

PARISH OF EYEMOUTH.

PRESBYTERY OF CHIRNSIDE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JOHN TURNBULL, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Boundaries, Name, &c.—THE parish of Eyemouth may be described as nearly a square of one mile and a-half, each side, in extent. It lies on the eastern part of the sea coast of Berwickshire, and is bounded on the north by the German Ocean; on the east and south by the parish of Ayton; and on the west by that of Coldingham. The derivation of its name is sufficiently obvious; the town of Eyemouth, which contains the principal part of the population of the parish, being situated at the mouth of the small river called the Eye, which, rising at the Dodhill, in the parish of Oldhamstocks, and flowing through those of Cockburnspath, Coldingham, and Ayton, bounds the parish on the east side for about a mile and a-half, and then empties itself into the sea, forming the bay and harbour of Eyemouth.

Topographical Appearances.—The coast-line, commencing at the promontory called the Fort, which forms the northern boundary of the bay of Eyemouth, and is the great bulwark of the town and harbour against the gales which blow from that quarter, is rocky and precipitous throughout its entire extent, running at an average height of eighty feet above the level of the sea, and exhibiting appearances which, to the geologist, are not devoid of interest. It is intersected by several remarkable fissures, or gullies, and exhibits strong symptoms of igneous agency. In one place it is perforated to a short extent by a cavern, which is tenanted by flocks of rock-pigeons, and the roof of which is ornamented by elegant specimens of the *Asplenium marinum*. The extent of coast is a mile and a-half, and the beach is accessible only at three points,—at the Crimels, at the bay of Killiedraught, and at Eyemouth. At Crimels and Killiedraught, roads have been formed at considerable expense, which are used for transporting to the adjoining lands the sea-weed, or ware, which is cast ashore after stormy weather; but it is only at Eyemouth that the wall-like precipices, by

which the coast is begirt, are interrupted, and that a safe and commodious access is obtained to the shore. The bay of Eyemouth is formed by the promontory of the Fort, and by the projecting point of Gunsgreen, and is protected in front by a remarkable ridge of rocks called the Harkers, round either extremity of which vessels pass in approaching the harbour. The position of these rocks, it is said, suggested to Government the idea of uniting them to the mainland by cones, or buttresses, according to the plan practised at Cherbourg; but the vast expense which would be necessary for that purpose, and the very limited extent of anchorage which, after all, would be afforded, have caused the project, if ever seriously entertained, to be abandoned; and the bay is now only resorted to by vessels waiting the flow of the tide to enable them to pass into the harbour. Its outline is exceedingly graceful, sweeping round the bases of the houses in a semicircular form, from the harbour to the rocks on the opposite side; and, on account of its gentle slope and gravelly bottom, it is much resorted to by bathers in the summer season.

Hydrography.—The only stream of any consequence is the Eye, a small but very ornamental river, which, at the south-eastern corner of the parish, receives as a tributary the Ale,—a rivulet, which, flowing for some miles through a valley occasionally deep and picturesque, forms the southern boundary of the parish. The highest tides reach about half a mile above the mouth of the Eye. There are no lakes or cascades, nor are the springs in any respect worthy of particular notice.

Geology.—The geology of the parish is in some respects very interesting, though occasionally very difficult to be correctly described, partly from the want of opportunities, in some places, of ascertaining the succession of the rock formations, and partly from the indistinct character of several of these rocks, even where they are sufficiently exposed to view, as, for instance, on the sea coast. Speaking generally, it may be described as a district consisting of greywacke and greywacke slate, with subordinate rocks of trap, and slight traces of the old red sandstone. The greywacke occupies only a small portion of the parish, though in the neighbourhood, especially towards the west, it is a very abundant rock; the large parish of Coldingham being almost entirely composed of it. This rock we trace in the bed of the Eye throughout all its extent, the strata varying exceedingly both in direction and in inclination; though, generally speaking, they are elevated at a considerable

angle, not unfrequently perfectly vertical.* The prevailing direction of the strata is from west to east. In composition, this rock bears the same general character throughout the parish, being compact and fine-grained; in many places, indeed, it is only a variety of sandstone. It forms a very good building stone, and is the principal mineral employed for that purpose. The trap and porphyry rocks are more abundant; they present themselves on the western side of the bay of Eyemouth; but their exact position, with reference to the greywacke on the opposite side of the bay, it is by no means very easy to ascertain, the space between being constantly under water. These trap and porphyry rocks form very considerable precipices all along the coast, and the scenery, in consequence, is in various places highly picturesque. With little interruption they continue from the town of Eyemouth to St Abb's Head, beyond which the greywacke again appears; but how far they extend from the coast into the interior cannot be easily ascertained, though probably the distance is inconsiderable. Of these trap rocks the principal are trap-tuff and felspar porphyry, the former being most abundant. The trap-tuff occasionally contains large masses of porphyry, a good deal of the green ore of copper, and large portions of greywacke. Occasionally, also, the finer portions of this rock assume such an appearance of stratification, as is apt not a little to puzzle the observer. An attentive examination, however, leads to the conclusion, that, instead of stratification, it ought rather to be considered as a modification of structure. This appearance is particularly observable beyond the Bay of Killiedraught, at the western extremity of the parish, it being exceedingly difficult, in examining several parts of the cliffs in that direction, to say whether they are

