

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.

ground around the castle, because the names of the neighbouring baronies seem to be of as great antiquity. At present it is employed to designate the castle and the chapel, with the small landed-property connected with them; and also the village of Roslin, which is mostly situated on a different estate. Besides, the name Roslin has been lately given to a new parish, which is wholly a disjunction *quoad sacra* from Lasswade. This disjunction was made by the Presbytery of Dalkeith, in 1835, in consequence of an Act of the General Assembly, in 1834, called the Chapel Act; and it is this parish of which it is proposed now to give an account.

Extent.—The extreme length of the parish is $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and its extreme breadth is $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles. It contains about 10 square miles, and is somewhat irregular in its shape.

Boundaries.—It is bounded on the north by Lasswade parish; on the east by Cockpen and Carrington parishes; and on the south and west by Pennicuik and Glencross parishes.

Topographical Appearances.—While the parish rises gradually from north to south, partly up the course of the river North Esk, it is, at the same time, most beautifully and romantically diversified in its character. The river North Esk, which traverses the parish little more than a mile, but which forms its boundary for about five miles, is one of the most remarkable streams in Scotland for magnificent scenery, from its commencement in the Pentland Hills, to its termination in the Frith of Forth, at Musselburgh. It is chiefly, however, in that part of the Vale of the Esk which has been denominated “Roslin’s rocky glen,” where there is the principal concentration of beauty and grandeur.

Temperature.—The parish, varying in elevation from 300 to upwards of 800 feet above the level of the sea, possesses an atmosphere considerably lower in temperature than that of the metropolis, from which it is distant about seven miles.

The climate has been often remarked to be uncommonly salubrious in its nature. It is probable that there are few localities on the face of the earth, where the average rate of mortality is lower than it is in the village and vicinity of Roslin.

Springs.—Along the precipitous banks of the Esk, there are multitudes of springs of the purest water. One of these, in the neighbourhood of the castle, is named St. Matthew’s Well, from which the greater number of the inhabitants of Roslin village are supplied with water. The extreme purity of the water of this well is owing to its filtering through a very deep stratum of gravel;

and this may be regarded as one cause of the salubrity of the surrounding district.

Coal-mines.—In one district of the parish, which is named Rosewell, are situated several coal-mines, from which an abundant supply of fuel is obtained by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood; but the price is high on account of the vicinity of the metropolis. There are 51 families, consisting of 269 individuals, wholly dependent on these coal-works for their support.

Lately, two eminent engineers gave in a report to George Mercer, Esq. of Dryden, which states that, on his property, there are not less than 30,000,000 of tons of coal. The coal in this property was wrought to a considerable extent in former times; and arrangements are now being made for working it to a great extent.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Manuscript Account.—In the Advocates' Library there is a beautiful manuscript, in three volumes folio, consisting of historical records, dated in 1700, and written by Father Richard Augustine Hay, Prior of St Piermont in France, and a cadet of the family of Rosslyn. There is, *inter alia*, in this work, "a Genealogie of the Saint Claires of Rosslyn," including "the Chartellary of Rosslyn." In 1835, an accurate copy of this Genealogie and Chartellary was printed in quarto from the original manuscript. But it is scarce, as only 12 copies large paper, and 108 copies small paper, were published: the price of each of the large copies being L.2, 12s. 6d., and that of the small being 18s.

Published Accounts.—In the year 1827 was published a "Historical and Descriptive Account of Rosslyn Chapel and Castle, with eight engravings." There has also been published, without a date, but some years later than the preceding work, "M'Dowall's New Guide to Roslin, being a Historical and Descriptive Account of the Chapel and Castle of Roslin and Hawthornden, with engravings on steel." Both of these publications are small; and some use of them, as well as of the manuscript mentioned above, will be made in this Statistical Account.

Ancient Battle.—On the 24th of February 1302, a little way to the north of Roslin village, there was fought a very famous battle, or rather succession of battles, between the Scotch and the English armies, when the Scotch forces, consisting of 8000 men, under the command of Sir Simon Frazer and John Comyn, defeated the forces of the English, consisting of 30,000 men, and

commanded by John de Segrave, who had previously divided his troops into three equal divisions, and brought them up in succession to the conflict.*

Land-owners.—The following are the chief land-owners of the parish, viz. Robert Balfour Wardlaw Ramsay, Esq. of Whitehill; Sir George Clerk, Bart. of Pennicuik; Sir Norman Macdonald Lockhart, Bart. of Lee and Carnwath; George Mercer, Esq. of Dryden; Robert Brown, Esq. of Firth; John Inglis, Esq. of Auchindinny; Sir Francis Walker Drummond, Bart. of Hawthornden; the Earl of Rosslyn; the Earl of Rosebery; Archibald Haig, Esq. of Seafield.

