

PARISH OF ABERCORN.

PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN & TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. LEWIS H. IRVING, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THIS parish derives its name, written formerly Abercorne, from the ancient monastery of Aebercurnig. The confluence of a rivulet, called the Cornie burn, with another stream at the bottom of the high bank on which the church stands, points out the probable origin of the name as descriptive of the site of the monastery.

The parish extends $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in extreme length, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in extreme breadth, containing 7.03 square miles. It is of a rectangular figure, stretching east and west, and bounded on the east by Dalmeny; on the south, by Kirkliston, Auldathie, (an annexed portion of Dalmeny,) and Ecclesmachau; on the west, by Linlithgow and Carriden; and on the north, by the Firth of Forth.

The surface is exceedingly diversified, but although broken into many picturesque undulations and irregularities, no part of it attains an elevation above 350 feet. Two points alone have received the name of hills, Binns hill and Priestinch hill. The former, at the western extremity of the parish, is arable to the summit: insulated and rising with uninterrupted slope from the sea, although of no great height, it commands an extensive and magnificent view of the shores of the Frith, and the circumjacent country, with a bounding amphitheatre of hills, formed by the Grampian, Ochil, Pentland, and Campsie ranges. Priestinch hill, on the south border of the parish, is a precipitous mass of trap-rock, surrounded on three sides by a green bog called the

Priestinch. Its altitude is inconsiderable. The summit is nearly flat, of an oval form, and has been rudely fortified at some remote period. The shore is clayey, intersected at several points by low ranges of rock : near high water-mark, the beach is covered with rolled stones and boulders of greenstone. The bottom is flat to seaward, the tide receding a great way, but inland the ground rises abruptly, presenting a steep, though not precipitous bank, from 80 to 100 feet high. The line of coast, extending about four miles, is of singular beauty. Seen from the terraces and rides judiciously conducted along the heights,—a series of irregular promontories with receding bays and steep undulating banks, clothed with trees to the water's edge, except where a few green slopes and winding glades occur, just sufficient to break the uniformity of the wood,—form a rich foreground to the varied views of mountain, shore, and flood beyond.

Meteorology.—The average temperature for seventeen years, obtained from a register kept by Mr Smith at Hopetoun House, is $46\frac{1}{8}^{\circ}$.

Hydrography.—The Frith of Forth is here about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles broad, the water is much discoloured from the particles of impalpable mud suspended, and prevented from subsiding by the action of the tides and winds. The degree of saltness is not materially lower than that found nearer the mouth of the Frith. The springs are perennial, but neither frequent nor very abundant, flowing chiefly from the coal measures; they are more or less tinged with iron and sulphuretted hydrogen. One spring has been used medicinally, but its qualities are by no means powerful; its waters have not been analyzed. There are several artificial sheets of water of small extent, two of them employed as mill-ponds; the others are ornamental. The only streams are mere rivulets; the largest, the Midhope, or Nethermill burn, rises in the parish of Linlithgow, about seven miles from its mouth, entering this parish at the south-west angle; it flows easterly through a deep wooded glen, and reaches the coast a few hundred feet below the church, being joined near the sea by the Cornie burn, a still smaller rivulet. Blackness burn, which separates Abercorn from Carriden, and the Linnmill burn, which divides it from Dalmeny, both flowing north, and neither of them above one mile and a-half in length, exhaust the slender hydrography of the district.

Geology.—The strata are much deranged and interrupted; the prevailing direction is from north-east to south-west, and the dip

north-westerly, the angle varying from 5 to 60 degrees. The most remarkable disturbance is seen in the ravine, near the mouth of the Nethermill burn. The rocks are the sandstone, shales, limestone, &c. of the coal-formation, with protruded masses of trap, such as Binns hill, Priestinch hill, and two or three of smaller extent. The limestone occurs denuded in the central and eastern portions of the parish; the stratum is about 10 feet thick, covered with an alluvial deposit of gravel, clay, and rolled stones; fossil shells, and beautiful impressions of ferns, have been found in the accompanying shales. Coal appears, and clay-ironstone in the south and south-west districts, but the seams, so far as yet explored, are of minor importance. Calcspar is abundant in the fissures of the limestone, but the crystals are small and insignificant. The general alluvial deposits consist of clay, mixed with gravel and rolled stones. The bank on which the church stands, and some others near the coast, seem to be composed of gravel and beds of sand. The soil is varied,—loam on a clay bottom is its most prevalent aspect; the loam is shallow, except in hollow and peculiar localities. Boulders of greenstone, weighing several tons, are occasionally met with. A small coal mine has existed for a few years past at Priestinch, close to the Union Canal, in the neighbourhood of which the coal crops out, dipping to the north-west at an angle of 20°. The seams are small, the upper one being eighteen inches, and the under one twelve inches in thickness, separated by three feet of shale, a band of clay-ironstone, four inches thick. Both seams of coal are soft and friable; the lower one is used as smithy coal, and yields the better price.

