

UNITED PARISHES OF  
COCKBURNSPATH AND OLD CAMBUS.\*

PRESBYTERY OF DUNBAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

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I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE parish of Cockburnspath, to which that of Old Cambus appears at a very early period to have been annexed, occupies the north eastern corner of the county of Berwick. Anciently it seems to have been written Coldbrandspeth, Cowbrandspeth, or Colbrandspeth; but, with regard to the etymology of both this and the more modern name, Cockburnspath, there is much uncertainty. Tradition generally derives the former from a Danish general of the name of Colbrand, who, it is said, resided at one time in a castle of some strength in the centre of the parish, the ruins of which still remain; while the latter, on the same authority, is attributed to another family of the name of Cockburn, which, at a more recent period, acquired possession of the same stronghold, and the adjacent lands. Chalmers mentions that the original name began to be corrupted so early as the year 1506.

*Boundaries.*—In point of figure and extent, the united parishes may be described as nearly a square of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles: being bounded on the east by **Coldingham**; on the south by **Abbey St Bathans**; on the north by the German ocean; and on the west by the parish of **Oldhamstocks**, in the county of **Haddington**.

*Topographical Appearances*—The general aspect of the parish is varied and uneven: being diversified by hill and dale, and intersected by occasional deep and picturesque ravines, through each

\* According to Chalmers, Old Cambus is derived from the Gaelic name *Ald*, signifying a streamlet, and *Canus*, a creek or bay; and, in confirmation of this derivation, he mentions, that a rivulet passes at a little distance, and falls into an inlet of the sea. It is more probable, however, that its derivation is from the Gaelic adjective *Ald*, wild, savage, strange, and *Canus*, a creek or bay,—a derivation which is strongly supported by the bold and rugged scenery on the coast of this old parish.

† This Account has been drawn up by the Rev. Andrew Baird.

of which a little river works its troubled way to the sea. But, though thus generally uneven, a very marked distinction in point of scenery is nevertheless apparent : that part of the parish lying nearest to the sea being arable and highly cultivated, while, as it recedes from the coast, it becomes more hilly, and is principally adapted for pasture. This latter division of the parish may be considered as a continuation of that subalpine tract of country which is known by the name of the Lammermoor hills, a tract which, extending across the island in a direction from N. E. to S. W., terminates a little beyond the boundaries of this parish, in the bold promontory of St Abb's. The general outline of this hilly tract is smooth,—the hills being generally round-backed and lumpish in their shape, none of them rising to a greater elevation than between 500 and 600 feet, and having a direction in general from west to east. The valleys are deep, having each a little streamlet flowing through it, which, as it approaches the sea, becomes in many places exceedingly picturesque from the mingled charms of rocks and woods, and little waterfalls. Of these valleys, or deans, as they are here generally named, the most remarkable are Dunglass Dean, one-half of which is in this parish ; the Tower Dean, so named from an old castle built on the edge of it ; Edmond's Dean, in the more hilly part of the parish ; and the Pease Dean, a ravine or glen remarkable for its depth and picturesque scenery, and across which was thrown, about fifty years ago, the celebrated Pease Bridge.

The coast of this parish is throughout bold, rocky, and steep, especially the eastern portion of it, where it merges into the hilly range, already described as terminating in the promontory of St Abb's Head. Along this bold sea line occur some very interesting and striking pieces of coast scenery. Of these, one of the most picturesque is the Cove, a little bay surrounded by precipices of above 100 feet in height, and which, by the building of a break-water, &c. has recently been converted into a pretty little harbour for the protection of fishing boats. So perfectly secluded is this little bay, and so unexpected is the scene which almost instantaneously opens to the view, that it uniformly produces on the mind of the stranger an almost electrical effect of surprise and admiration. A remarkably fine insulated cliff, perforated in the centre by the action of the waves, and another lofty and magnificent rock, bearing at a short distance so close a resemblance to an ancient tower or cathedral, as to be very easily mistaken for such in ruins,

add greatly to the effect of the other objects; while the extent of ocean beyond, the vessels of every size and description entering or leaving the Frith of Forth, and the bold headlands along the coast, complete a scene of remarkable beauty. Several natural excavations round this little bay have probably given to it the name of the Cove. These have partly been taken advantage of to form a range of cellars in the rocks, and also a road or tunnel, of about 60 yards in length, through one of the rocky sides of the bay, affording at high water the only means of access to the shore.

Various other very interesting coast scenes might be described, especially in the neighbourhood of Redheugh, in the eastern part of the parish; and at a spot named the Siccar Point, which may now be said to be almost classic ground. The geological phenomena which have made this point so celebrated, we shall have occasion to describe immediately; but in the meantime we may be permitted to mention it as a very striking piece of scenery. It is a lofty cape or headland running abruptly into the sea, at the base of which, by a good deal of scrambling, we arrive at a remarkably fine cavern of considerable height and extent, the roof being covered with very beautiful calcareous stalactitic encrustations, and the entrance being guarded by ranges of cliffs and isolated rocks, producing at high water, and especially when the wind has been for some days in the sea, a very splendid effect. Both the natural and scientific beauties of this place, Sir John Hall, Bart., the proprietor, has lately rendered more accessible to strangers, by means of a winding footpath along the sides of the steep sea-bank. Generally speaking, the coast of this parish may be described as an alternative of bay and lofty headland, the beach being for the most part rough and rocky, with very little extent of sand.

*Meteorology.*—The natural history of the parish is in many respects exceedingly interesting. But under this head, we shall merely observe, that there is a remarkable difference of climate between the lower and higher districts of the parish, insomuch, that gardens, &c. in the latter district are fully a fortnight later, and that, too, in some cases within a distance of little more than a mile. On account of the inequalities of the parish, rain sometimes falls partially; it being not unusual, in crossing two streams within a distance of a mile of each other, to observe the one much flooded, while the other is untouched. The aurora borealis is sometimes seen to great advantage on this coast; and uniformly,

in the course of our experience, is it a precursor of turbulent stormy weather. A remarkably fine display of this meteor took place in the month of October 1833. The whole heavens were covered with its splendour, and a gale very shortly followed of unusual violence. The height in the atmosphere of this meteor has been variously estimated, and it has been much controverted whether or not sound has ever been heard to proceed from it. On this occasion it may be worth remarking, that many respectable individuals in this neighbourhood are satisfied that they did hear such sound, and we have heard the same from others in other districts.

*Hydrography.*—The streams in the parish are numerous but small, the largest being the river Eye, which flows through the wilder part of the parish. Its banks are generally bare and uninteresting till it reaches the neighbourhood of Renton, in the parish of Coldingham, where it becomes both a larger and more ornamental stream.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The geological features of the parish are in many respects highly interesting, principally from the opportunities afforded in various places, but especially along the coasts, of observing the succession and position of the different strata and rock formations. Of these last there are two great classes, the transition and secondary,—the former composing the whole of the hilly part of the parish,—the latter being confined to the lower division towards the west and north. The transition rocks, so far as we have observed, are entirely the greywacke and its accompaniment the greywacke slate; no trap or other subordinate rocks presenting themselves, and, so far as we have seen, (and we have examined this part of our subject with some minuteness,) no vein, dike, or other extraneous mass occurring to derange the strata. The greywacke is very distinctly stratified, the general direction of the strata being from west to east; although in this respect, as well as in the dip and inclination, there are great irregularities. Of all the stratified rocks, indeed, there are none more varied and irregular in these respects than the greywacke. This is a remark which applies to all the transition districts of the island, but to none, we believe, more than to the district now described. Very frequently, perhaps we should say most frequently, the strata are vertical or nearly so.\* This position continues for a considerable extent, when, all at once, they change to hori-

\* Such is their position at the Siccar Point, in the bed of the Pease Burn, in the bed of the Tower Burn, in quarries on Ewieside, and other places.

zontal. Frequently, also, the most singular bendings and contortions may be traced; and sometimes a structure or arrangement on a great scale, exactly resembling that which in a smaller scale we observe in the agate or Scotch pebble. Not unfrequently, also, in the ravines we behold the following arrangement: viz. the bed of the small stream is composed of strata perfectly vertical, while on either bank they dip away at a greater or less angle in opposite directions. This rock, the greywacke, is, throughout the parish, of the same general characters, being commonly fine-granular and compact, in many situations, indeed, only a variety of sandstone.

