

PARISH OF WHITEKIRK AND TYNNINGHAME.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNBAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JAMES WALLACE, D. D., MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE parish of Whitekirk, as now constituted, comprehends the ancient parishes of Tynninghame, Hamer, and Aldham. Tynninghame is understood to signify the hamlet on the meadow by the river Tyne; Hamer signifies the larger village, in contradistinction perhaps to Aldham, the ancient village, at two miles distance, but of which hardly a vestige now remains. The church of Hamer, from the whiteness of its appearance, had been long known by the name of Whitekirk, and under that name are commonly included the three parishes as now united.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish approaches to the figure of a square. It is situated at the mouth of the Firth of Forth, and in the best district of East Lothian. It stretches between 3 and 4 miles along the sea shore, and between 4 and 5 miles into the country, being about an equal distance from Dunbar and North Berwick, and having these parishes and the parish of Prestonkirk for its boundaries.

Topographical Appearances.—The general aspect of the parish is beautiful. The point of greatest altitude above the medium level of the sea is 243 feet, yet it possesses a sufficient variety of surface, and when viewed either from Whitekirk hill, or from Lawhead, (the two most considerable eminences in the parish) it presents a rich and varied landscape of land in the highest state of cultivation, and of woods of great extent and beauty. The Bass, the castles of Tantallon, and Dunbar, in the immediate vicinity, and other objects of prominence and celebrity, both on the land and in the sea, may be favourably seen from these points. From the above eminences, which are cultivated to the top, and more remarkable for their extensive and diversified prospects than for their elevation above the sea, the land slopes with a gentle declivity.

chiefly towards the south and south-west;—almost the only perfectly flat ground being the rich haughs on both sides of the river Tyne, extending from the Knowmilm to the sea.

Climate.—The climate is dry and salubrious. Less rain is observed to fall here than in many of the neighbouring parishes. Clouds from the west charged with rain, and of a threatening appearance, often break at the end of the Pentland, and still nearer, on the Garleton hills, and taking the direction of Lammermoor, or of the Firth of Forth, or of both, leave our fields comparatively dry. This may not be in every case for the advantage of the farmers; but the soil being generally strong and deep, is not soon affected by drought. From this greater dryness of atmosphere, and consequently from a brighter and less interrupted sunshine, no less than from the fertility of the soil, may probably proceed that superior quality of grain, for which this district has been long remarkable. During the months of April and May, the east winds are often keenly felt, but against their ungenial influence there is no shelter anywhere. They have been occasionally felt to blow as piercingly in the town of Dumfries (one of the mildest climates in Scotland) as on the coast of East Lothian. The population are subject to no peculiar disease. Ague, formerly prevalent, has long been unknown; and the climate may be pronounced a decidedly healthy one.

Hydrography.—The Tyne is the only stream of water in the parish that can be called a river. It rises near Borthwick, in the county of Edinburgh, and after pursuing a north-easterly course of nearly thirty miles, it intersects the old parish of Tynninghame, and falls into the sea at Tynninghame bay. By the reflux of the tide, which affects the course of the river for nearly two miles, the water spreads at full tide into an extensive lake on the Salt Greens, in front of the Earl of Haddington's house, and forms one of the enlivening and admired features of that magnificent residence. The gentle ebbing of the tide leaves no sediment to spoil the beauty of the greens, which in a short time are seen covered with sheep, and in summer with a profusion of sea-pink.

The gray salmon frequent the Tyne, but not in such abundance as to be an article of much profit to the proprietor. The Earl of Haddington has the sole right of fishing the Tyne, and the sea coast on both sides of it, for three or four miles, from the small rivulet Peffer, to within a cable's length of Belhaven water, within a mile of Dunbar.

There was, till within these twenty years, a celebrated well

called our *Lady's Well*, in honour of the virgin, within a gunshot of the church of Whitekirk, and partaking, as was formerly believed, of the sanctity of that establishment. In times when more miracles were supposed to be wrought than at present, and pilgrimages more in vogue, it was said to be famous for the cure of barrenness. But the well and its virtues have been sacrificed to what the creed of those times would have considered a sordid and unhallowed agriculture. Drains and ditches have not left the pilgrim a drop to drink.

Geology and Mineralogy.—There is a great variety of soil in the parish. On both sides of the river it is alluvial, but much of it beyond the reach of running water, is of a dark-coloured loam, and in some places more or less mixed with red clay. Even on the very highest ground, the soil is good, though thin, being incumbent on whinstone rock, but so near the surface, as to admit only of a very shallow furrow.

