

PARISH OF EDROM.

PRESBYTERY OF CHIRNSIDE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODDALE.

THE REV. ALEX. CUTHBERTSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE ancient name of this parish was Aderham. It is still called Etherham by the commonalty. *Ader* comes from the Cambro-British word *Awedur*, signifying running water, and *ham* in Anglo-Saxon, signifies a village. Aderham is thus the village, on the banks of the *Ader*.

Extent, Boundaries.—The extreme length of the parish is $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles; extreme breadth, 4 miles; mean length, $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles; mean breadth, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles; extent in square miles, $13\frac{1}{10}$. * It is bounded on the west by the parishes of Dunse, Langton, and Polwarth; on the south by Fogo, Swinton, and Whitsome; on the east by Hutton and Chirnside; and on the north by Buncl. The country is generally flat.

The climate in this part of the country is now very good. Ague, which about forty years ago, before the practice of draining became general, was very prevalent, is now never heard of.

Hydrography.—There is a mineral well in this parish called the Dunse Spa. It is situated in a valley which lies nearly a mile on the south side of Dunse, on the estate of Nisbet. This well was discovered accidentally in 1747. It was a place of very general resort for a considerable time; but has long ceased to be so. A very full account of the composition and virtues of this water has been given by Dr Francis Home, in a treatise published in Edinburgh, 1751. The well, however, is now entirely out of repute. There is likewise a mineral well on the estate of Blackadder, in a ravine near the banks of the Blackadder, and not far from the bridge on the eastern approach to Blackadder House from Allanton,—

* I am indebted for this measurement, and for various other particulars relative to the Blackadder and Whitadder, and the extent of arable land in the parish, woods, &c. to Mr John Blackadder, land-surveyor, Blanerne, East Side.

which some of the old residents in Allanton resorted to in their younger days, and found beneficial in many instances. They call it the "Vertur" Well, meaning, probably, the well whose water has a medicinal virtue.

The Whitadder bounds the parish on the north side, and runs the whole extent of the parish from west to east. The altitude of its source above the medium sea level is supposed to be 1150 feet; fall per mile, 32 feet, 10 inches; breadth, 35 yards. Length of Whitadder in Edrom parish, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles; greatest height of Whitadder in flood 9 feet above the ordinary level; average fall of Whitadder through Edrom parish, 23 feet per mile. From Broomhouse, the upper part of the parish, to the lower extremity of the parish, the fall of the Whitadder is 149 feet. It runs into the Tweed about two miles from Berwick.

The length of the Blackadder water is 19 miles; supposed altitude at its source 1180 feet above the medium sea level; length within the parish of Edrom $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles, flowing in a north-east direction, dividing the parish into two equal parts nearly; breadth, 17 yards. The Blackadder falls into the Whitadder at the village of Allanton, in this parish.

Geology and Mineralogy.—There is a shell-marl bog on the estate of Kimmerghame. The bog is of considerable extent: greatest depth 15 feet. Machinery has been lately erected for draining off the water, and a very considerable quantity of marl has been taken from it; price 1s. per cart load. A cubic yard of this marl is equal to a boll of lime. It does not operate so readily as lime, but it is more durable in its influence. In working the marl, several beavers' heads (one nearly entire) were found, and some deers' horns. One head was nearly complete, and was sent to Dr Barclay in Edinburgh.

The rocks of this parish belong to a formation, the characters of which have not yet been precisely determined. It has not been ascertained whether they are members of the new red sandstone group, or are the lowermost beds of the Durham coal field. Various facts may be adduced in support of these two theories, but it seems probable that they are of older date than the strata of the Durham coal field, and are a fresh water deposit.

The rocks consist chiefly of clay, marl, and sandstone; the first of these composing, perhaps, about two-thirds of the whole. The marl strata are in thin beds, never exceeding two or three feet in thickness. The sandstones are generally of a whitish colour, and sometimes ex-

ceed twenty or thirty feet in thickness, as at Puttenmill, Kimmerghame, Greenknows. All the strata dip to the south-east, at a small angle of inclination, except at the west end of the parish, where they have been upraised by a trap dike. A good section of these rocks, as affected by this cause, may be seen at the junction with the Whittadder, of the small burn which runs past Cumledge, about a mile below Preston bridge. The strata are there elevated at an angle of about 50° . The basis or lowermost beds of the Berwickshire marl strata may be seen at the turn of the Whitadder, above the point last described. Beyond this point, the strata consist entirely of red sandstones resting on a conglomerate, which some geologists have described as belonging to the old red sandstone group.

