

# UNITED PARISHES OF WHITSOME AND HILTON.

PRESBYTERY OF CHIRNSIDE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE.

THE REV. ADAM LANDELS, MINISTER.\*

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE ancient name of *Whitsome* is variously written,—*Whytshoom, Whitsum, Quitsum, and Huitsum*. It is derived from *White* or *Huite*, and *Ham* or *Home*. *Huite* appears as one of the witnesses in Edgar's charter granting the adjoining Swinton to the monks of St Cuthbert. When the charter was confirmed in 1392, the chancery clerk of Robert III. wrote *Qhuite* for *Huite*. The circumstantial evidence is therefore pretty strong, that the parish is indebted for its present designation to the *residence of White*; and thus its origin may be traced to a period anterior to the conquest. The etymology of *Hilton*, indicating a town on or near an eminence, is obvious. The two parishes were united in 1735. Of course, whenever the term "parish" or "Whitsome" occurs in the sequel, it will be understood to include Hilton, except when differently explained.

The extent of the parish in length from east to west is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and in medial breadth  $1\frac{3}{4}$ . The whole contains  $7\frac{3}{4}$  square miles. It presents the figure of an irregular parallelogram, bounded on the east by Hutton; on the south by Ladykirk and Swinton; and on the west and north by Edrom.

The easterly and northerly parts of the parish are generally flat; a belt of low land also stretches along the course of the Leet, while an undulating surface diversifies the remainder. The exact elevation of the highest ground above the level of the sea has not been ascertained, but it is conjectured not to exceed 350 feet.

*Geology.*—The direction of the strata in this part of the country is always found to be east and south-east, the angle of their dip varying from 15 to 25 degrees. Sandstone is everywhere

\* This Account has been drawn up by the Rev. Mr Rennison, Assistant-Minister, with the assistance of Mr Scott of the parochial school.

abundant, and generally forms a bed of 40 feet in thickness, immediately beneath the surface. In the years 1824 and 1825, an attempt was made, by boring, at Myreside quarry, on the estate of Blackadder, to determine whether there existed a coal seam of sufficient quality and magnitude to warrant an expenditure of capital. The result was deemed unfavourable. The information obtained from the person who conducted the experiment on that occasion, enables us to compile the following tabular statement. We retain the local names.

Strata.		Ft.	In.	Strata.		Ft.	In.
1.	Red sandstone,	40	6	21.	Blaes,	7	6
2.	White sandstone,	8	6	22.	Hard rock,	2	6
3.	Soft marl,	14	0	23.	Blaes,	11	7
4.	Hard rocky marl,	2	6	24.	Very hard blue rock,	1	0
5.	Soft slaty marl,	5	6	25.	Blaes with blackish particles,	13	0
6.	Soft earth,	4	6	26.	Limestone strata, irregular,	1	3
7.	Hard marl,	5	6	27.	Soft slate,	3	3
8.	White freestone,	10	0	28.	Hard troubled rock,	2	0
9.	Strong red clay,	4	6	29.	Slate,	7	0
10.	Blaes,	16	6	30.	Slate and white freestone,	3	4
11.	Hard limestone rock,	2	0	31.	Coal III.—200 feet 9 inches, incalculable,	0	0
12.	Blaes,	16	8	32.	Blaes and freestone mixed with a yellow metallic ore,	14	0
13.	Hard blue rock,	2	5	33.	and remaining depth consist- ing of alternate strata of slate, freestone, limestone, fuller's earth, with very thin layers of coal below the slate and free- stone,	145	3
14.	Slate,	2	10				
15.	Hard rock,	4	6				
16.	Coal I.—140 feet 5 inches,— extremely thin,	0	0				
17.	Two strata of limestone, with one-fourth of an inch of gray sand between,	2	3				
18.	Slate,	1	6				
19.	Hard limestone,	1	9				
20.	Coal II.—146 feet 4 inches,	0	5				
					Extreme depth,	360	0

The alluvial soil, to a considerable depth, is replete with vegetable remains, such as oak copsewood, hazel nuts, and the various plants indigenous to the country. On penetrating farther, a species of marl, composed chiefly of shells and plants, is thrown up,—thus demonstrating that the whole track was at an early period under water.