To attempt an explanation of these irregularities in the stratification of this rock is what our space will not admit of, were we even able to present a plausible hypothesis. Satisfied, however, of the futility of theory on these subjects,—at least, of the impossibility of explaining all the appearances of such a district as that now described by any one system,—we prefer a simple statement or description of the appearances themselves, subjoining, in a note, one or two passages descriptive of this coast, from the interesting paper of Sir James Hall, Bart. of Dunglass, read to the Royal Society, February 3, 1812. \*

\* "The killas," (or greywacke,) says he, "consists everywhere of an assemblage of strata of various thickness, from several yards to the minutest leaf of slate. It is in general of a dark-blue colour, and, when examined, is found to consist of a congeries of fragments, which bear the most undoubted proofs of having been deposited in an horizontal position. The strata lie parallel to each other, but are everywhere far from being horizontal, their prevailing and best known position being vertical or nearly so. They are often bent, however, at various angles, frequently very acute, and sometimes with the strata nearly doubled upon themselves. In all the inland part of this range the rock appears so partially, showing itself only in river courses, or in quarries, that it is difficult to obtain any correct information as to the position of the strata, which frequently exhibit great seeming irregularity, and which cannot be described without making use of language which at first sight bears an appearance of contradiction in terms. Thus, it not unfrequently happens that one set shows itself in a position at the surface nearly erect, but having a decided dip to the east; and that, in the immediate neighbourhood, another set occurs in a position similar to the first, but having a no less decided dip to the west."

"On the shore of the sea, however, where these rocks are bare, and exposed in such a manner that our view can embrace at once a considerable extent of the mass, the general structure becomes apparent, and we are enabled to give a rational account of these seeming anomalies. This opportunity of observation occurs with peculiar advantage on the coast of Berwickshire, where the lofty cliffs which extend from Fast Castle eastward to Gun's Green, near Eyemouth, present to the view a cross section of these strata, by which their position is seen to possess much more method and regularity than the inland rocks would have led us to expect. The strata here exhibit a succession of regular windings and powerful undulations, reaching from top to bottom of the cliffs two or three hundred feet in height. These are occasionally interrupted, as might be expected, by the irregularities of the coast, by shifts and dislocations of the beds, and sometimes, as happens at St Abb's Head, by the intervention of whinstone, or occasionally of porphyry.

"Notwithstanding these interruptions, I reckoned (in an excursion to that coast made last summer with my son, Lieutenant Basil Hall of this Society) sixteen distinct bendings in the course of about six miles, each of the largest size, and reaching

The secondary rocks, as already said, are confined almost entirely to the lower division of the parish; consisting of alternate beds or strata of sandstone, a kind of shale, thick beds of indurated marl, irregular deposits of clay ironstone, and coarse deposits of conglomerate, generally occurring near the surface. Of these rocks, the sandstone is by far the most abundant, forming in many places, especially on the coast and on the sides of Dunglass Dean, very lofty and striking precipices. This sandstone appears to be of two different descriptions or formations: 1. The old red sandstone, extending for some miles along the coast, and resting immediately on the greywacke; and 2. The sandstone of the coal formation resting on the old red sandstone, and passing under the mountain limestone a few miles westward in the parish of Innerwick. The immediate junction of the old red sandstone with the greywacke is distinctly observable in various places; and in all of these, it is remarkable, that the direction and dip of the strata of both rocks, as well as the characters of the rocks themselves, are precisely and in all respects similar, though the situations where we observe this junction are considerably distant from one another.\* One of these situations is the Tower Dean,—a deep and wooded glen in the centre of the parish, in the bottom of which, that is, in the bed of the little stream which flows through it, we observe this junction in several places. But the most striking situation is the Siccar Point, the natural scenery of which we have already described under a former head. The geological appearances at this latter point are so very remarkable as to strike at once even those who are the least acquainted with geology as a science. And no wonder, therefore, that they were thought of sufficient importance to attract at one time three of the most eminent men of their day; we mean Dr Hutton, Professor Playfair, and a name not less distinguished in the history of geology, the late Sir James Hall, Bart. of Dunglass.

An excursion, undertaken by such gifted individuals, and with such objects in view, could not fail to be one of interest; and, as it has been recorded in very elegant language by one of the distinguished party themselves, we shall beg leave to quote his admired description: "The ridge of the Lammermuir Hills, in the south from top to bottom of the cliffs, their curvature being alternately concave and convex upwards."

\* *i. e.* The greywacke is arranged in vertical strata ranging from west to east, or nearly so, and the sandstone, which at the immediate junction is a conglomerate of fragments, generally speaking of the older rocks, dips towards the north at an angle of nearly  $28^{\circ}$  with the horizon, the junction being strikingly unconformable.

of Scotland," says Professor Playfair, "consists of primary micaceous schistus, and extends from St Abb's Head, westward, till it join the metalliferous mountains about the sources of the Clyde.\* The sea coast affords a transverse section of this alpine tract at its eastern extremity, and exhibits the change from the primary to the secondary strata, both on the south and on the north. Dr Hutton wished particularly to see the latter of these, and on this occasion, Sir James Hall and I had the pleasure to accompany him.

"We sailed in a boat from Dunglass on a day when the fineness of the weather permitted us to keep close to the foot of the rocks which line the shore in that quarter, directing our course southwards in search of the termination of the secondary strata. We made for a high rocky point or headland, the Siccar, near which, from our observations on shore, we knew that the object we were in search of was likely to be discovered. On landing at this point, we found that we actually trode on the primeval rock which forms alternately the base and the summit of the present land. It is here a micaceous schistus, in beds nearly vertical, highly indurated, and stretching from south-east to north-west. The surface of this rock runs with a moderate ascent from the level of low water at which we landed, nearly to that of high water, where the schistus has a thin covering of red horizontal sandstone laid over it; and this sandstone, at the distance of a few yards farther back, rises into a very high perpendicular cliff. Here, therefore, the immediate contact of the two rocks is not only visible, but is curiously dissected and laid open by the action of the waves. The rugged tops of the schistus are seen penetrating into the horizontal beds of sandstone, and the lowest of these last form a breccia containing fragments of schistus, some round and others angular, united by an arenaceous cement."