The only fossils discovered among the rocks of this parish, and contemporaneous with their formation, are vegetables. The remains of neither shells nor animals have yet been found. The vegetable fossils are very much the same as found in the Mid-Lothian and Northumberland coal fields, consisting of impressions of *Equisetæ*, &c. But besides these, an extensive deposit of fossil or petrified trees has lately been discovered, which, upon a botanical examination of their structure, seem to belong to the *Coniferæ*. The water-worn appearance of the trunks, and the total absence of branches and leaves, lead to the opinion that they have been transported to their present situation by the force of running water. It is no small confirmation of this opinion, that these fossils are found imbedded in a thick deposit of blue clay, which was most probably thrown down by water in a state of mud. The bark which envelopes these ancient trees has been converted into a black coal, probably from the original bark having been deprived of its bituminous matter.

There are in this district, the strongest proofs of the effects of the deluge, that vast flood by which our mountains were submerged, and the plains strewed with the records of its violence. Immense boulders or erratic blocks may be seen in the alluvial soil that is cut through by the river courses, which cannot have been derived except from hills at a great distance. Among these boulders, there are some of mica-slate, a rock which does not occur nearer than Cumberland, from the mountains of which these rolled masses were probably torn and transported. The direction in which, as thus indicated, the waters of the deluge flowed, viz. from south-

west to north-east, the reader will perceive, agrees entirely with the proofs otherwise and elsewhere derived as to the violence, extent, and direction of the diluvial flood. Several specimens of these mica-slate boulders have been found at Blannerne east side.

Notwithstanding the abundance of marl and clay in this parish, we are not aware that gypsum has been found in it, as in other parishes where the same formation occurs.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Notices.—The grave of Sir Anthony Darcy, surnamed *Le Sieur de la Beauté*, is in a field on the estate of Broomhouse, in this parish,—called *De la Beauté's field*. Sir Anthony Darcy, commonly named Anthony de la Bastie, (properly *De la Beauté*) was a Frenchman, and was appointed by the Duke of Albany Warden of the Marches, and captain of Dunbar Castle, in the room of Lord Home,—when the Duke, who was regent in the minority of James V., went to France, June 1517. Lord Home had been treacherously decoyed to Edinburgh, and put to death, together with his brother William, as was supposed, by the instigation of Darcy. This rendered Darcy odious in the Merse. A dispute having arisen between him and David Home, the laird of Wedderburn, Darcy and his party were attacked by the laird of Wedderburn and his associates near Langton, October 12, 1517, and put to flight. Darcy's horse stuck fast in a bog in the end of Dunse Moor,—which obliged him to fly on foot. He was overtaken by Wedderburn at Broomhouse, who slew him, and carrying his head in triumph through Dunse, fixed it on the battlements of Home Castle.* A cairn marks out the grave of Darcy.

One of the largest meetings of the Covenanters took place at East Nisbet, in this parish, (subsequently called Allanbank, and now called Bighouse,) in 1674. They were convened for the purpose of celebrating the Lord's Supper. They assembled on the banks of the Whitadder, about one mile south of Chirnside, where 3200 communicated. The Rev. Mr Blackadder, Mr Welsh, Mr Riddel, Mr Rae, and Mr Dickson officiated. The Earl of Home threatened an attack upon them, but the meeting passed off without molestation.

Parochial Registers.—The early registers of this parish have

* A particular account of all the circumstances which led to the death of Darcy is given in an old manuscript in the possession of the present proprietor of Wedderburn, a copy of which is in the possession of Colonel Home of Broomhouse.

been lost. The only account which I have heard of them is, that they were accidentally burned a long time ago. The register of baptisms commences in 1720; register of marriages, in 1788. In the register of burials, there are only a few entries. In all of the registers, there are mutilations till 1801,—from which period the register of births and baptisms has been regularly kept. This register, however, is far from being complete in regard to births.

Land-owners.—There are nine landed proprietors. George Logan, Esq. of Edrom; John Carnegie, Esq. of New Edrom; Colonel Home of Broomhouse; George Buchan, Esq. of Kelloe; Alexander Dudgeon, Esq. of St Helens; Miss Boswall of Blackadder; James Bonar, Esq. of Kimmerghame; Lord Sinclair of Nisbet; Major Mackay of Bighouse, formerly called East Nisbet, and afterwards Allanbank.

