

## PARISH OF SALTON.

PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. ROBERT KERR HAMILTON, A. M., MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE origin of the name of this parish is somewhat doubtful,—though it has in general been ascribed to the fact of the ancient manor having been possessed during part of the thirteenth century, by Nicolas de Soulis or Soules, one of the competitors for the Scottish Crown in 1291, (and grandfather of the celebrated Lord Soulis of border history,) from whom it is supposed to have been originally termed Soulistown, by abbreviation Soutown, and subsequently, by corruption, Saltoun, or Salton.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—The extreme length of the parish is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles; in breadth, it varies from 2 to 3. The number of square miles of surface, however, does not probably exceed 8. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Gladsmuir and Haddington; on the east by that of Bolton; and on the south and west by those of Humbie and Pencaitland, from both of which it is divided by the Salton and Tyne waters. In figure, it nearly resembles an oval, of which the greater diameter extends from north to south. The regularity of the form is, however, somewhat affected on the eastern side, by two extensive indentations formed by the parish of Bolton.

*Topographical Appearances.*—From the western boundary, the land rises by a gradual ascent towards the south and east, until, at its highest point of elevation, called the Skimmer hills, it reaches the height of about 600 feet above the level of the sea. From this point, which is almost in the middle of the parish, the land again declines somewhat more abruptly towards the south, until it reaches the level of the Salton and Humbie waters. On the west and north, the ground wears the aspect of rich cultivation; the thorn hedges, often interspersed with wild roses, are neatly and tastefully kept; and the beauty of some of the roads is much increased by

their being bordered by different kinds of trees planted in the hedge-rows. On the southern slope of the above-mentioned height, a wood\* extends for upwards of a mile and a-half, skirting the edge of the boundary stream on the south, and uniting with the equally extensive woods of Humbie. It consists chiefly of fir, birch, and oak. Towards the south-east, the aspect of the country is less fertile in vegetation, and inferior in natural beauty. The general appearance, however, of this part of East-Lothian is such as, from its agreeable diversity of hill and dale, does not render it unworthy of the appellation of the "Northamptonshire of North Britain," by which the county has sometimes been characterized.†

*Meteorology, &c.*—The temperature of the atmosphere is equable, and, in the higher parts of the parish especially, distinguished by its salubrity. Many instances of longevity at present exist, and in former times they appear to have been equally numerous. "A tradition is preserved," says the author of the last Statistical Account, "that, some centuries ago, when the plague visited, with dreadful ravages, this country, Salton was the only parish in the east of Scotland which escaped: an exception imputed to the purity of the air, and the smoke of the limekilns, which, it seems, even then abounded in the parish." The salubrity of the climate is probably chiefly owing to the deficiency of moisture in the soil, and this again may in great measure be ascribed to the fact, that the parish, occupying a moderately elevated situation between the high range of the Lammermoors on the one hand, and the waters of the Frith of Forth on the other, is frequently exempted, by being thus placed between these two sources of nebular attraction, from the visitation of those heavy showers, to which the high uplands on the south, and the low districts on the north, are equally exposed.

*Hydrography.*—The parish possesses many excellent springs of water, strongly impregnated with lime; a circumstance which, it is believed, conduces essentially to the healthfulness of the inhabitants, and to the general salubrity of the district. The Tyne and Salton waters are the only streams of any importance connected with the parish. The latter, for nearly three miles, forms its south-

\* "The green-sward way was smooth and good,  
Through Humbie's and through *Saltoun's* wood,—  
A forest glade, which varying still,  
Here gave a view of dale and hill,  
There narrower closed, till over head  
A vaulted screen the branches made."—*Marmion*, Canto 4.

† Chalmers' *Caledonia*, ii. 400.

ern and western boundary, and is then united with the Tyne. At their confluence, the Salton is decidedly the greater stream of the two, and ought with propriety to have imparted its designation to the future course of the river. In both of these streams there is abundance of excellent trout.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—Strata of limestone rock pervade the whole parish in a direction nearly north-west. The degree of inclination of the strata varies from 1 foot in 9, to 1 in 18. Petrifications of the ordinary species of shell-fish are frequently found imbedded in the limestone; and in some places the surface of the rock is covered with stones of a silicious quality, which, when quarried, are used, with advantage, as flags for pavement. In other places, the rock is found to be overlaid with bastard limestone, and, what is somewhat unusual, the strata of limestone are frequently divided from each other by conjoined strata of free and whinstone. Under the strata of limestone, there is every reason to believe, from some experiments which were formerly made, that a fine seam of coal would be found. The immediate vicinity, however, of many excellent collieries in the adjoining parishes has hitherto rendered any attempt to work it unnecessary.

The soil is various, consisting of loam, light sand, thin clay, and strong deep clay; but the clay soils prevail. On the west and north-west, and alongst the slope of the hill which terminates in the bed of the Tyne, the soil is peculiarly fertile and productive, being chiefly composed of the rich loam and clay. Towards the summit of the central hill on which East Salton is situated, the soil is less favourable; but towards the southern extremity of the parish, it again in some degree recovers its former richness.

*Botany.*—There are various plantations in the parish, of the ordinary species of trees found in such situations. The soil is deemed peculiarly congenial to the growth of fir and oak. Beech, elm, and larch are also found well suited to the soil and climate. In the grounds of Salton, which have many features of natural beauty, and are laid out with much taste, are some fine specimens of the thorn acacia, cedar of Lebanon, and hemlock spruce.\*

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Notices, &c.*—The first authentic notice of the manor of Salton occurs during the twelfth century, when it was held, alongst with other extensive possessions in Scotland, by the afflu-

\* There is an orchard mentioned as existing in the lands of Herdmanston so far back as 1190.—*Charter of Richard de Morville to Henry St Clair*, referred to by Chalmers in his *Caledonia*.

ent and powerful family of the De Morvilles, who were at this period the Constables of the kingdom. The lands of Herdmanston lay within this manor of Salton, and were granted about the year 1190 by Richard de Morville to Henry de St Clair, who then served the Morville family as their Sheriff.\* From him, the present noble proprietor of the estate of Herdmanston is descended, in the possession of whose family the property has thus been for upwards of six hundred years. On the accession of Robert de Bruce, the descendants of the De Morvilles were forfeited, they having, with the English monarch, espoused the interests of Balliol; and the St Clairs from that period became tenants in chief. During the reign of Alexander III. (about 1260) the greater part of the manor of Salton proper appears to have been possessed by William de Abernethy, son of Sir Patrick Abernethy of that ilk. His descendants acquired, in 1445 or 1455, the title of Lords of Salton, being then in possession of very extensive territorial grants.† In this family the manor of Salton continued till 1643,—a period of nearly four hundred years from the date of their first occupancy, when Sir Andrew Fletcher, better known as Lord Innerpeffer, purchased from Lord Abernethy of Salton, the present estate,—of which his lineal descendant, Andrew Fletcher, Esq. is now proprietor.