* Opposite Netherbyres, these rocks have been quarried to a considerable extent, to supply stones for the improvements in progress there. At first, the strata, as above noticed, were found vertically disposed, but at the bottom of the quarry, after turning and twisting about in a very remarkable manner, they assumed the form of a long, low-browed double arch. The surface of this arch is so smooth, and so perfectly turned, that it resembles a work of art rather than an operation of nature. A friend, who has devoted much of his time to the study of the geology of Berwickshire, has given the following explanation of the appearance which these rocks present:

"The rocks in the channel of the Eye from its mouth to Ayton mill are the greywacke or transition rocks. They can be proved to have been originally deposited horizontally. Now to account for their disturbance; they have been, at a subsequent period, elevated,—and elevated by an eruption of lava or trap, which has burst through them in an igneous state. The Hill of Highlaws is composed of this trap. You will see it in the harbour, on the north-west corner, where it has lifted up the conglomerate. You will also see it on the Highlaws, where it is quarried. This trap, in bursting through and lifting up the greywacke rocks, has softened them, and in many places the greywacke strata, whilst in that softened state, have, probably by their own weight, folded over one another, and thus formed arches in appearance."

stratified or unstratified, whether they are trap or a variety of the graywacke.

The only other rock which we have to notice as occurring in the parish is a remarkable mass of breccia or coarse conglomerate, which must be referred to the old red sandstone formation. It forms the beautiful projecting point known by the name of the Fort, on the north-west side of the Bay of Eyemouth. The space which it occupies is inconsiderable, being apparently little more than the eighth part of a mile square, with an average thickness of about fifty feet; but in point both of structure and situation it is highly interesting. It rests immediately on the trap rocks already described, the junction being well seen round nearly half a mile of sea-coast. One-half rests on the trap-tuff, and the other on the porphyry. Though somewhat rude and imperfect, a stratification may, nevertheless, be traced, the strata being nearly horizontal. As in other situations where the oldest member of this formation is observed, it is here composed almost entirely of the detritus of the rocks on which it rests, and of the older rocks in the neighbourhood, viz. greywacke, porphyry, &c. united generally by an arenaceous cement. It is remarkable that, on both sides of the high land terminating at St Abb's Head, we find, as we recede from St Abb's, and very nearly at equal distances, the same great succession of rock formations. What distinguishes the situation of the old red sandstone in this parish from its corresponding situation on the other side of the high land alluded to, is, that there it rests, as we would expect, immediately on greywacke, while in this parish it rests upon trap. Whether this great mass of conglomerate has been deposited subsequently or antecedently to the formation of the trap, is a question which we leave to be settled by geologists; although we cannot help saying that the appearances observable incline us to the former supposition. This conglomerate forms an excellent building stone in situations where it is exposed to the action of sea water, for which purpose it has been extensively employed in the construction of the breakwater, quays, &c. of the harbour of Eyemouth. It can be quarried in masses of any size.

Zoology.—So far as we have been able to learn, there are no animals either rare or peculiar to the parish. The otter is frequently met with in the Eye, and the seal is occasionally seen in the Bay of Eyemouth. Porpoises also are numerous off the coast in the summer season. In 1817, a whale of a very large size was observed floating a little way off this coast, and towed into the bay.

It measured about sixty-six feet in length. The species was the *Balæna Boops*.

In the department of ornithology there is no great variety. The kingsfisher and dipper are occasionally seen flying about the Eye. The golden-crested wren is also frequently met with. The starling, fieldfare, and missel-thrush occasionally halt for a week or two in large flocks. The Bohemian chatterer is also occasionally seen in the plantations about Netherbyres. The sandpiper breeds on the margins of the streams. The woodcock, the common snipe, and the jack-snipe, are common. The water-hen abounds in the Eye. Herons are observed in great numbers preying upon the smaller fish both in the Eye and on the sea-coast. The creeper, great titmouse or ox-eye, cole-mouse, long-tailed titmouse, &c. are common. Linnets and finches of various kinds are also common; the bullfinch being not infrequent. A few months ago several swans made their appearance in the bay of Eyemouth, one of which was shot. Owing to the neighbourhood of St Abb's Head, well known as a great breeding station of sea fowl, a great number of aquatic birds frequent our coast; of these the principal are cormorants, auks, gulls, many of the ducks, several of the divers, and one or two species of grebes. The solan goose is an occasional visitant. The guillemot and tern are abundant; and occasionally, in particular states of the weather, the stormy petrel is observed at no great distance from the shore. The more common birds of the game kind are partridges and pheasants, the latter having increased considerably within the last few years. The principal fishes of the coast are haddock, cod, ling, turbot, halibut, skate, &c.