"Dr Hutton was highly pleased with appearances which set in so clear a light the different formations of the parts which compose the exterior crust of the earth, and where all the circumstances were combined that could render the observation satisfactory and precise. On us, who saw these phenomena for the first time, the impression made will not easily be forgotten. The palpable evidence presented to us of one of the most extraordinary and important facts in the natural history of the earth gave a reality and substance

\* The rock termed primary micaceous schistus by Playfair, Professor Jameson ascertained to be greywacke, a rock of the transition series.

to those theoretical speculations, which, however probable, had never till now been directly authenticated by the testimony of the senses. We often said to ourselves, what clearer evidence could we have had of the different formation of these rocks, had we actually seen them emerging from the bosom of the deep? We felt ourselves necessarily carried back to the time when the schistus on which we stood was yet at the bottom of the sea, and when the sandstone before us was only beginning to be deposited in the shape of sand or mud, from the waters of a superincumbent ocean. An epocha still more remote presented itself, when even the most ancient of these rocks, instead of standing upright in vertical beds, lay in horizontal planes at the bottom of the sea, and was not yet disturbed by that immeasurable force which has burst asunder the solid pavement of the globe. Revolutions still more remote appeared in the distance of this extraordinary perspective. The mind seemed to grow giddy by looking so far into the abyss of time; and, while we listened with earnestness and admiration to the philosopher who was now unfolding to us the order and series of these wonderful events, we became sensible how much farther reason may sometimes go than imagination can venture to follow. As for the rest, we were truly fortunate in the course we had pursued in this excursion; a great number of other curious and important facts presented themselves, and we returned, having collected in one day more ample materials for future speculation, than have sometimes resulted from years of diligent and laborious research.”\*

In addition to this description, we have only to remark, that the old red sandstone at the Siccar Point dips to the N. N. W. at a considerable angle,  $28^{\circ}$ , a dip and inclination which it maintains on either side, for about a mile with little variation. At the termination of this mile, on the eastern side of the Siccar, the sandstone ceases altogether on the farm of Redheugh, a little beyond the Coast Guard station. Here it occurs very low in situation, being nearly covered at high water. But to the west of the Siccar it continues considerably farther, gradually becoming more horizontal, till it reaches the vicinity of the Cove harbour (about three miles from Siccar Point,) where the altered character of the rock itself, its different inclination, and accompanying strata, lead us to conclude that the old red sandstone has now ceased, and that it is succeeded by the lower measures of the coal formation. From the Coast Guard station already alluded to, to this latter point, a distance of

\* Works of John Playfair, Esq. Vol. iv. p. 79-81. 8vo. Edinburgh, 1822.

about five miles, the sandstone is throughout nearly of the same general character, being generally coarse-grained, red in colour, and highly indurated. But here a decided difference is observable. The strata in the neighbourhood of the Cove become almost vertical; their direction also is somewhat altered, and we have now subordinate and accompanying strata of slate, marl, clay ironstone, and loose beds of conglomerate. Here, also, we begin to meet with impressions of palms and other tropical plants, which, till we arrive here, we seek for in vain towards the east. At the Cove, therefore, we think we can trace an imperfect coal formation, which, continuing westward for about a mile or two, terminates the geology of this parish. That the coal formation does occur in the parish, there are other facts to prove, besides what we would predict from the appearance of the sandstone and its accompaniments at the Cove. On the south side of Dunglass Dean, which may in fact be regarded as only a continuation of the rocks which show themselves so distinctly at the Cove, at the distance of about one and a-half miles, and also near the village of Cockburnspath, are to be seen the openings of several shafts, from which, about 100 years ago, coal was procured, though, from what we have been able to gather, it probably was not in such abundance as to encourage working, or afford temptation strong enough to sacrifice beauty to utility. Limestone occurs nowhere in the parish,—its substitute here being the indurated marl. A few miles farther along the coast, however, towards the west, this rock (the limestone) occurs in great abundance, being the ennerinal or mountain limestone of geologists.

The soil in the parish is very various. Generally, however, it may be described as light; though in many situations, especially in the lower division of the parish, it is rich and strong, and well adapted for crops of every description.\*

\* Since writing the above outline of the geological structure of this parish, I have had the pleasure, not only of having its general correctness abundantly confirmed by Professor Sedgwick and Mr Murchison, two names which stand deservedly high in geological science; but I have also had the good fortune to accompany these gentlemen in several very interesting and delightful excursions along the shores. The geology of a great part of Berwickshire, I may be permitted to state, is exceedingly perplexing, from the very indistinctly marked formation which covers the lower and richer parts of the county,—a formation which, if it be determined merely by mineralogical characters, we would in very many places decidedly pronounce to be the new red sandstone. And such, indeed, it has been named and considered by various distinguished geologists: an opinion which the author of these remarks felt equally inclined to entertain regarding certain portions even of the coast of this parish. Since the visit of Messrs Sedgwick and Murchison, however, who spent some days at Dunglass after the breaking up of the British Association in September last, he has been induced, partly from a more careful examination, and partly from deference to two geologists of such acknowledged eminence, to give up this idea, and to consider all from the Cove westward (a set of rocks harmonizing entirely with those which compose the greater part of the Merse) as the lower and older measures of the coal forma-

*Zoology.*—In this department there is very considerable variety and interest, from the extent of wood and sea coast, and from the varied character of the scenery. A tradition exists, that “the wood of Penmanshiel was at one time frequented by wolves;” a very pretty story being told of two fair ladies (sisters) who, in a path of that wood, since named from them “Sisterpath,” were destroyed by these ferocious animals: the only consolation left to an unfortunate lover of one of the ladies being to collect next day their mangled remains, and to deposit them in an urn near the fatal spot,—which urn was found some years ago, and is now in the possession of Sir John Hall, Bart. Foxes are numerous: all the varieties recognized by sportsmen being occasionally seen. The badger is very frequently met with, both in the rocky deans and on the sea coast. The polecat, weasel, and ermine are also abundant, and the martin (*Martes fagorum*) is said, a good number of years ago, to have inhabited the woods near the Pease Bridge. The red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) is also said at one time to have been a denizen of Dunglass woods. The otter (*Lutra vulgaris*) is occasionally seen near the mouths of the rivulets, and occasionally, also, the common seal (*Phoca vitulina*.)

*Ornithology.*—In Penmanshiel wood, jays build in considerable numbers. On the margins of the little streams we frequently see the beautiful kingfisher. The golden crested wren (*Regulus cristatus*) is also of frequent occurrence; and many a bird of fair and foreign plumage is occasionally seen to halt for a day or two among the woody retreats of the parish. Of these occasional visitants, we may notice, in particular, the Bohemian chatterer (*Bombycilla garrula*, Temm.), the hoopoe (*Upupa epops*), and the golden oriole (*Oriolus galbula*.) The sea eagle also has been occasionally shot. Hawks of many kinds build on the rocky sides of the deans, and on the lofty sea cliffs; the hunting hawk being frequently met with on the Redheugh coast. The raven (*Corvus*

tion; lower probably in point of position than even the lowest measures of the coal field round Newcastle.

In conclusion, I may only observe farther, that the two distinguished naturalists above named were equally struck with the great similarity of these rocks in many places to the new red sandstone of England, and that it was not till after a very careful examination that they felt themselves warranted to pronounce them as belonging to the coal formation.\*

\* In reference to this late investigation of Messrs Sedgwick and Murchison, it may be remarked, that Professor Jamieson, in a memoir on East Lothian, (which tract, geologically considered, is a continuation of Berwickshire,) read before the Wernerian Society in the year 1815, remarks, “That the red sandstone, where its junctions can be seen, is observed to rest on transition rocks, and to be covered more or less completely with the common rocks of the coal formation,” which is the position given to these formations by the English geologists just mentioned.

