

# PARISH OF DIRLETON.

PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JOHN AINSLIE, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.\*

*Name.*—THE parish of Dirleton lies in the county of Haddington. The etymology of the name is very doubtful, some deriving it from the Scottish "*dirle*," which signifies a tremulous motion; others from Derili, who was King of the Picts about the end of the seventh century, and is believed to have been the friend and coadjutor of Baldred, who first built Christian churches in East Lo-

\* In drawing up this account, the writer begs to acknowledge his great obligations to John P. Wood, Esq.; Robert Hope, Esq. Fentonbarns; and Mr Henderson, parochial teacher.

thian. Brudi V., son of Derili, granted the island of Lochleven to St Serf and the Culdees residing there.\* (Hist. Culd. 131.)

The village of Gulane, two miles to the west of Dirleton, formerly gave its name to the parish. Its old name was Golyn, so called from an adjoining piece of water, now drained; Golyn in the British signifying a little lake.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—This parish forms the most northern part of the county. From east to west it is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length; its greatest breadth from north to south is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It is bounded on the north by the Frith of Forth; on the south by the Peffer, a rivulet which separates it from the parish of Athelstaneford; on the east by the parish of North Berwick; and on the west by that of Aberlady.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Its shape is compact, nearly resembling a tortoise with its head to the west. It is composed of two parallel ridges, of gentle elevation, which run from east to west, and trisect the arable land into nearly equal parts. Its general appearance is flat, and rather uninteresting,—richness of soil much more than picturesqueness of scenery being its characteristic feature. So far back as the year 1627, we have in a Statistical Account of the parish at that period,† the following testimony to its fertility: “There is no occasion of lyming within the Lordschipp of Diriltoun, siclyke ther growes noe quheate in all the toun of Gulane, Elbottle, and most part of the Colledge steid.” But though the general aspect of the parish be tame, it is greatly relieved to the north by the Frith of Forth, with its many interesting islands, and also by the village of Dirleton, which, for locality and

\* According to Wintoun there was another of the same name, called Nectan Derly, who reigned in 716.

Sevyn hundyr wynter and sextine,  
 Quhen lychtare was the virgyne elene,  
 Pape of Rome than Gregore.  
 The second quham of yhe herd before,  
 And Anastas than Emproure,  
 The fyrst yhere of hys honoure,  
 Nectan Derly was then regnand,  
 Owre the Peychtis in Scotland.

Wintoun's Cronykil, Vol. i. B. v.

† This document is one of those drawn up at this time by order of Government to the different Presbyteries of Scotland, forty-eight only of which are preserved in the Register-Office. The Account of this parish was kindly communicated to me by A. M'Donald, Esq. Register-Office. Its commencement runs thus: “Estate of the kirk and paroche of Diriltoun answerable unto the articles conteaned in the ordinance of his Majesty's Commissioners, quhilk estate is given up by Maister Andro Makghie Minr. &c.” Its information is, however, confined to a statement of the rent and teind of the land, or, in its own words, “for tryall of the worth and rent of everie rounn of the parochine in stocke and teind, we declair as followis.”

external decorations, forms a marked contrast to the rest of the parish. It is delightfully situated on a rising ground about a mile and a half from the sea, a view of which it commands; to the east, North Berwick Law, the Bass, and the Island of May, add greatly to the beauty and interest of the scene; while the venerable castle, on a rock of considerable elevation, at the eastern extremity of the village, overhanging with its "ivy-mantled towers" a beautiful flower garden, and some of the finest evergreens in Scotland, together with the fine open green in the centre of the village, which is composed of neat, and in some cases, singularly tasteful cottages, ornamented with shrubs and flower plats, all combine to form one of the loveliest villages in the country. The coast, about eight miles in extent, is, towards the east, flat and sandy; advancing westwards it becomes rocky, and, in some places, almost bold; further west, where it joins Aberlady parish, we have again a fine sandy beach, beneath which is a strong clay. Some parts of these sands are unsafe, from which serious accidents have resulted. Half way between Gulane and Dirleton, the links assume a peculiar and interesting aspect, starting off from almost a dead level into a singularly irregular form, presenting quite the appearance of a mountainous district in miniature. I do not know whether this be owing wholly to the drifting of the sand, or in some measure to the form of the subjacent rocks. There are three islands belonging to the parish; Fidrey or Fetheray, Ibris or Eyebrochy, and the Lamb. The first of these is situated directly opposite the village of Dirleton, about a mile from the shore. Its appearance is highly picturesque, the western part is of considerable elevation, and is united by an isthmus to the eastern part, which rises in a castellated form, and is called the Castle of Tarbet. Formerly it was tenanted by rabbits, which have been supplanted by a colony of rats, brought thither by a vessel that was wrecked on the island.

*Climate.*—The climate is found to be peculiarly trying for those affected with pulmonary complaints. Agues and nervous diseases, according to the last Statistical Report of 1792, were common at that time. The former are now unknown, which is to be ascribed to the draining of the land.

*Hydrography.*—The Frith of Forth, as already stated, is the northern boundary of the parish. There are, besides, two small sluggish streams differing little from large drains, the Millburn and the Peffer, which is believed to signify "the slow running river." The latter is the southern boundary of the parish; it rises at Cong-

alton, at the south-east corner of the parish, and immediately divides into two streams, one running east, and falling into the sea near Tynningham, the other west, which, after a course of eight miles, falls into the sea at Aberlady.