*Eminent Characters.*—With the parish of Salton many characters of distinguished eminence have been connected. Of those to whom she had the honour of giving birth, William Dunbar, the celebrated poet, was long supposed to have been one. This opinion, first maintained by Allan Ramsay, and subsequently by Lord Hailes, has been adopted by the author of the former Statistical Account, naturally misled by the error of such eminent authorities. Subsequent and more accurate investigation, however, has proved the opinion to be erroneous. It appears to have originated with Ramsay in a misprint of the words “Saltone Mount” for “Falcone Mount,” in the well known lines of the “Flyting of Dunbar and Kennedy,” in which the residence of the former is supposed to be pointed at by his poetical adversary.‡ These words

\* *Diplomata Scotiæ*, pl. 75. Chart. Glasgu. 163-5, referred to by Chalmers.

† The present Lord Saltoun derives his title from this family. Upon the death of Alexander Lord Abernethy of Salton in 1669, without issue, his title, &c. descended to his cousin, Alexander Fraser of Philorth, son of Margaret Abernethy, the only daughter of George Lord of Saltoun.—See *Crawford's Peerage*.

‡ The following are the lines in question: Kennedy, after having expatiated on his own wealth, contrasted with Dunbar's poverty, is supposed thus to address him:

“Thy geir and substance is a widdy teuch,  
On Falcone Mount about thy craig to raz.

have since been satisfactorily shown \* to refer to Mountfaucon in Paris, where Dunbar resided at the period of the composition of the poem. It is evident, however, from his own language ("Flyting," line 110,) that he was a native of one of the Lothians, and as he is generally supposed to have been the immediate descendant of Sir Patrick Dunbar of Beill in East Lothian, there is every presumption that some part of the county of Haddington was the scene of his birth; but as to what particular locality is entitled to claim this distinction there is no evidence whatever.

Patrick Scougall, afterwards well known as Bishop of Aberdeen, was the incumbent of this parish for upwards of five years. He was translated from Leuchars, and inducted into the parochial charge of Salton, 29th January 1659. In April 1664, he was elevated to the bishopric. †

Henry Scougall, hisson, the author of the much and justly esteemed work "The Life of God in the Soul of Man," was born at Salton during his father's incumbency, some time in June 1660. Equally distinguished by his superior talents, and his eminent piety, he attained at an early period of life to those honourable stations which are in general reserved for age and experience. At nineteen, he filled the chair of philosophy at Aberdeen; four years afterwards, he accepted the living of Auchterless, where he ably and zealously discharged the functions of the holy ministry; and after an incumbency of two years, being then only twenty-five, he was again recalled to his academical pursuits, and for the remainder of his life filled the office of Professor of Divinity in King's College, Aberdeen. His mortal career, however, though bright and useful, was

And yet *Mount Falcone* gallows is our fair  
For to be fleit wi' sic a feckless face."

Montfaucon was then the common place of execution in Paris; and it is to this that the allusion appears to have been intended.

Dunbar's *chæf-d'œuvres* are considered to be "The Throssil and the Rois," designed to commemorate the union of James IV. with Margaret of England; "The Goldin Terge," and the "Daunce of the seven deadly sins." He has been termed by way of eminence "the Horace of Scotland," and his genius and merit as a poet have been unreservedly eulogised by almost every critic. It is to be regretted, however, that the meed of praise which has so lavishly been bestowed upon him has never been qualified by the consideration, that the tendency of many of his compositions is immoral and even profane; and if it be doubtful whether he is entitled to be designated the Horace of his country, in point of poetical genius, there is unfortunately little doubt that, in point of licentiousness of sentiment, the appellation is too justly merited.

\* For a full and satisfactory explanation of this error, see Laing's edition of Dunbar's Poems, Vol. ii. pp. 429, 32, Edin. 1834, to which we are indebted for the statements made in the text.

† During the period of his incumbency the eldership appears to have been much more numerous in proportion to the amount of population than in more modern times. From the kirk-session records it appears, that in 1663-65, when the number of the inhabitants of the parish was probably under 600, there were no fewer than thirteen elders in office.

but brief: he died in 1678, having scarcely completed his twenty-eighth year. To him Leighton might truly have applied his favourite adage, "*Diu vixit qui bene vixit.*"

Superior, however, as a character of public eminence to either of the preceding, occupying a much more distinguished place in the history of the past, and still continuing to enjoy, by the labours of his genius and the recollection of his moral worth, a prominent station in the eye of mankind is the individual, who, as the immediate successor of Scougall, next filled the office of minister of Salton. The name of Gilbert Burnett, Bishop of Salisbury, is calculated to shed a lustre, not only on that humble spot which formed the first and early sphere of his ministerial labours, but on the country which gave him birth, and on the age in which he lived. Distinguished as he was by the remarkable vigour of his understanding, the unblemished integrity of his character, and the unequalled moderation of his public conduct, he was eminently suited to the circumstances of the times in which his lot was cast, and peculiarly qualified to discharge those delicate and important duties, which, in after life, and in a more elevated station, frequently devolved upon him. \*

He was admitted minister of Salton, the 29th of January 1665, having been presented to the living by the Crown.† During his incumbency, he was most assiduous in the performance of his pastoral duties. He preached twice every Sabbath, and once during the week. In the important duty of catechising and examining his flock from house to house, and of administering spiritual consolation to the sick, he was equally exemplary and assiduous. He

\* Wodrow, after having adverted to him as one of Bishop Leighton's "evangelists," who were selected for their peculiar mission, on account of their "fame, learning, and preaching gifts," speaks of him as "Mr Gilbert Burnet, well known to the world since, first Professor of Divinity at Glasgow, and after that persecuted for his appearing against Popery, and for the cause of liberty; and since the Revolution the learned and moderate Bishop of Sarum, one of the great eye-sores of the highfliers and Tories in England, and a very great ornament to his native country."—Church History, Book ii. chap. 5.

