

# PARISH OF NORTH BERWICK.

PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND  
• TWEEDDALE.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—VARIOUS etymologies are given of the name. One only appears unexceptionable. *Aber* is well known to signify the termination or mouth of a river, and *wick*, a town; hence the name '*Berwick*, dropping the initial letter which is retained in Aberdeen, Abernethy, Aberdour, Aberbrothie, &c. This is precisely descriptive of the situation of the town of North Berwick, on a corner or an angle of land at the mouth of the river or Frith of Forth. It is called *North Berwick*, evidently to distinguish it from *South Berwick*, so designated in the charters of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries; which was also originally a Scotch town, though now an English one, and now styled Berwick-upon-Tweed. One other etymology may be cited. Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, states, that in those early charters, and in the Northumbrian topography, the orthography of the name is *Bar-wic* or *Barewic*: the bare or naked village; appropriate, as he conceives, to the site of North Berwick, which, according to his representation, stands on the naked shore of the Forth.

*Extent—Boundaries.*—The parish consists of a royal burgh and a landward district, and extends 3 miles from west to east, and upwards of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from north to south. It is bounded on the north by the Frith of Forth; on the south, by the parishes of Whitekirk and Prestonkirk; on the west, by the parish of Dirleton; and on the east, partly by the Frith of Forth, and partly by Auldham, an ancient parish now united with the conjoined parishes of Whitekirk and Tynninghame.

*Mountains.*—There is a picturesque range of trap rocks from east to west, at Balgone and Rockville, about two miles south from the town, partly wooded and partly bare, of great beauty; a deep pass through which line, forming the public road to Linton,

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covered with copse, and studded sideway with little perennial springs, is an unique picture of choice Highland scenery. North Berwick *Law*, half a mile south from the town, is a very beautiful conical hill, about 940 feet above the level of the sea, standing on an elevated plain, and of comparatively easy ascent. The various views in ascending, and especially from the summit of the hill, inland and seaward, are of the most delighting and commanding character. The ruins on the top are only of modern date, and were the residence of the party—(a naval officer and three assistants,) in charge of the signal station established thereon during the late war, and dismantled on the return of peace. The erections are all unroofed, and yearly accumulating the usual interest and tokens of time and tempest. The *Law* is of considerable extent, fully 70 acres, and is used for the pasture of sheep. It is wooded near the base to the east, whence there is an ascent of the mountain by a prepared zig-zag path, called from its form the *M-Walk*. An enclosed green meadow, enriched with venerable elm trees, surrounds it on the south and west. On the south side of the hill is a quarry of excellent reddish stone, from which the town has principally been built.

*Links*.—Links extend along the shore. Those to the west of the town are attached to the Abbey portion of the barony of North Berwick, and are pastured by the cows of the inhabitants of the *West-gate*, the portion of the town beyond the bounds of the royalty. Those to the east of the town are the property of the town, a common for the burgesses, whose cows graze along, terminating with the public washing-house and bleaching green, and bounded by Mill-burn, the only stream in the parish. It is proposed to feu the southern and elevated portion of the eastern links for villas, according to a plan which is now being arranged; a scheme which promises to be an essential improvement to the appearance and interests of North Berwick.

*Coast*.—The coast, very rocky, full of inequalities and indentures, may be stated to be of about three miles and a-half in extent, faced on the west by the greenstone island of Craigleith, and on the east by the Bass. A very beautiful semicircular bay lies immediately to the west of the harbour reaching to Point Garry; a smaller is to the east of the town at the foot of the Rhodes farm; and a third and larger, much admired, named Canty Bay, lies about three miles east of the town, directly opposite to the Bass, which is the residence of the tenant of the Bass, and his assistants, where boats.

are constantly kept for the conveyance of visitors to the far-famed rock. The shore to the west is somewhat flat and sandy, but to the east it is generally high and rocky, with several rugged projecting headlands, terminating north-east with the extensive lofty precipice on which stand the venerable and classic ruins of Tantallan Castle.

Directly opposite to the town of North Berwick, a mile from the shore, is an island, about a mile in circumference, called Craigleith. It is a bare barren rock, inhabited only by rabbits and sea-fowl. The jack-daws are in immense numbers, and it is a favourite residence of the *Tommy-norrie*, alias the *Coulterneb* or puffin. The town-council had resolved, many years ago, in pecuniary difficulties, to sell this island, and it was intended to dispose of it by lottery. Arrangements were gone into accordingly; but it was discovered that such a transaction would have been illegal; and in 1814 it was sold to Sir Hew Dalrymple, Bart. for L. 400. It is now conjoined with the North Berwick barony. Steamers and other vessels regularly pass in the channel between the island and North Berwick. Occasionally in storms from the north-east or east, the tremendous dashing and breaking of the mighty waves on the white precipitous cliffs on the eastern part of this island, create a scene peculiarly sublime.

*Climate.*—On the whole, the climate is peculiarly salubrious. There is no prevalent distemper, no ague; and pulmonary consumption is peculiarly rare. The register of deaths for the last six months of 1838 gives only two adults, and three young children. Throughout 1838, the recorded deaths in the parish are only five adults, and seven children. The winter is generally clear and mild; in spring, however, from the prevalence of the east and north-east winds, it is often keenly cold; the geniality of summer and autumn is amply attested in the crowded influx of strangers for the enjoyment of sea-bathing and perambulation among the beautiful scenery around.

*Hydrography.*—The Frith of Forth bounds the parish on the south and east, semi-circumambient to Auldham Bay. One or two insignificant streamlets wind their course to the Forth, but are scarcely more than the confluence of drains or trivial marshes. Mill-Burn, however, deserves notice, meandering its way round the west and south base of the Law, and through a sweetly secluded and wooded ravine, styled the *Glen*,—a delightful retreat and walk, sheltered from every wind, and opening at its termination on a splendid

view of the Frith, embracing the Isle of May, the east nook of Fife, and Craigleith.

*Geology.*—The rocks in this parish belong to the secondary and alluvial classes, and of these the predominating kinds are secondary.

I. *Secondary formations.*—These are sandstone, limestone, and trap. The sandstone, generally of a red colour, sometimes contains beds of limestone; one of these, remarkable for its offensive smell, occurs at Rhodes quarry, about half a mile from North Berwick. The sandstone and limestone are older than the true *coal metals*, and, therefore, workable coal is not to be expected under or in them. The trap or whinstone rocks which form the greater part of the parish, either cover or traverse in various ways the sandstone strata. Immediately above the town of North Berwick, rises the beautiful conical hill, named North Berwick-Law, whose summit is about 940 feet above the level of the sea, and 800 feet above its base. The district around the hill is low, and slightly undulated. The lowest rock visible is a variety of trap tufa; higher up is amygdaloid. The middle and upper parts of the hill are of a beautiful and very sonorous variety of clinkstone porphyry; and the summit rock is clinkstone porphyry, intermixed with crystals of augite, thus forming a transition to augite-greenstone. The clinkstone is, in some places, columnar, and forms cliffs of considerable magnitude. The Bass Rock, so celebrated in history, is a vast mass of secondary trap, resembling that of North Berwick-Law. It is an augite greenstone, generally fine granular, but sometimes so abounding in felspar as to verge on clinkstone. It exhibits, in a very marked manner, the tabular structure, as is also the case in the similarly composed Isle of May.

II. *Alluvial Strata.*—These do not differ in individual and general characters from the alluvial deposits in the neighbouring parishes. A more detailed account of the geology of this parish is given by Professor Jameson, in the third volume of the *Memoirs of the Wernerian Natural History Society*.

