

amount of assessment for the ensuing year, which is held on 31st December. The only officer for collecting and distributing the poor's funds is the schoolmaster, who for the former duty receives an allowance of L.5 per cent., levied along with, and over and above the sum assessed, and for the latter duty, L.6 per annum, paid out of the general funds. It may be added, that in the year to which the preceding data refer, the sum of L.3, 13s. 6d. was expended for the medical relief of paupers, and that this assistance is always given when required.

Besides the sources mentioned above, the poor's funds are increased by the collections made at the church doors, which amounted to L.36, 15s. 10½d., together with L.15 intrusted to the minister by private individuals, for the temporary aid of industrious workmen, who might be overtaken by disease, and distributed at his discretion.

There is no saving bank in the parish, but there are several depositors in the Edinburgh Savings Banks.

Two Friendly Societies have existed for some time. One of them has recently been dissolved, and the funds divided among the members. It was but of short duration, and never could boast of more than sixty supporters. The other and the principal one, which is very flourishing, was established in 1785, and has 200 members. Its affairs are regulated, and books audited at the yearly fair, which takes place in July.

March 1845.

PARISH OF NEWTON.

PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JOHN ADAMSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—ACCORDING to Chalmers in his *Caledonia*, previous to the Reformation, there were two parishes,—Newton and Wymet, which now form the parish of Newton. “The name of Newton,” (in former times, the spelling was Neaton or Naton), as he there remarks, “is obvious, and seems to show that there was

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in the neighbourhood some old town." Whatever there may be in this, the new town has in lapse of time passed away as well as the old, if there was one, there being now only what was the mansion-house when it formed a separate property, and a farm-steading remaining,—the church and manse having been removed, nearly a hundred years ago, to a more central situation for the united parishes. Anciently, Newton comprehended that part of the parish which is described by Chalmers as lying "on the western side of the Esk below Dalkeith," the barony of Lugton, however, being interposed betwixt it and the river, except for a short distance towards the south-eastern extremity; and was composed of the lands of Sheriffhall and Newton; while the other comprehended the lands of Edmonstone and Wymet, now written Woomet, Wolmet, and Woolmet. "This name," as the same author observes, "is of very doubtful etymology."

Boundaries, &c.—The parish is bounded by that of Dalkeith on the south; Inveresk on the east; and Liberton on the north and west. It may be $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length by nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth,—comprehending an area of upwards of 3 square miles. What formed the ancient parish of Newton is generally of a uniform surface sloping towards the Esk; the other part, however, is chiefly occupied by a ridge, which, commencing in the parish of Inveresk, makes a considerable rise just after entering this parish, and passes on by a gradual ascent to Gilmerton, where it attains its highest elevation.

From the crest of the ridge there is a very commanding prospect. Owing to the want of wood, the landscape for the most part is very uninteresting, and its aspect is far from being improved by the large villages of red-tiled houses and numerous steam engines connected with the collieries.

Climate, &c.—The climate is genial and salubrious, less rain, it is believed, falling in this parish and that of Inveresk adjoining, than in most other places, from the westerly, which are the prevailing winds in summer, carrying the clouds past on either side, after leaving the Pentlands,—constituting what is called a weather-shed. In common with the east coast in general, however, it is exposed to the ungenial easterly winds which prevail in the early part of the season, though the fogs with which they are so often accompanied do not prevail so much as on the opposite shores of the Frith. We are not aware that there are any peculiar phenomena of the atmosphere which serve as prognostics of the

weather, but our miners are made aware of approaching changes by the state of matters below ground, since they are preceded by an increased flow of water from crevices, and issue of gases and foul air from among the minerals; and when very bad weather is at hand, these last are emitted with such force as to make an audible sound not to be mistaken.

Hydrography.—As has been already noticed, the parish, at one point, touches the Esk within the policy of the Duke of Buccleuch, and the Powburn slightly intersects it at the north-west corner; but in the parish otherwise, there can scarcely be said to be a perennial streamlet, which, as compared with the country generally, may be regarded as a peculiarity. The want of water, consequently, in dry seasons is much felt, and puts the inhabitants, in these cases, to no small inconvenience.

Geology, &c.—The geology of this parish belongs exclusively to the coal formation, which renders it unnecessary to enter into detail, its general characteristics being well understood. The ridge above mentioned is traversed in the western part of the parish by numerous edge seams of this valuable mineral running in general from north, 40 degrees east, to south, 40 degrees west, and with the adjacent limestone on the north, dipping at an angle of nearly 90. Of these there are at least fifteen of various thickness from two to nine feet, and at no great distance there is the outcrop of about a dozen flat seams which run from south-east and north-east to north-west and south-west, with a dip of about 10 degrees. The first principal one of these from the surface, is the four-foot or cubical coal, which terminates about the centre of the parish, the greatest depth at which it has been found being about fifty yards in sinking. The next in succession is the splint coal, about sixteen yards deeper than the former, which varies from 5 to 7 feet in thickness. The third is the rough coal, generally fourteen yards below the splint, and varying from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in thickness. The fourth is the beefy coal, which is found fourteen yards deeper than the former, and in thickness varies from 3 feet 8 inches to 5 feet. The fifth is the diamond coal, which lies about thirty yards below the bed of the preceding, and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ in thickness where it occurs. It is not found, however, in almost any of the workings of the Edmonstone colliery, which extend over the south-eastern part of the parish. The sixth is the jewel coal seam, which is the deepest that has been wrought. It is of very superior quality, and lies ten yards deeper than the last mentioned in those places where it is

found. Most probably there are a succession of valuable seams at a still greater depth, but as the expense of working would be too great to admit of their being turned to account, the riches of the field have not been farther explored.

The depths above given apply to the field about the centre of it. In the Edmonstone engine-pit, which is the farthest working to the dip of the jewel coal, its depth is 84 fathoms; and the splint, which is the nearest to the surface, the four-foot or cubical coal not being found there, is at the depth of 50 fathoms.

In general the flat seams in this parish are found extending in regular order: there are, however, what are technically termed nips and dikes, which, where they occur, occasion interruptions and dislocations, which have the effect of rendering mining operations often very troublesome and very uncertain in their results. In the eastern part of the parish there is a dike, whose course is in general from south-east to north-west, which has the effect of throwing the above seams down to the east from ten to fifteen feet. About 800 yards west of the place where this dike was first discovered in the Edmonstone coal-field, there is another in the jewel coal seam, which may more properly be called a nip, the coal being found nearly on the same level after the interruption thereby occasioned. It runs about north-east two degrees, in a direction to meet the one already mentioned, which in reality it is found to do. There are also two dikes in the Sheriffhall coal-field. The first occurs in the eastern part of it, where the diamond coal terminates, and runs generally north twenty degrees west. The other is near the hamlet of Sheriffhall, at the extremity of the parish, with a direction nearly north-west. This is called a revolution dike, because, to the west of it in the parish of Liberton, the nature and qualities of the seams are changed, and are decidedly inferior to those lying on the east, being the seams already described. With regard to the edge-seams, there is one found intersecting them a little to the north of the village of Edmonstone, which has the effect of shifting them some distance out of their previous course. All these dikes are of whinstone.

As to the surface, there is a considerable variety of soils in the parish. Towards the south-east corner, the soil is light and sandy, which is succeeded by stiff clay. About the centre it is a rich loam, which deteriorates as we ascend the ridge, the northern exposure of which is indifferent, while there is at the foot of it, in

the north-west quarter, strong carse land, which at one time formed an extensive meadow.

Zoology and Botany.—Under these heads there is nothing to note in particular, there being no species of animals or plants but what is common to this part of the country generally. Game is not abundant, there being a want of cover; and as to farm stock, there is little or no breeding of any kind, with the exception of a few horses. As there is no waste land, there is no scope for the botanist; neither are there any plantations, with the exception of about sixty acres of thriving young wood added to the Duke of Buccleuch's park from his property in this parish, and a quantity of fine old trees surrounding the mansion-house and diffused over the policy at Edmonstone, the seat of John Wauchope, Esq.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

“The church of Newton (says Chalmers) and its pertinents were granted during the twelfth century to the monks of Dunfermline, to whom it was confirmed by Bishop Richard and Pope Gregory. Till the Reformation exploded such establishments, the monks enjoyed the parsonage, and the cure was performed by a vicar.” As to Woolmet or Wymet, we are informed by the same authority that “it was granted by David I., with all its rights, to the same monks, which was confirmed by the diocesan and the popes. They enjoyed the parsonage, while the cure was performed by a vicar. These two parishes were united at the Reformation, and the lands and churches were included in James VI.'s grant to Lord Thirlstane, from whose descendants the patronage went by purchase into the family of Wauchope of Edmonstone, with whom it remains.” After the Reformation, it was long in being planted, in consequence, it is believed, of the benefice being appropriated by the crown; and the parish for many years had only the benefit of a reader, to whom the vicarage was assigned for his maintenance. Probably this circumstance may have given rise to the following somewhat singular entry in the presbytery record, (it commences with 1582,) 31st October 1583, “Quhilk day it was appointit to reasone in thay matters, and that with diligence, quhidder gif Newton was ane paroche kirk or nocht, and also the Moorfet, quhilk things wes referrit to the eldership of Dalkeith be ye synodal assemblee.” Accordingly, of date 26th March 1584, the record bears that “it is found be tryall of honest men quha hes knowledge, that Newton kirk is ane paroche kirk.”

