

PARISH OF LASSWADE.

PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN & TWEEDDALE

THE REV. M. CAMPBELL MACKENZIE, MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

As this parish is now divided into two parishes, *quoad sacra*, it is proposed to treat of them separately. We begin with Lasswade parish, *quoad sacra*, including in this account the temporal matters, which are still common to both parishes.

Name.—Chalmers says the name is derived from the Kirktown or village of Lasswade, which signifies a *well-watered pasture of common use*. *Laeswe* in Anglo-Saxon signifies a common, and *weyde* in old English a meadow. As the name of the parish has been seen, in an old Dutch map, spelled Lesserwede, it may be considered to mean the opposite of Legerwood,—the smaller wood of Lasswade being contrasted with some larger wood not far distant.

Extent.—Lasswade parish, before it was lately divided, consisted of three parishes and a provostry, viz. the parish of Lasswade proper, the parish of Melville, the parish of Pentland, and the provostry of Roslin. At this period, its extreme length was about 8 miles, and its extreme breadth about 5 miles. Its length now is about 6 miles, and its breadth about 3 miles. It comprehends about 8 square miles.

In the twelfth century, the church and lands of Lasswade were bestowed on the Bishop of St Andrews, and Lasswade thus became one of the Mensal churches. But whether Lasswade proper be meant, or Lasswade consisting of a number of parishes, cannot now be ascertained. It is probable that Lasswade proper is intended; for the junction and the consequent suppression of parishes is a device of Protestant and not of Popish times. There can be no doubt that the parish of Melville, including the baronies

* This account was drawn up by the Rev. David Brown, Roslin, with assistance of the minister of the parish.

of Melville and Lugton, ceased to form a separate parish only in 1633.

In the reign of James III., the church of Lasswade was, by the Pope's authority, detached from St Salvator's Church, St Andrews, and annexed to the Collegiate Church of Restalrig.

Boundaries.—The parish is bounded on the west, by Colinton; on the north, by Colinton and Liberton; on the east, by Dalkeith, Newbattle, and Cockpen; and on the south, by Roslin and Glen-cross. It is extremely irregular in its figure.

Mountains.—The parish extends to the very top of the east range of the Pentland hills. But the narrow strip into which it is reduced, does not include any of the more remarkable elevations. The northern boundary of this strip runs along the very summit of the hills named Kirk Yetton and Allermuir. The higher of these, viz. Allermuir, is 1606 feet above the level of the sea.

Climate.—The climate varies considerably, which will not appear to be remarkable, when it is stated, that the elevation ranges between 270 and 1600 feet, within the distance of six miles. Around, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the beautiful village of Lasswade, which is situated near the lowest point in the scale of elevation, the climate is mild, and the air soft and agreeable. Hence vegetation is here both early and luxuriant, showing a striking contrast with the more elevated districts of this and the surrounding parishes. And the same circumstance has rendered the village of Lasswade a place of considerable resort to the inhabitants of Edinburgh and Leith, numbers of whom annually spend the summer months in this delightful locality.

River.—The river North Esk runs through the parish nearly three miles, and skirts it upwards of another mile. Few streams are more remarkable than this, for lovely and picturesque scenery. The walk from Gorton to Springfield leads through a locality of rich and varied beauty.

Mineralogy.—The general feature of the geological structure of the parish is the same as that of the neighbouring parish of Roslip. In both parishes, red sandstone rests on coal, and there is an abundant supply of both minerals. The coal mines are wrought chiefly in the vicinity of Loanhead, and have been long in operation.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Characters.—Several distinguished individuals have been connected with the parish, viz. William Drummond of Haw-

thornden, the celebrated poet; John Clerk, Esq. of Eldin; and the late Lord Melville. The following is an abridged account of each.

Drummond the Poet.—This parish gave birth to William Drummond of Hawthornden, who occupies a distinguished place among the earlier bards of Scotland, and who, both as a poet and a historian, will bear a comparison with the most celebrated names of the age in which he lived.

