

## PARISH OF MID-CALDER.

PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN & TWEEDDALE.\*

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—CALDER is a common territorial appellation in Scotland, and always denotes some spot adjacent to water, or rather to a rivulet. This name is of Celtic origin—*Cal*, *Cel*, or *Coil*, being descriptive of wooded or wild regions; and *Dur*, or *Dour*, signifying water.

The parish of Mid-Calder lies in the direction of north and south; and, by the straightest footpath or bridle road, from the north-east to the south-west extremity of the parish, extends from eleven to twelve miles in length. Its average breadth is from two and a half to three miles; but, in one place, it does not extend above three or four hundred yards. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Uphall; on the south, by Linton; on the east, by the united parishes of Kirknewton and East-Calder, together with those of Currie and a small portion of Kirkliston; and, on the west, by the parishes of West-Calder and Livingstone. By a singular coincidence, Liston-Shields, the property of the late Sir Robert Liston, which is situated on the south-east extremity of this parish, belongs to Kirkliston, although it lies at the distance of seven or eight miles from any other part of that parish. The ridge of the Cairn hills forms the southern boundary of the parish, and may be considered as a continuation of the Pentlands westward till they reach the parish of West-Calder. There are no elevations in this parish which can properly be called mountains. The eastern Cairn Hill is the highest point; and, if Knox's map can be relied upon, its summit is about 1800 feet above the medium level of the sea. This spot commands a most extensive view of the Frith and basin of the Forth, with the adjacent scenery towards Stirling, the coast of Fife, and the Ochils. At the eastern extre-

\* Drawn up by the late incumbent, the Rev. John Sommers.

mity of the Cairn Hill, which forms the south-east boundary of the parish, south of Harper-rig, there is a hollow slope or declivity, known by the name of the *Caldstone Slap*, through which pass, lies the drove road most commonly frequented by dealers in sheep and cattle between the Scotch and English markets. This road is passable also for travellers on horseback during the summer months.

The village of Mid-Calder is delightfully situated on the south bank of the Almond, near its junction with Linhouse and Murieston Waters. On the east, is the extensive and romantic wood of Calder; and, on the west, is Calder House, which stands on an elevated lawn, surrounded by ornamental walks, and sheltered by lofty trees and numerous plantations. The town is twelve miles west of Edinburgh, twenty from Lanark, and thirty-two from Glasgow. Calder was formerly the name of a district in the western part of the county of Edinburgh, or Mid-Lothian, comprehending the three parishes of Calder Comitis or Mid-Calder, Calder Clere or East-Calder, and that portion which now constitutes the parish of West-Calder. The first of these obtained its name from having been in possession of the Earls of Fife, so early as the twelfth century; and the second, Calder Clere or East Calder, from one Randolph de Clere, who held a grant of the manor from Malcolm IV. The parish of Calder Clere was united to that of Kirknewton in 1750, and was, at same time, detached from the presbytery of Linlithgow, and united to the presbytery of Edinburgh. This extensive parish of Calder Comitis, in 1645, was again divided into those of Mid and West-Calder, as appears from our presbytery records, in which it is stated that, on the 12th of June of that year, Patrick Shields was translated from the parish of Livingstone to West-Calder. This threefold division of the original parish sufficiently accounts for the scantiness of the teind, and, consequently, for the limited portion of stipend allotted to each of these benefices.

*Meteorology.*—The temperature of the atmosphere varies considerably between the banks of the streams clothed with wood in the lower districts of the parish, and the higher ground upon the cold boggy land and barren heath. In low, sheltered situations, the thermometer generally ranges between 35 and 60; and the barometer from  $28\frac{1}{2}$  to  $30\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Hydrography.*—This parish is intersected by three considerable rivulets, which run from west to east—the Almond, the Murieston,

and the Linhouse waters. On entering this parish on the west, these streams are distant from each other about a mile and a-half; but they all meet together at the northern extremity of the village, by the two last mingling their waters with the Almond. In passing through the parish, these streams are increased, in their progress, by many small tributaries, flowing from innumerable springs in the higher grounds. Besides the three waters above-mentioned, there is another, which takes its rise in the upper and southern district of the parish, called the Wester Burn, which, after proceeding eastward, assumes the name of Leith-Head Water, or Water-of-Leith, intersecting the parish in the same direction from west to east.

The springs in this parish are very numerous, and many of them consist of pure, soft, and excellent water; but there are others in which the water is so much impregnated with iron, that its quality may be easily distinguished, both by the taste and smell. On being exposed, however, for a few minutes to the air, these peculiarities can scarcely be perceived. It then becomes agreeable to the taste, and fit for all culinary purposes.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—This parish is intersected by three great public roads; the northern line running between Edinburgh and Glasgow; the middle line between Edinburgh and Ayr; and the southern line between Edinburgh and Lanark by Carnwath; the two former passing through the village of Mid-Calder. From the Almond northward to the parish of Uphall, the ground has a southern exposure; but from the river to the summit of the Cairn hills, which form the boundary between this and the parish of Linton, the aspect of the ground is to the north. The land upon the banks of this river and all its tributary streams, as may be supposed, is, in general, the most fertile, and some of it consists of a rich, dry, and productive loam; but, on retiring from the banks to a more elevated situation, the ground generally becomes less fertile, and at length terminates in a thin, barren clay, upon a hard, cold, and dark-blue till or shale. But even this naturally sterile soil has been rendered productive in some places, by thorough draining, and the liberal application of lime and other kinds of manure. It may be observed, that in the upper district of the parish there is a large portion of naturally unproductive land, which, by proper draining, spade-culture, hoeing, and other modern improvements, might be sufficient to support a numerous population.