*Soil.*—The soil of this parish is, in general, as stated in the former *Statistical Account*, rich, fertile, and well cultivated, producing large crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas and beans. \* No hemp is raised, nor flax. Turnips are now extensively cultivated, and potatoes are raised in considerable quantities. This parish has largely shared in the improvements of modern agriculture; and is distinguished for the science, and care, and success of its husbandry.

*Zoology.*—It is on the island of the Bass, that the rarer species of zoology in this parish are to be found. We subjoin the statement of the birds that breed on the Bass, as furnished to us by the keeper of the island. “The Solan goose or gannet, measuring 6 feet from tip to tip of the wings; the large black gull, about 5 feet; the large blue gull, about 4 feet 9 inches; the kittiwake, about 3 feet 7 inches; the common marrot or guillemot, about 2 feet 8 inches; the puffin or Tommy-norrie, about 2 feet; the razor-billed marrot, or common puffin, about 2 feet 4 inches; the falcon or hawk, the large raven, the eider-duck, and the cormorant; with innumerable flocks of smaller birds not peculiar to the Bass.”

The most celebrated of the sea fowl frequenting the Bass is called the solan goose, or the gannet, a large white bird, measuring six feet from tip to tip of the wings, of which there are numberless thousands. It is almost peculiar to the Bass and Ailsa Craig; though occasionally, we believe, it is seen in some of the northern and western islands of Scotland. It hatches on the bare niches or shelves of the rock. Its season of incubation is in the months of June and July. The keeper assures us it is mere fiction, that the bird broods with her *sole* on the egg, whence the name is supposed to have arisen, for that the egg under the body of this bird, is hatched in every way just as in the case of the domestic goose. It is equally a fiction that she lays but one egg. The keeper has taken more than a dozen eggs successively from the nest of one bird; but leave her with her first egg and she will lay no more. It is equally a fiction that the egg is fastened to the rock by any peculiarly adhesive glutinous substance. The solan goose is a bird of annual migration. They come to the rock early in February in successive increasing flocks. It is about the beginning of August that the young are taken, after which the old begin to depart. They prepare to migrate as soon as their young are taken from them. They linger till October, and by December they were wont to be almost entirely gone, no one knows whither; but within these last three years, hundreds have remained on the rock throughout the winter,—because herrings have remained; and they depart and return in correspondence with the movements of the fish on whom they prey.\* Only the young birds are taken and sold. Sometimes even 1700 have been taken in a season, and sometimes not 700. They are taken from the rock by the

\* We are assured that, not for forty years, have so many herrings been taken in the Frith of Forth as during last year.

keeper, who descends with a rope fastened around his waist, and held above by his assistant; another rope is fastened to the rock above, which he holds around his hand, to facilitate his movements. He lays hold of the bird with a hook, draws it toward him, and kills it with a stroke on the head; then with great force throws it from him over the projections of the rock to the sea below, where the men in the boat are prepared to pick it up. The act of throwing, the keeper tells us, is the most difficult and perilous effort in the process. The feathers are valuable, and skilfully prepared for use: the grease is carefully secured, and sold for a variety of purposes. The flesh is of a fishy peculiar flavour, an epicurean *bonne-bouche*; not, however, adapted to universal taste or enjoyment.—It is also a traditional error, that the solan goose remains at one ancient invariable price. It has long ceased to be 2s. 6d. The keeper tells us, twenty years ago it was only 1s. The usual price now is 9d. The eggs of the sea-fowls that are sold, are those only of the black and blue gull, at 1s. 6d. a dozen.

The parish is not remarkable for breeding any peculiar species of cattle. The fish commonly taken in the Frith are cod, haddock, whiting, skate, turbot, and flounders; of course herrings and mackerel in their seasons. The shell-fish are abundant and excellent: chiefly lobsters and crabs. These are conveyed in carts to Edinburgh and Glasgow, and to London by fish smacks, expressly built for this purpose. The usual retail price of a lobster is 1s. and of a crab 1d.

*Botany.*—The dominion of the plough is not favourable to the objects of the botanist, and, excepting the Law and the Links, the parish is wholly arable. These exceptions, of course, present the usual varieties suited to such soils. There are very fine aged trees at Balgone and Leuchie—ash, beech, elm, oak, plane—which species seem best fitted to the atmosphere and soil, and grow magnificently. For the botany of the Bass, see Dr Walker's "Essays on Natural History."

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

North Berwick, though its origin is unknown, is a town of very ancient date,—being as old, at least, as the thirteenth century. It stands low, on the verge of the Frith of Forth, and consists of one long street from west to east, and of another near its eastern termination, from the north down direct to the harbour; this latter street, ornamented with a row of trees on each side, is the principal residence of the gentry. It was indebted

for its incorporation as a royal burgh to its charter from Robert III. ; and its municipal privileges were confirmed by a charter of James VI., dated 18th September 1568. It is governed by two bailies, a treasurer, and nine councillors. There is no guildry, and there are no incorporated crafts. It has, at no time, been a place of much commerce or consideration, as is evident from the small amount of the sums levied from it at the successive periods of public taxation. Of course it was represented by its commissioner in the Scottish Parliament ; and since the Union, it has been associated with Haddington, Dunbar, Lauder, and Jedburgh, in the election of a representative to the united Parliament.

The manor and the town of North Berwick, are stated as having been possessed by the Earls of Fife, the descendants of Macduff, during the twelfth, thirteenth, and a part of the fourteenth centuries. The last of this great family who enjoyed this estate was Isabel, the last Countess of that line, who lived during the revolutionary reign of David II. At the accession of Robert II., by an unrecorded arrangement with Robert Duke of Albany, William Earl of Douglas acquired the barony of North Berwick, and so laid the foundation of the long, extensive, and powerful influence of the Douglasses in East Lothian. In 1373, by a charter of Robert II. to Earl William, North Berwick was made a burgh, with the privileges of buying and selling, with a port and custom-house for the entrance and clearance of ships, and a tron for the weighing of wool. This is the most ancient charter of North Berwick. The Earl at the same time entered into an obligation to resign this charter, "if the same should be found detrimental to the king, to the nation, or to the burgh." It does not appear that the Earl succeeded in his beneficent design. Even in 1692, more than three centuries afterwards, the town is stated to have had "only two fishing boats." It will be seen, in a future place, to what comparative importance it has progressively advanced.

The manor of North Berwick often changed its lords. It was forfeited in 1455, by James Earl of Douglas ; but in 1479, it was granted by James III. with most of the forfeiture of that Earl, to his heir-male Archibald Earl of Angus, and erected into a free barony ; —though the king was ill requited for his benefaction, for Angus pursued James III. to his dethronement and death ; and in the possession of this younger line of the family of Douglas it long remained, associated with the lands and castle of Tantallan, the renowned seat of their power and defence. We find that the site of the mo-

nastery, with much of the property belonging to it, was granted by James VI. to Alexander Home, the possessor of the barony of North Berwick; but his family failed, and the property was transferred successively to other owners, and in 1640 a ratification was passed in Parliament of the right of Sir William Dick to the lands and tithes of the barony. These possessions were many years afterwards acquired by Sir Hew Dalrymple, Lord President of the College of Justice; who purchased also from the Marquis, afterwards Duke of Douglas, representative of the Earls of Angus, the remainder of the barony of North Berwick, styled the lands and lordship with the fortalice of Tantallan. The property of the whole has descended regularly in entail, and is now vested in Sir Hew Dalrymple, Bart., the lineal descendant of the President of the Court of Session.