If ancestry can add anything to the glory of a genius, which itself would have ennobled obscurity, it may be mentioned that Drummond, in addition to his other distinctions, could boast of a long line of illustrious progenitors. His family came originally from Hungary in the reign of Malcom Canmore. One of his ancestors was secretary to "the Bruce," and another, the beautiful, talented, and accomplished Annabella Drummond, was Queen of Robert III. of Scotland, and mother of James I., who may be regarded as discovering his consanguinity, by possessing a spirit, in many respects, congenial with that of our poet.

William Drummond was the son of Sir John Drummond of Hawthornden, Gentleman Usher to King James VI., and of Susannah Fowler, daughter of Sir W. Fowler, Secretary to the Queen, and was born on the 13th of December 1585. To the advantage of a highly finished classical education, he added a familiar acquaintance with many of the sciences, and also with many of the modern languages, particularly French, Spanish, and Italian, which he spoke with the correctness and ease of a native. Inheriting from his father a comfortable independence, he could afford to relinquish the legal profession, for which he was originally destined, and for which he had many superior qualifications, and yield himself up exclusively to his favourite pursuit. Embowered in the woody solitudes of his native Hawthornden, whose romantic scenery was well fitted to call forth his poetic ardour, he had everything to awaken, and nothing to repress his muse; and there he produced those exquisite poems which have rendered his name immortal.

In this retreat he remained during the greater part of his life; but he occasionally visited London, and spent several years on the continent of Europe. Though fond of retirement, he enjoyed the society of his friends; and the fame of his authorship, as well as the wit of his conversation, for which he was remarkable, drew around him the principal literary characters of his own country,

and excited no small interest in the neighbouring kingdom. The celebrated Ben Jonson, at the age of forty-five, travelled on foot all the way from London, for the express purpose of paying him a visit, and spent several weeks at Hawthornden in the winter of 1618-19.

He married Elizabeth Logan, grand-daughter of Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig, and by her had several children. He died on the 4th December 1649, deeply regretted, not only for the superiority of his more conspicuous literary endowments, but also for the piety and worth of his private character. He was interred in the family aisle in the old Church of Lasswade.

His works display much genius and learning, and a classic taste and purity of composition, but little known at the time when he wrote. His sonnets, on which his fame as a poet principally rests, are remarkable for the sweetness and smoothness of the versification, and have gained for him the title of the Petrarch of Scotland. In some respects, he is allowed to surpass the Italian.

The family is now represented by Sir Francis Walker Drummond, Bart. of Hawthornden, who married Margaret Drummond, only daughter and heiress of Sir John F. Drummond, Bart. (in whose person the family title, after remaining dormant above a century, was revived,) and grand-niece of Bishop Abernethy, the representative of the Abernethies of Salton.

Mr Clerk of Eldin.—John Clerk of Eldin was the sixth son of Sir John Clerk of Pennicuik, Bart., and Janet Inglis, daughter of Sir John Inglis of Cramond. He appears to have received, at an early period of his life, the estate of Eldin from his father. He married Susanna Adam, sister of the celebrated architect, and by her he had several children.

Near the commencement of the year 1782, Mr Clerk printed and distributed among his friends a few copies of the first part of his valuable work, entitled "an Essay on Naval Tactics, Systematical and Historical, with Explanatory Plates, in Four Parts." It was reprinted and published in 1790; the second, third, and fourth parts were added in 1797. The work was republished entire in 1804, with a preface, explaining the origin of the author's discoveries in naval tactics.

Every unprejudiced person must admit that Mr Clerk has introduced an immense improvement into naval tactics. He was the first to discover the line of tactics generally followed by our enemies, which was the means of preventing our most celebrated na-

val commanders from achieving victories, which, there is every reason to believe, they would have done, had the enemy been as eager to engage as the British were. In place of this, while the enemy's fleet was carrying on a kind of running fight, and our fleet was endeavouring to bring on a general engagement, a decisive result was seldom or never obtained. During the time that this desultory warfare was going on, and many persons were surprized that the meeting of hostile fleets generally led to no other consequence than a certain amount of firing and of skilful manœuvring, it occurred to John Clerk, who had no practical knowledge whatever of naval affairs, that a remedy might be applied. His remedy was, to break the line of the enemy, and to direct the whole force on one or two divisions of the fleet, whereby either a general engagement was necessarily brought on, or the ships attacked were sacrificed by the flight of the rest. Ever since this idea has been acted on, the most splendid and decisive victories have been obtained. We are aware that attempts have been made by the representatives of some of our greatest naval commanders, to show that John Clerk was not the discoverer of the new and successful mode of carrying on naval warfare. But we believe that, were the heroes themselves still alive, they would willingly concede to Mr Clerk the honour of the discovery which has been made in naval tactics; while they satisfied themselves with reaping the laurels of the successful execution.