It appears that Lawrence Watstone was reader at this period, and probably the first who held the office, for, on the 24th January 1582-3, he was "ordainit to gif the names of the sclanderous persons within his parochin of Newton that day aucht days."

The first volume of the presbytery record is very defective, there being several large blanks. After 1584, in which year the meetings of presbyteries were interdicted by royal authority, it is not resumed till October 1588. Then there is only one half-year wanting till July 1594, when there occurs a hiatus till 1612, after which it is complete.*

* It may be interesting to extract from this record a part of the early notices in reference to this parish, which, as illustrating the ecclesiastical history of the period, may in so far be possessed of general interest. With this view we have extracted the following:—18th January 1592-3. "The quhilk day it was ordainit that Mr Willm. Knox and Archd. Simson† suld speik with the Laird of Edmonstone annent the plantation of the kirk of Newton." 25th January. "Reported by Mr Willm. Knox that the Laird of Edmonstone promisit to be cairful in the rebuilding of the kirk of Newton. As for provisione to ane minister, he shew that John Barbour, presentit unto him be the presbyterie, was in title given be him, and possession of vicarage and kirkland, quhilks suld find ane minister to serve the cuir—of the quhilk they are disappointit."

The kind and amount of instruction the parishioners received, when thus unprovided with a minister, is shown by the following:—"12th July 1593. Reportit that, in the visitation of Newton, first, the pareschone being inquirit how they were exercisit, answerit, that John Barbour, an reader, did reid twa chapters, and say the common prayers, and lernit them the grounds of religion after the reiding. Being enquiryt of his life, they answerit, in respect of his non-residence thair, that was not to be submitted to thair judgment. And with ane consent desyrit ane minister give be their moyen thair culd attean unto the benefitt. John Barbour being askit give he sett any tax of the vicarage, denyit any tax to be sett." It would appear that the difficulty hinted at to the granting of this request was found to be a serious one on the part of the presbytery, for, thereafter, we find this entry: 27th September 1593. "The brethrene having some kirks to be plantit, and not being able to be yair awn moyen to do the turne, refers ye advyss of ye Synodall next, to be taken anent ye plantation of Newton, now fallen into ye Queen's Majestie's hand." Nothing came of this at the time, and, after the long blank in the Record above alluded to, we still find this object unattained. 12th August 1612. "The quhilk day compeird Mr Thomas Hoip with Mr Patrick Edmestone, ye laird of Schiraha, and gave in a bill desyring for yair interest ye planting of ye kirk of Newton, as also desyring ye brethers' consent give yai suld offer unto yaim ane qualesyit man, either ane of ye expectants of Edinr. or our own, to teich yair for a quhille till his provision war seen to, and yairefter to be admitted; quhilk ye presbyterie yieldit to, and ordainit ye same to be enacted in yair buiks." 20th August. "The quhilk day Mr Thos. Hop did direct Mr John Aird unto ye presbyterie, desyring ye brether to direct him to Newton, and he, according to order, producing his testimoniales of his qualificatione and honestie, was ordainit to ade to ye exercise ye nixt day, as also the Sabbath following to teich at Newton." 10th December. "The quhilk day ye parochiners of Newton gave in ane bill desyring Mr John Aird's planting with yaim at Newton, yei being content with his life and doctrine. Unto the quhilk suit ye presbyterie yealdit, and has ordainit his edict to be served ye nixt day." After the edict had been served three times, and none of the parishioners having appeared to object, it was resolved to proceed to his admission, after the customary trials had been gone through.

† William Knox was minister of Cockpen and brother to John the Reformer. Archibald Simson was minister of Dalkeith, and afterwards came under the ban of the court for maintaining the ancient liberties of the kirk, as may be seen in Calderwood's History, anno 1617.

Chief Land-owners.—The property of Edmonstone in former times belonged to a family of that name, the founder of which is

Which having been done, and a reference made to the Archbishop of St Andrews to ascertain his pleasure as to that matter, instead of allowing the presbytery to go on by themselves, he answered that he would be present himself at the admission, which occasioned delay; but, on the 6th January 1614, it is reported by some of the brethren who were present, that the Archbishop had admitted him on the 4th, whereupon they gave him the right hand of fellowship.

Thus it appears, that, for more than fifty years after the "Paips kirk" had been abolished by law, the parish of Newton remained without an ordained clergyman, and that, up to this period, and, as will presently be shown, for ten years after this, no legal provision out of the benefice had been obtained.

Mr Aird did not remain long, and probably had little encouragement to do so. On the 28th September 1615 he was translated to Newbattle, and, on the 2d November, "My Lord Clerk of ye Register directit ane letter to ye presbytery, desyring Mr John Melville, sone to Mr James Melville, martyre and witness for Christ, sould be heard at Newtone kirk with yair permissioun. Mr Archd. Symson was ordainit to shaw ye Clerk of Register yat ye young man behoveth to be heard before yaim and then at Newtoun. Mr John Aird appointed to teich at Natoun kirk on Sunday come aucht days, and try the mind of ye parishoners how yai are affectionate. 23d November. Reported Mr Aird, yat he had taucht at Natoun and had renewit ye wonted offer of ye gentilmen yair extending to twa hundret merkis, and obtainet some esperance of ane hundret merkis more of ye commonaltie gif yei sall and culd have ye occasioun of an intrant quhom yei lyked. Quhilk day also ye gentilmen parochoners of Natoun directit ane missive yat yei nicht have permissioun to heir some utheris quhom yei had not as yet hard. The presbyterie grantit yeir suit, provyding Mr John Melville taucht ye next Saboth day, and ye nominat suld first be hard in ye presbyterie, according to yeir former act, and after at Natoun." 7th December. "Reportit Mr Jon. Aird, that ye parochiners of Natoun wes desyrous to heir Mr Andro Stevenson at yair kirk, the presbyterie, according to yair former act, consentit to ye same." 11th January 1616. "The parochiners of Natoun being secure, and ye presbyterie surmising sundrie guid men to teich unto yaim, thoct guid yat yei might be more desyrous to seik some, not to gif yaim any farder benefit." This it would seem had not the desired effect, and accordingly it is thus followed up. 14th February. "The brethren considering yat ye parochiners of Natoun had had sundrie guid young men to teich to yaim, and yet wes not so desyrous to have any one as need were, (the voluntary system did not work well in this instance it would appear,) ordains Mr Jno. Aird to advertis yaim, yat ye next day yei suld report yair own mynd and suit."

On the 21st February three of the heritors appeared, and "being posit quhat yai thoct of these expectants quhom ye presbyterie had directit to yaim, deponit, yat be ressoun of ye laird of Edmonstone and Sir Alex. Hay, his absence, quho had principal interest yair, yai could determine nothing. The brether ordeinit ane letter to be pennit to be sent to ye laird of Edmestoun for ye knowing of his mynd and dyet of coming, the convoy qubereof ye foressaid gentilmen promisit to tak ane care of, as also to speik Sir Alexr. Hay." 7th March. "Quhilk day compeirit ye laird of Edmestoun with ye gentilmen aforementionate, quha being posit auent yair resolution, promisit ye next day to declair yair choise." 14th March. "Compeirit Mr John Edmestoun in name of ye rest, wishing yaim to direct Mr John Melville to yaim, on this condition, that they wald sett down with him no particular sowme of stipend, but that he wald content himself with yair offer and guid will howsoever. The brether houping weill on all sydis without any farder urging yaim, ordeinit Mr John to teich yair quhile farder advysment." 20th Jan. "Mr John Melville being now content of ye provisioun quhilk ye parochoners of Natoun wald give him voluntarlie, desyrit that ye brether suld further his admissioun. Mr John Aird was ordeinit to signifie ye same to ye bischope." This was done, and Mr Aird "reportit yat ye bischope meanit yaim to proceed *ad ultimum*, and then to schew him." When this was going forward, Mr John Barbour, the reader, being "convict of riot in ye kirk and selander," on the 22d August, "ye brether appointit Mr Archd. Symson and Jno. Aird to see his desk removit by the authority of Gilbert Hay of Monkton, baillie of ye bounds," who, on the 29th, "reportit yat yei had acquaintit ye aforessaid with ye presbyterie's commissioun, quha promisit yat in all tyme coming yei sould be commerless of Jon. Barbour." In those days the "baillie

said to have come with Queen Margaret to Scotland, and to have got from her husband King Malcolm III., some lands near Edin-

of ye bounds" was ever ready, on application, to interpose his authority as a civil magistrate for such summary processes as the above, and for the enforcement of discipline where the parties were refractory.*

Mr John Melville's† trial having been gone through, and his edict thrice seryed, on the 19th September, he desired "ane formall testimoniall for his admissioun to be given to ye bischope *per se*. It was grauntit." Ordination and induction maest have followed though not noticed in the record; and accordingly, at a visitation of the kirk of Newton by the presbytery some time afterwards, occasioned by a complaint of his having been slandered by one of the parishioners, we find, among other things, Mr John expressing his "earnest desire to ye brethr yat yei wald have cair of ye provisoun of ye stipend and of ane manse to him and his successors." It is to be noted, therefore, that, up to this period, neither a stipend out of the teinds, nor a place of residence for the minister was provided in this parish. The want of them, however, was greatly felt, and measures were from time to time taken for the attainment of both. As to the former, one is as follows:—23d January 1623. "Quhillk day Mr John Melvine relaiting unto ye brethr yat it was ye will and mynde of ye Prince's counsel yat ye brethr, for ye better provisoun of Natoun, suld deall with ye gentilmen of ye parochin to see what yei will give for yair pairtes, and ye Prince's grace will fill out ye rest, also bringing a letter fra ye Archbishop to hold a visitation for yat effect. It was appointit for Tuesday next." Having taken place, "Reportit the moderator ye visitation of Natoun, where Mr John Melvine, minister, being removed, was approven. The gentilmen yair present being earnestlie desired be ye brethr, yat everie one of yaim wald do for yair own pairtes to make up a stipend to yat kirk, and ye Prince's grace wald fill up ye rest. Answered, yei payed deare for yair teyndes, so yat yei culd do nothing except yat privilie, yei wald give Mr John suretie for some help. As likwayes willed ye brethr to tak ordour ament ye valuation of yair vicarage, and to desli with ye Prince's counsel," (the crown was patron and in possession of the benefice,) "to make up ye rest of ye stipend. It being also regraitit by ye brether yat yair was not a manse for ye minister, and yat ye kirk-yaird had no dyke. The gentilmen were content to build both, and choused to yat effect four of yair tennents stentmaisters, &c. But in regard yat seed-time was now to come, ye gentilmen desyred a prorogation till after heir seed-time."

