

PARISH OF TRANENT.

PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND
TWEEDDALE.

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I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE etymology of the word Tranent, or, as it was anciently written, Travernent, is involved in some obscurity; but we must reject, as altogether fanciful, its derivation from the circumstance of a party of Danes having landed on the opposite coast of Fife, and being repulsed by the natives, who exultingly exclaimed, Tranent! Tranent! "Let them swim over." Neither are there any better grounds for attributing it to a corruption of the word "Trinity." The explanation of Chalmers* is much more satisfactory, that it took its name from its natural situation. The oldest part of the village stood along the edge of a ravine, once finely wooded, and in the ancient British language, *Trev-er-ment* is said to signify a village on a ravine or river, which is exactly descriptive of its site,—the ravine or glen, through which a small stream runs, being immediately to the west of the oldest houses.

Boundaries and Extent.—The parish is bounded on the north, by the Frith of Forth; on the east, by the parishes of Gladsmuir and Pencaitland; on the south, by Ormiston and Cranstoun; and on the west, by Inveresk and Prestonpans. Its greatest length from north-east to south-west is about 5 miles, and its extreme breadth, 3 miles. Its area is about 9 square miles, or 5464 acres, 1 rood, 16 falls imperial. Its former extent was much greater, as will be noticed under its Civil History.

Topographical Appearance.—The surface of the ground slopes gradually, with gentle undulations from the southern boundary of the parish, towards the sea;—its greatest elevation being about 320 feet above the level of the Firth of Forth. The parish is

* Caledonia, Vol. ii. p. 523.

not now well wooded, the fine trees which formerly existed at the Palace of Seton, the towers of Elphingstone and Falside, and the Heugh of Tranent, having in a great measure fallen to decay, or been cut down. The trees of St Germans are now in the best preservation of any in the parish, and some of them of considerable age. The extent of coast little exceeds 2 miles; at Cockenzie, it is guarded by a dike of greenstone, running nearly east and west, and the sea recedes but a short distance from the rocks. To the east of Portseton, there is another whinstone dike, more to the north, running nearly in the same direction, and within it, there is a considerable extent of flat sand, dry at low water, while the beach contains a beautiful mixture of fine sand and sea shells

Hydrography.—There is no river in this parish, and only two or three trifling rivulets; the greatest discharge of water into the sea is from the coal level, commenced by the Earls of Winton in the seventeenth century, and subsequently carried forward, nearly two miles further, into the basin of the Tranent coal-field, by the Messrs Cadells; but its extension does not seem to have materially increased the quantity of water. Several mills are thus driven, which have the peculiar advantage that no drought during summer makes any perceptible difference in the volume of the water, and from its high temperature, it is not subject to be frozen in winter.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The parish of Tranent, through its whole extent, contains the usual coal measures, or the ordinary strata connected with the coal formation, but the regularity of the stratification is dislocated and intersected by trap or whinstone dikes, by clay dikes, and other disturbing causes, denominated "troubles" by the colliers.

As in many other places, the strata seem to have been originally deposited in the form of a basin, and afterwards to have been altered by the unexplained convulsions which have taken place in our globe. The principal basin at present existing has its lowest point or trough a little to the west of the farm-house of Carlarverock, nearly a mile south of the village of Tranent; from this the coal seams rise in all directions, and with a much more rapid inclination as they approach towards the verge of the basin, which may be about half a mile in some places, and in others a mile from the centre point, in regard to the uppermost seam, and at greater distances as to the others. Beyond this basin, to the west, north, and east, there are other seams of coal found, but whether they

are the continuation of seams lower than those worked at Carlaveroch, or the same seams cast down and altered, has not been exactly ascertained. At Longniddry Dean, two coal seams crop out, dipping north-west, which looks as if they were connected with the principal basin, and the limestone generally found below the coal formation does not appear till beyond the boundary of this parish.

The first of the trap dikes intersecting the strata occurs to the north of Portseton; the second at Cockenzie, about 20 yards broad, where it forms a barrier against the sea, and runs from north-west to south-east; the third trap dike, not quite so broad, lies about half a mile further south, running nearly east and west from the Garleton Hills to Seton Castle and Prestongrange Harbour, which it may probably connect with the masses of trap at Arthur's Seat, Hawkhill, and Inchkeith. About half a mile to the south of the second trap dike, there is a broad clay dike, about 140 feet in width, which throws the strata about 16 fathoms up to the south. The ground here rises more rapidly, and most of the upper seams crop out. From this line they descend to form the basin at Carlaveroch. There are, besides, many dikes and faults, especially about Kingslaw, which it would be tedious and out of place to narrate.

Such being a general description of the geological structure of the parish, we may now give a more minute account of the coal measures or strata themselves at Carlaveroch, the centre of the basin.

The upper or main coal seam, between 6 and 9 feet thick, is of good quality, though rather soft, and is about 37 fathoms or 222 feet from the surface, at the lowest point in the basin. The second seam, which is improperly termed the splint coal seam, is about 5 feet thick, and varies from 8 to 14 fathoms below the main coal seam. The third seam, or 3 feet-coal, is from 5 to 8 fathoms below the second seam, but has only been worked near the crop, where it approaches the surface. The fourth seam, or 4 feet coal, is still lower, being between 3 and 4 fathoms below the third seam, and is reputed to be of excellent quality; but as it has not been wrought, except near the crop, where the quality is inferior, its merits cannot be said to be ascertained. About 16 fathoms below the 4 feet coal, there is also a 5 feet coal, but it has not been worked in the parish, except at the crop to a small extent. Below these, in the Carlaveroch basin, it is probable that other seams may exist at a greater depth, but they have never hitherto been explored. A thin seam of parrot

or cannel-coal, so much esteemed for gas-works, has lately been found, and is now worked in the lands of Falside : it is supposed to be the seam of coal next to the limestone.