Mr Clerk died on the 10th of May 1812, and as yet no monument has been erected to his memory in testimony of a nation's gratitude. He was the father of the late John Clerk, Esq. Advocate, who was afterwards raised to the Bench, and took the designation of Lord Eldin.

The late Lord Melville.—The family of Dundas is one of the most ancient in Scotland. The Dundases of Arniston and Melville are descended from King Robert I. of Scotland by the youngest daughter of that monarch, and are connected with the royal family of Great Britain by the mother of the first Lord President Dundas, who was lineally descended from the Princess Mary, eldest daughter of King James II. Of this ancient family, five members made a most distinguished appearance on the Bench, and four most ably filled the office of Lord Advocate.

Henry Dundas, the late Lord Melville, was the fourth son of Robert Dundas of Arniston, by his second wife, Anne, daughter of Sir William Gordon of Invergordon, Bart. He was born

28th April 1742, received the rudiments of his education at the school of Dalkeith, and then proceeded to the university of Edinburgh, where he manifested in a high degree the distinguished talents of his family.

Mr Dundas was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates on the 1st March 1763; appointed Solicitor-General in 1766; chosen M. P. for his native county of Edinburgh in 1774; re-chosen in 1780; elected for Newton in Hampshire, in 1782; having accepted the office of Treasurer of the Navy, he was again chosen for the county of Edinburgh; re-chosen in 1784; and elected for the city of Edinburgh in 1790, 1796, and 1802. He was unanimously called to be Dean of the Faculty of Advocates in 1775, and was annually elected till 1785, when he relinquished his practice at the Bar. He was appointed Lord Advocate in 1775, Joint-Keeper of the Signet in 1777, and Sole-Keeper in 1779.

In Parliament, Mr Dundas was considered an argumentative and powerful speaker. In him were united, to a greater extent than in any other public man of his day, common sense, political sagacity, knowledge of life and affairs, firmness and talents for business. From congeniality of disposition, abilities, and opinions, Mr Dundas attached himself to Mr Pitt, and this attachment continued unchangeable, on the part of both these illustrious men, amid all the vicissitudes of their long and arduous and brilliant career.

He was appointed President of the Board of Control in 1784, which he held till May 1801. He is justly reckoned the second founder of the Honourable East India Company. By the enlightened measures which he adopted, and the vigour with which he executed them, prosperity was restored to our Eastern empire. From 1784 to 1793 he managed that most difficult, extensive, and important department *gratuitously*.

In 1791, he was appointed Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department; and, in 1794, Principal Secretary of State for the War Department, which latter office he held till March 1801. From 1791 to 1801, he voluntarily relinquished the salary of his office as Secretary of State, and thus generously saved to the public to the amount, as was proved upon oath, of L.34,780.

In reference to the ability with which he discharged the duties of his high and important offices, Lord Castlereagh, in a debate in the House of Commons, stated, that "it was well known that Lord Melville enjoyed a faculty for the performance of public

business, greater, perhaps, than that possessed by any other individual in the world."

Mr Dundas resigned his place of Treasurer of the Navy in May 1800, of Principal Secretary of State in March 1801, and of President of the Board of Control in May following, going out of office with Mr Pitt. In testimony of the approbation of his sovereign, he was constituted Keeper of the Privy Seal in Scotland in 1800; and, in further testimony of the royal approbation, he was created a Peer of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In 1804, he returned into power with Mr Pitt, and was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty. These illustrious colleagues then prepared for the vigorous prosecution of the war, which has since happily accomplished the object for which it was carried on,—the liberation of Europe.

