

PARISH OF DUNSE.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNSE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE.

THE REV. GEORGE CUNNINGHAME, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries.—THE ancient name of the town and parish of Dunse was Duns, from the Celtic *Dhun* or *Dun*, a hill; the ancient site of the town having been towards the north-west side of a beautiful hill called Dunse-Law, till it was burnt by the English. From this circumstance, the fields occupying the space in which the town was formerly situated are now called Brunton. Soon after the year 1588 the present town began to be built in a lower situation on the skirts of the southern side of the hill, from which the town derives its name; then the name was corrupted into *Dunse*.

The extreme length of the parish is about 6 miles from south-east to north-west; its mean breadth about $3\frac{1}{2}$; so that its extent in square miles is about 18 or 19 miles. Its figure is so irregular as not to admit of any more exact description, than that, towards its northern and southern extremities, its breadth is between three and four miles, and in the middle, less than two miles. It is bounded by the parish of Edrom on the east, south, and south-east; by Bunkle and a detached part of Longformacus on the north-east; by Abbey St Bathans on the north; and by another part of Longformacus and by Langton on the west.

Topographical Appearances.—The Lammermoor range of hills runs along the northern side of the parish; in which may be included Cockburn-Law, about 912 feet above the level of the sea, the conical figure of which, so different from the gibbous shape of the neighbouring hills, renders it a land-mark to mariners coming from the east. There are scarcely any valleys or absolutely flat lands in the parish; but in the south and east, which are the most fertile parts of it, the ground, to the extent of two or three square miles, rises into gentle swells, ranging from a point north of east to a point south of west; from which circumstance the meridian

generally adopted by those who are not very accurate in their observations is placed a little to the eastward of its proper position. Dunse-Law is 630 feet above the level of the sea.

Hydrography.—The river Whitadder runs along the northern and eastern sides of the parish, and forms its boundary with the parishes of Longformacus and Bunkle. The nearest point at which it approaches the town of Dunse is distant two miles.—Langtonburn, a rivulet, rises in the parish from which it receives its name, and forming the southern boundary of this parish with Edrom, joins the Blackadder a little below Wedderburn; through part of which estate it passes.

The Dunse spa, analyzed by Dr Francis Home about the year 1751, at which time it was in much repute, is now entirely neglected,—having sunk in reputation ever since it was analyzed. Its waters having become mixed with the ordinary springs in the neighbourhood are considered as destitute of any efficacy. This spring, though called Dunse spa, is within the limits of the parish of Edrom.

There is an artificial lake near Dunse Castle formed about a century ago, which is very ornamental to the place.

Considering its distance from any river, Dunse is remarkably well supplied with soft water. Till within these few years, its supply of that article, so essential to cleanliness, health, and comfort, depended entirely on a spring conveyed from the top of Dunse-Law, and there was plenty of hard-water in wells dug in every part of the town; but by the application of a considerable sum of money bequeathed by the late Alexander Christie, Esq. of Grueldykes, and the liberal permission of William Hay, Esq. of Dunse Castle, an inexhaustible supply of excellent water, fit for all purposes, has now been brought in pipes from a spring near the site of the old town of Duns.

Geology and Mineralogy.—Cockburn-Law affords an interesting subject of investigation to the geologist; and the following notices are furnished by a friend well skilled in the science of geology, who informs me that it is one of those detached hills which so frequently occur in Scotland to perplex the geologist. The Whitadder encircles it on three sides, the rocks in the bed of the river being principally greywacke and greywacke-slate, the characterizing rocks of the transition series. The neighbouring hills are also principally composed of these rocks. Cockburn-Law itself, however, is a great mass of unstratified rocks, the principal of which are por-

phyry and granite, with occasional beds of greenstone. The granite forms the highest part of the hill, porphyry being situated lower down. The granite appears to be the same as that which occurs at Fasney Water, at some distance to the westward, and which has been the subject of such keen discussion between the Wernerians and Huttonians. The former have called it transition sienite, but this on Cockburn-Law has all the component parts of granite, and these disposed in the usual way. The hill is detached in this manner from all the surrounding hills,—being composed of rocks totally dissimilar and unstratified, and surrounded at the base by regularly stratified rocks, which, from their present appearance and position in many places, seem to have suffered great violence. The same formations cross the Whitadder eastward into the parish of Bunkle. Between Cockburn-Law and Dunse a narrow stripe may be traced of old red sandstone, the first and oldest rock of the secondary series. This formation of old red sandstone appears to rest immediately on the transition rocks. The rocks in the lower part of the parish appear to belong partly to the coal, and partly to the new red sandstone formation, but the sandstone of the coal formation seems to be the predominant rock. This sandstone frequently abounds with vegetable impressions, and casts of palms and other monocotyledonous plants. These are found in abundance in a sandstone quarry at the southern boundary of the parish.