Abundance of excellent rock of various kinds, such as freestone,

(sandstone,) whinstone, and limestone, has been discovered in different places throughout the parish. Quarries of all these have, at one time or other, been in actual operation. One for road-metal is now open on the estate of Howden, the property of Mrs White. This, however, is intended only for private use. Another, on the estate of Linhouse, was in operation not many years ago; and one on the estate of Pumpherston, belonging to the Earl of Buchan, both of which are now used for the public roads. A quarry of excellent limestone has long been, and still continues open, for the supply of the neighbouring tenantry, on Mr Hog's estate of Easter Murieston. This limestone has never been found in a regular stratum, but in long beds or nests, or of a round globular form, at short distances from one another. It admits of a beautiful polish, and has been used as marble, both in the country and in Edinburgh. A considerable stratum of excellent limestone, some years ago, was also opened up in the lands of Colzium, by pits, now the property of the Rev. Dr Laird of Portmoak. A kiln of it was burnt and examined by Dr Fyfe, and was found to be of the best quality; but, being too distant from coal, it afforded no prospect of covering the expenses necessary to render it useful to the community. A freestone quarry has long been in operation in Calder-wood. The stone is fit for all kinds of architecture, being hard and durable, and capable of being wrought to an unlimited extent. Within these few years, a quarry of unexhaustible freestone was opened at the bottom of the ridge of the Cairn Hills. In this quarry, blocks of any magnitude may be raised at a moderate expense; and the buildings which have been already erected of this stone, are sufficient to prove that, from its durable nature and beauty, it is eminently fitted for all the purposes of the most delicate architecture. The bottom of the Cairns Hill seems to be wholly composed of this stone; and the extent and thickness of it must be immense. The dip of the strata of all these rocks is, in general, towards the south. In several places on the banks of the Murieston Water, and particularly on the property of John Keir, Esq., there is a kind of rotten rock, intermixed with a species of crystal, in the cavities of which have been found small portions of bitumen; but the stone itself is of little value, because, after being exposed for a year or two to the action of the air and frost, it crumbles into dust. No animal remains have hitherto been discovered in any of these rocks; but several petrifications of the pine tribe have been found in the strata, and small portions

also of crystallized quartz. Many excellent specimens of valuable ironstone are almost everywhere to be found in the beds of the rivers; but the quantity is not sufficient to compensate the expense of carriage and the labour of digging them out of the banks.

A fine specimen of rich lead ore was lately dug up, by Mr Young of Harburn, when sinking for water, in one of his farms in this parish. It was found about sixteen feet below the surface. But no attempt has hitherto been made to follow up this discovery, although, since that period, lead ore has been dug up in three other parts of the Harburn estate. A small seam of coal was also found, some years ago, in the upper district of the parish, between Camilty and Crosswoodburn; and, since that time, several others have been discovered, one of them between three and four feet thick, very near the surface; and this estate abounds also in limestone and manganese, with many promising appearances of iron. The covering of the rocks is of various kinds. If the rotten rock or whinstone be near the surface, the soil is dry and fertile; but when deep, it is generally cold and wet. It cannot be said that any of these fields of rock are covered with alluvial deposits, or with transported soil, unless what has been for ages accumulated along the bottom of the Cairn Hills can be considered of this description. In many spots, the soil may be considered as rich; but, being exposed to so much moisture, and in so elevated a situation, the process of vegetation must necessarily be slow; and the grasses being of a diminutive growth, although of excellent quality, yield a more scanty supply.

*Botany.*—The plants most peculiarly attached to the best soils are the poas, meadow fescue, Timothy grass, cocks foot, *Dactylus glomerata*, meadow soft grass, or Yorkshire white, *Holcus lanatus*. On moist clay and mossy soils is to be found that very valuable grass brought into notice by Dr Richardson of Ireland, and which has been advantageously cultivated by Mr Young of Harburn and others, in the parish of Mid-Calder, to great extent, and at little expense,—the creeping bent grass, or fiorin, *Agrostis stolonifera*. It grows luxuriantly in a wet or spongy soil, unsuitable for other grasses; and its growth is most vigorous in moist, warm, and sheltered spots. In favourable seasons, when properly cultivated, it yields from four to five hundred stones per acre of the most nourishing food for cattle and horses; and it is not liable to be injured by the wetness of the season like

common rye-grass hay. The white clover, *Trifolium repens*, is another of the natural grasses, which is peculiarly attached to the soils of this district, and is reckoned one of the most valuable pasture grasses which requires no cultivation. In the inferior, stiff soils, which are unfriendly to healthy vegetation, the dock and the common rush universally maintain their hold; but, as soon as the ground is properly drained, and comes under cultivation, they are no longer to be seen.

The botany of this parish furnishes little that is peculiarly interesting. Of the rarer plants found here, the following may serve as an example; and the statement having been furnished by Robert Maughan, Esq. of Edinburgh, who is well known as an eminent botanist, may be relied upon as correct.

List of plants found in Calderwood.

<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	<i>Habenaria bifolia</i>
<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>
<i>Asperula odorata</i>	<i>Lysimachia Nemorum</i>	<i>Hyacinthus non-scriptus</i>
<i>Cnicus heterophyllus</i>	<i>Asplenium Filix-femina</i>	Fl. Alb.
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>
<i>Milium effusum</i>	<i>Aspidium spinulosum</i>	————— <i>humifusum</i>
<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>	<i>Viburnum Opulus</i>	<i>Allium ursinum</i>
<i>Pyrola minor</i>	<i>Viola palustris</i>	<i>Campanula latifolia</i>
<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	<i>Prunus Cerasus</i>	<i>Trollius Europæus</i>
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	<i>Trifolium filiforme</i>	<i>Listera Nidus-Avis</i>
<i>Rubus cœsius</i>	<i>Lotus major</i>	<i>Rubus Chamæmorus</i>

The plantations here consist chiefly of the common fir, larch, spruce, the oak, the beech, the ash, and the elm. Almost all those varieties seem adapted to the soil and climate, and in general thrive well. Near Calder House there are many fine limes and beeches; but the tree that seems to have attained to the largest size is a plane, which, from age, is now reduced to a mere trunk. In the former Statistical Account of this parish, it is stated that the trunk of this tree was 14 feet high, its circumference at the thickest part, 18 feet, and that the branches extended at least 30 feet on either side. On this tree are two large protuberances where it is said the *jugs* were formerly fixed. The age of this plane cannot be exactly ascertained; but it is particularly mentioned in our session records, December 1617, and as being then of a very considerable size.

The most extensive tract of woodland in this district, is Calderwood, the property of Lord Torphichen. It lies south-east of Calder House, and is very beautifully situated between the Muirieston and Linhouse Waters, the former of which is sometimes

called the Fore-wood Water, and the latter the Back-wood Water. It appears to have been originally a copsewood, the outskirts of which have been filled up with forest and other trees. It extends up the banks of the Linhouse Water above a mile and a half.

