

## PARISH OF HADDINGTON.

PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. ROBERT LORIMER, LL. D. } MINISTERS.  
THE REV. JOHN COOK, }

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—HADDINGTON, the county town of Haddingtonshire, or East Lothian, lies in  $55^{\circ} 57'$  north latitude, 17 miles east from Edinburgh, on the great post road to London. The name, though apparently of Saxon origin, is of uncertain etymology.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The parish is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length; 6 in breadth; and contains  $22\frac{1}{2}$  miles square, or about 12,000 acres Scots. It was formerly of much greater extent; but in 1674 part of it was annexed to the smaller parish of Athelstaneford; and in 1692 a considerable portion, including several baronies on the west, was taken off to make up the new parish of Gladsmuir. On the north it is bounded by part of the lands of Gladsmuir, Aberlady, and Athelstaneford; on the east by Prestonkirk and Morham; on the south by Yester and Bolton; and on the west by Gladsmuir. The parish has chiefly a northern exposure, the land gradually rising from the vale of Peffer, near the sea, to the height of Brown's Hill, which looks down upon the village of Gifford.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The appearance of the parish is beautifully diversified by a waving irregularity of surface, thriving plantations, well enclosed and richly cultivated fields, extensive parks of verdant pasture, and elegant seats of the nobility and gentry. Besides trees disposed for ornament around the seats of the nobility and gentry, there are plantations of some extent on the grounds of Amisfield, running up in broad regular belts to the Garleton Hills; on the south of Stevenson; on the higher grounds of Coalston; and on the lands of Sir Thomas Hepburn, Bart. towards Gladsmuir. On some parts of Coalston are copse woods, composed of dwarf or Scotch oak, the hazel, the birch, and other indigenous trees, which seem to be a remnant of

that species of copse which, it is said, in early times covered the greater part of the south of Scotland. Coalston wood is mentioned in some of the ancient deeds of the family so far back as the thirteenth century.

The climate is very salubrious, remarkably free from endemic disease, or visitation of contagious fever. It is still, however, in the recollection of aged people, that in their early days, some were laid aside from work every spring, with ague: but now, the soil being so well drained, this disease is rarely if ever heard of in the district. There are at present upwards of 150 persons above seventy years of age, a considerable number beyond eighty, and several above ninety. As an instance of extraordinary longevity in one family, it seems worthy of record, that Alexander Maitland, and Catherine Cunningham, were married 6th August 1657. The ages of nine of the children of this marriage amounted to no less than 738 years. Another thing remarkable of this marriage is, that the eighteenth year of it produced trines, and the twenty-first twins. The ages of the trines amounted to 256.

*Hydrography.*—The Tyne is the only river in the parish. Its source may be traced into the parish of Crichton, about twelve miles westward. After receiving the tributary streams of Salton and Coalston, it passes through Haddington, dividing the burgh from the suburb of Nungate, and proceeding nine miles eastward, falls into the sea below Tynninghame, about a mile to the westward of Dunbar. Though generally of moderate breadth and depth (averaging ten or twelve yards in breadth, two feet in depth, and flowing, when unimpeded by embankments, somewhat less than two miles an hour,) yet being as a trough to a large extent of sloping surface, particularly the Lammermoor range of mountain on the south, it sometimes suddenly swells, and overflowing its banks occasions considerable damage. There are four stone bridges over it in the parish.

It is stated by the Rev. Dr Barclay in a former account of the parish of Haddington, (Transactions of Antiquaries of Scotland, Vol. i. page 46,) on the authority of Fordun, lib. xiv. c. 21, "That on Christmas eve 1358, there happened a most extraordinary inundation. The rivers swollen by excessive rains, rose above their banks and swept away many villages, houses, and bridges, and many persons lost their lives whilst endeavouring to save their property,—not only cattle but tall oaks and other large trees were torn up by the roots and carried off to the sea. Sheaves of corn were

carried off the adjacent fields, from whence it appears that the harvest that year must have been remarkably late. As it approached the Abbey of Haddington, a nun snatched up the statue of the Virgin, and threatened to throw it into the water, unless Mary protected her Abbey from inundation. At that moment the river retired," says Bowmaker, (the continuator of Fordun,) "and gradually subsided within its limits." On consulting, however, Goodall's edition of Fordun's *Scotichronicon* the words are "In vigilia natiuitatis *nostræ Domine*," (not *nostræ Domini*, as some must have read or imagined,) that is, the 7th of September, the nativity of the Virgin Mary being the 8th of that month. In Hearne's edition of Fordun, Vol. iv. p. 1053, the words are, "In vigilia natiuitatis *beatæ virginis*." The harvest that year, therefore, was not late. It is probable that Dr Barclay proceeded on the high authority of Lord Hailes, who mentions it in his *Annals* among the miscellaneous and memorable occurrences of that year.