Immediately to the southward of the town, there is a bog extending a considerable distance eastward and westward, which was formerly impassable, except in one place, and seems in ancient times to have formed one of its principal defences from its southern enemies. There is now a small detached part of the town on the south side of it, named the Bridge-end, and opposite, on the north side, a small field named Barniken, probably a corruption of Barbican. The bog is now drained, and is excellent cow-pasture.

The northern part of the parish is in general a sharp gravelly dry soil; the southern part is a very rich light deep loam, and all (except some very small detached spots of clay,) of that sort which agriculturists denominate a good turnip soil. Close to the town is a dark deep sandy loam, formed from the debris of the sandstone.

On the banks of the Whitadder, mines have been repeatedly dug, and copper has been found, but not in sufficient quantity to

recompense the labour employed, and therefore the exertions in search of it have been discontinued.

Zoology.—The lake at Dunse Castle is well stocked with tench, perch, and eels; but attempts to stock it with trout have not been very successful. In the months of September and October, salmon and grilse in great numbers ascend the Whitadder to its very source, and all its tributary streams, even those that are inconsiderable,—for the purpose of depositing their spawn in the gravel. The whitling, a smaller fish, resembling them in quality and habits, is also found in considerable numbers; also a coarser fish somewhat similar, and commonly called the bull-trout. They return to the sea with the first spring floods. In May the common burn trout is in abundance: although not accounted so rich in quality, it is more delicate in flavour than the trout of the Blackadder. Though the Whitadder and Blackadder unite their streams a few miles below Dunse (after their union retaining the name of Whitadder,) the quality of the trout remains quite distinct; and salmon is seldom known to enter the Blackadder, although at their junction there is no remarkable difference in their size.

Pheasants were introduced into the woods at Dunse Castle, about twenty years ago, and abound there and in the neighbouring plantations.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The original charter erecting Dunse into a burgh of barony was granted in the year 1489 by James IV. A charter was also granted by James VI. to Cuthbert Home in Dunse of nine acres of land, and “*confirmand ane charter yrof granted to him by Sir Hugh Hudson, Chaplane of the alter of the Virgin Marye in Dunse, dated 1584.*”

Eminent Men.—As far as tradition is entitled to any credit, John Duns Scotus, Doctor Subtilis, appears to have been a native of this parish. His father was a younger son of Duns of Grueldykes, a cadet of Duns of that ilk, and the house in which he is said to have been born was situated in the old town of Duns, near the gate leading to Dunse Castle. A large stone, now forming part of a park wall, has been pointed out from generation to generation as having belonged to the house in which he was born. There are different accounts as to the date of this extraordinary man’s birth,—some placing it in the year 1265, and others in 1274. All agree that he early entered into a monastery of Franciscan or Gray friars, but all are not equally agreed whether at Newcastle or Dumfries; whence he

went to prosecute his studies at Merton College, in the University of Oxford, where he acquired a fellowship, and was advanced in 1301 to the University Professorship of Theology. By command of the general of his Order, he went to Paris in 1304 to defend his doctrine of the immaculate conception; which he did with great applause. He was sent on the same mission to Cologne in 1308, where he died on the 8th of November in the same year. His works are collected into twelve bulky folios, of which the most perfect edition was printed at Lyons in 1629. Long after his decease the disputes of the Scotists and Thomists continued to disturb the peace of the Christian church, and to exercise the perverted ingenuity of churchmen.

This parish has also produced men distinguished by their piety, and by their scientific, literary, and moral attainments. Among these, as elsewhere noticed, the Rev. Thomas Boston, the author of the *Fourfold State* and *Sermons*, was born at Dunse in 1676, and died at Etterick in 1732.

Abraham Robertson, LL. D., Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford, who also presided at the Board of Longitude, was born in 1751, of parents in a humble condition of life in the town of Dunse; and, after arriving by the diligent application of his talents at high distinction in mathematical science, died at Oxford in 1826, as much distinguished by his unaffected modesty and other moral qualities as by his scientific attainments.

The Rev. Thomas M^cCrie, D. D., author of the life of John Knox, and other admirable historical works, was born at Dunse in 1773.