*Eminent Characters.*—Many illustrious men in ancient times have lived and died in the parish of North Berwick, and illustrious women too; the Lords of Tantallan, the Prioresses of the monastery, and the Martyrs of the Bass,—over most of whom the veil of oblivion has long fallen, and it cannot be upraised. How very soon the mighty and the famed, the learned and the good, fade into the shade of forgotten time, without the faintest memorial even of their existence; no note even to tell us where they sleep! So fares it here with the house of Douglas, and the house of Home, and the many beside, rich and powerful, and noted in their various generations. Tradition reports St Baldred, the disciple of St Kentigern, and the apostle of East Lothian, as a resident on the Bass. He died in the beginning of the seventh century.

As an eminent character, celebrated in the fifteenth century, the name of John Mair or Major must be recorded as a native of this parish.\* He was born at Gleghornie in 1469. He became a member of Christ's College, Cambridge, where in 1518 he seems to have written his learned history. He became a member of the University of Glasgow, and bore the titles of Canon of the Chapel Royal and Vicar of Dunlop. He is represented as Professor of Theology in Glasgow in 1521, and one of the *Deputati Rectoris*; during that year his work "*De Gestis Scotorum*" was published in Paris. He remained in Scotland about five years, and taught theology in the University of St Andrews; where, in 1525, Buchanan is stated

\* I am indebted to my esteemed friend, Mr Robert Chambers, for the knowledge of this fact, in whose very valuable "*Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen*," the more curious reader will find ample details regarding this learned historian.

to have studied under him in the College of St Salvador, and to have been so fascinated with his instructions as to have followed him to France. He returned to Scotland in 1530, and resumed his teaching of theology in St Andrews, which he continued for many years, and died about the year 1547.—The Earl of Angus, the famed husband of Margaret of England, the queen mother of James V., whose changeful and eventful life occupies so prominent a place in the Scottish Annals of the sixteenth century, died at Tantallan about 1556 or 1557.—Of the Martyrs the name of John Blackader, minister of Troqueer, a descendant of the House of Tulliallan, who died on the Bass in 1685, after five years confinement, remains in vivid and hallowed remembrance. He is buried in the churchyard of North Berwick, where a large flat monumental stone, with an appropriate poetical inscription, marks the place of his sacred rest. Its legend was renewed some years ago under the inspection of Dr Andrew Crichton, while officially resident here, whose published “Memoirs of Blackader” are full of interest and instruction.—Besides Sir Hew Dalrymple, Bart. raised to be the Lord President of the Court of Session in 1698, and which office he filled till 1737, the name of Sir Hew Dalrymple, a later ancestor of the present Baronet, is very honourably known throughout the country for his enlightened enterprise and improvements in agriculture, as is also the name of the late Sir George Suttie, Bart. of Balgone.

*Land-owners.*—The heritors are, Sir Hew Dalrymple, Bart. the chief proprietor, a Captain in Her Majesty's 71st Regiment, now on service in Canada; Sir George Grant Suttie, Bart. of Balgone and Prestongrange; Mrs Hamilton Nisbet Ferguson of Dirleton and Belhaven; the Earl of Dalhousie; Sir Edward Thomas Troubridge, Bart. of Rockville; Patrick Dudgeon, Esq. of East Craig; and William Waddell, Esq. of Sydserff. It is to be recorded, with great regret, that there is not one of the heritors resident in the parish.

*Parish Registers.*—The parochial records were, at one time, voluminous and in excellent preservation; but for very many years they were kept with extreme carelessness and irregularity. It is only very recently that they have been kept with resumed accuracy and propriety. There is an inventory made early in 1692, on the induction of Mr Matthew Reid as minister, which represents the records as commencing in 1604; but the two earliest volumes, containing proceedings from 1604 to 1638, with subse-

quent records, have unaccountably disappeared, and the earliest register we have seen is dated 19th October 1651. From this date the register of baptisms and of proclamation of marriages seems in pretty good order; while from 1758 onward to a recent date, there appear no minutes of session whatever. There are now regular and authentic records carefully kept of the proceedings of session, and registers of births and baptisms, of proclamation of marriages, and of burials. The Dissenters seldom register the birth of their children in the parish session records,—occasionally they do. A serious neglect in parochial registration has prevailed here, as generally elsewhere, we fear, in the proclamation of marriages alone being recorded, and not the solemnization. It has happened repeatedly during the incumbency of the present minister in this parish, that proclamation was duly made and recorded, but the proposed marriage never took place. Parties after marriage should present the certificate of its celebration to the clerk of session, and have the fact of marriage duly registered. The other parochial registers, as now conducted, however, are more correctly the registers of baptisms than of births, and of burials than of deaths.

*Antiquities.*—This parish is noted for its antiquities, sacred and civil; and the delineations of them, literary and graphic, are numerous and valuable. The former Statistical Account is unreasonably and unaccountably meagre; and details somewhat more lengthened, perhaps, seem due to the genuine and popular interest of the subjects. Only a few brief notices, however, are all that may be expected to receive admission here.

*Abbey.*—About a quarter of a mile west from the town, on a gentle elevation toward the south of the public road, stand the venerable but awfully mutilated ruins of the Abbey of North Berwick. It was a Cistercian nunnery, founded by Duncan Earl of Fife, who died in 1154, of which there are, on the whole, very accurate views in Grose's "Antiquities of Scotland." The site is admirably chosen, commanding extensive and magnificent views—on the one hand of the beautiful and lofty Law, and on the other of the rich and variegated coasts of Fife, the Frith with its numerous rugged rocky islands, and the immeasurably expanding ocean. It was consecrated to the Virgin Mary, and richly endowed with lands in the manor of North Berwick, and with revenues from different sources in Fife, Berwickshire, Roxburghshire, Ayrshire, Edinburghshire, and West Lothian. Its founder bestow-

ed on the convent the patronage of the church of North Berwick, with its tithes and pertinents. Afterwards were acquired the advowsons of the church of Largo, of Kilconacher, Kilbrachmont, and St Monance in Fife, with lands that belonged to each of them. The Bishop of Dunblane added the church of Logie Aithry, near Stirling; and Adam de Kilconacher, Earl of Carrick, a zealous patron of the convent, in 1266, confirmed to the nuns the grants of his fathers. In the ancient *Taxatio*, the lands which belonged to the nunnery were rated at L. 66, 13s. 4d. In 1296, the Prioress submitted to the power of Edward I., and received in return writs to the several sheriffs of Fife, Edinburgh, Haddington, Berwick, and Roxburgh, to restore the estates of her convent. Submission thus insured protection; and, for a while, the female inhabitants of the nunnery were again safe in the enjoyment of their possessions. But, in the future progress of anarchy and turbulent violence, their weakness invited deprivation and plunder under James III.; the servants and the tithes of the Prioress within the parishes of Kilconacher, Kilbrachmont, and St Monance were assaulted and seized. The Prioress, in 1482, applied to Parliament for protection and redress; and the Lords decreed the restoration of the property, and the repair of the damages that the assailants had inflicted.—In the succeeding reign, Margaret Home, fourth daughter of Sir Patrick Home of Polwarth, (who died in 1504), became a nun, and rose to be Prioress in the convent. Her niece, Isabel, third daughter of Sir Alexander Home of Polwarth, (who died in 1532), also from being a nun, succeeded her aunt as prioress. It is thus seen, that, previously to the Reformation, the nunnery had become in a measure the inheritance of the Homes. After the Reformation the revenues of the convent which remained unalienated and untransferred, were erected into a lordship for Sir Alexander Home of North Berwick, a special favourite of James VI.; and the patronages of the various other churches were distributed to various suitors, at the pleasure of the King and the Parliament. At the Reformation the convent contained eleven nuns, whose income was about L. 20 each, yearly. The income of the nunnery is stated thus: "Money, L. 556, 17s. 8d; wheat, 9 chalders, 12 bolls; bear, 19 chalders, 4 bolls; oats, 14 chalders, 4 bolls; pease and beans, 3 chalders, 9 bolls; malt, 1 boll, 3 firlots, and 3 pecks; 18 oxen, 13 cows, 1 last and 9 barrels of salmon." (Books of Assumption.) The monastery has been, at one time, evidently very magnificent, strongly built, and covering an ex-