Antiquities.—The principal antiquities are, Roslin Chapel and Roslin Castle; the former being in a state of excellent preservation, while the latter has long been in a most ruinous condition.

Roslin Chapel.—The founder of the illustrious family, to which the chapel owes its erection, was one of the many Anglo-Norman barons, whom the policy of King Malcolm Canmore allured from England, after the Conquest, to settle in Scotland, where extensive grants of land were bestowed on them. His name was William de Santo Claro, the second son of Waldernus Compte de St Claro, who came to England with William the Conqueror in the year 1066. His mother was Margaret, daughter to Richard Duke of Normandy, and he was called, for his fair deportment, “the Seemly St Clair.” This William de Santo Claro obtained from King Malcolm a grant of the lands and the barony of Roslin. These possessions were greatly increased by grants of land to the family from succeeding monarchs.

Founder of the Chapel.—The founder of the chapel was William St Clair, Prince of Orkney, and Duke of Oldenburgh, and the name of his princess was Elizabeth Douglas.† The existing title of Earl of Rosslyn is British, and was first conferred on the

* There are several names of places commemorative of circumstances connected with this battle, such as “the Shin-banes Field,” where many bones were afterwards found; “the Hewan,” where the onslaught of the enemy was most dreadful, from the precipitous nature of the ground; “the Stinking Rig,” where multitudes of the slain were buried, and, not being sufficiently covered, emitted an intolerable stench; and “the Killburn,” a small brook said to have been discoloured with blood for three days. Tradition reports that Mount Marl, the name of a farm belonging to Sir Francis Walker Drummond, Bart. of Hawthornden, and which was included in the scene of the battle, derived its name from the following incident: When the English forces were on the point of being finally routed, Marl, one of their leaders, is said to have received this important hint from one of his retainers, “Mount, Marl, and ride.”

† The various titles are recited in Father Hay’s manuscript referred to.

Lord Chancellor Wedderburn, Lord Loughborough, from whom it descended to his nephew, the late Earl, who was succeeded by his son, the present Earl, to whom belong the lands, Castle, and Chapel of Roslin.

Roslin Chapel is situated in the vicinity of Roslin village, on a rising ground called the *College Hill*, on the northern bank of the Esk, amidst the most lovely and romantic scenery of which Scotland can boast.

The chapel was founded in 1446, as a collegiate church, for a provost, six prebendaries, and two choristers or singing boys, and, when finished, was consecrated to St Matthew the Apostle, and endowed with lands and other revenues. Its founder, William St Clair, intending that it should be possessed of the utmost splendour, employed in the erection of it the most excellent masons in Europe, whom he attracted to his service by great rewards.

The chapel was originally intended to be in the form of a cross, with a lofty tower in the centre, but was never completed, in consequence of the death of the founder in 1484;—the choir and east wall of the transept only having been erected, while the remaining parts could scarcely be said to have been commenced. That part of the building which has been finished, is in the style of architecture which is called the florid Gothic. Elegance and variety are its distinguishing characteristics. While every separate department is executed with almost inimitable beauty, all the parts are different; every window, every pillar, and every arch being distinguished from all the rest by ornamental workmanship of the most profuse and exquisite description. As an instance of the variety, as well as the beauty and elegance of this wonderful chapel, it may be mentioned that there are more than thirteen different kinds of arches to be found in it. The energies of the most accomplished stone-cutters that could be found, at the time when masonry had been brought to its utmost perfection, seem to have been expended in making the choir of this chapel a gem unique in its kind.

Having entered the court leading to the chapel by a door-way, surmounted by an antique coronet, helmet, and shield, elegantly carved in stone, you have a view of the north side of the chapel.

The north front consists of two walls; the uppermost extending behind the five western buttresses, and resting on the arches of the side aisles in the interior. In the ground wall are five large windows, the ornaments of which are all varied; and, in the up-

per wall, there is a similar row of windows. On the ground wall are seven buttresses, with curious canopied niches, and bracket pedestals, apparently intended for the reception of small statues. The buttresses are surmounted by richly ornamented conical and square pinnacles, embellished with crockets; and the niches are all varied in their decorations, but with a tasteful uniformity in their arrangements. The pinnacles of the five westmost buttresses are joined to a corresponding number of smaller ones behind, by flying arches. One of these has a double pinnacle, richly adorned with bands, and displaying a triple crown. The pinnacle behind it is connected by a flying abutment with the upper wall of the chapel, at the angle of which is seen a third pinnacle, having ornaments resembling those seen in Grecian architecture.