Mr John Melville was guilty of various misdemeanours, on account of which his conduct was animadverted upon by the brethren of the presbytery, on one of which occasions the record runs thus:—"4th March 1624. Compeired Mr John Melville, having come fra court, quho declaired to ye brethr, yat he had obtained of ye Prince his grace, three hundredth merks money yeirlie, and settilld by his grace's counsell to be yeirlie paid to ye kirk of Natoun. The said Mr John being posed ament his unorderlie solemnizing of marriage, confessed he had sinned against God and ye kirk yairin, and quhat he had done, he did upon necessitie, being engaged in debt to ye parties be reason of ye meanness of his provisoun. But now seeing God had provyded him, besought ye brethr most humblie to pardon him, and promisit yairafter,

* That the said official also voluntarily interponed his authority for the attainment of these objects at a much later date, during the existence of the heritable jurisdictions, the following will show:—"Acts of the Barron Court of Edmonstoun, holden at the tounhead thereof by Alexander Elphinstone, bailie to John Wauchope of Edmonstoune, the 26th October 1708." In the first, the said bailie ratifies and approves of all former acts of court made for frequenting of God's worship on the Sabbath day, and for obeying the church censures and the discipline thereof, and ordaine those guilty being convict to pay ten pounds Scots for pious uses according to the said acts of court.

† From what is said of him above as having been the son of one who was a martyr and witness for Christ, he must have been son of Mr James Melville, who was coadjutor of his uncle, Andrew Melville, both at Glasgow and St Andrews, and who, having incurred the royal displeasure, along with his uncle, by an intrepid stand for the rights and privileges of the Presbyterian Kirk of Scotland, was driven into exile, and, having been at last permitted to reside at Berwick, died there 19th January 1614, in the eighth year of his banishment.

burgh which were called after him. The family was not only of great antiquity, and from which a number of other families of distinc-

upon no occasion whatsoever, quibither in baptism or marriage, to do anything contrair to ye laudable acts and customs of ye kirk. Quhilk ye brethr, considering in sa farre as God has wrought a good work be him in getting yat provisloun to his kirk, is content to pardon him; assuring him if evr he be found to fail any way heirefter, they will proceed to ye suspending of him fra his calling." The record also bears, that, at next meeting, "The moderator delivered to Mr Jas. Robeson a band of ye laird of Edmestone's of ane hundreth merkis yeirlie to ye kirk of Natoun, to see yat Mr John Melvine put it to ye register." It is subsequently reported, (22d April 1624,) by the aforesaid Mr James, "yat he had seen ye laird of Edmestone's band put to ye register in Mr Alex. Gibsons's bookes, and ane extract yairof given to Mr John Melvine." This mortification has ever since been enjoyed by the incumbent.

Mr John Melville, upon whom the want of a sufficient provision had produced such bad effects, was still in want of a manse, for it appears that the promises made by the heritors at the forecited visitation were not redcedmed. A variety of proceedings on this subject is recorded in the minutes. But the manse, after a time, was built at the town of Newton about half a mile from the church, and that too at the minister's expense in the first instance, for at his demise, (26th October 1638,) his relict applied to the presbytery to have a valuation set upon it, as a necessary step towards claiming reimbursement from his successor, which was done, and it was reported, (8th November,) that it was valued at 1000 merks by the tradesmen appointed for the purpose. The heritors present acknowledged "ye expense upon ye said building to have been debursed of ye charges of ye said Mr John Melvine."

On the demise of Mr John Melville, no steps were taken by the Crown to fill up the vacancy, by presenting to the benefice, but the parishioners were left to provide for themselves, which they did, first, by obtaining supply from the presbytery, and then by agreeing with an expectant to take upon himself the duties of the cure, as appears from the following extracts: 31st January 1639. "Quhilk day, at ye earnest sollicitatioun of ye parichoners of Natoun, the brethr yieldit to supplie ye place of Natoun *per vices* till ye catalogue be endit. And appoyntes Mr James Porteous begin yis nixt day, and to advyse with ye sessioun quhat gentlemen are most fit to be ruling elders in yat parochie." 12th December 1639. "Quhilk day ye gentlemen of ye parochie of Natoun desyred ye brethr to further thame with some expectant, to preach with thame till thair churche were provyded. The brethr desyres thame with one consent to set thaire eyes upon ane expectant, and to forsee for his provision, and to report to thame the nixt day." 19th December. "Quhilk day compeired Mr Patrick Edmestoun of Womet, Mr Alex. Hay of Monkton, Mr D. Anderson of Hill, in name of the remanent parochioners of Natoun, and earnestlie desyred the brethr to be pleased to authorize Mr Robt. Carsane, one of their expectants, to teach with thame, and labour in the word during the tyme of the vacancie of ye said kirk, and they faithfullie promise to recompence the labours of the said Mr Robt. to his contentment. Whereunto the brethr gladly accords, and authorizes the said Mr Robt., and thanks thame for their caire in provyding for their churche and giving in their contribution to the Commissioners of the General Assemblie." A visitation having been appointed for the redressing of various evils, and particularly the "eyelist of Lady Melrose of Sherifhall, by a tree-trap having been erected to the pillar of repentance, whereby her sight of the minister was intercepted," the proceedings thereat bring distinctly out the state of matters at the date thereof. (31st May 1640.) "Quhilk day preached Mr Andro Cant, moderator. Mr Robt. Carsone serving the cure, (upon a supplication of the parochinars and heritors of Natoun given in to the presbyterie before the Assemblie.) being removed, and the gentlemen heritors and remanent parochinars being posed if they were edesiet be his doctrine, and if he was of a good lyff and conversatioun,—the whoille parochinars did approve him both for lyff and doctrine. Mr Robt. being recalled, the samine was declared unto him, and he was exhorted to continue. Mr Robt. being posed how often he did preach on the Sabbath, answered once, because of the gritt distance of many of the parochinars from the kirk; exhorted to preach twyse, especiallie in long dayes. The parishonars of Natoun supplicat the brethr to deall for a presentatioun to the said Mr Robert. The laird of Posso, baillie of the stewardrie of Dalkeith, protested that nothing were done in prejudice of his Majestie, patrone of the said kirk, and yet promised his concurrence for lifting of the stipend to him quho suld serve the cure. The brethr desired

tion derive their origin, but distinguished also by a royal alliance, John Edmiston having been married to Isabel, Countess of Dou-

the gentlemen heritors to agree with Mr Robt. privately anent his provisions for serving the cure, and thereafter to report their diligence to the presbyterie. Quhilk day Janet Kellie, relict of umquhile Mr John Melville, lat minister at Natoun, did supplicat for the brethir their concurrence for the ane due to the relict be the favourable custome of the kirk. The laird of Posso, (upon the desyre of the brethren,) undertakes to doe his diligences for procuring unto her a precept out of the Checker for lifting of hir ane out of the hands of the heritors. Mr D. Anderson and all the remanent heritors undertake to answer her, according to the accustomed precept, their pairts *pro rata*, exceptand Mr Jas. Reth and Sir Willm. Murray.