The only circumstance which, on looking back calmly and dispassionately on the events of the past, tends in any degree to diminish our admiration of this eminent man is the fact—in his case, perhaps, the result rather of circumstances than of choice—of his having acted so conspicuous a part in the unjustifiable and impolitic attempt of the Episcopal party of the time to force upon the people of Scotland a mode of faith and worship, which the latter conscientiously deemed to be unscriptural, and which they too justly feared would lead to a spiritual usurpation of a still more unhallowed character.

† Sir Robert Fletcher, through whose influence the appointment was obtained, had wished him to accept of it nearly a year before, when it became vacant by Scougall's elevation to the Episcopate; but Burnett declined the offer, and going to Holland, spent the interval at Amsterdam in studying oriental literature and theology.

is stated generally to have preached extempore, having, by diligent practice, acquired the power of speaking with great fluency and correctness. Arguing, however, from the character of his written productions, which are in general rough and careless in point of composition, his style of speaking was probably never characterized by eloquence. He left Salton, as appears from the kirk-session records, on the 18th November 1669, having been called to fill the chair of Theology in the University of Glasgow, the duties of which he discharged with approved fidelity.

When elevated to a more eminent station in the church, he was not unmindful of the interests of that parish which had witnessed his early labours. He bequeathed in trust to the Lairds of Salton and Herdmanston, and to the minister for the time, the sum of 20,000 merks, to be applied in different sums as follows: for the education and clothing of thirty children "of the poorer sort;" for the erection of a new school-house, and affording a perpetual augmentation of the schoolmaster's salary; for the increase of a library which had already begun to be formed "for the minister's house and use;" and the remainder for relieving the wants of the necessitous poor.\* The particulars connected with the present application of this fund are stated below. † By this generous bequest

\* The language in which, in the codicil containing this bequest, the Bishop expresses himself, affords a pleasing evidence that the lofty elevation which he had then attained had not taught him to forget the humble scene of his "first love."—"This course," he adds, after having prescribed the particulars of the destination, "I order to be continued for ever, as an expression of my kind gratitude to that parish who had the first fruits of my labours, and among whom I had all possible kindness and encouragement."

† The present value of the bishop's bequest is L. 2000 Sterling, which being invested on heritable security at four per cent., yields annually the sum of L. 80. This sum the trustees allot as follows:

For the clothing of the thirty children, about,	-	-	-	L.	35	0	0	
Allowed to the schoolmasters for their education,	-	-	-		26	0	0	
Books, stationery, &c. and other incidental expenses of education,	-	-	-		4	0	0	
For the necessitous poor according to the bequest,	-	-	-		10	0	0	
For the increase of the manse library,	-	-	-		5	0	0	
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					L.	80	0	0

As the expense of clothing has been found in general to exceed the above amount, its issue has occasionally been suspended for a year, and the surplus, where any existed, applied to the department of education; and as it is believed, that the interest of the bequest will in future be required to be reduced to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. thus making the annual proceeds only L. 70, the above arrangement will probably become permanent, and the children be clothed only every alternate year. In order to qualify for admission on the fund, the parents of the children who are applicants must have resided for not less than two years in the parish. According to the provisions of the will, the lairds of Salton and Herdmanston and the minister of the parish for the time, nominate. Every child enjoys the benefits of the fund for four years. A list of their attendance at school and church is accurately kept, and if any great irregularity in these respects, without sufficient cause, has taken place, the defaulter is either struck off the list, or, as a mitigated punishment, deprived of clothing in future.

the memory of the good bishop is still perpetuated in the parish. The children on the fund are familiarly termed "bishops;" and the gallery in church appropriated for their use has received, and is ever likely to retain, the appellation of "the Bishop's laft."

Burnett lived until 1715, having then filled the see of Salisbury for nearly twenty-six years.

Salton was also the birth place and residence of another character of distinguished eminence. The celebrated Andrew Fletcher, the intrepid assertor of the civil and religious independence of his country, was born here in 1653. His father, who died while his son was yet in early youth, committed him, on his deathbed, to the guardianship of Burnett, then minister of the parish, from whom it is supposed the young patriot first imbibed those liberal sentiments on government which he ever afterwards avowed. In them, however, he seems subsequently to have outstripped his teacher. The character of this undoubtedly great man has been variously represented: by some he has been described as a rank republican, whose projected limitations of the royal prerogative were only designed to lead to the erection of a Scottish commonwealth, and whose opposition to the union was prompted by selfish and interested motives. By others, he is represented as a man of pure and disinterested patriotism, whose sole object was to maintain the liberties of his country on a constitutional basis. This is not the place to attempt to adjust the merits of the controversy. His sentiments unquestionably, verged towards republicanism, but to this extreme they were naturally led to tend, from the impression he entertained, that the opposite and equally dangerous extreme was more likely to obtain the ascendant. The purity of his motives and the integrity of his conduct are unquestionable. His anticipations of evil as the result of the union, subsequent events have happily shewn to be fallacious.\* He died at London in 1716, on his way from France to Scotland, whither he had fondly hoped to have ar-

The children, however, are mostly exemplary in their attendance, and only one or two instances of the infliction even of the lesser penalty have occurred. There are at present on the fund sixteen male and eight female children, varying in age from seven to fourteen.

\* From an MS. in the library of the late Thomas Rawlinson, Esq., first published in the edition of Fletcher's Political Works, printed at Glasgow in 1749, we quote the following brief and somewhat quaint description of his personal appearance: "A low thin man, of a brown complexion, full of fire, with a stern sour look, and fifty years old."

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rived before he breathed his last. His remains were subsequently brought to Scotland by his nephew Lord Milton. The ashes of the patriot now repose in the family vault below the aisle of Salton Church.

Andrew Fletcher, the nephew of the patriot, better known as Lord Milton, was also a native of Salton, being born there in 1692. He adopted the profession of the Bar, and rose rapidly through the inferior gradations of office to the elevated situation of Lord Justice-Clerk. This office he held during the troublous period of 1745, and is admitted, on all hands, to have discharged its delicate and trying duties with singular lenity and forbearance.\* He died in 1766: and his remains are likewise deposited in the family vault.

*Chief Land-owners.*—These are the following, Andrew Fletcher, Esq. of Salton, who possesses nearly four-fifths of the land in the parish; Lord Sinclair, proprietor of the estate of Herdmanston, and the farms of Greenlaw and Wester Blance; the Earl of Haddington, proprietor of the farm of Samuelston Mains, a small part of the Samuelston estate, which lies chiefly in the adjoining parish of Gladsmuir; and the Earl of Dalhousie, proprietor of the lands of Easter Blance (anciently *Blanes*,) which form part of the adjoining estate of Coalston.