The north door, by which visitors are admitted to the chapel, is approached under an arched porch, which has two crouching human figures inserted into the buttresses on both sides for its abutments, one of these figures having a key, and supposed to be St Peter. Its mouldings are richly carved, forming small paterae of foliage. The two buttresses which flank this door are deserving of attention; that on the east is enriched by a canopied niche, the pinnacle of which is highly ornamented with crochets and tracery, and is supported by a column pedestal. The west buttress has a canopy equal in the beauty of its sculpture to the other, but without a pinnacle, and supported by a bracket pedestal, under which is a small figure in the act of doing penance. Above the door is a small window, in the form of a circular triangle, which lights part of the north aisle, both sides of which are boldly sculptured with foliage. On the east side of the door, at the bottom of the architrave of the lower window, is the representation of a fox carrying off a goose, and a farmer delivering the unfortunate bird from the jaws of the plunderer; and, in the opposite corner of the same window, is a cherub playing on a musical instrument.

The south front is similar to the north, with the exception of the door, which is composed of receding arches richly ornamented. In front is an arched porch, having, for an abutment on each side, a cherub waving a scroll. The mouldings of the arch are ornamented at regular distances with foliage. Above the door is a small window, of the form of an equilateral spherical triangle, pre-

senting within its perimeter three Gothic points of great elegance, and it is ornamented all round with a double row of foliage.

At the east end of the chapel are four windows of uniform size, but varied in their ornaments; and five buttresses, each having a canopied niche with a column pedestal, and a bracket pedestal alternately, and surmounted by circular pinnacles.

The west end of the chapel is terminated by a blank wall, closing the centre and side aisles, and rising above the roof; and on the summit of the wall is a small belfry. In this wall are three door-ways, opening to the middle and side aisles; but it is long since they have been built up. Each door-way outside has a square top or architrave, resting on imposts of richly sculptured capitals. Three ornamental piscinas and eight brackets are inserted in the wall parallel with the doors; and two brackets are elevated high in the wall, on one of which is represented the descent from the cross, and on the other the angels rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre. At each end of the architrave of the central door, is a human figure: that on the north represents a man bound by his middle and ankles to a tree, his hands being tied behind his back, and a man at each foot holding the ropes he is tied with. This is St Sebastian, who, according to the legend, was condemned by the Roman emperor Dioclesian, to be fastened to a tree, and shot with arrows; the two men at his feet are two soldiers, crouching lest the arrows should strike them, and two arrows are represented as sticking in the left side of the martyr, while he presents a serene and determined countenance to his persecutors. The figure on the south side appears to be of gigantic size, with a large stick in his left hand, and a child sitting on his right shoulder. This is St Christopher, a giant, who, as the legend says, on one occasion, carried the Saviour on his shoulder across a river, supporting himself with the torn-up trunk of a tree, while he was ready to sink under the load. He knew not whom he carried till he reached the opposite shore, when Christ, in the form of a child, blessed him, and disappeared. All this is naturally expressed by the carving.

No sooner does a visitor enter the chapel than he is struck with the immense profusion and the wonderful variety of the ornaments; and, above all, with the grandeur and magnificence of the lofty roof, which is composed of a vast Gothic arch, divided into five compartments, each of them remarkable for the beauty and the diversity of its decorations. The roof of the chapel is supported

by sixteen most elegant Gothic pillars, seven on each side of the building, and two at the east end of it. The height of the chapel inside, from the floor to the top of the high-arched roof, is 40 feet 8 inches; its length is 69 feet; and its breadth is 34 feet 8 inches.

The floor of the east chapel is elevated one step; and its arched roof is only 15 feet in height. Here stood four altars, viz. one which is elevated two steps from the floor of the east chapel, and which seems to be improperly called the high altar, having more probably been dedicated to the Virgin Mary; and other three altars on the floor of this chapel, which were dedicated respectively to St Matthew, St Peter, and St Andrew. The top stones of these four altars have been removed, but the bodies of them remain, in a great measure, entire,—the very state in which they are described as being, about 250 years ago, in the records of the Presbytery of Dalkeith.