Zoology.—An otter (*Lutra vulgaris*) was killed some years ago in the Nethermill burn. The Hopetoun deer-park, extending to 118 acres, is stocked with between 200 and 300 head of fallow-deer, (*Cervus dama*.) Squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*) abound in the woods. The weasel (*Mustela vulgaris*) is common. The stoat (*M. ermineus*) and the polecat (*M. putorius*) are more rarely found. The seal (*Phoca vitulina*), and the porpoise (*Delphina Phocena*) occasionally visit the shores. Sir Robert Sibbald mentions the capture of a whale, in 1692, at Abercorn, of the razor-back species, (*Borqualis borealis*), measuring 78 feet long, which had infested the Forth for twenty years, and from a perforation in its dorsal fin by a ball, was known by the name of the “holle pike.” The fox (*Vulpes vulgaris*) is tolerated in the coverts for the chase; hares are numerous, and of late years, the multitude of rabbits has

become a nuisance. Buildings are much infested with the brown rat (*Mus decumanus*) and the common mouse (*M. musculus*); whilst the black rat (*M. rattus*) and the short-tailed field-mouse (*Arvicola agrestis*) are not plentiful. The pheasant (*Phasianus Colchicus*) has been introduced, and has multiplied extensively in the preserves; the partridge (*Perdix cinerea*) is not abundant; woodcocks (*Scolopax Rusticola*), snipe (*S. Gallinago*), and wild-duck (*Anas Boschas*) are still rarer. The cuckoo is a yearly visitant, and the woods are alive in summer with the notes of the blackbird and thrush, and the cooing of the wood-pigeon. The smaller birds common to the climate are plentiful; the numbers of the missel-thrush or storm-cock (*Turdus viscivorus*) have latterly much increased. During the protracted severity of the winter, in the commencement of 1838, a male blackbird was repeatedly observed, whose plumage had become snow-white, with the exception of a few speckled feathers. The crested lapwing (*Vanellus cristatus*), the dottrel (*Charadrius Morinellus*), and the grey plover (*Squatarola cinerea*), are frequent. The shores are peopled with flocks of waders, consisting of plovers, gulls, (*Larus fuscus*, *L. argentatus*, and *L. canus*), and the lesser auk (*Alca Torda*.) Apart from which the heron (*Ardea cinerea*) seeks his food in lonely spots. An exterminating warfare is waged against the crows, magpies, hawks, and owls, but the various races contrive still to exist. Several years ago a pair of black swans (*Cygnus atratus*), from New Holland were placed in a pond near Hopetoun House, and bred repeatedly: but the female having been unfortunately destroyed one winter by a fox, the male bird remains the sole tenant of his pool. Salmon (*Salmo salar*), and its congeners (*Salmo trutta*, and *S. albus*), approach the coast when the season is somewhat advanced. Skate (*Raia Batis*), and flounders (*Platessa Flesus*), are frequently caught, soles (*Solea vulgaris*) occasionally, and sometimes, but very rarely, sturgeon (*Accipenser Sturio*.)

The common muscle (*Musculus edulis*) is found in considerable quantities. Formerly some attention was paid to the formation and preservation of the scalps, so as to furnish abundant bait for white-fishing, but they have been now long neglected. The cuttle fish (*Sepia vulgaris*) is at times cast ashore.