tensive area of ground. But it has occasionally been very lightly esteemed, and is sadly dilapidated; though the massive remains are very picturesque, embosomed among trees, and form a very interesting memorial of olden times. Various relics are occasionally gathered from the fallen ruins. Leaden pipes of considerable extent have very recently been discovered, which served for the conveyance from the higher ground of water to the convent, and which are obviously of great antiquity. The Vaults, which formed one of Grose's Views, were many years ago, entirely destroyed and erased.

*Auld Kirk.*—Near the harbour, on a small sandy eminence, close to the shore, stand the remains of what is traditionally called the Auld Kirk; but these interesting vestiges have been sadly diminished, even in very recent years. The main entrance, a strongly built archway, is still entire, and the font is still permitted to remain in its primeval position and perfection. The building, said by some to have been a chapel belonging to the abbey, would seem to have been the Auld Kirk of the parish, and evidently was surrounded by the parochial burying-ground, very long disused. Year after year, in the violent north-east storms which are not unfrequent in winter and spring, the sea makes melancholy ravages on this scene of ancient sepulture, and continues to disturb and discover many forms which for centuries have reposed there. Care is taken to have these human relics removed on their exposure, and re-interred in the present churchyard. It was in a vault at the Auld Kirk, in 1788, a metallic seal was found in a stone-coffin with the legend "*Sigillum Willelmi de Douglas,*"—the impression it produces is very distinct; it is round, of the size of a half-crown. It were exceedingly desirable that means were taken to prevent the destructive encroachments of the sea on this antique cemetery, and to prevent the remaining ruin from further dilapidation. A large stone lies flat in the green centre of the area which the building must have inclosed, and is said to mark the burying-place of the Lauders of the Bass.

*Tantallan.*—About three miles east from the town of North Berwick, on a projecting precipitous eminence, of trap tufa resting on sandstone, overlooking the sea, which surrounds it on three sides, stands the far-famed castle of Tantallan,\* in naked

\* A curious etymology of this name is given traditionally, that two superintendents of the building of the Castle, called *Thomas* and *Allan*, obtained permission from its Lord, to inscribe their names as architects prominently on the walls (in Latin:) the inscription stood thus: *Tam et Allan*, hence the name the people gave it, *Tam 't Allan*. This and other amusing traditions and representations may be found in the Notes to Miller's "*St Baldred of the Bass,*" a poem of considerable merit.

majestic ruin. Its form is an irregular hexagon. The outward structure is comparatively entire; the walls are of enormous thickness. The only approach is from the west, which was defended by towers of a very massive construction,—and two ditches intervened—the inner one of uncommon depth. The entrance was over a drawbridge. Above the entrance there still remains, sculptured in a stone shield, though now much effaced, the memorable emblem of the Bloody Heart, the well known ensign of the Douglasses, its early, proud, and powerful proprietors. The interior exhibits a labyrinth of inaccessible chambers and broken staircases; the walls of the buildings remain all unroofed, of great size and extent, and arched gloomy vaults beneath them. There are several dismal subterraneous dungeons, the former prison-holds, no doubt, of the miserable captives; and long, in later days, the hidden haunts of smugglers, and the unsuspected depositories of their contrabands. One of the most deep, and dark, and dismal of these dungeons is outside the castle, at the north-west angle, and only recently discovered; and is conjectured to have been the dungeon-keep of the guard-house. The site of Tantallan Castle is admirably adapted for a warlike strength. Its origin and the date of its erection are equally unknown. It rose with the power of the House of Douglas, whose original settlement in East Lothian was on the accession of Robert II., when William, Earl of Douglas, acquired the barony of North Berwick. For centuries, Tantallan was the great and principal strength and defence in the east of this proud and powerful family. It was so admirably situated and so skilfully constructed, that it mocked every military enterprise for its conquest. Its destruction was regarded as impossible; hence the popular conviction, “Ding down Tantallan?—mak a brig to the Bass,”—accomplishments viewed as equally hopeless. The barony of North Berwick, with the Castle of Tantallan, was forfeited by the Earl of Douglas in 1455. In 1479, they were given by James III. to Archibald, fifth Earl of Angus, the well known “Bell the Cat,” whose patriotism and exploits,—whose remonstrance with James IV. against his war with England, and consequent retirement to Tantallan,—have become familiar to every reader, by the admirable delineations of the author of *Marmion*, whose descriptions (by the way) are vividly faithful to the real character and localities of the celebrated stronghold. When the succeeding Earl of Angus, married to the queen-mother of James V., had fallen from his supreme elevation, and lost his power over the person and councils of that youthful

monarch, he withdrew to the Castle of Tantallan, and there for a time defied the hostile force of the kingdom. The King appeared before it in person in September 1528, and attempted its reduction, but without avail. At length, however, Angus was compelled to flee to England; and the castle, by a compromise with Panango, the governor, on the 4th December, was surrendered to the royal forces. Tantallan and all the other castles and estates of the Earl were forfeited to the Crown. In 1537, the King personally visited Tantallan to ascertain its capabilities of defence. On the King's death the Earl obtained permission to return from his long exile; his restoration to the possession of his castles and manors took place in 1542, and he made Tantallan stronger than ever. He is stated to have died at Tantallan about 1557. But this mighty stronghold fell before the fervid zeal and tremendous energies of the Covenanters. The Marquis of Douglas had favoured the designs of Charles I., and his castle was besieged, captured, and garrisoned by the Covenanters, against the King, in 1639. It is stated as having been finally defended against Oliver Cromwell, and taken after a short siege. In the beginning of the eighteenth century, the castle and lands were sold by the Marquis, afterwards Duke of Douglas, to Lord President Dalrymple, when the castle, till then habitable, was dismantled, and left to decay.