The trees to which the richest soils appear to be most congenial are, the plane-tree, *Platanus*, the lime-tree, the ash, the beech, and all the different species of poplars and willows. All these thrive best in a humid loam. There are many oaks also, but none of which have as yet arrived at any great age or perfection.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Family of Torphichen.*—The first authentic account we have of this ancient family, is in the reign of David II., 1336, when Sir James Sandilands obtained a grant from that monarch of lands in the county of Peebles, for his lands of Craiglockard and Stenypath, in the county of Edinburgh. He also possessed the lands and barony of Wiston, in Lanarkshire; and, in 1346, he obtained a confirmation of the lands of Sandilands and Reidmyre, in Douglasdale, from William, Lord Douglas. Having greatly distinguished himself by his many heroic actions and eminent services, under that illustrious commander, in the war against the English, he became so great a favourite that he obtained the hand of his sister, Elionora, Countess of Carrick, in marriage. She was only daughter of Archibald Douglas, of Douglas, and relict of Alexander Bruce, Earl of Carrick; and with her he received the barony of West-Calder, in "*liberum maritagium*," to be held by them and their heirs, in like manner as Earl William held the said barony from Duncan, Earl of Fife. In this manner arose the connection of the House of Sandilands with that of Douglas; and, in consequence of this alliance, the Sandilands family came eventually, as heirs-at-law, to quarter the Douglas's arms with their own.

James Sandilands, the fruit of this alliance, being also a person of great merit, received the honour of knighthood from Robert II., who esteemed him so highly, that he gave him his own lawful daughter, the Lady Jane, together with a grant of the baronies of Dalzell, Modirvale, and the lands of Erthbisset, Auchtirbanok, and Slamanonmoor, with other pertinents, which the family gradually lost; but from their predilection to Calder, and this being their principal residence, they are chiefly known under that designation. These facts are sufficiently proved by authentic evidence

in the Torphichen charter-chest, which further demonstrates the affluence and consideration of this family in ancient times. Among other documents in the possession of the family, there is one of 1384, whereby King Robert II., who was then at Calder House, attended by his court, remits "dilecto filio nostro Jacobo de Sandylendis militi, et Johanne sponsæ suæ, filiæ nostræ karrissimæ, and to their lawful heirs, in perpetuum, the feudal casualty pro Castriwarda Baronis de Caldoure," and by another original document, dated 7th February 1404, James Sandilands, the ancestor of this family, is styled the king's nephew, his mother, the princess Johanna, being the sister of Robert III. The former Sir James, in right of his mother, Elionora, only sister of William, first Earl of Douglas, became heir general of the Douglasses. Between her and her first husband, the Earl of Carrick, there was no surviving issue, so that at the death of the children of the above Earl William without issue, his immediate line became extinct; and, as James Sandilands, by his wife, Elionora, the only sister of Earl William, had a son *James*, this son became heir-at-law, and heir of all the family estates destined to heirs general. The noble family of Torphichen thus became heirs-general, as they still are, of this distinguished House of Douglas, whose arms they have invariably borne in memory of their descent. The arms of Sandilands, together with the chief insignia of Douglas, are repeatedly sculptured, in the fifteenth century, upon the ancient parts of the church of Calder, and, in one instance, with angels for supporters, which likewise marks their connection with the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, as may be seen from inspection of the Great Seal of the Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, as sculptured in 719, on which are angels for supporters. From another original document it appears, that Isabel, Countess of Mar, who was heir-at-law of the House of Douglas, had obtained possession of the barony of Cavers, with some other lands, but that James Sandilands, by a deed of King Robert III., endeavoured to prevent her from alienating the said barony, which was a very important and valuable portion of the Douglas inheritance; yet, notwithstanding this deed, in which the king styles him "*dilecto nepoti meo*," and in which the king makes a solemn promise not to permit any part of this land to be alienated, it was rendered ineffectual by the superior power and influence of the Douglasses. Being anxious to secure the great interests thus vested in the Laird of Calder, in re-

spect of the Douglas's succession, they prevailed on Sir James Sandilands to make *renunciation of his birth-right*, which came to be vested in George Douglas, Earl of Angus, who, according to Mr Riddell, a most accurate antiquarian, was the illegitimate son of Margaret, Countess of Marr and Angus. This formal renunciation was sanctioned by the interposition of the King, on the 9th November 1398; and a charter of confirmation was passed to that effect.\*

But what elevated this noble family, and raised them to the peerage, was the acquisition of the great estates of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem by a younger son, to whom they succeeded as his heirs-at-law, he having left no issue to the principal stem. To perceive the steps by which they rose to this eminence, it will be necessary to take a short survey of the two distinguished orders of religious knighthood. Sir James Sandilands, one of the ancestors of this noble family, was the last Grand Master of the Knights Hospitallers, or Knights of St John of Jerusalem, afterwards of Rhodes and of Malta. They were also called Friars Hospitallers, or simply Hospitallers. Besides these, there was another order of knighthood, the Knights Templars, or Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

From MSS. in the Torphichen charter-chest, it appears that the order of the Knights Hospitallers was instituted in 1099. Their dress was a black mantle, with a white cross on the left breast. The order of the Templars was instituted about 1119. This order, to distinguish them from the other, adopted a white mantle as their dress, as an emblem of innocence, with a red cross on the breast, as a symbol of willing martyrdom. From being *militēs togati*, both orders thus became *militēs armati*, and vowed to defend with their swords that religion which they had formerly guarded by their prayers. At first they became glorious in arms, and then rich in revenues. The Templars, according to the book of Cupar, and also the annals of Scotland, were seated in this country as early as the time of David I., 1153, when they formed a settlement on the South Esk, in Mid-Lothian; but the chief residence of the Hospitallers was at Torphichen, in Linlithgowshire, and the time of their first settlement is uncertain. Although at first the Templars consisted only of nine individuals, they afterwards increased, both in wealth and in num-

\* See Riddell's remarks on the Scotch Peerage Law, p. 161, 203; also his Tracts, Legal and Historical, p. 223.

bers. As individuals they retained their vow of poverty; but their vow was but a cozenage of the world. They had rich palaces and revenues, and nineteen thousand manors in Christendom, belonging to their order. Vice, the almost invariable attendant upon luxury, may have corrupted them to a certain extent; but it is more than probable that the avarice of the sovereign Pontiff, and of his coadjutor, Philip the Fair of France, who hated the Templars, was the true cause of their being suppressed. On 5th October 1307, the Knights Templars throughout the whole of Europe were seized and imprisoned, and, after being tried for capital crimes, were condemned, and many of them put to death. All their wealth and vast domains were confiscated, and bestowed on the sovereigns in whose dominions they lay, or were given to their rivals, the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, afterwards of Malta, and to such persons as were in favour with the sovereign Pontiff.