Botany.—From the small portion of the land that is waste or in a state of nature, the botanist has but a narrow range in proportion to the extent of surface. The sea-shore and the neighbouring water-courses furnish the following list of rarer plants:

Ligusticum Scoticum	Spargula nodosa
Cynoglossum officinale	Euphorbia esula
Convolvulus sepium	Thalictrum majus
Parnassia palustris (near the shore)	Scrophularia aquatica
Triglochin maritimum	Ononis arvensis
Chrysosplenium alternifolium	Astragalus hypoglottis
————— oppositifolium	Hypericum pulchrum
Arenaria rubra	Aster trifolium
————— marina	Habenaria viridis
Asplenium ruta muraria	————— bifolia
————— trichomanes	Didymodon capillaceum
————— adiantum nigrum	Bryum punctatum
Grimmia leucophæa	————— ligulatum

Trees of many kinds have been extensively planted, and thrive well, particularly beech, elm, oak, sycamore, lime, and chestnut, Scots, silver, and spruce fir, and larch. The masses of wood are penetrated and rendered accessible in every direction by rides and green glades, whose windings and recesses afford many exquisite glimpses of forest scenery. The plantations have been chiefly formed during the early part of last century, and there are but few traces of great age. The cedar trees (*Cedrus Libani*) in the Hopetoun pleasure-grounds are well worthy of notice, from their size and beauty. Planted only in 1748, the largest already measures 15 feet 7½ inches in girth, and 87 feet between the extremities of its branches. The increase of girth has been 5 feet within the last thirty years. In the same grounds, a sweet chestnut tree (*Fagus castanea*) measures 13 feet 9 inches, and an aged beech 14 feet 4 inches in circumference. The growth of the silver firs (*Abies picea*), planted early in the last century, is remarkable, several being nearly 100 feet high. The tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) are of considerable size, and frequently flower. The hemlock spruce (*Abies Canadensis*) has been introduced, and grows vigorously. To the east of the house, near a quarry, a plane tree (*Acer pseudo-platanus*), of 14½ feet in girth, is more notable for the number of its spreading branches and the ground it covers than for the thickness of its trunk, the distance betwixt the extremities of its boughs being 116 feet. A range of gigantic ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*), of unknown age, marks the ancient boundary of the parish churchyard. The largest measures 16 feet in girth. Their hoary trunks and shattered limbs are monumental of generations long since passed away, whose dust slumbers at their feet. In an arboretum attached to the gardens at Hopetoun House are several Scots firs (*Pinus sylvestris*) of great size and picturesque form, and groups of various exotic trees; amongst others, the *Cedrus deodara* and the *Abies mirinda*

from the Himalaya. One of the latter, a very graceful tree, but a few years old, has attained the height of 20 feet; whilst several vigorous specimens in various parts of the grounds are curious from being grafted on the common spruce fir. A Siberian pine (*Pinus cembra Siberica*) in one of the flower-borders, is remarkable for the peculiarity of its form and the tardiness of its growth. With a vigorous thickly-thatched head, it is only 5½ feet high, and its trunk but a few inches in diameter, though nearly a hundred years old.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Notices.—The Monastery of Aebercurnig is more than once mentioned by Bede, and appears to have been a Culdee establishment of early date. In the latter part of the seventh century, it formed the residence of a bishop, at a period when Whitherne in Galloway was the only other Episcopal seat south of the Forth. In 696, when Aegfrid, King of the Northumbrians, whose kingdom included the Lothians, was slain in battle by the northern Picts, *Trumuini*, who then held the see, deeming Abercorn too near the Pictish kingdom of Fife, forsook the monastery with his followers.* *Trumuini*, of whom Bede speaks with respect, was in all likelihood a Culdee bishop, as the papal authority had then but little influence in Scotland. The Castle and estate of Abercorn were possessed by Walter Avenale in the middle of the twelfth century; and in 1176, a dispute took place betwixt his son, John Avenale, and Richard, second Bishop of Dunkeld, regarding the patronage of the parish, the monastery being then extinct. As might be expected in those days, the claim of the prelate was triumphant. In 1460, the whole church lands belonging to the Bishop of Dunkeld on this side of the Forth, including Abercorn, Cramond, Preston, and Aberlady, were erected into one barony, called the barony of Aberlady. In the thirteenth century, the estate of Abercorn passed by marriage into the possession of the Graemes, and was held by the patriot, Sir John the Graeme, the friend of Wallace, killed in battle against the English at Falkirk July 22d 1298. The estate was subsequently the property of the Black Douglases. Abercorn Castle, a strong natural position, partook of the fortunes of that proud house. Repeatedly attacked during a period peculiarly turbulent, it was besieged by James II. in 1455, and taken by storm on the 8th of April.† The Earl's retainers were put to the sword, and

* Bede, Hist. iv. 26.