The east chapel is separated from the eastern aisle by three pillars, which are connected by arches with the east wall, dividing the roof into four equal spaces. The groinings of the ceiling are of surprising grandeur and elegance, and the florid character of their ornaments is infinitely varied. The key-stones of the arches are beautiful pendants, each upwards of two feet in length; that at the south end, immediately above what has been called the high altar, but which is rather to be considered as the altar dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is ornamented with foliage. The second pendant is enriched in a similar manner. Immediately below this pendant, the late Earl of Rosslyn, who died in 1837, is interred. The escutcheon of his armorial bearings is suspended above; and his remains, like those of his countess, are covered with a large flag stone. The third pendant terminates in a representation of the star of Bethlehem, with eight figures carved around it. At the south point of the star is the Virgin, with the Babe in her arms; on the next point, to her right, is the manger; on other three points are three eastern kings, each having a sceptre in his hand; and on the remaining three points are representations of Death. Immediately below this pendant, the late Countess of Rosslyn (Miss Bouverie) is interred. The fourth pendant is ornamented with foliage.

On the side of one of the arches, springing from the angle formed by the north and the east walls, and resting on the opposite pillar, there are several small figures, which were supposed to represent the resurrection, but they are now believed to be the

Dance of Death. Commencing at the top of the arch, and descending to the right, the figures, which can be recognized, are, a king, a courtier, a cardinal, a bishop, a lady admiring her portrait, an abbess, and an abbot; and each of these is accompanied with a figure of death dancing off with his prey. Again, commencing at the top of the arch, and descending to the left, the following figures are quite distinct: a farmer, a husband and wife, a child, a sportsman, a gardener and spade, a carpenter, and a ploughman. Each of these also is accompanied by a figure of death, carrying off the individual; and he is represented as in the act of making the separation between the husband and wife. On the capitals of the three pillars, which are between the east aisle and the east chapel, are thirteen angels with musical instruments, representing the heavenly host praising God. At the south end of the east chapel, the arch is ornamented with human figures, and also with foliage; the human figures being supposed to be a warrior, with helmet, and sword, and spear; and a monk drinking, a crouched figure of death, a man with wide sleeves, a soldier, a female praying, a woman sitting in a chair, and a queen.

On the architrave of the north aisle connecting the first and second pillar from the east, Samson is represented pulling down the house on the Philistines. The capital of the third pillar has an elephant, Samson killing the lion, and two hands grasping cockle-shells; and the capital of the opposite pilaster has a shield bearing a lamb, which carries a banner within a double tressure. The capital of the next pillar represents the angels rolling back the stone from the door of the sepulchre. The capital of the next pillar has the disciples looking from afar to the crucifixion, which is represented on the capital of the opposite pilaster, where nine figures and a ladder are to be distinctly seen. On the next and last pillar in this row are represented two doves, and the prodigal son feeding swine.

On the west wall of the north aisle, in the corner, is the monument of George, Earl of Caithness, with the following inscription in capital letters: "Hic jacet nobilis ac potens Dominus Georgius quondam comes Cathanensis Dominus Sinclar, justiciarius Hereditarius diocesis Cathanensis, qui obiit Edinburgi 9 die mensis Septembris, anno Domini 1582."

Above the inscription are his armorial bearings, with the motto, "Commit thy verk to God."

At the foot of the third and fourth pillars, and between them and the north wall, there is a large flagstone covering the mouth of a vault, in which ten barons of Rosslyn were buried before 1690. It is so remarkably dry, that when the bodies of some of them were inspected eighty years after their interment, they were found in a state of perfect preservation. It was an ancient custom of this princely house, that all its barons were buried without any coffin in their armour. Father Hay, alluding to this custom, observes, "The late Rosslyn, my good father, grandfather to the present Rosslyn, was the first that was buried in a coffin, against the sentiments of James VII., who was then in Scotland, and several other persons, well versed in antiquity, to whom my mother (Jean Spottiswood, grandniece of Archbishop Spottiswood,) would not hearken, thinking it beggarly to be buried after that manner. The great expense she was at in burying her husband occasioned the sumptuary acts which were made in the following Parliaments."*

On the floor, between the fourth and fifth pillars, from the west end, in the north aisle, there is a coarse flat stone, having cut upon it the rough outline of a man in armour, with his hands lifted up and joined as if engaged in prayer, with a greyhound at his feet, and a lion rampant in a small shield at each side of his head. This is supposed to mark the tomb of Sir William St Clair of Rosslyn, of whom Father Hay relates an interesting adventure.

Centre Aisle.—The upper part of the centre aisle is lighted by five arched windows on each side, between which are canopies and brackets, twelve on the north side, and twelve on the south side, supposed to be for the Twelve Apostles, and as many saints and martyrs. In the east end is a beautiful arched window; and below the centre of this window, is a niche of superior size and elegance, supposed to be intended for a statue of the Saviour or the Virgin.