Botany.—Owing to the small extent of the parish, a great variety cannot be expected in the department of botany. On the sea shore, however, we meet with several interesting plants, while the woods about Netherbyres, and the banks of the Eye and Ale, contribute their numbers. In the former station we may mention, among others more commonly met with, *Ligusticum Scoticum* (lovage,) *Thalictrum minus*, *Silene maritima*, *Veronica scutellata*, *Triglochin maritimum*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Cynoglossum officinale*, *Glaucium luteum*, *Cakile maritima*, *Arenaria marina*, and, in excavated sea rocks, the *Asplenium marinum*, (a very pretty fern.) On the sea banks at Gunsgreen, the beautiful *Scilla verna* occurs in considerable abundance. The station is not exactly within the parish, but is so very near its bounds that it cannot be omitted. The discovery of this interesting plant is due to the Rev. A. Baird, minister of Cockburnspath. The station now mentioned is the

only one as yet ascertained for it on the east coast of Scotland. On the authority of the same gentleman, we may mention the following plants as occurring on the banks of the Eye, and in other situations in the parish, viz.: *Thalictrum flavum*, *Epipactis nidus avis*, *Arum maculatum*, *Rumex sanguineus*, *Listera ovata*, *Thalictrum majus*, *Tulipa sylvestris*, *Geranium lucidum*, *Sium angustifolium*, *Lamium amplexicaule*, *L. incisum*, *Sedum Telephium*, *Daphne Laureola*, *Dipsacus sylvestris*, *Chara hispida*, *Cichorium Intybus*, *Sagina apetala*, *Astragalus hypoglottis*, *Alium ursinum*, *A. vineale*, *Fedia olitoria*, *Samolus Valerandi*, *Cardamine amara*, &c. &c. Of these plants, the most interesting are the *Thalictrum majus*, the *T. flavum*, for which only two other stations have been ascertained in Scotland, *Rumex sanguineus*, a plant of rare occurrence, and the *Epipactis nidus avis*, not frequently met with. The *Tulipa sylvestris* to all appearance is decidedly wild; but, as its station is only a little way from Netherbyres, it may perhaps prove to be an outcast of the garden at some former period. With the mention of two other plants we shall conclude this imperfect sketch of the botany of the parish; the one is the *Primula veris*, the umbellate variety, which is frequently confounded with the *Primula elatior* or ox-lip; it occurs both on the sea banks and on the Eye in tolerable abundance; it is the *Primula elatior* of Greville's *Flora Edinensis*, the true *Primula elatior* having, so far as we are aware, no station in Scotland. The other plant is a variety of *Geum*, intermediate between the *Geum rivale* and the *G. urbanum*. It is noticed by Professor Hooker as occurring in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, and is supposed to be a hybrid between the two species already mentioned. It grows on the hedge sides between Eyemouth village and Eyemouth mill.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

No ancient or modern accounts of the history of this parish are known to us. The chartularies of Coldingham priory are the chief sources from which our knowledge of the early history of this and the neighbouring parish of Ayton is to be derived, as there can be no doubt that both of them were dependencies upon that ancient Establishment.* As a sea-port, Eyemouth would naturally be resorted to by the monks in their passing to and from foreign parts; and there can be little doubt that the earliest commercial transac-

* The earliest mention made of Eyemouth in the records of Coldingham occurs in a Charter issued during the reign of William the Lion, and consequently between the years 1174 and 1214. By this, Edward, son of Peter de Lastailrig (Restalrig,) Baron of the King of Scots, gave and granted to God, St Mary, St Ebb, Herbert, the prior, and the monks of Coldingham, " duas loftos ad Eimuthe et unum ad Leth honorifice, &c. reddendo annualem sibi et heredibus iij. teises de laceo sericeo."

tions, in which its inhabitants engaged, were the receiving and passing to Coldingham those supplies which were required, either for the support of its numerous inmates, or for the performance of the rites of their pompous and imposing worship. One of these notices occurs so early as the fourteenth century, and shows that shipping even at that early period, had resorted to the harbour to such an extent as to encourage the demand of anchorage dues on the part of the lord of the manor. It is in these terms, "Magna Placitatio, in curia de Eyton, pro duodecim denariis male receptis, per J. Kinkborn, nomine sedis unius navis, apud Eymouth."—Ab. Chart. Coldingham, 22.

Land-owners.—From the earliest notices extant, it would seem that nearly the whole of the lands in this, as well as a large portion of those in the neighbouring parish, belonged at one time to the Homes of Fastcastle. The last baronet of that name had two daughters, one of whom was married to Logan of Restalrig, the other to Ogilvie of Dunlugas; and charters in both of these names are found recorded. Sir Lawrence Scott seems to have been the next proprietor of the lands of Eyemouth, whose only daughter, Euphemia, was married to Mr George Winram, son of a Colonel Winram. Upon Mr Winram's failure, the estate was purchased by Mr Trotter of Mortonhall, who shortly afterwards (in 1764) sold it to the late Patrick Home, Esq. and in that family it has remained ever since. The late Mr Ninian Home, the father of the above Patrick Home, purchased the Linthill estate, (which, with the lands of Eyemouth, forms a very compact and valuable property,) from a Mr Alexander Home.*