Fir on the inferior soils, and the different kinds of hard wood on the richer, are grown, principally on the estates of Wynnefield, Blackadder, and Laws. They are all in a thriving condition, and, while forming an agreeable ornament to the landscape, will amply remunerate the proprietors. \*

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

### *Historical Notices.* †—Previous to the Reformation, Whitsome

\* For full information on the botanical department, we beg to refer to "A Flora of Berwick-on-Tweed," by George Johnston, M. D., whose high talents, and indefatigable zeal, are devoted to this and other branches of natural history. Dr Johnston's Flora comprehends the counties adjoining Berwick.

† For these notices, with the exception of such as were personally investigated by

and Hilton were rectories. Rauf de Hawden, the parson of Whitsome, and David, the parson of Hilton, among others of the clergy, swore fealty to Edward I. of England at Berwick, on the 24th of August 1296, when their parsonages were restored. In Bagimont's Rolls, the tenth of Whitsome rectory was rated at L. 6, 13s. 4d.; and the *taxatio* at 45 merks. Hilton *taxatio* was set down at 18 merks. —The advowson of Whitsome church has always been annexed to the manor which belonged to the Earls of March and Dunbar; and, after passing through several hands, it is now vested in John Wilson, Esq. of Whitsome Hill.

Together with "Ederham et Nesbitt," Whitsome was granted to the monks of Coldingham by that "sore saint for the crown," David I. of Scotland, and afterwards confirmed to them by William.

Robert I. granted to Roger Pringle half of the lands of Whitsome, the whole of which, valued at 200s. of old extent, had been forfeited by John de Yle.

Thomas Hop Pringle of Smailholm and Galashiels died about the close of the fourteenth century. He was succeeded by his son, Adam Pringle of Whitsome, who married, during his father's lifetime, Marjory Keith, daughter of William Keith, grand Marshal of Scotland. By his marriage he obtained an important accession to his estate, as appears by a charter under the Great Seal from King David Bruce, dated 25th January 1362. This Adam, and many of his successors, attached themselves to the powerful family of Douglas, and shared in the enterprises of the period, doing essential service to that illustrious house, and earning a rich harvest of martial fame. Adam left a son and successor in Robert Pringle of Whitsome, afterwards of Smailholm and Gala. He was a warm patriot, and stood high, while a young man, in favour with the heroic James Earl of Douglas, to whom he acted in the capacity of *scutifer* or *shield-bearer* at Otterburn, the last of his fields. There are still preserved several charters, to the aforesaid Robert, of the different parts of the lands and barony of Smailholm, viz. TERRAS DOMICALES DE SMAILHOLM, *Smailholm Crag*, *the tower of Smailholm*, &c. which were long enjoyed by his posterity; and, as he preferred the designation of Smailholm to that of Whitsome, the former became one of the chief titles of the family.

us, and of those which we have gathered from the popular traditions, we must acknowledge our obligations to *Chalmers' "Caledonia," "Charter Chest of the Family of Harden," Sir David Erskine's "Antiquities of Dryburgh,"* and a manuscript copy of the Charters of Coldingham, in the possession of Mr Alexander Allan Carr, surgeon in Ayton, who has otherwise contributed to our *historical facts*.

In the same year, 1362, David II. also granted to William de Wardlaw two carrucates of land in the manor of Hilton; which, like many other properties in that age, had fallen to the crown by the forfeiture of Adam de Hilton, in consequence of his adherence to the English interest. The remaining half of the lands of Whitsome was conferred by the same monarch on William Colville.

In the month of July 1482, Whitsome was burned and destroyed by the celebrated Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. of England. The following places in Berwickshire suffered a similar fate, viz. Edrington, Fishwick, Paxton, Hutton, Mordington with its bastel, Edrom, East Nesbitt, Kellaw, Kimarghame, the two Syntons and bastel, Simprin, Crossrig, and many others.

To convey some idea of Whitsome *as it was*, it may be noticed, that the range of land on the north side of the village was divided into several small portions, still denominated "lands." Hence, the possessors or occupiers were styled "portioners." "The ten lands" formed the southern part of the present farm of Ravelaw; and "the nine" and "the eight" lay east from the preceding, and are included in the farm of Leetside. The southern side was parcelled out in like manner. The space between the two ranges, of considerable breadth, and upwards of half a mile in length, was enjoyed in common. The portioners were retainers of the Lord of the Manor, to whom, according to custom, they were bound to render military service.—The only vestiges of *common*, the right of the villagers to which is undisputed, consist of two small patches,—the one at the east end of the village, and the other on the north side near the centre. Both are used for bleaching,—a purpose to which they are well adapted by the plentiful supply of water on the grounds. The water proceeds from an excellent spring in the middle of each patch. The former spring derives its name, "The Blind Well," from an obvious casualty which befel a *blind* man: the latter, designated "Reed's Well," is reported to be so called in consequence of one *Reed* having lost his life near the spot, in a scuffle which arose at a fair then holding; and tradition adds, that, owing to this tragical event, the people were deprived of the privilege of holding a fair, nor has it been resumed since the fatal period.—In connection with the origin of names, it may be recorded, that the Blackadder plantations are vulgarly called "The *Pistol* plantings," on account of a gentleman of the neighbourhood, on his way home at an advanced hour of the night, having been fired at from one of the thickets.