The geologist is referred for farther and more scientific information to a very able paper, "on the Mid-Lothian and East-Lothian coal-fields," by David Milne, Esq. recently published in the 14th Vol. Part I. of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh,—where the learned author has, with admirable industry, brought together a great mass of facts, furnished by practical men, and illustrates the important conclusions he has drawn from them by valuable plans and sections.

From the seams of coal cropping out, or coming to the surface, in many places round Tranent, there can be no doubt that this invaluable mineral must have been known to the earliest inhabitants of the district, and we are therefore not surprised to find written evidence of coal having been wrought here as early as in any other place. Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, Vol. ii. p. 400, notices a grant by Seyer de Quincy, Lord of the manor of Tranent, to the monks of Newbattle, about the year 1202, of a coal-pit and quarry on their lands of Preston, which then formed part of the parish of Tranent, and, from the cropping out of the seams of coal, must probably have been situated in part of the present parish of Tranent. From the thirteenth century downwards, we have abundant evidence from numerous charters, of the working of coal in the neighbourhood of Tranent, and in the middle of the sixteenth century, (1547), the workings seem to have extended a considerable distance underground, as Patten, the graphic narrator of Protector Somerset's invasion of Scotland, gives an account of many inhabitants of the district taking refuge in the coal-pits a few days before the disastrous battle of Pinkie. The English, finding it impossible to dislodge them, closed up the pits which gave air to the workings, and, placing fires at the entrance, endeavoured either to drive them out by other apertures, or to suffocate the miserable creatures within; and the narrator coolly remarks, "forasmuch as we found not that they dyd the tone, we thought it for certain thei wear sure of the too-ther : wee had doon that we came for, and so lefte them."*

At this period, the mode of relieving the coal workings from water, was by what was called "damming and laving," that is, having followed the seam of coal as far as they could for water,

* The Expedition into Scotland of Edward Duke of Somerset, by W. Patten, Londoner, page 44. Published in *Fragments of Scottish History*.

they made a dam or bank, rising above the level of the orifice, or of a ditch cut from it; and by laving the water over this bank, it gradually escaped from the mouth of the working. A series of these dams could be made one after another, and thus the workings, with considerable labour, freed from water; but this mode must have been very hazardous, as any injury to a dam would allow the water to flow back on the lower workings, while no considerable growth of water could be overcome.

In the course of time, a much more efficient mode of draining coal-works by day-levels was introduced; but we are ignorant of the precise date at which they were commenced. The day-level is a mine carried forward from the bed of a stream, or the lowest ground that can be found, directly into the heart of the strata, without following the seams of coal. This mine, of course, can be made the means of draining all the coal strata lying above it, and if the "level" or water-course be kept clear, effectually relieves the workings from water.

The family of Seyton having obtained a grant of the lands of Tranent from Robert the Bruce, for their attachment to his cause, seem to have devoted much attention to their coal-workings; and from the preface to "Satan's Invisible World," by Sinclair, we learn, that the Earl of Winton of that day had run free levels, for several miles below ground, to drain his coal-works, and had excited the admiration of the writer, by "cutting impregnable rocks with more difficulty than Hannibal cutted the Alps," by "deep pits and air-holes" and "floods of water running through the labyrinths for several miles."

This level, commenced probably about the middle of the seventeenth century, still assists in draining the coal, but it has been extended nearly two miles further than the Earls of Winton carried it, and now reaches the heart of the coal-field. Since the application of the power of steam, this mode of draining coal-works has of course been rendered less essential; but still, where the inclination of the surface admits, it is the most convenient mode of relieving the strata above it, and for those below, it is only required to raise the water to the mine in place of to the surface. In addition to the main level, which runs in a southerly direction, there were two other levels made in former times, the Heugh level, a branch of the main level, and the Bankton level, which discharges, at the surface, near the mansion-house of Bankton.

The only other improvement in regard to coal-works which it is

incumbent on us to notice, is in the carriage of the coal. In older times, the coals were almost invariably carried on horseback, as the state of the roads afforded little facility to wheeled carriages. In 1719, after the attainder of the Earl of Winton, the York-Buildings Company of London purchased many of the forfeited estates, and they seem to have begun without delay to introduce some of the southern improvements. A tram-road or wooden waggon way was formed from their coal-works near Tranent to the harbour of Port Seton, in the year 1722, by which the coals were conveyed to the salt-pans and shipping: this seems to have been the first approximation to the principle of railways, which in our own day are effecting such changes on the country, as well as on the conveyance of passengers and goods. This old wooden waggon way, (each waggon being drawn by one horse, and conveying two tons of coal,) was continued till 1815, when an iron railway was substituted in its place by the Messrs Cadells.

The mode of raising coals where the seam lay within a few fathoms of the surface, was formerly by means of women called "bearers," who carried about $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. on their backs, and ascended the pit by a bad wooden stair. In the deeper pits, the coals were carried to the bottom of the shaft by women, and then raised in wooden tubs by means of a "*gin*" moved by horses. This mode of raising the coal still continues, except where a *gig* or small steam engine is substituted, which performs the work with more regularity and speed; below ground also, where the inclination of the coal seam admits of it, the coals are now frequently drawn by horses on iron railways, or pushed forwards by men or boys, who are called "putters."

