

## PARISH OF FOGO.

PRÉSBYTERY OF DUNSE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE.

THE REV. GEORGE M'LEAN, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—THIS parish extends from E. N. E. to W. S. W., 5 miles in length by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth on an average; and is nearly rectangular. Of course, its superficial extent may be about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  square miles or 4800 acres. It is bounded by the parish of Greenlaw on the west; Polwarth on the north-west; Edrom on the north and east; Swinton on the south-east; and Eccles on south and south-west. The small river of Blackadder, which enters the parish from the west, intersects it for about half its length, and then becomes the boundary between it and Edrom.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface of the parish may be described as consisting of two long parallel ridges of small elevation, separated by the river,—the northmost commencing at a small rivulet which runs through a narrow marsh and separates it from Polwarth,—the south ridge sloping gradually into a level of considerable breadth. The higher ground, which is a deep black loam, is considered most valuable and productive; the low and flat ground being thinner and having a tilly and stiff bottom. The highest ground may be 100 feet above the sea.

*Meteorology.*—On this head it may be only mentioned that, as the parish lies about two miles south of Langton-edge, which is the commencement of the Lammermoor range, there are frequent showers upon that range, while there are none in this parish; but, from the nature of the soil, which is retentive of moisture, the parish is less injured by summer's drought than many other places. It suffers more from a wet than a dry season. It may be also mentioned, that the winds which prevail here are chiefly from the north and east in the spring, with cold and chilling fogs or rain; during the rest of the year, the winds generally range from south to north-west. A violent gale from the south-west is almost always accom-

panied with a flood in Tweed, though there be not a drop of rain here; but in a few days after, rain frequently succeeds.

*Hydrography and Geology.*—The water in the springs of this parish is of a hard quality, and does not readily dissolve soap. The people, therefore, endeavour to obtain rain-water for washing. Some of these springs taste a little of sulphur or iron.—The only river in the parish is the Blackadder. The dark colour of the water of this river is owing to the marshy ground in the parishes of Longformacus, Westruther, and Greenlaw, where this river and the small streams that feed it take their rise; and it may be owing to this that salmon never enter it; or if they do, die, it is said, in a few days. It produces, however, eels and excellent trout, red and firm-fleshed, resembling those of Eden-water, which joins the Tweed three miles below Kelso. The Eden rises also in a marshy district, which may be the cause of this similarity of the fish. The river Blackadder, after leaving Fogo, joins the Whitadder, about six miles to the east, at Allanton, in the parish of Edrom, and the united streams enter the Tweed three miles above Berwick.

The Blackadder flows over a bed of coarse gravel and large stones, and in many places over strata of bastard whin and limestone, which are raised from two to six inches thick, and make excellent covers for open drains and conduits. As there are many perpendicular fissures in these strata, they are easily raised by wedges and sledge-hammers.

The banks of the river are seldom steep; and are ploughed to within a few yards of the stream; but, where they are steep and nearly perpendicular, there appear alternate beds of the bastard whin and till, or of till mixed with clay or marl,—the strata inclining towards the east or south-east. There are found under these perpendicular projections large pieces of petrified moss indicating lime,—but there are no quarries or mines of any description wrought at present in the parish. The only one of freestone is exhausted, and the upper part of it was of bad quality.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Notices.*—The history of the parish is little known, and furnishes nothing of importance. Redpath, in his *Border History*, says, that in a charter of confirmation given at Roxburgh, anno 1159, by Malcolm IV. to the convent of Kelso, are included nine or ten churches granted by subjects,—among which churches there are Fogo, with one ploughgate of land, and Hume, with two ploughgates of land, and a meadow by Cospa-

trick, Earl of March.\* The farm of Sisterpath, to the west of the church, may probably have taken its name from the *religieuses* having their solitary walks in that direction.