In Germany, England, and Scotland alone they were treated with humanity. Thus fell this once powerful and illustrious order of the Knights Templars, who, in virtue of their own sovereignty, when in their full vigour, were subject to no secular power, were freed from all taxes, could witness in their own cause, and whose very houses possessed the right of sanctuary. In Scotland their estates and revenues were transferred to the Knights Hospitallers. In this way Sir James Sandilands, second son of Sir James Sandilands of Calder, having succeeded Sir Walter Lindsay as preceptor of the order of St John of Jerusalem, in Scotland, in 1538, obtained possession of the vast wealth and revenues belonging to that order. But, although the lands of the Templars were given to their rivals the Hospitallers, they still retained the name of the *terre templarie*—the Temple-lands; and in time this name was given also to the estates of the Hospitallers. An abstract of the charters, and other papers recorded in the Chartulary of Torphichen, from 1581 to 1596, extending to upwards of 50 quarto pages, was printed at Edinburgh, 1830, by its possessor, the late Mr Robert Hill, W. S., for private circulation. Sir Walter Lindsay kept a regular rental of all the lands, patronages, tithes, feu-duties, &c., belonging to this preceptory; and the last minute of his hand-writing, subjoined to said rental, bears date 26th August 1539; and annexed is a note, in the hand-writing of his immediate successor, Sir James Sandilands, viz.—“This rental is Schir Valter Lyndsea's hande-wryt, and syn his decease vas never alterit, nor lang time afor.” Signed, JAMES SANDILANDS of Torphichen.

It appears that this Sir James had resided for several years at Malta; and, being esteemed as a young man of excellent talent and good education by Sir Walter Lindsay, Lord St John, he was elected by the Grand Prior and his Chapter to be one of the knights of that ancient military order, and was thus appointed successor to Sir Walter, at whose death he was invested with the title, power, and jurisdiction of Lord St John of Jerusalem in Scotland, and in all the rights and revenues belonging to that order. Independent of what the Hospitallers obtained from the estates of the Templars, it appears, from the register of the Great Seal, Book 12, No. 51, that James IV. conferred on them a variety of other grants and privileges, which had been bestowed upon them by former kings. In the above charter the hospital of Jerusalem, from which the name is derived, is called *Torfichin*; and the head of the order is styled Preceptor of *Torfichin*.

Having, at the time of the Reformation, in 1560, renounced Popery, and abjured the tenets of his order as Master of the Hospitallers in Scotland, Sir James Sandilands embraced the Protestant religion, and was among the first to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper from the hands of John Knox, in the great hall of Calder House, according to the Protestant form. As a necessary consequence of the Reformation, the ecclesiastical rights of the Hospitallers were suppressed; but Sir James having resigned the lordship of St John into the hands of Queen Mary, her Highness was graciously pleased, in consideration of his great merit and services, to grant to him and his heirs, on payment of 10,000 crowns of the sun,\* and 500 merks feu-duty yearly, the whole possessions which had belonged to the order, together with the accompanying dignity of a Lord of Parliament. He thus purchased the estates of both orders; and a charter was granted thereto, in which he is specially designated Lord St John, but which title he subsequently exchanged for that of Lord Torphichen. These lands were afterwards erected into the temporal lordship of Torphichen, by a charter under the Great Seal, 24th

\* At the time of the Reformation, 20 crowns of the sun were equal to L.26, 8s. Scots. This appears from the treasurer's accounts of the town of Edinburgh for 1559-60, when the following entry occurs:—20th September, ane precept to pay to Robert Watson 20 crowns of the soun, to be deliverit to him, to Jhone Willochis, 26lb. 13s. 4d. The writer has to thank the Rev. Dr Lee for this extract and explanation; and he further states, that a pound Scots was, at that time, nominally about one-fourth of the value of a pound Sterling; but, in Scotland, a pound Scots would purchase as large a quantity of the necessaries of life as a pound Sterling would do in England.

January 1563. The original charter in his person carries the baronies of Torphichen, Liston, Ballintrodo, Thankerton, Denny, Maryculter, &c., with all their superiorities, pre-eminences, dignities, and offices, possessed "tanquam preceptores de Torphichen." By this charter, the family of Sandilands became hereditary Peers of Parliament; but, as the ancient honour was never personal, but had been attached to the *fief* by immemorial usage, like the earldom of Arundel in England, which is vested in the inheritance of the Castle and Lordship of Arundel; so the title of Torphichen thus became a territorial honour, declared, by an act of Charles I., to subsist in the mean portion of the mesuage of the Lordship and Barony of Torphichen. The Barony, in this manner, carries the Peerage along with it; and the remainder of this property has therefore still been retained by this noble family. According to Mr Riddell, the author already referred to, from whose researches several of these facts respecting this family have been selected, this barony, by the charter of 1563, is destined to heirs and assigns; and, in the event of that succession opening to a female, that female would be Baroness of Torphichen. From Spottiswood's "Religious Houses," under the article Torphichen, it appears that the Provincial Grand Master of the order of the Hospitallers in Scotland was a title of high honour. With us he bore the dignity of Prior, Master, or Preceptor of Torphichen, or Lord of St John. In England, the Prior, or head of the Hospitallers, sat in Parliament as Premier Baron; and the Prior in Scotland, as head of these orders, and in right of his Barony of Torphichen, in Linlithgowshire, the original seat and patrimony of the knights in Scotland, sat in Parliament alternately among the territorial barons and dignified clergy. In 1489, Lord St John held the place of Premier Baron immediately after the earls; and, in 1526, he is classed among the abbots and friars as a dignitary of the church. In the decret of ranking of the nobility 1606, he is placed next to the Lord Boyd.