In the coal-workings of this parish, there is fortunately no fire damp, which causes such dreadful accidents. Foul air often occurs in certain states of the atmosphere, or where the ventilation is incomplete; but this never requires the precaution of Sir Humphry Davy's lamp, and the extinction of the light, with oppression on the lungs, are sufficient warnings for the miner to retire.

In surveying the coal-field in the parish of Tranent, it is difficult to imagine that it has been so long wrought,—so large a quantity taken from it, and still so much of the principal seams remaining. In the Cess-roll of the county of Haddington for the year 1653, the Earl of Winton's yearly land rent in the parish of Tranent is estimated at L.11,591, 13s. 4d., while his casual rent, which must have been derived in a great measure from coal, is rat-

ed so high as L. 3333, 6s. 8d. At the time of the purchase of the Winton estates in 1719 by the York-Buildings Company, the coal and salt-works yielded above L. 1000 per annum. According to the former Statistical Account of the parish, the produce of Elphingstone Colliery in 1790, was 6053 tons, 15 cwt.; in 1791, it was 8348 tons, 10 cwt. At present, the produce of the different coal-works of Tranent, Elphingstone, Birsley, and St Germain's, must be about 60,000 tons annually, a large proportion of which is shipped at the new harbour at Cockenzie, and a considerable quantity exported to foreign parts.

Besides the consumption of coal for ordinary purposes, a number of persons have long been employed in this parish, in converting coal into cinders or coke for malting or drying grain. The process of making cinders, as they are here called, is first to form a large fire, and when the mass is completely ignited, and the smoke driven off, the fire is then covered up and extinguished, leaving the purified cinders in a fit state for the maltster. An improved mode has lately been adopted in other parts of the country for forming coke, by burning the coal in small furnaces where a small portion of air is admitted, and the mass is more completely fused; but this improvement has not been hitherto adopted in this parish.

From what is above stated of the coal measures existing throughout the parish, it will be inferred, that freestone is generally to be found at a moderate depth. In several places, quarries producing sandstone well suited for building have been opened, though the quality near the surface is rather soft.

The whinstone or trap dike, intersecting the parish about half a mile from the sea, affords excellent stone for the roads, and has been wrought in various places, but it is much inferior for that purpose to the whinstone obtained from the Garleton Hills, which, on being pulverized, becomes a dry sand, while the Tranent whinstone becomes mud. This superiority has induced those having the charge of the great post-road to bring the materials for its repair from a quarry behind Huntingdon, six miles to the eastward, although the carriage of it is thus greatly lengthened.

Hitherto, no other mineral strata or veins have been discovered. Near the trap dike at Cockenzie, some faint traces of ironstone are visible, but of no value. † When excavating the sandstone to form the new harbour at Cockenzie, organic remains of fossil trees were found, and at Tranent there are abundant specimens of plants

of the Fern tribe, in perfect preservation, in the roof of the coal seams, nearly in contact with the sandstone.

Soil.—There is much diversity of soil in this parish, from the sandy links, which extend along the sea coast, to the old moor of Tranent, part of which was only reclaimed thirty years ago. In the immediate neighbourhood of the sea, the land is very light and sandy, though much of it has been greatly improved of late years. Immediately to the south of the Links, is a belt of excellent land of loamy quality, about half a mile broad; there then intervenes, from Bankton to Rigganhead, a morass from 15 to 20 feet deep to the subsoil, but of late years this has been much improved. Round the village of Tranent, the land is of rich loamy quality, with the exception of the old moor to the east of the town, which is clayey, but has of late been greatly improved by draining. In the upper districts of the parish, towards Elphingstone and Falside, the land is of good quality. There is no gravelly soil in the parish.

Zoology.—There are no rare animals in the parish, nor is it remarkable for breeding any species of cattle of peculiar quality, the attention of the farmers having been chiefly given to the raising of wheat and other grain.

A quantity of fish is brought into the village of Cockenzie from the Frith of Forth as well as the German Ocean; but the neighbouring coast is chiefly remarkable for the fineness of the oysters, as well as the crabs and lobsters, which are caught in great abundance during the season; and it is a curious fact, that two years ago an untouched bed of oysters was discovered near Portseton, which, for a considerable time, yielded that shell-fish of a size and quality rarely obtained.

The ordinary fish caught by the villagers are, the cod, haddock, flounder, and whiting, not unfrequently the sole and the mackerel, and more rarely the skate, halibut, &c.

Close to the coast, the prevailing west winds, from the sea and the sandy soil, prevent the growth of trees; but at a short distance, where the soil becomes deeper, all kinds of forest trees appear to thrive remarkably well, except the fir-tribe. The soil seems most congenial to the plane, the elm, and the oak.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The parish of Tranent was formerly of much greater extent, embracing the whole of the present parish of Prestonpans, as well as considerable parts of the parishes of Pencaitland and Gladsmuir, and the old parish of Seton was annexed to it after the Reforma-

tion. The parish of Prestonpans was disjoined from it in 1606, on a new church being built by Mr John Davidson, a very eminent person, then minister of the district: and Hamilton of Preston provided the glebe. *

The lands of Winton were also disjoined from the parish of Tranent in 1649, but in 1681 they were reunited to Tranent, and in 1715, after the forfeiture of the Winton family, they were finally annexed to Pencaitland. †

In 1695, the north-east part of the parish of Tranent was annexed to the new parish of Gladsmuir, which was formed from portions of the parishes of Aberlady, Haddington, and Tranent.