An old farm-stead, now converted to a cottage, stands on the bank of the river, a quarter of a mile west of the church; it is called Corbiehall. A gentleman, versed in Berwickshire antiquities, says, that its proper name should be Corbetshall, from a person of that name who came to this country with William the Conqueror. The bridge over the Blackadder, near the church, like all old bridges, is narrow, but being founded upon rock, it has stood without repair, except in the parapet, ever since it was built. Sir James Cockburn of Langton and Riselaw built it at his own expense, in consequence of a dispute with a neighbouring proprietor as to the ground on which it is placed; and he caused the following inscription to be put upon it: "Sir James Cockburn of Langton and Rislaw did this brig." His descendants still inherit the title; but the property has passed into other hands.

*Land-owners.*—There are only four land-owners in the parish, viz. Henry Trotter of Mortonhall, (proprietor of two-thirds;) Miss Robertson, heir of William Robertson of Ladykirk; Sir William Purves Hume Campbell, Bart. of Marchmont; John Foreman Home, of Wedderburn and Caldra. None of them reside in the parish. Caldra-House is let. Mr Trotter lately rebuilt a small country house at Charter-Hall, which he visits for a few days on business. The other two proprietors have no mansions in the parish. All the other houses are occupied by tenants and servants, except the manse and schoolhouse.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest entry in the parochial registers is dated A. D. 1660. The Episcopal clergy, when turned out, generally carried off the records. The registers have not been so complete as could be wished,—the mother's name being omitted, which is sometimes as essential to her descendants as the father's. The registers have been lately new-modelled, and a register of burials added to those of births and marriages.

*Antiquities.*—The only vestige of antiquity in the parish is an old Roman camp at Chesters, in the west end of the parish; the stones of which have been mostly removed to make way for the plough. The situation shows how careful the Romans were of the health of their armies,—the soil being light and dry,—and the situation being near water, and by its elevation, commanding an

\* See note, p. 98. London, 4to edit. 1776.

extensive view of the surrounding country. There was lately trenched up what appeared to have been a Roman causeway, passing through a marsh adjoining this parish on the south, and probably leading to this camp.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish, which, according to Dr Webster's Account in 1755, was 566, has decreased about one-fourth. This evidently arises from the common custom in this country of uniting farms, one tenant possessing what was formerly occupied by three or four. A few straggling ash-trees still point out the seat of the former dwellings. If this change has diminished the population, it has certainly improved and increased the produce of the soil, which is now occupied by persons of capital and enterprise. The village of Fogo, the only one in the parish, scarcely deserves the name, as it only consists of the manse and school-house, and of six cottages attached to two farms. The population at present may be considered as nearly stationary, varying a little, according to the annual ingress or egress of farm-servants, with their families.

By the census of 1801, the population was	507	
1811, - - -	471	
1821, - - -	469	
1831, - - -	433	} 186 males. 247 females.

1. Number of families in the parish,	- - -	88
chiefly employed in agriculture,	- - -	69
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	- - -	11
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	- - -	3
women, including widows, upwards of 45,	- - -	7
3. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years,	- - -	10
of marriages,	- - -	6
4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	- - -	159
upwards of 70,	- - -	13

There is only one family of independent fortune, residing in the parish. The yearly value of the four landed estates is from L. 150 to upwards of L. 3000.

It may be added, that the tenants have comfortable houses, and live in a style superior to what was known among the same class sixty years ago.

There have been no illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The number of acres in the parish, as before stated, is about 4800; and the whole, since the time when the last Statistical Account was written, have been

brought under the plough or planted; so that there is no waste land except what lies along the banks of the river, which may extend to twenty or thirty acres, and even that may be pastured or cut to the water's edge. There is no undivided common, but a patch of four or five acres near the church, bounded by the water, and the lands of two proprietors. The acres under wood may be about 305, planted within these sixty years by the late and by the present proprietor at Charter-Hall; five acres on the bank of the river in front of Caldra-House, planted by the late General Home, as before noticed; and about five acres at Harcarse. These plantations consist mostly of fir, with some beech, birch, and other hard-wood, and are thriving well. The fir of Charter-Hall is used by the fish-curers to make barrel staves.