While Lord Melville was occupied in placing the naval affairs of the country on the footing which led to the splendid and decisive victory of Trafalgar, an unexpected occurrence deprived the nation of his services. It appeared that his Lordship, while treasurer, had given a verbal permission to the paymaster of the navy to draw, from the Bank of England, money for the service of the navy, after the assignments and heads of service had been made by the proper boards, in terms of the statute, and to lodge the same in the hands of Messrs Coutts & Co., the bankers of the paymaster, till it was demanded. The commissioners appointed to investigate this matter gave in a report concluding thus, "that the withdrawing of the public money from the Bank of England, in the manner and for the purpose before related, was, in our judgment, a disobedience to the law."

The trial of Lord Melville took place in Westminster Hall, occupied sixteen days, and terminated on the 12th of June. His Lordship, in accordance with the solemn legal opinion of the judges, to whom the points of law were submitted, was triumphantly acquitted.

On the change of administration his Lordship was sworn a privy councillor 8th April 1807, without any ministerial office, and had the dignity of an earldom offered for his acceptance; but this spontaneous mark of the regard in which he was held by his royal master, was respectfully declined. Lord Melville was also the first named in the commission for inquiring into the administration of justice in Scotland.

The early part of the year 1811 Lord Melville spent in his na-

tive country. He came from Duneira to Edinburgh to attend the funeral of President Blair on the 28th of May. On the evening of the preceding day, he employed himself in making arrangements relative to the President's family, and had begun a letter to Mr Perceval recommending them to his attention, but which he left unfinished. His Lordship was in the habit of rising at seven o'clock, and his servant, being surprised when he did not appear at the usual hour, entered his room at eight in the morning: receiving no answer to his call, he opened the curtains, and discovered Lord Melville lying lifeless, his head resting on one arm, and the other extended on the bed-clothes. His Lordship had died of disease of the heart, of some years duration, as appeared on a *post mortem* examination.

Thus terminated, in the seventieth year of his age, the life of this extraordinary man. He possessed, in a distinguished degree, the qualities of a statesman. In the general affairs of government, his information was accurate and extensive, his advice considerate, and his sagacity profound; no dilemma could perplex him, no conjuncture alarm him, no opposition could abate his ardour, and no disaster could shake his firmness. Even the master-mind of Pitt, with delight, acknowledged the superiority of his unrivalled powers.

There have been erected a statue by Chantrey in the Parliament House, and a pillar, similar to Trajan's at Rome, in St Andrew's Square, Edinburgh, to commemorate his Lordship's talents and services. The subscription for the latter was raised, after his death, chiefly among naval officers, whose profession he had so eminently benefited.

Chief Land-owners.—Mrs Gibsone of Pentland; Lord Melville; Sir Francis Walker Drummond, Bart. of Hawthornden; Sir George Clerk, Bart. of Pennicuik; G. C. Arbuthnot, Esq. of Mavisbank; Admiral Sir P. C. H. Durham of Polton; Alexander Hay, Esq. of Hardengreen.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers are, in general, well kept, and commence soon after the Reformation.

Antiquities.—At Hawthornden there remains a fragment of an old fortalice or castle of unknown antiquity. There is still an arch over the only one of the rooms now in existence, and on it there is a sycamore or plane tree of considerable dimensions,—being probably a seedling of the tree which we are now to mention. To the east of this ruin is the famous sycamore tree which is called

the Four Sisters, and is about 24 feet in circumference at the base. It was under this tree that Drummond the poet was sitting when his friend Ben Jonson arrived from London; and hence it is also called Ben Jonson's Tree. Observing his friend approaching Drummond exclaimed—

“ Welcome, welcome, Royal Ben ; ”

To which Jonson replied with his usual readiness—

“ Thank ye, thank ye, Hawthornden.”