"The kirk of Natoun being ruinous, motion made for repairing of the same. The heritors appoint a stent roll, to be condescendit upon be the gentlemen heritors, and the kirk to be repaired." Agreeably to the recommendation given above, Mr Robert Carsane reported, (11th January,) "that he had transacted and agreed with the parishioners of Natoun, and that there was a contract past betwixt him and thame for securitie of his mantinance."—16th July. "Mr Robt. Carsane did exhibit unto the brethren the contract of agreement betwixt him and the heritors of Natoun," and his trials were appointed in order to ordination. 30th July. "Supplicatioun given in by J. Kellie, relict of umquhill Mr John Melville. Mr R. Carsane removed. The brethren ordaine Mr R. Carsane to submitt quhat concerns the manse and gleib and all things debatable betwixt him and the relict, and that befor his admissioun. Mr R. Carsane continues his answer." 13th August. Anent the reference as aforessaid, &c. submitted to arbitrators, chosen from the brethren. 20th August. "Mr Rob. Carsane, his submission with the relict this day was reported, the gentlemen heritors being present, and not opposing, but consenting." 3d September. "Mr Rob. Carsane returned his edict execut and endorsat. The parishionars and heritors of Natoun called, compaired, and to cutt short any more edicts, did testify before the brethren their accepting of Mr R. Carsane for their minister, requyring with expeditioun his admissioun." Notwithstanding, his edict was served a second and a third time, according to the practice in those days, "when being returned endorsed, (17th September,) and the parichonars being called, compeired the gentlemen heritors, supplicating a short day to be fixed for the admissioun of Mr R. Carsane to the ministrie at Natoun. Quhilk desyre the brethren thinking equitable, appoint the day eight dayes for his admissioun. The clerk appointed to writt to the presbyteries of Edinburgh and Haddingtoun for their concurrence be their commissionars." The ordination and admission accordingly took place on 24th September, admission to the cure only, and not to the benefice, on a "contract entered into betwixt him and the parichonars for the securitie of his mantinance." December 3. "Quhilk day Mr Robt. Carsane reported he had given satisfaction to ye relict of umquhyle Mr John Melvin for building of ye manse. The brether condescend that a letter of repetition be drawn up in favours of ye said Mr Robert, quhilk they will gladiie subscriyve." 4th March 1641. "Quhilk day Mr Rob. Carsane presented to the brethren ane writ for his securitie for repetition from the nixt intrant by his death, or transport the five hundreth marks debursed be him to Mr John Melvine, late minister at Natoun, his relict, for the building of the manse, quhilk securitie the brethren did all subscriyve." A presentation to the benefice was at length obtained, the minute, in reference to which runs thus:—June 3, 1641. "Quhilk day Mr Rob. Carsane produced the King's Majestie his presentatione under the privie seale to the kirk of Nestoun, and the brethren subscriyvit to him one collation, and ordained Mr John Knox and Mr Hew Campell, to repair to the said kirk at Neatowne the 4th of this instant, and to give him institutione in dew forme as effeirs." 10th June. Reported that this had been done. The only other extract we shall make, is "The condition of the kirk of Natoun, made up in answer to a requisition, both by ecclesiastical and civil authority, when attempts were making to have the temporalities all regulated by statute. It is of date 2d November 1648. "This kirk was an pendicle of Musselburgh, and was erected in a parish church in the yeir of God . . . The king was patron, but about seven yeirs since it was be him, with the superioritie of the lordship of Musselbruch, disponed to the Earl of Latherdaill, who is now patrone. The number of communicants about 400. The greatest part of the parish is an mile and an half distant from the church, the rest within half an mile or thereby. The stipend is 300 merks and two chalder of victuale, twa pairts oats, and third pairt

glas, relict of James, Earl of Douglas, killed at the battle of Otterburn (1388), and daughter of King Robert II., the first of the house of Stuart. This family disappeared about the beginning of the 17th century,* and the property appears ultimately to have been disposed of to a gentleman of the name of Raith, a member of the faculty of advocates, who leaving no male issue, his daughter became heiress, who was married to the second son of Sir John Wauchope of Niddry Marischal, which has since been the family name. This gentleman was appointed (1682) one of the senators of the College of Justice, by the title of Lord Edmonstone, and he leaving no male issue was succeeded by his eldest daughter. She was married to Patrick, son of Sir Alexander Donn, who thereupon assumed the name of Wauchope, and from them the present family is lineally descended. The late Colonel Wauchope, father of the present proprietor, was distinguished for philanthropy, and his benevolence, as well as readiness to do good on every occasion, endeared him to all when living, and has embalmed his memory in the recollection of every one who had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with his character.†

Mr Wauchope is the principal and only resident proprietor. The others are the Earl of Wemyss and Duke of Buccleuch.

Parochial Registers.—As already noticed, they were begun in 1628 during the incumbency of Mr John Melville. All the registers then commenced are in one small volume, which is in bad

beir. The twa chaldre of victuale and an 100 merks payable be the patrone. The other 100 merks mortified by the laird of Edmeston. The third 100 merks is vicarage, payable be above 40 severall persons, and they are little more worth in respect the whole parish is laboured. The parsonage teynd belongs to the patrone, except these of Sherifhall, which belong to the Earl of Buccleuch, who had decimas inclusas. The foresaid two chaldre of victuale and 300 merks was the free stipend and provision of the said kirk, till of lait, Latherdail was pleaset to give order to his chalmerlane to mak up 800 merks yeirly untill some settled course wer takin for provyding the same at the sitting of the commission for plantation of kirkes. There is sufficient of further provision of the said kirk, and that by the teynd of the parish."

* It would appear to have been between 1627 and 1630, for in a Report of the state of the parish preserved in the Register House, dated 1627, after stating the proportion of the stipend paid by his Majesty, it is added, "the rest is paid be Sir Jhone Edmonstoune of that ilk; whereas, in the valuation of teind 1630, James Raith is proprietor of Edmonston.

† In a tribute to his memory inserted in the records of session, of which he was an exemplary member, it is stated that "two school-houses for female education were built by him on the most approved plan, and partly endowed by an annual grant for their support, besides commodious dwelling-houses for the mistresses, also built at his expense, the one in the village of Edmonstone, the other in the Edmonstone colliery; that when, in consequence of the increased number of communicants, the heritors had agreed to make an alteration in the seating of the church, so as to afford an additional communion table, he presented the session with a pair of communion cups, and a salver for the bread, all of silver, which are inscribed with his name, and will go down to posterity as memorials of his piety in connection with one of the most sacred ordinances of our holy religion."

preservation, and contains meagre details of the proceedings of session, a register of baptisms and one of marriages, together with accounts of collections and disbursements. It ends about 1640, and there is a hiatus till 1651, when separate volumes for baptisms and marriages respectively are begun and continued, in the case of the former without interruption to the present time, and in the latter with only a few blanks from 20th December 1678 to 29th June 1679; from 18th November 1688 to 18th May 1692; and from 26th November 1695 to 1st June 1697, from which date they are complete. There is only one volume entitled "the defuncts in the parish of Newton since the 11th July 1731." It ends with 1761, and there is no other till 1823, when a more perfect register of deaths and burials was begun. All these volumes are in good preservation.

A volume for the minutes of session was also begun in 1651 and ends with 1671 at the one side, and recommences with 29th June 1679 at the other, on which day it is said, "Ninian Miln, formerly reader, precentor, and schoolmaster at Bolton, was received reader, precentor, and schoolmaster in the parish of Neatone." It ends with January 1694. The next volume commences with 21st November 1697, from which date the minutes are complete, and contain a full record of the strict discipline that, for a long period, was exercised for the reformation of manners, and of other ecclesiastical proceedings.

Antiquities.—An ancient edifice adjoining the village of Edmonstone, which had been used for divine worship before the Reformation for the parish of Wymet, was afterwards converted into a chapel, where the laird of Edmonstone received permission from the presbytery (1641), to have "reading of prayers morning and evening, providing it were not prejudicial to the public exercises in the church," and where, by the same authority, children were permitted to be baptized, "providing always the people should be there present at public worship." In process of time, it came to be exclusively converted into the burying-place of the Edmonstone family, and having gone into decay was renewed in the form of an elegant mausoleum by the late proprietor. The tower of the ancient church of Newton, which was situated quite at the extremity of the parish, is still entire, and has been preserved to form a feature in the landscape as seen from the grounds in Dalkeith park. The church-yard around it, where parties have long since ceased to bury, has been sadly desecrated by the encroachments of the

husbandman, and many of the monuments removed to make way for the plough. It is hoped that, to preserve what yet remains of the olden time, it may still be surrounded with a fence.

In the former Statistical Account, it is said, "the only antiquity here that deserves to be taken notice of, is a very high ridge, of a circular form, and of considerable extent, which evidently appears to be altogether artificial. The people of the country have always called it 'the Kaim,' a corruption it is supposed of the word camp." Now this is a twofold mistake, since the word *Kaim* has a well-known meaning attached to it, viz. that of a ridge somewhat zig-zag in the form of a cock's comb, which is quite characteristic of the local appearances; and as coal pits have been sunk in some parts of it, it has been conclusively ascertained that it is not artificial. Indeed, being in the form of the letter S reversed, and somewhat elongated, it is strange how it could have been supposed to have formed a camp or enclosure of any kind, since the extremities, instead of approaching each other, actually recede in opposite directions. It is true that the supposition is countenanced by a farm-steading situated at one extremity being now called Campend; but, in former times, it is uniformly written *Kaim-end*, and was descriptive both of its locality and of the idea then attached to the appearance presented by the ridge in question. How to account for its having assumed so singular a form is quite a different matter, as to which we shall not hazard a conjecture.

Modern Buildings.—Woolmet House has somewhat of a baronial appearance, and must, at the time of its erection, have been a splendid residence for the property, though now it has come to be let with the farm by its present proprietor, the Earl of Wemyss, into whose family it came by purchase at a comparatively recent period. Edmonstone house, the residence of John Wauchope, Esq., is large and commodious, though without any great pretensions to architectural display.