South Aisle.—On the north side of the arch, connecting the second and third columns of the south range, from the west, are represented the Twelve Apostles, and four of the primitive Martyrs, bearing the insignia of the deaths they respectively suffered. On the east side of the south door, is a beautiful font in the wall, which is much admired.

* To the custom mentioned above, and also to the tradition, that the turrets of the chapel were supernaturally illumined by flames, upon the death of any member of the Rosslyn family, Sir Walter Scott alludes, in beautiful verses, in the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*.

On the west side of the architrave, connecting the second pillar from the east with the south wall, are represented the following figures, viz. a bishop in his pontifical garments and insignia, and giving the blessing, with the right hand lifted up, and the two forefingers distinctly pointing out,—a man, supposed to be the proud Pharisee; a drunkard with a flagon at his mouth; a woman giving a cup to a man; the careless shepherd; the rich fool; the miser with his hands in his pockets; two lovers; and, lastly, a devil in the mouth of a crocodile, emblematical of hell, stretching out his claws towards the other figures. The figures are surveyed with a grin of delight by Satan himself from the west jamb of the third window, from the east, in the south ground wall. It is quite evident that the figures in this range are intended to represent the principal vices, with the church offering salvation from them, and the spirits of darkness expecting that they will lead their votaries to everlasting destruction. The arch of the adjoining window represents the nine orders of angels.

On the opposite side of this architrave, there are represented a cardinal bishop; a cripple, supported by crutches, leading a blind man; one person clothing the naked; another visiting the sick; another visiting those in prison; a female attending the fatherless; one feeding the hungry; two burying the dead, one at the head and another at the feet; and St Peter with a key. It is abundantly evident that the figures in this range are intended to represent the principal virtues, and the admission of those who practise them into the kingdom of heaven. The arch of the adjoining window is adorned with twelve human figures.

The Apprentice's Pillar.—This pillar, which is the most easterly in the south row, and stands in the south-east corner of the chapel, is perfectly unique, and remarkably beautiful. Around the shaft are four wreaths of flowers, all different from one another, all exhibiting specimens of the most delicate chiselling, and all ascending, in a spiral form, from the base to the capital, at the distance of eighteen inches from one another. On the base of the pillar are several dragons chained together by the heads, and mutually entwined. On the south side of the capital, Isaac is represented lying on the altar, with the ram caught by the horns in a thicket; and, on the east end of the architrave, connecting this elegant pillar with the one to the west, is Abraham standing in view of his devoted son, with his hands lifted up in prayer. On the opposite end is a man playing on bagpipes, and another man

recumbent at his feet. And, on the architrave, which connects the apprentice's pillar with the corresponding pilaster on the south wall, is seen the following inscription in Old English or Saxon characters, on the west side: "Forte est vinum, fortior est rex, fortiores sunt mulieres; super omnia vincit veritas. I. Exd. Chap. 8, ver. 10-12."

There is a tradition relating to the apprentice's pillar, which has prevailed for ages in the family of Rosslyn: The model of it was sent from Rome, but the master-mason, distrusting his own capacity to finish it, without inspecting the original pillar from which it was taken, went to Rome to examine it. In his absence, one of his apprentices undertook the task, and completely succeeded, which so enraged the master on his return, that he lifted a hammer and killed him on the spot. The three heads at the west end of the chapel are understood to be commemorative of this tragedy. Nearly half-way up the transept wall, in the south-west corner of the body of the chapel, is a head, with a cut above the right eye, which is said to represent the head of the apprentice, who finished the remarkable pillar. In a line with it, and above the second pillar of the south aisle, from the west, is the head of a woman weeping, intended for the mother of the apprentice lamenting the untimely death of her son. And, in the north-west corner, is the head of an old man frowning, representing the head of the master-mason.

Sacristy or Vestry.—In the south-east corner of the chapel, and below the place where the elevated altar stood, is a subterraneous staircase of twenty-four steps, conducting, through an arch, to a smaller chapel, which was used as a sacristy or vestry. This was erected by the first lady of William, the founder of the great chapel, Dame Elizabeth Douglas, formerly Countess of Buchan, and daughter of Archibald, the second Earl of Buchan of that name. Though the passage to this sacristy or vestry is subterraneous, itself is above ground, and rests on the edge of the bank; its height is 15 feet 2 inches, its length 36 feet, and its breadth 14 feet. It has one large arched window in the east wall, where once stood an altar dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Looking towards the window, on the right hand, is a pedestal for a statue, with an escutcheon having the arms of Caithness, Douglas, and St Clair. In a direct line, on the opposite side of the window, is a similar pedestal, with an *engrailed cross* on a shield, probably intended for a statue of Rosslyn. This sacristy or vestry once had, in the south

wall, a low arched door, now shut up, by which a person might have entered it without passing through the chapel above. On the same side of the building there is a recess for a chimney. Both in the north and the south walls there are several niches, of various kinds, which may have been designed for keeping the sacred vessels employed in the service of the chapel, and the vestments of the priests. In the south-east corner, there is a piscina or font, with a square niche on the east side of it. The roof of the small chapel, like that of the large one, is divided into five compartments. The ribs are beautiful specimens of the *ingrailed cross*, while the compartments themselves are plain.

