

## LEITH.\*

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE.

REV. A. DAVIDSON, *Minister of North Leith.*

REV. WILLIAM STEVENSON, } *Ministers of South Leith.*  
REV. HENRY DUFF, }

### I.—CIVIL HISTORY.

THE town of Leith is situated on the shores of the Firth of Forth, at the point where the small river of Leith pours its waters into the sea. The earliest written notice which we have of it is in a charter of the Abbey of Holyrood, granted by David I., where it is called "Inverleith," that is, "the mouth of the Water of Leith." In the year 1329 the city of Edinburgh obtained, by charter from Robert I. a grant of the port and mills of Leith, with their appurtenances. In 1398, Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig, by charter granted to the burgesses and community of Edinburgh, right to roads and quays on his lands close to Leith, with the liberty of breaking up his ground for the service of navigation, and of building shops and granaries. In 1413, certain other rights were granted by the same person. James I. by charter dated 1454, granted to Edinburgh "the haven-silver, customs, and duty of ships, vessels, and merchandise coming to the road and harbour of Leith." James III. bestowed similar privileges; and James IV., in 1510, granted right to the new port of Newhaven, lately made by him, as also a charter confirming those given by Logan of Restalrig. There are also subsequent charters by Mary and by James VI.,—all which were confirmed by a new charter in 1603, and more lately by a charter of Charles I. in 1636.

Thus we find that the port and burgh of Leith, with its revenues, became at an early period an appendage to the city of Edinburgh. But though near neighbours, and having in many respects a common interest, we yet find that at a very early period jealousies existed between the inhabitants of Leith and Edinburgh;—

\* Drawn up by W. R.

and these continued to foment and increase down to the time of their final separation by the act of Parliament of 1838. Thus, in 1650, the merchants, traders, and inhabitants of the town of Leith sent a petition to the Protector Oliver Cromwell, "setting furth that the sad condition and most grivous opressions they lay under from the magistrates of Edinburgh forced them to apply to his Highness for redress; that they having formerly chosen their own magistrates once a-year, and by them ordered their own affairs, were then denied that liberty by the magistrates of Edinburgh, (whose malice was so great to the interests of the English nation); that they not only imposed rulers over them, but also laid what arbitrary and unlimited taxes they pleased upon their lands and houses—exacted a merk Scots upon every ton of their goods imported—laid high imposition upon anchorage, shore-dues," &c., with a long list of other exactions and petty and vexatious grievances.\* The Protector referred these grievances to the consideration of General Monk, and any two judges of Scotland that he might summon to his assistance. Answers were given in by the town-council of Edinburgh, denying the grievances complained of, and asserting their rights of superiority; and nothing more seems to have come of the remonstrance.

Leith appears early to have enjoyed a considerable trade, but its prosperity frequently suffered checks during the wars with England. In the invasion of the English fleet in 1541, the town was set fire to, and almost entirely destroyed. In 1549 it was taken possession of by the French troops sent to the assistance of Mary of Guise; and in 1560 was besieged by the English forces who were sent by Elizabeth to assist the army of the reformation.—During this period the Queen-mother took up her residence in Leith, and was followed thither by many of the bishops and persons of her party. She signified her intention of granting the burgh an independent charter, with magistrates for its exclusive government; but her death soon after occurred, and put a stop to those fondly cherished expectations of the inhabitants.

Cromwell repaired Leith Fort, which had been previously demolished, and erected a citadel, with five bastions. This citadel was again demolished at the restoration, and the site bestowed on the Duke of Lauderdale, from whom the city of Edinburgh repurchased it for the sum of L.6000. The present fort now

\* Excerpts from "Writs relating to the great struggle and contest between the town of Edinburgh and Leith anent the superiority of Leith, before Oliver Cromwell and his council."

forms a station for artillery, and is capable of containing 350 men, with stables for 150 horses.

The town of Leith was anciently divided into territories, of which there is, 1st, The burgh of barony of South Leith, of which the council of Edinburgh are the superiors.

2d, North Leith, forming part of the regality of the Canon-gate, of which the council of Edinburgh are also superiors.

3d, The regality of the Citadel of Leith, locally situated within North Leith, conveyed in 1663 by the Earl of Lauderdale to the council of Edinburgh.

4th, The territory of St Anthony, adjoining South Leith, the bailie and clerk of which are appointed by the kirk-session of South Leith, by virtue of a charter of James VI.

5th, The magistrates and council of Edinburgh have an admiralty jurisdiction over South and North Leith, the Citadel, Newhaven, and the whole of the Parliamentary burgh; as also over Edinburgh and its suburbs. The title of admiral of Leith is now ceded by courtesy to the Provost of the burgh.

In 1827 a municipal act was obtained, by which the jurisdiction of the burgh was modified and improved. By the seventh section of this act, the admiral and resident magistrates of South Leith, the masters of the four corporations, and all persons who at any time had held the office of resident magistrates of South Leith, were, at a meeting held immediately after Michaelmas 1827, to make choice of a leet or list of nine persons qualified to hold the offices of resident magistrates of South Leith, to be presented to the town-council of Edinburgh. Out of that leet the council were to elect three persons to be the resident magistrates of Leith for the next year ensuing, who were to have all the powers, jurisdictions, and privileges previously possessed by the resident magistrates appointed by the council of Edinburgh. A separate sheriff was also appointed by this act.

In 1832 the Parliamentary Reform Bill bestowed on Leith the privilege of sending a member to Parliament, along with Newhaven, Portobello, and Musselburgh; and the Burgh Reform act of the succeeding year conferred upon Leith a separate and independent magistracy, consisting of a provost, four bailies, a treasurer, and councillors.