The sea coast from the mouth of the river Tyne to Peffer, a small rivulet, a mile and a half westward, is sandy, with the exception of Ravensheugh and the small promontory of Whitberry, which are of trap (augite greenstone, basaltic greenstone, trap tuffa,) and red sandstone. The sandstone near to the trap is variously changed. From the farm-house of Scoughall to the boundary of the parish at Tantallon Castle, especially that part of it to the westward of the old mansion house of Auldhame, the cliffs are precipitous and rugged, in some places not less than about 100 feet high, overhanging the sea. These cliffs, and the ledges of rock which run from them into the sea, composed of red sandstone, red clay iron stone, red and green slaty clays, red trap tuff, &c., have been described by the highest authority, Professor Jameson, in his *Geognosy of East Lothian*, published in the *Memoirs of the Wernerian Society*.*

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—There are but three heritors; each of them possessing what was formerly a separate parish. Tynninghame belongs to the Earl of Haddington, the present Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; Whitekirk to Sir David Baird of Newbyth, Bart.; and Auldhame to George Sligo, Esq. The residences of the two former have the benefit of great shelter from the woods which surround them; and Seacliffe House, where Mr Sligo lives, has the command of some of the finest sea views that are any where to be

* The Ravensheugh point of Dr Macknight in the *Wernerian Memoirs*, is, according to Mr Hay Cunningham, Whitberry Point.

found. The heritors have been generally resident, and exceedingly ready to promote in every way the comfort of the inhabitants.

Parochial Registers.—The schoolmaster's house at Whitekirk was burnt in the year 1760, and the session registers previous to that date destroyed. The records of the old parish of Tynninghame extend as far back as 1615, and besides their more appropriate contents, contain frequent allusions to passing events. There are several entries, for instance, relative to the defeat of the Marquis of Montrose in 1645. After mentioning that a paper had been read from the pulpit, from the committee at Dunbar, "anent any that had any midling with James Graham or his complices," and after alluding to a public thanksgiving "to be keepit and maid for the great victorie at Philiphauche" the observance of that solemnity is thus recorded:—"19 October 1645. This day the publick thanksgiving weill keepit, praised be God for the notable and great victorie never to be forgot at Philiphauche, quherin James Graham and his forcies were utterlie defaitt and overthrawin, we thank the Lord God of our Salvation throuch Jesus Chryst therefor forever."

The records have not been uniformly kept with very great accuracy.

III.—POPULATION.

The increase of population for the last forty years has been inconsiderable. There are no feus in the parish, and a new house is rarely built but in room of an old one, the existing population being found sufficient for the purposes of agriculture. The hinds, who constitute the bulk of the inhabitants, are removable every year, and it depends on their having larger or smaller families, at the time the census is taken, whether the population has the appearance of considerable increase or diminution.

In the year 1792 it amounted to	994
1807	953
1822	1023
1834	1062
In the last of these years there were above 12 years of age,	785
under 12,	277

The oldest person in the parish was born in the year 1745.

Character of the People.—The population is entirely agricultural. The parish has long had the advantage of a skilful and respectable tenantry, and the habits of the people generally are influenced in no small degree by their ordinary pursuits. The skilful and successful cultivation of the soil requires, and has established the incessant industry of the inhabitants; and being removed

from the contamination, too often arising from the vicinity of large towns, they are delivered from many temptations, to which a more exposed and less industrious population are liable. The people therefore are, on the whole, exemplary, civil in their manners, and decent in their life and conversation. They enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society—shew no disinclination to labour—and would be more contented with their situation and circumstances, were there more encouragement, than of late years, to the industry of the husbandman, and consequently a greater demand for the services of the labourer.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—Agriculture is an art in which the skill of the husbandman has been here long conspicuous. In the last Statistical Account the land was described as being in the “highest state of cultivation.”* There is, however, one particular, in which a valuable change has taken place, and that is in live-stock.