III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1801, Government census, 1060	
1811,	1578
1821,	2150
1831,	2272
1834,*	2091
1835,	1886
1836,	1762
1837,	1728
1841,	1743

* This and the following were taken by the writer personally in his annual visitations of the parish, and he has the utmost confidence in their accuracy.

vulgarly called the black-spit, and by the faculty is dignified with the Greek term melanosis. It is a wasting of the lungs occasioned, as is supposed, by the inhaling of the coal-dust while working, and the expectoration is as black as the coal itself. Many strong men are cut off by it before they reach the age of forty, especially if they have, for any length of time, been engaged in what in opposition to coal-hewing is called stone-work, (sinking of pits, driving of mines, &c). Almost all the men are affected by it sooner or later, so as to be rendered unfit for any active exertion for years before they drop prematurely into the grave, between the ages of forty and sixty or sixty-five. The vicissitudes of temperature to which they are daily exposed on issuing from the pits throughout a great part of the year, coupled with irregular habits in the case of too many, no doubt contribute to this mortality.

Though their earnings are such that the collier population might enjoy the comforts of life in a superior degree to agricultural labourers, yet, from want of management, this is far from being generally the case. In too many instances, this happens from excess in eating and drinking followed by the necessary abstinence imposed by exhausted resources, the wages being no sooner got than with many they are spent in sensual indulgence, as they know no other. It is their custom, also, to procure every thing upon credit, which makes their expenditure much more and their enjoyment much less than they would be, if they were in the habit of husbanding their resources. Instead of independent action, according to what prudence may dictate as for the best, they are entirely regulated by custom; and hence there is little hope of their being speedily elevated from the degraded condition indicated by such a state of things. To this, however, there are honourable exceptions, and there are individuals and families that, for character and the manner in which their households are conducted, may stand a favourable comparison with those of their own rank in any other sphere of life. When the parties are free from indolent, and, above all, intemperate habits, the actual condition, in respect of food, clothing, and other comforts, is exceedingly good, the working classes connected with the collieries earning very good wages, so that it is only intemperance, vice, and mismanagement that render it otherwise. Indeed those who have tastes and inclinations elevated above the prevailing sensuality and vice have it in

their power to gratify them, and hence in their dress and household equipments are distinguished for cleanliness and comfort; while in the very next dwelling, and with an income no way inferior, there may be nothing but squalor and hardly a seat to sit upon.

While the habits are dissolute, the intelligence and morality are low. Ignorance and ungodliness go hand in hand. Nor can it well be expected to be otherwise. The young, even where not previously neglected as to their education, are taken from school often as early as eight years of age, to be set to work in the pits, and soon forget any smattering they may have acquired, and being, from so early a period of life, daily exposed to the most corrupting influences, nothing else can result but that the tastes and habits they acquire should be of a vitiated nature, and their notions of morality perverted and debased.

It is pleasing to record, however, amid so much that is unfavourable, that a marked improvement has been going forward, and that the means that have been used to render them as a class more intelligent, moral, and religious, have not been altogether unavailing, so as perhaps to warrant the expectation that by perseverance therein, still more cheering results may yet be produced, and a reformation be gradually effected, alike happy for the individual and profitable for society. These, however, are prevented from taking effect with numbers, who are continually shifting from place to place, removing whenever they can get no more credit, and in order to get quit, it may be feared, of the debts that have been contracted. This mode of life they can all the more easily follow, that coal-masters generally make no inquiry as to character, and if they have need of workmen, give employment to the first that offers. As far as obtaining employment is concerned, good and bad are on an equal footing. In this respect, it is no advantage to have a good character, while a bad one subjects to no penalty, so that self-interest does not require that the latter should be avoided or the former maintained; and thus one of the salutary influences which men are subjected to in their dependent relations in society is rendered inoperative. This is a very great disadvantage,—must have contributed not a little to make them what they are, and renders more hopeless their ever being raised out of it while such a state of things continues.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—With the exception of the policy at Edmonstone, and some plantations of the Duke of Buccleuch, the whole of the parish is under cultivation, and that according to the most approved methods of farming,—every improvement being forthwith introduced, so soon as brought into notice and tested by experience. It is unnecessary, however, to enlarge on this head, the system pursued in the Lothians being so well understood. The four shift rotation is that generally followed; but on the largest farm in the parish, the Berwickshire system, of allowing the land to lie two years in pasture, has been introduced, it is believed, with advantage, and probably would become more general, were the fields provided with sufficient fences, which is not the case at present, as never being required.

There are above 80 acres of wood in Dalkeith Park in this parish, planted at different times chiefly with oak in a very thriving state, and, as may be supposed, under the best management. There is also some fine old wood in the policy at Edmonstone.

The average rent of land is from L.4 to L.5 per acre, Scots measure, and it is all arable. The rate of labour is nine and ten shillings a-week for day-labourers, and 9d. per diem for women. In the collieries, labourers, such as banksmen, &c. have twelve shillings. Farm-servants who are engaged by the year are allowed 6½ bolls of oatmeal, 3 to 4 bolls of potatoes, L.16 money, and when they can stack and sow, &c., L.18;—grieve L.21, with the foregoing in each case, and in addition, a month's meat in harvest.

The land, as already stated, being all under tillage, there is no rearing of stock with the exception of a few horses. On the farm already alluded to, where grazing has been introduced, the stock is purchased from year to year to be fed for the butcher; and there are only one or two cows kept on each farm for a supply of dairy produce to the respective families.

The leases are all of nineteen years' duration, with the exception of the Buccleuch property, where they are limited to fourteen.

The state of the farm-buildings is generally excellent, and steam power is now being extensively introduced for the thrashing-mill. The same, however, cannot be said for the enclosures, since practically they are of little or no benefit. The hedge-rows, wherever they exist, are kept with the greatest neatness.

The principal improvement, of late years, is frequent or furrow

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draining, which has been entered on with spirit, and will no doubt be carried into effect wherever its introduction may be deemed necessary or beneficial. The expense is exclusively defrayed by the tenant, as it is believed to be an improvement that will soon repay the outlay. As an instance, a field so drained, being in potatoes the year after, produced a crop of 75 bolls per acre.

Quarries and Mines.—Of the former there is none, and of the latter coal mines only, which have been wrought in this parish for at least 200 years, and form its chief riches. The edge-seams lying, as formerly mentioned, in the north-west quarter, were first wrought, as from their position and the nature of the ground a considerable winning could be obtained by a day-level, which was afterwards extended to a more considerable depth by a sea-level. The crop of the flat seams was then wrought by the same means, and afterwards steam-engines were erected at different parts of the field in succession, always farther to the dip, till the whole has been wrought out but what lies in the south-east quarter of the parish, where a great quantity of valuable coal still remains to be wrought, but which cannot be effected to a much greater extent by the present engines. The value of such a field may be estimated by calculating from the following data:—An acre of jewel coal, the average thickness of which may be taken at 4 feet, produces 15,000 tubs of 4 cwt., or 3000 tons, which, at 5d. per cwt., or 8s. 4d. per ton, gives L.1250 as the gross produce. Then there are the rough and splint seams, thicker than the jewel, but of inferior value. Taking the average thickness of both together to be only $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the price 4d. per cwt., or 6s. 8d. per ton, we have L.1125 per acre for each; and in addition there is the beefy seam, of inferior value still, which if taken at only 4 feet in thickness, and at 3d. per cwt., or 5s. per ton, gives L.750—in all L.4250 as the value per acre when brought to the pit mouth. When the four-foot and diamond seams are found, the value of course is considerably more; but this does not apply to what remains to be wrought.

The coal is now all wrought on the long-wall system, by which means the whole is excavated without any stoops being left to support the roof, which gradually sinks as the workings advance, and by which the surface to a certain extent is affected, especially as this takes place unequally and produces what are called sits.

These are frequently such as to render the drainage of the fields worse than useless, as the water can no longer find its way for want of level, and occasions a stagnation which it costs both trouble and expense to remedy. In general, however, the surface resumes its relative position at a somewhat lower elevation, exhibiting the astonishing effects that may be produced by the labours of man, for thus no inconsiderable part of the parish, at a depth of from 50 to 80 fathoms, has, by these workings, at three several distances been undermined, and let down by separate stages to rest permanently at a lower elevation than it originally occupied.

Produce.—The following is an approximation to the average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish. The prices of grain are the average fiar prices for the last seven years.

Wheat,	928 acres, 8 to 10½ bolls per acre,	2687 at 24s. per boll,	£3464	0	0
Barley,	235 ditto, 9 to 10 ditto,	2182 at 21s. 4d. ditto,	2327	9	4
Oats,	270 ditto, 9 to 11 ditto,	2581 at 15s. 6d. ditto,	2000	5	6
Hay,	237 ditto, 48,191 stones at 9½d. per stone,		1907	11	2
Potatoes,	250 ditto, 8738 bolls at 9s. per boll,		3932	2	0
Turnips,	97 ditto, at L. 16 per acre,		1552	0	0
Beans,	50 ditto, 5 quarters per acre, 250 at 30s. 7d.,		382	5	10
Grass,	138 ditto, at L. 4, 10s. per acre,		621	0	0
Gardens,	10½ ditto, gross produce,		214	0	0
			L. 16,400	13	10
Last year's working in Edmonstone Colliery, 35,520 tons, various prices,			12,584	0	0
	Ditto	Sheriffhall Ditto,	6,000	0	0
Total yearly value of produce raised,			L. 34,984	13	10

To the above there ought perhaps to have been added the straw, which is regularly disposed of; but this is held by the farmers to be a set-off against the manure, which, in consequence, they have to purchase, instead of making it, by having the straw consumed by live stock, and no return of it has been received.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Dalkeith is the nearest market-town, which is distant about two miles, and Edinburgh five from the centre of the parish.