The present proprietor of the Eyemouth estate is W. F. Home, Esq. of Billie, who resides at Paxton House, in the parish of Hutton. The other proprietors in the parish are, David Renton, Esq. of Highlaws; John Fowler, Esq. of Hallydown; Colonel Logan; Rev. John Edgar; the Friendly Society; Mr W. A. Gillie; Captain Brown; Mr J. Purves; Mr A. Robertson; Mr R. Turnbull; Mr W. Purves; Mrs Wightman and Miss Fore-

* The mansion-house of Linthill, which is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Ale, near its junction with the Eye, was, after the death of Patrick Home, the scene of a remarkable tragedy, his widow having been barbarously murdered there by her servant, Norman Ross, about the year 1752. He had concealed himself under her bed, whence he sallied forth upon her at dead of night. After a severe struggle, during which he inflicted several dreadful wounds upon her with a case knife, with which he was armed, she contrived to reach the bell-rope and alarm the family; upon which he leaped from the window, and escaped. A few days afterwards, he was found by some reapers in the adjoining field, having broken his leg in the fall. He was tried before the High Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh, and condemned to be executed, and his body to be hung in chains.

man. Their lands, however, are but of limited extent, only two of them being proprietors to the amount of L. 50 per annum. *

Although not connected with the parish in any other way, it may not be uninteresting to mention, that the famous Duke of Marlborough was created Baron of Eyemouth by William III.; but the title, being limited to heirs-male, is now extinct. †

Parochial Registers.—No parochial registers or sessional records exist in this parish dated previous to 1709. In a minute of kirk-session, dated 26th April 1716, the following statement occurs: “Mr Johnston represented that the minuts of the session in his custody, from the year 1713 to the year 1716, were taken away by the violence of the time.” From 1730, the entries in the registers of marriages, and of births and baptisms, are regular. Dissenters, however, do not generally register the names of their children.

Antiquities.—Under the head of antiquities, we have only to mention the remains of a fortification upon the bold promontory to the north of the town, thence, in common parlance, called the Fort. It occupies the whole of the elevated ground, which is of a triangular shape, the apex of the triangle pointing to the sea. It was first erected by the Duke of Somerset in his famous expedition against Scotland in 1547, ‡ and was shortly after demo-

* As illustrative of the dependence of this town on the fisheries in former times, as well as latterly, it may be mentioned, that before the division of the runrig lands, there were several portions which were termed Fishers' Lands. Some of these were possessed by individual fishermen, others were held by a particular tenure, being the common property of a boat's crew.

† Notoriety of a very different kind belongs to Sprot, a lawyer, who, if not a native of the parish, at least practised as a writer in Eyemouth for many years. He was the professional agent of Logan of Restalrig and Fastcastle; and, shortly after the time of the Gowrie conspiracy, had let fall some hints which implied an acquaintance with that mysterious affair. “These rumours, getting into circulation, reached the Privy-Council, who ordered Sprot to be apprehended in the month of April 1608. When examined before the Council, and by torture, he persisted for about two months in denying the fact, or in contradictory statements, to which no credit was given; at last he confessed that Logan was concerned in the conspiracy with Gowrie, and that a correspondence had been carried on between them by means of Bar, a confidential servant of Logan's, who had inadvertently communicated the secret to him, and had shown him some of the letters from the conspirators, two of which he had purloined, one from Gowrie and another from Logan, which the Earl had returned after having read: Sprot was tried and convicted upon his own confession, and hanged the same day he was convicted. The judges appear to have doubted the truth of his tale, and seem to have hanged the unfortunate notary in a hurry, because they did not believe he was guilty, and were afraid of losing his evidence in support of a conspiracy for which the king's credit was pledged.”—Aikman's History of Scotland, Vol. iii. page 262.

‡ The Protector, on the second day after his arrival at Berwick, escorted by his own band of horsemen and a few more, rode to Eyemouth, where, having examined the inlet by which the small river Eye discharges itself into the sea, he found it would be a commodious place for a harbour; and, soon after, ordered a fortress, for defending its entrance, to be built on a promontory on its north side. Of this fortress, he appointed Thomas Gower, marshal of Berwick, to be governor.—Redpath's Border History, page 560.

lished in terms of a treaty concluded at Boulogne between France and England, 24th March 1550. A few years after, Regent Mary, wishing to involve Scotland in the war then raging between France and England, ordered D'Oysel, her general, to rebuild these fortifications; who, though much harassed by the garrison of Berwick, succeeded in again putting the place into a state of defence. At the subsequent peace, however, it was a second time demolished; and the next reign, which witnessed the union of the two kingdoms, deprived it of its importance as a border fortress, and prevented all attempts at its re-erection. From the circumstances just mentioned, the remains of the walls are very scanty: the outline of the fortifications, however, as indicated by the large grass-covered mounds, is everywhere observable, and shows it to have been a place of some strength. Being considerably elevated above the town, and commanding a good sea view, the Fort is a favourite walk of the inhabitants, and is much frequented by the youth of the parish when engaged in their various sports.*