Till the commencement of last century, the lands of this parish were almost entirely in the possession of one or two distinguished families.

The most ancient family in this district seems to have been that of Saytun or Seton, who obtained a charter of lands in East Lothian from David I. who began his reign in 1124. In the reign of William the Lion, who ascended the throne in 1165, they obtained a charter of the lands of Seton, Winton, and Winchburgh.

Another distinguished nobleman of this period was Robert de Quincy, a Northamptonshire baron, who acquired the extensive manor of Tranent from William the Lion, and was made his Justiciary. His large estates afterwards came into the possession of his grand-daughters, three co-heiresses, and their husbands having espoused the cause of Edward II., their lands were forfeited on the success of Robert the Bruce, who conferred them on his nephew, Alexander de Seton. This family became one of the most influential and opulent in Scotland, and were connected by marriage with all the principal families in the country. The families of Gordon and Eglinton were in fact Setons, the heiresses of these houses having married younger sons of the Seton family. They became Lords Seton in the reign of James I., and in 1600 were elevated to the rank of Earls of Wintoun. They were always opposed to the Reformation, and, after possessing property in the parish of Tranent for 600 years, they were deprived of it by forfeiture in 1715, from their devoted attachment to the Stuart family. At this period, the Winton estates, along with many of the other forfeited lands, were purchased by the York-Buildings Company, and after their bankruptcy were sold in 1779, when they were acquired by various individuals.

* Chalmers' *Caledonia*, ii. 525, and Thomson's Act. Parl. 18 Parl. Jas. VI.

† *Ibid.* ii. 529, and Thomson's Act. Parl.

The lands of Elphinstone were held feu of the Winton family, and in the fifteenth century belonged to the family of Johnstone. About the middle of the sixteenth century, they were acquired by the Primroses of Carrington, ancestors of the Earls of Rosebery, and are now possessed by Mr Callander and Mr Elphinstone.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners, according to their valuations in the parish at present, are Mr Cadell of Tranent; the Earl of Wemyss; Sir George Grant Suttie, Bart; Mr Burn Callander; Mr Hunter; Mr Elphinstone; Colonel Macdowall; Mr Anderson of St Germain's, and Mr Fowler.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers, of late years, have been very regularly kept, and exist from 1615: but the first fifty years are very imperfect; and from 1688 to 1720, the registers are missing, and appear to have been lent and not returned.

Antiquities.—There are no very remarkable antiquities in this parish. A Druidical circle of stones formerly existed on the west side of Longniddry Dean, near the sea; but in the course of making some agricultural improvements it was unceremoniously destroyed.

The old collegiate church of Seton is the finest monument of antiquity in the parish, and is an interesting specimen of Gothic architecture, built in good taste. The date of the oldest part is uncertain, but it must have been previous to the year 1390, for in the beginning of the reign of Robert III. Catherine Sinclair of Hermanston, the widow of Lord William Seton, “biggit ane yle on the south syd of the parochie kirk of Seytoun of fine astler; pendit and theiket it wyth stane, wyth ane sepulture thairin qubair sche lylis, and foundit ane preist to serve thair perpetuallie.”* Considerable additions were subsequently made to this church by the Seton family, many of whom expended large sums in decorating the mausoleum of their race, and there still exist several monuments, which appear at one time to have been very richly ornamented. In 1544, the church was much destroyed by the English, during the invasion of the Earl of Hertford, who “tuk away the bellis and organis, and other tursable (moveable) thingis, and pat thame in thair schippis, and brint the tymber-wark within the said kirk.”† It afterwards suffered severely in succeeding revolutions; but it is pleasing to find that this interesting and beautiful remain is now

* Maitland's History of the House of Seytoun, continued by Viscount Kingston, printed by the Bannatyne Club, p. 29.

† Ibid. p. 43.

carefully preserved by the present proprietor, the Earl of Wemyss.

The old Palace of Seton, with its fine gardens and terrace-walks, which the monarchs of Scotland and their court in former times delighted to visit, are now no more, the remains of the former having been pulled down by a late proprietor, to build a modern and not very elegant mansion, while the policy and walks have suffered the necessary consequence of being detached from the abode of luxury and wealth. When King James VI. was on his way to England to take possession of the throne on the 4th April 1603, on his train approaching Seton, he met the funeral of the first Earl of Winton, one of the most faithful adherents of his unfortunate mother; the King halted his retinue, and sat down on the south-west turret at the corner of the garden, which is still quite entire, and adjoining the present road, till the funeral of this old supporter of his family moved past.

The old tower or fortalice of Falsyde is also of considerable antiquity. It was formerly in the possession of the Winton family, and probably given off to a junior branch. It offered some resistance to the army of Protector Somerset on the morning of the battle of Pinky in 1547, and was then burnt; but the strength of the mason-work, the tower being arched at the first story, as well as on the top of the building, prevented entire destruction. Additions of a later date, but of a less massive structure, appear subsequently to have been made, and, as very frequently happened, the family of Fawside of that ilk seem to have removed to a more modern mansion when peaceable times arrived, at the union of the crowns,—as there now exists in the immediate vicinity of the old castle, a house with the initials L. F., L. L. above one of the windows, and the date 1618. In the stair of the oldest part of the castle, is a curious place of concealment, and the old dovecot at a short distance has another small recess, with an ancient grated door. The view of the Frith of Forth and the waving line of sea coast from this spot, with the rich and varied fields of Mid-Lothian stretched beneath, is perhaps one of the finest that can be found in the vicinity.