Villages.—There are four principal and two smaller villages connected with the coal-works; and Edmonstone and Woolmet, which, from their contiguous position, may be considered as one, is the only village inhabited by the agricultural classes and tradesmen.

Means of Communication.—The means of communication enjoyed by the parish are most ample. The turnpike from Edinburgh to Lauder, &c. by Dalkeith passes along the west side of it, while it is intersected in its whole extent by that from Leith

to Dalkeith, and from the latter to Musselburgh—each of these for a distance of two miles and upwards. There are also cross roads which are turnpike, uniting these in different directions, besides parish roads, which in general are kept in good repair, and leave nothing to be desired in point of accommodation under this head.

Besides coaches between Dalkeith and Edinburgh several times a-day, there are a number of others from Edinburgh to greater distances, such as Lauder, Dunse, Newcastle, &c. which pass daily on the same turnpike; and the Dalkeith Railway, which affords much more accommodation to the inhabitants in their intercourse with the metropolis, passes diagonally through it, giving opportunities for going and returning at least eight times a-day. The post-office is in Dalkeith.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is nearly in the centre of the parish, and very conveniently situated for the parishioners, there being none more than one mile and three-quarters distant; while the great body of the inhabitants is within a circuit of a mile. It was built in 1742, (the site having been changed as already mentioned,) was reseatd in 1819, is in excellent repair, and rendered comfortable in winter by a stove. It is seated for 450, allowing 18 inches to a sitting. The sittings are allocated among the heritors according to their respective valued rents, but it ought to be mentioned, that when built, the then proprietor of Edmonstone added an aisle solely at his expense, which, besides a gallery for the family, and a retiring room immediately behind, afforded accommodation beneath for the servants and immediate dependants, as well as collier population on his property. A gallery was also erected by the then Duke of Buccleuch, with the consent of the heritors for the Sheriffhall colliery, in addition to the share of the sittings effeiring to his property. It deserves to be recorded to the honour of the collier population at that period, that they appear to have been at the expense of fitting up the part of the area allotted to them, and in evidence of their right to the sittings, had tablets affixed on the walls, with the motto of their craft and the names of the parties inscribed, which exist to this day. Probably they had a part of the area thus given them as a compensation for what they enjoyed in the old church of Newton, in which, on application, as the records bear, to the heritors and kirk-session, (given in 4th April 1725), they obtained permission (2d May

1732) to erect a *loft* for themselves, "providing that the possessors and users of the said loft shall be obliged to keep the roof of the church above the said loft always in repair at their own charges," which hard, and, as it appears, unreasonable condition, was complied with, on their part.

The manse was built in 1803, has had its accommodations recently increased, and is in good repair. It stands on the glebe, and is about half-a-mile east from the church, the reason of which is, that when both were removed from their former situation, the proprietor of Edmonstone, whose lands surrounded the old glebe, had none nearer to give in exchange.

The glebe, including the site of the manse, garden, and offices, extends to somewhat more than seven acres of good land, which lets at L. 5 per acre. The great value of the glebe, however, arises from the coal under it, which, after a decision of the Court of Session had been obtained,* establishing the minister's right to the minerals, was sold for the sum of L.2500. From this there was deducted, by the authority of the Court, the expense of process, &c. amounting to L.193, 13s., and the balance of L. 2306, 7s. is heritably secured on lands belonging to John Wauchope, Esq. of Edmonstone, by whom the purchase was made in 1815, at 5 per cent. interest, for the benefit of the incumbent. It thus produces L. 115, 6s. 4d. yearly.

The teinds are exhausted, and the stipend consists of

Wheat,	25	bolls	2	firlots	1	peck	2½	lippies.
Barley,	52	do.	3	do.			3½	do.
Oats,	78	do.	1	do.	2	do.	1½	do.

The average amount of the above for the last seven years, at the fiars prices, is L.147, 16s. 5d. There is also L. 53, 6s. 8d. Scots, or L.4, 8s. 10½d. Sterling, for communion elements, and 100 merks, or L.5, 11s. 2d. of mortified money, making the average of the whole amount for these years to L.273, 2s. 9½d.

List of Incumbents.—Allusion has already been made to Lawrence Watson and John Barbour, who, as readers, enjoyed the vicarage, there having been no clergyman ordained to the pastoral

* By this decision it is believed this point was finally and authoritatively settled. The interlocutor of the Court of Session, which is of date 3d June 1807, is as follows:—“Upon report of Lord Bannatyne, and having advised the mutual informations for the parties in these conjoined actions, the Lords, in the suspension, repel the reasons of suspension, and in the declarator, find that the minister has right to work the coal in question below his glebe, at the sight and under the direction of the heritors and the presbytery, and that the value and proceeds of the coal are also to be under their control and management, for behoof of the minister and his successors, and decern and declare in terms of the other declaratory conclusions of the pursuer's libel, and remit to the Lord Ordinary,” &c.

cure till Mr John Aird, the first minister, who was admitted 4th January 1614, and translated to Newbattle 28th September 1615. He was succeeded by Mr John Melville 1616, who died 25th October 1638. Mr Robert Carsane was ordained 24th September 1640, and collated to the benefice on a presentation from King Charles, 4th June 1641. His demise seems to have taken place in the beginning of 1673, and on 4th September of that year, the presbytery record bears that "Mr Archibald Douglas, minister at Cavers, Teviotdale, did show the presbytery that he had received a presentation from the Duke of Lauderdale to the church of Newton, and that upon his exhibiting of that presentation to the Bishop, he had granted him an edict, which edict Mr Malcom is ordained to serve and return endorsit." Institution followed on the 24th September, and on the 7th July 1681, he was once more translated to Newbattle. He was succeeded by Mr Robert Bannerman, who, in Nesbit's Peerage, is stated to have been younger brother to Mr G. Bannerman of Dunboig, second son of Elsick, solicitor to King Charles II. He was deprived at the Revolution, after which there was a long vacancy till 21st April 1696, when Mr John Shaw was admitted; but not finding himself comfortable, on account, it would seem, of the heritors withholding their countenance, he accepted a call to the parish of Leslie, and was transported thither in the end of 1698. Mr Thomas Moffat was ordained 24th September 1700, and met with a more encouraging reception, for the session record of 27th October following bears, that "the session met, and being constituted by prayer, thereafter my Lord Edmonstown and the Laird of Woollmet being then present, told that this being the first day of the session's meetings since Mr Thomas Moffat's admission to be minister in this parish, they were come to wait upon the session for the said Mr Moffat's encouragement, and the rest of the elders, to show that they were readie to strengthen their hands and to encourage them, and to concur with them in punishing of vice, and that they should do what was competent to them as heritors for the session's encouragement." Mr Moffat died 14th January 1743, and was succeeded by Mr David Gilchrist 19th July of the same year. On his death Dr Mein was transported from Athelstaneford, 12th October 1770, and served the cure till his death, 1795. He was a person of great worth, and has left a volume of sermons for the instruction of posterity. His literary acquirements procured his election to be Fellow of the

Royal Society, Edinburgh. His character is still venerated by the few survivors who had an opportunity of knowing him; and a marble slab, with a suitable inscription, has been inserted in the wall of the church, by the side of the pulpit, as a tribute on the part of the parishioners to his memory. The late Dr Moodie of Inveresk was appointed in 1796, and, on his removal to Kelso, was succeeded by Mr Thomas Scott, who was translated in 1801 from Ballingry in Fife. On his demise the present incumbent was presented, 1826.

According to a return made to the Parliamentary Commissioners appointed to inquire as to the deficiency of church accommodation, &c., in December 1835, and which was prepared with the greatest care, there were, out of a gross population of 1836, 1414 belonging to the Establishment, and 422 Dissenters of various denominations. In 1837, when the population had decreased to 1728, the respective numbers were 1365 Established Church, and 363 Dissenters, distributed as follows:—Relief, Dalkeith, 222; Do., Musselburgh, 9; Do., Edinburgh, 10. Associate Synod, Dalkeith, Mr Brown's, 78; Do., Mr Buchanan's, 2; Do., Musselburgh, 2; Do., Leith, 3; Do., Edinburgh, 15. Independents, Dalkeith, 5; Do., Portobello, 6. Methodists, 7. Cameronians, 1. Associate Synod Original Seceders, 3. In a note to the aforesaid document it is stated, in explanation, that where the head of a family is a Dissenter, all the children have been reckoned as such, though many of them, above twelve years of age, are in the habit of attending the Established Church. This rule has been followed even in cases where the mother is in communion with the latter, the father being a Dissenter, although the only religious instruction and pastoral superintendence the families receive are from the Establishment; and were these deducted, as perhaps in fairness they might and ought to be, the numbers above given would be considerably reduced. It will be seen, (it goes on to state,) that 129 sittings, at the utmost, are taken in dissenting places of worship, which corroborates this to the extent of showing that the *families* are not provided with accommodation, especially since of these 129 sittings, at least 41 are taken by individuals, leaving 88 for 381.

The attendance on divine service in the Established church is generally good; but as whole pews are allocated to tenants who have not families to occupy them, and from which the population generally feel themselves to be excluded, the habit of church-go-

ing cannot exist with many, nor be formed by the young, since there is only 430 sittings in all for the 1365 at present ostensibly belonging to the Establishment, while there is a considerable proportion of them not available to the full extent, from their being particularly allocated, which, especially in reference to the young has long been felt as a grievance, since they cannot be encouraged to attend, lest those more advanced should be thereby excluded.