† Godscroft, p. 203, folio ed.

the castle destroyed. Buchanan speaks of it as "semidiruta arx" in his time. It was never rebuilt. The estate was conferred by the Crown on Claud Hamilton, the first Viscount Paisley, third son to the Earl of Arran. Forfeited for his adherence to the fortunes of Mary, it was restored to his son by James VI., created in 1606 Earl of Abercorn. From this family it passed successively to the Mures, Lindsays of the Byres, and Setons, and was sold by Sir Walter Seton in 1678 to John Hope, father to the first Earl of Hopetoun. The estate had dwindled at that time to a few acres, but had the sheriffship of the county attached to it, until the abolition of heritable jurisdictions.

Eminent Men.—Thomas Dalryell of Binns, a General in the army, and for some years at the head of the forces in Scotland, was born in this parish in 1615. His private eccentricities furnished scope for the sarcastic pen of Swift in the Memoirs of Captain Creighton, while the public history of General Dalryell forms an important element in the narrative of the troubles of the Kirk of Scotland. Undaunted courage, and blind devoted fidelity to his sovereign, form almost the sole redeeming points in a life redolent of cruelty. He died at Edinburgh in 1685. The family vault, erected in 1623, is attached to the church, but of his place of sepulture there is no record. His portrait, well executed, is preserved at Binns House. John Dundas of Philpstoun, advocate, procurator for the Church, and the author of the Abridgement of the Acts of Assembly, published in 1721, was a native of Abercorn, and a proprietor and elder within its bounds. John, fourth Earl of Hopetoun, whose character conferred a lustre of its own on the rank he held, was born at Hopetoun House in 1765. His reputation as a soldier belongs to the history of the last war, with whose details his military career as General Sir John Hope is amply interwoven. The Corunna dispatch, written when he assumed the command on the death of Sir John Moore, at the close of that day of mingled grief and glory, is well-known, and needs no comment. He was, however, not less remarkable for business talents of a high order, and all the milder graces of private life, than for courage and capability in the field. Created for his services Baron Niddry in 1814, he succeeded his brother James, third Earl of Hopetoun, in 1816. On his retirement from military life, he devoted himself, among other avocations, to the public business of the county over which he presided as Lord-Lieutenant, and by his assiduous and punctual attention to all the minutiae of county mat-

ters, produced a very marked amelioration. In the discharge of the functions devolving upon him as a magistrate, a landlord, and a parent, his intellectual endowments and high personal qualities of integrity, love of order, and benevolence, together with the dignity and unaffected kindness of his deportment, invested him with a beneficial moral influence, of great power and wide extent. His sudden and comparatively premature death was felt as a public calamity, and his memory is still deeply venerated. He died at Paris, August 27th 1828. His remains have been latterly interred in a cemetery of Saxon architecture near the church. Besides the statue in bronze erected in St Andrew's Square, Edinburgh, two portraits of this Earl, painted by Raeburn, have been severally placed in the county halls at Linlithgow and Cupar. In 1822, his Majesty George IV. visited Hopetoun House on the day of his embarkation for England. This tribute of his sovereign's esteem was as singular as it was justly earned; the Earl of Hopetoun being the only private individual so honoured during the King's sojourn in Scotland.

Land-owners.—The old valuation of the parish amounts to L.6945, 7s. Scots, now divided between two proprietors, the Earl of Hopetoun, who possesses L.6212, 3s. Scots of valued rent, and the trustees of the late Sir James Dalryell, Bart. of Binns, whose property within the parish is valued at L.733, 4s. Scots. The Hopetoun estate is an aggregation of smaller properties acquired at various periods, such as Philpstoun, Stoneyhill, and Morton, formerly possessed by branches of the house of Dundas; Duntarvie, the property of a family of Durhams; Midhope, a former seat of the Earls of Liplithgow; Craigton, possessed by the Ewings; and Duddingstoun, lately the property of Gabriel Hamilton Dundas, Esq.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial records are voluminous. The minutes of kirk-session reach from 1691 to the present time, with the exception of the years from 1737 to 1750 inclusive, during which a protracted vacancy occurred. The register of baptisms commences with the year 1585; some of the earlier portions are, however, imperfect. The record of marriage proclamations and that of deaths are complete from 1700. The ministers since the Revolution have been, Alexander Dalgleish, inducted in 1690; John Brown in 1700; Henry Luidie in 1740, transported to Edinburgh in 1758; John Bichie in 1759; Hugh Maiklejohn, D. D., Professor of Church History in the University of Edinburgh, inducted in 1791; and the present incumbent in 1831.