*The Bass.*—Facing Tantallan Castle on the north, in the mouth of the Frith, about a mile and a-half from the shore, stands the immense rugged circular rock called the Bass. It is fully a mile in circumference. It rises 420 feet above the surface of the sea, and from the fathomed depth of the waters around, it may be estimated about 600 feet in total height. On the north, it is peculiarly lofty and precipitous, and stupendously overawing. On the south, it is somewhat conical in form, sloping moderately down nearly to the base. It has been fancifully stated to resemble in this aspect the spoon and knife and fork-box, such as used to grace our family sideboards.\* Its superficies is guessed at seven acres. A caverned passage penetrates through the rock from north-west to south-east, where the rock grandly projects, perhaps, forty feet. The cavern is passable even at full-tide, if the sea be calm. The Bass is inaccessible save on one flat shelvy point to the south-east; the south and the north side of this point are the only two landing-places. Commanding this point, is a small fortalice at the extremity of the curtain. At one time, the fortification could be reached

\* *Vide Chambers' Gazetteer of Scotland.*

only by ladders, or a bucket and chains, raised at the crane bastion; but afterwards, the ascent was by three flights of stairs within the rampart, each protected by a strong gate: these inner gates have long ago disappeared. The fort and the dungeons are all unroofed, and in ruins.—*Blackader's Cell* is still pointed out with its three small iron-barred windows to the west, and awakens many a solemn sacred feeling.—One solitary gun yet remains of the ancient defence, now much corroded: the few other cannon on the Bass were brought thither from Leith only in 1822, to salute George IV. on his visit to Scotland, when the southern landing-place was somewhat prepared in the possibility of his Majesty landing there. The King of Belgium visited the Bass in 1819.

About half-way up the acclivity of the rock, a little below the old effaced garden, are the interesting remains of a chapel, pretty entire. The niches for the fountains shew that it was built prior to the Reformation.\* When the Bass became the Bastille of Scotland, the state-prison for the persecuted Covenanters, this chapel was desecrated by being made the ammunition magazine for the garrison.

How early this island was tenanted by man, is quite unknown. It is traditionally reported to have been a residence of Baldred, the apostle of East Lothian, even in the sixth century. It is on authentic record, that it was inhabited in the beginning of the fifteenth century; for in 1406, Robert III. placed his son on the Bass (afterwards James I.) to be beyond the cruel machinations of his uncle, the Duke of Albany, till a vessel was procured to convey him to France; and hence he embarked in his memorable ill-fated voyage, which terminated in his nineteen years captivity in England. It is familiar to our readers that he was treacherously way-laid by directions of Henry IV., and captured off Flamborough Head: when the intelligence was conveyed to his father in Rothesay, he sunk in bitterest anguish into an immediate grave.

\* A few years ago, an incident occurred on the Bass, expressive of a strong lingering desire to retain the chapel, occasionally, at least, for its original destination. A young lady, in the presence of her father, was here solemnly confirmed in her Romish faith and profession, and the due ritual services were gone through in the presence also of the keeper of the Bass and his boat assistant. On the conclusion of the solemnities, the priest turned to the keeper, and asked him, with due decorum, if he would not also now kneel down before the altar, and follow them in similar dedication and worship. "Me?" said the Protestant Presbyterian James, "Me? Na, na, am thankfu' there's na' sense gi'en me.—I wad just as soon, Sir, fa' doon and worship ane o' these puir solan geese about us," (pointing to the myriads around him) "than e'er gang on wi' ony sic mockery." My friend and parishioner James remains an invincible adherent of the Reformation, and also, as well may be conjectured, the Bass being ever before him, a stern abhorrent of prelatic tyranny and regal despotism.

The Bass for many generations was the property of an ancient family, styled Lauder of the Bass, one of whom is stated to have been a compatriot of Wallace. The family residence, however, it is believed, was not on the Bass, but in the town of North Berwick. A large flat stone in the desolated cemetery at the Auld Kirk, is said to mark their burial-place. This family, it would seem, at length fell into decay, and the Bass underwent various transferences. It was purchased by government in October 1671, from Sir Andrew Ramsay of Abbotshall, for the sum of L. 4000. Bigotry was then rampant, and tyranny was triumphant. The prisons of our northern kingdom were gorged with the persecuted, and the Bass was converted into a state-prison for the Covenanters under Charles II. It served this debased purpose during the reigns of the last two deluded monarchs of the House of Stuart. It held out for several years after the Revolution against the new dynasty, amidst numerous and vigorous enterprises for its subjection, and was signalized as the last place in Great Britain that yielded to the dominion of William III. In February 1701, he directed the fortifications to be demolished. Ultimately, in 1706, the Bass was granted by the crown to President Sir Hew Dalrymple for one Scots penny, reserving the power of refortifying the Bass, if Government at any time should think it proper to do so. The fort and the prison were afterwards dismantled. The walls remain in naked desolation.

The Bass is an impressive historical scene in the eyes of enlightened and thoughtful men. It is an object of deep national interest, associated with the great scheme of civil and religious freedom. No one should view it without holy gratitude to God for the removal of the mournful oppressive gloom in which the political liberties of these realms, a century and a-half ago, were enshrouded; and for the advanced constitutional freedom of these better and illuminated times in which we are privileged to exist. It is not here we can have space to dwell on one of the foulest pages of our country's annals; on the enormous injustice, the cruel and bitter sorrows, and the accumulated and intolerable wrongs it records; in the reviewal of which the mind and the heart of every man, alive to the inalienable rights of man, fail within him in abhorrence, indignation, and shame. But the names of these venerated captives of the Bass, these Presbyterian faithful, deserve to remain in imperishable remembrance.\*

\* See Dr Crichton's "Memoirs of Blackader," in which he has given a collected enumeration of the sufferers, mostly from Wodrow's History, which he has carefully collated with the records of the Privy Council.

The island is let to the keeper for L. 30 yearly, on a lease of nineteen years. He resides at Cantry Bay, an opposite hamlet on the shore, a mile and a-half from the rock, where boats are always to be had in the season for the conveyance of visitors. The best season for visiting the Bass is June and July, during the incubation of the geese; and the best hours are early in the morning or evening. The tenant of the Bass alone possesses the key of the Castle; and it is to the honour of the keeper to record, that the Sabbath is kept inviolate, and on week days alone the Bass is to be visited.

There are about seven acres of grassy surface on the rock, which afford pasture for about thirty sheep. The pasture rent is from L. 5 to L. 7 annually. The sheep are in high estimation for their very peculiar excellencies, and bring a high corresponding price.

It is a curious remnant of olden ecclesiastical privilege, that twelve solan geese, *entire, with the feathers on*, are annually paid to the minister of North Berwick,—the vicar of the Bass.

*Baldred's Well*.—About half a mile south-west from Tantallan Castle, there is a plentiful spring of water of peculiar excellence, substantially and tastefully enclosed, called *Baldred's Well*, which immemorially has supplied the inhabitants of Castleton, and even of Auldhame. It is held in high modern estimation for its qualifications *to make tea*.

The ancient House of *Fenton Tower* is also in this parish, the property of Mrs Hamilton Nisbet Ferguson of Raith. It is a prominent object, on a very elevated and exposed situation, close to *Kingston Hill*,—but the walls of the building alone remain, in bare solitary desolation.—Adjoining is the ancient place of *Sydsarf*, said to be named from *St Serf*, the revered instructor of St Mungo or Kentigern, to whose memory, as is well known, was dedicated the beautiful and magnificent Cathedral of Glasgow. The mansion-house has long ceased to be the residence of its proprietors, and is now occupied by servants in charge of the property.

*Mansions*.—Among the mansions of the parish, *North-Berwick House*, or *Leuchie*, built in 1777, finely embosomed among old and young extensive woods, and commanding views of great richness and grandeur. It is the property of the chief heritor. The garden is extensive and fruitful; large sums from time to time have been expended on its enlargement and decoration.—*Balgone*, the property of Sir George Grant Suttie, Bart.,—and *Rockville*, the property of Sir Edward Thomas Troubridge, Bart., with their ample woods and

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picturesque rocks, are beautiful seats; but both, as *Leuchie*, are deserted by their respective respected baronets. This universal *absenteeism* is universally felt as a severe bereavement.