It appears by our MSS. histories, that upon the festival of St Ninian, 1421, the waters, by constant rains, swelled to such a height, that there were a great many houses entirely defaced in the town, and the people went into the church in a boat, so that the Sacristy, with their fine library and ornaments for divine service, were greatly damaged, (Spottiswood's *Account of Religious Houses in Scotland*, p. 274.) A similar flood happened on the 4th October 1775, which was 350 years after. The Tyne then rose seventeen feet above its level in less than an hour, and inundated more than half the town in its vicinity. This sudden swell is supposed to have been owing to the bursting of a water-spout to the southward above Gifford, as there was not much rain to the north or in the neighbourhood. As this happened during the day, mercifully no lives were lost.

*Geology.*—There are few sections, natural or artificial, in the parish, from which one can ascertain the disposition and direction of the strata. The rock of which the Garleton range of hill is composed appears to be a secondary trap, approaching to what is called clinkstone, contemporaneous with North Berwick Law and Traprain, the two principal heights in the neighbourhood. Heavy spar is found near the west end of the hills. In the lower grounds is sandstone of different colour and quality. The alluvial matter in the bed of the river is the debris of secondary trap, with nodules of quartz.

There are no mines in the parish. It appears from the ancient

records of the burgh, that attempts have been made at different times for 300 years back, to obtain coal from lands belonging to the town on the borders of Gladsmuir. In 1823, the attempt was renewed, and L. 1800 at least expended on the trial, but without success. The thinness of the coal seam did not repay the work and remunerate the proprietors.

The only mineral spring in the parish is a weak chalybeate at Dobson's well, about half a mile west of the town of Haddington.

The soil of the parish is various. In some places, towards Gladsmuir, it is thin and of inferior quality: but in general it is good, and in a high state of cultivation.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Notices.*—Haddington, as appears from the *Civita quatuor Burgorum*, is a town of great antiquity; but when it was erected into a royal burgh is uncertain—its ancient records having been destroyed by the inroads of the English, who several times burnt the town and laid it waste. There is a charter \* amongst the public records, from James V., dated 1542; but the most ancient charter in the records of the burgh is one from James VI., dated 13th January 1624, confirming all their ancient rights and privileges. Haddington is the tenth in the order of precedency among the royal burghs, and pays L. 1, 16s. in every L. 100 of their assessments.

There are only two villages in the parish, and both inconsiderable. Of the one, St Lawrence House, about a mile to the westward of the town of Haddington, there is neither record nor tradition of any importance; the other is the Abbey, somewhat more than a mile to the eastward. Here in 1178, Countess Ada of Northumberland, mother of Malcolm IV. and William the Lion, Kings of Scotland, founded and richly endowed a convent or priory of Cistercian nuns, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary; and here on the 7th July 1548, the Parliament of Scotland was convened, and their consent obtained to the marriage of the young Queen Mary with the Dauphin, and her education at the court of France.

Haddington was the first place in Scotland visited by cholera asphyxia in 1831. This pestilential disease, originating in the jungles of Hindostan about the year 1817, and progressing westward, after spreading death and destruction over a vast extent of territory, reached the eastern coast of Britain in summer or autumn

\* It is noticed as a demesne town of the Scottish King in the twelfth century.

1831. From Sunderland and Newcastle, its next step was to Haddington, passing over the intermediate country and populous towns of Berwick and Dunbar. As soon as its arrival was ascertained, a board of health was formed, and the most prompt measures were used for cleansing the streets and alleys of the town; white-washing and fumigating infected or suspected houses, liberally distributing flannel clothing to the poorer classes, and amply supplying them daily with nourishing food from a soup-kitchen. A commodious hospital was found and fitted up to receive patients, and the medical faculty were in constant attendance. The number of cases in all was 125, of which were, 50 men, 66 women, 1 boy, and 8 girls. Of these 57 died, (two or three of the cases happened to be passing strangers who brought the disease with them.) It chiefly attacked the intemperate and dissipated in the humbler ranks, though others of better condition and habits, but of feeble constitution, fell victims to its violence. It reached Haddington on 17th December 1831, and entirely left the place on 22d February following. In one night there were 8 deaths. The expenses incurred during these two months amounted to about L. 400, of which L. 150 were contributed from the county subscription fund, L. 112 by collections at the church doors, and the remainder by voluntary subscription.

*Seats of the Nobility and Gentry.*—The landward part of the parish is studded and embellished with the family seats or mansions of the nobility and gentry;—Amisfield, on the south bank of Tyne, belonging to the Earl of Wemyss and March; Stevenson, about half a-mile to the eastward, the seat of Sir John Gordon Sinclair, Bart.; Lennoxlove, anciently Lethington, about a mile to the south of Haddington, the seat of Lord Blantyre.\* Part of this latter mansion is very ancient, having been built by the Giffords. The square tower, it is believed, is not surpassed in strength and height by any fortalice in Scotland. Lethington was long the chief residence of the Lauderdale family. Sir Richard Maitland, and Secretary Maitland lived here, and John Duke of Lauderdale was born, and spent most of his days in same place.† A little to the

\* The change of name was made by Alexander Lord Blantyre in honour of, and gratitude to his relation and munificent benefactress, Frances Duchess of Lennox and Richmond, who, by a large bequest, enabled him to purchase it. She was a lady of great beauty and accomplishments, and so passionately admired by Charles II. that he sought to honour her by having her person represented on the coinage under the emblematic figure of *Britannia*.