Ravelaw is distinguished by having been the temporary residence of the Rev. Henry Erskine after his ejection from Cornhill. During his stay here, he frequently preached at Old Newton, where his ministrations, under the Divine blessing, produced the first serious impressions on the youthful mind of Boston.

It is another incident worthy of note, that when Boston himself once officiated in Whitsome church, which was then thatched, such a multitude flocked from all quarters, that many, in their eagerness to hear him, mounted the roof of the humble edifice, tore off portions of the straw, and thus contrived to gratify both eye and ear. \*

The communion cups (of silver) for the service of Whitsome bear that they were—"Gifted by Countess of Home, to the kirk of Whitsome, 1704."

Hilton bell, which had been rung by the hand, is preserved. It has on its rim, in legible characters,—“For Hiltoun, 1718.” It may be regarded as an apt memorial of the kirk to which it ministered, for it has lost the tongue.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners, according to their valued cess, are, John Wilson, Esq. of Whitsome-Hill; David Low, Esq. of Laws, Professor of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh; Miss Boswall of Blackadder, (Dykegatehead Leet-side, &c.) the most noble the Marquis of Tweeddale, (Ravelaw;) ———of Wynnefield; Robert Brown, Esq. of Old Newton; Henry Trotter, Esq. of Morton-Hall, (Hilton;) ———Forster, Esq. of Jardinefield; John Allan, Esq. of New Newton; James Herriot, Esq. of Herriot Bank; George Taitt, Esq. of Longridge; and Henry Seymour Ker, Esq. of Moriston, (Stridlins.)

\* When the tide of persecution ran high, Daniel Douglas was minister of Hilton. There is a popular tradition to the effect, that one day during public worship an individual of the dominant party, offended at certain words which fell from the preacher, laid violent hands upon him, and dragged him from the pulpit. A slight effusion of blood was the consequence, on which the maltreated pastor predicted, in hearing of the congregation, that the cowardly assailant's own blood would yet stain the floor of the sanctuary, and be licked by dogs. It happened soon after, that the person from whom Mr D. suffered such ill usage, received a mortal wound from an enemy. A crowd of attendants proceeded homewards with the corse, but on their way they were overtaken by a storm, which forced them to the nearest shelter,—the kirk of Hilton. They had not long remained beneath the sacred roof, when the dead man's wound broke out afresh, dripped through the bandages, and was actually lapped by some hounds that had accompanied the procession. The truth of the tradition we do not vouch. After the Revolution, previously to which he had taken refuge in Holland, Mr Douglas returned to Hilton, and there continued to exercise the pastoral functions till his decease. He died on the 24th July 1705, at the age of 86. His remains are deposited in Hilton churchyard. Numberless singular stories are current, which, if veritable, stamp him as eccentric in beneficence.—To him succeeded Mr William Wilson, the last of the Hilton clergymen.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest date of the parochial registers is 1724. Till a recent period, births, marriages, and deaths, had never been enrolled in a regular shape. Even now, owing to the absence of an express law on the subject, a complete registration is impracticable. An important desideratum would be supplied by a uniform set of books.

