallon,  $5\frac{5}{8}$  pints; oats, 573 bushels, 3 pecks, 1 gallon,  $5\frac{1}{8}$  pints; meal, 33 cwt. 32 lbs. 13 oz.  $1\frac{5}{8}$  dwt.; and money, L. 20, 3s.  $6\frac{1}{8}$ d. The average value of the whole for the last ten years is L. 221.

There is a chapel at Slateford connected with the United Associate Synod. It was built in 1774, and is seated for 520. There is a dwelling-house and garden prettily situated on the river side appropriated to the use of the minister. His allowance, which is chiefly drawn from the seat rents, is L. 130 per annum. The debt upon the house is about L. 200, but there is no wish on the part of the managers to have this diminished.

The number of families in the parish is 440; of these, 269 are connected with the church, or placed under its superintendence. The Lord's supper is dispensed in the parish church twice a-year, and the number of communicants at the summer sacrament is about 340. There are 171 families connected with Dissenters; of these, 4 belong to the Episcopal communion, 3 are Papists, 1 is Independent, and the remainder are connected with one or other of the bodies denominated Seceders. It is stated that 323 individuals above twelve years of age in this parish belong to the congregation at Slateford. According to the usual mode of providing seat-room for the population, this would show that 216 sittings were held by inhabitants of Colinton parish, thus leaving 304 to be supplied from other parts of the country. It is understood, however, that the house is not fully let.

The remainder of the Seceders in the parish betake themselves to various places of worship in Edinburgh; one great evil resulting from which is, that, of necessity, they are left without pastoral superintendence, as sheep having no shepherd. Not long ago one individual in this parish was visited by his minister; "Come awa, Sir," was the salutation with which the minister was welcomed, "it is the first time these forty years. But do not think that I have been neglected a' that time. I have enjoyed many a visit from our parish minister." It has, indeed, ever been the steady aim of the present incumbent to minister parochially. All within the bounds of his parish he considers as placed under his care, and,

EDINBURGH.

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amid much weakness and imperfection, he extends his attentions to all who are willing to receive them,—his one aim being to bring all to the Great Shepherd of the Sheep, the Lord Jesus Christ. He has the satisfaction of adding that during the thirty-two years in which he has been allowed to be put in trust with the Gospel, he has met with uniform kindness from his parishioners, by whatever name they have been distinguished.

The number of individuals connected with the Dissenters in this parish is 658, the number left entirely under the charge of the church is 1324. Of these, some attend at Currie church, a few go into town, and a number, it is to be feared, go nowhere. The church was long exceedingly ill attended in winter, its coldness being pleaded as an excuse. In summer it is well filled, but it must with sorrow be acknowledged, that the hurtful and unchristian practice of attending public worship in the forenoon only, too generally pervades all classes of society.

There is a Bible Society in the parish, which has long existed; it is auxiliary to the Edinburgh Bible Society, but its exertions are very limited. Its contributions amount at present only to about L.12 a-year. Connected with the chapel at Slateford is a Congregational Society for Religious Purposes.

The average amount of collections for religious and charitable purposes is L. 7, 15s. 5d., for the five years preceding 1836.

*Education.*—There are one parochial school, and six private schools in the parish. The parochial school stood originally “at the minister’s yett,” and bore above its entry these words, “*aut doce, aut disce, aut abi.*” It was rebuilt at a great expense in 1815, in a fine healthy situation above the village. The master, besides teaching English, writing, geometry, arithmetic, and geography, is qualified to teach Latin, Greek, and French. He has the legal accommodations, the maximum salary of L. 34, and generally from 90 to 100 scholars, yielding about L. 40 of fees. In the liberal spirit of Christian benevolence, the present master, Robert Hunter, A. M. bears a very considerable proportion of that burden of instructing the poor, which would otherwise fall to be borne by the kirk-session. He also holds the offices of session-clerk, of clerk to the heritors, and of postmaster at Colinton, while he is employed to collect the parochial assessments.

Three of the private schools receive aid more or less, so that the teachers do not altogether depend upon the school fees. The remaining three are supported merely by the fees. In

these schools English and writing are taught, and in two a little arithmetic is added. There are not above two or three grown up persons in the parish who cannot read. It is to be feared, however, that the instruction received in youth is sometimes so far neglected in after years, as to render reading a labour rather than a pleasure. The people in general are desirous to have their children instructed, and there is no house in the parish that is two miles distant from a school. There are generally 238 children enrolled at the schools within the parish, and there may be about 30 more who attend schools in neighbouring parishes.

There are five Sabbath-evening schools taught in the parish, one in each of the principal villages; and a tract "the Monthly Visitor," is left with every family in the parish, once a month.