*Occurrences.*—In 1831, the Great Northern Whale, exhibited in Edinburgh and elsewhere, as one of the most remarkable natural phenomena, was discovered at sea a few miles hence, off the property of Sea-Cliff, and brought to the beach at North-Berwick. It had been dead for some weeks, and was partially emaciated and corrupted. Its length was 78 feet. A vertical section of the skull exhibited a part of its walls more than 3 feet in thickness. The weight of the skeleton was 28 tons. The whale was sold by public roup for L. 37 only. The flesh and blubber were employed as manure. The skeleton was purchased for the trifling sum of L. 10, by Dr Robert Knox of Edinburgh, who has since sold it to the College Museum of the University of Edinburgh.

In January 1832, the Asiatic cholera appeared in North-Berwick. It was among the very earliest of its destructive appearances in Scotland, and in its commencement it was invariably fatal. There were sixteen cases: the first seven died, the others all recovered. Measures of arrestment and remedy were promptly adopted; and, under the Divine Blessing, were successful. There has been no return of this awful visitation.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755, was	.	1412
1791,	.	1500
1801,	.	1583
1811,	.	1727
1821,	.	1694
1831,	.	1824

At present the amount is nearly the same as in 1831. The population of the town, including the Wester Gate, may be stated about 1100, and of the country fully 700. There are several families of independent fortune resident in the town.

*Games.*—The prevailing popular game of the parish is the Golf, for which the western links are peculiarly well adapted. The North Berwick Golf Club was established on the 8th May 1832, and is formed of noblemen and gentlemen from all parts of the country. The number of members is limited to 50, who are admitted by ballot; one black ball excludes, and the ballot must take place in the rotation of nomination, "before going to dinner." The regular meetings are on the first Wednesday of May, June, July, and August. The Captain is elected annually in August, and the rules of the green are, with a slight exception, the rules of the Golf Club of St

Andrews. The meetings are generally well attended. This is a favourite amusement of the inhabitants throughout the year.

Poaching is rare. Smuggling prevailed here, forty or fifty years ago, to a great extent; but the means and the temptations are believed to be nearly extinct. A boat with eight men, belonging to the coast-guard, for the suppression of smuggling, is stationed at North Berwick; most of these men have families, and are of very exemplary character.

During the last three years there were 8 illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Foundry.*—There is a foundry in the parish, where upwards of 20 workmen are employed in the manufacturing of steam-engines, and machines for making drain tiles. The latter is the invention of the Marquis of Tweeddale, for which he has a patent.

*Agriculture.*—For the following statements and calculations, I am mainly indebted to the kindness of Alexander Burn, Esq. Bonnington, and Andrew Richardson, Esq., North-Berwick Abbey. The total number of acres in the parish is 3456, of which 3282 are cultivated, and 174 in old grass and plantation and links,—perhaps 30 acres being in links.

Of the lands under tillage, about 200 acres, and likewise about 300 acres of old pasture, are in the possession of the owners; the remainder is occupied by tenants, on leases of nineteen years, and at rents from 7 to 12 bushels of wheat per acre, the value of which is ascertained partly by the first and partly by the second fiars, of the county, with the exception of about 400 acres let at four guineas per acre.

There are eleven tenants paying about L.12,000 per annum, though the sum varies annually with the prices of the fiars; and each tenant employs on an average seven ploughmen and other labourers.

The greatest proportion of the land consists of a strong clay, upon a close hard bottom; the remainder along the coast, consists of links, upon which the house proprietors of North Berwick have the exclusive privilege of grazing cows.

With a slight exception, the six course shift of cropping is generally adopted, viz. fallow, wheat, grass, oats, beans and pease, wheat; the land calculated for a four shift, being turnip, barley, or spring-wheat, grass, and oats.

The land intended for fallow is generally ploughed in winter; in spring it is ploughed across; it is then formed into ridges, the

dung afterwards applied, which is then, by another furrow, covered in; and, should the weather permit, it gets an additional one before sowing, in order to kill any animals that may make their appearance; and it is then sown about the middle of October. In March, grass seeds are sown amongst it, and harrowed in, occasionally only rolled; and the following year commonly pastured. In January the land is ploughed, and in March sown with oats. It is again ploughed in winter. In March, it is harrowed before drawing off the drills for a crop of beans. When that is finished, the dung is applied, the seed deposited, and finally both covered in. In summer, they are hand-hoed, the paring and grubbing plough put through them before the bean begins to blossom, and afterwards not unfrequently furrowed up by a double moulded plough. After removal of crop from the ground, it is ploughed and sown with wheat. The land for turnip is ploughed during winter. In spring, it is then reduced by frequent ploughings, harrowings, and rollings, when it is drawn off into drills, dung applied, drills reversed, then sown. Should the weather be favourable in producing a braird in the course of a month, the plough and hand-hoe are among them. Upon removal of the crop from the ground, it is ploughed, and sown with barley or spring wheat; in the spring with grass seeds at same time; then it is either pastured or cut for hay the following year, which is succeeded by a crop of oats, and this completes the rotation. The distribution of the land, under different modes of cultivation is as follows:—

Turnips about	- - -	200 acres annually grown.
Barley,	- - -	280
Wheat, upwards of	- - -	800
Oats,	- - -	500
Beans, pease, and tares, about	- - -	490
Potatoes,	- - -	80
Clover and rye-grass, upwards of	- - -	500

There is an assessment of L. 2 levied upon each ploughgate for the support of the poor, of which the landlord pays one-half. The sum of L. 2 is paid for every sixty acres as road money. There are 52½ ploughgates in the parish.

The rate of grazing for the season is L. 6 for a cow, and about 10s. 6d. for a sheep.

*Wages.*—Farm-servants are generally paid in grain. The wages of a hind are 72 bushels of oats; 18 of barley, 8 of beans, 1 pair of shoes; L. 1 for lint; cow's grass; 1000 yards of potato ground, and a house, for which the master receives eighteen days work of a shearer in harvest; the hind has leave to keep a pig. La-

bourers are paid 10s. per week in summer, and 9s. in winter; masons, 3s. to 3s. 6d. per day in summer, and 2s. 6d. to 3s. in winter; carpenters are paid about the same wages as masons.

*Live-Stock.*—From 300 to 400 cattle are purchased in autumn, of which about 250 are fattened upon turnips during winter, and the remainder are kept in the straw-yards through the winter, and fattened upon the grass during the following summer. A few are reared in the parish, principally of the short-horned breed. Generally, those purchased are of the north country breeds. About 1000 sheep are fed during the season. There are about 300 pigs reared annually, and chiefly sold to the fleshers in the neighbourhood, and to the farm-servants. Many are sent to the London market.

*Manure, &c.*—Lime as a manure has been of late years used only to a very limited extent, the ground having been already manured with it. Rape-cake has been very much used, both for wheat and turnip. Furrow draining, with tiles, is carried on to a considerable extent in the parish, and almost always at the expense of the tenant. The cost of draining, where the drains are put into every furrow, at a depth of 30 inches, is about L. 7, 7s. an acre.

Leases are always granted for 19 years.

The offices on the different farms are generally in good repair. The cottages for the farm-servants and labourers are, with few exceptions, too small, having only one apartment where all the family must sit and sleep. This system is much to be deplored. The bothy system has been introduced by some of the tenantry, but not with much success or general approbation. There are eight steam-engines in the parish; seven are used in driving the machinery of the thrashing-mills, the other engine is in the foundery at North Berwick. Entails and the non-residence of proprietors are among the great barriers to agricultural improvements.