*Antiquities.*—In a field still known by the name of the *Battle-knowes*, on the farm of Leetside, there are discernible the outlines of a camp. The form is square, and each side measures 42 yards. Its position in the middle of a marsh proves, that in its entire state it has been surrounded with water, and very difficult of access. The entrance or gateway was on the south-east, to which a raised pavement of rough stones led. These were lately dug up and removed. It is supposed to be of Roman origin.—In 1827, on draining some well-springs in an adjoining field, not more than 300 yards distant from the site of the camp, the workmen found a copper kettle, which, (judging from its shape,) in all likelihood belonged to the Roman belligerents. It was conveyed to Blackadder House, where it remains.—In the same vicinity, on the farms of Leethead and Frenchlaw, several stone chests, 4½ feet in length internally, and rudely put together, have been discovered within the last three years. Each chest was composed of six flags, which have since been identified with a natural quarry at Todheugh, five miles distant on the banks of the Whitadder, and on the lid being removed, there were seen the various portions of a human skeleton. The body, when first placed in the coffin, had evidently been doubled, as the skull, with the fore part downwards, lay beside the bones of the feet, and the position of the rest corresponded. From this circumstance it appears, either that the funeral rites had been performed as expeditiously as possible, or that tools for cutting, and means for conveying larger flags, had been wanting; although in one case, at least, the upper and under flags projected over those at the ends and sides. The size of the bones, which were examined by Mr Purvis, surgeon in Whitsome, indicated a stature upwards of six feet. Each chest had also its urn, of unglazed earthenware, and of a triangular shape, the original contents of which had been converted into a quantity of black dust. This vessel stood on the left of the body for an intelligible reason; but it is somewhat strange, that the rude coffin, or rather the corpse within it, lay in a direction of south and north, the urn standing on the west.



The number of persons at present betwixt 30 and 50,	-	-	143
50 and 70,	-	-	52
upwards of 70,	-	-	18

During the last three years there have not been more than two illegitimate births in the parish.

There are only three families of independent fortune resident in the parish; of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, the number is 11; and of resident electors, 18.

*Character of the People.*—The people enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society; and though they have an impression that their circumstances might be bettered, they are, meanwhile, contented with their situation. Many of them evince an ardent thirst for sound and practical knowledge. Newspapers and other periodicals are extensively read, nor is there any want of literary, and particularly of theological works, in the cottages of the poorest. Sobriety and industry constitute prominent features in their character: and all, with a few exceptions, are regular in the outward observance of religious duty. Intelligence and Christian sentiment, in short, so generally prevail, that there has been no conviction for capital crime within memory. Poaching and smuggling, those symptoms of a debased and distempered morality, are unknown.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The superficial extent of the parish has been already stated. It may here be added, however, that the total amount of acres, inclusive of roads, fences, and all kinds of land, is 4900. Of these 4520 are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage; 200 are occupied by roads, fences, and water-courses; and plantations of wood, comprising the different sorts of forest trees, and kept under excellent management, cover the remaining 180.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land per acre is L. 1, 13s. 3d.; and of grazing an ox or cow for the season, at the rate of L. 3, 12s.; a ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year, at the rate of 16s.

*Rate of Wages.*—The rate of labour may be estimated by the following description of the various classes of labourers, and of the manner in which they are paid. *First*, the farm-servant, usually hired for the year, is furnished with a cottage, to which is attached a small piece of garden ground. In addition, his gains consist of 10 bolls, equal 60 bushels, of oats; 4 bolls, equal 24 bushels, of pease and barley; the potatoe produce of 1000 lineal or drill yards,

and of 500 more given in place of lint, where that is no longer allowed to be grown; a cow's grass; the carriage of coal; and L.3 of sheep money, as it is called. Till lately, a considerable emolument was derived from poultry, for which advantage a sum of 10s., and that only in certain cases, has been substituted. The farm-servant is likewise bound to provide a "bondager," for whose labour, when the latter is employed, he receives from 8d. to 10d. a-day. If any member of his own family is able to do the work, or if the bondager is often required, the circumstance turns out profitably; but it is otherwise, when a person must be engaged for the express purpose, at an expense of L.6, 10s. or L.7 a-year, besides victuals, &c. and the remuneration for whose labour, (supposing it to be interrupted and limited,) falls short of the expense incurred. *Secondly*, the cottar, instead of paying rent for the house and "kail-yard," engages to do harvest work; at every other season, a payment in money, of from 8d. to 10d. per day, is received for each day employed; the cottar also reaps the benefit of as much ground as two bushels of potatoes will plant, together with the carriage of coal. *Thirdly*, the day labourer is paid at the rate of 1s. 6d., except during harvest, when he can realize about 2s. 6d. daily.—The rate of other labour is, for joiners, 2s. 4d., for masons, 2s. 6d., for tailors, 1s. 6d., with victuals, per day, respectively. The smith is paid 5d. per pound of wrought-iron, and the road-maker 1s. 4d. per cubic yard of stones broken to size.