*corax*) builds on the most inaccessible sea cliffs, the carrion crow (*C. corone*), and the hooded or royston crow (*C. cornix*) being also abundant. But perhaps the most interesting bird on this coast is the red-legged crow, or Cornish chough (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*), a bird mentioned about 300 years ago by Bishop Lesslie, in his work "de Origine Scotorum," as occurring on the eastern coast of Scotland, but which, since his days, had apparently been totally lost sight of, till a few years ago the author of these remarks found means to intimate its occurrence on these coasts to P. J. Selby, Esq.; thus confirming the accuracy of the Bishop's information, and showing, in consequence, that the limits usually assigned to the distribution of the chough in this country are erroneous. Rock-pigeons occur in great abundance in the sea caves, &c. along the coast; and, owing to the neighbourhood of St Abb's Head, well known as one of the principal breeding stations of sea fowl in the island, the variety of sea gulls and other aquatic birds frequenting the coast is very great. The goatsucker, or night-jar, (*Caprimulgus Europeanus*), has also been frequently shot.\*

Game is tolerably abundant: the usual kinds being the red grouse, black-cock, partridge, pheasant, woodcock, dottrel, &c.

*Reptiles, &c.*—In the woods and moors we meet with the adder or viper (*Vipera communis*) in considerable abundance, and occasionally, also, the blind worm (*Anguis fragilis*) is observed in the heaths and upland coppices. Three species of eft also occur: viz. *Triton palustris*, *T. aquaticus*, and *T. vulgaris*. The *Lacerta agilis*, or nimble lizard, is occasionally seen in the sunny heaths, and the natter-jack (*Bufo rubeta*), we have seen one specimen of.

*Botany.*—In this department of natural history there is also considerable interest, partly from the variety of natural scenery and elevation, and partly from the quantity of ground still in a state of nature. The deans are all interesting botanical stations. The shore also furnishes some interesting plants; and Penmanshiel wood contributes its numbers. Of all these, however, Duuglass Dean is certainly the richest and most interesting: a glen of such uncommon beauty and picturesque effect, that it never fails to excite in all who visit it the greatest admiration. This beautiful valley commences in the parish of Oldhamstocks, forming, for about two miles, the western boundary of this parish, and presenting throughout this distance a succession of scenes the

\* A few days ago a very fine specimen of the bittern (*Ardea stellaris*) was shot near Old Cambus.

most beautiful which can be imagined. On its western side stands the elegant mansion of Dunglass, (Sir John Hall, Bart.) a residence of uncommon beauty. Occurring in this station, we have to notice, among a host of others, the following plants, which we mention, because many of them are rare in other districts: *Veronica montana*, *Vicia sylvatica*, *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, *Pyrola media*, *Anchusa sempervirens*, *Epilobium angustifolium*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Circæa lutetiana*, *Allium ursinum*, *Thalictrum flavum*, *Cardamine amara*, *Hypericum humifusum*, *Lepidium campestre*, *Epipactis nidus avis*, *Melica cærulea*, *M. uniflora*, &c. Belonging to the Cryptogamous class, we notice in the same situation the following interesting and beautiful individuals belonging to the order Filices: *Scolopendrum vulgare*, in great abundance, and exceedingly ornamental; *Asplenium adiantum nigrum*, *A. Trichomanes*, *Aspidium lobatum*, *A. aculeatum*, *A. dilatatum*, *Polypodium dryopteris*, &c. Among the mosses may be mentioned the following, as occurring in very great profusion, as well as in very fine fruit: *Bryum punctatum*, *B. rostratum*, *Hypnum undulatum*, *H. proliferum*, *H. alopecurum*, *Bryum hornum*, *Hookeria lucens*, &c. On the shore, we meet with the *Thalictrum minus*, *Glaucium luteum*, *Erythræa Centaurium*, *Cakile maritima*, *Ligusticum Scoticum*, *Silene maritima*, *Statice armeria*, and the beautiful *Pulmonaria maritima*; first noticed on these shores by the great Ray (1661), and lately rediscovered in the same situation. In various situations in the parish, we meet with the beautiful *Dianthus deltoides*. In the Pease Dean and Tower Dean the *Campanula latifolia* is abundant, and highly ornamental. In the latter dean, we also meet with the *Euonymus Europæus*, *Saxifraga umbrosa*, and the *Aspidium angulare*, being the first Scottish station, so far as we are aware, for this very handsome fern. On the sides of the hills, we meet with the *Juniperus communis* in abundance; *Genista Anglica*, *Gnaphalium dioicum*, *Tormentilla reptans*, &c. while, in other parts of the parish, we have noted the following plants, as being worthy of a place in this sketch of the natural history of the parish,—*Trollius Europæus*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Fumaria claviculata*, *Stachys arvensis*, *Peplis portula*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Sedum Anglicum*, *Scutellaria galericulata*, *Cichorium intybus*, *Hyoscyamus niger*, *Rhodiola rosea*, *Symphytum tuberosum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Cistus Helianthemum*, *Trifolium scabrum*, *T. arvense*, *Rhamnus catharticus*, &c. &c.

We cannot conclude this imperfect sketch of the botany of the

parish, without a few observations on the woods and plantations, and the principal trees within its bounds. In all, there are about 550 acres of wood, of which about 440 belong to Sir John Hall, Bart. principal proprietor in the parish. These woods are of different descriptions, but, for the most part, they are natural. Considerable quantities of trees, however, have, especially of late years, been planted. The soil is evidently most congenial to oak, and this, accordingly, is the principal tree in the parish,—there being about 300 acres covered with it. Generally speaking, the species is the *Quercus sessiliflora*, not the *Quercus robur*; and many very fine picturesque trees of this kind ornament the rocky sides of several of the deans. Much attention has been paid by Sir John Hall to the management of his woods. Indeed, nowhere is a better system carried on, and nowhere, accordingly, are woods in a more thriving condition. From this attention which has been paid to the subject, the following facts become apparent,—that on soil formed from the debris of greywacke, Scotch firs and beeches will not thrive, though many attempts have been made for this purpose; but that oaks, on whatever soil they are planted, uniformly succeed. On the sandstone district, however, especially in the neighbourhood of Dunglass, both firs and beeches thrive amazingly,—there being few places in this country where finer trees of the latter are to be seen. A considerable number of Spanish chestnuts have been planted, within a few years, in both districts of the parish; and in both situations they thrive well. A good number of larches have also been planted, principally for the purpose of sheltering the young hard-wood. Many of the beeches in Dunglass Dean, and in the park, are above 100 feet in height, and hundreds of them have an average girth of 8 feet. There are also some very fine sycamore trees, and a considerable number of large and very handsome ashes. Among the more ornamental trees, the holly seems to be one that suits the soil and climate best. The laburnum also thrives well; and there is not, perhaps, a spot in the kingdom where the ivy is more luxuriant or ornamental. In the mosses, some very large fossil oaks have been occasionally met with.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—So far as we are aware, there is no account of the history of this parish, either printed or in manuscript, with the exception of the last Statistical Account. That it has been the theatre, however, of many important events, and that its ancient history,

therefore, is far from being devoid of interest, there are many appearances tending to show, in addition to numerous notices scattered throughout the works of our older chroniclers. Many remains of military stations and fortifications may be traced in different parts of the parish,—particularly in the neighbourhood of the deans, which at one time were all very formidable and important passes. Some of these remains are evidently British; others appear to be Danish. Of the former description, a very fine specimen is to be seen on the summit of Ewieside Hill; and of the latter, an equally interesting specimen occurs at the mouth of Dunglass Dean, on the summit of a lofty precipice overhanging the sea, from the shore of which, by very great labour, a covered way has at one time been cut through the rock, leading, by a winding course, to the fortification above. About three years ago, when this ancient encampment was broken up for the purpose of converting it into arable land, a great number of human skeletons, many in very good preservation, were dug up. The mode of interment had been very simple,—four large rough stones serving the purpose of both grave and coffin. Vestiges of the Romans may also be traced in several parts of the parish,—many urns having in various places been turned up by the plough, with several articles decidedly of Roman workmanship.