The burgh of Leith is two miles distant from Edinburgh, with which it communicates by a spacious roadway called Leith Walk. The oldest part of the town forms a long, irregular street, leading

from the walk to the shore. With this central street numerous narrow closes or wynds communicate. On the east, and parallel to this central street, is Constitution Street, of a more modern and uniform structure, which also leads to the sea-shore. The Links, a green meadow, bordered by modern streets and villas, extend to the south and east of Constitution Street. The harbour and docks lie on each side of the Water of Leith; and two drawbridges form a means of communication between the opposite sides. That portion of the burgh called North Leith extends to the north and west of the docks, where there is a third bridge across the river, until a junction is almost formed with the village of Newhaven.

*Burgh Corporations.*—*The Trinity House* was founded about the middle of the sixteenth century, for the purpose of affording relief to indigent shipmasters and mariners. Of old it was occasionally styled the Mariners' Hospital.

From the earliest times the shipmasters and mariners of Leith had been in the practice of receiving certain duties and stipends, called *Prime Gilt*, of all Scotch ships loaded within Leith as well as of "Dundee, St Andrews, Torryburn, Queensferry, Kinghorn, and others coming and going from the said port, as well as from the said town of Leith, and especially of ships of inhabitants of the north shore of the same." These duties seem to have been applied in giving pecuniary aid to poor mariners, but they became of difficult collection.

In 1566 Henry and Mary gave to the shipmasters and mariners of Leith, a grant confirming a legal right to the prime gilt, and empowering them to sue for payment of it, for the purpose of building and maintaining an hospital or alms house, and to sustain "poor, old, infirm, and weak mariners."

In 1797 a royal charter was granted to certain persons named, being all shipmasters in Leith, creating them into a body corporate, "under the name and denomination of the masters and assistants of the Trinity House at Leith, in the county of Edinburgh," conferring the usual powers of holding property, and making bye-laws, and appointing as office-bearers, a master, assistant-master, deputy master manager, treasurer, and clerk. The funds are to be applied to the support of indigent members, their wives, widows, and children, as also for the relief of such other poor seafaring men, or their widows, or children as shall be the fit and proper objects of the charity.

In 1797 new and important powers were conferred by charter

on this association. Hitherto it had been for charitable purposes only, but now they were authorised to examine and license "pilots for the better and more safely piloting and navigating the ships of His Majesty," and his liege subjects, in, through, and along the adjoining seas, friths, and coasts. While the shipmasters alone possess the power of regulating the affairs of the corporation, and of licensing pilots,—mates and sailors are deemed to have a right to certain benefits upon paying entry money. The corporation, therefore, consists of three classes: shipmasters, mates, and sailors, all of whom, as well as their wives, widows, and children, are entitled to pecuniary aid. These payments are now calculated according to the most approved principles of the assurance companies.

In 1820, the Corporation obtained a statute confirming and adding to their former regulations. The primage or prime gilt consists of one penny per ton of all goods, foreign or coastwise, imported into Leith, whether in British or foreign vessels. The fees chargeable for licensing pilots were fixed by a bye-law, and consist of one guinea for granting license, with 7s. for fees to clerk, and one guinea annually for its continuance.

The old building appears to have been erected in the year 1555, as is shown from an inscription on a tablet still preserved in the new building to this effect, "*In the name of the Lord ve masteris ond mareineris bylis this hoos to the pour 1555.*" A new building in the Grecian style was erected in 1817, at an expense of L. 2500.

The valued property of the corporation amounts to L. 17,761. The revenue derived from the prime gilt was, in 1833, L. 756; but it varies with the state of trade. The total annual income for 1833 was L. 2159, and the expenditure L. 2335.

*Traffickers or Merchant Company.*—This corporation originally possessed a charter conferring upon it exclusive privileges; but the charter having been lost, they have never been able to enforce those privileges, so that they are merely a Benefit Society without the power of compelling entries. Formerly, all members of the Corporation of trades were excluded, but this bye-law was abrogated in 1834. Members are admitted by ballot, and thus there is the power of exclusion without cause assigned. The valued property of the Association is L. 7000 in houses, besides seats in the church. The funds are chiefly expended in pensions to widows, granted on petition to those with incomes under L. 100. The annuity is L. 20.



The income for 1883 was L.707, the expenditure L.577. The number of members is 100, of whom 83 are resident, among whom those living in Edinburgh are included.

*Maltmen.*—The earliest notice of this corporation occurs in a statute of 1503, c. 92. About 1669 the corporation was suppressed, but restored again to its former privileges in 1684. The persons admissible are, maltsters, brewers, vinegar-makers, merchants, and medical men, but lawyers are expressly excluded. The entry money is L.20, with an annual payment of L.1. Amount of income in 1833, L.187. The allowance to widows is L. 7, 10s. a-year. Average number of members 25.

*Incorporated Trades.*—Independent of any of the particular trades there is a body called "the Convenery," constituted by delegates from each trade, which consists of nineteen members made up of the deacons and treasurers of the trades' corporations. Minutes of this body are extant from 1594, but the date of its origin is unknown. In 1832 it was dissolved, whether legally or not is questionable, and the funds divided among the other bodies. Since the dissolution, its powers have been entrusted to aggregate meetings of the trades. The incorporated trades have the same rights of patronage and election as the other three corporations. There are nine corporations, viz. the Wrights, Coopers, Hammermen, Bakers, Tailors, Cordiners, Fleshers, Barbers, and Weavers. The entry monies to these trades vary from the lowest, (the Weavers,) being L.1 to strangers, and 10s. to apprentices, &c. up to L.30, L.60, and L.100.

*Magistrates.*—These consist of a Provost, who is also Admiral, and four Bailies, with a Council and Town-Clerk. The Bailies hold courts for the decision of petty offences. There is also a Sheriff court, presided over by the Sheriff-Substitute. By the Act of 1838, (1 and 2 Victoria,) separating the town of Leith from Edinburgh, the common good of the burgh of Leith, with all customs, rates, imposts, and market dues, together with the jail buildings, are transferred to and vested in the provost and magistrates of Leith.