This parish has been the scene of some interesting historical events in former times. Between Tranent and Falsyde, a desperate engagement took place with the Scotch and English cavalry, the day before the battle of Pinky in 1547, when the Scots were overpowered, and lost 1800 men, which probably contributed in no slight degree to the disastrous result on the next day, the

10th of September, when 14,000 Scots are said by Patten to have been slain in the flight.

The scene of the battle of Preston on 21st September 1745 lies about half a mile to the north of the church of Tranent. The King's army, amounting to about 3000, was drawn up nearly parallel to, and a little to the east of the present line of railway from the coal-pits to Cockenzie. The excellent Colonel Gardiner was stationed with his cavalry on the right flank, and was killed when endeavouring to rally a small body of infantry near the west end of the village now called Meadow Mill, but which was not in existence at the period of the battle. Colonel Gardiner thus met an honourable death within a quarter of a mile of Bankton, his own residence. His servant was unable to convey him thither, as the flight was in that direction; but it is said, having borrowed clothes from the miller at the neighbouring mill, he conveyed his dying master to the manse at Tranent, where he soon after expired, and was buried in the west end of the Church; but no tablet marks the grave of this gallant soldier and admirable Christian.

The slain were buried near a farm-house called Thorntree Mains, erected since the battle; and towards the close of last century, in making some drains to the north-east of the farm-steading, the workmen came upon the bodies, when the clothes were said to be so entire, that they could distinguish between the royalists and the rebels. The military chest of the royal army was found at the house of Cockenzie, and was there divided by the unfortunate Charles Stuart.

A few coins, of the reigns of James V. and Mary, were discovered in 1828, while making improvements on the post road to the west of Tranent, and might probably have been concealed there about the time of the battle of Pinkie in 1547. One or two cannon balls have also been found in the fields near Cockenzie, which, in all likelihood, were among the few that were discharged at the disastrous battle of Preston.

There is a massive square tower at Elphingstone, said to have been built about the year 1300, and a modern house was added to it in 1600, which is still inhabited, and was formerly surrounded by very fine trees, but they are now all cut down.

The only mansion-house in the parish, inhabited by a proprietor, is St Germans, the seat of David Anderson, Esq. which had formerly been an establishment of the Knights Templars, but after

their suppression was bestowed by James IV. on the King's College of Aberdeen.

III.—POPULATION.

Until the middle of last century, the greater part of the population of this parish, consisting of colliers and salters, were little better than slaves, being bound to their works for life, and after having engaged in them after the years of puberty, were not permitted to leave their employment, unless the trade was given up. This cruel practice was happily done away in 1775, but the evil effects of it were not so easily overcome. A class thus nurtured in bondage, enjoying little intercourse with others, and their religious instruction not much attended to, could hardly have been expected to keep pace with the civilization of the country. The vice of drunkenness spread its pernicious influence very widely among them, and though families frequently make about L. 2 per week, they rarely lay by any of their wages, and have not their dwelling-houses so comfortably furnished as the farm-servants and labourers, who do not earn half the amount.

Abstract of the population of the parish of Tranent at 25th June 1821 and 1831 :—

	1821.	1831.
Number of families,		
employed in agriculture,	786	816
in trade,	180	176
all others,	467	598
houses inhabited,	189	42
building,	614	740
uninhabited,	2	3
males,	16	52
females,	1676 } 3412	1765 } 3620
	1736 }	1855 }

The number of seamen at Davis' Straits, not included in the census of 1831, was 30, making the net population of the parish 3650.

Ages in June 1831.

	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
Under 5,	283	255	From 40 to 50,	145	171
From 5 to 10,	266	218	50 to 60,	110	140
10 to 15,	208	174	60 to 70,	91	127
15 to 20,	151	165	70 to 80,	36	45
20 to 30,	210	229	80 to 90,	12	13
30 to 40,	166	200	90 to 100,	3	0

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards is about 15,—of whom there are 2 having rentals between L. 2000 and L. 3000 per annum; 2 between L. 1500 and L. 2000; 4 between L. 500 and L. 1000; 5 between L. 100 and L. 500; and 2 between L. 50 and L. 100.

Character and Habits of the People.—Among a population of colliers, it cannot be expected that the habits of the people should be cleanly; and the injurious practice of women working in the pits as bearers, (now happily on the decline with the married females,) tends to render the houses of colliers most uncomfortable on their return from their labours, and to foster many evils which a neat cleanly home would go far to lessen. Colliers, from their high wages, generally partake of the best butcher-meat, and may be said to live well, but unfortunately they indulge very freely in ardent spirits,—that bane of our working population.

From the above remarks, it is evident that the mass of the people cannot be said to be intellectual, moral, or religious. There are, however, several marked exceptions; and it is to be hoped, that the present exertions making for the diffusion of religious knowledge in the parish may, by the blessing of God, have a favourable effect on the character of the inhabitants.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The whole parish is cultivated or occasionally in tillage, with the exception of about 50 acres of links along the sea-shore,—which could not be added profitably to the cultivated land; and with the exception also of about 100 imperial acres under wood, chiefly about the mansion-houses of Seton and St Germain's. A large common in the neighbourhood of Tranent was finally divided and improved in 1804, and has since been under cultivation.