† The first park wall, enclosing an extent of surface somewhat more than a mile square, was built by the Duke of Lauderdale (in the space, it is said, of six weeks,) in consequence of a sarcastic remark of the Duke of York—intimating that, before

east is Monkrigg, the elegant new mansion of the Honourable Captain Keith, R. N. To the south, again, and within view of Lennoxlove is Coalston, the seat of the family of Brown, the most ancient family in the parish, now possessed by its amiable and excellent representative, the Countess of Dalhousie. On the north of the Tyne, and west of the town of Haddington, are the estates and Houses of Clerkington, belonging to Colonel Robert Houston: Letham, the property of Sir Thomas Hepburn, Bart.; Alderston, that of Robert Stewart, Esq. M. P.; and Huntington, of William Ainslie, Esq.

*Eminent Men.*—It appears that Haddington was at one time a royal residence, and that Alexander II. was born there in the year 1198. But it is much more distinguished as the birth-place of the illustrious Scotch Reformer, John Knox. He was born in the Gifford-gait, adjoining to the town, in 1505, and afterwards educated at the grammar-school of the burgh. Some writers, misled probably by the name of the Gifford-gait, or way that leads to Gifford, have said, “that he was born at Gifford, near Haddington.” But, in the first place, immemorial, unopposed, unchallenged tradition has fixed this suburb of Haddington on the old Gifford road, as the place of his nativity, and the site of the house is still shown; and next, though Gifford, as a *barony*, has existed and been known by that appellation since Hugh de Gifford settled in East Lothian under David I., and received from William the Lion the manor of Yester; yet there is reason to believe that Gifford, as a *village*, did not exist in the time of the Reformer, nor for more than a century afterwards. Indeed the present village of Gifford is comparatively of modern origin; owing its rise and locality chiefly to the removal of the ancient church of Bothans from the vicinity of the mansion house of Yester to its present site, about the beginning of the eighteenth century. Previous to this period, tradition speaks only of a single house there, *Gifford-ha'*, which, in the colloquial parlance of the country, is still applied to designate the village.\*

his first visit to this part of the island, he heard there was not so much as a park in Scotland. The wall was twelve feet in height, but many years ago, was reduced to seven. At this place the excellent species of apples called Lethingtons were first cultivated, having been brought from France about the middle of the sixteenth century.

\* The following extracts from the records of the town-council of Haddington, which extend as far back as 6th March 1424, are illustrative of the antiquities of the burgh and of those olden times as to *education*. “October 6, 1559. The council thought it expedient to fee Mr Robert Dormont to be skoillmaister of the burgh, with 24 merks in the year, payable off the common gude; and allowed for ‘ilk town bairn’ 12d. termly of school-house fee, and 4d. termly from the parents or friends of the bairn as use and wont was. The council to find Mr Dormont ‘ane chalmer and skoill-house mail tre.’” In February 1563, is a contract between the town and Thomas Cumyn

The talented and noble family of Maitland became connected with this parish so early as towards the end of the fourteenth cen-

schoolmaster, by which he binds and obliges himself "to leir all and sundry the bairnis of the inhabitants of the same burgh diligently in grammatik letters, in Latyn toung and moralie vertues at his possibilitie, shewing himself by good life, honest behaviour and conversation, example to others, as well as in his instruction and doctrine, as God will give him grace, and at his possibilitie during all the days of his lifetime—that he should receive 70 merks yearly and iiij. shillings money in the year, at iiij. terms, Beltane, Lammas, Candlemass, and Hallowmass; ilk term xijd. of ilk bairn he learns and instructs of the inhabitants of the burgh of skolaige silver alanerlie." In 1579, Mr John Ker is feed as schoolmaster after the same tenor with Mr Cumyn. "To receive threescore pounds yearly as stipend; and uptake for ilk bairn, 4s. money of stipend yearly at four terms and to have a doctor under him, to have his meat of ilk bairn, and 4d. termly as above-mentioned." It appears that the offices of schoolmaster and minister were sometimes conjoined in the same individual.

From the minutes of 14th December 1669, it appears that previously the school had convened every day by six in the morning, both summer and winter, but the council for the health and welfare of the children fix that from Hallowmas to Candlemas, in time coming the school shall only convene by nine in the morning.

*The Ministers of Haddington.*—In 1531, Sir James Mauchlyne is mentioned as curate of the kirk of Haddington, Sir Thomas Mauchlyne as Lady Priest, there, and Sir Patrick Mauchlyne, Count kirk master in the same.—It may be observed that the title Sir was not formerly peculiar to knights; it was also given to priests, and sometimes to inferior personages. Dr Johnson thinks this title was applied to such as had taken the degree of A. B. in the universities who are styled *domini*, Sirs, to distinguish them from the M. A.'s who are styled *magistri*, masters.—Percy's Reliques, Vol. 1.