Modern Buildings.—There are no buildings worthy of particular notice in the parish, the old Manor House of Linthill only excepted. It is a good specimen of that kind of architecture so happily described by the author of *Discipline and Self-Control*, as characterizing the residences of the minor Scottish lairds, and, with its steep roofs and peaked and crowstepped gables, forms not an unpleasant feature in the landscape. The view from it is pleasing, embracing Captain Brown's villa of Netherbyres and its surrounding woods, Gunsgreen House, and the shipping in the harbour of Eyemouth, with the sea in the distance. In the town of Eyemouth are many good dwelling-houses, but none entitled to particular attention. In Chambers' *Picture of Scotland*, it is observed, "that at one time all the people, high and low, young and old, rich and poor, were more or less engaged in smuggling, and no house was built without a view to accommodations for contraband goods. The whole town has still a dark cunning look, is full of curious alleys, blind and otherwise, and there is not a single individual house of any standing but what seems as if it could unfold its tales of wonder." There is no doubt that, during the greater part of last century, the contraband trade was pursued to

* In the immediate neighbourhood of the Fort, there is a field called the Bare-foots, said to have been the scene of a battle in which the Scots, having been surprised in their beds, and not having time to put on their shoes, fought with bare feet and yet gained a decisive victory.

a considerable extent by the inhabitants of Eyemouth; but it is proper to add, that that illegal and, generally speaking, unsuccessful traffic has, for many years past, been entirely relinquished by them; and that their wealth, if less than in former times, has at least been acquired in a more regular and creditable manner.

III.—POPULATION.

1. In 1755, the population of this parish was	792	
1791,	930	
1801,	899	
1821,	1165	
1831,	1181	(males 542, females 639,)
In 1831, males residing in the town,	504,	Females, 602
in the country, 38,		37
		<hr/>
	in the parish, 542,	639
2. The average number of births yearly for the last seven years,		30
of marriages,		6
of deaths,		20
3. Insane and fatuous,		4
4. Persons under 15 years of age,		426
between 15 and 30,		296
30 and 50,		272
50 and 70,		132
upwards of 70,		55
5. Inhabited houses in 1831,	207	
Uninhabited houses,	7	
Houses building,	1	
	<hr/>	
Total number of houses in the parish,	215	
6. Families chiefly employed in agriculture,		26
in trade,		89
in neither of the above,		167
		<hr/>
Total number of families in the parish,		282

The average number of children in each family is about four.

From the preceding statement, it will be seen that the population of this parish, for a number of years past, has been steadily on the increase. If any specific cause be required for the small amount of that increase within the last twelve or fifteen years, the only one which can be assigned is, that within that period, a large portion of the lands in the neighbourhood of the town, which was formerly let as one farm, has been divided into ten or twelve small possessions, and that the number of individuals, partly employed in agriculture, has, by that means, been increased to a trifling extent.

The number of illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years was two.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The parish of Eyemouth contains about 850 statute acres, and is all in a state of cultivation, with the exception of about 10 or 12 acres of banks. One-half is managed after what is called the four, and the other half after the six-break system of husbandry.

Rent of Land, &c.—The average rent of arable land in the parish is L. 3, 10s. The duration of the leases is in some cases twelve, and in others nineteen years, the principal farm being let on a lease of twenty-one years. The lands are all in the highest state of cultivation, and, as may be inferred from the rent named, they are of the first quality. The sheep and cattle kept are commonly of the Leicester and short-horned or Teeswater breed. They are generally bought in to be fed on grass or turnips, very few being bred in the parish.

Rate of Labour.—The rate of labour is for men during summer, 1s. 8d. per day; and for women, 1s.; and during winter for men, 1s. 6d.; and for women, 10d. Joiners and masons are paid from 3s. to 3s. 6d. a-day in summer, and 2s. 6d. a-day in winter.

Produce.—The gross annual value of produce, on an average of the last five years, may be stated as follows: viz.

	Acres.				
Wheat,	158;	30 imp. bushels per acre, at 6s. 10d.	L. 1619	10	0
		Straw, at L. 1, 15s. per acre,	-	270	10 0
					L. 1890 0 0
Barley,	87;	42 imp. bushels per acre, at 3s. 9d.	675	2	6
		Straw, at L. 1, 5s. per acre,	-	108	15 0
					783 17 6
Oats,	175;	48 imp. bushels per acre, at 2s. 10d.	1190	0	0
		Straw, at L. 1, 10s. per acre,	-	262	10 0
					1452 10 0
Beans,	60;	36 imp. bushels per acre, at 4s. 2d.	450	0	0
		Straw, at L. 2, 5s. per acre,	-	135	0 0
					585 0 0
Potatoes,	60;	10 tons, at L. 1, 5s. per ton,	-	-	725 0 0
Turnips,	105,	eaten on the ground or carted, at L. 5 per acre,	-	-	525 0 0
Hay,	55,	each yielding 360 imp. stones, at 4d. per stone,	-	-	330 0 0
Pasture,	182,	grazed by cows at L. 4, or by sheep at 6s. 8d. each,	-	-	528 0 0
Garden produce,			-	-	120 0 0
					L. 6939 7 6