*Parochial Registers.*—The records of kirk-session consist of several volumes, commencing with the 27th April 1635, and continuing to the present day, with the exception of a hiatus extending from 1642 to June 1663, and another from 1748 to November 1759. During the latter period, the deficiency is chiefly in the minutes of kirk-session proceedings; the register of baptisms, marriages, and burials being, with a few exceptions, regularly kept. In the earlier portion of the records, very minute details of parochial transactions are inserted. The texts of the ministers' sermons are noted down each Sabbath. If he were absent, the place where he was officiating is mentioned, as also the name of the

\* We quote from the last Statistical Account the following remarks on his character, which we believe to be just: "The conduct of almost the whole public affairs of Scotland fell upon him, and these he managed with such an uncommon degree of discretion, temper, and moderation, that the impetuosity of wanton punishment was restrained, and lenient measures adopted in favour of those, whom indiscretion or ignorance had betrayed into hostility. He overlooked many of the informations which were brought to his office; and it is stated here from the best authority, that, after his death, many sealed letters, containing such information, were found unopened among his other papers. With the same patriotic views, he engaged zealously in the abolition of heritable jurisdictions, which had long been inimical to order and to justice. With unremitting ardour he pursued every scheme that could promote the trade, manufactures, agriculture, and reforming of his country."

clergyman who acted as his substitute at home. Many social offences, of a much less serious nature than those which now generally form the subject of church discipline, appear to have been visited by the censure of the kirk-session; and rebukes in the presence of the congregation, even for such comparatively trivial delinquencies, seem to have been universal.

*Antiquities.*—In the south-west part of the parish, and close to the brink of the stream, are the remains of an enclosure of an oval form, supposed to be a Pictish or Danish camp. It consists of two walls or dikes running parallel to each other, and having between them a fosse, now almost filled up, of about 10 yards in width. The circumference of the inner inclosure may be about 500 yards. No tradition exists by which any light is thrown on the history of this remnant of antiquity.

In the park at Herdmanston, and close to the present mansion-house, are the remains of part of a chapel erected in the thirteenth century by John de St Clair. All that now exists of this ancient building is a portion, apparently of its western extremity, measuring within the walls, 30 feet in length, by 14 in breadth. A part of the eastern end appears to have been recently removed, and the gable rebuilt with fresh stone. It is now used as the burying vault of the Sinclair family. Within, are two flat tombstones covering the remains of William de St Clair, and Sibilla, his wife, bearing date 1598. A few yards to the north of this cemetery is an old arch, a fragment obviously, of the ancient castle of Herdmanston, having the date on the keystone.

Herdmanston is now, and has for many years, been occupied by the Honourable Adam Gillies, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, the noble proprietor himself residing almost entirely in England.

There are no documents in the possession of resident individuals which are calculated to illustrate the antiquities of the parish itself. There is, however, in the charter-chest of the Fletchers an interesting historical document, to which I cannot forbear advert-  
ing. It is the original letter written by the Marquis of Argyll to his son, on the morning of his execution. Its brevity, independently of its intrinsic interest, will justify me in inserting it at length below.\*

\* "DEARE JAMES,

*Edr. Castle, 30th June [16]85.*

"Learn to fear God: it is the only way to make you happie here and hereafter. Love and respect my wife, and hearken to her advice. The Lord bless you.—I am, your loving Father,"

(Signed) "ARGYLL."

## III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population amounted to	761
1791,	830
1801,	768
1811,	814
1821,	834
1831, males 386, females 398	784
1835, 390, 400	790

From the preceding statement, it appears that the population has been very fluctuating in point of numbers. The rapid diminution of nearly eight per cent. between 1791 and 1801, is accounted for by the removal, during that period, of several public works, which employed a large number of operatives; and also by the consolidation of some of the smaller farms into large ones. The large increase from 1801 to 1811 is explained by the fact of a different family, with a household of forty persons, then occupying the mansion-house of Salton. The decrease between 1821 and 1831 is also explained by the circumstance of Mr Fletcher's house having been rebuilt during the former period, and a large number of artisans of different kinds having been then domiciled in the parish.

In the village of East Salton there reside	Males.	Females.	Total.
In that of West Salton	140	134	274
In landward parts of the parish,	88	98	186
	162	168	330

	Total,	390	400	790			
The following is the distribution of the population in respect of age, &c.							
	Single.		Married.		Widowed.		
Age.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 15,	155	147	0	0	0	0	302
15 to 30,	85	87	12	17	0	1	202
30 to 50,	13	15	67	67	3	3	168
50 to 70,	1	4	35	36	5	7	88
Above 70,	0	3	9	3	5	10	30
Total,	254	256	123	123	13	21	790
Yearly average of births for the last four * years,							17
Do. deaths							10½
Do. marriages							5½
The number of families in the parish,							171
chiefly employed in agriculture,							54
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,							43

Belonging to the parish there is one insane person, in confinement at a private asylum in the neighbourhood: 2 fatuous, and 1 blind, who are resident.

There are 3 families of independent fortune who reside in the parish. Of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, there are 4,—being the heritors before-mentioned, one of whom only, Andrew Fletcher, Esq. of Salton, is resident.

\* For some years previous to this period the baptismal register was not accurately kept.

*Habits and Character of the People, &c.*—The general character of the people, in a religious and moral point of view, is on the whole exemplary, and may be considered as above mediocrity. Within the last few years, from the period of the incumbency of the present minister's predecessor, a very beneficial change is said to have taken place in the moral and religious habits of the lower orders. The young are in general well-grounded in the principles of religion; docile in receiving instruction; and civil and respectful in their manners. The inhabitants are in general attentive to the outward observances of religion, especially in their attendance on divine worship. Family worship is not, however, so much observed as it ought, and as we trust it may yet be. Intemperance is by no means frequent; and for some time past the parishioners have, almost universally, abandoned the practice of using any species of liquor at funerals,—a resolution for which they deserve the greater commendation, as its adoption originated entirely with themselves. No crimes of a public nature have for years been committed; nor has the parish for some time past been found to require any constable or police officer within its bounds.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—In an economic point of view the parish may be regarded as exclusively agricultural; there being now no public works within its bounds, and the only kind of handicraftsmen and artisans whom it supports being those whose labours are either indispensably required by the necessities of the population, or are directly subservient to the purposes of agriculture.

The following statement of the agricultural economy of the parish does not pretend to strict accuracy, but may be regarded as making a tolerable approximation to the truth.