*Husbandry*.—Very few sheep or cattle are bred in the district, almost all of them being purchased at the different markets. In husbandry both the four and five-shift systems are pursued. Owing to the high price of stock, the latter is gaining ground, and indeed it is recommended by practical agriculturists as the better system for general adoption. The interests of agriculture have been vastly promoted by the introduction of thrashing-mills, of which there are twelve, four driven by steam, one by water, one by wind, and six by horse-power; and within the last twenty years, immense improvements have been effected in reclaiming waste land, &c. Some intelligent men are of opinion, that draining might be carried to a greater extent with much advantage, if facilities were afforded by the erection of a tile and brick kiln in the neighbourhood, as it is now difficult to obtain a sufficient quantity of stones for the purpose. Little more than a quarter of a century ago, a considerable portion of the now fertile farms of Dykegatehead, Wynnefield, Leetside, and others, was overflowed. Much praise is due to the

present tenants and their immediate predecessors for the skilful management and persevering zeal with which they have prosecuted the work of amelioration. And it ought not to pass unnoticed, that the most remarkable results have ensued, when the leases, the general duration of which is nineteen or twenty-one years, have been framed on liberal principles. But nothing can more clearly demonstrate the rapid advance of agriculture in the parish of Whitsome, than a comparison of the gross rental at two given periods. At the date of the former Statistical Account, it amounted to L. 3080, whereas at present it is L. 7526, exclusive of about L. 80, the valued rental of feued houses in the village, and of the sums realized by 180 acres of wood.

*Improvements.*—To illustrate the progress of cultivation by an example, and to prove the expediency of accommodating the several grades of capitalists, it may be mentioned, that South Laws, the property of Professor Low, from being a continuous moor, not worth 2s. 6d. an acre, is now a flourishing tract, yielding a rent of 18s. per acre. The whole, containing only eighty acres, is divided into three portions; and these, in the hands of the same number of tenants, present, with their numerous hedge-rows and thriving plantations, a garden-like aspect.—During the current season, George Taitt, Esq. of Longridge, has tried an experiment altogether new in this part of the country; on the more extensive adoption and ultimate success of which may depend important consequences both to proprietors and to the labouring classes. By trenching a small field, at a cost of L. 4, 10s. an acre, and then sowing it in barley, instead of leaving it fallow, as it must have been, according to the usual rotation, above an average crop of good quality was the produce.

The farm-houses are neat and commodious, and many of them finished in a superior style.—The cottages, more recently erected, are convenient and comfortable; while the rest are cold, damp, and in a miserable state of repair. This may be ascribed to two causes,—the non-residence of landlords, and the mode in which an incoming tenant takes all the buildings off his predecessor's hand, who is merely under the obligation to leave the cottages *habitable*, a term which needs no comment. As suitable plans have been submitted to the Highland Society, it is to be hoped that the humble dwellings of our rural population will ere long be constructed on a somewhat uniform principle, and with such a regard to internal comfort, if not to outward ornament, as to place them more

nearly on a level with those of England.—The enclosures are laid out with taste, and afford evidence that practical farming in this part of the country keeps pace with modern improvement.

*Quarries.*—Several quarries of freestone are found in the parish. The principal is that of Whitsome (Old) Newton, situate at the southern extremity of the parish. Its stone is of the best quality, and can be raised to any size. Out of it the chief edifices in Berwickshire have been built, and its excellence is duly appreciated in the neighbouring counties.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce is valued at, viz.

Grain of all kinds,	L. 11472	10	0
Potatoes and turnips cultivated in the fields,	1512	0	0
Hay,	1000	0	0
Land in pasture, at L. 3, 12s. per cow, or full-grown ox, grazed for the season, and at 16s. per ewe or full-grown sheep, pastured for the year,	2284	4	0
Gardens,	50	0	0
The annual thinning and periodical felling of woods, plantations, &c.	200	0	0
Quarries,	80	0	0
Miscellaneous articles,	150	0	0
Total yearly value of raw produce raised,	L. 16748	14	0

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The village, for there is but one, lies in a direction of east and west, and, exclusive of the farm-houses and cottages of Herriot Bank and Leetside, consists of seventeen houses, feued from the Blackadder estate, seven cottages on the property of Whitsome-hill,—the school-house, on the highest part of Hardie's-hill,—the church, on the western declivity of the same eminence,—and the manse at a short distance, also situated on a gently rising ground.