In 1544, the English army, under the Earl of Hertford, passed through this parish in returning from their desolating inroad into Scotland; and in 1548 it formed also part of the route of the Earl of Somerset's army in his memorable expedition. Several very curious accounts of the passage of both armies through the parish, particularly of their passage of the Pease and Tower Deans, are still in existence, and show how very important, in a military point of view, were these valleys or ravines.

Nearly in the centre of the parish, or about a mile east from the village of Cockburnspath, stand the ruins of an old castle, commonly called Cockburnspath Tower. It does not seem ever to have been a place of great extent, having been evidently built to protect the strong pass or ravine, on the edge of which it stands.\* So early as 1073, this castle of Colbrandspath appears to have belonged to the Earl of Dunbar and March. Such is the statement of Boecius, who also gives the following ac-

\* In Grose's Antiquities there is a sketch of this tower, regarding which the author remarks: "If the appellation of Cockburnspath, by which it is at present called, be a corruption of Colbrandspath, as, from many circumstances, seems to be the case, this was once a place of great note and consequence."

count of its coming into that family: "About the year 1061," says he, "a formidable band of robbers infested the south-east part of Scotland. One Patrick Dunbar\* attacked them,—slew 600—hanged four score,—and presented the head of their commander to the king. That valour might not remain in obscurity, the king created him Earl of March, and bestowed on him the lands of Colbrandspath, to be held by the tenure of clearing East Lothian and Merse of robbers, and bearing a banner, whereon the bloody head of a robber was painted." What credit may be due to this relation we do not inquire; but it seems evident, that, at a very early period, the Earls of March possessed this castle, as well as that of Dunbar,—these forts being at that time of such strength and importance as to be considered keys of the kingdom. In 1484, King James III. having proposed to the Parliament, (on the attainder of the Earls of March,) to annex unalterably to the crown the Earldoms of March and Annandale, with the baronies of Dunbar and Colbrandspath, the borderers, fearful of a more rigid discipline than that to which they had been accustomed, raised a rebellion, in which the king was slain. In this rebellion, the rebels took the castle of Dunbar. This castle and barony of Colbrandspath appear subsequently to have formed part of the dowry, or marriage portion, of several of our king's daughters. It now belongs to Sir John Hall, Bart. of Dunglass, into whose family it came nearly two centuries ago. The immediately preceding possessor was the Earl of Home.

In the annexed parish of Old Cambus, the ruins of the old church named St Helen's still remain, overhanging a high precipice on the shore, and commanding a very striking and extensive prospect. With regard to the history of this building, and, indeed, the ancient history of this part of the parish in general, very little is known. Even the date of the union of the two parishes appears to be lost. From the nature of the building, however, which is a very simple piece of Saxon architecture, and from several other circumstances, it is supposed to have been erected some time in the seventh century. It was dedicated to St Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, and the circumstances of its erection, &c. have been thus handed down by tradition: Three Northumbrian princesses, having found it advisable to seek refuge in Scotland from a violent war which had broken out in their father's do-

\* Elsewhere named Cospatrik, an English gentleman of rank, who fled from the tyranny of William the Conqueror into Scotland, about 1070, in the reign of Malcolm Canmore.

minions, set sail with some friends and domestics in a small vessel bound for some port in the Frith of Forth. A contrary wind, however, having sprung up, they could not weather St Abb's Head, but were obliged to land in some part near it. On landing, they were hospitably entertained by the Bishop or Prior of Coldingham; and, out of gratitude to the respective saints, through whose intercession, as they imagined, their lives had been preserved, they erected severally a chapel at their own expense, viz. St Abb's, on the summit of "the Head;" St Helen's, in the parish of Old Cambus; and St Bee's, on the shore of Dunbar; which last, however, has long since disappeared. Near this remarkable old ruin a considerable number of coins were found about three years ago, together with an ancient rosary. Many of the coins were much defaced, but others were exceedingly perfect. They were of silver, and of Athelstan or Edelstan the Great, grandson of Alfred the Great.

*Eminent Men.*—With the exception of the late Sir James Hall, Bart. of Dunglass, we are not aware of any eminent departed characters with whom the parish can claim any connection. Even he, indeed, can hardly be said to have any immediate connection with the parish, since neither his birth-place nor his residence were in it. Dunglass, however, being so very contiguous, to which the greater part of the parish belongs, we cannot omit his name, which will be respected as long as natural science is cultivated, to the advancement of which he so materially contributed.

*Land-owners.*—The land-owners, according to the value and extent of their respective properties, are, 1. Sir John Hall, Bart. of Dunglass, who possesses nearly three-fourths of the parish; 2. James Hunter of Thurston, Esq.; 3. Sir J. G. Suttie, Bart. of Balgone; 4. W. W. Hay, Esq. of Blackburn; 5. Thomas Broadwood, Esq. of Fulfordlees; and 6. James Balfour, Esq. of Whittingham, M. P.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers consist of three folio volumes, containing an account of the births and marriages which have happened in the parish from December 18, 1642, to the present time. They appear to have been very regularly kept, particularly that of marriages; but within the last thirty years parents have become very negligent in getting the names of their children entered in the baptismal register.

### III.—POPULATION.

There does not seem to be any authentic account of the population.

U

lation of this parish prior to the former Statistical Account in 1794; but, if a conjecture might be formed regarding its state from the number of births and marriages which were yearly entered in the parish register about a century ago, the number of inhabitants must have been at that time one-half greater than it is at present. The principal reason assigned for this diminution, as stated in the former Statistical Account, is the cessation of several collieries at that time in activity, and the loss of the various advantages connected with them.

In 1755, the population was	919
1793, - - - -	883
1811, - - - -	921
1821, - - - -	966
1831, - - - -	1143

The increase betwixt 1821 and 1831 is to be attributed partly to the improved state of agriculture in the parish, and partly to the erection of a small harbour at the Cove, which, at the time the last census was taken, was still unfinished; and, consequently, several strangers (probably about thirty) are included in it who have now left the parish. Of the population in 1831, the number of males was 570; that of females, 573. The yearly average of births for the last seven years is uncertain, from parents neglecting to register their children. Of deaths there is no correct record kept. Of marriages the yearly average for the above period is 10. Number of families, 227; of inhabited houses, 213; number of houses uninhabited, or at present building, 8; of fatuous people there are 4; of deaf and dumb, 2.