*Geology.*—The formations here are of the secondary class, the sandstone or great coal formation, with their accompanying rocks of igneous origin. It is to these we owe any slight elevations that are to be met with in the parish. The sandstone throughout seems to be buried beneath these—appearing only occasionally here and there, having been forced to the surface by the rise of the igneous rocks. Gulane Hill, however, of considerable height, is of sandstone, part of which is regularly quarried, and produces excellent freestone; ironstone is also to be found there in considerable quantity, and was at one time wrought. The igneous rocks present the different varieties of whinstone or secondary trap. In the middle of the parish, and also on the coast, we have basalt, and at one place its characteristic features are beautifully developed. Some time ago upwards of thirty pentagonal pillars were laid bare in the farm of West Fenton. The parish, as already observed, is composed of two parallel ridges, running east and west. The centre of the southern ridge, from Fenton Tower on the east, to the village of Fenton on the west, rests on whinstone, which crops to the surface occasionally through its course. At the latter place, basalt makes its appearance, and continues the ridge for about a mile further to the westward. Limestone is found within the tract of the basalt, possibly raised by it to the surface, but it dips so rapidly to the south, as to have been considered unworthy of being wrought. It is also to be met with at the bottom of the whinstone quarry at Burnside, near the east side of the parish: but from the depth of the covering, and from the declination of the strata, dipping to the south at an angle of upwards of  $30^{\circ}$ , it has never been wrought. In the northern ridge, the whinstone appears again at Dirleton, with the bare face of the rock to the west, and its tail of water-worn stones and till, covered with more recent soil, stretching eastward. This rock is of felspar porphyry, in which occur frequent veins of a dark-red jasper. The western end of this ridge rests on freestone and ironstone, near Gulane, the surface being poor, barren sand. Coal has been found on the north-east side of the parish; but as it rises nearly to the surface of comparatively high ground, within a few hundred yards of the sea, and dips rapidly beneath the low flat ground along

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the shore, there is no probability of its ever being wrought with advantage.

In the southern part of the parish, the whinstone rock is found overlaid with clay of different colours, mixed with rounded water-worn stones, to the depth of 10, 14, and 30 feet. In one part, viz. the site of Fenton Barns, the whinstone forms a basin of 300 yards in diameter, and is filled to the level with the above deposit. In deepening the Peffer, in 1829, the workmen found a deer's horn, imbedded in the hard till, 7 feet below the surface, in a mixture of clay and minute gravel. About a mile further east, on the banks of the same stream, in a soft clay, there have been found a considerable number of oak trees from 5 to 10 feet below the surface; nuts also and millet-seed in considerable quantity were discovered,—their position seeming to indicate the action of water. They grew readily when put into the ground. Boulders from 1 to 3 feet long, occur imbedded in the soil, a mile to the east of the basalt rock, which forms the western extremity of the southern ridge of the parish; none, however, have been found to the west of that rock. The coast is composed of beautifully rich sand, and of the whinstone and basalt, already spoken of, interspersed with sandstone; in several places, it is evidently making advances upon the sea. The islands also are of the trap formation.

*Soil.*—About 300 acres along the southern side of the parish are soft moorish soil, naturally wet, on a very retentive subsoil; furze and heather seem to have been their natural productions. On the northern side of the parish, above 400 acres are dry, sandy, or gravelly rich loam; the remainder of the arable land is generally hazel loam on till, or a clayey bottom. From Gulane, eastward, there are about 100 acres covered with sand, which seems to have been transported by the wind from the hill that stands to the west of that village. Tradition, fifty years ago, used to assign its commencement to the time when the gap, still so obvious, was made in the hill; and in the Statistical Report of 1627, the precise period of its commencement seems obviously to be pointed at, for it is said, “the gleib is so overblown with sand, as the largest aiker thereof has not been manured these five yeiris by-gone;” and elsewhere, after enumerating the different lands in Gulane, it thus concludes: “As for the rest of the few aikers of Gulane, they are all lying waste, and unlaboured, and never licklie to be laboured. Besides the rent of the rest of the land of Gulane quhilk we have given up, cannot be counted constant rent, in respect the samyn is licklie to be overblown more with sand;” and

in further corroboration of this opinion, there is to be found beneath the sand, a clay soil, in which old ridges are to be distinctly traced.

In Aberlady parish, to the west of this, a similar catastrophe has taken place; a few years ago, whole fields were laid bare of the sand, beneath which were discovered crooked old-fashioned ridges in a fine clayey loam. But at whatever period the blowing of the sand commenced, (and the probability is that it was about the beginning of the seventeenth century,) it must have originated in the removal of the brushwood, and binding plants which covered the hill. The mischief is still increasing, and instead of any measures being taken to prevent it, a portion of the hill is annually ploughed.

*Botany.*—From the highly cultivated state of the parish, the situation is not favourable for the botanist. It is only on the sandy common on the coast, that a few of the rarer plants have been found. In the cultivated fields, there are found abundantly, the *Silene noctiflora*, *Sherardia arvensis*, *Centaurea Scabiosa*, and occasionally *Alopecurus agrestis*, *Silene conica*, *S. Anglica*, *Saxifraga tridactylites*, and *Fedia dentata*. *Campanula hybrida* has also been discovered this summer (1836,) in the neighbourhood of the village. In the summer of 1835, a continental species of *Alyssum* was discovered in an uncultivated field a mile and a half from the sea. The species is the *calycinum* of Linnæus. This, it is believed, is the first British station in which the plant has been found. Gulanelinks, in this parish, are well known to botanists as the station for *Utricularia vulgaris*, *Inula dysenterica*, *Samolus valerandi*, and *Limosella aquatica*. The other vegetable productions are those found on light sandy shores.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Ancient Family of Vaux, &c.*—The Anglo-Norman family of Vaux or De Vallibus obtained in the twelfth century a part of the manor of Golyn and Dirleton, with part of the lands of Fenton. The daughter and heiress of William De Vallibus, Lord of Dirleton, brought these estates to her husband, Sir John Halyburton, about 1340. Their grandson, Sir Walter Halyburton of Dirleton, High-Treasurer of Scotland, or his son, Sir John Halyburton, was created a peer before 2d January 1447-8. Patrick, sixth Lord Halyburton of Dirleton, died 1506, being succeeded in his title and estate by his eldest daughter Janet, married to William second Lord Ruthven. Their son, Patrick Lord Ruthven and Dirleton, was grandfather of John Earl of Gow-