The nearest market-towns are Dunse, seven miles distant towards the west, Coldstream eight miles south, and Berwick ten miles north-east. At all of these places, monthly markets are held for sheep and cattle, and weekly for corn. Berwick, however, being a sea-port, is the chief grain-mart.

*Means of Communication, &c.*—From Whitsome a carrier proceeds once a-week, to Dunse on Wednesday, to Edinburgh on Friday, and to Berwick on Saturday. Letters are transmitted through the post at Swinton, which lies at a distance of three miles. The length of the parish roads is  $12\frac{5}{8}$  miles, and of those under trust,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ . They are kept in repair by converted statute-labour, the annual amount of which is L. 54, 1s. 6d. This sum is levied on nineteen masters at 3s.; fifty-five servants at 3s.; thirteen cottagers at 1s. 6d.; 108 horses at 7s. 6d.; and 8 mares in foal at 3s. 9d. each.

Small bridges and conduits have been thrown over all the water-courses, which formerly crossed the public roads at numerous points, and often rendered them impassable during heavy rains, and in winter. The fences are formed of quickset hedges, those being in the best order, which are maintained at the joint expense of landlord and tenant.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the present church is convenient for all the inhabitants. It stands at the west end of the village, almost exactly in the centre, and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from either extremity of the parish. It was built in 1803 on Hardie's-hill, and fronts the south-east. From the recent date of its erection, no repairs of importance have yet been required. It is matter of regret, however, that on the renewal of the church in the above year, sufficient accommodation was not provided for the whole body of the people. The entire number of lineal feet of seating is 344, which, at a moderate calculation, affords room for only 250 persons. According to custom, too, the seats, besides being limited, were divided amongst the several heritors in proportion to their valued cess. By this means, it happens that the largest space is not always allotted to the proprietor who has the greatest number of residents on his estates.—The original walls of the manse have stood from time immemorial; at least neither verbal intelligence nor written record can be procured, from which to determine the period of its erection. It must be observed, however, that numerous alterations and additions have imparted to the structure a good deal of the air of a modern house.—The glebe of Whitsome (alone) contains 11 acres, and that of Hilton 19, estimated at L. 2 per acre. The stipend, as augmented in 1820, is 16 chalders of barley and oatmeal, 2 bolls of wheat, and L. 8, 7s. 4d. in money.

There are 85 families, comprising 422 persons of all ages, in connection with the Established church; while 40 families, comprising 214 persons of all ages, attach themselves to chapels of Presbyterian Dissenters and Seceders in neighbouring parishes. From this statement it appears, that the adherents of the kirk have decreased, since the date of last Statistical Account, from eleven-twelfths to two-thirds, or thereabouts, of the whole population.\*

\* Since last year, 1833, when the above statement was drawn up, and a census of the population taken, the following changes have been ascertained:

	Present No.	Loss.	Gain.
Families,	123	2	
Inhabitants,	610	26 by emigration.	
Persons of all ages in connection with church,	438		16
Persons of all ages who are Dissenters,	172	42	

Whence it appears that, notwithstanding a decrease of 26 in the population, the Estab-

Still of late years, there has been a gradual and sensible return to the Establishment. The average number of church communicants may be reckoned at 200, more or less.

A branch of the Berwickshire Bible Society was instituted in 1816, under the auspices of the late Thomas Boswall, Esq. of Blackadder. Its annual contributions average L. 5. A Temperance Society also originated in 1831; it counts thirty members. The collections in church for religious and charitable purposes have not exceeded L. 20 during the last seven years; and they were made in aid of the Assembly's Highland Schools, the Assembly's India Mission, the Scottish Missionary Society, and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

*Education.*—There are two schools in Whitsome, one parochial, and one unendowed. In both, English, writing, arithmetic, and practical mathematics are taught; and in the former, the Latin, Greek, and French languages, with the principles of general knowledge, form additional branches. The Scriptures and Shorter Catechism hold a prominent place in the course of Instruction, which in its character is the Intellectual system, modified to suit circumstances. The salary annexed to the Established school is the maximum, viz. 2 chalders of oatmeal, valued at L. 34, 4s. 4½d. and the fees amount to L. 26, 10s. The children of poor families are taught *gratis*. The teacher has all the legal accommodations, the ground connected with which was presented to the heritors by the Earl of Wemyss. The master of the other school is dependent solely on the fees, which amount to L. 29, 15s. The expense of education is, for reading, 3s.; for writing, 4s.; for arithmetic, 5s.; and for Latin, &c. 8s. 6d. per quarter. Not more than three quarters and a-half in the year can be reckoned on. As the people are keenly alive to the benefits of education, there is no instance of any, whether young or old, who are destitute of elementary instruction. The more rapid and extensive diffusion of useful knowledge, however, might be facilitated, were it not that the humbler families find it extremely difficult to procure the necessary books; and the most estimable boon which an enlightened beneficence could confer, would arise from an addition to the parochial endowments with a special reference to the wants noticed, and with a security, that those wants should be supplied. Certain it is, that the most intelligent, well-informed, and religious individuals, are