*Police.*—In the 11th George III. an act was passed for lighting and cleaning Leith, and for supplying it with water, and in 1827 similar provisions were made in the Municipal Act. The police commissioners consist of the magistrates of Edinburgh and Leith, the masters of the corporations, and certain others *ex officio*, and of representatives chosen by the corporations, and by proprietors

and occupants whose rents amount to L.15. The assessment imposed is not to exceed 1s. 6d. per pound. Leith is supplied with water by the Edinburgh Water Company; and a Gas Company, established several years ago, is now conjoined with a company in Edinburgh, under the title of the Edinburgh and Leith Gas Light Company.

*Antiquities.*—Any former vestiges of antiquities of Leith are now fast disappearing. St Nicholas's Chapel is said to have stood on the site on which the citadel was afterwards built.

King James's Hospital was situated on the east side of the Kirkgate, at the south-west corner of the church-yard. It was founded by the session of South Leith in 1614, and endowed with certain lands and tenements of an older hospital of St Anthony.

The hospital of the Knights Templars, or the "King's Work," was situated at the south-east corner of St Anthony's Wynd. It was greatly demolished by the English in 1548, but rebuilt in 1647.

A "*Burs*" or Exchange for the meetings of merchants was instituted during the time of Mary of Lorraine's residence in Leith, and a wynd or locality near the shore still bears this name. The Timber Bush is evidently a corruption of *Timber Bourse* or wood market.

An ancient Roman road is reported to have led through the Weigh-house Wynd, from thence across the Water of Leith by Cramond, onwards to Queensferry and Stirling.

*Public Buildings.*—*The Jail.*—The old Tolbooth was situated at the lower end of the Tolbooth Wynd, and was built in 1565. In 1825 a new and more commodious jail was erected in the same place.

*Town Hall.*—This building was erected in 1828 in Constitution Street, for the accommodation of the Burgh and Sheriff Courts.

*Royal Exchange Buildings.*—A large Grecian building, three stories high, stands at the east end of Bernard Street. It contains a spacious reading room for the accommodation of mercantile men, a hotel, assembly rooms, sale rooms, and library. It was erected at an expense of L. 16,000.

*New Markets.*—These were erected in the year 1818 on a piece of ground which was the site of the old Custom House. The funds were raised partly by voluntary subscription, and partly by a loan of L.2000 from the Merchant Company of Leith.

*Seafield Baths.*—These baths are situated at the eastern extre-

mity of the Links, and were erected in the year 1813. A sum of £8000 was raised in shares of £.50 for this purpose, each shareholder, or a member of his family, having a perpetual right to the use of the baths. The building is handsome and on a large scale, containing seventeen hot, cold, and tepid baths on the lower floors, besides a large plunge bath. The remainder of the building is occupied as a hotel and lodgings, for the accommodation of visitors to the baths.

*Harbour and Docks.*—The harbour of Leith is situated at the mouth of the Water of Leith, where that river joins the sea. By virtue of a charter dated the 15th March 1603, commonly called the Golden Charter, as well as by various prior grants and acts of Parliament, the magistrates and council of the city of Edinburgh acquired right to the ports and harbour of Leith and Newhaven. These grants were farther ratified by the statute of 1621, and a royal charter dated 1636. The district comprehended in these grants extended from Wardie Burn on the west, to Seafield toll-bar on the east, including the whole shore, beach, sands, and links within these boundaries.

In course of time, as the trade of Leith increased, great inconvenience was experienced from the deficient state of the harbour and the want of docks, where vessels might lie afloat at all times. Accordingly, in the year 1788, the magistrates and council of Edinburgh applied to Parliament, and obtained an act authorising them to borrow £30,000 for the purpose of constructing a dock, and for opening up the streets in the vicinity. Several other subsequent acts were obtained, as well as extended powers of borrowing additional sums of money.

In 1800, the eastern wet-dock next the tide-harbour of Leith was commenced, and finished in about six years; and in 1810 the middle dock was begun, and completed in 1817. Each of these docks is 250 yards in length, and 100 yards broad,—both extending to upwards of ten English acres of water, and affording space sufficient to contain 150 ships of ordinary dimensions, such as usually frequent the port. To the north of the two wet-docks are three dry or graving-docks, each 136 feet long, and 45 feet wide at the bottom, while they increase in area at the top. The width of the entrance is 36 feet. The whole are constructed of the best and most durable materials. “In the report presented to the House of Commons by the select committee in 1819, it is stated that the two wet-docks cost about £175,086, the three



graving-docks L.18,198, the drawbridges L.11,281, and the areas for the sites of the docks and warehouses L.80,543,—amounting to L.285,108, exclusive of L.8000 for constructing the upper drawbridge over the Water of Leith, in the line of the new street leading from the foot of the Tolbooth Wynd to the centre of the first wet-dock."

The city of Edinburgh by its charters possessed the whole of the shore dues levied at the ports of Leith and Newhaven, with the exception of the *merk per ton*, the proceeds of which were appropriated to the payment of the clergy of Edinburgh. The sums advanced by Government towards the construction of the docks and harbour are as follow: The first loan took place in 1800, when L.25,000 were advanced. The next advance was in 1805, when a second sum of L.25,000 was lent at five per cent. interest. Subsequent to this loan, the first sum of L.25,000 was paid up. During the next twenty years, the authorities of the city of Edinburgh had, under various acts of Parliament, borrowed L.240,000 for the purposes of the docks, beyond the L.25,000 which they owed to Government. By an act dated 1825, (6 Geo. IV. c. 103,) the Treasury was authorised to make a farther advance of L.240,000 out of the Consolidated Fund, to enable the authorities of the city of Edinburgh to take up the bonds which they had issued. This advance was made at the rate of five per cent., of which three per cent. was to be the rate of interest, and two per cent. was to go to a sinking fund. By one of the clauses, however, of the same act, this annual payment was reduced to the rate of four per cent. for twelve years, in consideration of an agreement entered into by the corporation with the Commissioners of the Navy to extend the eastern pier, and improve the works therewith connected. The security given to Government was a preferable claim over the whole of the dock and harbour property, and a concurrent claim with other creditors over the entire property of the city of Edinburgh. Other stipulations were connected with this transaction, by which a part of the docks and shore ground was ceded to the Admiralty.