	<i>Imperial Measure.</i>
Number of acres cultivated, or occasionally in tillage, - - -	2596
in permanent pasture, - - - - -	150
under wood, chiefly artificial, - - - - -	420

There are twelve farms in the parish, varying in extent from 100 to 500 Scottish acres.

*Rent of Land, &c.*—The rent of land ranges from L. 1 to L. 3 per Scottish acre. The average rent of grazing is at the rate of L. 3 for an ox, and L. 5 for a cow. Twelve or fourteen score of sheep are generally kept at grazing for the market, or domestic use.

*Rate of Wages, &c.*—The rate of labour for farm and other labourers is in summer 1s. 8d. per day; in winter 1s. 6d.; females employed in the field receive in general from 8d. to 9d. per day. The wages of shearers in time of harvest have, for the last ten years, varied from 1s. to 2s. 6d. A large portion of the male inhabitants are employed as farm-servants, or, as they are provincially termed, *hinds*. These hinds receive no stated daily wages. They are allowed from L. 8 to L. 10 per annum in money; a cow's keep, equal to L. 5; potato-ground, and a certain weekly allowance of oatmeal, barley, pease, and corn; in all, their yearly income, may, when reduced to money, amount to about L. 23. Twenty days' shearing is the amount of their house-rent.

The wages of artisans, &c. are as follows: carpenters per day, from 2s. to 2s. 6d.; masons from 2s. to 3s.; coopers, 14s. to 15s. per week; blacksmiths, 16s.; bakers, 6s. with bed and board. The price of a full-mounted cart fit for use, L. 10; ploughs, L. 3, 3s. to L. 3, 10s.; wooden harrows per pair, L. 1; do. iron per do. L. 3.

*Husbandry.*—The system of husbandry pursued in the parish is, in general, in accordance with the most approved principles adopted in this highly agricultural county. The farming of the principal part of the arable land is conducted according to what is technically termed the four-course shift, viz. fallow, wheat, grass, and oats, in successive annual rotation. In some soils, what is termed the six-course shift is used, consisting of the following succession; fallow, wheat, grass, oats, pease or beans, wheat or oats: and recently the five-course shift, consisting of fallow, wheat, two years grass, and oats, has been adopted apparently with much success. In these several rotations, the term fallow is used as including partial crops of turnip and potato. Turnip husbandry is not carried on to a very considerable extent,—the ground not being altogether suitable for their cultivation. At present, the quantity of land under this species of culture may amount to about 100 acres. A portion of the turnip crop is raised by the aid of bone-manure and rape-cake, which are now more universally employed than formerly, and to a considerable extent supersede the use of lime. About one-half of the turnips are eaten off the ground by sheep; the remainder are removed for the uses of the farm-yard. The ground was in former times generally drained according to the old system; but furrow draining has been lately introduced, and is now universally adopted, apparently with the most beneficial results. For this pur-

pose, tiles are chiefly employed, being supplied by a manufactory recently erected in the parish. In some places, however, owing to the vicinity of excellent quarries, stones continue still to be used for purposes of drainage.

The general duration of leases is for nineteen years. Farm buildings are in general in an excellent condition. They are built of freestone, and chiefly tiled, as, indeed, are almost all the buildings of this character in East Lothian, as well as the dwellings of the peasantry. The enclosures and fences are good and sufficient, and neatly kept, one-half of the expense being defrayed by the landlord, and the other half by the tenant.

*Quarries.*—There are in the parish two limestone quarries, each yielding an excellent material, with lime-kilns at both, built on the most approved principle. There is also a freestone quarry for the use of the estate of Salton, which yields a good stone for building, though somewhat of a reddish tinge. All the quarries are wrought in the usual way. The average number of men employed in the lime-quarries and kilns is about twenty-five.

*Manufactures.*—In former times, many public works were in operation in the parish, which now no longer exist. In the beginning of the last century, the first mill for the manufacture of *decorticated*, or as it is familiarly termed, *pot-barley*, that was ever known in Scotland was erected in this parish. About the same time also, the first manufactory for the weaving of *Hollands* in Britain was established here: and both these arts were long exclusively practised, to the great emolument of the inhabitants, who supplied the whole of Scotland with these important articles. The introduction of these manufactures was owing to the ingenuity and zeal of the lady of Henry Fletcher of Salton, who, for the purpose of acquiring the secret of these arts, travelled in Holland with two expert mechanics in the disguise of servants, by whom models of the machinery were taken, and afterwards applied to practical use. In the year 1750, also, the first bleachfield, belonging to the British Linen Company, was formed here under the patronage of Lord Milton. “During his Lordship’s life it was conducted with much spirit: no expense was spared in procuring from Ireland the most expert workmen, and it became at last so very flourishing as to afford employment to upwards of 100 persons.”\* Subsequently to this, a paper-mill, and a starch-work were erected in the parish, each of which, at the period of the pub-

\* Former Statistical Account.

lication of the former Statistical Account (1792) employed eight persons. All these manufactures have now ceased to exist. The celebrated barley-mill is devoted to other purposes; and of the other structures not one stone now remains upon another. The only public work at present in operation in the parish is a brick and tile factory on the estate of Salton, originated and erected by the present proprietor, Mr Fletcher, in the year 1834. The kiln is 21 feet in length, and 10 in breadth within the walls, and gives employment to seven workmen, including a manager. Draining tiles are at present the chief article of manufacture. Since the erection of the work in 1834, the amount of produce has been as follows: 500,000 draining tiles, 20,000 house do., and 12,000 common brick.

*Produce.*—The average gross annual amount and value of raw produce raised in the parish, may, on a rough calculation, be as follows:

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man, or of the domestic animals,	L. 6000	0	0
Of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, beet and other plants cultivated in the fields for food,	700	0	0
Of hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	150	0	0
Of land in pasture,	530	0	7
Of the annual thinning and felling of plantations, &c.	700	0	1
Of quarries	2000	0	0
Of miscellaneous produce, not previously enumerated,	200	0	0
Total,	L. 10,280	0	0

*Association for the Encouragement of Industry, &c.*—About the commencement of the present century, the late General John Fletcher originated a society in the parish for promoting the interests of agriculture, by the bestowal of annual premiums for the best breeds of stock, the best specimens of agricultural produce, the most ingenious implements of tillage, &c. After being conducted with much success for about twenty years, the funds of the society, then amounting to L. 700, were, with the consent of the present proprietor, transferred to the “East Lothian United Agricultural Society,” in which the original Salton Society is now entirely merged. Should the former, however, be dissolved, it is provided that the above-mentioned funds return to the original object for which they were destined by General Fletcher. There is an annual meeting of the United Society held in the parish the last Thursday of May, when a pretty extensive cattle shew generally takes place.

## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets &c.*—The nearest market-towns are Haddington and Dalkeith, the former being five and a-half, and the latter about ten miles distant from the centre of the parish. It is chiefly to the former that the agricultural produce of the parish is conveyed.

*Villages.*—There are two villages in the parish, East and West Salton, so called from their relative situation to each other. The former is almost exactly in the middle of the parish, and is situated on the road which leads from Edinburgh, across the Lammermoors, to Dunse. The latter is situate a mile to the west of East Salton, nearly on the verge of the parish, and within a few hundred yards of the Salton water.

*Means of Communication.*—The above-mentioned road from Edinburgh to Dunse traverses the parish for upwards of three miles. The whole extent of turnpike roads may be about seven miles. The only regular means of communication with the capital, from which Salton is fifteen miles distant, is by a carrier, who goes and returns once a-week. A carrier from Gifford to Edinburgh also passes once a-week through the parish. For some months during summer a one-horse coach runs every alternate day between Gifford and Tranent, passing through the village of East Salton, and conveying passengers to the Haddington coaches. This means of conveyance, however, does not meet with all the encouragement which it were desirable it should receive. There is a post-office at West Salton, established in 1812, which maintains a daily communication with Haddington, the post-town. The range of its delivery extends to the whole parish, and to different places in the adjoining parishes of Humber, Ormiston, Bolton, and Pencaitland. One penny additional is charged on the postage to Haddington. The post-master's salary is L. 5,—a sum scarcely adequate as a remuneration for the duties performed.

There are three stone bridges in the parish, or rather connecting it with those adjoining, all of which are in good repair; besides these, there are two also of stone, and of tasteful architecture, within the park at Salton Hall.

*Ecclesiastical State, &c.*—Of the ancient ecclesiastical history of the parish little is known. During the reign of David I. (about 1130) Hugh de Morville, the then lord of the manor, granted the church of Salton, with a carrucate of land, and the tenth of a multure of the mill of Salton, to Dryburgh Abbey. About the close of

the following century, John de St Clair, who was then possessor of the lands of Herdmanston, erected a chapel on his estate, with the permission of the canons of Dryburgh, to whom he granted two acres of land, with an indemnity "that his chapel should not injure the mother church of Salton."\* The monks of Dryburgh continued, until the Reformation, to enjoy these ecclesiastical possessions. During the agitations of that eventful period, when personal aggrandizement was so often sheltered under the pretence of public principle, the ecclesiastical revenues of Salton, there is reason to believe, fell a prey to the greed of some one or other of the local aristocracy; and not until beyond the commencement of the seventeenth century, was even a scanty portion of them restored to their original sacred objects. In 1633, when, on the temporary establishment of Episcopacy, the Bishopric of Edinburgh was erected, we find that the church of Salton, with all its civil and ecclesiastical rights, was transferred to the metropolitan see. In 1643, when Sir Andrew Fletcher acquired the property, it is probable that the presentation to the living was also conveyed. The right does not, however, appear to have been exercised by any of his successors till 1760; since which period it has continued to be enjoyed by the family of Fletcher. †

The situation of the present parish church is extremely advantageous, being in the very centre of the parish, and in the most populous village it contains. No individual is thus more distant than two miles from the place of public worship, while nearly four-fifths of the inhabitants are within a mile. The period of the original erection of the church is unknown. In 1805, it underwent such extensive repairs that the present building may be considered as almost entirely new; part of the interior only of the former walls remains, and has been newly faced with neatly wrought rubble stone. The figure of the church is that of the cathedral cross; the tower and spire rising from the choir, and the pulpit, which is just in the centre of the cross, looking down the nave. The whole of the interior is painted, and has an air of great neatness and comfort. The style of architecture of the present building may be described as the mixed, or modern Gothic. At the period of the repair already mentioned, the external aspect of the church was beautified

\* Chalmers' Caledonia, ii. 529-30.

† In 1646, the first vacancy after Sir Andrew's purchase of the property, he did not present. In regard to the next vacancy in 1659, there is no Presbyterian record. In 1665, the Crown presented. In 1696 the induction proceeded on a *call* by "the laird of Salton, the other heritors, and whole elders."

by the erection—at the entire expense of the late liberal patron, General Fletcher,—of a handsome spire, springing from a low battlemented tower, and rising to the height (from the level of the ground) of 90 feet. In its general appearance, our village sanctuary more nearly resembles the sacred structures which so frequently adorn the hamlets of England, than those less tasteful erections with which the parsimony of heritors has too often disfigured, and not embellished the parishes of Scotland. The number of sitters accommodated in the church is about 400; it is, therefore, amply sufficient for the present population. The manse was erected in 1805, and is, on the whole, in good repair. The extent of the glebe is five acres Scottish, and is worth about L. 15 per annum. The amount of the stipend is, in Linlithgow measure, 16 bolls *wheat*, 120 do. *meal*, and 120 do. *barley*, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. For crop and year 1834, the only year of the present minister's incumbency, the value of the stipend was, exclusive of the sum allotted for communion elements, L 246, 10s.\*

\* In 1665, the stipend was L. 33, 2s. 6d. Sterling, together with 11 bolls, 2 pecks, 2 lippies of wheat: 11 bolls, 2 pecks, 2 lippies of bear: and 22 bolls, 1 firlot, 1 peck, and 3 lippies of meal. In 1755, it amounted to L. 84, 10s. 6d., and in 1798, to L. 155, 3s. 8d. Sterling. In the ancient *Taxatio* the church of Salton was rated at thirty merks.

The following is a list of the incumbents of the parish of Salton as far back as I have been able to trace them.

In 1488, when the church of Salton was attached to the Abbey of Dryburgh, the incumbent appears to have been a person of the name of Dewar, who also held the office of dean, as he is termed, (Parl. Records, 343-53) "Dene Dewar." From this period till the era of Presbytery, I have not been able to trace any of my clerical predecessors. After the Reformation no stated minister appears to have been appointed till about the beginning of the seventeenth century. Until that period, it would appear, from some incidental notices in the records of Presbytery, that the minister of the adjoining parish of Pencaitland had some share in the pastoral superintendence of Salton. It is unquestionable that, in 1601, Salton was still without a regular minister, as in the instructions given by the presbytery to their commissioners to the Assembly for that year, there is one obviously referring to "unplanted kirks," in these words, "Saltoun kerk to be rememberit." It is probable that the first incumbent after the Reformation commenced his ministry about 1605 or 1606. From that period the succession is regular.