Mr Patrick Cockburn, son to Cockburn of Langton, was the first Protestant minister settled at Haddington after the Reformation. Having, when young, entered into holy orders, he went over to the university of Paris, where he taught the Oriental languages with great applause. On returning home he embraced the reformed religion, and officiated as minister of Haddington till his death in 1568. Dempster characterizes him as the most learned and moderate of all the Scotch reformers. On 31st March 1570, the council ordained John Ayton, Provost, and Barnard Thomson, bailie, to pass to Edinburgh to *metis* to the session for a minister—that is apply to the session to obtain a minister. On 13th April same year, the council ordained the Provost and "ane othair honest man with him" to pass to the Assembly of Edinburgh, at midsummer next to get an answer to the giving of a minister to the town.—June 14th. To speik the kirk for obtaining a minister and his stipend.—25 August, the council ordained John Douglas, bailie, to pass to Edinburgh, to convoy the minister, Mr James Carmichael, to the burgh against Sunday next, 1571.—1572, January 10. The council authorized the treasurer to deliver to Mr James Carmichael, minister, x. merks, to pay his "chalmer mail" for one year from Martinmass in the year of God 1571 years alanerlie. From the presbytery records it appears that the cure of the churches of Haddington, St Martin's in the Nungate, and Athelstaneford were served by Mr James Carmichael from 1592 to 1602. Mr George Grier was ordained minister of St Martin's church in 1602. Mr Carmichael was also schoolmaster, for which he received forty pounds (Scots) yearly. But May 28th 1574 the provost, bailies, and council, with advice of the deacons, stated and ordained, that in no time coming the minister of the kirk should be admitted schoolmaster of the burgh.—1588, December 9th, An act was passed respecting a manse for the minister. The highest stipend of the reformed clergy was l. 600 Scots; the fourth minister of Edinburgh had only l. 60, being little more than l. 5 Sterling.—1572-73, February 28. The council conducit Mr Walter M'Canquell (Balcanquell) to read the common prayers in the kirk at vii. hours before noon in summer, and viii. hours in winter, and that on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, and to be clerk in the session and doctor in the school—the council agreeing to pay to said reader 50 merks in the year.

*Members of Parliament.* 20 November 1579. The council authorized the treasurer to pay to James Cockburn his expenses at the parliament, extending to xxiii. days; and to William Brown xiii. days; and to John Thomson xxiii. days, each day 5s. money.

On 5th October 1669, John Hay of Baro, was elected commissioner to the Par-

tury by the purchase of Lethington, which was afterwards their chief residence. Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington, born in 1496 and died 1586, aged 90 years, was a man of distinguished merit and abilities. He was many years a Lord of Session and Lord Privy-Seal. Two small volumes of his poems have been published by Mr Pinkerton. The eldest son, William, was secretary of state during the reign of Mary Queen of Scots. The character and fate of this accomplished statesman are well known. All his brothers were men of uncommon merit and talents, and, like himself, reflect a lustre on the place of their nativity. John, the secretary's next brother, rose to the highest offices and honours in the state, being advanced to the dignity of Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, which he held till his death, 3d October 1595. In 1590, he was created Lord Maitland of Thirlestane.\* Thomas, the youngest brother of the Secretary and Chancellor, was highly accomplished as a scholar and gentleman. He is one of the Colloquutors in Buchanan's celebrated dialogue, "De jure regni apud Scotos." Some of his Latin poems published by Scotstarvet are extremely elegant. John Earl of Lauderdale, son and heir of the Chancellor, was a nobleman of the greatest worth.†

liament, and allowed 6s. 8d. per day for his expenses. The allowance (5th July 1681) to Provost Cockburn and his man for each days' attendance in Parliament was L. 5 Scots.

On 24th September 1696, the large sum of L. 236, 2s. Scots was voted as commission fees to the Parliament in July, August, and September last, so that the practice of paying members continued till the period of the Union.

Before the Revolution every parent was obliged, under a penalty, to have his child baptized by the Established clergyman, and registered. At present few Dissenters register the names of their children.

It appears from the records of the town-council, that the *pest*, after making fearful ravages in Edinburgh, travelled eastward; for it is stated (20th September 1590,) that the weekly market was suspended, and all travel to or from Edinburgh, Leith, or other suspected places was interdicted by the magistrates, under severe pains and penalties.

In 1244, the town, composed chiefly of wooden buildings, according to the custom of the times, was totally consumed by fire. That this happened not by accident, but by wilful design, seems evident, as in the same night Stirling, Roxburgh, Lanark, Perth, Forfar, Montrose, and Aberdeen shared the same fate. In 1598, almost the whole town was again consumed by fire, owing, it is said, to the carelessness of a maid-servant. Ever since this calamity, a curfew goes through the town at eight o'clock at night during the winter months, when, after tolling a bell, a crier repeats a few rude rhymes, alluding to the misfortune, and warning the inhabitants to greater caution in future. This is called "coal and can'le."

\* There is a most superb and costly monument of the chancellor and his lady in the aisle of the church of Haddington, belonging to the Lauderdale family, 24 feet in length, 18 feet in width, and 18 feet high. There are two compartments supported by three black marble pillars, 5 feet high each, with capitals of white alabaster of the Corinthian order, arched above. In the western compartment are figures of Lord Thirlestane and his lady at full length, in white alabaster, close to each other, in a recumbent posture.