rie, whose attempt upon King James VI., 5th August 1600 terminated in his death and forfeiture. It appears that Dirleton was the bribe which he held out to the cupidity of Logan of Restalrig to engage his assistance in that affair. Logan in one of his letters says, "I care not for all the other land I have in the kingdom, if I may grip of Dirleton, for I esteem it the pleasantest dwelling in Scotland." On the forfeiture of Gowrie, Dirleton was granted to Sir Thomas Erskine, one of the first who came to the assistance of the King, and who killed with his own hand Alexander Ruthven while struggling with James. He was created Lord Dirleton in 1603, and Viscount Fenton on the 18th March 1606, from a property in this parish,—this being the first instance of that title in Scotland. He was in 1619 created Earl of Kellie. These titles are now held by the present Earl of Marr. Dirleton appears to have passed by purchase from that family to Sir John Maxwell of Innerwick, who is known to have had a royal charter of Dirleton, Fenton, &c. in June 1631. In 1646 he was created Earl of Dirleton and Lord Elbottle, both titles being taken from this parish. These became extinct on his death before 1653, as he left no male issue. His two daughters were, Elizabeth Duchess of Hamilton, and Diana Viscountess Cranburn, mother of the third Earl of Salisbury.

*Family of Nisbet of Dirleton.*—Dirleton was purchased in 1663, by Sir John Nisbet, then the most eminent lawyer at the Scottish Bar, afterwards Lord of Session and King's Advocate. He was second son of Sir Patrick Nisbet of East Bank, Lord of Session, was born in 1610, and died in 1688. His only surviving child, Joanna Nisbet, was married first to Sir William Scott of Harden, Knight; and second to Sir William Scott of Thirlestane, Bart. Having no issue he settled his great estates on his nephew, William Nisbet of Craigintinny, Member for the county of Haddington in the last Parliament of Scotland, and in the first of Great Britain. From him descended the late William Hamilton Nisbet, Esq. of Beil and Dirleton, also Member for the same county, whose daughter and heiress is married to Robert Ferguson, Esq. of Raith, the present Member for Haddingtonshire, for which he was returned in 1835.

The castle of Dirleton, which as a ruin is still in good preservation, was built by the family of Vaux or De Vallibus, about the twelfth century, and from its present appearance must have been a large and strong place. In June 1298, when Edward I. invaded Scotland by the eastern border, no place resisted him except the castle of Dirleton. During the siege, about the beginning of

July, the English soldiers, reduced to great scarcity of provisions, subsisted on the pease and beans which they picked up in the fields, presenting a favourable view of the state of agriculture in East Lothian so far back as the thirteenth century.

After a resolute defence, the castle surrendered to Anthony Beck, Bishop of Durham. It was still in the possession of the English in 1306, as appears from the Wardrobe accounts of Edward I., containing entries of provisions and ammunition for the castle of Dirleton. When Cromwell invaded Scotland in 1650, the castle was, after a gallant defence, taken by Lambert, and by him dismantled and reduced to its present ruinous state.

*Ancient Family of Livington.*—Saltcoats in this parish, now a ruin, belonged to an ancient family of the name of Livington. Nisbet in his Heraldry notices a seal inscribed Sig. Patricie Livingtoun de Saltcoat, 1593. The first of the family is said to have received a grant of land extending from Gulane point to North Berwick Law, for having destroyed a boar which infested the neighbourhood. This tradition is somewhat confirmed by the fact, that the estate of Saltcoats extends from Gulane point almost to North Berwick Law, though many other properties intervene. The glove by which Livington is said to have protected his arm during the combat was sold about fifty years ago, and his helmet hung in the family aisle in the church, till very recently, when it disappeared. A good painting of the fight was some years since in possession of an old servant of the family. There is a small stream at the north of the Peffer, called Livington's ford, where the boar is said to have been slain. Another account gives to Prora (a farm in Athelstaneford parish) the honour of this exploit; one of the fields there being called the "Bloody Lands," in which there is a large stone, evidently raised at considerable expense, the name of which is the "Boar stone." This estate of Saltcoats came by an heir female to the Hamiltons of Pencaitland, from whom it descended to the present proprietor, Lady Ruthven.

*Fentonbarns.*—Fentonbarns, in this parish, belonged to John Preston, Lord of Session from 1596–1609, and Lord President of that court, from 1609 to his death in 1616. He settled Fentonbarns on his second son, Sir Michael Preston of Fenton, who, 10th February 1631, in a quarrel with two brothers of the name of Smith, in the neighbouring village of Drem, killed one, and severely wounded the other. He was immediately apprehended, tried before the Justiciary court, 15th February, convicted and beheaded at the Cross of Edinburgh, the same or the next day.

*Congalton.*—The barony of Congalton in this parish, gave name to a very ancient family, that subsisted here for twenty generations in the male line. The first on record is Robert de Congaltoun, who witnessed a charter of Richard de Mereville, Constable of Scotland, without date, but granted about 1162, engraved in Anderson's *Diplomata*. The elder branch of the family succeeding through heiresses to the estates of Hepburn of Keith, in East Lothian, and Rickart of Rickartoun, in the county of Kincardine, assumed the names of Rickart Hepburn.

Robert Hepburn Congalton, of Keith and Congalton,—the eighteenth generation of the family, sold Congalton to his brother Charles, whose son, William Congalton of Congalton, married Mary, daughter of David Bethune, of Balfour in Fife. His son, Charles Congalton of Congalton, succeeding to the estate of that ancient and distinguished family, of whom was Cardinal Bethune, took the name and arms of Bethune of Balfour, and sold Congalton, which was afterwards purchased by the heir-male, Colonel Robert Rickart Hepburn, of Keith and Rickartoun, Member of Parliament for the county of Kincardine, who, dying in 1804, was buried with his ancestors in the church of Golyn. Congalton was sold to William Grant, Esq., in whose family it remains.