Antiquities.—The Roman wall, or “Vallum Antonini,” connecting the Friths of Forth and Clyde, has been styled by some writers the wall of Abercorn; it is, however, matter of dispute whether that line of defence extended so far east. Sir Robert Sibbald, indeed, writing from his own observation, and Pont’s former survey, says, that the wall passed Abercorn, and terminated at the “laird of Maner’s windmill,” which occupied an abrupt eminence at the commencement of the eastern approach to Hopetoun House, where traces of escarpment are still visible.* Bede, however, states that the wall terminated at Peanfahel or Penneltum, distant about two Roman miles from the monastery of Aebercurnig.† This language would apparently determine Blackness as the Peanfahel or “head of the wall.” A prolongation or outwork may have been at some period continued along the coast as far as the “windmill knowe.” No light has been thrown on the subject by the discovery of monuments or inscriptions. The remains of the monastery have wholly disappeared; some foundations of buildings and a mass of deep black loam, of limited extent, in the vicinity of the church, are the only traces hitherto found. The site of the castle of Abercorn is marked by a green mound, the ruins having been carefully removed at the dictate of the taste prevailing when the Hopetoun pleasure-grounds were first laid out. The situation was singularly strong, accessible from the east by a narrow neck of high ground, but surrounded on all other sides with steep banks. The socket of an ancient cross, occupying its original position, was exhumed last year, in altering the west end of the church; and by the removal of an out-building, the shaft was exposed, mutilated, and converted into an obscure window lintel. The two sides visible are elaborately carved with arabesque tracery in relief, resembling the crosses at Iona. Midhope House, a building of considerable age, is in tolerable preservation. It consists of a square turretted tower, with a cumbrous addition attached to the east side. The old doorway bears above it a coronet, and the letters J. L. in cipher, the initials of the then Livingstone Earl of Linlithgow. An oak stair, of massive workmanship, still gives access to the upper stories of the house, inhabited by labourers.

Mansion-Houses.—Binns House, an irregular mass of building, garnished with turrets and embrasures, is beautifully placed on the western slope of Binns hill. It was built in 1623, and enlarged by the late proprietor. The park around is highly picturesque;

* Sibbald’s Historical Inquiries, p. 31.

† Bede Hist. i. 12.

the grassy acclivities of the hill being interspersed with scattered trees and groups of evergreens. The summit is crowned with a high round tower, forming a conspicuous land-mark. Duddingstoun House, a modern erection, of a heavy castellated character, stands on high ground in the south-east of the parish, and commands an extensive view. Hopetoun House, the principal residence of the family of that name, holds a pre-eminent place among the mansions of the land. Originally planned by Sir William Bruce of Kinross, it was commenced in 1696, but not completed until many years after, under the superintendence of Mr Adam. The front is very extended, consisting of a *corps de logis*, with advanced wings terminating in octagonal dome-roofed towers, and connected with the body of the house by sweeping colonnades. The architects have sedulously avoided all prominence in the minor details, enhancing materially the general effect. The decorations, though not obtrusive, are yet sufficiently rich and numerous to prevent heaviness or insipidity. The stables, contained in the north wing, are on a scale of princely magnificence. The internal accommodations are extensive, although convenience has been somewhat sacrificed to the production of an imposing façade. The library is rich in early specimens of printing, and illuminated conventual manuscripts. An ample collection of paintings has been formed, including works of many ancient masters, both of the Flemish and Italian schools. Occupying an elevated plateau, the front view, from the house eastward, embraces the opening of the Frith, with its picturesque shores and rocky islets, North Berwick Law closing the vista. The grounds within the plaisance are kept in high order, formerly laid out after the French symmetrical taste. The more formal arrangement has been broken down, but the quaint clipt yew-trees and grassy terraces have been sufficiently spared, to soften the transition from the style of the house and its architectural accompaniments, to the irregularities of form and outline, characteristic of the more modern alterations. The gardens are extensive, well sheltered, and of varied exposure. Much and successful pains are bestowed on their culture. The walks within the grounds, more especially along the verge of the steep sea bank, abound in interesting views, whilst the abundance of tall evergreens renders the bleak aspect of a Scottish winter less perceptible. The eastern and principal approach proceeds up the centre of an open levelled esplanade, but the western leads through an overarching avenue of noble elms, forcibly illustrating