The valued rents of these estates are as follows:—

	Scots.
Kimmerghame, - - - -	L. 2224 14 9 ⁶
Blackadder, - - - -	2093 4 6 ⁶
Nisbet, - - - -	1824 9 7
Allanbank or Bighouse, - - - -	1802 6 11
Kelloe, - - - -	1096 7 1
Edrom, - - - -	486 3 11 ⁶
Broomhouse, - - - -	266 2 11
New Edrom, - - - -	234 2 3 ⁶
Reedyloch, - - - -	100 15 7 ⁶

A considerable number of houses at Allanton, with gardens attached, are feus granted by the proprietor of Allanbank a considerable time ago. In ancient times, there were castles at Nisbet, Blackadder, and Broomhouse. Upon the property of Kelloe there is a square of cottages called Kelloe Bastle,—which was the site of the *bastell*, or keep, in ancient times. There were several buildings of this kind in this district.

Mansion Houses.—The mansion house on the estate of Broomhouse was built by the present proprietor, Colonel Home, in 1813, on the site of the ancient castle. Several skeletons were found in digging the foundation: and a stone coffin, with an entire skeleton, was discovered several years ago, in a field adjoining to that which contains the grave of Sir Anthony de la Beauté.—The mansion house of Nisbet is a fine old building, likewise in the castellated form.—Kimmerghame House is old, but its situation on the banks of the Blackadder is beautiful. On these banks are also situated the mansions of Kelloe, and Bighouse, and Blackadder House. At Blackadder House there is a conservatory in the form of a Gothic

chapel, the frame work of which is entirely of cast iron. Part of the glass is beautifully stained. It was erected by Thomas Boswall, Esq., the late proprietor, and cost several thousand pounds. The situation of Edrom House and the parish church is very beautiful. The lands all around are in a state of high cultivation, enriched with plantations and hedge-rows; and, in the distance, there are the upland scenery of Dunse Law, Cockburn Law, and the sweep of the Lammermoor Hills, and the Cheviots.

Mills.—There are four corn-mills in the parish on the Blackadder Water,—Bighouse mill, Blackadder, Nisbet, and Kimmerghame. At Kimmerghame and Bighouse mill, there is conjoined to the corn-mill a saw-mill, where a good deal of wood is cut for rural purposes.

Paper-Mills.—There are two paper-mills on the Whitadder. That of Broomhouse is on a very extensive scale. The number of hands employed is 56, male and female; and the hours of work are ten per day. Printing-paper is chiefly manufactured. The people are healthy, sober, and every way decent in their conduct. At Allanbank paper-mill, binding boards are manufactured: and the number of hands employed is 25 for eight hours a-day. Men's wages are 14s. per week: women's, 10d. per day. The people here are equally correct in their conduct as those at the other paper-mill.—A lint-mill and a wheel-wright-mill are mentioned in the former Statistical Account; but these have been discontinued for a good many years.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish, by former Statistical Account, was, in 1733, about	1000
Catechisable persons,	800
In 1755, total amount of population,	898
In 1791,	1338
In 1801,	1355
In 1811,	1356
In 1821,	1516
In 1831, village of Allanton,	258
country part,	1177
Total,	1435

Several families emigrated this spring to Upper Canada; some from the village of Allanton, and some from the country part of the parish.

There are two insane persons maintained by the parish at a weekly allowance.

Habits of the People.—The people generally live in a very comfortable manner. They are honest, contented, sober-minded, and

well-affected to both church and state. There are not many instances of poaching in game and salmon. About forty or fifty years ago there was a good deal of smuggling in this district, of brandy, gin, teas, &c.; but now this is entirely unknown.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

The number of Imperial acres in the parish, arable,	-	-	7579
Under wood,	-	-	580
In roads,	-	-	99
farm-buildings and gentlemen's seats,	-	-	60
water, Blackadder and Whitadder,	-	-	82
			821
Total imperial acres in the parish,	-	-	8400

By Mr John Blackadder's survey, there are.

$\frac{2}{3}$ under crop,	-	-	3031 $\frac{6}{10}$
$\frac{2}{3}$ under grass,	-	-	3031 $\frac{6}{10}$
$\frac{1}{3}$ under fallow and turnip,	-	-	1515 $\frac{8}{10}$
			Acres, 7579

A considerable quantity of fir and hard-wood is cut yearly on some of the estates in the parish. On one estate the wood cut and sold for a considerable number of years past, has brought L. 300 per annum.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of land per acre is about L. 1, 5s.; the minimum price from 13s. to 15s. per acre; the best land L. 2 per acre; some very good land, L. 2, 10s. and upwards. The farms are in general large in this parish, and vary in rental from L. 400 to L. 1000. The rental of the parish at the time of the former Statistical Account was L. 6493; at present, it is about L. 15,200. The average rent for grazing a cow or an ox is about L. 4.