*Libraries.*—There are two libraries in the parish, one in Colinton village, kept in the parish school, which has been shut for many years, but steps are now taking to make it available to the public; the other is at Slateford, under the charge chiefly of the kirk-session of the chapel there; but it is to be regretted that the volumes most frequently asked for are those that minister to amusement rather than to edification. There is also a small library connected with the parish school, the gift of a friend, the books in which are lent to the advanced children as a reward for diligence in their studies. Those who are entitled to receive books pay to the library one penny per quarter.

*Friendly Societies.*—There are two Friendly Societies in the parish which provide for the support of their members when laid aside from work by disease or accident, &c. The Old Society, established in 1801, allows to its sick members 4s. per week for the first thirteen weeks, 2s. for the next twenty-six weeks, and 1s. 6d. a-week for the rest of the time they are off work; it also allows L.3 for the burial of the man, and L. 2 for the burial of the wife, while it gives, if the funds will allow, 10s. a-year to the widow. It has 50 members.

The New Society was established in 1814, and had its rules new modelled in 1829, according to the suggestions thrown out by the Highland Society, and approved of in terms of the Act of Parliament on that subject. The allowances made by this society to its members are, 5s. a-week for the first year in which they are by sickness unfitted for gaining their bread; 3s. 6d. per week for the second year; and thereafter 2s. 6d. per week so long as they shall require it; an allowance is made of L.5 for the fune-

ral of the member, and L. 3 for that of his wife; but should he die unmarried, his heirs are allowed the whole L. 8 for his funeral charges. This society has 300 members, and its stock amounts to L. 1000. The Old Society requires from 5s. to 10s. 6d. entry money according to the age, and 2s. a-quarter, with 1s. additional in the year in support of widows' annuities, from its members; the new takes 3s. 6d. of entry money, and 2s. a-quarter, reserving the power of raising the latter if needful. These Societies are a very great advantage to all who are wise enough to avail themselves of their aid.

*Poor.*—The average number of poor for the five years ending February 1837, was 41. Some of these, however, had wives, others children, dependent on them. The average allowance given to these was L. 4, 8s. 9½d. per annum. Besides, there were two lunatic paupers, not always in confinement, but whose aliment during the period referred to amounted to L. 137, 16s. 8d. The funds affording those supplies were assessments averaging per annum, L. 132; collections, L. 35, 12s. 8d.; mortcloth-dues, L. 11, 8s.; marriage fees, L. 1, 10s. 10½d.; funds from other sources, L. 5, 17s. 3½d.; total, L. 236, 8s. 10d. These funds, however, covered also the expense of the church affairs, and various other items which the kirk-session undertake for the heritors. The poor have also a cart of coals at the new year, defrayed by a collection made for the purpose; and a portion of the meal mentioned as Mr Anderson's benefaction. The people are not unwilling to receive parochial aid, and many would rather leave their relatives a burden on the public, than lessen in the least their own comforts. But to this there are honourable exceptions.

*Alehouses.*—There are at present 14 public-houses in the parish,—a number much greater than is required for the real wants of the people, and therefore truly hurtful to them.

*Fuel.*—Coal is the only fuel used in the parish. It comes to us along the Union Canal, or from the fields of coal which lie to the south-east. The price for the ton of 20 cwt. brought to Colinton village may be stated from 14s. to 18s., according to the kind required.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The cultivation of the parish, since the last Statistical Account was written, has been greatly improved, and is generally carried on with activity and intelligence. Considerable changes

have taken place in the various manufactures then existing in the parish. The distillery has disappeared; the skinnery! its very name is lost, having given place to the more poetical designation of Laverock dale; the magnesia manufactory is in ruins; the noise of the wauk-mill no longer reminds the passenger of its existence; and the mill for beating flax is, comparatively speaking, in little use. Still the parish flourishes; the population has increased; the rental has improved; and could a little more of that right-hearted prudence which inclines, and, through God's blessing, enables man to value and steadily comply with the counsels of heavenly truth, be infused into the bosom of the generality of the people, they would be blessed indeed.

*Drawn up November 1838.*

*Revised October 1839.*

## PARISH OF KIRKLISTON.

PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWERDDALE.

THE REV. ADAM DUNCAN TAIT, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THE parish of Kirkliston lies partly in the county of Linlithgow; partly in that of Edinburgh. The river Almond forms the boundary between the two counties, through the whole extent of the parish; and the south-eastern portion, lying in the county of Edinburgh, is about one-fourth of the whole.

*Name.*—The ancient name was Temple Liston. Of the compound *Liston* there are several instances, in the names of places in the parish, as *Old Liston*, *New Liston*, *Over New Liston*, *Hal Liston*, *E'liston* or *Il Liston* or *High Liston*, and *Kirk Liston*, the last being the name of the principal village, and of the parish. The etymology of the word *Liston* is uncertain. There is an old tradition, that a large district of country around was, at a remote period, possessed by a distinguished family of that name, and that this circumstance gave its name to the parish. But it is said, that the term *Liston* signifies in Celtic an inclosure on the side of a ri-