† In the east compartment of the marble monument referred to in the aisle of the church of Haddington, are figures of the Earl and his Countess, similar to those of

## III.—POPULATION.

By census 1801 the population of the parish amounted to	-	-	4049
1810,	-	-	4870
1821,	-	-	5255
1831,	-	-	5883
Residing in the town and Nungate,	-	3751	
in villages,	-	106	
in the country,	-	2026	
Persons under 15 years of age,	-	2351 or $\frac{2}{3}$	
between 15 and 30,	-	1506 or $\frac{1}{2}$	
30 and 50,	-	1202 or $\frac{1}{3}$	
50 and 70,	-	673 or $\frac{1}{5}$	
upwards of 70,	-	151 or $\frac{1}{10}$	
deaf and dumb,	-	2	
blind,	-	2	
lunatic,	-	1	
fatuous and imbecile,	-	3	
Number of families in the parish,	-	-	1045*
Average number of marriages in the five years preceding 1833,	-	-	41
of births during the same period,	-	-	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
of deaths for the last seven years,	-	-	87
Proportion of males and females in 1830, 43 sons, and 43 daughters.	-	-	

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—

The number of imperial acres cultivated,	-	-	9812
never in cultivation,	-	-	250
capable of being cultivated with a profitable application of capital,	-	-	857
under wood,	-	-	1250
in undivided common,	-	-	0

*Husbandry.*—The farms are considerable in size, and the rent is generally paid in grain, at the medium or second fiars of the county. Since the former Statistical Account was drawn up, various and important improvements have taken place in the husbandry of the parish, in a more complete drainage of the soil, the rotation of crops, the culture given to the land, the introduction of new species of manure, and of farm implements. *Drainage* is now both better understood and more extensively practised than at the period referred to. Drains formerly were not made of such depth as to render them efficient. Now they are executed with that attention to the nature of the soil which renders them permanently subservient to its amelioration. The rotation of crops was then generally of a scourging nature, as it is called, being for the most part a succession of culmiferous grains, without a due mixture of the leguminous. The land, therefore, was then much less pro-

the Chancellor and his lady. The famous John Duke of Lauderdale, eldest son and heir of the Earl, was born at Letlington, 26th May 1616. The leaden coffin which contains his body, and a vase enclosing his bowels, are deposited in a vault in the aisle of the church of Haddington.

\* Stated in the abstract of returns to Government, 1831, at 1806.

ductive than it is now, when the succulent plants are more extensively cultivated, and pasturage more frequently introduced; for besides its renovating influence on the productiveness of the earth, the farmer is thus enabled to carry on the operations of his farm at less expense, while it is believed an equal, if not a greater quantity of corn is produced than when nearly the whole farm is kept in tillage. New *manures* have also been recently introduced, as rape and bone dust, to render the soil more prolific. The former has been successfully applied to clay soils, and the latter to those of a light description.

The implements of husbandry have likewise been progressively improved, and a greater variety introduced into farm management.

*Tenantry.*—Though the tenantry are remarkable for their intelligence and cultivation—their superior domestic accommodation—and style of living, it may safely be affirmed that in no profession has so little profit of late years been realized from an equal outlay of capital, as in that of the agriculturist, chiefly owing to the high rent of land. Though no expensive course of education be required in order to attain sufficient skill to conduct the diversified operations of the farm, yet the capital necessary to an advantageous outset has doubled if not tripled within the last forty years. And then the prices of corn during the late continental war, having risen to an exorbitant height, farmers felt encouraged to offer a higher rent than the decreased price of corn produce has since enabled them to pay, without trenching on their capital. Several landed proprietors, however, convinced of the necessity of a reduction, have made considerable abatements of rent, and others have consented to an interchange of the terms and conditions of the lease; substituting a corn rent, regulated by the medium fiars of the county, instead of the stipulated sum of money formerly paid.

*Farm-Servants.*—The parish of Haddington being agricultural, farm-servants constitute a considerable proportion of the population. Being commonly paid in farm produce, and allowed to keep a cow, they are generally considered to be in a more comfortable and thriving condition than any other description of labourers or even than common tradesmen whose wages are paid in money. Farm-servants are mostly married men, and their wages are paid in kind, viz. 9 quarters of oats,—2 $\frac{2}{3}$  quarters of barley, and 1 quarter of pease or beans; a cow kept for them during the year; 750 yards of good well-manured land to crop with potatoes, and one pound or guinea in lieu of about 540 yards of ground which was former-

ly allowed on which to raise flax for family use. The cottage rent is commonly paid by the wife of the cottager giving twenty days reaping in harvest, or paying the wages of a reaper, which may average between L. 1, and L. 1, 10s.; for which sum, besides his house, he has a garden attached worth 8s. or 10s., and his fuel carried free of expense; so that what he receives with the cottage is of more value than the shearer's wages. Women and children receive from 6d. to 10d. a-day, according to their ability, but in harvest their wages are regulated by the market. Oatmeal and potatoes form a considerable proportion of the diet of farm-servants. They also use mixed bread, and keep a pig to consume the offal and refuse of the garden.