the hypothetic origin of the long-drawn aisles and fretted vaults of the Gothic or Saracenic architecture.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish was, in	Males.	Females.	Total.
1755,	.....	.....	1037
1792,	451	419	870
1801,	.....	.....	814
1811,	.....	.....	885
1821,	.....	.....	1044
1831,	.....	.....	1013
1832,	493	496	989

In the census of 1841, the population is stated to be 2147. This extraordinary increase arose from the residence of about 1100 labourers during the formation of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway.

From the record of baptisms, it would appear that the permanent population was more numerous in the close of the seventeenth century than at any subsequent period; the annual average of births for ten years being then about 39, whereas, for the ten years preceding 1792, it hardly reached 20, and is now but about 28. Probably the obliteration of several farms, in order to form the parks and ornamental grounds in the vicinity of Hopetoun House, may explain the decrease.

Number of persons residing in the villages, country,	299 690
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IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

Total number of imperial acres,	4496
under tillage, or laid down in grass and subject to occasional cultivation,	3700
under wood,	670
never cultivated, consisting of bog or steep banks,	21
occupied by roads, railway, canal, and beach, about	105

There is no natural wood, but the extensive plantations, covering nearly one-sixth of the whole surface, abound in all varieties of well-thriven trees. Much attention has in general been paid to thinning and pruning, and the surrounding fences are kept in excellent repair. The rent of land in cultivation varies from L.1, 15s. to L.2, 10s. The annual rent of grazing per ox is about L.3,

Wages.—Rate of country labour per day in summer, 1s. 8d., and in winter, 1s. 6d.; wages of artisans in summer, 3s., and in winter, 2s. The prices of raw produce and of mechanical work are in great measure determined by the corresponding prices in Edinburgh and its neighbourhood. Some attention has been bestowed in the improvement of the cattle, by the introduction of the Teeswater breed. The husbandry, in most respects, has

kept pace with the general improvement in method and farming implements common to the country. Furrow-draining, both with stones and tiles, is of late becoming frequent, and from the generally retentive nature of the subsoil, the results are most beneficial. Stones fit for drains abound in all directions, and drain tiles are easily procured from the manufactory at Blackness, distant but a short way from the boundary of the parish. The general duration of leases is nineteen years. The grass parks are let from year to year. The farm-buildings are by no means showy, although commodious and in good condition.

Quarries and Mines.—Several quarries of excellent freestone, in various parts of the parish, have been occasionally wrought from a very remote date. The stone is durable, and well adapted for building. The quarries in the northern and central districts yield a stone varying in hue from a cream colour to a palish-gray; in the south and south-west, a hard durable freestone is procured of an intensely dark-gray, approaching to black. Both admit of being wrought for ornamental purposes. Hopetoun House furnishes a very favourable specimen of the lighter variety, whilst the dark has been employed in the erection of the house and offices at Duddingston. A quarry of trap, on the north face of Priest-inch Hill, opened by the Road Trustees, affords the best material for roads in this vicinity. Limestone has been extensively excavated in the central and south-eastern parts of the parish. The workings are of great age; and it is traditionally reported, that the lime used in the once famous fortifications of Duns Kirk was obtained from Abercorn. The stone is still quarried in considerable quantities on the farm of Newton, giving work to about ten men. It is of a dark gray colour, but becomes pure white when calcined, being very free from foreign ingredients, with the exception of carbon. It becomes so extremely friable in the process of burning as to unfit it for the draft-kiln. The method resorted to is that styled the *soop-kiln*. Its purity renders the lime fitter for agricultural purposes than for building. The bed of limestone measures 10 feet in thickness, and the depth of the alluvial covering varies from 15 to 85 feet, whose removal adds very considerably to the expense of working. The lime sells at 2s. 6d. per boll of six imperial bushels. The coal mine, near Priest-inch, is of small extent, and without peculiarity. The number of people employed is about seventeen. The water is thrown off by a small steam-engine.