*John Spottiswood.*—Another person of distinguished merit connected with this parish was Mr John Spottiswood, parson of Calder-Comitis, or Mid-Calder, and one of the superintendents of the church, an office which was not intended to be permanent, but designed merely as a temporary expedient to assist in the planting of new churches, in consequence of the great scarcity of Presbyterian ministers, for the supply of new erections and vacant charges. This was a very laborious duty, superintendents being required to

preach thrice every week, and to remain in no place more than twenty days, till they had passed through the whole bounds of their visitation. Mr Spottiswood is represented as a pious and learned man, and possessed of singular endowments. Being a descendant of the lairds of Spottiswood in the Merse, he was the chief of that ancient family. His father's name was William. He was distinguished for his military prowess, and fell at the battle of Flodden Field. He himself was educated at the College of Glasgow, and was designed for the Church. During his residence in England, he became familiarly acquainted with Archbishop Cranmer, who confirmed him in his resolution of adhering to the study of theology. Having returned to his own country, he obtained an introduction, through the Earl of Glencairn, to Matthew, Earl of Lennox, who afterwards employed him on a mission to Henry VIII. of England; and, on his return to Scotland, being known to Sir James Sandilands of Calder, at that time a person of great authority, he was prevailed on to accept of the parsonage of Calder, which, at the beginning of the Reformation, was then void. In 1560, he was appointed superintendent of Lothian, Merse, and Teviotdale, the duties of which office he discharged during a period of twenty years. In reality he exercised the powers and fulfilled the duties of a bishop merely under a different name; for it was not so much the office as the name to which the first Reformers felt an aversion; and in the discharge of this sacred function he continued, with the approbation of all good men, till the time of his death, although his parishioners frequently complained in vain that they were deprived of their pastor.

Another still more eminent individual connected with this parish was John Spottiswood, afterwards Archbishop of St Andrew's, the superintendent's son. He was a native of this parish, and was born in 1565; and, in 1585, he succeeded his father as minister of Calder-Comitis, having been employed as his father's assistant when he was only eighteen years of age. In 1601, he attended the Duke of Lennox as his chaplain on an embassy to the court of Henry IV. of France; and, on the succession of James VI. to the crown of England, he was called to his service; and James Beaton, Archbishop of Glasgow, dying, his Majesty not only preferred him to that see, but, on account of his great prudence and distinguished talents in civil matters, he admitted him to be one of his Privy Council in Scotland; and in this capacity he was sent to England, and appointed almoner to Queen Anne. At the time

of his instalment to the office of Archbishop of Glasgow, the revenue of that high office did not exceed L.100 Sterling per annum. In 1605, he was advanced to the metropolitan see of St Andrew's, and thus became primate of all Scotland. In using his best endeavours to recover some portions of the church's patrimony, he is said to have made nearly fifty journeys from Scotland to London. With James I. he was in great favour, and he was the person who crowned Charles I., as King of Scotland, in the abbey church of Holyrood. In 1635, he was promoted to the office of chancellor; but, in consequence of the civil war, he was soon after obliged to retire to England, where, after a short time of grief and trouble, he expired in 1639. Before he expired, he made a confession of his faith of the apostle's creed; and, touching the government of the church, he considered Episcopacy the only right and apostolic form,—parity among ministers being a breeder of confusion.

He compiled an excellent history of the Church of Scotland, in which there is much curious and interesting matter, from the year 1203 to the termination of the reign of James VI.

*Ministers of the Parish.*—Our parish records are silent as to the person who succeeded the superintendent and his son in this cure; but from the synod and session records it appears that Mr William Burnet was minister here in 1691. He was succeeded by Mr John Lookup in January 1698; who seems to have been a person of very respectable talent, and of no inconsiderable literary attainments. Mr James Watson was admitted in 1759; and Dr Dobie, afterwards minister of Linlithgow, succeeded him in 1773. Being promoted to the cure of the parish of Linlithgow, he was succeeded by Dr Wilson in 1792. In 1793, Dr Wilson was translated to the parish of Falkirk. In 1795, Dr John Sommers was admitted to the office of minister in this parish. He wrote a few articles in the "Encyclopædia Edinensis," of which he was the proprietor, and of the last three volumes of which he was also the editor.

*Heritors.*—Lord Torphichen is the principal heritor, and the undoubted patron of the church and parish of Mid-Calder. The rental of the parish, in Scots money, is as under; and those who pay stipend to the minister are as follows:

Lord Torphichen, for barony of Calder,	L.2466	5	10	Scots.
Mrs Hay Primrose, Linhouse, new Burnbrae,	557	2	11	
Earl of Buchan, Pumpherston,	406	13	4	
William Bruce, Esq., Alderstone,	364	0	0	

EDINBURGH.

A B

Alexander Young, Esq., Camilty,	230	18	6
Heirs of Thomas Hardy, Esq., Charlesfield,	152	0	0
James M. Hog, Esq., Murieston,	141	11	0
Robert Downie, Esq., East Cairns and East Colzium,	138	10	0
John Keir, Esq., Westfield and Wester Murieston,	151	8	7
Earl of Rosebery, Alderstone Mains,	102	6	8
Archibald Bruce, Esq., Bankton,	102	5	3
Mrs White, Howden,	87	10	0
Rev. Dr Laird, West Cairns and West Colzium,	81	0	0
Earl of Morton, Harperrig,	86	0	0
John Graham, Wester Causeyend,	29	10	0
William, Auld, Esq., Howden Park,	22	10	0
Miss Horsburgh, New Park,	17	6	6
John Davie Martin, Esq., part of Charlesfield,	12	0	0
Robert Bauchop, Esq., Muirhouses,	8	11	5

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L.5157 10 0

The present rental, including the feus, is about L.7000; and several of the properties have doubled, and some have trebled the rental in pounds Sterling, corresponding to the original valuation in Scots money.

Besides these, there are several other small properties, which pay a trifling portion of stipend, but are subject to no other public burdens.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial register, containing the dates of baptisms and marriages, with the contributions and disbursements for the poor, and all the other acts of the kirk-session, commences 27th July 1604; but in several places it is imperfect, to 8th November 1691. From that period to the present, the record is more distinct, and in a more perfect state of preservation, and contains, for many years, not only the acts and church discipline exercised in the session, but likewise an account of certificates either granted or received by the session from individuals who came to reside in the parish. These registers, for the first hundred years, are rather in a dilapidated state, and the pages, in several places, have been misplaced by the binder; but, after that period, down to the present date, the whole of the books of church discipline and deaconry, and the register of births and marriages, are in a state of good preservation. It is much to be regretted that there is no separate register of deaths and burials.

*Antiquities.*—The remains of several mansions which bear the mark of great antiquity are still to be seen in this parish, such as Cairns Castle, Murieston Castle, and, till lately, the foundation of an ancient building at Pumpherston. If common report can be relied on, some of these have been baronial residences, and seem to have been fortified places in troublesome times. Respecting the old Castle of Cairns, which consists of a double tower, report would

induce us to believe that it was founded by Sir William Crichton, Lord High Admiral of Scotland, who had a possession in the parish of Cramond. This castle is supposed to have been built about 1440, and Sir William is said to have been connected with the noble family of this parish. These reports, however, are destitute of any historical proof.