This parish was also the birth-place of the Rev. James Gray, formerly one of the Masters of the High School of Edinburgh, and afterwards admitted to holy orders in the Church of England. He was appointed to perform the duties of his office at Cutch, in the East Indies, and at the same time to direct the education of the prince of that country; but was cut off in 1830, while zealously employed in translating the Holy Scriptures into the Cutchee and Hindostanee, and composing the first grammar and dictionary which had ever been attempted of the Cutch language.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial register of baptisms has been kept since 5th February 1615. The register is now regularly kept; but was not so in former times. It consists of the following volumes:

	1, from 1615 to 1666	4, from 1725 to 1778
	2, 1666 1724	5, 1778 1810
Duplicate 3,	1666 1694	6, 1810 1832

There are five volumes of alphabetical indices to the above, from 1615 to 1832.

The record of the kirk-session commences in 1720, and is continued in two volumes to 1738; after which it is discontinued till 1797, when the present incumbent was ordained.—There are also a record of deaths or rather funerals, and a record of marriages, commencing at, and continued from, the above date, 1797.

Antiquities. Edinshall.—Till within a recent period this parish could boast, if the writer of the present article be not mistaken, of possessing perhaps the only specimen of the architecture of the first Saxon invaders of Britain, which has been preserved till modern times in the southern part of Scotland. Within these forty years, the stones of this singular monument of antiquity were used as materials for fences, and the foundations only can now be traced. We shall describe, however, the building as it appeared before its final demolition, and shall state the reasons for attributing it to the era mentioned.

The ruins referred to bear the name of Edinshall. They are situated about a mile east from Abbey St Bathans on the northern slope of Cockburn-Law, where this hill stretches into a terrace of inconsiderable size, skirted by steep banks descending to the river Whitadder, which is distant about 200 yards. The building was circular, the outside diameter being 85 feet 10 inches, and the walls 15 feet 10 inches thick.* The height of the walls, which, in their ruinous state, was seven or eight feet, must originally have been considerable, as appeared from the large quantity of materials rolled down the bank on which they stood, and lodging in the area they enclosed. In the interior of the walls were open spaces, having the appearance of separate cells, extending all round the building, differing greatly in length, but all of the width of about three feet, and presenting in some places an appearance of having been arched over. The entrance was by a low narrow door on the eastern side. No cement had been used in the building; but the stones, which were of whin, and most of them very large, were fitted with considerable accuracy to one another,—the concavity of the one

* These dimensions were ascertained when the building was extant by Mr John Blackadder, an accurate land-surveyor. In the descriptions of this ruin, contained in the first Statistical Account and in Chalmers' Caledonia, which seem both to have been copied from an article in the Scots Magazine for 1764, (Vol. xxvi. p. 431,) it is said that the building consisted of three concentric circles. This, however, is a mistake; for although two circles could be traced, in consequence of the walls having been divided by the nearly continuous cells mentioned in the text, there was no third interior wall.

receiving the convexity of the other, and the interstices being filled up with small stones. On the east and south of the principal tower, were the foundations of several oblong buildings, and of a single round one. To the south of the whole were trenches of considerable depth, surmounted on both sides by walls of stone and earth, one of which, after running in a westerly direction for fifty or sixty yards, turned northward, and followed the sweep of the hill till it reached the river.

From the description now given of the principal tower of Edinshall, (never entitled to the name of a tower from its height, but only from its circular form,) it will be perceived that this building is similar in construction to those called *burghs* in Orkney and Shetland, and *Duns* in the Highlands of Scotland, where the remains of many of them are still to be seen. * Indeed, the only difference consists in the nature of the spaces in the interior of the walls,—which in Edinshall seem composed of separate cells, while in the similar buildings they are continuous passages; but this dissimilarity is apparent only, because the upper part of the walls and the roof of the hollow spaces in Edinshall having fallen down, had partially filled up the passage, which went entirely along the interior of the wall, and had thus divided that passage into what seemed to be separate compartments. This supposition derives confirmation from the fact, that most of these cells had no entrances, and it may safely be assumed that they were not originally constructed in that form.

Now it is known that the buildings called *Burghs* or *Duns* were the workmanship of the ancient Scandinavians, and that the kind of architecture of which they are examples was common to that nation with the Saxons and other northern tribes. Hence it may be inferred, that Edinshall was built by one of those tribes; and, as it bore the name of Edwin, the most celebrated king of the Northumbrian Saxons, and as it was situated within his territories, which extended from the Humber to the Forth, we may conclude that he was the builder of Edinshall. In that case, it must have been erected between the years 617 and 633, the period of Edwin's reign.