The number of families chiefly employed in agriculture is, . . . . . 123  
 chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, 52

There are no resident heritors in the parish. The number of proprietors of land is 16;—the lowest rental being L. 175; the highest L. 1050.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The people, generally speaking, are of a strong robust frame; for the most part cleanly in their habits, houses, and dress; and seem, on the whole, to enjoy, in a very competent degree, the comforts and advantages of society. The ordinary food of the peasantry at their meals is oat-meal, milk, potatoes, and pork. Almost every family keeps a pig, and few are so poor that they cannot at a time afford a little mutton or beef. In general they appear to be contented with their situation and circumstances. Both smuggling and poaching in game prevailed at one time, we have understood, to a great extent. Both, however, have been given up;—the latter, we trust,

from the improved morality and comfort of the inhabitants; the former, principally at least we suspect, from the superintendence of the coast guard, who have a station within the parish, consisting of six boatmen and a commanding officer.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

The number of acres, standard imperial measure, under cultivation may be stated	5200
at	-
Never cultivated, or remaining constantly in pasture,	3838
That might be added to the cultivated land, though not at present with much	-
prospect of profit,	200
In undivided common,	0
Under wood.	550

*Rent of Land.*—From the great diversity in the quality of the soil, it is not very easy to state the average rent of arable land in the parish. A considerable part of the farm of Pathhead, and other lands near the village of Cockburnspath, rent as high as L. 3 per acre; while in some other parts of the parish, the rent of arable land per acre is as low as 5s. or 8s. The difficulty of stating an average sum is increased from the circumstance, that most of the farms are let at corn rents. Perhaps the average sum for the lower part of the parish may be stated at L. 1, 15s. per acre, and for the whole parish at L. 1. The rent of grazing an ox or cow may be averaged at L. 3 for the whole parish; a ewe or full-grown sheep at 8s. The rental of the parish may be estimated at about L. 8000.

*Prices of Labour.*—Ploughmen or hinds throughout the parish, with some trifling variations, are paid as follows:—10 bolls of oats; 3 bolls of barley; 2 small bolls, or 6 firlots of peas; L. 3 of *sheep-money*, as it is called in this parish, or *fallow-money*, as it is named in some other parts of Berwickshire; a cow kept summer and winter; 3 bolls of coals at 12 cwt. per boll; and 12 bolls, at an average, of potatoes. Every hind and cottar is required to keep a *bondager*. It should also be mentioned, that the hind's wife, instead of the payment of rent for the house and small garden attached to it, gives her services in cutting down the crop in harvest. Formerly it was permitted to the hinds to keep poultry,—a practice now very generally given up. Instead of this privilege they are allowed one-half boll of barley. Altogether a hind's income cannot at present be stated at more than from L. 22 to L. 24 per annum. Men-servants, with board, &c. receive for wages L. 9, 10s.,—that is, L. 5 for summer and L. 4, 10s. for winter; women servants receive generally L. 7, viz. L. 5 for the summer half year, and L. 2 for the winter.

Farm-labourers, labourers employed on the roads, &c. are paid at the rate of 10s. per week for the summer half year, and 9s. for the winter. The wages of mason and carpenter may be stated from 15s. to 18s. per week.

*Prices of Implements, &c.*—A double horse cart, full mounted, with iron axletree, costs L. 12, 12s.; a single horse cart, do. do. L. 10, 10s.; a long cart do. without wheels, L. 4, 4s.; a wheelbarrow, full mounted, 18s.; an iron plough, full mounted, L. 3, 3s.; a wooden plough, L. 1, 15s.; a pair of wooden harrows, full mounted, L. 2, 2s.; building stone and lime dikes, persquare rood, 18s.; building dry-stone dikes, per running rood, 3s.; sawing of fir-wood, per 100 feet, 2s. 6d.; sawing of hard-wood, do. 4s. 6d.

*Breeds of Live-Stock.*—The breeds of sheep in the parish are various, according to the soil and situation. On the best land the pure Leicester is the breed preferred; on the higher ground they are generally of the Cheviot breed. A considerable number of half Leicester and half Cheviot are also kept. Very few black-faced are kept. Until lately, it cannot be said that much attention has been paid to the improvement of the breed of cattle. The cows at one time were of a very ordinary description; but of late years, it has been a practice for two or three neighbouring tenants to club together and keep a well-bred bull, since which time a very considerable improvement has taken place. More attention than formerly is also paying to the breed of farm-horses.

*Husbandry.*—The system of husbandry pursued differs considerably in different parts of the parish; but it may be safely affirmed, that in no part of the island is the management of land better understood than in this parish. The farmers of this neighbourhood have long been distinguished for intelligence and enterprise, and the changes which in consequence have taken place of late years, and are still taking place on the appearance of the country, are great. On one farm, 100 acres of moor have, within ten years, been added to the cultivated land of the parish; on another, 150 acres have been reclaimed within six years; and on various other farms the changes have been equally great. The general rotation of crops in the upper part of the parish is what is called the five-shift rotation, viz. 1. turnips or fallow; 2. barley or wheat; 3. grass; 4. grass; 5. oats. On the best land of the parish the rotation is the six-shift, viz. 1. fallow; 2. wheat; 3. hay; 4. oats; 5. beans; 6. wheat. The four-shift is also followed in some parts of the parish. The distance from lime is inconsiderable; but as the coals

necessary for burning it are all brought from a distance, it is not cheap. Sea-ware is much used, and highly esteemed as a manure. Bone-dust is also used to a very great extent,—a manure, the discovery of which has been of immense use in reclaiming waste ground not only in this parish, but generally throughout the country. In no part of Berwickshire is it used in such quantity as in this parish. A very striking instance of the importance of this manure may be seen in the case of the farm of Bowshiel, in this parish, where, by means of it, large tracks of high ground have not only been reclaimed, but are now producing immense crops.

The leases of farms are from nineteen to twenty-one years; a smaller duration being considered unfavourable to the occupier.

Notwithstanding the acknowledged high state of agriculture, we fear that a great deal cannot be said in commendation of the state of farm-buildings and enclosures in the parish. Compared with many other districts of inferior importance, the former may be described as possessed of very ordinary comforts; in most places of Berwickshire, both the farm-houses and steadings being superior. Throughout a considerable part of the parish, we may also state that little has been done in the way of enclosing land,—a circumstance which forcibly strikes the traveller in passing, and for which deficiency we have never heard any good reasons assigned. Among the principal improvements which have taken place of late years, may be mentioned casually the new line of post road from Dunglass Bridge to Renton,—the recently constructed pier and harbour at the Cove, and universal drainage.

There is hardly a necessity for a single remark on the quarries and mines of the parish. The only quarry worth mentioning is near the mouth of the Pease burn. The rock is the old red sandstone, and principally valuable on account of its qualification of standing heat.