Though in general acquainted with the elementary branches of education—as reading, writing, and arithmetic—and amply provided with the means of information in most departments of knowledge, by having access to libraries, parochial and itinerating, they are not much given to reading, nor remarkable for their attainments in general information. Indeed, persons so early at work in the morning, and occupied with the labours of the field through the day, can have little leisure or in general inclination for literary pursuits, when they return to their cottage in the evening, exhausted and weary. Besides, they want the excitement of conversation and discussion from frequent intercourse, which give so much interest and impulse to the working-classes in manufacturing districts. In all their cottages, however, is commonly to be found a family Bible; the catechetical formularies of our church, and some approved popular works in Theology.

As the farmers have as few inefficient persons on their premises as possible, their servants when old or infirm, either pass the remainder of their days with some member of their family,—for in general they have numerous families,—or they retire to some neighbouring village or town, and take such work as they may still feel themselves equal to.

*Produce.*—The average amount and value of gross produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

Produce of grain, being white crop grown on (say) 4800 Scots acres, L. 8 per acre	L. 38,400	0	0
Potatoes and turnips, 850 Scots acres, at L. 7 per acre,	5,950	0	0
Beans and pease, 525 do. at L. 6 per acre,	3,150	0	0
215 Scots acres of hay, at L. 5 per acre,	1,075	0	0
1060 Scots acres in pasture, at L. 2, 10s. per acre,	2,650	0	0
Gardens and orchards,	1,000	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 52,225	0	0

*Fiars.*—From time immemorial, it has been the practice of this county to fix, by public authority, the *fiar* or average prices of wheat, barley, oats, and pease,—these four species of grain being the staple produce. For this purpose, the Sheriff, about the term of Candlemas, calls before him a considerable number of respectable tenants (from different parts of the county,) and also extensive dealers in grain, who have bought and sold, delivered and received it within the county, from the separation of the preceding crop to the day on which the proof is taken. And having ascertained, upon oath, the price of considerable quantities of each of these four species of grain, he strikes one general average of the whole prices for each species,—next finds the quantity or number of bolls that have fetched a price higher than the general average, and strikes a second average of this quantity. He then finds the quantity that has been sold at a price below his first general average, and strikes a third average also of this quantity. To each of these averages he adds two and a-half per cent., and these three averages, with that addition, form the first, the second, and third *fiar* prices for the year.

The late Sir George B. Hepburn, Bart. took pains to ascertain the reason of two and a-half per cent. being added to the *fiar* averages, and found that the record of *fiars* goes as far back as 1627,—that it was some time the practice to strike the *fiars* twice in the year, at the terms of Candlemas and Lammas,—that on examining the *fiars* for twenty-six years, during which they were struck at Candlemas and Lammas, and taking the average of both, which seems to be the fair medium price, it turned out, in point of fact, that the Candlemas, with the addition of two and a-half per cent., was somewhat below the above medium of the double *fiars*. Candlemas, on several obvious considerations, is too early a period to take the average price for the whole year,—Whitsunday seems preferable. It may also be stated, that the present mode of striking the *fiars* has received the sanction of the Supreme Court. On 8th March 1771, the Lords gave judgment, finding, “that the rules by which the Sheriff proceeded seemed well qualified for fixing the price of victual with the greatest accuracy.”

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Town of Haddington.*—The town of Haddington is pleasantly situated at the foot of the Garleton range of hills on the north, and bounded by the Tyne on the east, which divides it from the populous suburb of Nungate, to which, however, it is joined by a bridge of four arches. The town consists principally of two paral-

lel streets, running east and west, and a long cross street which bounds one of these and intersects the other nearly at right angles. The high or main parallel street, which is a continuation of the road from Edinburgh, is spacious, and the houses in general regular and handsome. The appearance of the town has of late been greatly improved by the erection of a lofty spire to the town-house, 150 feet in height, by side pavement on the streets, and gas lights, and by county buildings on a large and elegant scale, for the better accommodation of the Sheriff's court, meetings of the county, and suitable apartments for the public records.

The approaches to the town from the west and east are ornamented by a number of beautiful villas with gardens and nursery grounds adjoining.

The church is a venerable Gothic fabric, 210 feet in length, supposed to be of the thirteenth or fourteenth century. Fordun styles it *Lucerna Laudoniæ*, the lamp of Lothian, on account of the beauty of its structure, and because, being lighted at night, it was visible at a great distance. The quire and transept are now in a somewhat dilapidated state; but the square tower which surmounts the building, and is ninety feet high, is entire. The western part of the cross has been lately fitted up in a superior style, and is used as the parish church.

The municipal affairs of the burgh are now managed by a council of twenty-five persons, elected according to the provisions of the Burgh Reform Act, by a constituency of 174, at present qualified to elect, the greater part of whom are also qualified to hold office. The magistrates consist of a provost, three bailies, a treasurer, and dean of guild. The council annually elect a baron bailie over the adjoining village of Nungate, and also one over their dependencies in Gladsmuir, consisting of lands mostly feued from the town.

There are nine incorporated trades, having exclusive right to exercise their several crafts within the burgh.

The funds of the burgh arise from land, mills, feus, customs, and amount to about L. 1400 a-year.

Haddington joins with Jedburgh, Dunbar, Lauder, and North Berwick, in electing a Member of Parliament.