“On 8th May 1509, a Royal Charter was granted by King James IV. to Henry Congalton, of Congalton, of the King's Island and lands of Fetheray, along with the hill of the castle (Monte Castri) of the same called Tarbet; also all and whole the King's Island and lands of Craigleith, with the pertinents of the same, lying within the Frith of Forth, county of Edinburgh, and constabulary of Haddington, creating, uniting, annexing, and incorporating all these islands, lands, and hill of the castle aforesaid, with the pertinents of the same, in one whole and free barony, to be called the barony of Tarbet, to be held of the King, paying one penny of Scots money, at the said hill of the Castle of Tarbet, in name of blench farm if required, along with the marriage of the said heirs of Henry Congalton, when it shall happen.” Great Seal Register, Book 15, No. 115.

*Ancient Chapels, &c.*—In Golyn parish there were three chapels, subordinates to the church. 1. As early as the reign of William I. there was a chapel dedicated to St Nicolas, on the Island of Fidrey, the ruins of which still remain. 2. In the twelfth century, Congalton of Congalton founded a chapel for the use of his family and people near Congalton; the place where it stood is still called Chapel. Disputes arose with the Rector of Golyn, but were settled

in 1224, to the satisfaction of both parties, by the Bishop of St Andrews, the diocesan. 3. During the reign of Alexander III. Alexander de Vallibus founded a chapel at Dirleton, in honour of All Saints, engaging that this chapel should not derogate from the Mother Church of Golyn.—At Dirleton, there was founded a collegiate church, with a small establishment, by Sir Walter Halyburton; its endowment seems to have been inconsiderable, amounting at the time of the Reformation to L. 20 only.—At Elbottle, (a name now given to a plantation north of Archerfield, and which is an abbreviation of the Saxon word Eldbotel, signifying the old dwelling,) there was a convent of Cistercian nuns, a cell of the great establishment of those nuns, founded by David I. at Berwick-upon-Tweed.—There was, it is said, another cell of the same establishment at Golyn, near the church, probably, however, identical with Elbottle. These nuns appear to have acquired a right to some of the tithes, and other ecclesiastical dues of the parish of Golyn.

The ruins of the old parish church of Golyn are still in good preservation. A view of these is given in Grose's Antiquities, where it is stated that the last Vicar of Golyn is said to have been deposed by James VI. for the high crime of smoking tobacco, a weed which his Majesty deemed fit only for diabolical fumigations. No authority, however, is given for this assertion. Near the Chapel's Waas, at the cross roads between Dirleton and Drem, on the south, and between Fenton and Kingston on the east, numerous tumuli have been found; these were generally formed of two pieces of pavement, one on each side; the same number above and beneath, with one at each end. Bones imbedded in black earth were frequently found in these graves, which were almost all of short dimensions, being about three feet long. The stone of which they were formed is not to be found in the parish, unless it be within the sea shore, near the Island Eyebrochy. A stone-hammer, thought to be of great antiquity, was lately turned up in a field; it is about 8 inches long, and 3 broad at the eye. In draining a pond near West Fenton, a piece of pipe about a foot long, inserted in a stone, was found: no account could be given of it. Not very far from the same place, at the junction of the Mill-burn and the Peffer, in a field called the Fisher's Nooks, the foundations of a good many houses have been laid bare, from which, and from the name of the field, it is conjectured that the sea may in former times have reached this point. It is now several miles distant from the coast.

I am not aware of the existence of any old ballads referring to this parish. There is a single couplet preserved, date unknown, which has handed down the memory of a man, probably the then possessor of a property, now belonging to the Elibank family. He is not, however, much indebted to fame. It runs thus :

“ For a' that fell at Flodden Field,  
Rouny Hood o' the Hul cam hame.”

*Eminent Persons.*—Sir John Nisbet of Dirleton, styled by Bishop Burnet, “ one of the worthiest and learnedest men of the age, a person of great integrity, and who always stood firm to the law,” was second son of Sir Patrick Nisbet of East Bank, Lord of Session. He was born 1610, admitted Advocate 1633, and rose to the head of his profession, in which he was eminently successful, realizing a most ample fortune. He was Lord of Session and King's Advocate from 1664 to 1677, being the last person who held these two offices together. He died in 1688. His “ Doubts and Questions in the Law, especially of Scotland,” were published in 1698. They are esteemed so highly, that Chancellor Hardwicke says of them, “ Dirleton's doubts are better than most people's certainties.”

In the old pulpit Bible, (printed at Amsterdam 1642,) there is the following inscription : “ This book was given to Sir John Nisbet of Dirletoune, Knight, his Majesty's Advocat, for the church of Dirletoune, 12th May 1670.”

*Land-owners.*—Mrs Hamilton Nisbet Ferguson is the principal proprietor of the parish, and patron of the church. About two-thirds of the lands belong to her, and she is the superior of nearly the whole. Her kindness and liberality to her tenantry are too well known to require any notice, and the estimation in which she is held by them all, is the best proof of the interest which she ever takes in their welfare. She is the constant friend of the poor ; and to her taste, no less than to her liberality, is the village of Dirleton indebted for the many marked improvements which, of late years, it has undergone.

*Mansion-Houses.*—The mansion-house of Archerfield, belonging to Mrs H. N. Ferguson, is the only one in the parish deserving notice. It is a plain commodious building, situated in a level park, skirted with plantations, and commanding to the east a fine open extensive view of the Frith. The other proprietors of any extent are, Lady Ruthven, Countess of Dalhousie ; Miss Grant ; Mrs J. Bruce ; and James Cochrane, Esq. of Muirfield. The latter alone is resident.

*Parochial Registers.*—The date of the earliest entry in these is 1656. They consist of three volumes, in very good order, which is due to the care of Mr Henderson, the present parochial teacher, who found them in great confusion. They have been regularly kept, with the exception of a blank of above thirty years, from 1681 to 1713.