Nearly a century ago, the chapel received some considerable repairs from its proprietor, General St Clair, who caused the lower roof to be covered anew with flag stones, the windows to be glazed, and the floor to be mended in several places. It is now undergoing extensive repairs from the liberality of the present Earl of Rosslyn.

Endowments of the Chapel.—At the time when the chapel was erected, it was endowed by its founder with the church lands of Pentland, four acres of meadow near that town, with the kips, and eight sowmes of grass. In the year 1523, one of his successors farther endowed it with some portions of land in the neighbourhood, for dwelling-houses and gardens to the provost and prebendaries. These possessions, which were not very ample, passed away from it at the Reformation; and on February 26th 1571, the provost and prebendaries, by a deed, in which they complain that their revenues had long been forcibly withheld from them, resigned them absolutely into the hands of the laity. Father-Hay says, that to this deed there were appended the seal of the chapter of this collegiate church, being St Mathew in a church, red upon white wax; and the seal of Sir William Sinclair, the then baron of Rosslyn, being a ragged or engrailed cross, red upon white wax.*

Rosslyn Castle.—Rosslyn Castle is situated about 200 yards below the chapel, on a rocky eminence, which is almost enclosed in one of the folds of the Esk, which here assumes a beautiful serpentine form. Little now remains of this ancient and venerable stronghold, but a majestic pile of ruins: though the triple tier of vaults on the left, and the massive walls, as well as the enormous fragments which are scattered about, cannot fail to impress the

* Extracts from the Records of the Presbytery of Dalkeith, curious and interesting, as connected with Rosslyn Chapel and its proprietor, for the time being, are deposited along with the MS. of this article.

mind with some idea of its original strength and grandeur. It is impossible for us to ascertain when it was built, though it is probable that it was founded towards the end of the eleventh century. We do not find any mention made of it in history till the reign of James II., when we read of Sir William Hamilton being confined therein in 1455, for engaging in the rebellion which Earl Douglas had raised against that monarch. In 1544, this castle, as well as many others in the Lothians, was demolished by the English army, dispatched by Henry VIII., upon the rough wooing of Mary, the infant Queen of Scots. In 1650, it was again battered down by a division of the army of Oliver Cromwell, under the command of General Monk. And on the night of the 11th of December 1688, it was attacked and plundered by a lawless mob, composed partly of the tenants of the barony and partly of miscreants from Edinburgh: and, on the early part of the same night, some of the most splendid and beautiful ornaments of the chapel were defaced by the same ruffians.

In addition to the above misfortunes, Father Hay, in his manuscript, mentions another which we shall narrate at length in his words. "About this time, viz. 1447, Edward Sinclair of Dryden, coming with four gray hounds and some ratchets, to hunt with the prince, met a great company of rats, and, among the rest, one old blind lyard one with a straw in his mouth, led by the rest, whereat he greatly marvelled, not thinking what was to follow; but within four days after, viz. the feast of St Leonard, the princess, who took great delight in little dogs, caused one of the gentlewomen to go under the bed with a lighted candle, to bring forth one of them that had young whelps, which she doing, and not being very attentive, set fire on the bed, whereat the fire rose and burnt the bed, and then passed to the ceiling of the great chamber in which the princess was, whereat she and all that were in the dungeon wer compelled to fly."

"The prince's chaplain seeing this, and remembering of all his master's writings, passed to the head of the dungeon where they were, and threw out four great trunks where they were. The news of this fire coming to the prince's ears through the lamentable cries of the ladies and gentlewomen; and the sight thereof coming to his view in the place where he stood, viz. upon the college hill, he was sorrow for nothing but the loss of his charters and other writings; but when the chaplain, who had saved himself by coming down the bell rope tied to a beam, declared how his charters and writs were all saved, he became cheerful, and

went to re-comfort his princess and the ladies, desiring them to put away all sorrow; and rewarded his chaplain very richly. Yet all this stayed him not from building of the college, with his liberality to the poor, but was rather more liberal to them than before, applying the safety of his charters and writs to God's particular providence."