The number of communicants on the roll in 1835 was 363, and in 1837, 343. The average number that has communicated of late years is about 325. During the last five years, 122 have been admitted for the first time.

A parochial Association was formed in 1831 in support of the General Assembly's schemes for education and the propagation of the gospel in India, the only ones then in existence, and during the seven years that have since elapsed, L.232 have been collected for these objects. In 1835 another Association was formed, auxiliary to the Church Extension Scheme; and afterwards it embraced the Colonial Scheme. For the former there was collected in 1835, L.132, and for the two conjoined, in 1837, L.64.

Education.—There are one parochial, one unendowed, and two female schools supported by individual subscription. The parish schoolmaster has the maximum salary, and all the legal accommodations, with the exception of a small deficiency in the size of his garden, which is compensated by a certain quantity of oatmeal, at the fairs' prices annually, according to the provisions of the act of Parliament. He also has an annuity of L.5 for the coal under his garden, or rather for leave to drive a mine through it for the working of the coal, payable by Sir John Hope, Bart. of Pinkie, and L.8 per annum for the education of four boys, according to the terms of a mortification afterwards to be noticed. In a parliamentary return made in 1834, L.60 is given as the amount of fees, and L.37 as that of other emoluments, including, of course, the items before specified, and also the session clerk's salary and fees. In all, the master's income is L.131, 4s. 4½d.,* with a dwelling-house, which is commodious, and garden, surrounded by an excellent wall. It may be mentioned, to the credit of the heritors, that the whole establishment of school and school-house is on the most liberal scale, and in addition, a spacious play-ground, provided

* L.50 has since been mortified by the late Mrs Laing of Newton, the interest to go to the schoolmaster, and the interest of L.50 more, deducting legacy duty, for the support of Sabbath schools.

with swing poles, and enclosed by a wall, is rented by them from the proprietor of the adjoining grounds.

There are also Sabbath schools for both sexes, attended by about 300 scholars.

The teachers of the female schools have L.25 per annum, the amount by which the fees come short of this being supplied by the family of Edmonstone, together with a school and dwelling-house. The emoluments of the unendowed school must be of comparatively trifling amount, and very precarious, from the fees being very ill paid. In the parish school, this is obviated by their being paid weekly in advance; the only way in which, with such a population, this could be secured.

By the trust-disposition and settlement of Alexander Mitchell, baker in the Canongate of Edinburgh, the rents of his property, consisting of houses in different parts of the town, are to constitute a fund or establishment, to be called Mitchell's Establishment, and to be applied by the trustees therein appointed, 1st, towards defraying the expense of managing the trust, and of repairing and keeping in repair the subjects described; 2d, the trustees are to pay yearly to the schoolmaster for the time of the parish of Newton, the sum of L.8, or, in the schoolmaster's option, the price, according to the highest fiars of the county of Edinburgh, of eight bolls of oatmeal, at two terms, &c., and that for the school dues and education of four boys to be educated at said school; and 3d, the surplus of the rents is to be applied in clothing and alimentering four boys to be educated at said school; providing always that the parents of such boys shall be of respectable character, and shall have been residenters and householders in the parish of Newton, for three years at least before being nominated; that such boys shall labour under no natural incapacity of learning or being taught; that, at the time of nomination, such boys shall be at least eight years old, and shall remain at said school and enjoy the benefits of this trust until they shall respectively arrive at the age of thirteen years; and, for one year thereafter, the proportion of the rents under this trust which shall have been employed in clothing and alimentering each boy, shall be applied in his outfit as apprentice-fee with him, or otherwise for his behoof as may seem best to said trustees. The trustees are the ministers of Newton and Liberton, or any one of them accepting the trust, &c.

The writer has found many heads of families whom he had

an opportunity of examining, on their applying for baptism to their children, to be unable to write or read; and while all such were lamentably unacquainted with religious truth, he has found some so deplorably uninformed as to be ignorant of the very first principles, even that a Saviour had come into the world. Feeling it to be his duty to endeavour to remedy such a state of things, he in all cases undertook personally their instruction, and with some had to begin by teaching the letters. Where there was perseverance and a fair degree of ability, even these last have been brought to read tolerably, and to be versant in the catechism; but where these were wanting, which was too generally the case, it was only labour lost, and occasioned all the more regret that what in youth had been neglected could not be supplied in manhood. We shall only add, that the people are by no means alive, as it is desirable they should be, to the benefits of education. Nor does this apply exclusively to the collier population. It is true also, though certainly not to the same extent, of the agricultural labourers, who, too surely in this respect, are following a downward course in this part of the country, where there is much more ignorance than the public is at all aware of, or than would be credited perhaps, except on personal observation, such as has fallen to the lot of the writer in his ministerial intercourse with the various classes of his parishioners.

Literature.—At present there is no circulating library in the parish. One such there was, at a former period, maintained by and for the benefit of the collier population; but such was the effect of the enlargement of the works near the commencement of this century, whereby some hundreds were added to that class in a few years, consisting chiefly of the most reckless characters, that the whole body became deteriorated; and before the writer's connexion with the parish commenced, some twelve years ago, the library was shut up, there being not a single subscriber remaining, and it has ever since so continued, though the books are still extant. With a few honourable exceptions, books are neither read nor sought after; but there are working men of the former reputable and intelligent class, such as the collier population are known to have been a century ago, when, as we have seen, they provided themselves with accommodation in the parish church at their own expense,—and who are possessed of books that would grace any library, whether as to the subjects of them or their outward condition.

Friendly Societies.—Friendly societies have long existed here, though, unfortunately, it cannot be said that they are in a flourishing condition. The members have not been enlightened enough to avail themselves of the knowledge which has been brought to bear on this subject, such as the Highland Society's tables, to form the basis of safe calculation, in order that the contributions may be made to correspond to the risks to be run, according to the age of the entrants; and the consequence has been, that, being founded on erroneous principles, after flourishing for a while by reason of the great majority of the members being young at their first formation, they begin at length to find the expenditure exceed the income, since the members, when advanced in years, consume more than the previous payments can afford; and when it comes to be seen that the funds are undergoing rapid diminution, the alarm is taken, and no new members enter, leaving no alternative but at length to dissolve the Society, as no longer able to meet its engagements. This is a frequent consummation, and it comes to be a great hardship that, when the members require such assistance most, and after they have contributed for a lengthened period, it may be for the benefit of others, they themselves are disappointed of the benefit they ought to have enjoyed, if the society had been constituted on right principles.

Another cause of failure is the knavery of the office-bearers, by whom the funds in some instances have been embezzled, and the ruin of the society has thus been prematurely consummated. Even the prosperity of the societies in some cases has proved their ruin, for when the funds have accumulated to a considerable amount, the cupidity of the more reckless members has been excited, by whom a proposition has been brought forward and carried, by the support of a majority, that the society should be dissolved and the funds divided, whereby gross injustice is inflicted, since in such cases all share alike, however unequal may have been the amount of their contributions, and those who are dependent upon it from sickness or frailty are defrauded of their vested right in its benefits. The consequence of all this has been, that such Societies have come into disrepute. The writer endeavoured in these circumstances to have them organized on the true principle of every one paying for his own risk; but as the more elderly would thus have to pay increased rates, the attempt proved unsuccessful from the opposition of these parties. It is to be feared also that the benevolent intervention of the Legislature to prevent the abuses alluded to, and to induce a better

state of things by the adoption of sound principles, may have come too late to promote the interests and support the credit of such excellent institutions in this quarter, since what are called yearly Societies are now becoming very generally substituted for them. These are dissolved at the end of every year, and the surplus funds, after paying certain rates during sickness, and so much at death to meet funeral expenses, are divided among the members, and the society is constituted anew, when the former members have an opportunity of enrolling them again. Should any, however, happen to be in sickness at the time, or have fallen into a declining state of health, he is rejected, and left to bear the evils of his condition without any alleviation from such resources; nor on this plan can any provision be made for old age as in permanent societies, by the superannuated allowance which their members enjoy in such circumstances. The labouring population, at least in the collieries, receive, however, much benefit still from such institutions.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid for the last five years is 35, or rather that is the average of cases, for as there were widows with families among these, the number of persons would be greater. The average allowance to each is 1s. 2d. weekly to those on the permanent roll, consisting almost exclusively of individuals to whom the lowest allowance is 1s. and the highest 2s. weekly. Those on the casual roll average 2s. weekly, the highest being 2s. 6d. and the lowest 1s. It is proper to state, however, that the poor connected with the collieries, (the great bulk of the population being there employed), have no house rents to pay, and also obtain their fuel free of expense, which are two very material advantages; and farther that, where widows are left with young families who require assistance till able to provide for themselves in whole or in part, among the collier population this is at a comparatively early period, not only on account of the earnings of the mother, (7s. a-week), but because the services of the children are very early available, many of them being set to work at eight or nine years of age.