Husbandry.—The general length of leases is nineteen years; and the general routine of cropping is a four or five years' course. The five-course system is now more generally followed. The four-course is too severe for most kinds of lands.

The whole land in the parish is in a state of good cultivation, enclosed, and pretty well-drained; and the practice of draining is kept up. A great many improvements have lately been made on the estate of Kimmerghame, as to farm-buildings, young plantations, &c.; and on the other estates, a similar spirit of improvement and attention to the comfort of the agricultural population have been evinced.

The farm buildings are in general good, the enclosures well kept, and the woods and plantations carefully managed.

Sheep and cattle of various breeds are fed in the parish, besides those bred in it, viz. a cross between the Leicester ram and Cheviot ewe, and the north country kyloes. The practice of feeding cattle is more prevalent in this parish than that of breeding them.

Rate of Wages.—The wages of men-servants for farm purposes, are, from L. 3 to L. 5 per half-year, with board. Women's wages, with board, from L. 4 to L. 5 in the summer, and L. 2 in the winter. Boy's wages per half year, from L. 2 to L. 3. A labourer's wages, winter and summer, are 9s. per week; at some seasons, and for particular work, 10s. per week. Mason's wages 3s. per day; carpenter's 2s. 6d. without victuals. Smiths are in general paid from L. 1, 15s. to L. 3 per annum, for a pair of horses kept in shoes, and plough and harrows kept in repair.

It may be proper to contrast these rates with those that prevailed at the time of the last Statistical Account. A labourer's wages were then from 10d. to 1s. per day; mason's and carpenter's 1s. 6d.; tailor's 6d. and victuals. Male servants employed in husbandry, 50s. or L. 3 per half year, with their board; female servants from 30s. to L. 2.

Prices of Provisions.—The price of butcher meat is now, and for a considerable time past has been, from 5d. to 7d. per lb. Butter from 7d. to 8d. Cheese according to its quality, from 4d. to 6d. and 7d. In this part of the country very little butter and cheese are made. No more milch cows are kept than what are necessary for the use of the families themselves. It is more profitable, from the mode of agriculture pursued here, to buy stock than to rear it.

There are 206 work-horses in the parish; 35 riding horses and coach horses,; 25 brood mares. For these statute-labour money is paid, at the rate of 7s. 6d. for each horse, and 3s. 9d. for each brood mare. Farm-servants for whom road-money is paid, are 128 in number, the payment for each being 3s.; householders who pay road-money, are 42 in number, each paying 3s. The amount raised from this source, and applied to the keeping of the parish roads in repair, is L. 120 per annum.

It may be noticed, that the best kind of plough made in Scotland was invented by James Small, who resided in this parish.

Produce.—The total value of the raw produce raised in the parish is, as near as I have been able to estimate it, about L. 32,500 Sterling per annum.

Quarries.—There are four good freestone quarries in the parish, one of which is a sale quarry.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Dunse is the nearest market-town,—distant from this parish about three and a-half miles. Allanton is the only village in the parish,—about three miles from Edrom.

Means of Communication.—We have a regular conveyance for letters and newspapers by Dunse and Ayton. The length of the public roads in the parish, including turnpikes and parish roads, is twenty-five miles. A public coach runs between Dunse and Berwick in the summer season thrice a-week, and sometimes every lawful day. Carriers from Dunse to Berwick pass Edrom every day in the week: there is a daily coach from Dunse to Edinburgh, besides regular carriers. There is one bridge over the Whitadder, called Chirnside Bridge; and another over the Whitadder at Allanton is very much needed. There are also two bridges over the Blackadder in this parish,—one, called the Mouth Bridge, on the road from Dunse to the south Berwick road; the other at Kimmerghame. Farther, there are two wooden bridges over the Blackadder for foot-passengers.

Corn-Markets.—There is a weekly corn-market in Dunse every Wednesday. The sales are by sample; but the principal corn market is Berwick, which is held every Saturday. The corn is shipped to London, sometimes to Edinburgh. Some farmers drive their grain to Dunbar and Dalkeith, and frequently lime is brought back by the returning carts. Sheep and cattle are mostly driven south to Morpeth; but some to the Dalkeith and Edinburgh markets. There are fairs, besides, in the neighbourhood for the sale of cattle, and there is a monthly market at Coldstream.