Entrance to the Castle.—The promontory on which the castle stands is insulated by a deep natural ravine on the land side, over which there is a narrow bridge, to be approached from the east. The gate of entrance was on the west end of this bridge, and was powerfully defended: and, immediately behind this kind of out-work, was an immense building of several stories, forming one side of the square of the castle. On the right or north side of the square was a massive wall, the greater part of which is still standing; and at the south end of this wall was a tower of vast size. In the court was a well for supplying the inmates with water. Mr Hay in his manuscript has given several views of the castle in its entire state, and he is said to have made these with his pen.

Extent of the Castle.—From east to west the castle is about 200 feet in length; it is nearly 90 feet in breadth, and the walls are about 9 feet thick. On the ruins of this ancient building, and over the vaults, is a comparatively modern house, with the letters S. W. S., (Sir William Sinclair,) and the date 1622, over the door. The ceiling of the dining room is enriched with antique pannels and designs, variously ornamented and intermixed with the armorial bearings of the St Clair family.

Ancient Establishment.—According to Father Hay, the establishment maintained by Prince William, the founder of the chapel, and his Princess, Elizabeth Douglas, was most magnificent. He was served at his table, it is said, in vessels of gold and silver, by Lord Dirleton, as Master of his Household; by Lord Borthwick, as his Cup-bearer; and by Lord Fleming, as his Carver; each of whom had a deputy of equal rank to officiate in his absence. His lady was served by seventy-five gentlewomen, of whom fifty-three were the daughters of noblemen, and all of them were attired in silk and velvet, and adorned with chains of gold and other jewels. When travelling from Rosslyn to the family mansion in Edinburgh, which was at the foot of Blackfriar's Wynd, she was attended by two hundred gentlemen on horseback, and, if after nightfall, by other eighty persons bearing torches.

The Maiden Castle.—This castle was situated between two and

three hundred yards to the south of the Hewan, within another fold of the Esk, where this romantic river seems to linger in a region of surpassing sweetness and loveliness. Nothing now remains of this fortress but parts of the foundation, which are still visible at some points. And even tradition is unable to communicate any notices of this stronghold, which, as its name indicates, was never taken by an enemy. Though the oldest inhabitants have been questioned on this subject, they are found to be acquainted with nothing more than the name of the castle, whose origin and history have been long lost in the mists of antiquity.

Stone Coffin.—In August 1754, a farmer ploughing his field near the village of Roslin turned up the corner of a stone coffin, about nine feet long, which contained the bones of a human body. The bones were much decayed, except the skull and teeth, which were sound and large. This must have been the grave of some British warrior, rather than the coffin of one of the chiefs who fell in the battles of Roslin, in the year 1302.

Hezekiah Merricks, Esq., Eskhill, has in his possession three silver coins, apparently of very considerable antiquity. Each of them is about the size of a common sixpence, and is supposed to belong to the reign of Edward I. of England. They were found on the public road at Harper's Hall Brae.

A silver buckle, of very rude workmanship, and also a brooch, with engraving, and something like green enamel on it, were found at the above-mentioned place. These were in the possession of John Merricks, Esq. Eskhill.

III.—POPULATION.

About the time when the chapel was building, Roslin was the most populous town in the Lothians, excepting Edinburgh and Haddington. It was erected into a burgh of barony by James II. in 1456, with the privilege of holding a weekly market, and a yearly fair; and the pedestal of the ancient market cross is still to be seen at the centre of the village.*

Roslin is now a small village. The following has been its population for the last eleven years :—

1829,	68 families—	259 souls,
1830,	74 ...	287 ...
1831,	81 ...	320 ...
1832,	88 ...	343 ...
1833,	82 ...	343 ...

* See MS. for an accurate copy of the original charter, as it is to be found in *Father Hay's Manuscript.*

1834,	84 families	—	366 souls.
1835,	82	...	370 ...
1836,	78	...	356 ...
1837,	86	...	387 ...
1838,	88	...	413 ...
1839,	90	...	401 ...

The increase of the population of Roslin village is owing to the extension of the works of a gunpowder manufactory and of a bleachfield, both of which are in the immediate neighbourhood.

The population of Roslin parish, *quoad sacra*, is as follows; —

1835,	326 families	—	1611 souls.
1836,	327	...	1646 ...
1837,	341	...	1731 ...
1838,	346	...	1733 ...
1839,	354	...	1744 ...

The majority of the population reside in small villages. Not one of these is worthy of the name of a town.

In 1838, the number of males in the parish was 842, and the number of females 891; total, 1733. In 1839, the number of males was 845, and the number of females 899; total, 1744.