In 1833, when the city of Edinburgh became insolvent, the operation of the sinking fund had cleared off L.25,000 of the advanced sums, so that the debt then due to Government amounted to L.240,000. After various and protracted negotiations with the Government and city creditors, an agreement was at last come to, and an act of Parliament (proceeding on Reports of Select Committee

of the House of Commons) was obtained in 1838. In this act the management of the Leith Docks and Harbour was committed to eleven commissioners, five appointed by the Lords of the Treasury, three by the city of Edinburgh, and three by the town of Leith. The interest on the Government debt was postponed. A sum of L. 7680 yearly was to be preferably secured to the city of Edinburgh, for the following purposes: first, L. 2000 was to be appropriated to the payment of stipends of the Edinburgh clergy in lieu of the *merk per ton* which was to be abolished; secondly, L. 3180 were to be paid for behoof of the city creditors, and the remaining L. 2500 were for "the maintenance and support of the college and schools of the said city."

Powers were also granted to the commissioners (with the consent and approbation of the treasury) to borrow additional sums on the security of the docks, not, however, to exceed L. 125,000, to be expended on the improvement, alteration, or enlargement of the harbour and docks, or for the accommodation of the shipping resorting to the same. It is enacted also, "that it shall be lawful to the said commissioners to abolish, reduce, equalize, and consolidate the rates and duties leviable at the said harbour and docks, so as to render the same more equal and just."

Any surplus revenue that may occur after the payment of the sums stated, and payment of interest of any money that may be afterwards borrowed by the commissioners, is to be paid into Her Majesty's treasury, and to be reckoned as so much towards the extinction of the principal debt to Government.

Since that period, under the direction of the commissioners, the east pier has been considerably extended, and the harbour deepened by dredging.

# Account of the Revenue of the Harbour and Docks at Leith for Three Years preceding Whitsunday 1844.

Year.	Duties levied on shipping, 28 Geo. III. c. 58 and 39 Geo. III, c. 44.			Duties levied on goods 28 Geo. III. c. 58, and 47 Geo. III. sess. 2, c. 3.						Pen-duties and rents for property.	Interest on bank account.	Incidental revenue for use of graving-dock, cranes, &c.	Total.
	Dock dues.	Beaconage and anchorage.	Berthage and flag or light dues.	Imported.		Exported.	Shore dues.	Postage.	Shore dues.				
				Shore dues.	Postage.								
1842.	L. 9741 4 10	L. 1802 18 10	L. 1051 7 7	L. 5421 6 3	L. 1785 0 2½	L. 1393 18 5	L. 3151 1 3½	L. 823 12 10	L. 596 1 7		L. 25,716 11 10		
1843.	7392 16 7	1711 0 6	940 12 9	4462 15 11	1478 2 8½	1118 13 1	3009 8 8½	588 7 1	1334 17 0		22,126 15 11		
1844.	8003 8 11	1721 8 5	957 0 1	4511 0 5	1442 17 5	1334 2 11	3498 8 6	392 3 0	412 10 11		22,278 0 7		

## Account of the Expenditure for the above Three Years.

Year.	General management.	Collection of revenue.	Maintenance and regulation of the harbour and docks, including repairs.	Dredging department.	Extension of pier.	Charges on property.	Law and parliamentary expenses.	Incidental expenses.	To ministers and creditors of Edinburgh, the college, and schools of said city, per 1 and 2 Vict. c. 55, S. 17 and 18.	Total.
1842.	L. 331 2 2	L. 784 17 7	L. 6212 12 7	L. 2212 18 8	L. 3776 12 11	L. 197 4 6	L. 211 9 11	L. 102 11 10	L. 7680 0 0	L. 21,459 5 2
1843.	318 18 10	761 13 2	6627 17 8	1955 8 10	7428 10 8	584 18 5½	889 6 8	31 13 0	7680 0 0	26,278 7 3½
1844.	323 5 2½	744 2 4	7561 9 1½	1951 14 8	2024 7 9	351 3 8	181 16 3	328 14 3	7456 0 0	20,922 18 3

## II.—POPULATION.

The population of the different parishes in 1841 was as follows :

North Leith, 8492.		South Leith, 19,776	
Population in 1801,		15,272	
1821,		26,000	
1831,		25,855	
1841,		26,026	

## III.—INDUSTRY.

*Manufactures.*—Messrs Gillon and Company's establishment for the preservation of all kinds of fresh meat and vegetables for naval stores, &c. was commenced in 1838. The principle of this manufactory consists in cooking and enclosing in air-tight tin cases all sorts of soups, flesh and fish, and vegetable substances, and carefully excluding all contact with atmospheric air. In this way the various meats keep in all climates for many years, and afford a most convenient supply of provisions for travellers and voyagers. Milk, cream, gravies, and jellies for invalids are also included in these ingenious processes. The tin cases used in the process are manufactured within the establishment. They are of various sizes, containing from half a pound to several pounds weight; and from 800 to 1000 of these cases are prepared and filled daily. The prices of the various articles, considering that the meat is free of all bones, and many of the dishes highly concentrated, are not much above the ordinary values of their respective substances. The demand for these articles, both for home and foreign consumption, is always more than even this extensive establishment can well accomplish. Some of the rejected oily matters of the cooking process are sold for greasing machinery; and other substances are purchased at a moderate price by the poor in the neighbourhood.