Adjoining the ruin is a comparatively modern house. Over the door of this house, in marble, are the armorial bearings of the late Right Reverend Dr William Abernethy Drummond, Bishop of Edinburgh; and near it is the following inscription:—*Divino munere Gulielmus Drummondus Johannis Equitis aurati filius ut honesto otio quiesceret sibi et successoribus instauravit. Anno 1698.* In the lobby of the house there is a table with a marble slab, having on it the date 1396, and the initials of King Robert III., and of his Queen Annabella Drummond. On this table is a large two-handed and two-edged sword, said to have belonged to King Robert the Bruce. There is also in the lobby a clock, said to have belonged to the family since the time of Robert the Bruce. In an upper room are a pair of antique shoes, and a silk dress, which belonged to Annabella Drummond, Queen of Robert III.; also a dress worn by Prince Charles Stuart during his Scottish campaign of 1745.

Below this house are two tiers of caves, the lower tier not being now accessible. Various conjectures have been made regarding the origin and use of these caves. The most probable opinion is, that they were made during the destructive wars between the English and the Scotch in the thirteenth century. In these caves, Sir Alexander Ramsay, who performed many memorable exploits during the contest between Bruce and Baliol, used to conceal himself; and so great was his fame as a warrior, that the most aspiring candidates for military renown in those days did not consider their education complete till they had served some time under him. The most ancient entrance to these caves was by a door in the centre of the perpendicular rock that overlooks the river, and which was accessible only by a flight of steps and a narrow pathway now destroyed. The present entrance is by a door on the south side, by which visitors descend a few steps, and pass along a narrow passage called the King's Gallery, 75 feet long and 6 feet broad. The first cave on the left, to which there is a descent of two steps,

is denominated the King's Bed-Chamber. Farther on, is a communication with a well, to which we shall afterwards advert. Proceeding a little way, and ascending a few steps on the left, is an apartment with 175 square apertures, cut in the rock, called the King's Guard Room. On the opposite side of the passage is another apartment, known by the name of the King's Dining Room. In the court formed by the old tower and the modern house is a well cut in the solid rock, which is said to have served the double purpose of being an entrance to the caves, with which it has a communication, and of supplying the inhabitants of the caves with water, when they were shut out from all intercourse with the world above.

At the west end of the modern house is a seat hewn out of the solid rock, from which, in a summer day, may be obtained one of the most charming views which the eye of man can behold. To this end of the house is affixed the following remarkable inscription: "To the memory of Sir Lawrence Abernethy of Hawthornden, second son to Sir William Abernethy of Salton, a brave and gallant soldier, who, at the head of a party in the year 1338, conquered Lord Dowglas five times in one day, yet was taken prisoner before sunset."—(Ford. Lib. xiii. cap. 44.)

There is also an inscription to the memory of Drummond the poet, and a dedication of the stone-seat by Bishop Drummond. But, as the poetry is from Young, it is unnecessary to quote it.

To the north of the house is a room cut out of the rock, 16 feet by 12, and about 6 feet high. The room seems to be of considerable antiquity, and there are four recesses in the sides of it.

Still farther to the north is a pretty large recess cut in the free-stone rock, called the Cypress Grotto. This was a favourite retreat of the poet, and he is said to have composed some of his poems in it.

Wallace's Cave.—On the same side of the river North Esk, and about half a mile farther up the river than Hawthornden, is Wallace's Cave. This cave is in the form of a cross, and is capable of holding sixty or seventy men. Like the caves, which we have already mentioned, it is evidently artificial.

Wallace's Cast or Camp.—This military station is situated on the north side of Bilston Burn, and about a mile from its confluence with the river North Esk. It is in the form of a half-moon, and defended by a broad and deep ditch. The semicircle measures 84 yards, and the average dimensions of the ditch are the follow-

ing: width at top, 10 yards; width at bottom, 5 yards; depth, 3 yards. The diameter runs parallel with the burn, and rests on the top of the high and steep bank, while the arc extends upwards from the bank.

The Cast.—At Springfield, stretching in a south-east direction from a ford in the river North Esk, is a deep and narrow road, named *The Cast*, probably a contraction for *Via ad castra*. This road, in several places, is nearly six feet below the surface of the adjoining fields; and it is so confined in breadth, that it can admit only of a single cart at a time. It is of unknown antiquity, and probably was one of the old Roman roads by which intercourse was kept up between two camps. Should this conjecture be correct, this road must have been in existence for at least fifteen or sixteen hundred years. There is not more of it now remaining than about half a mile.