Live-Stock.—About eight or ten years ago, Mr John Rennie, at that time resident in an adjoining parish, had the merit of introducing extensively both the Teeswater breed of cattle and the Leicester sheep, and a considerable number of cattle are now bred and fed off at two years old, fetching from L. 10 to L. 15 each. The sheep stock are bought at the spring and autumn markets. A few Leicester ewes for early lambs are kept; and to a greater extent Cheviot and black-faced ewes, with their lambs, are fattened upon grass for the Edinburgh market. Besides these, a large proportion of the grass lands is pastured with cattle, and Cheviot and black-faced widders. Very little hay is made. About 2000 sheep

* Then, and afterwards, there were several distinguished agriculturists in the parish; and more recently several premiums have been awarded by the Highland Society to Mr Andrew Howden, Lawhead, (to whose kindness I am indebted for what may be stated under this head,) for several very accurate reports on agricultural subjects. The first premium was for a report on the comparative value of farm-yard dung with other manures, in growing turnips. The result of the experiment was, that well decomposed farm-yard dung was superior to any of the thirteen varieties which were put to the test, and that bone dust upon light soils, and fish garbage mixed with earth produced full crops.

The second experiment related to the sowing of white crops, broad cast, or in drills. When the land is infested with weeds, or when the crop is likely to suffer from over luxuriance, drilling is recommended, and only under these circumstances.

In a third experiment, with a view to ascertain whether it be profitable or otherwise to steam food for cattle, Mr Howden was the first, it is believed, to ascertain that loss was occasioned by steaming. He received the society's silver medal for his report on this subject.

The last communication which Mr Howden made, related to the growth and qualities of upwards of a hundred varieties of the potato. The report contains several interesting facts, amongst others, that it is safe and profitable to plant the tubers whole, rather than to cut them, as is commonly done.

are fed on turnips. When the turnips are let, the price per week is from 4d. to 6d. for each sheep.

Husbandry.—All kinds of grain are cultivated. The rotation followed upon the clay soil is, 1st, fallow, manured; 2d, wheat; 3d, grass; 4th, oats; 5th, beans, drilled and manured; 6th, wheat. Upon the free loam and lighter soils, the four-course shift is practised; as, 1st, turnips, partly with bone dust (first introduced into this parish by Mr Alexander Dudgeon, who, it is believed, was the second farmer in Scotland who applied this useful manure;) after turnips, the 2d crop is spring wheat or barley; 3d, grass; 4th, oats. In some cases the continuance of the grass a second year is thought, in the present depressed state of agriculture, to be for the interest of the farmer.

Of the 6000 imperial acres which the parish may contain, there may be about 4000 under a system of alternate cropping, the remainder being under wood and grass. There is a waste and sandy marsh of about 300 acres, formed at the estuary of the river Tyne, which the Earl of Haddington has it in contemplation to embank, and which it is supposed will amply repay the expense.

Leases and Rents.—Leases are granted for nineteen or twenty-one years' endurance, and possession in this way is held to be an unquestionable advantage to the proprietor, the farmer, and the community at large; indeed the want of possession for a number of years certain is an acknowledged bar to successful agriculture.

In the last Statistical Account of this parish, the writer mentions, that, "in some cases, former rents had tripled;" but the return of peace and other causes rendered it difficult, and, in several of these cases, impossible, for the farmers to fulfil their engagements, even after great sacrifices. A scheme for the relief of his tenants, worthy of so distinguished a nobleman, was devised by John late Earl of Hopetoun, whereby the money rent which had been promised was converted into a proportion of wheat, at the price it was expected to realize when the contract of lease was made, and at the same time a maximum price was fixed, to protect the farmer against contingency; and this mode of paying rent is now generally adopted. We have only one or two exceptions within the parish; in these instances the average money paid is L. 2, 17s. 6d. per imperial acre. The average proportion of wheat per acre, paid at the fiars price for East Lothian, is nine bushels. The average produce from land under crop may be thirty-six bushels of wheat and beans; forty-eight bushels of barley; and sixty bushels of oats.

The valued rent of the parish is L. 7671, 1s. 2d. Scots. The real rent when wheat is at L. 2. 16, per quarter is L. 9727, 8s.

There are at present nine farmers who occupy from two to five hundred acres each, and there is one small farm with a mill attached. This was the residence of the late ingenious Mr Meikle, at the time he invented the thrashing-machine.

The sum assessed for the parish roads amounts to L. 85, besides L. 17 for the public road running through the parish. The roads are kept in excellent repair. The fences (chiefly thorn hedges) are also generally well kept, and the farm offices are substantial and commodious. The dwelling-houses which the farmers themselves possess are adapted to the most prosperous state of their profession.