Total yearly value of raw produce,

L. 6939 7 6

Fisheries.—It is exceedingly difficult to state the annual value of the fisheries in the parish, as it is necessarily very fluctuating. The cod and haddock fishery is prosecuted by nine boats, each of which is manned by six men; the yearly produce of whose labour, in this department, may be stated at L. 1890. The herring fishery has also at various periods been very productive; from 1809 to 1820, not less than 10,000 barrels being brought into Eyemouth yearly.* Upon these occasions, from 100 to 150 boats assembled at Eyemouth, and few sights more gratifying could be witnessed, than that of the little fleet setting sail on a fine summer evening, to take up their stations on the fishing ground, or returning at break of day, loaded with the treasures of the deep. Since 1820

* During these years, the prices of fresh herrings ranged between 10s. and 15s. per barrel: cured herrings brought from L. 1, 5s. to L. 1, 12s., according to quality.

this fishing has been on the decline ; and, for some years past, even the boats belonging to Eyemouth have not remained on this coast, but proceeded to Sunderland, Wick, &c. to prosecute the fishing. By this change much injury has been done to the trade of the port of Eyemouth ; many valuable properties erected for the purpose of curing herrings have been rendered for a season altogether useless ; and much lucrative employment has been lost to the poor of the town and neighbourhood. By the introduction of barilla at a low duty, the manufacture of kelp, which formerly afforded employment to a number of our poor people, has been also destroyed.

Newcastle, Hull, and London, are the ports generally resorted to for the sale of smoked or red herrings ; white herrings are commonly sent to Ireland, the Baltic, or the West Indies. The produce of the cod fishery is exported to London either in a dried or pickled state.

Navigation.—The following is a statement of the trade and shipping of Eyemouth for the last two years.

Vessels of all descriptions which arrived and sailed in 1833, 201 ; in 1834, 198. Vessels with cargoes coast-wise in 1833, arrived 84, sailed 74 ; ditto in 1834, arrived 100, sailed 69 ; ditto from foreign ports, 1833, arrived 9, sailed 0 ; ditto in 1834, arrived 11, sailed 0.

The cargoes from foreign ports consist of timber, bones and rags ; those inwards coastwise, chiefly of coals, slates, bricks, and tiles, free and paving stones, and merchant goods.

The quantity of coals imported in 1833, was 1935 tons 16 cwts. in 1834, 2367 tons 14 cwts.

The cargoes outwards coastwise consist principally of grain, meal, flour, malt, and British spirits.

Wheat exported in 1833,	2440	qrs.	5	bushels ;	in 1834,	859	qrs.	1	bushel,
Barley,	2309		3		4274		5		
Oats,	2293		0		2716		1		
Rye,	39		4		30		0		
Pease,	115		6		118		2		
Beans,	245		6		310		0		
Flour,	144	sacks,			82	sacks,			
Oat-meal,	38	bags,							
Pearl barley,	113				28	bags,			
Malt,					80	quarters,			
British spirits,	222	gallons,			2758½	gallons.			

In the former Statistical Account it is stated, “ this port is a branch of the custom-house of Dunbar, and our merchants are obliged to go there, which is a distance of twenty miles, to report every cargo, and to get sufferances to load or unload, and thereafter to go back again for cockets and clearances, which is attend-

ed with much dangerous delay, and no small expense." This grievance is now remedied, the principal officer of the customs here being impowered to enter and clear all vessels, except those to and from foreign ports.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns, &c.—Eyemouth, the only town in the parish, and, it may be added, the only sea-port in the county of Berwick, is also the market-town of the surrounding district. As may be seen by referring to the former Statistical Account, grain to a considerable extent has, for many years past, been shipped here,—but the trade in corn, like that in herrings, having seriously declined, it was proposed by several persons interested in the prosperity of the place, to establish a weekly stock-market for that article. At a meeting of farmers and dealers in grain, convened here in the beginning of January 1832, it was resolved that the market should be held weekly on Thursday; and it is no slight proof of the propriety of this resolution, and of the benefit conferred by the market, both on Eyemouth, and on the surrounding district, that, during the first twelve months of its existence, grain to the value of L. 20,000 was sold in it. Considerable facilities were afforded for its establishment by the fact, that Eyemouth possessed an excellent harbour, and that the port charges were exceedingly moderate.

The revival of the corn trade has led to the erection of spacious granaries upon the quay within these two years, and a large building at the north end of the town, which was used during the late war as a barrack for soldiers, and near which a battery was erected for the protection of the town and harbour, has also been employed of late for the storing of grain. To the same cause we are also indebted for the recent establishment of a branch of the Commercial Bank.

When not engaged in the cultivation of their lands, the smaller tenants, who all reside in the Town of Eyemouth, are generally employed in supplying the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets with fish; and in winter, when tempted by the prospect of high prices, instances are not unfrequent of their finding their way even to Dumfries and Carlisle. As the Coldingham and Burnmouth boats generally rendezvous at Eyemouth, these land-carriers are unable to transport the whole produce of the fishery to market; a considerable part of it is, in consequence, sent by sea to Newhaven and Port-Dundas. Eyemouth is a burgh of barony. Mr Home of Billie is the superior.