*Produce.*—The following is supposed to be the amount of produce raised annually in the parish.

		Average of seven years.	
800	acres of wheat, at 4 quarters per acre, at	L. 2, 13s.	L. 8320
500	oats, at 6s. do.	L. 1, 4s.	4050
230	barley, at 6 do.	L. 1, 13s.	2194
430	beans, at 4 do.	L. 1, 13s. 7d.	2898
80	potatoes, at 34 bolls per acre, at 7s.		952
200	turnips, at L. 6,		1200
100	old grass, at L. 4,		400
500	one year's old grass, at L. 9,		4500
			L. 24,454

*Quarries.*—There are only three quarries wrought to any extent; one at North Berwick Law, where excellent building stone

is procured. The other two are lime quarries; one at Rhodes, and the other on the Balgone estate.

*Fisheries.*—Fishing to a very limited extent only is carried on from the burgh. To remedy this deficiency, a joint stock fishing company is just established in North Berwick, with promising views of success, for the supply of the town and neighbourhood, and for the general curing of fish.

*Navigation.*—The harbour is secure and commodious; large sums, from time to time, have been expended in its enlargement and improvement; and though dry at low water, and somewhat difficult of access, it is considered very safe in consequence of its being a boomed harbour. There are nine vessels belonging to this port, of various burthens, four of which engage in foreign trade, amounting in all to 568 tons of old measure, and they are in constant employment. There has been considerable decrease of late years in the grain and lime trade; but there has been increased traffic in the exportation of turnips and potatoes, chiefly to the Newcastle and London markets. No foreign vessel stately trades to this seaport, but there is a considerable importation, occasionally of foreign rape and oil-cake, and crushed bones, for manure. The coals for the town and its neighbourhood are generally imported. The four largest vessels belonging to this port have been added to it during the last three years.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market, &c.*—North Berwick is a royal burgh, with a market-place, and is duly supplied with all the necessaries and comforts of ordinary life. The population is of the usual description; but the resident gentry are here more numerous, perhaps, than is common in such small towns. There are two surgeons, and one bank,—and a branch of the Western Bank of Scotland is on the eve of being established. Besides the burgh officer, it has no other police. There is no village in the parish. There is a post-office subordinate to the office at Haddington; the post arrives daily about eleven in the forenoon, and departs at half-past twelve. There is a stage-coach to Edinburgh every lawful day, which leaves North Berwick at half-past seven in the morning, and reaches Edinburgh in three hours, and leaves Edinburgh in the afternoon at four: it is conducted with great propriety. Four carriers go to Edinburgh on their respective days, in the course of the week. The turnpike roads, and bridges, and fences, are in excellent condition; no canal or railroad.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—A church has been established at North Berwick from remote antiquity. St Baldred may have been its founder in the sixth century. It is shewn to have been established before the reign of David I. Under that monarch, Duncan the Earl of Fife, who died in 1154, founded the convent for Cistercian nuns, to whom he granted the church of North Berwick, “with its tithes and pertinents.” It was dedicated to St Andrew. There was an altar in it devoted to the Virgin Mary. It is a curious record of the olden time, that Agnes Fawlaw, wife of Robert Lauder of the Bass, with the consent of her husband, granted an annuity of ten merks from a tenement in Edinburgh, and five from a tenement in Leith, for supporting a chaplain to officiate at the Virgin Mary’s altar in St Andrew’s Kirk at North Berwick, which grant was confirmed in 1491 by James IV. This church was of considerable value; in the ancient *Taxatio* it is valued at 60 merks. It remained in the patronage of the nuns till the Reformation. It probably was then transferred, along with the grant of the nunnery, and much of its property, made by James VI. to Alexander Home, possessor of the manor,—all of which possessions were acquired by Lord President Dalrymple, and are enjoyed by his lineal descendant.—It is an original and single parish. The Auld Kirk, near the shore, with its surrounding cemetery, is in entire desolation. The present church was erected in 1770, on the foundation of a former one, said to have been built in 1670; and, with the exception of the old oak seat of the Dalrymple family in front, the interior was wholly renewed in 1819, and is all in excellent condition. It affords accommodation for 550; of course, there is great and evident deficiency of church accommodation for the population of the parish. The seats are allocated to the heritors and tenants, except half of the western gallery, which is allotted to the magistrates and council and burgesses of the town.—The church stands in a large square area, forming the parochial burying-ground, encompassed with rows of lofty, venerable, and wide-spreading elm trees. The solemn beauty of the scene excites universal observation. The church is conveniently placed for much the greater part of the population,—no house being farther distant than three miles. The present manse was built in 1824–5, and is peculiarly substantial and commodious, and is inferior to none in the kingdom. It is beautifully situated on a gentle elevation, in the centre of the glebe, and commands every view of the beautiful and grand scenery around it. The offices are excellent, numerous, and extensive. The glebe is some-

what more than 6 acres in extent, rich, and fertile;—the stipend has comfortably progressed in amount. In 1755, it is stated at L. 72, 6s. 8d., in last Statistical Account it is stated, on an average, at L. 116. The stipend decreed on 4th February 1818, for crop and year 1817, is 18 chalders of victual;—2 chalders of wheat, 42 bolls of oats, and the remainder, half meal, half barley, according to the highest fiars prices of the county,—with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for the communion elements. There is a Dissenting meeting-house of the United Associate Synod, erected in 1778, and rebuilt in 1832, whose minister is paid from the collections and the seat rents. The stipend is about L. 100. The present minister, the Rev. George Brown, has been minister for thirty years, son of the excellent Rev. John Brown of Whitburn, and grandson of the distinguished John Brown of Haddington, and is a man of much piety and usefulness.

It is estimated that of the stated population of the census in 1831, amounting to 1824, 1592 are under the pastoral superintendence of the Established Church, and 232 belong more immediately to the Dissenters. The number of communicants on the roll of the Established Church may be stated about 500.—There are four silver communion cups, which are believed to have descended from Episcopalian service to the Presbyterian Kirk. The inscriptions on them bear date 1670; but at least two of the cups bespeak, as we conceive, a much more remote antiquity; these bear the simple inscription “This cup pertaineth to the Church of North Berwick, 1670.” The other two, similar to each other, but of a somewhat different form from those which appear the more antique, bear respectively—“Gifted to the Church of North Berwick by Mrs Barbara Young, relict of Archbald Douglas, some time Captain of Tomtallan, 1670.” “Left in legacie to the Church of North Berwick, by Mr Henry Aikinheid, late Pastor therof, and performed by Archbald Riddel and James Rige his sones-in-law, 1670.” The ancient metal ewer for baptismal water, of elegant antique form, though sadly mutilated, and the iron chest, (very curiously formed,) for the reception and security of the pecuniary offerings at the church, are relics carefully preserved by the present minister; and even the hour sand-glass, frail as it is, which was wont to regulate the eloquence and services of those long no more.\*

\* It may be noticed as a curious circumstance, that the living of North Berwick was in the possession of one family in regular succession for 130 years. In 1692, Mr Matthew Reid was ordained successor to Mr John Herbert, and survived to 1729. Mr Reid's daughter was married to Mr George Murray, assistant and successor to Mr Reid. Mr George Murray was succeeded by his son, Mr Matthew Murray, who, in

Church collections are occasionally made for religious and charitable objects, and these are suitable and liberal.