Rent.—The average rent of land to the north of the village of Tranent may be said to be from L. 3, 10s., to L. 4 per Scots acre, and to the south of Tranent, where it is poorer, about L. 1, 10s., to L. 2 per Scots acre, or one-fifth less than each of these sums per imperial acre. The grazing of an ox may be reckoned at L. 6 per half-year.

The valued rent of the parish in the county books is L. 10,781, 9s. 1d. Scots, and the present real rent may be nearly L. 12,000, exclusive of minerals, which may yield about L. 4000.

Wages.—The rate of wages is from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per day for farm-servants, and from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d. for artisans.

Husbandry.—The general character of the husbandry, particularly in the lower parts of the parish, and in the better parts of the higher districts, has been of the most approved and modern kind. All kinds of grain have been grown; but perhaps the culture of wheat has been carried to too great an extent generally through the county.

There is a considerable difference in climate between the lower and upper parts of the parish,—the crops being a week or ten days earlier in the land to the north of Tranent than they are to the south, which is above 200 feet higher. Draining has been generally practised with much advantage, and of late years great benefit has arisen from the introduction of tile-draining. As an instance of the effect of draining, the land, which in 1745 separated the two armies, was described as an impassable morass, but it now bears good crops along its whole extent. Tile-draining is still in the act of being vigorously carried on, and experience every year proves more strongly the advantages to be derived from it.

The ordinary duration of leases is for the period of nineteen years, and the stipulations are generally of an equitable nature between landlord and tenant.

The state of the farm-buildings is generally good, and the parish is, upon the whole, well enclosed with hedges and ditches, though this important part of agriculture might with advantage admit of more extension.

The principal improvement which has been made since the last Statistical Account, is the cultivation of all the arable part of the links near the sea, and the whole of Tranent moor. By this means, above 300 Scots acres have been brought under culture and enclosed.

Quarries and Mines.—There are several sandstone quarries in the parish adapted for building, though too soft to bear long exposure to the atmosphere without injury. The trap dikes also, described under “Mineralogy,” afford good materials for the roads.

The extensive coal mines of the parish have already been pretty fully described under Mineralogy. It is only necessary to add, that about 300 males, 100 females and children, are generally employed at them.

The mode of working the coal strata is that usually adopted, namely, “stoop and room,” or a sufficient number of pillars of coal left to support the roof. Few horses have as yet been used, the baskets of coals being pushed by men along iron railways below ground, to the bottom of the pit, where they are raised by a horse gin or steam power. Most of the modern improvements in mining have been introduced, and of late years some of the pits have been “tubbed,” or cased round with cast iron segments which form a cylinder. The operation is performed thus: A “wedging crib” or circle formed of pieces of oak is laid upon the hard stratum, the

cast iron segments are then carefully placed on it, and a thin piece of fir-wood is put betwixt every joint. After all the segments required are built round the sides of the pit, and the whole kept down by a building of stone above, wedges are driven into the joints of the segments until the whole is made perfectly water tight; the water being thus prevented from getting out of the porous strata and escaping down the pit. In former times, this was attained more rudely by casing the pit with wood; behind which, fine clay was carefully puddled.

From the numerous old coal pits in the western parts of the parish, and the breadth and number of the roads in that direction, it is probable that the greater part of the supply of coals for Edinburgh, was derived from this quarter in former times.

Fisheries.—The inhabitants of the villages of Cockenzie and Portseton, amounting to about 700, are almost wholly engaged in fishing. Their boats are all open, without any deck, but of the finest construction, and the largest class: they are suited for the more distant fishings, and are calculated to stand a very heavy sea.

During the winter, the fishermen are employed for the supply of the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets, in dredging oysters opposite their village, and in catching cod, whittings, flounders, &c. either within the Frith of Forth, or sometimes on the Marr, a bank thirty miles to the east of St Abb's Head.

In spring, a number of the men go to the whale-fishing in the ships from the Frith of Forth, and the north of England; in which employment, many of them have distinguished themselves as the most dexterous harpooners. A few years ago, several of the men endured all the rigors of a Polar winter, the ships having been encircled with ice in Baffin's Bay. Their sufferings were dreadful, but the vessels were providentially drifted along many hundred miles of coast to the open sea,—where the sailors had the joy of meeting the ships which were sent out early in the season, in order to render them assistance; and it is remarkable that, so far from the sufferings of their friends having the effect of deterring any from this dangerous employment, a young man volunteered to go in one of the earliest vessels to search for his relatives, and he had the inexpressible delight of being in the first boat that boarded the ship in which were his father and others connected with him. The conduct of the Cockenzie sailors during their long night of almost hopeless darkness, was most praiseworthy: they devoted a portion of

each day to religious exercises, and awaited with calm resignation the will of Providence.

In summer, the fishermen who have not gone to the whale-fishing, proceed to Caithness in their large boats for the herring fishery, where they sell the produce of their labours to the curers. In autumn, they are again engaged in dredging oysters, and taking white fish and herrings when they appear at the mouth of the firth.

There are no rents payable for the deep sea fishings, and the dues exigible for the oyster scalps are not regularly levied.

The energy and enterprise of the fishermen, with no capital but their boats, (which may have descended to them from their fathers, but stand in need of constant repairs and renewals,) are the sole means of maintaining the fisheries.