### III.—POPULATION.

In the old document already referred to, the number of communicants above sixteen years of age, is said to be “never below 800, never above 900.” This is nearly the double of the present number, and seems to intimate a very great diminution of the population since that period. What that diminution, however, is, it is impossible to ascertain, as the number of communicants is materially affected by the religious state of the people, and by other circumstances besides the amount of the population.\*

In the year 1755, according to Dr Webster, the population of this parish was 1700. In this, however, there is obviously some mistake, for in the Statistical Account of 1792, it is stated, that no great alteration had taken place in the number of inhabitants for fifty years previous to that date, at which time the population was only 1200. Since that period, however, it has materially increased; for according to the census of this year, made by myself in visiting the parish, it is 1431. As there has been no introduction of manufactures or public works to account for this difference, it must be ascribed to the improvements in agriculture, requiring a corresponding increase of labourers. The population resides principally in four villages. The average number of marriages is 12; births, 32. Of the deaths no account of sufficient accuracy is kept, to warrant a statement of them. The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards is 13.

*Character of the People.*—The peasantry are in general industrious, moral, and exemplary in their attendance on religious ordinances. In dress, there has been of late years a marked advance. Their cottages also have been materially improved in comfort and cleanliness. The pigstye and dunghill form no longer the foreground decorations, and in many places, especially in the village of

\* That it has, however, decreased, the above proves beyond doubt, and this is confirmed by the Act of Parliament of 1612, for translating the kirk from Gulane to Dirleton, in which the following is given as one of the reasons for the removal: “Considering likewayes that the town of Dirletoun is ane flourishing toune,” a description scarcely applicable to the present “toune of Dirletoun.”

Dirleton, have been supplanted by roses and evergreens. In some of the lately built cottages, there are two rooms,—an example well worthy of imitation, as eminently conducive to the morality, no less than to the comfort and health, of the people.

With a few exceptions, they are all in tolerably comfortable circumstances, possessing enough, by prudent and careful management, to support, and clothe, and educate their families.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—This parish contains 7500 Scotch acres, of which 5325 are arable, 300 under plantation, and the remainder is composed of links and bent hills.

With a very small exception, the whole is let on lease for either nineteen or twenty-one years; a period considered advantageous alike for proprietor and tenant. There are 10 farms above 300 acres in extent; 5 above 200; two between 70 and 80; and two between 20 and 30. These are all inclosed chiefly with thorn hedges and ditches, where the subsoil is of a retentive character. The general size of the inclosures is about 20 acres; the fences and farm roads are thought to occupy nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the entire surface. By a recent county regulation, sanctioned by Parliament, every 60 acres of arable land is deemed a ploughgate, for which the tenant pays annually L. 1, 16s. as road-money.

Some of the smaller properties are understood to be let at a money rent of from L. 2 to L. 5 per Scotch acre; the rest of the parish, at a grain rent of from 5 to 12 bushels per acre, payable by the second fiars, or general average of the county. Gulane common forms nearly one-half of the links, but pays rent only for the rabbits which it supports; the other links are stocked with cattle, and a few sheep occasionally, and yield about L. 400 a-year, besides the value of the rabbits, which fluctuates considerably; it amounts in some years, for the whole parish, to upwards of L. 800.

At Gulane there are two establishments for training race-horses, the ground in that neighbourhood being favourable for this. The average number kept during the summer is about thirty. Whatever advantages these establishments may confer on the parish in other respects, it is to be feared that they do serious injury to the morals of the neighbourhood.

The plantations are chiefly on weak sandy soil; the thinnings produce a small sum annually, but are probably of more value to the neighbouring farmers, to be converted into palings, than of direct profit to the proprietor.

*Produce, &c.*—The crops raised are,—Turnips about 200 acres, one-third white, the remainder Swedish. Barley about 200 acres, the greater part Chevalier; 3 bushels per acre are generally allowed for seed. Wheat about 1300 acres,—Hunter's generally preferred, but the woolly-eared, Belton red, and some other kinds, are sown to a limited extent; from 9 to 14 pecks per acre allowed for seed. Oats about 700 acres, two-thirds Angus, the rest chiefly the potato sort; 4 bushels per acre for seed. Beans and peas, and tares; about 600 acres of these are generally grown; 4 bushels per acre allowed for seed. Of potatoes, 100 acres are annually raised, about 20 acres are yams; the rest the common varieties,—10 or 12 cwt. per acre are allowed for seed. Carrots, lucerne, and mangel-wurzel have been cultivated to a very small extent. Clover and rye-grass, about 700 acres are annually sown; two-fifths of these are cut for hay, and green food, the rest is pastured. 4 lbs. of white, and 8 or ten lbs. of red clover, with occasionally a pound or two of yellow, and 2 pecks of rye-grass, is the quantity of seed allowed per acre. The rotation of crops is on the fine dry soil, the four-course shift, viz. turnips, barley, grass and oats; on all the other kinds of soil, the six course shift is followed, viz. fallow, wheat, grass, oats, beans or peas, and wheat. There is occasionally a partial deviation from these. Bones are used but to a small extent for manure. About 100 tons of rape cake were used last year. A very considerable supply of sea-ware also is got after a storm from the east. The last Statistical Account states, that at that time this was burnt, and yielded about 12 tons of kelp yearly. This manufacture has been discontinued since that period.

*Draining.*—The draining of the parish is in course of being made very complete. Springs have long since been laid dry, and tiles are now extensively employed for carrying off the surface water. On the soft moorish land, a drain is made in every second furrow, or 36 feet asunder. The result has been most satisfactory. Two individuals last year made, each, drains to the extent of about 12 miles.

*Live Stock, &c.*—The stock consists of cattle and sheep; of the former there are about 468 fed in the parish annually, besides 114 milch cows; of the latter, about 100 scores of the Cheviot, Leicester, and black faced breed. There are about 300 pigs annually fed, the most of which are used by the farm-servants. Of horses, there are 204 draught horses, and 18 for the gig and saddle: about 22 are bred annually.

The steam-engine for thrashing is coming into general use, there being now nine in the parish.

Average produce per Scottish acre : Wheat 36 bushels ; barley 42 do. ; oats 60 do. ; beans and pease 28 do. ; potatoes 9 tons ; turnips 24 do. ; hay 180 stones ; cow's grass L. 5 ; ewe and lamb from 15s. to L. 1.