Rate of Wages.—In winter the wages for stout labouring men are 8s. per week; and in summer 9s. The women's wages for bondage work, as it is called, (working in the fields or in the barn,) are 8d. or 9d. per day. The hinds or horsemen receive for a year's service nine imperial quarters of oats, two quarters two bushels of barley, one quarter of pease, and if they sow and stack the crop, one bushel of wheat in addition. Besides this they have the keep of a cow, 960 yards upon one drill of potatoes, L. 1 for lint money, and their meat in harvest. These gains, taken together, amount at present to about 8s. per week.

In a retrospect of forty years we find that within that period, the hind has had an augmentation of five Linlithgow bolls of grain to his yearly income; and that smiths and wrights are paid more than double by the farmer; saddlers, and tailors and shoemakers, not less in proportion. The value of farm produce on the other hand has for a considerable time greatly decreased, and is said to have been of late years disproportioned to the rent and the labour.

Woods.—Thomas sixth Earl of Haddington began his plantations at Tynninghame in the year 1705, and has left a noble monument of his perseverance and success. Previous to that period, the formation of any considerable body of planted trees was unknown in Scotland, and he may therefore be fairly considered as the father of plantation in that country. In a letter to his grandson, which was afterwards printed, he wrote an excellent treatise on the manner of raising forest trees, &c., containing the result of his own successful experience. He commenced his operations at the instance of his Lady, sister of the first Earl of Hopetoun, whose taste for planting was at first much stronger than his own, but he afterwards required no stimulus. In his account of the planting of Binning Wood,

which is now so valuable and so beautiful, he says, "There was a field of 300 Scots acres, called the Muir of Tynninghame, that was common to some of my tenants, and a neighbouring gentleman. This ground she (Lady H.) desired to enclose and plant. It seemed too great an attempt, and every body advised her not to undertake it; of which number I confess I was one. But she said if I would agree to it, she made no doubt of getting it finished. I gave her free leave. The gentleman and tenants had their loss made up to them, and in the year 1707 she began to inclose it, and called it Binning Wood." The trees radiate from three centres, and this mode of planting has conduced both to the beauty and growth of the wood.

Encouraged by the success of this undertaking, and now taking great pleasure in it, the same enlightened improver, after enclosing and sheltering his fields by strips of planting, proceeded to plant several large sandy fields, close upon the sea shore. From a received notion that no trees would grow there, on account of the sea air and the north-east winds, these fields had been of little or no use, but as a rabbit warren. But the project succeeded perfectly. The trees grew, as they do still, to the water edge, and his Lordship's fondness for planting growing with the growth of his trees, he resolved "to fight no more with the cultivation of bad land, but to plant it all." The trees were adapted with great skill to the different soils in which they were planted; and yet what he says of the oak is worthy of being here recorded; "As the oak is my favourite tree, I have planted it every where; and I can show them very thriving on rich, poor, middling, heathy, gravelly, clayey, mossy, spouty, and rocky ground, nay, even upon dry sand. It is visible that the oak grows every where on my grounds faster than any other tree, some of the aquatics only excepted." Thus arose, under the skill and perseverance of this spirited nobleman, and where trees were almost before unknown, woods to the extent of 800 acres; the plantation and care of which afforded much useful occupation, and ultimately much enjoyment to himself; have been profitable to his descendants; and are at this moment the greatest ornament of the country.

On the estate of Newbyth also there is much fine timber; and near the mansion-house many noble and lofty trees.

There are in the parish probably upwards of 1000 acres of timber.

Holly Hedges.—The holly hedges of Tynninghame are far

famed, and are indeed so remarkable as to deserve particular notice. They were planted about the same time as the woods above-mentioned; and by the same nobleman. They are of great size and extent, comprising altogether 2952 yards. On the south-western side of the mansion-house there is a grass walk, on each side of which the hedges most remarkable in point of length are planted. The walk is 743 yards long, and 36 feet wide; and the hedges on each side of it are 11 feet broad at the base, and 15 feet high. To the east of the garden and melon ground, they have been permitted to rise higher; being kept there at a height of 18, 21, and even 25 feet. The hedge on the west boundary of the park is of the same dimensions, and strangers have been rarely observed to pass it, without some expression of their admiration.

At the time these hedges were planted, Tynninghame possessed little of that complete protection from the sea breeze which it now enjoys; and so judicious an improver as Lord Haddington saw readily the superiority of ever-green, and especially of holly, over deciduous hedges. His successors have preserved them with the utmost care; they are clipped twice a year, and carefully defended from cattle and sheep. The hedges seem to have been planted on banks so much raised as to keep the roots dry and sufficiently drained; and their growth has been most vigorous in a deep light loam. There are many beautiful single holly trees, of very considerable dimensions, not only in the neighbourhood of the mansion-house, but all over Binning Wood; from 5 feet to between 7 and 8 feet in circumference; and rising to a height of from 46 to 54 feet. These add greatly in winter to the beauty and gaiety of the place.