Fishery.—The only fishery is at the mouth of the Linn-mill Burn, where very extensive stake-nets are erected for the capture of salmon. This station was once tolerably productive, at least in the latter months of the fishing season; but of late years, the quantity taken has diminished materially. The lessee holds the right of fishing from the proprietors of a great extent of coast. The rent paid to proprietors within the parish is about L.60 yearly. During several months, nearly thirty men are employed.

Amount of Raw Produce.—The following is an approximation to the gross amount of raw produce yearly raised:—

Produce of grain of all kinds,	L.10,500	0	0
potatoes, turnips, &c.	2,000	0	0
hay,	2,000	0	0
land in pasture,	7,000	0	0
annual thinning of wood,	100	0	0
fishery, (say)	200	0	0
quarries and mines,	800	0	0

Total annual value of raw produce, L.22,700 0 0

The annual rent of real property, as assessed in 1815, was L.7722.

The burning of lime is the only branch of manufacture, with the exception of the ordinary country artisanship. There are two corn-mills driven by water, and a saw-mill lately erected, by the Earl of Hopetoun, on the Nethermill Burn, the prospective utility of which is very apparent, from the great extent of the plantations, and the quantity of full-grown timber.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The nearest market-towns are, South Queensferry, distant three and a-half miles, and Linlithgow, about six miles from the church of Abercorn. The former is the most accessible post-town to the great bulk of the inhabitants; communication by a private runner takes place twice a-day. There is neither medical practitioner, general merchant, baker, nor butcher within the parish; the villages of Newton, Society, and Philpstoun, being mere hamlets, and furnishing merely a few retail shops for groceries. The cluster of houses near the church cannot be called a village. The turnpike road from Queensferry to Linlithgow traverses the parish for nearly four and a-half miles, all the others are statute-labour roads. These, together with the bridges across the rivulets and canal, are kept in good repair. Stone and lime walls are frequent, but the most prevalent fences are hedges and dry stone dikes, which are efficiently maintained. The Union Canal passes through the south part of the parish, near its boundary, affording the most accessible means of public con-

veyance; and the line of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, runs alongside, and in some parts but a few yards distant from the canal. No harbour or quay exist, but small vessels with coal unload their cargoes on the beach, in the bay at Society; and limestone is some times exported in the same manner.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church stands near the centre of the north boundary of the parish, and close to the sea shore. This situation is tolerably convenient, being about three miles from the extreme points, while the greater part of the population reside within two miles. Part of the church is very ancient; the date of its original erection is, however, unknown; it was enlarged and fitted up soon after the Reformation, some of the old wood-work bearing A. D. 1579. Built at various periods without much regard to convenience or beauty, the form is most irregular, and the accommodation was wretched until 1838, when a thorough repair took place. Being now drained, floored, the walls lathed, and a heated air apparatus constructed, it forms a comfortable place of worship, nearly adequate to the wants of the community. There are no sittings let, the whole, with the exception of the private seats of the heritors, being allotted to the parishioners. The church bell, of considerable size, and handsome workmanship, presented by a naval gentleman, was formerly the bell of a Danish ship of war, and formed part of the spoil at the battle of Copenhagen. Part of the manse is of an unknown date; additions have been made to it at various times; it was last altered and repaired in 1832. The garden is large, walled, and productive. The glebe contains between five and six acres, and might let for L.15 a-year. The stipend consists of the following items; bolls of wheat (old measure,) $4\frac{1}{8}$; barley, $92\frac{1}{4}$; meal, $16\frac{0}{4}$; total, $192\frac{8}{4}$; money, L.50; for communion elements, L.8, 6s. 8d.; and the whole may average L.240. There is no dissenting place of worship in the parish; the nearest is at Queensferry. The numbers belonging to different denominations were in 1832 as follows, nor have the proportions much altered since: Established Church, 192 families; 948 persons of all ages; Seceders, 12 do.; 41 do.; Episcopalians, 1 do.; 2 do. The church attendance is very good. A communion-roll, embracing all the members, has been kept since 1832, and regularly revised by the kirk-session previous to the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, which takes place twice a year. The number on that roll is at present 890; the average number of communicants at each time, is 350. The kirk-session,

Fishery.—The only fishery is at the mouth of the Linn-mill Burn, where very extensive stake-nets are erected for the capture of salmon. This station was once tolerably productive, at least in the latter months of the fishing season; but of late years, the quantity taken has diminished materially. The lessee holds the right of fishing from the proprietors of a great extent of coast. The rent paid to proprietors within the parish is about L.60 yearly. During several months, nearly thirty men are employed.