*Ecclesiastical State.**—“The present church of Edrom was built in 1732, and has since been repaired. It is a long building, a gallery at each end and a gallery in front of the pulpit, and another gallery immediately behind the pulpit. The gallery in front is over the burying vault of the Kelloe family, the gallery behind

* “The lands and church of Ederham with Nisbet were granted to St Cuthbert's monks by Gospatrick Earl of Dunbar, and confirmed in 1139 by David I. In 1150 the donation of Gospatrick was confirmed by Robert Bishop of St Andrew's, in the presence of the Synod at Berwick town, and it was also confirmed by Bishop Richard, who ruled the see of St Andrew's from 1163 to 1177. Richard also granted in favour of the prior of Coldingham the investiture of the church of Ederham. In the ancient *taxatio* the church of Ederham was rated at no less than 100 marks. Ederham was, of course, a vicarage till the Reformation, and William de Chatton, *vicaire de l'église de Ederham*, swore fealty to Edward I. 24th August 1296, at Berwicktown.”—Chalmers' Caledonia, Vol. ii. p. 357.

the pulpit is over the Blackader burying vault. Robert Blackader, first Archbishop of Glasgow, whose family derived its surname from Blackader in Ederham parish, built a vaulted isle to the ancient church."—Redpath's *Border History*, p. 473.

Part of this ancient vault is still standing. On the south-west corner of the Blackadder aisle, over which is the gallery already mentioned, there is a stone with this inscription: "Founded by Robert Blackader, Archbishop of Glasgow, in the year 1499." On the south-east corner of the same aisle, there is a stone with this inscription: "Repaired by S. John Home of Blackader, in the year 1696." These two corners are evidently much older than the rest of the aisle, which probably was built and connected with the church in the manner already mentioned, when the church was built in 1732, or subsequently.

"During the minority of James V., the most murderous contests for the lands of Blackader continued between the Blackaders of Blackader, and the Homes, which finally ended in the favour of the Homes, by violence against right."—Chalmers' *Caledonia*.

The church may accommodate about 450 persons. A range of stables has been built on the north side of the church-yard, for the accommodation of the horses of heritors and tenants during the time of divine service. It is remarkable that in this church-yard, as in almost all the churchyards of the neighbourhood, all the interments are on the south side of the church; and none on the north side. There seems to have been a prejudice of old against burying on the north side of a church.

The old manse and glebe were situated near the church, and still more near to the mansion-house of Edrom. But the proprietor of Edrom, Mr Breimer, being desirous to have them removed to a farther distance from his house, effected an excambion in 1760. The present manse was then built, and the repairs since that time have been trifling. The present glebe is about the same extent as the old,—namely, ten acres. The exchange was satisfactory to Mr William Redpath, who was then the minister of the parish, and it was gone about, so far as I have been able to learn, in the usual way; but there must have been a mistake; for the old glebe is of as good land as any in the parish or county, and one acre of it is worth three acres of the present. The present glebe was at the time of the exchange a moor covered with heath, with a swamp at the lower end; and though it has since

been much improved, a different equivalent ought to have been obtained.

The stipend is 16 chalders, half oatmeal and half barley, payable according to the fiars prices of the county. In 1755, the stipend was L. 76, 14s. 5d. : in 1798, L. 120, 11s. 6d.; at the time of the former Statistical Account L. 110 Sterling, including the value which was put on the glebe.

There are no chapels of ease in this parish; and there is no need of any,—though the church is very inconveniently placed for the parish, and by no means in a central situation. Divine service at the parish church is generally well attended. The proprietors are mostly resident, and we have a most respectable tenantry. The average number of communicants is about 350. Of the proportion of the parishioners belonging to the Established church and to the Dissenters, no precise account can be given, because a considerable number of the latter belong to the shifting class of farm-servants. I would conjecture, however, that the number of Dissenting heads of families may be about 55.*

The heritors and their families are almost all annual subscribers to Societies for religious and charitable purposes; and generally in the summer season we have a collection in the church for some religious or charitable object. Our collection last year for the Highland Schools under the management of the General Assembly was L. 14, 18s. Sterling.

Education.—There are three schools in the parish,—the parochial and two private schools. The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary, a very good house, and an allowance in lieu of garden. His school-fees probably do not exceed L. 5 a-year.