The annual contributions for the relief of the poor from all sources for the year 1837 was as follows:—

Ordinary collections,	L. 80	14	9½
Mortcloths and iron covers,	17	14	6½
Proclamations and private baptisms,	6	13	6
Voluntary contributions,	19	10	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 124	12	10

	Brought over,	L. 124 12 10
Interest,		10 0 0
Seat rents,		0 7 6
		<hr/>
		L. 135 0 4

Regular annual assessments for the support of the poor were first had recourse to in 1797. For the first ten years, the average amount was L.21; for the next ten, L.52; and for the third, ending with 1827, L.106. During this period, the population had doubled, whereas the assessment had increased five-fold. In 1826, one of L.120 had been imposed when the present incumbent entered on his duties; and, impressed with the evils which a compulsory provision has a tendency to produce, especially to the poor themselves, he proposed to bring about such a state of things as might materially abate the evil. In this he has been successful. The year after, only L.80 were required, and in the two following L.60 each; while, during these four years, a balance of L.50 had accumulated in the kirk-treasurer's hands. About the same time, payment was received of a legacy by Miss Jane Wauchope for the behoof of the poor, which, being left to their discretion, the session resolved should be applied to educational purposes. Next year the assessment was L.50, and then it was proposed to the heritors that it should be discontinued, provided those non-resident would consent to give a voluntary contribution in lieu of the collections, that would have been received, had they resided on their properties and attended worship at the parish church. This was at once assented to, and the amount they agreed to give was equal to their proportion of an assessment of L.50 per annum. Colonel Wauchope, the only resident heritor, increased his in the same proportion, so that the collections, which, in 1831, amounted to L.45, 8s. 10½d. rose, in 1832, the first year of the new arrangement, to L.85, 19s. 6¼d. It was stipulated also, on proposing this change, that L.100 should be deposited with the session to meet extraordinary contingencies that might occur, such as a pauper lunatic to be maintained in a place of confinement, which occasions at once a large addition to the expenditure; so that, with the legacy and saving of L.50 above mentioned, the session has L.250 of capital.

Among the measures of amelioration that have been adopted, an Infant school has been established, as peculiarly suited to the circumstances of the population. The parents, to their credit, have very generally availed themselves of it; and, towards the fitting up of the school and salary of the teacher, there has been

paid, in 1834 and subsequent years, out of the funds above specified, in addition to the ordinary expenditure, the sum of L.53, 7s.

That there is here great room, in addition to all other considerations, for endeavouring to redress the abuses of pauperism, is evinced by the fact, that there is no disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief; neither do they consider it as any way degrading; but, on the contrary, they seek to obtain it avowedly that their relatives, however able, may be spared from being burdened; while these last, though in circumstances to aid them, are unwilling to do anything to prevent their being recipients of public charity.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—There were no fewer than fourteen public houses when the writer's connection was formed with the parish, and considering that intemperance is one of the crying vices affecting the population, the reduction of their number necessarily formed part of the remedial measures to be pursued. The principal and only resident proprietor, Colonel Wauchope, entered warmly into these, and while generally he lent his assistance in every way it could be rendered available, in particular, he suppressed all of them on his property with one exception. This example has been partially followed by the others, so that they are now reduced by one-half. There are still too many, however, as facilities of gratification undoubtedly tend to superinduce the intemperate habits that prevail. It became an object, however, of nearly as much importance to regulate those that remained as to get rid of the superfluity, and this also to a certain extent has been accomplished. It was found that, besides being open for the reception of company on the Sabbath, (except during divine service,) spirits were retailed to all and sundry to be consumed in their own houses, so that when neighbours accidentally congregated, or friends came to visit on that day, scenes of debauchery ensued by liquor being sent for and obtained in this way. In consequence, the younger members of families were corrupted by the evil example thus set before them, while the females were led to join in the unhallowed revelry. On a representation of this being made to the proprietors by the kirk-session, Sir J. Hope, to whom the majority of the remainder belonged, bound his tenants, under the penalty of immediate dismissal,* (in the colliery a fortnight's warning

* This has been acted upon, and one of these publicans having transgressed the regulation, has been turned off, and the house is no longer occupied as a public-house. Another that was apt to be disorderly has been also suppressed by him, so that the number is now reduced to six in all, still too many by one-half.

is sufficient for this at any time), not only to desist from thus retailing liquor on the Sabbath, but to keep their premises closed altogether. As proprietor he had undoubted right to do this, although the license authorises their being open except during divine service, and thus the evils complained of bid fair to be greatly mitigated, if not altogether prevented. His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch likewise acted a noble part in this matter, worthy of his character; for there being a feu on his property converted into a public-house, where the occupier refused to be laid under restrictions, on this being represented to him, he gave directions for its being purchased at whatever pecuniary sacrifice, that it might be subjected to salutary regulations; which has been done.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The march of improvement has visited this parish since last Statistical Account was written, in many respects, both as to its agriculture and mining operations, which it is unnecessary more particularly to specify.

If there was no other school than the parochial at that time, and there is no other alluded to, the state of education must have been very unsatisfactory indeed, since it is there stated that the average attendance for ten years had only been 48 out of a population of 1135. Such being the case, it is not to be wondered at that ignorance should have begun extensively to prevail, and that the population generally should have sunk down into a state of the utmost indifference as to the benefits of education, out of which, though matters are no longer in such an unsatisfactory state as to school attendance, they are still but very imperfectly recovered. The contrast is equally great as to the amount of the emoluments—for it is stated that, for the same period, the whole income of the schoolmaster, “including salary, (then only 100 merks Scots), school dues, and the emoluments of the session clerk’s office,” averaged no more than L. 24 per annum. Now, while the number of scholars at the parish school is three times as great, the emoluments are nearly six times their amount at that period.

We now advert to the changes that have occurred since the sketch of the foregoing account was drawn up in 1838. Unfortunately these, as regards the parochial economy, have been alike great and disastrous. Various circumstances contributed at once to increase the expenditure and diminish the income for the relief of the poor; so that it was found impossible to make these

meet each other in any other way, than by again having recourse to an assessment, which, in the very few years that have since elapsed, has risen to between three and four hundred pounds per annum. Liberal contributors to the church collections have either been removed by death or have left the parish, and been replaced by others who worship elsewhere, and consequently contribute nothing, while some have withdrawn to join other communions, among whom is the only resident proprietor. On the other hand, the collieries having come to be wrought on a diminished scale, many of the families removed elsewhere, leaving the aged and infirm behind, many of whom soon came to be a burden on the funds when thus so little able to bear it. Last of all came Lord Ashley's bill excluding female labour from the collieries, which, however beneficial may be its operation in the long run, has proved injurious to many who were thereby deprived of their only means of subsistence. Now many must become chargeable that would not have been so before, and where widows are left with young families, they are not only deprived of the produce of their own labour, (7s. weekly,) but that of the daughters, who, on the old footing, would have assisted, and who are now themselves a burden till they can get other employment, which they cannot do so early. Considering also that all the families had suffered less or more from the operation of this measure by the diminution of their income, and consequently were less able to assist their relatives than formerly, the heritors and kirk-session have increased the former allowances, so that in no case is less than 1s. 6d. of weekly aliment given, while there are several families who have to the amount of 5s., which are the extremes between which the allowances vary according to circumstances. By all this, the expenditure has reached upwards of L. 7 weekly, including the cases of those females, who having been partially disabled by accidents and disease, and being somewhat advanced in years, have very humanely had an aliment conceded to them on the part of the heritors.

The aforesaid bill has also fallen with peculiar severity upon unmarried females somewhat advanced in life, who are unfit for becoming domestic servants, and who, from their being unaccustomed to any other labour than that of carrying coals on their backs, find difficulty in obtaining employment, however willing and able to work. Ultimate good may, however, be expected to result from what has thus been the cause of hardship and suffering. Besides

the domestic comfort and advantage that will immediately be produced by the mothers remaining at home in charge of their households, the females will no longer be subjected to the physical and moral evils attendant on their former condition, as beasts of burden among the most contaminating influences, but having to betake themselves to service among the other classes of society, will be the means of bringing back improved notions and habits.

February 1845.

PARISH OF CRAMOND.

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND
TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. W. L. COLVIN, A. M. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.*

Name.—THE name Cramond, or Crawmond and Karramund, as it has, at different times, been written, and in the Celtic form *Car-aman*, is considered to be derived from *Car*, † or *Carraig*, a rock or fort, and *Aman* a river,—thus signifying the *River-Fort*. This etymology is sufficiently descriptive of the present position of the village at the mouth of the Almond, once the site of an important Roman station. The truth of this statement, indeed, has been fully established by the digging up of numerous imperial coins, medals, inscriptions, altars, sepulchral remains, pavement, and other relics of Roman residence. ‡ This station, with its adjoining harbour, seems to have had a direct communication on the west, with the forts along the rampart of Antoninus, which, with its fosse and parallel military way, terminated a little higher on the Forth at or near Carriden; and also with the southern parts,

* For this part of the Statistical Account we are indebted to Dr Thomas Aitken, Edinburgh.

† The *Caer* of Wales is only a different dialect, and is there applied to both British and Roman fortifications, but chiefly to the site of the *Castra* or stations of the Romans.

‡ *Alaterra* is supposed, from a disinterred inscription, to have been the Roman name of Cramond. Others, with even less probability, have conceived it to be the *Alauna* of Ptolemy. This ancient Geographer, indeed, places both *Alauna* and *Alata Castra* in the same latitude; but the difference which he makes between their longitude might have as readily led to the supposition that *Alauna* stood on the Clyde as on the Forth. See Ptolem. *Geog.*, Lib. ii., cap. iii.

EDINBURGH.

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