An establishment for the refining of sugar upon an extensive scale contributes in some degree to the prosperity of the town. It gives employment directly to upwards of eighty persons, consumes annually nearly 4000 tons of coals, which are chiefly sea-borne, and previously to the late reduction of the sugar duties, paid to the revenue from L.80,000 to L.90,000 per annum in duties on sugar alone.

The North British Paint and Colour work was commenced about twelve years ago, where all kinds of paints, colours, and copal varnishes are manufactured to a large extent, giving employment to a greater number of hands than any similar establishment in Great Britain, including various professions of trades, such as coopers, tinsmiths, blacksmiths, joiners, &c. The proprietor,

within these three years, has added large works for the manufacture of prussiate of potash, which confers a great benefit upon the poor in the surrounding districts, who collect animal matter, such as hoofs, horns, rags, &c. and who find a ready sale for the same at the manufactory. The residue from the manufacturing of this article has been proved to be a most valuable manure, of which several hundreds of tons are annually disposed of to the farmers in the neighbourhood. There are upwards of 2000 tons of coals consumed annually in the works.

In addition to the above named, the spirited proprietor is now erecting works for the manufacturing of ultramarine blue, which has never yet been manufactured in Scotland, the art having hitherto been chiefly confined to, and the trade principally supplied from, the continent, where it has been carried on under letters patent; and a similar protection, we understand, it is the intention of the proprietor to adopt.

Miller and Arthur, Shore, Timber Bush and Little Carron, manufacturers and exporters of colours, paints, and varnishes, refiners of animal and vegetable oils, and manufacturers of machinery, railway, colliery, and waggon grease, employ about seventy hands, men, women, and boys.

The glass manufactories of Leith consist of seven cones, which are capable of being used for all kinds of glass. At present, the manufacture of bottles only is carried on, employing from 80 to 90 work-people; but it is hoped, now that the excise duty has been repealed and all fiscal restrictions removed, that the other branches of glass manufacture, viz. plate-glass, window-glass, and crystal, will be immediately resumed, and that these old and celebrated works will again present the enlivening bustle and stir of former days, when every cone was in operation. One of the cones is very old, having been built after the Rebellion in 1745 by the soldiers stationed in Edinburgh Castle, it being impossible then, from the state of the times, to obtain any brick-builders throughout the country. Bottles of large magnitude have been made at these works; and it is a matter of fact, that at one time there was blown by a workman there, a bottle equal to the size of fully more than a hogshead.

There are several cast-iron foundries connected with Leith and Edinburgh, saw-mills on the Water of Leith, soap and candle works, rope-works, sail-cloth manufactories, and ship-building.



An extensive distillery is in operation at Bonnington, and breweries in Leith and vicinity.

*Trade and Commerce.*—Both the home and foreign trade of the port are on an extensive scale. The foreign trade is carried on with Russia, Hamburgh, Holland, Denmark, and Sweden, as also with various parts of the Mediterranean, America, East and West Indies, New Holland, and China. Formerly, a considerable tonnage of shipping was engaged in the Greenland whale trade, but of late this has greatly fallen off. A comparative view of the progress of trade during the last century is exhibited by the following list of the shipping belonging to and engaged in the commerce of Leith.

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1692	29	1702
1740	47	2628
1752	68	6935

In 1784 the trade of Leith was estimated at half a million Sterling. In 1791 the registered tonnage was 130,000 tons. In 1804 the number of vessels of different descriptions which arrived in Leith was 2652, being nearly double the number of 1787. In 1830 the gross receipts of the custom duty amounted to L.444,411. For the year 1834 the statistics of the foreign and coasting trade stand thus:—

<i>Inwards.</i>			
	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>
British,	191	30312	1685
Foreign,	143	15221	874
Total,	344	45533	2559
<i>Outwards.</i>			
British,	144	26701	1376
Foreign,	59	6697	382
Total,	203	33398	1758
<i>Coast Trade.</i>			
Inwards,	3484	253649	15064
Outwards,	1782	175831	10762
Total,	5266	429480	25846

In 1844 the number of ships belonging to Leith was 210; the aggregate tonnage of which amounted to 25,427 tons. The number of arrivals coastwise for the same year was 2,272, of which 381 were steam-boats.

The foreign arrivals for the last three years are as follow :—

Year.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
1842	279	269	548
1843	294	348	642
1844	256	488	744

*The Custom House* is a large building adjoining the docks, and was erected in 1812. It consists of an establishment of 106 officers, the aggregate salaries amounting to L. 9390. The revenues of this office amounted in 1843 to L. 569,684 Sterling; in 1844 to L. 628,007.

Foreign grain imported in 1843 for the year ending 5th January 1844, and amount of duties respectively on each description at the successive rates of duty.

		Qrs.	Bush.	
Wheat, foreign, at	20s.	989	...	L. 988 18 8
	18s.	1	1	1 0 5
	15s.	13199	5	9897 2 10
	14s.	91943	4	63939 11 0
	17s.	4129	2	3509 17 3
	19s.	227	6	216 7 3
Barley, do. at	9s.	7592	3	3416 12 2
	8s.	107	3	37 11 0
	7s.	1285	...	448 4 9
	6s.	13740	4	4122 3 0
Pease, do. at	11s. 6d.	316	3	181 18 5
	10s. 6d.	369	6	192 11 3
	9s. 6d.	1337	5	635 7 10
	8s. 6d.	3652	2	1552 4 6
Beans, do. at	11s. 6d.	20	...	11 10 0
	10s. 6d.	668	6	351 1 11
Rye, do. at	8s. 6d.	13	6	6 13 11
Oats, do. at	8s.	181	1	72 9 0
	6s.	172	3	51 14 3
Wheat of the British Possessions at	5s.	176	...	44 0 0
	4s.	7	7	1 11 4
	1s.	10	1	0 10 1

The same in 1844 for the year ending 5th January 1845.