Murieston Castle, now the property of Mr Keir, having fallen into decay, the present proprietor has repaired, or rather rebuilt, a small portion of it. The other very ancient building at Pumpherton, the property of the Earl of Buchan, has long been in ruins, and has lately been entirely removed. The mansion-house of Linhouse likewise bears the marks of great antiquity, having towers and battlements, which are still in tolerably good preservation.

In the south-west district of this parish is a Roman camp or post, in a state of tolerable preservation. It stands on a commanding situation, on the summit of an eminence called Castle Greg (*Castellum Gregis*,) near the passage of the ridge which separates Lothian from Clydesdale, and to the west of which passes the road from this parish to Lanark by Crosswoodhill. In this camp, now the property of Alexander Young, Esq. of Harburn, several Roman coins have been dug up in good preservation, on which the Roman eagle is sufficiently apparent. This camp is not situated in the parish of West Calder, as was supposed by the author of the last Statistical Account of that parish, but in the farm of Camilty or Cameltree, in this parish. Some years ago, three enterprising young farmers dug up the foundation of the well belonging to this camp; and, under the great stone in which the flag-staff had stood, they discovered a considerable quantity of Roman coins, some of which were purchased by a goldsmith in the city of Edinburgh.

The ancient part of the building of Calder House may also be considered as a work of great antiquity. The walls are impenetrably hard, and are about 7 feet in thickness. The great hall, which is now the drawing-room, stands upon arches, and, in early times, was paved with stone.

In this large apartment, formerly called the hall of Calder House, the great Reformer, John Knox, administered the Holy Sacrament of the Supper, according to the Protestant form, for the first time in Scotland after the Reformation. This room, accordingly, is appropriately adorned at the one end by an excellent

portrait of the Reformer, from which are taken almost all the common engravings of this wonderful man; and, at the other end, is a portrait of the beautiful Queen Mary, the unfortunate, if not the innocent object of his animadversions. That the sacrament was dispensed in Scotland by Knox, on various occasions and in different places before this time, is abundantly clear from Knox and Calderwood's History, and from Wodrow's valuable MSS., Vol. vi. p. 10; also from Dr Cook's History of the Reformation, and Petre's General History of the Church, Part ii. p. 184; but, in all the instances mentioned or alluded to by these authors, the sacrament must have been dispensed privately, and when the Popish church was in great vigour; whereas, when it was dispensed at Calder, the Reformation had made very considerable progress, both at home and abroad; and therefore there can be no reason to doubt but that this was the first open celebration of it in conformity to the practice of the Reformed Church in Scotland, after the establishment of Presbyterianism by act of Parliament in 1592.

In the middle of the kitchen of Calder House, is the deep draw-well already noticed; and, if tradition can be trusted, there was a secret concealed passage under ground from Calder House to the church or village of Mid-Calder, from which it may be supposed that, at an early period of our history, Calder House must have been a place of considerable strength.

There is another building of great antiquity, the parish church, which stands at a small distance from Calder House, on the south of the village. No date has been discovered to record the time of its erection. The walls are in excellent repair, and it was newly roofed in 1792, but the seating is of an earlier date. At the east end of the building is attached a cemetery belonging to the noble family.

On the stones which support the Gothic windows are sculptured various coats of arms, of the Stewarts, Douglasses, and Torphichens, with the initials of the family name, from which there is some reason to believe that this fabric was originally erected by some of the ancestors of this noble family. Immediately opposite the pulpit, within the church, are the remains of a very ancient wooden seat, on which is carved, in raised letters, the following inscription:—"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 1595." It also contains the initials J. S., J. L., and R. W. This seat was probably erected soon after the Reformation; for it is certain that churches, in general, were not fully seated till long after

that period. Near to this seat, when the church was lately undergoing a slight repair, several coins were found of the reign of Charles I.

*Tumuli.*—The tumuli or cairns in Scotland are also known by the name of laws or barrows. Several of these are to be seen all along the banks of the Almond, not only as it runs through this parish, but through all its course, till it unites with the Frith of Forth at Cramond. On its south bank, about two miles west of the village, there may be seen four barrows or tumuli, near which, according to common tradition, a great battle was fought, in early times, between the Picts and Scots; or at another period, when Constantine IV. attacked Malcolm, the Scottish general. Many tumuli or mounds of this kind are to be found where dead bodies have been deposited. At an early period of our history, the water of Almond is said to have been a very important pass, which may, in some degree, account for the great number of these barrows and stone coffins, which are everywhere to be found along its banks.

Several other artificial mounds are to be seen not far from the banks of the Almond. One of the most remarkable of these is the *Cunnigar*, which signifies the guard or keeper of the conies or rabbits. It lies between the Almond and the village; and it is said that upon this mound were burnt many of those unhappy, wretched creatures, called witches. In those days of superstition, Calder was considered one of the most noted places of their rendezvous. The writer has conversed with people in this place, who, in their youth, have known persons that were actually employed to guard those who were suspected of witchcraft.\*

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, according to Dr Webster's report, the amount of the population of this parish was 760; and, in 1793, Dr Wilson, states it, in his Statistical Account of that date, to be 1251, of whom 588 were males, and 663 females, the latter thus exceeding the former by 75. Of these, 689 belonged to the country part of the parish, and the remaining 562 were inhabitants of the town. He represents the population as having been for a few years previous to this date, rather upon the decline. In 1831, the population was 1412; in 1836, it was 1404; and in 1841, 1456.

For several years, it may be said that there have been no resident heritors in the parish, excepting two very small proprietors.

\* The records of the kirk-session furnish some interesting notices on this subject.

Among the nobility who have property in this parish, are Lord Torphichen, the principal heritor, and the Earls of Morton, Buchan, and Rosebery. The number of persons who have landed property within the parish is twenty; and of these all except three have land of the yearly value of upwards of L.50.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Mr James Knox, who, some years ago, published an excellent map of the county of Mid-Lothian, has obligingly favoured the writer with an accurate statement of the number of imperial acres which the parish contains. He calculates that, on the north of a line due east and west, passing through Westfield, there are 4815 imperial acres; and on the south of said line, 7524; making in all, 12,339 imperial acres. The proportion of arable to pasture lands, may be nearly as one to two. The farmers and proprietors are yearly reducing the quantity of uncultivated and mossy land; and, by this means, are profitably increasing both their tillage and their pasture fields. There is no undivided common belonging to this parish, although the sheep farms have but few subdivisions, being mostly surrounded only with a ring fence. Excepting Calderwood, there is no copse or natural wood, but the whole extent of land under planting is considerably above 200 acres. The trees are chiefly of the fir tribe, including also a mixture of ash, plane, elm, beech, and oak, &c. as already noticed: and, in the management of these plantations, the proprietors generally err, by not thinning and pruning them in proper time; but this is no doubt of less importance in strips, which are intended chiefly for ornament and shelter.