Military Station.—Near Mavisbank House, which is on the opposite side of the river North Esk from Springfield, is a mound of earth, of considerable elevation. It is circular in its form, and surrounded with ramparts, now cut into terraces. Here, several articles made of brass, and evidently belonging to a remote period, have been found. Among these are weapons, bridle-bits, surgical instruments, *stili*, *fibulae*, &c. They are still to be seen at Penicuik House, the seat of the former proprietor. On a neighbouring farm is a tumulus, where several urns, filled with burnt bones, have been dug up.

Modern Buildings.—The most remarkable is Melville Castle, the elegant seat of Lord Melville. It was built more than half a century ago on the site of the old house of that name, which, tradition says, belonged to David Rizzio, and was occasionally inhabited by Queen Mary.

Mavisbank House is also an elegant building, and is situated in one of the most picturesque localities in Scotland.

Springfield House, the residence of the Honourable Mrs Leslie Cumming, is placed in a situation which is unrivalled in beauty.

Mills.—There are two corn-mills in the parish, both below the village of Lasswade, on the Esk.

III.—POPULATION.

In the parish of Lasswade, *quoad civilis*, the number of the population at different periods was as follows:—

In 1755,	2190
1791,	3000
1831,	4250
1841,	5022

This increase of the population has been chiefly owing to the increase of manufactures.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Manufactures.—The two principal articles manufactured are paper and carpets. We shall notice them separately.

Paper.—There are three paper-mills in the parish. In all of these, machines are at work day and night, and the quantity of paper made is immense. The paper which is made is intended either for writing or for printing on. The number of hands employed, including both sexes and all ages, amounts to several hundreds. In order to show the progressive increase of the paper trade, we shall quote part of a letter received from a respectable proprietor of one of the mills. “At present,” he says, “we employ about the work above 150 men, women, boys, and girls, paying them above L.2600 a year of wages; but, including other tradesmen occasionally employed, our wages’ bill will not be under L.3000 a year. Our consumpt of coals is upwards of 2000 tons yearly. Our excise duty, which, in 1813, was L.800 a year, has risen to about L.5500; and, as the duty is now only one-half what it was then, being now 1½d. per pound, instead of 3d., our duties at the old rate would be L.11,000 a year. I have no doubt our neighbours have increased in the same proportion.”

Carpets.—The work at St Anne’s, to which our attention is now to be directed, is one of the most ingenious in the country. In general it is a manufactory of the finer sorts of carpets, and damasks for furniture, and in which about 100 people are employed. It has been established at Lasswade only since 1834; but in that short time, it has become known pretty generally through the country, from the peculiarity of some of the fabrics which are made. Besides carpets on the principle of the Tournay and Axminster kind, made to fit all sizes and shapes of rooms without seam, and which are made at only a few other places in this country, Richard Whytock & Co., the proprietors, manufacture a new sort of Brussels carpet, of great beauty, which resembles tapestry in its general effect, and which they call Tapestry Brussels; also a fabric in velvet pile, quite novel in its appearance. These two fabrics are produced by a new process of their own invention, which is applicable also to other fabrics, to which they purpose to apply it. As the principle is patented, it is not kept secret. It consists of a combination of the two hitherto rival methods of producing figures on cloth, namely, the arts of weaving and printing; and, at the

same time, is a simplification of both processes to a wonderful degree. In regard to the weaving, this is reduced to the simplest process possible, as all the intricate machinery of the Brussels and Wilton looms, with their expensive harness, is superseded. And, as to the printing, the same implements are made to produce all patterns, no matter how dissimilar.

The productions of the manufactory are already in much request in London, and have found their way to various parts of the world.

Mr Henderson is the resident partner at the manufactory, and, under his management, aided by a very talented designer of patterns, the improvement is steadily progressive; so that it is not easy to say to what perfection this manufacture may be advanced, the more so as there is scarcely any limit to the number of colours or shades that may be introduced, with scarcely any additional expense.

Mr Babbage, in his *Economy of Manufactures*, enumerates a variety of methods of multiplying figures; but he was not aware of this one, which differs very widely from all those he describes in his very useful publication.