Harbour.—“The harbour of Eyemouth,” says the celebrated

Smeaton, "lies at the corner of a bay, in which ships can work in and out at all times of the tide, or lie at an anchor secure from all winds, except the northerly or north-easterly. From this circumstance, its situation is very advantageous." At his recommendation, and agreeably to a plan furnished by him, a break-water pier was erected in 1770, by which the harbour is defended from the north-east gales, to which it was previously exposed; and since that time, by the clearing away of rocks, removing of shingle, erecting of wharf walls, &c. the depth of water has been much increased, and the accommodation for shipping considerably enlarged. The flow of tide is nearly the same as at the other harbours on the coast, averaging 10 feet at neap tides, and 16 feet at spring tides. Being situated at the entrance of the Firth of Forth, and easily accessible, it is much frequented by vessels prevented by contrary winds from prosecuting their voyages to the several parts within its limits, as also to those in the north of Scotland; and there can be no doubt that every improvement effected upon it will increase the resort of such vessels, and thus afford additional accommodation to the trade of the country, and give increased security both to property and life. It is under the management of a board of trustees appointed by act of Parliament.

Water was brought into Eyemouth some years ago, by means of iron pipes; and the streets, which at that time were by no means in good repair, have all been recently re-paved.

Thrashing-Machines, &c.—There are two thrashing-machines driven by water in the parish, and in the same building that contains one of them there is also machinery for sawing timber from the log, grinding bark, &c. There is a mill upon the river Eye, which is generally employed in manufacturing pearl barley, oat-meal, &c. for the London market. At Millbank, *just without the limits of the parish*, there is a paper-mill, at which a number of our labouring-people find employment, and for which the supplies of coals, rags, &c. are imported here; and Gunsgreen distillery, at which business to a very considerable amount is done annually, may also claim a notice from us, as it immediately adjoins the harbour of Eyemouth; and, both as to imports and exports, it is closely connected with this place.

Means of Communication.—Eyemouth enjoys the advantage of a daily post, the office here being a sub-office to that at Ayton (two miles and a-half distant) through which the great London road passes. A runner is employed, who conveys the letters both to

this Town and to Coldingham. The hour of departure is 8 A. M., of arrival 2 P. M. In no part of the country have roads been more improved than in the county of Berwick, during the last twenty years, and Eyemouth has received its share of the advantage connected with these improvements; access from this to all parts of the country being now rendered both easy and safe. About four miles of road lie within the parish; two miles and three quarters of which are parochial, and the remainder turnpike road. At Eyemouth Bridge the turnpike road divides into two branches, one of which connects this parish with Ayton, Dunse, &c. by the north bank of the Eye, and the other by the south; both are maintained in good order, and the bridges, which respectively cross the Eye and the Ale, are substantial and in good condition. It may be added, that Captain Brown has very lately thrown a chain bridge across the Eye to afford an access to his property of Netherbyres.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church stands in the middle of the Town, and, though distant a mile and a-half from the extremities of the parish, yet, as so small a part of the population, only 75, resides in the country, it must be said to be conveniently situated. It was built in 1812, and affords accommodation for about 450 sitters. We cannot say much of the taste which its external appearance indicates; but we may add, that it is one of the most comfortable places of worship in this part of the country.* It was built at the expense of the heritors and feuars of the parish, and the sittings were allotted among them; but a large proportion, say 150 sittings, belonging to the principal proprietor, and which were not required for the accommodation of his tenants, are left quite free to the poorer part of the population. The ordinance of the Lord's supper is dispensed here twice a-year, and is attended by from 300 to 320 communicants. Public worship is in general respectably attended, yet it must be added, that here, as in other places similarly situated, there are not a few "who forsake the assembling of themselves together."

The number of families attending the Established church may be stated at 250; those attending the chapels of Dissenters and Seceders at 30. These go to Coldingham and Ayton, at which villages there are meeting-houses connected with the Associate Synod. There is a Baptist chapel in the town, which is not attended by more than four or five members.

Collections are made in church occasionally for charitable and re-

* A new school and schoolmaster's house were also built in 1821.

ligious purposes, the average amount of which may be stated at L. 5 per annum.

The victual stipend of the parish of Eyemouth is 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ imperial bolls of barley, (the boll being $\frac{3}{4}$ of an imperial quarter,) 54 $\frac{1}{5}$ bolls of oats, and 18 $\frac{1}{5}$ of pease which, according to the average of the last five years, amounts to about L. 150. There is no allowance for communion elements. The teinds are exhausted. The fishing boats belonging to Eyemouth pay each L. 1, 13s. 4d. annually to the clergyman, and strangers are liable to pay half teind, or a twentieth part of the produce of their fishing. This may be collected to the extent of a thirtieth or less, and, in seasons when the herring fishery was in a prosperous state, added considerably to the value of the living.

The manse is old and in bad repair, but is not inhabited by the present incumbent, who in lieu of it has an allowance of L. 30 per annum from the heritors. It ought to be mentioned, however, that the heritors are perfectly willing to build a new manse when required.