This conclusion derives confirmation from other circumstances. In King Edwin's time, the mode of architecture of his tribe

* See description of Castle Moussa by Sir W. Scott, *Waverley Novels*, note, Vol. xvii. p. 335, also Pennant's *Tour*, Gordon's *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, p. 166, and *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *voce* Dun.—Mr Blackadder informs us, that Edinshall was precisely similar to the Highland Duns, several of which he had visited.

could not have undergone any change, because his father, Cella, was the first of his house who settled here, and because in the interim the arts of peace were not cultivated. It is recorded, too, that the art of building with mortar or cement was not introduced into Britain till after this time,—the first Saxon buildings of stone and lime having been the monastery of Weremouth, founded in 674, and the Cathedral of Hexham erected soon afterwards,—both constructed by masons and artificers brought from abroad.*

The situation of Edinshall is neither strong in itself, nor fitted to protect any part of the adjoining country. From this fact, it may be inferred that the building was designed not so much for a military station as a place of residence or a court of justice. Hence it does not bear the name of burgh, which signifies a castle, but that of hall, which means a palace or a court.

It is now generally admitted that the present metropolis of Scotland was founded by the same prince to whom we have attributed the erection of Edinshall.

On the summit of Dunse-Law are the vestiges of the entrenched camp occupied by General Leslie and 20,000 Covenanters in May 1639,—for the purpose of opposing a threatened invasion of Scotland by King Charles, who, wishing to impose Episcopacy on the Scottish nation, had advanced with a great force to Birks, seven miles beyond Berwick. Matters were, however, accommodated without bloodshed at that time, by an agreement, with which neither party seems to have been quite satisfied, or in which neither, of course, was quite sincere. There was found in Dunse Castle, between thirty and forty years ago, a copy of the Solemn League and Covenant, which was most probably sworn and signed on that occasion, and left there by some of the Scottish nobles who were parties to the accommodation, and occupied the castle, while their troops were encamped on the neighbouring hill.

In the turbulent times of 1517, during the minority of King James V. and the absence of the Regent Duke of Albany in France, a deed of atrocity was perpetrated on Sir Anthony D'Arcy, also denominated the Chevalier de la Beauté, at a morass called, from the name of the sufferer, Batties' Bog, on the line which divides the parish of Dunse from that of Edrom, on the north-east. The Chevalier, in performing the duties of Lord Warden of the marches, acting with much severity, had incurred the displeasure

* Henry's History of Britain, Vol. ii. p. 391.

of the laird of Wedderburn, who was also exasperated by the recent murder of his chief, the **Earl of Home**, though under the protection of an invitation by the Regent Albany to Edinburgh. The warden being worsted by the Homes, fled unattended towards Dunbar, pursued by the laird of Wedderburn. His horse being swamped in the bog, he continued his flight on foot, but was overtaken by his adversary, who cut off his head, and carried it, fastened to his saddle girth by the hair, in triumph to the Castle of Wedderburn. As the bog is on the confines of the parishes of Dunse and Edrom, and the deed was done in the parish of Edrom, while the perpetrator was a distinguished person in the parish of Dunse, the discredit of it falls in some measure on both; and it is, perhaps, incumbent on the writers of the statistics of both parishes to record the atrocious fact.

Modern Buildings.—These are,—Dunse Castle, a very splendid edifice, in the Gothic style of architecture, the greater part modern, but added to an ancient tower said to have been built by Randolph, Earl of Murray.—Wedderburn Castle, a very elegant building, in the Grecian style of architecture.—Manderston, also a fine mansion, situated in a lawn, and adorned with a lake and other embellishments.—The town-house of Dunse, a modern building, (the foundation stone of which was laid in 1816,) in the Gothic style of architecture. The present church was built in the year 1790. It is as remarkable for the plainness of its exterior as for its neatness and commodiousness within. The Saxon pillars and arches of the old church, which it replaced, indicated its antiquity. From a date on the gallery, called the Burgess-loft, it seemed to have been repaired in 1572.

The estate and patronage of the church belonged in early times to Duns of that ilk, and were granted by Robert the Bruce to Randolph, Earl of Murray. The latter granted a charter in 1316 to the monks of Newbattle, with an annuity of two merks out of the lands of Kingside. The charter was dated “apud Parcum de Duns,” in the king’s presence,—Patrick Earl of March, Sir James Douglas, and several persons of note, being also present.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish in 1755 was,	-	2593
1801,	-	3324
1811,	-	3163
1821,	-	3773
1831,	-	3469

Under the last census the number of males was 1629; of females, 1840.