Amount of Raw Produce.—The following is an approximation to the gross amount of raw produce yearly raised:—

Produce of grain of all kinds,	L.10,500	0	0
potatoes, turnips, &c.	2,000	0	0
hay,	2,000	0	0
land in pasture,	7,000	0	0
annual thinning of wood,	100	0	0
fishery, (say)	200	0	0
quarries and mines,	200	0	0

Total annual value of raw produce, L.22,700 0 0

The annual rent of real property, as assessed in 1815, was L.7722.

The burning of lime is the only branch of manufacture, with the exception of the ordinary country artisanship. There are two corn-mills driven by water, and a saw-mill lately erected, by the Earl of Hopetoun, on the Nethermill Burn, the prospective utility of which is very apparent, from the great extent of the plantations, and the quantity of full-grown timber.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The nearest market-towns are, South Queensferry, distant three and a-half miles, and Linlithgow, about six miles from the church of Abercorn. The former is the most accessible post-town to the great bulk of the inhabitants; communication by a private runner takes place twice a-day. There is neither medical practitioner, general merchant, baker, nor butcher within the parish; the villages of Newton, Society, and Philpstoun, being mere hamlets, and furnishing merely a few retail shops for groceries. The cluster of houses near the church cannot be called a village. The turnpike road from Queensferry to Linlithgow traverses the parish for nearly four and a-half miles, all the others are statute-labour roads. These, together with the bridges across the rivulets and canal, are kept in good repair. Stone and lime walls are frequent, but the most prevalent fences are hedges and dry stone dikes, which are efficiently maintained. The Union Canal passes through the south part of the parish, near its boundary, affording the most accessible means of public con-

veyance; and the line of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, runs alongside, and in some parts but a few yards distant from the canal. No harbour or quay exist, but small vessels with coal unload their cargoes on the beach, in the bay at Society; and limestone is some times exported in the same manner.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church stands near the centre of the north boundary of the parish, and close to the sea shore. This situation is tolerably convenient, being about three miles from the extreme points, while the greater part of the population reside within two miles. Part of the church is very ancient; the date of its original erection is, however, unknown; it was enlarged and fitted up soon after the Reformation, some of the old wood-work bearing A. D. 1579. Built at various periods without much regard to convenience or beauty, the form is most irregular, and the accommodation was wretched until 1838, when a thorough repair took place. Being now drained, floored, the walls lathed, and a heated air apparatus constructed, it forms a comfortable place of worship, nearly adequate to the wants of the community. There are no sittings let, the whole, with the exception of the private seats of the heritors, being allotted to the parishioners. The church bell, of considerable size, and handsome workmanship, presented by a naval gentleman, was formerly the bell of a Danish ship of war, and formed part of the spoil at the battle of Copenhagen. Part of the manse is of an unknown date; additions have been made to it at various times; it was last altered and repaired in 1832. The garden is large, walled, and productive. The glebe contains between five and six acres, and might let for L.15 a-year. The stipend consists of the following items: bolls of wheat (old measure,) $4\frac{1}{8}$; barley, $92\frac{1}{2}$; meal, $16\frac{3}{4}$; total, $192\frac{2}{4}$; money, L.50; for communion elements, L.8, 6s. 8d.; and the whole may average L.240. There is no dissenting place of worship in the parish; the nearest is at Queensferry. The numbers belonging to different denominations were in 1832 as follows, nor have the proportions much altered since: Established Church, 192 families; 948 persons of all ages; Seceders, 12 do.; 41 do.; Episcopalians, 1 do.; 2 do. The church attendance is very good. A communion-roll, embracing all the members, has been kept since 1832, and regularly revised by the kirk-session previous to the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, which takes place twice a year. The number on that roll is at present 390; the average number of communicants at each time, is 350. The kirk-session,