*Fisheries.*—There are no river fisheries; but the coast affords considerable numbers and variety, giving employment to sixteen families, fourteen at the Cove, and two in Old Cambus district. The common fishes are, cod, haddock, whiting, ling, skate, halibut, and turbot. A great number of crabs and lobsters are taken at particular seasons, the latter being generally shipped for London from the port of Dunbar. Shrimps and prawns are numerous, but they are not taken. Herrings in former years used to frequent the coast, but for about eight years past, with the exception of a few shoals in

the end of September 1833, no herrings have been seen in this neighbourhood.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, calculated as carefully as possible, may be stated as follows :

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man or the domestic animals,	L. 12880	0	0
Of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food,	3500	0	0
Of hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	700	0	0
Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 3 per cow or full-grown ox grazed for the season, and at 8s. per ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year,	2000	0	0
Annual thinning, &c. of woods,	500	0	0
Total yearly value of produce raised,	L. 19,580	0	0

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Villages, and Means of Communication.*—Though hardly entitled to the dignified appellation of a market-town, the village of Cockburnspath may nevertheless be said to possess all the advantages of one. On its shops and tradesmen a considerable surrounding district is dependent, there being no place of equal size or consequence nearer than Dunbar on one side, or Duns or Ayton on the other; the first town being eight miles distant, the two last fourteen. It is a neat clean village, containing a population of about 230, and affording to a great portion of several neighbouring parishes all the necessaries, and not a few of the luxuries, of life. Between thirty and forty years ago, this village presented a most decayed and miserable appearance, but, under the judicious management of Lady Helen Hall, lady of the late distinguished Sir James Hall, Bart., it has been amazingly improved both in comfort and in appearance.\* The village contains a surgeon, a baker, a butcher, 2 grocers, or rather general merchants, one of whom has long carried on an extensive trade both wholesale and retail, 2 carpenters, who generally employ from 3 to 5 journeymen each, 3 tailors, one of whom usually employs 3 or 4 men, 2 smiths, 3 shoemakers, two of whom keep from 3 to 6 men each, 1 cooper, 1 constable, several masons, various dress-makers, straw-hat manufacturers, &c. The village belongs to Sir John Hall, Bart., and the householders are all tenants at will, there being no such thing as a feu in this parish. A considerable village exist-

\* It would be unpardonable did we here omit to bear our testimony to the active beneficence, generosity, and charity of this excellent lady during the many years she resided at Dunglass, and whose absence would be deeply felt, were it not that fortunately the same spirit of kindness and charity has descended to her successor, the present Lady Hall of Dunglass, whose kindness and attention to the poor of this parish and neighbourhood are deserving of all praise and imitation.

ed at one time at Old Cambus, but it is now reduced to a few houses.

The parish contains no post-office; but by means of a runner who goes to Dunbar every morning, and returns in the evening, more than the usual advantages of a post-office are enjoyed. The parish has the peculiar advantage of being intersected by public roads, which afford convenient and easy communication to all quarters. The great eastern road from Edinburgh to London by Berwick passes through the centre of the parish, in a direction from N. W. to S. E.; its length from Dunglass Bridge to the other extremity of the parish being about five miles. A considerable part of it is entirely new within the last twenty-four years. Before that date the road was nearer the coast, passing along an old and very inconvenient bridge at one place, and along the Pease Bridge at another, which last was built in 1785–1786, in order to avoid the very dangerous pass which travellers, before that time, were obliged to cross near the sea. Part of this oldest road still remains rising through a height of upwards of 150 feet at a declivity of 1 foot in 5. Many old people in the parish still remember the mail travelling by this road. At that time it was carried on horseback, the post-office being at Old Cambus. When this old road was changed, the line by the Pease Bridge, &c. was considered, as well it might, a very great improvement. This, however, has also been abandoned. The last made line leaves the old road at Cockburnspath Tower, about half a mile westward from the Pease Bridge, passing in a south-east direction into the valley of the Eye by Renton, &c. This new line of road has been of great advantage to the parish, and though generally excellent, is still susceptible of great improvement. The numerous deep ravines which intersect the parish, give occasion to several striking and picturesque bridge scenes. Of these bridges there are four particularly deserving of notice, two across Dunglass Dean, one very ancient and picturesque, the other more modern and exceedingly beautiful, both in itself and in its accompaniments of rocks, woods, and waters. It consists of one spacious arch, about ninety feet above the bed of the little stream, the view from the top of the bridge being seldom equalled in beauty. About two miles eastward, at the old castle of Cockburnspath, the road is carried along another bridge, which, though not equal to the former in architectural beauty, is nevertheless, from its height and the wild beauty of the glen which it crosses, a very picturesque and pleasing object.

*Pease Bridge.*—But the chief of picturesque and striking

bridges is undoubtedly the Pease Bridge, to which we have already more than once alluded, but which demands a more particular notice. It is situated about one mile and a-half eastward from the village of Cockburnspath, crossing a very deep and spacious ravine, formed by a little rapid river called the Pease burn. Its length is 300 feet, its breadth 16, and its height 127. It has four arches, two of which rest on the banks of the chasm; a tall slender pier rising from the middle of the glen supports the other two. The view from the top of the bridge into the rocky yet richly wooded glen beneath, well repays a very long and fatiguing journey, but, to be properly impressed with the stupendous height of this beautiful structure, it is proper that strangers should descend the side of the glen to the bed of the stream, from which the view is equally sublime and beautiful. The bridge was built by Mr Henderson, and as a specimen of architecture has been long admired. In addition to these lengthened notices we may be allowed to mention, that in former times the Pease was considered a pass of great importance, from the circumstance, that a very few men were able to defend it against a multitude. Accordingly, it was one of the channels of escape which the Scottish army blocked up against Oliver Cromwell in the year 1650, and that celebrated general describes it in his dispatch to the Parliament, after the battle, as a place, "where one man to hinder is better than twelve to make way."

The other roads in the parish require no particular notice. They are generally kept in good repair, though, from the inequalities of the ground, &c. this is not always very easy.

Three coaches pass and repass daily, changing horses at the inn of Cockburnspath. These are, the Mail, the Union, a four-horse coach from Edinburgh to Newcastle, and a two-horse coach from Edinburgh to Berwick.

*Harbours, &c.*—At the Cove, distant about three-fourths of a mile from the village of Cockburnspath, a small harbour was completed in the month of October 1831. More than seventy years ago, a similar attempt was made by Sir John Hall, Bart., of Dunglass, who had actually proceeded a considerable way in the erection of a pier, when a heavy sea from the north-east entirely destroyed it. A similar fate befel another attempt immediately before the present pier was erected, which, in consequence, was built upon another plan, and may now safely bid defiance to any sea. The expense of this work, which was considerable, was defrayed partly

by Government, partly by Sir John Hall, Bart. Unfortunately it is found to be of much less advantage than was anticipated, the consequence, we believe, of a change in the direction of the main pier from that originally proposed, which, though intended as an improvement, has turned out the very reverse. The entrance, likewise, is too wide, admitting too much sea. Though intended principally as a protection for fishing-boats, larger vessels, nevertheless, occasionally come in laden with coals, bone-dust, &c. It will hardly, however, admit with safety vessels above sixty tons burden.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church, though situated much nearer one corner of the parish than any other, may, nevertheless, be described as so far convenient, that it stands in the most populous part of it. It is only about half a mile from the extremity of the parish in one direction, while in some others, it is fully four and five miles distant. We have sometimes found, however, that those who come the farthest attend most regularly. When the church was built, I have never been able to discover. It is, however, an ancient structure;—one of the stones taken from it at a late repair bearing the date of 1163. It remained long in a most uncomfortable state; but repairs at various times have been made upon it, especially in 1807, when it was newly seated and rendered more comfortable; and again to a trifling extent in 1826. Additional repairs have been obtained since the writer of this account was settled in the parish, 100 new sittings having been added, and the church-yard, which before his settlement was in a most disgraceful state, having been well-fenced and made as neat as any church-yard in the county. With the late additional sittings, there is accommodation for about 400 people. The seats belong entirely to the heritors.