There are no manufactures in town, but there are two breweries and two distilleries in the vicinity; an iron forge and coach-work; a considerable trade in wool, in tanning and currying leather, in preparing bones and rape cake for manure, and in supplying the

neighbouring country and villages with such goods and articles of merchandize as they may require.

The fairs have gone into desuetude, but there is a good weekly market on Friday, when the several kinds of grain are exposed to sale in bulk for ready money. It is perhaps the largest wheat market in Scotland.

The county courts are held here by the Sheriff every Thursday during session, and a small debt court every alternate Thursday. A Justice of Peace Court also is held on the first Tuesday in every month, except March, May, and August, in which months the court is held on the first Thursday.

*Ecclesiastical State.*\*—Haddington is a Presbytery seat, and the meetings of that body are usually held in it. The parish church is collegiate. Both ministers have manses and glebes, and of late both stipends have been made nearly equal; the first charge having eight chalders of barley, eight chalders of oats, and three chalders of wheat, with L. 10 for communion elements; and the second seventeen chalders of victual, with L. 33, 6s. 8d. money from the town, with L. 10 for communion elements.

Besides the Established church there is an Episcopal chapel, a congregation of Old Light Seceders; two meeting-houses of the United Secession, and an Independent and a Methodist chapel. From the central situation of the town, these meetings draw a considerable proportion of their members from the neighbouring parishes; and not a few in the town and its vicinity, warmly attached to the Establishment, are forced from the parish church, through mere want of accommodation, there being seating only for 1129, to a population of nearly 6000. The number of families in the

\* In the suburb of Nungate are the ruins of St Martin's Chapel, which belonged to the Abbey of Haddington. It appears from the records of the Presbytery of Haddington, which are extant as far back as A. D. 1592, that the cure of the churches of Haddington, St Martin's, and Athelstaneford, were served by one clergyman, Mr James Carmichael, from 1592 to 1602, and probably for several years preceding that period. In 1602, Mr George Grier was ordained minister of St Martin's. He seems to have had no successor. It is believed that his chapel was suffered to go into decay as St Mary's (the present parish church) was then sufficiently large to contain both congregations.

An Episcopal visitation was held 16th September 1685, when it was agreed, in presence of the Bishop of Edinburgh, the Magistrates of Haddington, and several of the heritors, that a second minister was necessary to the kirk of Haddington, and the year following Mr William Trent was collated to that charge. His stipend consisted of L. 600 Scots, all paid by the town out of the revenues of the burgh. The patronage of the second charge was claimed by the town; but, after a suit at law, it was decided in favour of the Earl of Haddington, then proprietor of the barony of Byres in the parish, and patron of the first charge. There is a famous though unsuccessful pleading of Sir George Mackenzie in support of the town's right, published by him in his specimen "*Eloquentiæ Forensis Scotiæ.*"

parish attending the Established church is 830; of families attending the chapels of Dissenters or Seceders, 186; of families attending the Episcopal chapel, 26; of Roman Catholic families, 3.

*Education.*—Besides a grammar school for classical learning, a school for English reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography, with a department for mathematics appointed and endowed by the burgh, there is a parochial school supported by the landward heritors at the maximum salary. Fees may amount to L. 50 per annum. English reading, 2s. 6d. a quarter, writing do. 3s. 6d., arithmetic, 4s. 6d. The proportion of those who learn reading alone is two-thirds. The class books in use at present are Mr Wood's, and the Scriptures alternately. There are also several schools taught by private individuals.

Under the head of education it may be mentioned that there are several Sabbath schools taught by the elders of the Established church; each taking charge, as far as practicable, of the young in his own allotted district of the parish.

*Mechanics Institution.*—A mechanics School of Arts was commenced here so early as 1823, in which lectures in chemistry, in several branches of mechanics, and in physical, moral, and economic science, have been delivered. The institution is provided with a suitable apparatus, museum, and library.

*Tyneside Games.*—These games, consisting of various gymnastic exercises, as running, leaping, wrestling, &c. &c. have been celebrated these two years past in Amisfield Park, amid a great concourse of spectators, and under the patronage of the neighbouring noblemen and gentlemen.

*Societies.*—Many societies hold their regular meetings here, as the Agricultural, Horticultural, and the Ancient fraternity of gardeners of East Lothian. There are also societies for extending the knowledge and influence of religion over the world, as the East Lothian Bible Society, and the Society for Propagating Christianity, with their auxiliaries of a penny a-week, and a Juvenile society of 1d. a-week.

Various benevolent Societies have been instituted, and are in operation for the aid and relief of sick or indigent members. Lately, a Mutual Assurance society has been formed, on the best principles of calculation, embracing, 1st, a Sickness fund for granting weekly payments during sickness; 2dly, a deferred Annuity fund for affording allowances to members for life after completing sixty

years of age ; *3dly*, a Life Assurance fund for affording a sum on the death of members.

A Female Society has been for a long time in use, to visit and afford pecuniary relief to the sick and aged poor, and to minister to their instruction and comfort, by reading the Scriptures, and giving them suitable tracts.