		Qrs.	Bush.	
Wheat, foreign, at	16s.	1882	7	L. 1506 6 0
	17s.	18601	0½	15810 18 3
	18s.	9051	4	8146 7 0
	19s.	1749	6	1662 5 5
	20s.	5362	3½	5362 8 2
Barley, do. at	3s.	58762	5	6812 17 5
	4s.	16411	...	3282 4 0
	5s.	21685	6	5421 9 3
	6s.	25468	1	7640 8 9
	7s.	...	4	0 9 6
Pease, do. at	6s. 6d.	15654	1	5087 12 11
	7s. 6d.	774	1	290 6 0
	8s. 6d.	576	4	245 0 3
	9s. 6d.	137	7	65 9 10
	10s. 6d.	4134	1	2170 8 9
Beans, do. at	5s. 6d.	4736	..	1302 8 1

		Qrs.	Bush.	
Beans, foreign, at	10s. 6d.	992	1	L.520 17 4
	11s. 6d.	28	1	16 3 5
Oats, do. at	6s.	2357	2	707 3 6
	8s.	79	7	31 19 0
Rye, do. at	5s. 6d.	3647	6	1002 12 9
Buck wheat, do. at	8s.	661	...	99 3 0
	4s.	48	0½	9 12 3
	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	
Wheat flour, foreign at	5s. 10½d.	5	0	1 9 6
	6s. 2½d.	2	0	0 12 5
Wheat flour, Canadian, at	4½d.	2660	3	45 15 2
Oatmeal, do at	1s. 2½d.	595	0	37 3 4

#### IV.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY—ECCLESIASTICAL STATE.

The ancient parish in which Leith is now comprehended was *Restalrig* or *Lestalric*. The parish constituted a barony; and at the earliest period in which it is mentioned, it belonged to the family *De Lestalric*. The parsonage existed at least as far back as the demise of Alexander III. In 1291, Adam of St Edmunds was parson of Restalrig; and he had a writ to the sheriff of Edinburgh to deliver him his lands and rights. Whether from the beauty of the situation, or from its near vicinity to the Abbey of the Holy Rood, the ancient residence of the Scottish Kings, James III. founded there one of those colleges or fraternities of secular clergy, of which there were many throughout Scotland, and several in the neighbourhood, as at Corstorphine, Roslin, and Crichton, and Trinity College, Edinburgh. This establishment was dedicated to the Holy Trinity and the Virgin, and united with the parish church. It included, besides the church, a "lodging" for the dean, and "chambers" or "manses," with "yardis and lands" for all the prebendaries; and it was fostered and extended by the founder's royal successors, James IV. and James V., till it came to consist at last of a dean, eight prebendaries, and two singing boys. In the year 1661, according to the rentals given in to government, "the fruites of the Denerie of Restalrig, as it payis presentlie and comounlie thir divers yeirs bygane, with the parochins of Leswaid and Glencorss," were twenty-five chalders eight bolls two firlots oats; eight chalders six bolls two firlots bear; two chalders thirteen bolls one firlot wheat; one chalder three bolls two firlots rye; with L.43, 6s. 8d. Scots money.

The glebe and manse of said parsonage was given in feu for the yearly payment of L.47, 6s. 8d. Scots.

In 1435, the lands of Restalrig and patronage of the parsonage was confirmed to Thomas Logan. From this family the grant of

liberty to build a harbour at Leith was obtained by the inhabitants of that burgh, and a monastic institution, called the Preceptory of St Anthony, was formed in the parish of South Leith, "south of the Water of Leith." The last of the family of Logan was somehow implicated in the mysterious affair of the Gowrie conspiracy, a circumstance which was only discovered after his death. His estates were confiscated, and Restalrig passed into the hands of Lord Balmerino, Secretary to James VI., with whose descendants it remained, along with the patronage of the parish church, till both were forfeited by the treason of the last Lord Balmerino in 1745. This noble family had their residence in Leith; and one of them, Lord Couper, was a member of the kirk-session of the parish.

At the Restoration, the church of Restalrig shared the general fate of the Catholic establishments. The first assembly of the reformed church, which met in Edinburgh in 1560, ordered it to be "razed and utterly casten down and destroyed, as a monument of idolatry." It was accordingly unroofed, and nothing left but the external walls. In this condition it remained for centuries, till the year 1836, when, by the exertions of a few zealous individuals, aided by the Church Extension Committee, a sum was raised by subscription, and the edifice was completely restored and renovated, after a plan gratuitously furnished by W. Burn, Esq. architect. It now forms a preaching station, where occasional worship is performed by the ministers of Leith, for the benefit of the surrounding population. The ancient burying-ground of the parish still remains attached to this church, and is kept in good order through the instrumentality of a Society of very ancient institution in the parish, called the "Friendly Society of Restalrig," who, besides taking the management of the cemetery, contribute to the relief of the poor of the vicinity, and support a school for the education of children. It was by the zeal of this society, and the exertions of its secretary, Andrew Scott, Esq. W. S., that the renovation of the ancient church was effected.

*Parish of South Leith.*—The precise date of the erection of the present church of South Leith cannot be ascertained, but it is probable that it was built about the year 1490. A village had gradually here sprung up antecedent to this period, the rudiments of the future burgh; and as the principal proportion of the inhabitants of the parish resided in this quarter, instead of at Easter Restalrig, the original position of the parish church, the probabi-

lity is that the church at Leith was erected so as at once to transfer the parish church to this quarter, or at all events to constitute it a chapel of ease. In a charter of James III. dated 1490, his Majesty confirms a charter which one Peter Falconer had granted to a chaplain and his successors, for celebrating divine worship at the altar of St Peter in the church at Leith, which is therein called a "new church," dedicated to the Virgin Mary. "*Nova ecclesia Beatae Mariæ in Leith.*"

In 1556, some time before the Reformation, it evidently appears that this church had been constituted the parish church,—for the parson had ceased to reside at Easter Restalrig, and had feued the glebe and manse, as well as the church lands belonging to the parsonage.