*Rate of Wages.*—The wages of day-labourers are 1s. 6d. a-day, summer and winter. Hinds or yearly servants working a pair of horses receive 14 bolls of grain, a cow summered and wintered, ground for planting half a boll of potatoes, producing ten or twelve bolls; L. 4 in money; four double carts of coals (48 bolls) driven, and a dwelling-house and small garden for vegetables, of the value of L. 2,—for which last they find a shearer in harvest, the tenant furnishing victuals, as he does to all his labourers in harvest. A hind's gains are estimated at L. 30. If he has children above ten, they are employed and paid for working in the fields, which adds to the income of the family. The hind is also bound to keep a bondager for out-of-door work at the master's call, who pays for the bondager, when employed, 10d. a-day.

Unmarried men-servants within the house, besides board, receive, half yearly, from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4, 10s.; boys, from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2; women, L. 5 in summer, and L. 2 in winter,—the cause of which difference is, that in summer they are employed in hoeing and out-door work. Reapers' wages in ordinary seasons are 14s. a-week for men, and 12s. for women, with victuals.

*Prices of Agricultural Implements.*—Wood and iron,—the principal articles of raw produce in use for husbandry,—are brought from Berwick at market-price; the iron, when wrought, is charged by the pound, or according to the time occupied in working. Smiths generally agree to keep in repair the iron work at L. 3 a-year for each pair of work horses; carpenters charge about L. 12 for a cart, L. 3 for a plough. Paling costs 1s. 8d. per rood of two rails, and 2s. 6d. per rood of three rails. Masons receive 2s. 6d. a-day, and sometimes work by estimate.

*Breeds of Live-Stock.*—The breed of sheep is Leicester and Cheviot, but chiefly the latter; they are reared upon the land, though many purchase Cheviot lambs at Yetholm and the west country fairs in summer, winter them on turnips, and sell them after a year's keeping, so as to procure a return of from 20s. to 25s. a-head. The cattle are also of a mixed breed. Those reared on the land are of the improved short-horned kind. The others, kyloes, (Highland cattle,) are bought at the end of the season for the straw yard, or fed on turnips, and sold in the following autumn at a profit of from L. 6 to L. 8 a-head for keeping. Mr Thomson of Earnslaw has been long noted as a breeder of both cattle and sheep of great weight and symmetry.

*Husbandry.*—The management of the land is good, and what is called the five-break rotation is commonly followed. Bone-dust has of late been used as a turnip manure, and seems to answer well in dry seasons. All the land in the parish being reclaimed, inclosed with hedge and ditch fences, and mostly drained, there remains little for further improvement. The farm-buildings are in general well planned and convenient. Leases are granted for nineteen or twenty-one years. There are no obstacles to improvement on the part of either heritors or tenants, or from other causes,—except the distance of lime and coal, which is fifteen or sixteen miles at least, and of a market for the produce, (Berwick,) which is equally distant. The grain is all sold by sample. A small portion of it is bought and manufactured by the west country millers for the Dalkeith market.

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

Taking the area of the parish at	-	-	-	-	4800 acres,
And deducting for wood, water, roads, and waste land,	-	-	-	-	400
There remains for corn and grass,	-	-	-	-	4400
One-third of which render a crop,	-	-	-	-	1466 $\frac{2}{3}$
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Taking $\frac{1}{3}$ = 366 $\frac{2}{3}$ acres in wheat, at 5 bolls per acre, = 1833 bolls,	L.	3772	18	6	
$\frac{1}{3}$ = 366 $\frac{2}{3}$ do. in barley, at 6 do. do. = 2200 do.		2704	3	4	
$\frac{1}{3}$ = 733 $\frac{1}{3}$ do. in oats, at 7 do. do. = 5133 do.		4876	7	0	
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Supposing 78 hinds and cottars to raise (as before-mentioned,) 10 bolls of potatoes each,					780 do.
10 tenants 50 bolls each on an average,					500 do.
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Total at 6s. per boll,		1280			384 0 0
Supposing one-sixth of the land in fallow, one-half of which in turnips					

and potatoes, (the other half bare-fallow for wheat.) deducting 32 acres for potatoes, there remains 334 acres of turnips at L. 5 per acre, L. 1670 0 0

*Note.*—Leguminous crops are of trifling extent, the soil being unfit for them.