Grass, &c.—Rye-grass and clover, and the practice of fallowing land, were introduced into East Lothian by the same patriotic nobleman, to whom the county owes its finest woods and hedges. The Earl of Haddington had brought down to Tynninghame several English farmers, to assist him in executing his plans; and in 1708 “he fell heartily to work,” and showed in practice, the importance of these two most essential agricultural improvements. His example was soon followed in the neighbourhood, and by degrees over the whole country. *

* It may gratify curiosity to mention some of the items of the sumptuous entertainments given at Tynninghame, on the 21st of August 1679, at the baptism of this early and distinguished benefactor of the country. Every thing connected with him seems to have been on a great scale. The account of them has been preserved in the family household-book, and is as follows;—“For dinner: of fresh beef, six pieces;

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—Dunbar and Haddington, the former seven, the latter nine miles distant, are the market-towns chiefly resorted to, although the town of North Berwick and the village of Linton are both nearer.

Means of Communication.—The nearest post-office is Prestonkirk, a distance of three miles and a-half. The great road from Edinburgh to London passes through the south end of the parish; and a number of public carriages, at different hours, ply daily on that road. The turnpike road from Dunbar to North Berwick, passes for about four miles through the middle of the parish; and the only considerable bridge, the bridge across the Tyne, is on this line of road.

Ecclesiastical State.—The Gospel was introduced into East Lothian in the sixth century. St Baldred, the disciple of Kentigern or St Mungo, being the first Christian Apostle, fixed his cell at Tynninghame, where a monastery was afterwards erected, but his pious labours extended far and wide,—the boundaries of his pastoral care being thus described by Simeon of Durham, “*Tota terra quæ pertinet ad monasterium sancti Baltheri quod vocatur Tynningham a Lambermore usque ad Escemuthe,*” so that his ministry embraced the whole length of the county, from Lammermoor to Inveresk. All accounts concur in representing this early and zealous propagator of the Christian faith as being held in extreme veneration when living; and several of the conterminous parishes are said to have contended for his body when he was dead. But we leave the *miracles* ascribed to St Baldred, and the stories about his *boat* and *cradle*, (rocks on the shore and within sea mark) to those who are inclined to clear the obscurities, and investigate the legends of the sixth century. Suffice it to say of him, what Archbishop Spottiswood says of his instructor, St Mungo, “That he appears to have been a man worthy to have been a subject of truth to posterity, not of fables and fictions, as the legends of monks have made him.” He died in the year 606. Anlaf, the Dane, spoil-

mutton, sixteen pieces; veal, four pieces; venison, three legs; geese, six; pigs, four; old turkeys, two; young turkeys, eight; salmon, four; tongues and udders, twelve; ducks, fourteen; fowls, six roasted; fowls, boiled, nine; roasted chickens, thirty; stewed chickens, twelve; fricassed chickens, eight; chickens in pottage, ten; lamb, two sides; wild fowl, twenty-two; pigeons baked, roasted, and stewed, one hundred and eighty two; roasted hares, ten; fricassed hares, six; hams, three.” Such was the *dinner*. For *supper* there were roast mutton, two pieces; mutton in collops, two pieces; roasted pigeons, twenty-six; hares, six; ale, sixteen gallons; rolls, an hundred; loaves, a hundred and twenty-four.

ed the church of St Baldred, and burnt the village of Tynninghame, in the year 941. "This, (says Chalmers,) is a very early notice of the kirk-town of Tynningham."

The manor and patronage of the church of Tynninghame came in after ages into the hands of the bishops of St Andrews; and seem, on the erection of the College of St Mary's, to have been conferred on that college. But how much soever that learned body may have been gainers by this liberality, the parishioners of Tynninghame appear to have gained little, for in 1565, a complaint was made by them to the General Assembly, that though they paid their tithes to the new college, neither word nor sacrament were dispensed among them. The tithes still belong to the college, but the lands and lordship of Tynninghame since the year 1628, and the patronage more recently, to the Earl of Haddington. All that now remains of the ancient church of Tynninghame, which had formerly the privilege of sanctuary, are two elegant arches of Anglo-Saxon architecture, between which is the cemetery of the Haddington family.