The best arable land in the lower districts lets at from L.2 to L.2, 10s. per acre; the outfield in the higher grounds, if arable, from 10s. to 15s.

The attention of agriculturists in this district has been chiefly directed to the dairy system. The dairy culture has been peculiarly advantageous, both for a quick return of ready money for rent, and for enriching the land by means of an abundant supply of valuable manure for such green crops as are necessary for winter food. It has been doubted by some practical farmers in this country, whether keeping milch-cows, fattening cattle, or fattening sheep be the most profitable. In favour of milch-cows it may be observed, that, as the produce of the dairy is never equal to the demand, the market is less fluctuating. The dairy farmer has more leisure also to attend to his farm, and has no occasion to spend his money and his time at the

country markets ; and milch-cows, properly fed and littered, produce the greatest quantity of good manure so necessary for the improvement of the land. In the reclaiming of waste land, little comparatively has been accomplished by either landlord or tenants, when compared with what has been done in some other places. In thorough draining and deep ploughing, very little has hitherto been effected ; but, as the attention of both proprietors and tenants has lately begun to be directed to the great advantages arising from such obvious improvements, there can be no doubt there will soon be in both of these an extensive and rapid advancement. Most of the farm buildings are very substantial ; and, in those lately erected, elegance as well as convenience has been an object of attention.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

In the town of Mid-Calder we have no weekly market, the shops being adequate for the supply of all necessary provisions. The market-town, to which all classes resort, and particularly the farmers on a Wednesday, is Edinburgh, which is distant twelve miles. Few from this quarter attend the market at Bathgate, although it is only seven miles distant ; nor do any attend the Linlithgow market, which is only two miles farther.

*Village, &c.*—Bellsquarry, which may be considered as the only other village in the parish, is distant about two miles westward of Mid-Calder. Its inhabitants are chiefly labourers and mechanics.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church of Mid-Calder is situated near the north-east boundary of the parish, close to the village, and within a quarter of a mile of the parish of East Calder, which was formerly included in that of Mid-Calder. This may account for the present position of the church, which cannot be less than from seven to eight miles distant from the most remote house in the upper or pastoral district of the parish ; but, considering the state of the population, this, after all, is the best situation, as it is nearest and most convenient for the great bulk of the inhabitants. The church is in good repair ; but the exact period of its erection cannot be ascertained. It contains 438 sitters, at eighteen inches each, but may easily accommodate 100, or perhaps 150 more, including young and old, without being much over-crowded. Fully one-half of the whole tenantry who have taken leases, and now occupy farms in this parish, are Seceders ; and several families who belong to the Establishment, being nearer to the parish churches of Livingstone and West Calder than their own, have always been ac-

customed to attend public worship at these places. A small number of the poorer families in the village also seldom attend any place of worship, under the pretence of want of suitable clothing; so that including these, and the number of servants necessarily detained at home in the management of large dairy farms, the church, though always well attended in good weather, is never crowded except during the time of the communion. The church has never been legally divided; but the heritors, at a meeting by a written agreement, to which they adhibited their signatures, appropriated the seats according to their valuations when it was new seated, 8th August 1768. This document was also signed by their preses, with reference to their sederunt of that date, the original plan and copy of which are laid up, and may be found among Lord Torphichen's papers. Ever since patronage has become the law of the land, it has been exercised by the Torphichen family, in such a manner as has always given satisfaction to the parishioners; so that every clergyman presented to this benefice has uniformly met with the most cordial reception from the people. By the "Decreet of locality, 20th July 1647, the local stipend and provision of the Kirk of *Calder Comitis*, is found and declared to be 1200 merks, and 50 merks for communion elements, and a tack duty payable by Lord Torphichen, of L.20 Scots, four kyne, and a horse's grass in the wood of Calder, together with the manse and glebe." In 1743, James, Lord Torphichen, brought a process of reduction of the decret against the heritors, in so far as it could import a valuation of the teinds in exclusion of the titular; but the Lords repelled the reasons of reduction and assoilzied the defenders. The access to the pasturage in the wood of Calder being found not only extremely inconvenient in crossing the water in time of flood, but sometimes even dangerous, this servitude was afterwards exchanged for an additional piece of land, which, being added to the glebe, made the whole extend to eight acres. In 1806, these eight acres were given in exchange for forty-three acres and one rood of land, of a quality proportionably inferior, and situated about three-quarters of a mile west of the village; and, in 1807, the present manse and offices were erected on the new glebe. When land was at its highest value in 1806, the ground of the present glebe was estimated at L.1, 6s. per acre; and a small part of the old glebe, about half an acre being let as garden ground, was valued at L.8, 8s.; the rest of it at L.5, 5s. per acre; and to this was added an additional allowance for re-

moving the glebe at so inconvenient a distance from the manse and village. This exchange led to many improvements, and was the occasion of very considerable expenses to both parties. It greatly added to the beauty of the access to Calder House, and, in time, will add to the value of the glebe to future incumbents. The approach to Calder House now runs along a beautiful bank through the old glebe, which has been greatly ornamented by planting. Considerable sums have also been laid out on the new glebe, which is now let at L.1, 10s. per acre, exclusive of the roads and strips of planting. The whole teind of the parish, which was valued in 1647, at that time amounted only to 1250 merks, or L.69, 8s. 10½d., from which, after deducting L.8, 6s. 8d. the legal allowance for communion elements, there remains of free teind only L.61, 2s. 2½d.; but, by the Government bounty, the minister receives L.88, 17s. 10d. Sterling per annum, to make up his stipend, in terms of the late Act of Parliament, to L.150, besides the L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. Although there was no free teind in this parish, the heritors, in 1805, with the exception of two or three, presented the present incumbent with a bond for a voluntary augmentation of one-half more than the stipend they were legally bound to pay.