1606 (about) Archibald Livingstone: died, August 1632. 1633, Jan. 2, Richard Brown: deposed for speaking against the Covenant, 1644. 1646, Sept. 23, Archibald Douglas translated from Baro: died 1658. 1659, Jan. 29, Patrick Scougall, translated from Leuchars: translated to Bishopric of Aberdeen, April 1664. 1665, Jan. 29, Gilbert Burnett: translated to Glasgow, Nov. 1669. 1670, April 11, James Graeme: demitted his charge by refusing to subscribe the Test Act, Dec. 1681. 1684, † August, Archibald Douglas: died March 1696. 1696, Sept. 24, Archibald Lundie: died 4th Nov. 1759. 1760, Nov. 6, Patrick Bannerman, translated from Kinnoul: died 31st Dec. 1790. 1791, Sept. 22, Andrew Johnston: died 23d Sept. 1829. 1830, April 22, Robert Buchanan, translated from Gargunnoch: translated to Glasgow, 13th Aug. 1833. 1834, April 10, Robert Kerr Hamilton.

† From December 1681 to January 1683 there was no public worship in the church of Salton. At the latter date Mr Douglas was admitted interim preacher, which office he filled till his ordination.

The whole adult population, with the exception of thirty persons, are members of the Established Church; and of these thirty, five are Episcopalians, who regularly attend the parish church. Divine service is in general numerously attended; and although, as mentioned above, the amount of church accommodation is more than what is legally required, yet, so exemplary are the parishioners in this outward observance of religious duty, that the church is not at present sufficient to accommodate all who are in the habit of attending. During about half of the year, there are two diets of public worship every Sunday; during the remainder, there is one of somewhat longer duration. There are, besides, services on weekdays, amounting, in the course of the year, to about thirty.

The average number of communicants admitted at each of the three last half-yearly celebrations of the sacred ordinance is 7. The present gross amount is 306. The sacrament has, for the last four years, been dispensed twice a-year, on the first Sabbaths of February and July.

The brief period of the incumbency of the present minister does not permit him to form any extensive average in regard to the amount of charitable collections. During the last sixteen months, there have been two congregational collections for religious and benevolent purposes, the average amount of each of which was L. 9, 7s.

*Religious Societies.*—There are two societies in the parish for the promotion of religious objects. One, based on principles of a catholic nature, has for its object the dissemination of evangelical religion at home and abroad, irrespective of the interests of sect or party. It is yet in its infancy, having been instituted only during the present year. Its annual income cannot, therefore, be estimated, but the number of its members is considerable, and daily increasing. The other is of longer standing, and has been more exclusively employed in promoting the interests of dissent; it has latterly been on the decline, and has now few supporters in the parish.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish. Of these, the parochial school is situated in the village of East Salton, the central point of the parish. The branches of education taught in it are, English, English grammar, geography, history, arithmetic, writing, French, and Latin. All these departments of education are conducted by the parochial teacher with ability and efficiency. The

expense of education per quarter is, for English and grammar, &c. 3s. with the addition of writing and arithmetic, 5s., and with that of Latin, 6s. The parochial schoolmaster's emoluments as teacher are, from Bishop Burnett's fund, L. 6; legal salary, L. 34, 4s. 5d.; school fees, &c. L. 20; three roods of ground, L. 2; total L. 62, 4s. 5d.

The other school is situated in the village of West Salton. The branches of education taught in it are English, English grammar, arithmetic, writing, book-keeping, and the elements of land-surveying. These branches of instruction are likewise well taught. The expense of tuition is the same as in the parochial school. The teacher's emoluments are, from Bishop Burnett's fund, L. 20; school fees, L. 20; per centage as heritors' clerk, L. 8; one and a-half acre of land bestowed by the late General Fletcher, value L. 4, 10s; total L. 52, 10s.

The school-house at West Salton is a neat and spacious building, erected by General Fletcher about thirty years ago. The parish school-house is not so large nor so commodious, and would require to be considerably increased in size. The parochial teacher's house possesses the legal accommodation.

In each of the schools, in addition to the above-mentioned branches of education, the Holy Scriptures are daily read, and the Shorter Catechism taught. The meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The following is the state of attendance.

	<i>E. Salton.</i>	<i>W. Salton.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Maximum attendance,	70	80	150
Minimum do.	58	66	124
Average,*	66	75	142
Proportion of <i>maximum</i> attendance to population of parish,			5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>6</sub>
Proportion of <i>average</i> do. to do.			5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>6</sub>

I am not aware that there is any inhabitant in the parish upwards of fifteen years of age who has not been taught to read and write. Between the ages of six and fifteen there is none of either sex who cannot read, and only a very few who have not yet begun to be taught to write.

There is a Sabbath school taught in the church, attended by 125 children. Of these, 30 are beyond the age of attendance at the day schools. If they be added to the numbers already mentioned, the gross amount of young persons in the parish receiving

\* The reason why the average is stated higher than the medium between the maximum and minimum, is because the maximum attendance continues for a much longer portion of the year than the minimum; to estimate which, therefore, a proportionally higher average must be taken.

instruction, *daily and weekly*, will be 180: a large proportion to a population of 790, being at the rate of about 1 in  $4\frac{1}{11}$  of the whole inhabitants.

*Libraries.*—At Salton-Hall, there is a fine library of upwards of 5000 volumes, consisting of works of general literature, but containing few of more recent date than the middle of the last century. Amongst its literary curiosities, may be mentioned a small folio copy, of the original edition of “Locke on Human Understanding,” with the words “Andrew Fletcher, from the Author,” written on the title-page, probably either by the philosopher or the patriot. Allusion has already been made to the library mentioned in Bishop Burnett’s will “for the minister’s house and use.” It appears to have been originally commenced by a person of the name of Norman Leslie, probably about the year 1650. Who this person was, I have not been able satisfactorily to ascertain. A Norman Leslie, a preacher of the Gospel, is mentioned in the records of the presbytery of Haddington, in 1644, during a vacancy in the living of Salton, as the person whom, along with a Mr Mill, the congregation wished to hear as candidate for the church; but neither of these were permitted to preach. It is not improbable that this was the person in question, and as he appears from the presbytery records to have been well known to Sir Andrew Fletcher and the parishioners, we may suppose him to have been a resident in the parish or its neighbourhood,—who was interested in its welfare, and who, although not permitted to become its pastor, was generous enough to devote a part of his own literary possessions to the benefit of those who should in future enjoy that office. In all the oldest volumes in the library his name is written, and beneath it the words *ὄνκ ἀισχροκερδῶς, ἀλλὰ προθυμῶς*. Is it too fanciful, from this to conjecture that, during the long vacancy in question, he might have voluntarily and gratuitously ministered to the spiritual necessities of the parish, and have thus recorded his disinterested labours? But this is mere conjecture. At the time of Bishop Burnett’s induction, the library appears to have contained 145 volumes. From him, it received considerable additions; and from the year 1760, when his bequest first became available, it has been augmented by each successive incumbent, though, in some instances, it must be confessed, not with all the judiciousness of choice which might have been expected. It now contains 862 volumes, consisting chiefly of works on theology, with some in classics and history, and a few in polite literature.