There is also a Dispensary for supplying flannel clothing, wine, and porter, as cases certified by a medical attendant require, according to the number or amount of subscriptions of 10s. 6d. ordered by the subscriber.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—Paupers are maintained by legal assessment on the valued rent of the landward heritors ; the town of Haddington paying a stipulated proportion out of its own funds or patrimony. Besides weekly collections at the church doors, which, now that an assessment is established, do little more than pay the salaries of the session-clerk, precentor, beadles, and other incidents,—the session have L. 300 of mortified money under their management, for behoof of the poor.

The late David Gourlay, Esq. bequeathed a field of four acres, with L. 450, and L. 840, 3s. 2d. stock, the rent and interest of which he directed to be applied by the parochial ministers, as they might deem fit, to aid the industrious poor ; but by no means to relieve the heritors from their legal obligations. The average amount of church collections for the poor is between L. 50 and L. 60 a-year ;—of assessments, about L. 800 ; of legacies, L. 300.

*Banks.*—There are two banks,—branches of the Bank of Scotland and of the British Linen Company.

*Savings Bank.*—In 1815 a savings bank was established. Those who avail themselves of the benefit of this institution are generally mechanics, day-labourers, and servants. At last settlement with the treasurer in March 1833, there were 133 depositors, and about L. 1000 in deposit. The amount yearly invested is L. 205 : withdrawn, L. 175.

*Libraries.*—There are several valuable libraries worthy of notice, as the Presbytery library for the use of that Reverend body ; a gift from a society of pious individuals in London more than a century ago ; a library bequeathed to the town of Haddington, by the Rev. John Gray, Episcopal minister at Aberlady, with 50 merks a year, to add to it from time to time by the purchase of new books ; a Parish library established from the funds of the late Mr Andrew Begbie, farmer in Barney mains, and a respectable member of session ; a

Subscription Library, containing about 1000 volumes. Haddington is also the head quarters of Samuel Brown, Esq.'s Itinerating Libraries: \* whence they set out and whither they return.

\* As the introduction of itinerating libraries is a new and cheap means of diffusing useful knowledge, especially among those in the humbler walks of life,—and as it appears, from authentic printed reports and memoirs, that much good has already been done by this mode of circulating information, it seems proper to insert a letter from the worthy and benevolent author of the institution (at present chief magistrate of Haddington) to the writer, giving a general view of the origin, progress, and present state of these institutions:—

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

*Haddington, 5th May 1835.*

I began the plan of itinerating libraries in East Lothian in 1817, with five divisions of 50 volumes each, and there are now (1835) under my superintendence in this county, forty-three divisions of 50 volumes, besides about 450 volumes of new and agricultural books for the use of the annual subscribers of 5s. ; in all 2600 volumes. The new books are kept at Haddington, Dunbar, and North Berwick, for a few years for the use of subscribers to the above amount, and are afterwards arranged into divisions of 50 volumes, and stationed in the towns and villages of the county for two years, when they are removed and exchanged. The regular removal and supply of new divisions has excited and kept up such a disposition to read, that in several stations during the winter months, scarcely a volume is left in the book-case. To persons acquainted with the issues from the usual settled libraries of 2600 volumes, and of eighteen years standing, the following statement will appear almost incredible. The issues (by a calculation I made in 1830) of the new books at Haddington to the subscribers have been nearly eight and a-half times for every volume. The gratuitous issues at Haddington have been seven and a-half times every volume; at Gifford, Salton, Aberlady, North Berwick, Belhaven, and Spott, they have been seven times every volume; and the issues of the whole establishment, so far as reported, have been on an average five times every volume. In all cases the librarians give their services gratuitously. Until 1831, the books were lent gratuitously, the new excepted; but the readers made voluntary contributions at the greater number of the stations. In that year the plan was so far altered, that one penny was required for the use of a volume during the first year a library was in the station; and during the second the books were lent gratuitously. This alteration has considerably increased the funds, while the gratuitous reading during the second year is training the young to a taste for reading. In 1831, with the assistance of the Scottish Missionary Society and several West India proprietors, I sent four divisions to Jamaica, to be under the direction of the missionaries of that society. In 1831 and 1834, I received from a few friends of the plan about L. 400, to promote the introduction of libraries into certain specified districts, and I have since sent to various parts of Scotland, England, Ireland, Jamaica, Canada, South Africa, St Petersburg, ninety divisions containing 4500 volumes. They were furnished at cost prices, and to some districts at half the cost price, and those sent to Ireland still lower. They were placed under the superintendence of gentlemen or ladies in the different districts. In 1826, a society was formed in Edinburgh for establishing itinerating libraries in Mid-Lothian, but its exertions had been greatly neutralized by deaths amongst its original members, and various other circumstances. Last year I agreed with the committee to take the superintendence of their libraries, and in Edinburgh, Leith, and the vicinity, there are now twenty-one divisions, besides stations for new books at Buccleuch Place, and Hill Street Academies, and the Young Ladies Seminary, George Street.

As I am convinced that the plan is calculated to be extensively useful at a small expense, I will be always happy to give any information in my power on the subject to any person who may wish it. I am, your's sincerely, (Signed) SAMUEL BROWN.

To Rev. Dr LORIMER.