At the Reformation, the first General Assembly, by an act dated 1st December 1560, finds, "that the ministry of the word and sacraments of God and assemblie of the people of the hail parochin of Restalrig be within the kirk of Leith." But even previous to this, the kirk of Leith was recognised as the proper parochial institution; for one of the ministers of that assembly was "Mr David Lindsay for Leith." The statute of 1609, c. 25, narrates that the Legislature, "understanding that the kirk of Restalrig is ruynous, and that the kirk of Leith has bene the place of the convening of the parochiners of Restalrig the space of fyftie zeirs past, as alsua that it is most comodious pairt, in respect that the toun of Leith is the greatest part of the said parochin, whilk kirk notwithstanding has never yet been erectit in ane paroch kirk." The act then declares "the said kirk of Leith to be ane paroch kirk, and ordains the same to be repute, and called heirafter the paroch kirk of Leith, and all the inhabitants of Restalrig to resort thereto as unto thair paroch kirk, as they have done in tymes past; and that the benefice of Restalrig, parsonage hairto, gleib and manse pertaining hairto, shall be always desponit to the minister serving the cure at the said kirk of Leith in all time coming; and that the said kirk of Restalrig be suppressed and extinct from henceforth and for ever."

The central part and middle aisles of the present church, with the steeple, appear to have constituted the original erection, while the side buildings seem to have been afterwards added. The choir at the east end was demolished at the Reformation.

It is a collegiate charge. The right of presenting the first minister is vested in the Crown; but the second presentation belongs



to the magistrates, the kirk-session, and the corporations. A small part of the stipend of the second minister was paid by the city of Edinburgh, in terms of the act granting two pennies on the pint of ale. The residue is paid by the corporations of shipmasters, traffickers, maltmen, and trades, most of whom received their seals of cause "for the weal and uphold of the altar of St John and chaplain of the same." The trades collected a part of their proportion of the stipend from the meal-dealers, and the traffickers used to levy a part of their proportion from all the inhabitants, (the meal-dealers excepted,) who were not members of any corporation. All of the corporations, except the barbers, have a right to parts of the parish church of South Leith, which they let, and the rents received are understood by them to be for payment of the stipend. No part of the stipend is paid by the corporation of barbers. The "corporations" appear, from an early period of the church records, to have taken charge of the repairs and upholding of the fabric. In times of Popery, each of the trades had their altar and chaplain, whom they maintained out of their funds. The property and management of the church is vested in the kirk-session. In 1836, it was observed that the steeple was falling from its perpendicular, and on inspection by competent architects, it was found necessary to take it down. A thorough repair of the whole church was also decided upon by the presbytery, which, however, was delayed for some time, in consequence of a law plea with the heritors, who objected to assess themselves for repairs, on the plea that the church and its maintenance belonged to the "incorporations." This plea, however, was not sustained. An assessment, being the estimated amount of repairs, of L.2870, on the landward and burgh proprietors, was raised, and with this sum the church has been completely repaired. The church is capable of accommodating from 1300 to 1500 persons. The parish of South Leith includes that portion of the burgh to the south of the river, with part of Leith Walk and the village of Jock's Lodge.

*St John's Church* was built as a chapel of ease in 1773, and in 1834 was erected into a *quoad sacra* parish. The population of both parishes in 1841 amounted to 19,776.

The stipend of the first charge consists of 250 cwts. of meal; 143 quarters 6 bushels barley; L.33, 18s. 4d. money; a glebe, yielding L.80, and L.80 in lieu of manse. The stipend of the second charge is L.247 without glebe or manse.

There is a charitable fund, of which the kirk-session has the

administration, arising from a grant of certain lands, and the right of levying certain duties which appertained to the "hospital," or "mansion of St Anthony." The object of the Charity is to give relief to the widows and poor of the trades' corporations.

*North Leith Parish.*—We first hear of North Leith in 1493, when Robert Ballantyne, Abbot of Holyrood, resolved to build a chapel for the accommodation of the increasing inhabitants of this district. A church was built at the north end of the bridge across the Water of Leith, and dedicated to St Ninian, the patron saint of Galloway. The charter of foundation was confirmed by James IV. in 1493. At the Reformation the inhabitants of North Leith purchased the chapel of St Ninian's, the chaplain's house, and the tithes of certain lands and houses, and of the fish brought into the harbour, as a maintenance for their minister. North Leith was erected into a parish by Act of Parliament in 1609. The parishioners are the patrons, and the funds and management are vested in the kirk-session. The population in 1841 was 8492.

The stipend was at first 800 merks; in 1666 it was augmented out of St Cuthbert's parish funds, to 1200 merks, with parsonage and glebe of four acres. The old church was abandoned and a new one erected in 1814. The new edifice is a large building in the Grecian style, with a portico and spire, the latter ornamented with several ranges of Doric and Ionic columns, and 158 feet in height. This church cost L.12,000, and is capable of accommodating 1768 persons.

The stipend arising from feus of property was in 1832, L.611, 17s.; in 1833, L.540, 11s. 4d.; in 1834, L.500, 9s. This includes an allowance of L.60 for a manse.

*St Thomas' Church* is situated on the eminence called Sheriff Brae, and was built and endowed by John Gladstone, Esq. of Fasque, a native of Leith.

There are four congregations connected with the Free Church, viz. St John's, South Leith; Mariners' Church; Newhaven Church; North Leith Free Church.

There are also three chapels belonging to the United Associate Synod, one in North Leith and one in Kirkgate, and a third in the Links. One Relief Chapel, an Episcopalian Chapel, and an Independent.