About a year ago, a library was begun to be formed for the use of the Sabbath scholars. It now consists of 130 volumes, chiefly of works of a religious character. They are eagerly read by the young people, and in many instances by their parents also. It is to be hoped that, under the Divine blessing, this may be found a means of advancing the moral and religious welfare of the young, who appear in general, from the commencement of this little institution, to have imbibed a greater desire for serious and profitable reading. A branch of the East Lothian Itinerating Libraries is also established in the parish. For the past year, the number of subscribers amounted to 22.

*Friendly Societies.*—There are two societies of this kind in the parish. One, established upwards of thirty years ago, consists at present of 200 members, and has funds to the amount of L. 1000. Of this sum L. 700 are lent on private security at 4 per cent. and L. 300 are in a bank at  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . The annual subscription of each member is 6s. 6d. The present annual income of the society, therefore, including interest and subscriptions, is L. 100, 10s. For the last year, its disbursements amounted to L. 74, 18s. 3d. The average number of individuals receiving relief is 23. The following is the scale by which its disbursements are regulated: In the first three months of sickness, the member receives 5s. per week; for the next three, should his illness continue, 4s.; for the three thereafter, 3s.; and for the remaining three, 2s.; and should his indisposition be protracted beyond the year, 1s. 6d. a-week thereafter. On the death of a member, L. 2, 10s. are given for funeral expenses, and 10s. on the death of a child under twelve years of age. An allowance of 15s. per annum is bestowed on the widows of members as long as they continue unmarried. This society is in a very prosperous condition, and, as is evident from the number of members, has many contributors beyond the limits of the parish.

The other society is formed on a somewhat different principle, but is not less popular than the former. It differs from the other in being a yearly and not a permanent association. Each member subscribes from 1s. 2d. to 3s. 2d. weekly. The twopences form the fund whence the members in distress are relieved, and at the end of every year, a general distribution takes place, when each member receives back the amount he has subscribed in shillings, and a portion of the surplus, if there be any, of the weekly pence. The society thus combines, in some measure, the principle of the savings bank with that of the friendly association. Its scale of

relief is nearly the same as that already mentioned. Since January 1827, when this association was instituted, till the present year, the number of its members has increased from 45 to 146.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of persons at present receiving regular parochial aid is 15, being at the rate of about 1 in 53 of the whole population. The average weekly allowance to each of these paupers is 1s. 9d. For some years past there has been a regular assessment, the amount of which at present is L. 60, exclusive of L. 20 for the guardianship and support of a lunatic. The amount of church door collections and mortcloth dues for the year ending April 1835, was L. 18, 11s. 11½d., and when to this is added the sum of L. 10 from Bishop Burnett's bequest, the whole annual expenditure for parochial purposes will be L. 88, 11s. 11½d. There does not appear to be, I regret to say, any reluctance or indisposition on the part of the poor to seek parochial aid. Formerly, I am informed, it was not so. At one time, it was difficult to get parents to solicit for their children the benefits of the Burnett fund, but now the number of applications in general exceeds that of vacancies; and, with few exceptions, the same change has taken place in regard to the application for general parochial relief. The existence of a legally claimable provision will, it is to be feared, tend everywhere more or less to produce its usual pernicious effects on the natural benevolence and moral independence of the people.

*Inns.*—There are three persons in the parish licensed to retail spirits; but there are only two public-houses, neither of which, I am happy to say, have for some time been much frequented.

*Fuel.*—The inhabitants are well supplied with this important necessary of life. Coals are cheap, and easily procured from the adjoining collieries, chiefly of Pencaitland. They cost, including carriage, 5s. 6d. per cart of 12 cwt. Wood is also not unfrequently used for fuel. Mr Fletcher, with considerate kindness, permits the inhabitants of the parish who choose,—to gather fuel, at different times in the year, from the thinnings of the great Salton wood; a permission which often serves to cheer the poor man's hearth during the inclemency of winter.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The chief improvements in the agricultural condition of the parish which have been effected since the date of last Statistical Account (1792) are,—the introduction of the new manures, by which a much greater amount, as well as a superior quality, of produce

is now raised; the adoption of the improved system of tile-draining; and the consolidation of the numerous small farms which previously existed into a lesser number of larger ones. The fences and inclosures are also much better kept than formerly, and in no part of the country are they superior either in appearance or efficiency. The parish roads are likewise greatly improved, and at all times afford a safe and easy means of communication.

The comforts of the people have here, as elsewhere, been increased by the increased cheapness of the commodities in general requisition. In a moral point of view, the removal of the public works already mentioned has had its effect in altering, and in some degree, it is believed, in improving, the character of the population. The chief, and almost only social vice which still exists is that of illicit connexion—a vice, it is to be feared, unhappily prevalent in almost all the rural districts of Scotland. The secondary causes to which, it appears to the writer of these remarks, the prevalence of this vice in this part of the country is chiefly owing, are, in the *first* place, the very inadequate accommodation afforded by the dwellings of the peasantry, few or none of which contain more than a single apartment, in which the whole members of the family, although of opposite sexes, are obliged habitually to reside; a circumstance, it is obvious, which must naturally produce a disregard to the modesty of domestic intercourse, and consequently lead to a relaxation of social morals: and, in the *second* place, the too general practice of employing young females in out-field work, where they are associated with persons of the opposite sex, and where unsuitable intimacies are too frequently easily formed. Both of these causes it is in the power of individuals almost entirely to remove; and to the means of doing so the attention of the proprietor and the agriculturist cannot be too seriously directed.

*September 1835.*