Manufactures.—The chief manufacture in the parish is that of salt, which has been carried on for a long period,—12 salt-pans having been built about 1630, by George third Earl of Winton. The mode of making the salt is simply, by evaporating by means of heat the aqueous particles of the sea, in oblong iron pans, 18 feet long by 10 feet broad, and 2 feet deep. The sea water is raised into the pans by buckets, swung on a suspended pole; and the coal used is of the small description, unfit for most other purposes.

A man and a boy are employed in each of the six salt-pans now in operation; the wages of the former being according to the quantity of salt produced, or about 18s. per week, and of the latter 8s. per week. The female members of the family also assist in taking the salt out of the pans, and carrying it to the “girnels” or stores.

Of late, a steam engine has been erected at Cockenzie for grinding bones and rape cakes, brought chiefly from Germany, to be used in agriculture, which have been found peculiarly beneficial as a manure for turnips and other crops.

In Portseton, also, another steam engine has lately been erected for bruising linseed and expressing oil from it. The residue is formed into cakes for feeding cattle.

These employments afford a fair remuneration to the workmen, and do not seem prejudicial either to health or morals.

Navigation.—The number of boats belonging to the fishermen amounts to 31, of which 10 are of about 16 tons burden, and 21 of 7 tons.

There are two vessels belonging to the new harbour at Cock-

enzie, one of 120, the other of 100 tons burden; they are employed in the coasting and foreign trade.

The number of vessels entering the present harbour of the Messrs Cadells during the year, is from 250 to 300, and the tonnage about 20,000 tons. Of this, about one-sixth is from foreign ports.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest market-towns are Haddington and Dalkeith, each about seven miles from Tranent. The greater part, however, of the grain from the parish goes to Edinburgh market, ten miles distant.

Villages.—The villages in the parish are,—Tranent, containing upwards of 1780 inhabitants;—Cockenzie and Portseton, 757; Elphingston, 250; Meadowmill, 150,—total, about 2937 in the villages.

Means of Communication.—The means of communication to the capital are excellent, the great post road to Edinburgh passing through the parish for three miles. The other lines of turnpike roads, extending to six miles, have of late been much improved, by being placed under the charge of surveyors. The total length of the turnpike roads in the parish extends to nine miles. The parish roads, supported by statute labour, are far from being in an equally good state of repair. The funds amount to the small sum of L. 160 per annum, of which L. 36, 10s. is drawn by the turnpike roads, and the balance only of L. 123, 10s. is left for expenses and the support of the parish roads, extending in length to about fifteen miles, over which many heavy carriages pass.

There is a regular post to and from Edinburgh twice a-day, also a twopenny post to Haddington, which is a recent and a great convenience.

The public carriages on the post-road are very numerous, being six passing Tranent each day to Edinburgh, including the Berwick mail,—and the like number out of Edinburgh. There is also a daily coach from North Berwick, passing Cockenzie, which carries the letters to and from Prestonpans.

There are no public canals or railroads at present in the parish, but the proposed line of the Great North British railroad, to communicate by Berwick, Newcastle, and Durham with the great English lines, will pass through the centre of the parish, a little to the north of the Meadowmill. A private iron railway, as already noticed, has been made by the Messrs Cadells, from Cockenzie to their coal-

works on the south side of Tranent, the length being about three miles.

A harbour was erected by the same gentlemen in 1835, at a natural basin on the west side of the village of Cockenzie, for the purpose of shipping coal. The cost amounted to about L. 6000, and the work was done in the most substantial manner, from a plan by Mr Robert Stevenson, civil-engineer. This harbour has 16 feet depth of water in spring tides, and 10 in neap tides; it is easy of access, and affords complete shelter to vessels; while, during stormy weather, it is most advantageous to the fishermen, who are thus enabled to run for a place of safety, instead of the exposed beach, formerly their only refuge.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church has been rebuilt since the last Statistical Account, a new one having been erected in 1800. The situation is sufficiently convenient for the greater part of the population, the distance from the extremities of the parish being at no place more than two miles and a-half. But the sittings having been divided amongst the heritors according to their valued rents, the great proportion of the inhabitants of the villages had no legal right to church accommodation. The only mortifications belonging to the parish are, the interest of L. 100, left by Lord Bankton, and L. 2 from Dr Schaw's Hospital at Preston. The church contains 888 sittings, of which about 20 are free. The manse was built in 1781, but has undergone several additions and repairs. The extent of the glebe is about six acres Scots, with about an acre of moorland; and it may be valued at about L. 4 per Scots acre.

The augmentation granted in 1831 raised the stipend to 18 chalders of victual, but the teinds being exhausted, the amount allocated was 47 bolls, 1 firloft, 3 pecks, 0 $\frac{2}{3}$ lippies of wheat; 81 bolls, 1 firloft, 1 peck, 3 $\frac{6}{7}$ lippies of bear; 149 bolls, 1 firloft, 2 pecks, 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ lippies of oats; L. 59, 16s. 8d. Scots money; which at the fiars prices of that year amounted to L. 349, 6s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling, being a deficiency of the modified stipend to the extent of L. 21, 17s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

In the village of Cockenzie, a new church was, in 1838, completed by private subscription, aided by the General Assembly's Church Extension Committee; by the East Lothian Church Extension Society, and by L. 150 raised by the Rev. A. Forman of Innerwick. It contains 450 sittings, and is built so as to admit of galleries being afterwards added. The total expense of this church was about

L. 600. The stipend engaged to be paid to the minister, the Rev. Archibald Lorimer, is L. 80 per annum, secured by a bond granted by several individuals who are interested in the welfare of the district. The seat-rents, if fully let, with the collections, may probably amount to about L. 60 per annum; but this is just one of the cases which so strongly proves the necessity of a national endowment,—the fishermen, unwilling to move from the coast to a church distant from their boats, were so anxious for the ministrations of a clergyman at their own homes, that they subscribed to the utmost extent of their means; they further showed their interest in the Church by delaying to proceed to the northern herring fishery for several days, though the wind was favourable and the season advanced, in order that they might be present at the opening of their place of worship;—and yet with all this anxiety to promote the object, they were utterly unable of themselves to furnish even a small portion of the funds for building the church or supporting the minister.