blished church has gained an accession of 16. In 1833, the Dissenters amounted to one-third plus 2 of the parishioners: in 1834, their entire number is one-third minus 31½ of the whole.

at the same time the most industrious, orderly, and loyal subjects. This remark is the result of personal and daily observation.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—In 1775, the legal assessment for the poor was L. 13. It varied little till 1800, when, owing to the deficiency of crop, and the consequent rise in the price of provisions, it was L. 78, 12s. Before the shock of that year had subsided, the pressure of 1816 commenced, and another rise in the assessment ensued, which in 1818 was L. 201, 6s. From that date it gradually diminished, and in the present year, ending at Martinmas 1833, it is L. 115, 19s. Out of this sum various expenses, including an item of L. 8 for enabling a pauper to emigrate to Canada, are paid, so that the gross amount remaining for the poor regularly on the roll is L. 88, 12s. The number of persons now receiving parochial aid is 18; and therefore the average sum allotted to each, L. 4, 18s. 5½d. annually, or 1s. 10¼d. weekly. The church collections furnish yearly about L. 6, which by courtesy are left at the disposal of the minister and session for the relief of incident cases. The poor here enjoy the advantage of a soup-kitchen maintained at Allanton by the liberality of Mrs Boswall, who also distributes amongst them every winter a quantity of coal and clothing. Nor should we omit to mention, that in 1829 the sum of L. 20 was left by the late Mrs Hogarth of Hilton, the interest of which, agreeably to the wishes of the donor, is expended in the purchase of Bibles for children, whose parents are in necessitous circumstances. The heritors, in their collective capacity, kindly allow five per cent. for the principal. It is, moreover, worthy of being recorded, that, on the occurrence of casual distress in families, arising out of loss of property or domestic bereavements, all classes in the parish are distinguished for the cordial sympathy which they evince, and the liberal benefactions which they make, in behalf of the sufferers. And this, too, seems to be done in approval, and for the nurture, of that independent feeling which operates almost universally as a preventive to their applying for parochial aid. Where ignorance and habits subversive of economy prevail, recourse is had to any available quarter for pecuniary means; but with us the disposition to refrain from seeking relief in the sources provided by law, is strong as it is honourable. But often, when old age or unavoidable infirmities generate the necessity of securing a regular and continued sustenance, an application is reluctantly made.

*Inns.*—Two inns have sprung up in the course of the last seven years, previous to which there had been none for a long period. Their existence cannot but be deprecated.

*Fuel.*—Coal constitutes the common fuel. It is brought from Northumberland, (the distance to the nearest colliery being about nine miles,) and costs from 7d. to 8d. a cwt. A few cart-loads of cuttings, &c. from the adjoining plantations prove very serviceable.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The more striking variations betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account are,—the demolition of the houses and cottages on the farms of Deadrigg, Cartrigg, Myreside, and Læthead; the first and second being annexed to Whitsome-hill, the third to Dykegatehead, and the fourth to Blackadder Bank :—a wider spread of knowledge, and a higher degree of refinement amongst all ranks :—a great addition to the quantity of arable land :—the rise of flourishing plantations and hedge-rows :—the levelling and Macadamizing of the public roads :—the introduction of more powerful thrashing-machinery :—an improved mode of husbandry :—and the erection of a new church.

A change from the four to the five-shift system,—a facility of obtaining tiles for drains,—and an extension of liberal policy on the part of landlords, would tend to promote the interests of agriculture; while a stricter regard to cottage accommodations,—the removal of every thing that depresses the remuneration of labour below a reasonable standard,—the allotment of small pieces of land to deserving householders, to be cultivated by the spade,—and a provision for effectually supplying the schools with appropriate sets of books,—are means which appear to us well calculated to encourage and advance industry, and to increase the comfort, independence, and happiness of the labouring-classes.

*July 1834.*