Resident Proprietors.—The only resident proprietors of land in the parish are, George Mercer, Esq. of Dryden, and Robert Brown, Esq. of Firth.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—As both proprietors and land cultivators refused to communicate the facts which were necessary to be known, in order to compile the statistics under this head, only a few general statements can be made.

By far the largest proportion of the parish is in a state of cultivation; a very considerable number of acres are under wood; and only a small number remain constantly waste. There is no undivided common,

Husbandry and improvement are here assuming a high character. Draining is carried on to a great extent; and the face of nature is changing to the better.

Manufactures.—The largest manufactory of gunpowder in Scotland is in this parish. It belongs to Messrs Hay and Merrieks, and has been established for thirty-six years. It gives employment to about 60 men, 30 of whom are coopers. The wages of the latter, who work by the piece, vary from 18s. to L.1, 15s. per week. The arrangements made for conducting the work are admirable, and consequently very few accidents occur. It is admitted on all hands that the article produced is excellent in quality.

There is a manufactory of writing and printing paper in this

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parish. It belongs to Messrs Cadell, and gives employment to a considerable number of persons, both male and female. One machine is in operation day and night; and various kinds of excellent paper made.

Bleachfield.—The bleachfield here is much celebrated, and most extensively employed. A considerable number, both of males and females, derive their support from it.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—Edinburgh and Dalkeith are the two market-towns resorted to,—the former being seven miles, and the latter six miles distant.

Villages.—The two principal villages in the parish are Roslin and Rosewell.

Means of Communication.—There is a full post-office established here, with two arrivals and one departure. There are five miles of turnpike roads in the parish. The great Dumfries road goes through it nearly a mile; and, along this road, the following coaches travel, viz. the Dumfries mail-coach, the Peebles coach, and one from the Wellington Inn to and from Edinburgh.

There is a great want of bridges in the parish. The precipitous banks of the Esk prevent communication, in a great measure, between the inhabitants on the opposite sides of the river.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated near the one end of the parish, being one mile from the east end, and five miles from the west end. It was built in 1827, and is in a good state of repair. It contains 444 sittings in the lower area, and is constructed to admit of galleries containing 200 or 250 sittings,—if so many should be required. Free sittings are allowed to the poor.

The manse was built in 1832 at the expense of the congregation. The church, manse, and school-house cost L.1600, and the only remaining debt is L.100 on the church,—the other buildings being quite free. The stipend of the minister is L.150.

There is one Dissenting meeting-house in the parish at Bridgend. It belongs to the United Secession. There are two collegiate ministers, both paid by the seat-rents and the collection made at the door.

About two-thirds of the population belong to the Established Church, and one-third to the Dissenters.

The communion roll contains upwards of 300 names.

There is an association in the parish for supporting the various schemes of the General Assembly, and also for contributing to

the Bible Society and the Moravian missions. The amount contributed, however, is small, owing to this circumstance, that almost all the public institutions in the parish are supported by voluntary contributions. And, as the demands among the parishioners are great and urgent, little can be given to other objects.

Education.—There are four schools in the parish, and only one of them is provided with a small permanent salary. Two of them belong to the minister, a third is placed under his superintendence, and a fourth belongs to R. B. Wardlaw Ramsay, Esq. of Whitehill. There are also three Sabbath schools, which, together with the four day schools, belong to the Established Church. From the year 1835, down to the present time, more than a sixth part of the whole population have been in attendance at the four day schools; and more than a tenth part of the whole population have been in attendance at the three Sabbath schools.

The minister visits the whole parish annually, and takes account of the children who are at school, or who ought to be at it. In order to encourage the poor to educate their children, he finds the following method to work well. When he meets with a poor man who finds great difficulty in providing the means of education, he makes an agreement with him to send one of his children to school, if he will send another, or perhaps two; and if the party be very poor, two are sent to school free of expense to him, as long as he pays for one. At present, the minister is educating thirty-two children in this way; and it may be safely affirmed of the parish in general, that there is scarcely to be found in it a child who ought to be at school, and who is not at one.

Library.—A small library connected with the church, and containing 270 volumes, has been in existence since 1828. The number of volumes at the commencement was scarcely one-half of what it is now.

Friendly Society.—There is a Friendly society in the parish. It contains a considerable number of members. It is constructed on sound principles, and is well conducted. Much benefit is obtained from it by the community.

Public-Houses.—There are 7 houses in the parish where strong drinks are sold. Four of these are in Roslin village, or in the immediate vicinity. Were they reduced in number, the public morals could not fail to be greatly improved thereby.

June 1843.