There is one Dissenting chapel in Tranent, lately rebuilt, belonging to the United Associate Synod. The minister, the Rev. William Parlane, A. M., it is believed, is paid in the usual way from the seat-rents and collections; but the amount of stipend is not known.

The total population of the parish, as formerly mentioned, is 3650; of this number about 2980 are attached to the Established Church, leaving about 640 belonging to all other religious denominations.

The attendance on the parish church is not particularly regular. The average number of communicants at the Established Church is about 600.

Two missionaries, one supported by the friends of the Establishment, the other by the Dissenters, have lately commenced to labour among the population of Tranent, and are well received by the people.

There are two Bible and Missionary Societies, one connected with the Established, the other with the Dissenting congregation.

The church collections for the poor are very small, not exceeding L. 15 per annum, in consequence of the large assessment. The collections for religious and charitable objects may be about L. 13 per annum.

Education.—The total number of schools in the parish is seven; the parochial school in Tranent, the average number attending being 100; a free school at Stiell's Hospital, endowed, attended

by about 140 children; three schools in the village of Tranent, unendowed; one in Elphingstone; and one in Cockenzie, chiefly supported by private subscription.

The ordinary branches, English, writing, and geography, are taught in all the schools; and in the parochial school such pupils as desire it are also instructed in French, Latin, land-measuring and architectural drawing. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is the maximum, L. 34, 6s. 7d., and his school fees generally amount to about L. 80 per annum. The parish schoolmaster is furnished with a good house and garden.

Library.—There is a subscription library in Tranent.

Charitable and other Institutions.—The only hospital in the parish is that endowed by the late George Stiell, smith and builder in Edinburgh, a native of Tranent, who left property yielding about L.900 per annum, for the education of a few boys and girls as inmates, and a free day school, in which are educated about 140 children. The Lord Justice-Clerk, the Sheriff of the county, and the minister of the parish, are governors and directors *ex officio*; and David Anderson, Esq. of St Germain's, and John Gray, Esq. solicitor-at-law, Edinburgh, trustees for life.

This institution has been productive of much benefit to the parish, as the directors have very wisely devoted their chief attention to the free school, their funds not being adequate to the reception of many inmates. The children, in addition to an excellent education at the school, are daily provided with bread and milk, to prevent the necessity of their return home between school hours, or being compelled to bring unequal shares of provision for their support during the day.

A handsome building was erected for this institution in 1821, from a plan by Mr Burn, at the cost of about L. 3000: it is situated a little to the south of the Meadow mill, in a very central position.

Friendly Societies.—There are several Friendly Societies connected with the working population of Tranent and the fishermen of Cockenzie; of these the principal is the Carters' Friendly Society of Tranent, which is in possession of considerable funds, and has been in existence since 1795; but of late years, many of these useful institutions have been broken up, in consequence of their resources failing, they having been founded on erroneous calculations.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is from 100 to 110, and the average sum allotted to each per week from 1s. to 1s. 6d; but the mainte-

nance of two lunatics in asylums adds considerably to the burdens on the parish.

The annual assessment for the poor amounts to about L. 440 or L. 450, of which not above L. 15 is derived from collections at the church door and mortcloths. There are no other funds available for the purpose.

It is to be feared that the disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief, is far from diminishing, and the former wholesome feeling, that it was a degradation to accept of parish aid; or to allow their relations to be a burden on the poor's funds, is fast wearing out among the lower orders.

Prisons.—The nearest prison is that of Haddington, the county town, seven miles distant. There is a district constable stationed at Tranent, who has a temporary lock-up room.

Fairs.—There cannot now be said to exist any fairs in the parish. Cockenzie fair was formerly a place of considerable resort on the first Thursday of November, for the purpose of hiring servants and providing clothes and other articles for the winter; but since the introduction of shops, it has almost entirely dwindled away.

Inns, Alehouses.—There are two inns at Tranent, with respectable accommodation. The number of ale-licenses, including the above inns, granted in the parish, amounts to no less than 40, being twenty-six for the village of Tranent, nine for Cockenzie, two for Portseton, two for Elphingstone, and one for the Meadowmill. The Justices of Peace have, of late years, done all in their power to diminish the number; and it would certainly be a great boon to the country, were the public-houses greatly reduced.*

Fuel.—The supply of coal in every part of the parish, is most abundant and cheap; the quality is rather soft, and does not contain so much bitumen as in many other districts; it is procured in various parts of the parish, and the highest price at the pit-mouth is at present 6s. 8d. per ton.

* The keepers of alehouses at Cockenzie and Portseton have lately, in imitation of those in Prestonpans, entered into a most praiseworthy resolution to abstain from opening their houses on the Sabbath, except to wayfaring people, and have publicly bound themselves to observe this rule.

March 1839.