*Schools.*—At an early period, a school was endowed with funds which came into the possession of the kirk-session of South Leith, and two masters with salaries were appointed. An old building

opposite the Trinity House, called King James's Hospital, was converted into a school-house. This institution with its funds seems to have fallen to decay; for we find that, in 1803, a new school-house, called the High School, was built by subscription, and placed under the direction of trustees, consisting of the magistrates, the ministers, and the heads of the corporations. By a clause of the Municipal Bill of 1827, it is enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to the commissioners "to pay the salaries of schoolmasters in the high school of Leith, should the funds pertaining to the said school, as applicable to the purposes of the said school, be inadequate to such purposes." An application having, in the year 1831, been made for a small salary in terms of this clause, it was refused on the ground that there were no funds which could be so appropriated. Subsequently, salaries have been obtained for two of the teachers from Dr Bell's trustees. There are in this institution classes for English, the classics, writing and arithmetic, French and drawing. The number of pupils has varied from 260 to 150. The fees are, per quarter, classics, 18s., English, 7s. 6d.; writing, 7s. 6d.; arithmetic, 7s. 6d.

*Bell's School.*—By a deed of Dr Andrew Bell of Madras, executed in the year 1831, the sums of L.4896 three per cents., and L.4896 bank annuities, were left in trust to the corporation of magistrates and masters of Leith, for the erection and maintenance of a school or schools on the Madras system in the burgh. Accordingly, a piece of ground was purchased, and a handsome and commodious school-house was erected in Great Junction Street, where about 700 pupils are educated according to the system of the founder, and under the superintendence of a teacher appointed by the trustees.

*The Poor.*—The poor are under the management of the kirk-sessions of North and South Leith. The funds for their relief consist of an assessment of 1s. 1d. on the rentals of land and houses, one-half payable by the landlords and one-half by the tenants of houses, together with the church collections and a few other charitable funds. There are no work-houses, and their relief is all out-door. The allowances to families vary from 4s. to 3s. and 2s. per week. The children are boarded out at 2s. per week.

*Charitable Institutions.*—There is a society for the Relief of the Destitute Sick; the Humane Society, and Dispensary for the relief of casual disease; a Female School of Industry, and a Boy's Cha-

rity School. There are also Sunday schools and Bible and Tract societies.

*Libraries, &c.*—There are two public libraries, a Mechanics' Institution, and a Speculative Society.

*Banks.*—The Leith Banking Company was established in 1792, but it ceased to exist within the last few years. There are branches of the Royal and of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Banks; and the Commercial, the National, the British Linen Company, and Bank of Scotland have all agencies here. There is also a Savings Bank.

*Restalrig.*—The village of Restalrig lies to the south-east of Leith, and adjoining to it on the east is the village of Jock's Lodge, where there are barracks capable of containing a regiment of cavalry.

*Newhaven.*—This village lies about half a mile west of Leith Fort, and is inhabited chiefly by fishermen who supply the Edinburgh market with fish, oysters, &c. These fishermen, like most of those on the east coasts of Scotland, are a peculiar race of people, whose habits of life and occupations tend to keep them separate from the mass of the population. They rarely intermarry with other families, and thus they preserve a peculiar caste of countenance and physical constitution. This Newhaven colony is pre-eminent over others for its sober, industrious, and peaceable habits. The women, inured to daily exertion in the open air, are robust, active, and remarkable for their florid, healthy, and regular features, as also for the neatness and cleanliness of their personal appearance. The aspect of the male part of the community is less robust, but they are muscular, healthy, and active. Here there is a stone pier for the convenience of the fishermen, and the steam-boats which ply on the Frith.

On the rising ground in the vicinity of the village, are numerous villas with gardens attached. A church was also erected here in 1838, and Newhaven converted into a *quoad sacra* parish. The population in 1841 was 2103.

*Trinity Chain Pier.*—The grounds of Trinity extend to the westward, on which numerous handsome villas have been built. An elegant Chain Pier was erected here in 1820 under the direction of Captain Brown. The supports of the pier are fixed upon wooden piles; and the depth of the water is, at all times of the tide, sufficient to allow ordinary steam-boats to touch at the end of the pier, in order to receive passengers. This pier has never, however, been extensively used, and it is now greatly superseded

EDINBURGH.

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by the harbour at Granton. It is too narrow to admit of bulky goods being carried along it.

The depth of water at the lowest tides is 6 feet 4 inches; the greatest depth at highest tides 26 feet; the ordinary depth 17 feet. The number of passengers in 1836 was upwards of 120,000. The annual-rent for the same year was L.800.

The terminus of the Edinburgh and Trinity Railroad is opposite to the chain pier, and a branch of the same is now forming onward to Granton harbour.

James IV. erected here a yard and dock for ship-building, and a harbour for the accommodation of vessels. There was also a chapel erected and dedicated to St James.

In 1510 the Town-Council of Edinburgh, apprehensive that this harbour might compete with and injure their port of Leith, purchased the superiority of it, which they still retain, including a right to the oyster scalps in the neighbouring frith. This fishery is rented at almost a nominal rent by the Newhaven fishermen. A few years ago, the Town-Council attempted to negotiate a more profitable lease of these oyster-beds to a London fishmonger; but the adventure proved an unfortunate one to both parties, and a source of great annoyance both to the poor fishermen and the numerous oyster eaters of Edinburgh.

In former times, we read of a rope-work, salt-work, and a glass manufactory, all in operation here, but now there is nothing of the kind. Upwards of 300 fishermen and pilots reside at Newhaven. Oyster dredging occupies a considerable number during the winter months. In summer, several boats' crews repair to the northern coasts, to engage in the herring fishing.

The sea has made great encroachments on the shore east of Newhaven. About fifty years ago "the Links" were so extensive as to admit the royal game of golf to be played on them. Now the ground has been entirely washed away.

*July 1845.*