*Wages.*—The population, as already noticed, is almost entirely agricultural. The hinds' wages are paid in kind. They receive 72 bushels oats, 18 do. barley, 18 do. pease, with about 90 yards of an 18 feet ridge, planted with potatoes ; the same extent sown with lint, together with their food in harvest. Each hind has also a cow, generally kept on the farm, the keep of which is worth L. 6, which, with his potatoes, enables him to keep a pig. Labourers have 9s. a-week through the year ; young men and boys from L. 1, 10s. to L. 5, half-yearly, with their food in their master's house ; and women and girls for field or farm labour 6d. to 9d. a day. Blacksmiths receive from the farmer L. 2, 10s. for a pair of horses. The cast metal for the plough, and the new rings for the cart wheels, are not included in this. Wrights generally furnish the timber for their work ; 2s. 6d. a day is their common allowance.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Villages, &c.*—The nearest market-town where the farm produce is sold is Haddington, distant seven miles. A very considerable quantity of the grain, however, is driven to Edinburgh, a distance of twenty miles. There are four villages in the parish ; Dirleton, with a population of 92 families ; Gulane, 59 ; Fenton, 40 ; Kingston, 22.

*Means of Communication.*—Daily communication is kept up with Edinburgh by the North-Berwick coach, which passes through the parish, and also by carriers almost every day. There is a daily post from Haddington, and two post-offices in the parish.

The roads are good, though foot-paths are still much needed. The turnpike road divides the parish from east to west. The fences are also good, and carefully kept, consisting chiefly of hedges and ditches.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The original name of the parish, as already stated, was Golyn, from the village of that name. The ruins of the old church there are still in good preservation. It was dedicated to St Andrew as early as the twelfth century, and was liberally endowed, particularly by the families of Vaux or De Vallibus of Dirleton, and Congalton of Congalton ; in the ancient taxation it is rated at the large sum of 80 merks. The church was granted by William de Vaux, in the reign of King William I., to the monks of Dryburgh, along with its tithes and other pertinents,

reserving to his son William the rectory of Golyn during his life. This grant included the patronage of the church; and on the death of William de Vaux the rector, a vicar was appointed by the monks of Dryburgh to serve the cure. With them the patronage continued till the Reformation. On the dissolution of religious houses, the lands and patronages belonging to them were disposed of by the king. The patronage of Golyn went to the Erskines, Earl of Marr, and Lords Cardross, who got the Abbacy of Dryburgh. In an act of Parliament in favour of James Maxwell, quoted afterwards, it is ordered that "a charter be expedie under the Great Seal, granting him and his heirs in the barony of Fentoun, the right of patronage of Dirletoun, parsonage and vicarage thereof." Such charter was accordingly expedie 25th July 1636. The position of the church being at the western extremity of the parish, was found very inconvenient, and by the subjoined act of Parliament, of date 23d October 1612, it was ordered to be removed to Dirleton.\* It appears, however, that the church only had been then removed, the manse and glebe still continuing at Gulane; for Mr M'Ghie in his Statistical report of 1627 thus speaks: "Siclyke he hath ane manse and ane gleib in Gulane, a long myle from the kirk of Dirletoun." Six years after this, these also seem to have been transferred to Dirletoun. An act of Parliament was passed 29th June 1633, in favour of James Maxwell of Inner-

\* 23d October 1612. Act for translating the kirk of Gulane to Dirleton.

"Our Soverane Lord and Thri Estaittes of this present Parliament, understanding and being credible informit that the kirk of Gulane is situat at the outsyde of the haille parochin thairof, quilk is ane great parochin, and is sa incommodiouslie situat besyde the sea sand, that the same, with the kirk yard thairof, is continewallie over blawin with sand; that nather the kirk serves commodiouslie for convening of the parochiners, nor yet the kirk yard for thair burial, besydis mony utheris inconvenientis staying the saidis parochiners in time of storme and unseasonable weather to convene at the said kirk, and considering lykwayis that the towne of Dirletoun is ane flourishing towne, and lyes within the said parochin of Gullane, within the middle thairof, and it is the will and intention of the haille parochiners of the said kirk of Gulane that the same kirk be transportit fra the said towne of Gulane to the said towne of Dirleton, as weil for the ease and commoditie of the parochiners as of the ministers serving the cure of the said kirk. Thairfore it is thocht maist expedient, be our Soverand Lord and Estaittes foresaidis, that ane kirk and kirkyard be erected and biggit within the said towne of Dirletoun, for serving the haille parochiners of the kirk foresaid, and to that effect it is statute and ordainit be these presentis, that it sal be lesum to Thomas Viscount Festoun, Lord Dirletoun, &c. to demolishe and cast down the said kirk of Gulane, and to transport the stanes haille tymmer work and otheris materiallis thairof, to the said town of Dirletoun, for bigging of ane new kirk within the samyn, providing that the said Viscount obtene the consent thairto of the presbyterie within the quilk the said kirk of Gulane lyes and the consent of the parochiners thairof, or the maist part of thame, and that in the wayn tyme the said Viscount find and furneis ane sufficient hous and place within the said towne of Dirletoun, whair the word may be preachit and the sacramentis administered to the saidis parochiners, quilk the said kirk be sufficientlie biggit and finishit.