The manufactory is visited by great numbers of persons, who are most courteously received by the intelligent and enterprising gentlemen connected with the establishment.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—There are no market-towns in the parish. Dalkeith and Edinburgh are the two market-towns resorted to; the former being distant two miles, and the latter six miles.

Villages.—The principal villages in the parish are, Lasswade, Loanhead, and Pentland.

Means of Communication.—There are two post-offices in the parish, each having two arrivals and two departures in one day. The turnpike roads extend in length to about twelve miles. A coach runs several times each lawful day between Lasswade and Edinburgh, by Loanhead. The Dumfries Mail-Coach, and a stage-coach from the Wellington Inn, near Pennicuik, pass through a small part of the parish, on their way to and from Edinburgh.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated about a mile and a-half from the east end of the parish, and about four and a-half miles from the west end. It was built in 1798, and is remarkable for the beauty of its situation. It is one of the most elegant and

commodious country churches in Scotland, and is seated for upwards of 1000 persons. During the last few years, it has undergone several extensive repairs and alterations, which reflect the highest credit on the liberality, taste, and judgment of the heritors of the parish.

The manse was built in 1789, and cost L.500. It stands on an eminence near the church, and, in its immediate neighbourhood, is the ruin of the old church; the three objects forming a group remarkable for its beauty. The glebe extends to 8 acres, and is worth about L.40 per annum. The stipend amounts to about L.200 per annum. In the *Taxatio* it is rated at 90 marks, which exhibit a higher rate than any church in Mid-Lothian, except St. Cuthberts.

The church-yard has been vastly improved within the last few years. In the centre of it stands the ruin of the old church, which has been converted into family vaults.

There are two Dissenting chapels in the parish, the one belonging to the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the other to the United Secession Church. Their ministers are paid by voluntary contribution.

About two-thirds of the inhabitants belong to the Established Church, and the remaining one-third to the Dissenters. Divine service is well attended at the parish church. The number of communicants at the parish church is about 700. Annual collections are made at the church door for each of the five schemes of the General Assembly. Last year they amounted collectively to the sum of L.70, 10s. The ordinary collections, last year, amounted to L.79, 9s. 3d.

Education.—There are eight schools in the parish. They are all in an efficient state.

The ordinary branches of education are taught in all the schools. An excellent education may be received at the parochial school, where, besides the usual branches, are taught Latin, Greek, French, and mathematics.

The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary, and accommodation for several boarders. The school is numerously attended, and the fees are very considerable in amount. The schoolmaster at Pentland has a salary of L.20 per annum, a free school-house, and a free dwelling-house. The school-house is a spacious and elegant building, erected wholly at the expense of Mrs. Gibson of Pentland. This lady also gives the salary and

the dwelling-house. The schoolmaster at Hawthornden has a salary of L.5 per annum and a free school house.

Libraries.—There is an excellent subscription library at Loanhead, and there is another at Lasswade.

Friendly Societies.—There are various societies of this description in the parish, which are of great public benefit.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of paupers on the roll is 75. Besides these, there is a considerable number of persons who receive occasional assistance.

The contributions for the relief of the poor are made from the following sources, viz. collections at the church door; the interest of a capital stock of L.333, 6s. 8d.; and an assessment.

Last year, the sum given to the poor amounted to L.565, 6s. 1d.

Rental of the Parish.—The following are the items of the parish rental :

Rental of land,	L.12,974	2	8
Do. houses,	4,849	18	9
Feu-duties,	606	8	0
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	L.17,930	9	0

June 1848.

PARISH OF ROSLIN.

PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. DAVID BROWN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name Roslin, which is now in common use, or Rosslyn, as it is spelled in the title of the Earl of Rosslyn, or Rosling, as it is generally found in the records of the Presbytery of Dalkeith, seems to be compounded of two Celtic words, *ross* and *lynn*, signifying *promontory* and *waterfall*; because Roslin Castle, which was the original residence of the noble family to whom it still belongs, is situated near to a place where the river North Esk runs over a very rugged and sloping channel, emphatically called to this day "The Lynn." It is probable that the name Roslin, or Rosslyn, or Rosling, never was applied to any large extent of

EDINBURGH.