The population of the town amounts to 2656; of the country, to 813. There are no villages in the parish.

1. Number of families in the parish,	834
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	104
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	336
2. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years,	37*
of deaths,	33
of marriages,	19

The principal resident proprietors in the parish, are, William Hay, Esq. of Dunse Castle; the Honourable General Maitland of Manderston; William F. Home, Esq. of Wedderburn.

The proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, are, The Most Noble the Marquis of Breadalbane; Dr Alexander Monro, of Cockburn; Mrs Turnbull, of Grueldykes; John Wilson, Esq. of Cumledge; James Bell, Esq. of Ninewar; William Sanderson, Esq. of Ninewar; James Luke, Esq. of Ladywell; Douglas Ainslie, Esq. of Cairnbank; Major A. Brown, of Trinity Lodge; the Representatives of the late A. Logan, Esq. of Burnhouses.

The number of insane persons in the parish is 6; blind, 2; deaf and dumb, 2.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—This parish, which is partly in Lammermoor, contains about 12,000 acres. About 6000 acres are arable, 1000 under wood, and the remainder hill pasture. The arable land is highly cultivated, being all enclosed, limed, and drained, and generally let in leases of nineteen years.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of the southern part of the parish is nearly L. 2, 10s. per imperial acre; the remainder L. 1, 5s. The hill pasture is of very little value.

Husbandry.—Nearly the whole of the arable land is a dry sandy loam, and well adapted for the raising of turnips. It is managed partly in a four-course shift, and partly in a five, viz. first, turnips; second, barley; third, pasture; fourth, oats, or two years pasture.

Rate of Wages.—On the different farms almost all the servants are paid partly in corn and partly in money,—they having a cow maintained all the year. Servants paid in this manner appear to live better than those who are paid entirely in money.

In the parish of Dunse, in common with the parishes in its vicinity, the most improved breeds of short-horned cattle, Leicestershire

* This enumeration must not be held as quite correct, as many births, and all irregular marriages, of persons not belonging to the Established church, are not recorded.

sheep, and Hampshire pigs, have been introduced for many years,—the chief excellence of which consists in their coming to a state of full size and fatness in less than half the time required for the native breed, and so more speedily remunerating the skill and industry of the breeder. These are reared mostly for the English market, and the labouring-class of consumers at home,—while the Kyloe or Highland oxen and the black-faced or Cheviot sheep, kept to a more mature age, are chiefly fattened for the use of those who can afford a somewhat higher price at home.*

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets.—There is a weekly market in Dunse every Wednesday, at which little business is done. The principal market-town is Berwick, distant about fifteen miles.

Means of Communication.—There is a post twice a-day to London, and once to Edinburgh. There is also a daily coach to Edinburgh.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, conveniently situated for the parish in general, is in good repair, and affords accommodation to about 1200 persons. The manse was built in the year 1780, and has undergone no general repair since, but is kept in good habitable condition. The extent of the glebe is between nine and ten acres, and its value about L. 35 or L. 40 a-year. The stipend was augmented in 1833 to 20 chalders,—one-half meal, one-half barley; with L. 10 for communion elements.

There are three dissenting chapels in this parish,—two of the United Associate, and one of the Relief. The stipends are paid by the congregations.

The number of families attending the Established church is 390; attending the dissenting chapels, 446. Divine service is, with as few exceptions as in most places, well attended in the Established church and in the chapels. The number of communicants in the Established church averages nearly 600.

Education.—There is one parochial school in the parish, attended at an average by 120 children. The schoolmaster, who has all the usual emoluments, is qualified to teach the English, French, Latin, and Greek languages, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, the principles of mathematics, and geography. He is diligent, and successful in communicating instruction. His salary is the maximum L. 34, 4s. 4d. The average amount of school-

* The writer regrets that he has not been able to ascertain the gross amount of raw produce yearly raised in the parish.

fees for the last 3 years is L. 70 per annum; and the average of his fees as session-clerk is L. 8.