There is one Seceding meeting-house or chapel in this parish, which was erected in 1765. It is beautifully situated on the north bank of the Almond Water, near the village, and can accommodate nearly 400 sitters. About 90 seats are let to the people of this parish, including those occupied by paupers, which are paid out of their session funds. Between 70 and 80 of the communicants belong to this parish, and the other members are from the neighbouring districts. The emoluments amount to L.100, arising from seat-rents and collections, with a house and garden, and a little more than two acres of land for a glebe. Besides this, the present minister has a salary of L.50, as Professor of Pastoral Theology and Ecclesiastical History; and, during the discharge of the duties of this office, he resides in Edinburgh for the two months of August and September, teaching four hours every lawful day, Saturday excepted, and the number of students attending his class is about 70. There are only two Episcopal and one Catholic family in this parish. The number of communicants in the Established Church is from 340 to 400.

*Education.*—Besides the parochial, there are six day and three

evening schools in the parish, and the number of scholars at each is 335.

Of this number forty-two come from the adjoining parishes, and about seven or eight go from this parish to the neighbouring schools; so that the number of scholars that have been for some months under a course of instruction in the parish during this year may be fairly estimated at 300, which is more than the fifth of the population. One of the female schools is supported partly by subscription; but all the rest, excepting the parish school, are on the teacher's own adventure. The children in all those schools are instructed in the common branches of education; and in the female schools they are also taught needle-work and knitting.

In addition to the common branches, the parish schoolmaster teaches Latin, Greek, French, practical mathematics, algebra, mechanics, also ancient and modern geography, and church music; and for the last receives the sum of L.11, 2s. 2½d. per annum, arising from money mortified on the lands of the barony of Calder, by a person of the name of Moodie, who was a *cadger* or carrier of eggs and poultry to Edinburgh, during the time of the plague. Having escaped the infection, he amassed a considerable fortune, and left a sum of money for the support of our parish school, besides other property. The patrons and managers of this mortification were, "Lord Torphichen, Sir Alexander Maxwell of Saughtonhall, afterwards of Calderwood, with one or two of the ministers of Edinburgh, at the time, who have a right to present a person fit to teach the four parts of grammar, and art of music, or, at least, should be obliged to keep a doctor, for teaching the music art," as the said deed of mortification more fully bears. This deed also bears, that he is to enjoy and uplift every other casualty and privilege, as also to possess the dwelling-house there built for the use of the schoolmaster, he always teaching in manner as before stated. When any vacancy in the office of schoolmaster occurs, the successor requires to be presented to the situation by the patrons above-mentioned in due form. The maximum salary payable to the schoolmaster, therefore, is L.34, 4s. 4½d., which, with L.1, 6s. 8d. for deficiency of garden-ground, makes L.35, 11s. 0½d.; add the 4000 merks for teaching music, L.11, 2s. 2½d.; registration fees, and proclamation of banns, calculated at L.8, 8s.; allowance for presenting and distributing poor's funds, at L.5 each, L.10; fees for session-clerk, L.3, 8s., and for heritor's clerk, L.2, 2s.; the average school-fees for the last four years,

L.65; total income, L.135, 11s. 3d.: besides an excellent house, garden, and offices, with the advantage arising from boarders, and the chance of occasional private teaching, and an evening school.

*Library.*—There is one circulating library in the parish, of a very inferior description, consisting of a few obscure writers in divinity, and some old magazines and novels.

The only Friendly Society or charitable institution in the parish at present, is the Mason's Lodge, consisting of 160 members. The funds amount to L.370, and they give out to sick members 6s. a week, and allow L.5, 5s. to each member towards the expenses of their funeral. This charitable institution has existed for eighteen years, and is composed of members from different parishes, and is still in a flourishing condition.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The list of paupers upon the roll varies much according to circumstances. About a hundred years ago, the number of poor, as appears from the books of deaconry, generally ranged from eight to twelve. In 1557 and 1758, it varied from fifteen to twenty, besides paupers not upon the regular roll. Within these few years, those who were enrolled as permanent paupers amounted for a short time only to three, but besides these several others received occasional relief.

At present there are ten paupers receiving parochial relief, each of whom is allowed, at an average, about one shilling weekly. In addition to these, a few others receive occasional assistance, which is generally laid out in the purchase of fuel and payment of house-rents. For some years past, however, many children count it no reproach to have their parent's names placed upon the parish roll, so that the number and expense of the poor has been gradually increasing. In 1833, the amount of distribution was L.63, 10s. 3½d.; in 1834, it was L.82, 4s. 11d.; in 1835, it was L.68, 5s. 1d.; in 1836, it was L.71, 18s. 1d. Our collections at the church door may average from L.28 to L.30 per annum.

Among the many kind and generous friends of the poor of this parish, none has a greater claim to their gratitude than the Dowager Lady Torphichen of Cramond. Ever since the decrease of the late Lord Torphichen, in 1815, her Ladyship has annually remitted to the minister of this parish L.10, to be distributed to the most necessitous and deserving of the poor, in additional comforts, over and above all to which they may otherwise be entitled from the parochial funds.

*Fairs.*—Two fairs are held here annually, one in March, the

other in October. Both of these are intended for the sale of cattle and horses, for hiring farm-servants, and for transacting all other kinds of country business.

*Fuel.*—The vast quantity of coal now annually consumed by the manufacture of iron, and by steam-engines, has raised the price of this necessary article of daily use so high, as to render it scarcely attainable by the poorer classes of the community. The conversion of common peat-moss into a fuel has, therefore, become an object of no inconsiderable importance.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In addition to the names of ministers of the parish already mentioned, it may be here stated, that Mr George Dunbar, minister of this parish, died about the end of 1641, and Mr Samuel Rutherford was presented to the kirk of Calder in October 1642. Some have supposed that Mr Rutherford was presented to the kirk of West Calder; but this seems to be an error, as the erection of West Calder did not take place till 1645. On the 13th of April 1643, Mr Hew Kennedy was ordained and inducted. For the ceremony of institution, the moderator delivered to Mr Hew the Bible and the keys of the kirk door, and also gave him possession of the manse and glebe by delivering to him “sand and stean.” He was a very remarkable man, and soon distinguished himself as one of the most zealous of the protesting party,—of which Samuel Rutherford, James Guthrie, Patrick Gillespie, &c. were the heads. He continued in the charge of the parish till the restoration of Charles II., and was regarded by his brethren, after the Revolution, as one of the most distinguished of the ministers who had survived the persecutions. He was the moderator of the first General Assembly which met after the re-establishment of the Presbyterian Church Government in 1690. In 1663, Mr Colvill was admitted minister of Mid-Calder, and died in February 1671; and, on 26th May 1672, Mr John Somerville succeeded him as minister of this parish.