I have never been able to learn at what time the manse was built. The greater part of it, however, is evidently ancient. It was repaired in 1791, and again in 1808. Some additional repairs were also obtained about two years ago, which have made a comfortable, though certainly by no means either an elegant or very commodious mansion.

The glebe measures about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  English acres, and is let at the rate of L. 3 per acre, including the driving of coals and the quantity of potatoes required by the minister.

The stipend modified in March 1831 is seventeen chalders, half meal and half barley, at the highest Merse fiars prices, with

two bolls of wheat. The allowance for communion elements is L. 8, 6s. 8d. The amount converted into money was for crop and year 1832, nearly L. 230; for crop 1833 about L. 220. The Crown is the patron of this living.

A chapel belonging to the United Secession church was erected about forty-five years ago at Stockbridge, about a mile south from the village of Cockburnspath. Particular circumstances led to its erection, which it would not be agreeable here to state; but having once been erected, it has continued not only to exist, but to keep together a very considerable congregation. It ought to be stated, however, that the congregation is not all from this parish, but that a pretty large portion of it is from the adjoining neighbourhood. The managers have the letting of the seats, and they bind themselves to pay their minister L. 100 per annum. This sum, however, notwithstanding that a considerable debt still remains unpaid, is generally increased, so as to make the minister's income from L. 120 to L. 125 per annum.

The chapel is to be considered in the light of a feu from Sir John Hall, Bart. a yearly acknowledgment being now exacted of a boll and a half of barley.

The number of families attending the Established church is about 112, but a considerable additional number attend from the adjoining parish of Oldhamstocks, on account of the more convenient distance. The number of families in the parish who attend the meeting is about 87. There are some families in the parish who are members neither of church nor meeting, and these we have not included. The number of male heads of families in communion with the church is 90, attached to the meeting 74. The average number of communicants at the Established church is about 285. Notwithstanding what we must acknowledge to be the very considerable number in this parish attached to the Secession, it is exceedingly gratifying to be able to state, and we do it from a very recent personal visit to almost every house in the parish; that exceedingly few, indeed, can be said to be attached to voluntary principles, notwithstanding the too numerous attempts at the present time to inflame men's minds upon this subject. Were people left to their own quiet judgments, there is no wish, we are persuaded, throughout this country, that the Established church should be overturned. Multitudes we have seen who do not even know what is meant by the term voluntary, and, from what we have lately seen, we are perfectly certain that many of

those Dissenting ministers who now advocate so boldly and confidently, the voluntary scheme, would be somewhat mortified, as well as surprised, if they were to take the sense of their congregations on this important question. Divine service, we are happy to state, is generally very well attended, both at church and meeting.

*Education.*—There are three schools in the parish, the parochial school, a school supported by subscription in the village of Cockburnspath, and an endowed school in the district of Old Cambus. In the parochial school, which is ably conducted, the branches generally taught are, English reading, English grammar, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, Latin, and practical mathematics; sometimes also Greek, French, geography, and the theory of mathematics. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 30, and the yearly average amount of school fees for the last ten years is L. 45. This sum, however, is never completely realized on account of bad payments. The yearly season for teaching continues for three quarters and a-half, each thirteen weeks, and the expense of attendance during that time is, for English reading, 10s. 6d.; writing, 14s.; arithmetic, 17s. 6d.; Latin, L. 1, 6s. 3d. The average annual number of scholars is 90. The school-house is good, but the dwelling-house is very uncomfortable. Repairs, however, have been ordered, and are to be proceeded with immediately. The branches taught in the other two schools are nearly similar to those in the parochial. - The average number attending the subscription school is 30, attending the Old Cambus school, 45. This last school, which is also well taught, has a salary attached to it of 8 bolls of oats, and L. 13 of money, with a free house. The number of children under five years of age who are now learning to read is, of males, 7; of females, 5: total, 12. Of children between five and fifteen, now learning to read, the number is of males, 116; of females, 60; total, 176. Of children between five and fifteen years of age, now learning to write, the number is, of males, 75; of females, 30; total, 105. One or two old people can neither read nor write: but, as will be seen from the foregoing statement, the inhabitants of this district seem on the whole to be very much alive to the benefits of education, while scarcely any part of the parish can be said to be so distant as to prevent attendance at school.

*Literature.*—A subscription library has been in existence in the parish about twelve years, and is at present in a thriving condi-

tion. There is also a small village library, and one or two Sabbath school collections of books.

*Friendly Society, &c.*—A Friendly Society was in existence about fifteen years ago, but, from some mismanagement of the funds, or some other reason, it became unpopular, and was broken up. No attempt has since been made to revive it. No savings bank exists in the parish. The establishment of one, however, is in contemplation. The nearest, or at least the one which might be rendered most available, is that of Dunse.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—Until the author of this account was settled in the parish, about three years and a-half ago, there was no legal assessment for the support of the poor; what was required for this purpose in addition to the collections, &c. being defrayed by Sir James Hall, Bart. principal heritor in the parish. This he preferred to a legal assessment levied upon the heritors according to their respective valued rents; his reason being, that, if such an assessment were established, his proportion of it would speedily amount to more than what he formerly paid for the support of the whole poor of the parish. A few months, however, after the settlement of the officiating minister, a troublesome case occurred, which required an extraordinary expenditure, and, as it was unreasonable that the Dunglass family should be charged with this expense, when the pauper had never been on their property, and as the other heritors were unwilling to contribute voluntarily, there was no course left but to call an heritors' meeting, and to get an assessment established on a just and legal footing.

Since that time the heritors' books have every day been confirming the correctness of Sir James Hall's prediction,—though still the amount is by no means great.

The average annual number of paupers who have received parochial aid for the three years ending at Lammas 1834 is 30. The average sum allotted to each per quarter is L. 1, making an average yearly assessment of L. 120 for the ordinary aliment of the poor. Extraordinary cases of distress, however, at times occur, demanding an additional help from the heritors. The average annual collection at the church doors amounts to L. 13, more than one-half of which goes to pay the church officers, leaving the remainder in the hands of the kirk-session for the relief of the occasional poor and distressed. The only other fund for the support of the poor arises from the letting of the mortcloth, and from the interest of 500 merks, for which the session has a bond on one of

the heritors. We wish we could say there is any thing like a general disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief. With one or two honourable exceptions, the reverse, we regret to say, is the true state of the case.

*Fairs.*—Cockburnspath fair is said to have been at one time a market of some importance. Now the principal commodities exposed to sale are gingerbread, and a few toys for children. It holds on the second Tuesday of August.

*Inns.*—There are three licensed inns or public-houses, besides a toll-bar, and a shop in the village licensed to sell spirits. The two last might well be spared; for, although we do not mean to say that the inhabitants of this parish are more addicted to intemperate habits than their neighbours in other places, yet the increasing number of such houses, and the readiness with which licenses are granted, cannot be viewed without alarm by all who wish well both to the temporal and spiritual interests of the people.

*Fuel.*—The general fuel is coal, but wood and peats are both used to a considerable extent, especially by the poorer classes. The coal used is principally brought by sea, either to the Cove harbour in this parish, or to that of Skateraw, in the adjoining parish of Innerwick. The nearest coal wrought is on the other side of Berwick-upon-Tweed, more than twenty-two miles distant. Including carriage, &c. coals cost in this parish, according to the quality, from 9d. to 1s. per cwt.

*December 1834.*