*Education.*—There are in the town, at the present time, four schools taught by male teachers, and three schools by female teachers. There is a parish school—and a burgh school built and endowed to remedy its deficiencies, and the others are supplementary to both. The most ordinary branches of tuition are taught in them, English reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography. The parish school has the maximum salary, and the usual school fees, with the legal accommodation. But it is nearly deserted,—24 scholars only were present at the last presbyterial examination; consequently the amount of fees must be inconsiderable—and, from circumstances, the other emoluments are but trifling. Education is in the most unsatisfactory state. Some legislative enactment is imperatively called for to secure and increase the efficiency of the parochial institutions of our land, on which the intellectual, and moral, and literary character of our rural population are so early and mainly dependent.—There is a sub-parochial school in the neighbourhood of Tantallan, for the immediate locality, under the patronage of the chief heritor and the kirk-session, with a free school-house and dwelling, and a small glebe.—A Sabbath school is taught in the parish church in the evening, and is productive of much benefit.

*Literature.*—There is a subscription library of considerable value, which was established in 1827. It contains many of the best works in English literature, and is rapidly increasing. Already, there are more than 500 volumes. The town and parish are also gratuitously favoured with divisions of the East-Lothian Itinerating Library, under the direction and management of Mr Samuel Brown of Haddington, to whom the population of the county is under weighty obligations for his generous and unwearied exertions to promote their mental and moral improvement.

*Friendly Societies.*—There is a “Benefit Society” established in North Berwick, which serves the double purpose of providing aid in seasons of sickness and bereavement, and accumulating savings

his turn, was succeeded by his son, Mr George Murray, who died in 1822; when the present incumbent was translated from the parish of Stenton. The brief interval of the ministry of Dr Henry Hill, Professor of Greek at St Andrews, was a mere temporary arrangement, he holding the living till the late Mr George Murray, his nephew, was of age to obtain license for ordination to his father's church. Dr Henry David Hill was brother of Mrs Matthew Murray, and of the eminent Principal Hill of St Andrews.

The moderator's chair in the kirk-session is said to be one of the ancient oaken chairs brought from Tantallan Castle, on its final demolition.

in bank. Every member pays 1s. weekly, with 2d. for sick and funeral money. The sick money ensured to him is, for the first thirteen weeks, 5s. a-week, for the second thirteen, 3s., and for the remainder of the year, 1s. 6d. a-week. If a member dies, his heirs receive L. 2, 10s.; for a member's wife, L. 1, 10s. is paid; and 15s. for a member's child under twelve years of age. Each member pays 1s. at the end of the year to the treasurer. Its existence is annual. At the close of the year, the savings, with due interest, are paid, and the balance of sick and funeral money is distributed to the members. The arrangement has been pursued for many years, and has essentially promoted the industry, the comfort, and the independence of the people.—There is also the “North Berwick Benevolent Society,” established for the maintenance of two distinct funds,—the “*Funeral Fund*,” for allowances upon the death of members, their wives, or widows; the other the “*Cow Fund*,” for giving mutual relief and assistance to members losing their cow by death;—to either or both of which funds the members of the benevolent society may contribute. It “disclaims every thing that bears the name or appearance of charity;” and the allowances exigible, it is declared, “shall be claimed and paid as a right.” The whole is under wise and generous management, and continues to prove beneficial and praiseworthy.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of families receiving parochial aid during the last three years is 25, and of persons 32. The annual amount of contributions to the poor's funds has been an assessment on the heritors and tenants of L. 104, 10s. at the rate of L. 2 per ploughgate, the church collections about L. 15, an ancient mortification to the poor yielding L. 9, 3s. 4d., and the mortcloth fees. The highest relief to persons on the pauper roll has been L. 5, 14s. per annum, and the lowest L. 1, 16s. The highest individual monthly allowance is 8s. The gross annual sum paid to paupers for 1838 may be correctly stated at L. 95, with an additional sum of L. 9 for house rents, and L. 10 of occasional donations sessionally given to relieve temporary indigence. But claims are multiplying and enlarging, and the present assessment, though recently augmented, will not be able, probably, to meet the increasing and urgent claims of parochial necessity. Independent of necessary claims on public charity, however, it cannot be concealed that disinclination to enrolment as a pauper, formerly so strong, is now sadly decreased, and is still decreasing. Probably owing to the compulsory assessment, collections for the

poor on ordinary Sundays at the church are almost annihilated among the tenantry, and well nigh extinct among all but the higher classes, whose contributions are chiefly in silver. Such a change is, in a variety of views, to be regretted very seriously.

There are two permanent benefactions to the poor of this parish. The one is a mortification from Alexander Home of North Berwick, conveyed through Sir John Home, his executor, of 3300 merks, to the minister, elders, and deacons of the parish; the interest of which sum to be annually distributed by them among the poor. The kirk-session were, on a bond for this sum, duly infeoffed in 1710 on the Abbey lands of the barony of North Berwick, by Lord President Dalrymple, and his eldest son, Sir Robert Dalrymple of Castleton; which bond is among the records of the kirk-session.—The other is the conjunct sum of L. 450, a later mortification usually styled the *Edwin Fund*, in reference to the benevolent source whence it originated. This sum was granted in 1771 to the poor inhabitants of the town and barony of North Berwick, in two bonds, one for L. 150, by Sir Hew Dalrymple, Bart. and the other for L. 300, by Charles Dalrymple, Esq. his brother,—the interest of which sum to be paid annually to the minister, elders, and magistrates of the parish and burgh, by the heir of the estate of North Berwick, in whom is vested the nomination of the individuals to receive the charity.

*Prison.*—There is a prison conjoined with the Town-Council Hall, consisting of one apartment for debtors, and two apartments beneath for criminal offenders, in tolerable condition, and supposed to be quite secure. No prisoner last year. The burgh officer is the jailor, who in his own person embodies the entire police of the burgh and parish of North Berwick

*Fairs.*—There are two annual fairs,—one in the month of June, and the other in November, neither of any moment.

*Inns, Alehouses.*—It is to be recorded with deep regret, that, within the burgh of North Berwick, the system of free trade in the sale of spirits prevails, and the multiplication of licenses has reached an appalling extent. There are thirteen public-houses, to a population perhaps of 650, affording a public-house to every fifty persons, men, women, and children. Of these public-houses no fewer than eight are under the management of as many widows, whose authority over their visitors cannot be extreme. It is earnestly to be desired and hoped, that the magistrates will soon be deeply and duly impressed with the serious evils of their most

mistaken and delusive policy. Whisky is emphatically the curse of North Berwick, the fruitful source of most of its domestic miseries; and these are oftentimes of the most mournful, and bitter, and permanent character.\* A better and different system prevails in the West Gate, which is the locality without the limits of the royalty. It is somewhat under the delegated surveillance of the kirk-session, whose certificate in recommendation for license is asked for the satisfaction of the Justices of the county. Here a population of perhaps 450 is amply satisfied with two licentiates. Except at Cantry Bay, kept by the keeper of the Bass, there is no other alehouse in the landward part of the parish,—a merciful privation to the peasantry.

*Fuel.*—The fuel is coal, brought to the harbour from Boness, the coast of Fife, and Newcastle, principally for the use of the inhabitants of the town, at the average price of 14s. a ton for Scotch Great coal, and 17s. a ton for English. The landward part of the parish is supplied chiefly by land carriage from the parishes of Pencaitland and Tranent,—a distance of twelve or fourteen miles. The coals are very costly, and form here a very heavy burthen on the industry of the poor man.

*April 1839.*