One of the private schools is at Allanton. The Blackadder family give a school-house and a dwelling-house for the teacher, and a salary of L. 10 per annum. The other private school is at Kimmerghame. The proprietor of Kimmerghame gives a school and a dwelling-house and garden for the master, and a salary of L. 10 per annum. The parish school has on an average about 45 scholars; the

* There was, till within these few years, when it was ploughed up, an old burying-ground on the estate of Kimmerghame, where there is also a field, called the Chapel-field. There was likewise a chapel on the estate of East Nisbet, subsequently called Allanbank, now Bighouse, near the spot where the large meeting of Covenanters formerly mentioned was held. Some of the foundation stones have been lately ploughed up, but I have not been able to get any more authentic particulars about it. There are likewise on the same estate the remains of a camp: but the field has been so long under the plough that the form is not very perceptible.

private schools about 70 each.* The same branches are taught in all the schools—Latin, Greek when required, mathematics, and French; together with the ordinary branches of education, English reading and English grammar, writing, arithmetic, and geography.

The school fees are nearly the same in all. The wages for scholars under seven years of age is 10s. per annum, or 2s. 6d. per quarter; under ten years, 12s. per annum; above ten years, 16s. per annum, or 4s. per quarter. The wages advance after this according to the number of branches taught.

There are none in this parish who are not sent to school; and, from the situation of the parochial and private schools, no part of the parish is at so great a distance from school as to make it any hardship for the children to attend regularly in summer and winter.

Libraries.—There are two or three small libraries in the parish for young people.

Charitable and other Institutions.—Some of the parishioners are connected with Friendly Societies in Dunse and elsewhere; but this mode of obtaining assistance, in case of sickness and old age, is not so much attended to as it ought.

Savings Bank.—There is a savings bank in Dunse for this and the neighbouring parishes. The deposits a few years ago were considerable, but they have fallen off to a few pounds a year. One reason for this falling off may be the reduced rate of interest. Five per cent. was the rate of interest given, till within these two or three years, when it was reduced to two and a-half per cent. Another reason may be the fall in the prices of labour.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 30,—at the time of the former Statistical Account, it was 12. The allowance to each at an average, is 2s. per week. The assessment is about L. 150 per annum: at the time of the former Statistical Account, it was L. 10. The collections at the church, and from the letting of a hearse and the use of a mortcloth, have amounted, for a great many years past, to L. 25 or L. 30 per annum. The collection at the church door has of late, however, considerably fallen off, in consequence of the assessment. The sum of L. 5 a-year is paid to the kirk-session for the behoof of the industrious poor on the estate of Nisbet,—being

* The number of scholars at the parish school is necessarily much smaller than at the private schools, from the situation of the parish school, which is at a corner of the parish, and hemmed in by the river Whitadder.

the produce of a sum of money left by the late Mrs Carre of Nisbet for that purpose. In all, the sum expended in the support of the poor in this parish is about L. 175 or L. 180 per annum. It will be seen, therefore, that the increase of the assessment during last forty years has greatly exceeded that of the population.

Inns.—There are three inns in the village of Allanton, and one at Mountpleasant, on the estate of Kimmerghame. They have decidedly a bad effect on the habits and morals of the people.

Fuel.—Coals are the fuel used in the parish. They are brought from the county of Northumberland, a distance of thirteen miles; and from Eyemouth, a distance of about ten miles. The coals got at Eyemouth are brought by sea from Newcastle and from Fife.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Agriculture in all its branches has been vastly improved since the time of the last Statistical Account. There are now no infield and outfield lands,—no moor lands set apart for the casting of turf for fuel,—no swamps—no ague. A considerable quantity of land has been planted: and the parish roads have been greatly improved, particularly of late years. In 1759, the first act was passed anent turnpike roads and toll-bars in Berwickshire. The next act of Parliament on that subject was in 1787, to which there was great opposition. The general mode of carriage by all the parish roads at that time was on horseback, with panniers. Such a thing is now never seen, except, indeed, in the case of muggers, who still traverse this part of the country in gangs during the summer season.* The roads are so good now in all this part of Berwickshire, that a ton and upwards is the usual load of carriers drawn by one horse, and no person grumbles at the toll-bars. Two horses, one in the trams of the cart, and one in front, are generally employed by the farmers.

To show the change of times, I may mention, that I have in my possession the valuation of one of the largest properties in the parish, proposed to be sold in 1748, the free rental of which at that time was L. 320 Sterling. The rental of the same lands at present is about L. 2500 Sterling.

* A head constable has been appointed lately for the county,—one of whose duties is to prevent the itinerating of muggers in the county: and since this appointment very few muggers have been seen in this quarter.

November 1834.