The church and manor of Whitekirk belonged to the monks of Holyroodhouse in the twelfth century. When Edward III. invaded East Lothian in 1356, the sailors who attended him robbed the church; a profanation which the canons of Holyrood, who resided there for the service of the Virgin, were unable to prevent; although she is said to have raised such a storm as to have made them repent of their temerity. Whitekirk (*Album fanum*) became a place of great resort to those who had faith in the efficacy of pilgrimages. It was under the pretence of repairing thither, in fulfilment of a vow for the safety of her son, James II. that the Queen Mother outwitted the unsuspecting Chancellor Crichton, who had the custody of the young King, by removing him clandestinely from the castle of Edinburgh, and conveying him to Stirling.

The church lands and barony of Whitekirk were in the year 1633 granted to the Bishop of Edinburgh, and on the suppression of that bishoprick, the patronage of the church fell to the Crown.

The present church of Whitekirk is a very venerable edifice, surmounted by a square tower, and lately put into excellent repair. It is ninety-six feet above the level of the sea, and is supposed to have been built before the end of the fifteenth century.

In the year 1761, the parishes of Whitekirk and Tynninghame were united, and since that period the congregation has assembled for public worship at Whitekirk. The situation is not inconvenient; none of the people are three miles from the church, and the greater

proportion within two. They are exemplary in their attendance on divine ordinances ; and it may be mentioned as an evidence, it is to be hoped, of their sense of the importance of the duty, that out of a population of about 1050, between 416 and 432 persons, have for several years past been annual partakers of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Almost the whole population belong to the Established church. The very few families which at any time dissent from it are generally of the class of hinds, or farm-servants, and these, frequently removing from one parish to another, their numbers are constantly varying. The number of Dissenting families is 16 or 17.

The manse was built about forty years ago. The stipend consists of eighteen chalders of victual, ten bolls being of wheat, and the remainder of barley and oats, in equal proportions. The glebe is upwards of six acres, which, including L. 12, in lieu of the old glebe of Tynninghame, may be worth L. 30 a-year.

Education.—There are two parochial schools conveniently situated, and at present well taught, each schoolmaster enjoying the maximum salary of L. 34, 4s. 4½d. Their dwelling-houses are such as the law requires, but better accommodation seems desirable for teachers who have been students in a university, who hold so respectable a station, and are intrusted with so important a charge. Reading, arithmetic, and writing, are the branches commonly taught, few, comparatively, desiring instruction in the Greek, Latin, or French languages. The charge for teaching Latin is L. 2 per annum, for writing and arithmetic, L. 1, and for English alone 10s.—the average number of scholars in both schools being about 120. Each of the parochial schoolmasters may receive annually about L. 35 of school-fees. The people are in general alive to the benefit of education, and care is taken that the children of the poorest shall not be in this respect neglected.

Poor.—The average number on the roll for the last seven years is 20. The funds from which they receive aid are the interest of between L. 500 and L. 600, and the weekly collections at the church doors. We have been hitherto able, from private liberality, to avoid an assessment.

A scheme (which seems to have been afterwards abandoned) was proposed by the Justices of Peace of this county, in the year 1745, for erecting a public poor-house ; but it appears from the session book of Tynninghame, which was then a separate parish, that the session refused to accede to the proposal, as they had poor-

houses of their own, sufficient to lodge, and funds to maintain their poor. These houses, eleven in number, still remain, and are occupied by widows, who, together with their houses, get each of them a small allowance of coals. The ground on which the houses stand, and the gardens behind them, were originally given by the Earl of Haddington. There is generally more than one applicant when any of these houses become vacant; and there appears sometimes too great a willingness, even on the part of healthy, young, and vigorous persons, to obtain an establishment in the Widow's Row.

Fuel.—The principal families in the parish import their coal, the only species of fuel used, from Fife; it is conveniently landed at different places on the coast; and is preferred, though dearer, to that which is brought from Gladsmuir or Tranent; a distance of fourteen or fifteen miles. In consequence of the difference of price, however, the inhabitants generally supply themselves from the inland collieries. A ton of Fife coal, carriage included, costs at the centre of the parish about 16s. The same quantity from the nearest inland coal-hill would cost about 12s. The poor find their interest in picking up the broken and decayed branches in Lord Haddington's woods, to which they have at all times free access.

There are but two alehouses in the parish; and they are said to be necessary for the public convenience.

May 1835.