wick (afterwards Earl of Dirleton, who, it will be remembered purchased this property shortly before this period) narrating that "the situation and name of the parish kirk of Gulane are both changed, and that the kirk thereof is now situat besyde the toune of Diriltoun, and called the kirk of Dirleton, that the minister's manse of the said kirk of Gulane is ruinous and the gleib overblown with sand, and that the said James Maxwell of his own free good will, and for the zeal he has to God's glory, is content to provide another manse and glebe to the minister of the said kirk and his successors, therefore ratifying the said alteration of the place and name of said kirk of Gulane, and ordaining the same to remain in all time coming where the same is presently situat, and to be called the kirk of Diriltoun." This account is fully corroborated by Mr M'Ghie himself, who gives the following doleful statement of his own condition. "The glebe is so overblown with sand as the largest aiker thereof has not been manured these fyve yeires bygone; the rest doth scarslie yeild the own seed, as is notourlie knowen. And this his stipend is not sufficient, pairtlie in respect of the great defect of his gleib, pairtlie in respect of his onerous charge of the congregation, and pairtlie in respect of his numerous familie, having a wiffe and seven children to sustane." The present church, situated immediately to the north of the village of Dirleton, is in the most eligible situation that could have been chosen. It has been repaired lately, and is now capable of containing 600 people. The attendance at church is regularly good: the number of communicants is about 480. There are eighty-seven individuals, including children, dissenters in the parish. The nearest dissenting chapel is in North Berwick, distant two miles and a-half. The manse, situated close by the church, was built in 1825; by the liberality of the heritors, it is one of the best in the country. The glebe is very nearly 11 acres in extent, of excellent land, and is at present let for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of wheat per acre. The stipend is 17 chalders, two of these being wheat,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  barley, and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  meal, besides L. 8, 6s. 8d. in money.

*Benefactions.*—The accumulated stock, arising from mortifications and other sources, amounts to L. 880, which is lent on bond to Mrs H. N. Ferguson, who liberally gives 5 per cent., paid half-yearly. The following bequests are included in the above sum. George Livington of Saltcoats, left to the poor 400 merks. He died October 23d 1704, aged 41 years. William Nisbet, of Dirleton, left to the poor of Dirleton L. 1000 Scots. He died Oc-

tober 20th 1724, aged 58 years. John Heriot, farmer in Castle-mains, left to the poor of Dirleton L. 100 Scots. He died March 19th 1725, aged 60 years. William Nisbet of Dirleton, left to the poor of Dirleton, L. 1000 Scots. He died May 19th 1733, aged 35 years. Mrs Carmichael of Saltcoats, with consent of her husband, the Honourable Mr William Carmichael of Skirling, Advocate, assigned to this session, July 1755, a bond for L. 100 Sterling, with interest from Martinmas 1753. Mrs Carmichael gave also to this session L. 50 Sterling, for educating poor children in this parish January 1761. At her death in 1776 she left L. 20 more, to purchase books for poor scholars at Dirleton school. Mrs Hamilton of Belhaven, who died in 1797, bequeathed a legacy of L. 50 Sterling to the parish of Dirleton, "the interest of which to be divided yearly at Christmas, amongst the three oldest poor people on the roll, in any way that is most to their comfort, over and above what they should have as parish pensioners."

The weekly amount of church collections averages L. 1, 5s., the explanation of which will be given under the head Poor Funds.

*Education.*—In the Statistical Report of 1627, it is said "we have neyther provision, nor foundation for a schoole in all the parochie, bot a great necessitie thair of, especiallie in the town of Diriltown, if it could be had." There are now three schools in the parish,—the parochial school in Dirleton, and two private schools, one in Gulane, the other at Kingston. The average number of scholars is as follows: Dirleton 80, Gulane 50, Kingston 80. To the last of these a considerable number of the children come from the two adjoining parishes. The branches of education taught are reading, writing, and arithmetic, and at the parish school, in addition to this, Greek, Latin, French, mensuration in all its branches, together with geography and book-keeping. The parochial teacher has the maximum salary, L. 34, 4s. 10d. The school fees amount to about L. 30. The teacher at Gulane is generously allowed by Mrs Ferguson, L. 5 per annum, a free school-house and garden. The school at Kingston has been lately much enlarged and improved, by the liberality of John Dixon, Esq. residing there. There are thus ample means provided for the education of the whole parish. That this is fully taken advantage of, I fear cannot be said: nay, I should be inclined to suspect, that the anxiety of parents for the education of their children is rather declining. This may be ascribed in some measure to the depressed state of agriculture for some time. I am not aware,

however, of any of the rising generation, who are not now in the course of receiving the common branches of education; the heritors having generously provided means for educating the children of the poor.

*Library.*—There are three libraries in the village of Dirleton, the first the parish library, purchased by collections at the church, consisting of 161 volumes, chiefly religious. The second, the subscription library, of 121 volumes, miscellaneous. The third, of 130 volumes for the school. There is also occasionally an itinerating library from Mr Brown of Haddington. It is to be feared, that they are not so much valued as they ought to be.

*Societies.*—In the year 1763, a friendly society for the parish was established, “for the support of its members under affliction, and for the decent interment of themselves and wives.” This society continues still to prosper, having at present 140 members, and is in possession of L. 250 of stock. It is open for tradesmen, servants, and others, betwixt the ages of sixteen and twenty. It has been attended with decidedly beneficial effects; and it were to be desired that it should receive more encouragement from the wealthier classes in the parish.

*Savings Bank.*—There is also a savings bank in the parish, instituted in the year 1819. The present deposits amount to L. 290; the number of depositors is 36; and perhaps it may be of some importance to remark, that the class chiefly benefited by it are the female house-servants.

*Poor Funds.*—Previous to the year 1823, the poor of this parish were provided for by assessment. At that time the late Rev. Mr Stark, the excellent and able minister of the parish, set himself to the task of effecting an entire change in the administration of the poor funds, by substituting voluntary contributions in room of the assessment.\* That system has been followed ever since, with considerable success; in proof of which the following statement of the funds, and number of the poor on the roll is given.

	DR.	Poor Funds, 1821.	CR.
Jan. 1. Balance,		L. 1 0 6	36 poor on the roll, L. 124 5 0
Assessment received,		97 16 6	Legacy interest to 3 oldest
Collections,		21 8 4	paupers, 2 10 0
Interest of stock,		44 0 0	Casual poor, including house
Mortcloth,		2 11 8	rents, poor scholars, coals, and
			incidental expenses, 33 8 2
			Balance, Dec. 31, 1821. 6 15 10
		L. 166 19 0	L. 166 19 0

\* See a full exposition of his views in his interesting volume entitled “A consideration of the affairs of the Poor, by the Rev. W. Stark.”