The hay is not allowed to be carried off the land, but is used for winter food of horses, &c. Its value may therefore be rated with the pasture land, which, after the above deductions, will be 2220 acres at L. 3 per acre,

6660 0 0

Total, L. 20067 8 10

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication, &c.*—The only village is Fogo,—which has a population of thirty-five persons. There are two turnpike roads passing through the parish; the one from the west is the great road to Berwick and the Chain or Suspension bridge, which serves as a communication with Northumberland, for the importation of lime and coal: it joins the Edinburgh road  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east from Greenlaw, and its length is four miles. The other, from Coldstream to Dunse, two miles long, crosses the parish in the east end. Both roads are Macadamized, and the tolls are without the parish. The length of the whole roads within the parish is about sixteen miles.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is the only place of public worship, and is situate nearly in the centre of the parish. At what time it was built is unknown. The walls and roof were repaired in 1755, and having been re-seated and plastered in 1817, the church is now in a good condition. It contains about 200 persons, and the seats are all free.

The last two Episcopal ministers were Messrs Methven, father and son, whose monuments are still remaining in the churchyard, with the inscriptions legible. They were succeeded by John Pringle, in 1659; William Home, in 1722; John Todd, in 1785; George Moodie, in 1693; William Home, in 1757; George M'Lean, in 1814.

The only benefactions are, a mortification of about L. 6 a-year, paid out of the lands of Charter-Hall and Harcarse, for the poor; and a bursary to St Andrews, in the gift of Mortonhall.

The manse and offices were built in 1787, and repaired in 1814 and 1822. They are in good condition.

The glebe contains eleven acres five perches English, exclusive of fences, but including the garden and site of the buildings. The soil is a deep loam of excellent quality, and might let from L. 25 to L. 30. The stipend, which was a trifle above eleven chalders, was augmented to fifteen chalders, half meal, half barley, in 1830, with

the old allowance of L. 8, 6s. 8d for communion elements, and there is still a considerable surplus of free teind.

About two-thirds of the families belong to the church, and are in general punctual in their attendance; and one-third are dissenters of the United Secession or Relief. These go to Dunse or Greenlaw, in the first of which there are three, and in the last, two congregations.

The average number of church communicants is from 140 to 150. The church collections for the poor are trifling,—not more than L. 4 or L. 5 per annum. The tenants give little, as they are assessed, and the working-classes can afford and give still less. Collections for other purposes are rare. There have been only three or four within these twenty years, for extra-parochial objects.

*Education.*—The only school in the parish is the parochial,—in which are taught, besides the ordinary branches, mensuration and Latin. The teacher has the minimum salary, being by conversion L. 25, 13s. 3½d., also about L. 8 as heritors' clerk and as precentor: and the whole emoluments, with school fees and other perquisites, may average L. 45 per annum, besides a house and garden.

All children in the parish are early taught to read, and there are no persons of any age above six, unable to read.

The average number of persons receiving parochial aid for the last seven years is 10; they have received from 1s. to 3s. per week. The average assessment for the same period, paid by the heritors and tenants, each one-half, was L. 54,—giving L. 6, 8s. to each pauper per annum. Paupers are at first reluctant to apply for assistance, but, when once enrolled, they become less so.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

It will appear from the above facts, that, since the time of the last Statistical Account, a considerable extent of waste land (1200 acres) has been enclosed and planted, or brought under cultivation; that the land has been much improved by draining; and that the roads are in good repair, as a proof of which, it may be mentioned, that grain, and even lime and coals, which it formerly required six horses to carry, may now be easily carted by a single horse. There is not a farm in the parish but has a thrashing-machine. And, except a little occasional draining, it does not appear that much more can be done in this parish in the way of improvement.

*August 1834.*