There is also a very respectable and flourishing institution, in which the above-mentioned branches of education are taught by one licentiate of the Church of Scotland, assisted by another. They at present, with much ability and success, superintend the education of twenty boarders, and of about thirty other pupils in the town and neighbourhood, to whose instruction, conduct, and comfort, every possible attention is given. Besides these, there are six schools for the education of boys and girls, who are well taught in all the ordinary branches of education. Religious instruction is communicated by reading the scriptures and catechising. There are two respectable schools for female education,—one of them a boarding-school, well entitled to every degree of encouragement, and both of them well taught in everything useful and ornamental required in the middling ranks of life, as well as in religion and morals. There are several sewing-schools for young females in an inferior condition of life. All, except the parochial school, are supported entirely by fees for instruction.

Some Sunday schools are taught by persons of the labouring classes under the superintendence of their ministers. It is said that those for whose benefit they are chiefly intended, the children of negligent parents, seldom attend, there being no compulsory power to enforce attendance.

The people are generally alive to the benefits of education. The heritors pay the school fees for those parents, the poverty of whose circumstances has been ascertained.

Savings Bank.—There has been a Savings Bank for Dunse and the contiguous parishes existing for a good many years, but in a very languishing state.

Literature.—A subscription library was commenced in 1768. There are also two circulating libraries, and a reading-room for newspapers.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of poor on the roll is 180: they receive from 1s. to 3s. per week. The legal assessment for the poor amounts to L. 710 yearly, and is their sole supply, except a small sum from the collections, which are much reduced by the heavy assessments. Collections, mortcloth, and marriage-fees may amount to L. 18 or L. 19. L. 100 was bequeathed to the poor by General James Dickson of the Honourable East India Company's service, the interest of which is divided yearly

among those who have a claim. It is a very remarkable circumstance, that during the year ending in December 1830, only one person died who had a claim on the fund, and that, from May 1830 to July 1831, no pauper died, though their ages averaged sixty-one years.

Dr Abraham Robertson, LL.D., mentioned among the distinguished natives of this town, whose moral worth was equal to his scientific attainments, settled annuities of L. 10 on five poor female cousins in the humble rank of life from which he sprung, and whose infirmities, arising from old age, reduced them to the necessity of receiving supply from the poor's fund; for which annuities he paid L. 450.

In the year 1826, Alexander Christie, Esq. of Grueldykes, a native of, and a liberal benefactor to, the town of Dunse, bequeathed to the poor on the roll of the parish of Dunse, a sum equal to the sum to which they should be entitled from the roll for two years after his decease. His intention evidently was to prevent the interference of the heritors of the parish with his bequest,—the disposal of which, however, would be attended with this evident consequence, that, if the poor should receive double aliment for two years, they would feel their privations, and be consequently more discontented after it was withdrawn, than if they had never received that benefit. Some of the heritors suggested the plan of reducing the aliment on the roll to one-half during these two years, and taking the other half from the legacy. But Mr Christie's heirs declared their determination to reject that proposal, though it would have saved them one-half of the legacy, because they thought that such a plan would evade the intention of the testator. Another mode, however, was contrived and carried into effect,—by which the whole poor on the roll having claims, on condition of receiving a certain sum in hand, disposed to George Peat, Esq. Sheriff-substitute, and James Bell, Esq. Sheriff-clerk of Berwickshire, William Cunningham, Esq. bailie of Dunse, the Rev. George Cunningham, minister, and James Watson, Esq. writer, the whole remaining sum, to which, when accumulated, they might have claim,—that sum amounting to above L. 700: and the interest was to be divided annually among the survivors at the beginning of each successive year: no one to receive more than L. 10 per annum. As, however, no provision is made for the disposal of the above L. 700, when those having claims may have died out; and as it is not stated whether the trustees act in their official or their individual capa-

city, nor whether they can appoint successors,—this plan does not obviate, but only postpones, the difficulty respecting the ultimate disposal of the fund.

The late Charles Marjoribanks, Esq. M. P. for Berwickshire, bequeathed first L. 10 and afterwards L. 100 to the poor of Dunse, to be at the disposal of the minister. By far the greater part of this is already distributed, and the rest is in the course of distribution.

Two Friendly Societies were instituted in 1780, and one in 1790. They still exist, though not founded on the most approved principles of calculation. The Berwickshire Farmers' Widows' Fund, from that cause, has almost sunk under its own weight.

Fairs.—There are three fairs annually held in Dunse,—one in June, another in August, and another in November, for cattle and horses; and four quarterly markets for sheep, held in March, May, July, and September.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The most remarkable variation between the present state of the parish and neighbourhood, and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, is in the rent of land. Land which then let at 15s. and 7s. per acre, now lets at L. 2, 10s. and L. 1, 5s. per acre. Every improvement in the system of husbandry is speedily adopted.

August 1834.