			<i>Present.</i>
Wheat,	-	500 Acres.	- 1300
Barley,	-	800	- 200
Oats,	-	1200	- 700
Pease and Beans,	-	500	- 600
Turnips,	-	50	- 200
Grass,	-	1000	- 700

Of potatoes it is said, in the former Report, "they now constitute a great part of the living of the common people, and are much cultivated." At present there are 100 acres grown. The land under cultivation was then 4020 acres; at present, 5325. Mr Nisbet of Dirleton was beginning then to plant trees. Now there are 300 acres under wood. "The people were then beginning to enclose their fields;" now there is hardly one open field in the parish—and the contrast between the present and past state of the roads will be sufficiently understood, when it is stated that, fifty years ago, one-half of the road between Dirleton and North Berwick was repaired every spring by the very primitive method of ploughing, rolling, and harrowing.

There seems to have been no assessment at that time, and the number on the poor roll was 40; at present, with our increased population, we have only 25. In the dress of the peasantry there is a marked improvement; the homely articles of domestic manufacture being now entirely supplanted by others of a finer and more elegant texture.

The wages of male house-servants have risen considerably. They were then from L. 6 to L. 7, now from L. 8 to L. 12; female house-servants then had from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3, now from L. 4 to L. 9. The condition of the hinds also is improved. They now receive 24 bushels of oats annually more than at that period, and as more valuable varieties of oats and barley are now cultivated, the additional advantage to them from that source is equal to a stone at least of meal on every quarter of grain which they receive. The keep of the cow is also superior to what it was then. In regard to education, it is not easy to form any comparative estimate. There is little reason, however, to believe that any great progress has been made; the education of the old people appearing to be of very much the same character, and equally widely diffused as among the rising generation. In respect of morals, there is the same difficulty in coming to an accurate opinion. The general impression, however, of those who have lived longest in the parish, is decidedly favourable to the present time. We know not whether the following extract from the kirk-session re-

cords of 3d December 1671 will warrant an inference in favour of the improved state of the parish. It is curious, however, and as such we give it. "Given to ye sklatler, Patrick Thomson, for sklatting a part, and pointing another part of the church, 4 lib.; to his servant for *drink money* 3 B. 4d. And spent with him in *drink* 6 B. 8d.; for nails 15 B.; sum of all the particular proceedings 5 lib. 5 B."

In the absence of authentic sources of information, we cannot speak decidedly, yet we think it may be confidently presumed that a progressive improvement in the moral and religious character of the people must have accompanied the faithful and devoted exertions of their late pastor, who, for so many years, ministered among them. To testify their sense of his worth, and their value of his services, an elegant obelisk, with a just tribute to his memory inscribed, has been erected by the parishioners of Dirleton.

Statistical table,—being in part a summary of the foregoing Report:

Number of square miles in the parish, 14	Population in 1811, - - -	1211
Ditto of acres, - - - 7500	in 1821, - - -	1311
Ditto do. arable, - - - 5925	in 1831, - - -	1385
Ditto do. in plantations, - - - 300	in 1836, - - -	1434
Ditto do. in old pasture and waste lands, - - - 1875	Individuals belonging to the Estab- lished Church, - - -	1350
Valued rental of parish, Scots, L. 10,227 10s. 4d.	Do. to the Dissenting, - - -	87
Real rental supposed nearly the same, Sterling, - - -	Average number of marriages, of births, - - -	12 32
Number of farms, - - - 22	of deaths, unknown.	
Length of leases, 19 or 21 years, Amount of crops usually raised.	Number of farmers, - - -	22
Wheat, 1300 acres Turnips, 200 acres	Do. of farm-servants, - - -	142
Barley, 200 Grass, 700	Smiths, - - -	10
Oats, 700 Potatoes, 100	Weavers, - - -	7
Pease, 600	Wrights, - - -	11
Amount per Scotch acre.	Tailors, - - -	9
Wheat, 36 bushels, Potatoes, 9 tons.	Shoe-makers, - - -	8
Barley, 42 Turnips, 24	Bakers, - - -	3
Oats, 60 Hay, 180 stone,	Masons, - - -	6
Beans and pease, - - - 28 bushels,	Slaters, - - -	2
Work horses, 204	Hind's wages averaging 10s. a week.	
Saddle and gig-horses, 18	Day labourer's do. 1s. 6d. per day.	
Ploughgates charged for statute la- bour, - - - 884	House-servant's do. from L. 8 to L. 12.	
Actual number of ploughs, - - - 100	Female, do. do. L. 4 to L. 9.	
Number of cattle fed yearly, - - - 468	Tradesmen, do. 2s. 6d. to 3s.	
of milk cows, - - - 114	Churches, - - -	1
of sheep, - - - 2000	Number of sittings, - - -	600
of pigs, - - - 300	of communicants, - - -	480
Thrashing mills, - - - 22	Schools, - - -	3
Of these steam, - - - 9	Dirleton parish-school, number of chil- dren, - - -	80
Meal and flour windmill, - - - 1	Gulane private, do. - - -	50
Population in 1791, - - - 1200	Kingston do. do. - - -	80
in 1801, - - - 115	Salary of parish school, L. 34, 4s. 10d.	
	Branches taught, reading, writing, and arithmetic.	

Fees per quarter, 2s. 6d. 3s. 6d. 4s. 6d.	Allowances from 1s. to 4s. per week, and
Higher branches, 7s. 6d.	L. 1 at death,
Number on the poor's roll in 1836, 25	Savings bank instituted 1819.
* Sum distributed for past year, L. 132,	Numbers of contributors, 36
9s. 10d.	Amount of stock, L. 290
Average monthly allowance to each, 6s.	Ordinary class of contributors, working-
Lunatics, - - - - 4	classes.
Friendly society instituted, 1763	Libraries, - - - - 2
Amount of capital, - - - L. 250	Villages, - - - - 4
Number of members, - - - 140	Post-offices, - - - - 2
Annual payments about - - - 10s.	Public-houses, - - - - 8

*Nov. 1836.*