The glebe extends to ten acres or thereby, and may be valued at L. 30 per annum.*

Education.—The number of schools in the parish is seven; three of which are taught by men, and four by women. The parish schoolmaster has the maximum salary, and the legal accommodation. One of the private schools is maintained by individual subscriptions, and the other by school fees. In the parish school Greek, Latin, English, &c. are taught. The fee for English reading is 2s. 6d. per quarter, for writing, 3s. 6d. for arith-

* Eyemouth does not seem to have ranked as a separate parish till the period of the Reformation; previous to that era it was a chapelry dependent on the priory of Coldingham; and this fact, taken in connection with its very limited extent, may account for the very slight notices of it which are contained in the chartularies of that ancient establishment. Mr Alexander A. Carr, surgeon, Ayton, who is about to publish a work on the Antiquities of Coldinghamshire, has favoured me with the following notice concerning the ecclesiastical state of this parish in former times.—“In 1295, Gilbert, the priest (presbyter) of Eimuth, subscribed a charter granted by William, Bishop of St Andrews, to the monks of Durham, &c.; and from that time down to the Reformation, the names of its chaplains are occasionally met with in the chartularies. During the fourteenth century, one of these rose to be Sacrist of Coldingham priory, an office next in rank to that of prior.”

The following notice, also furnished by him, may not inappropriately find a place here.—“A rental of Coldingham, made up in 1501, which is preserved in the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh, gives us a summary of the various ecclesiastical dues paid to it by the neighbouring parishes. From this it appears that the town of Eyemouth paid yearly, (conjointly with a piece of land called Blackman's or Blackmain's acre,) 42 shillings, 3 pennies, and 74 heads of poultry. The lands of Beanrig, held in feu-farm by Sir Alexander Home of Manderstone, paid yearly 48 shillings and 4 pennies, with 7 fowls. The mill of Eyemouth, held by William Home of Prendergust, contributed L. 6. Somehow or other the lands of Linthill are not rated in the rental, unless they are taken conjointly with those of Highlaws, which paid 43 shillings and 4 pennies.”

metic, including practical mathematics, navigation, and other branches, 5s. for Latin, French, &c. 7s. 6d., and for Greek, 10s. 6d.; when English grammar is added to any of the preceding, 6d. extra is charged quarterly. The amount of fees received by the teacher of the parish school varies from L. 25 to L. 30 a-year. In one of the private schools the same branches of education are taught as in the parish school, and the fees, it is believed, are somewhat similar to those mentioned; in the other, English reading, writing, and arithmetic only are taught. In the female schools, sewing, reading, &c. are taught. Not above two or three individuals are known to the writer who are not able to read, and these are persons somewhat advanced in life. Among the young such a thing can now scarcely happen; as, independently of the moderate sum charged for instruction, the heritors, for many years past, have been in the habit of paying the fees of those who, from poverty or other causes, are thought entitled to that accommodation. A religious society in the town also expends its funds in the education of the children of poor fishermen. In general, it may be stated that the people are anxious to obtain education for their children, and that the facilities for that purpose now enjoyed have had their usual effects in the improvement of the manners and general good conduct of the parishioners. Two Sabbath schools are also taught in the town; one in the church by the minister, parochial schoolmaster, and other assistants; the other by one of the private teachers.

At the examinations in March last, the number of scholars attending all the schools in the parish was 191.

Literature.—A parochial library, consisting chiefly of books of divinity, history, biography, &c. was established by general subscription in the year 1821. The funds were increased by a very handsome donation of L. 10 from George Buchan, Esq. of Kelloe, and since that period a collection has been made in church at least once a-year for its benefit. From these causes it is now in a prosperous condition. The yearly subscription is two shillings.

Charitable Institutions.—A Friendly Society was established in this parish in the year 1759; and, with varying prosperity, it has existed ever since. Like many institutions of the same nature, being founded on erroneous principles, it was, a few years ago, brought to the brink of ruin. At that period, however, the annual subscriptions of its members were increased, and the allowances to sick were diminished, in accordance with the tables published by the Highland Society; and it is now once more in a safe

and prosperous condition. It has an income of L. 36 a-year from land situated within the parish, and of course ranks as an heritor. Such an institution must have a tendency to promote industry and to excite a desire for independence; yet the extreme readiness sometimes manifested, even in the case of trifling ailments, to take advantage of its provisions, shows that those feelings of independence are not so strong as they ought to be. The allowance given at the death of a member is L. 6, and to the poor widow and her destitute family it is a most seasonable and grateful relief. Perhaps the existence of such an institution in the parish may go far to account for the fact, that a savings bank, though twice tried here, has never succeeded. The nearest bank of that description is one established at Dunse.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of stated paupers on the roll last year was 35; and the sum raised by legal assessment for their support was L. 199, 16s. 10½d. The landward part of parish, which alone is rated; being small, this forms a heavy burden on the heritors and their tenants, and the experience of the last few years sufficiently shows that it is a burden progressively increasing. Assessments have produced their usual effects here in weakening the feeling of honest independence, which formerly so much characterized the people of Scotland; and, so far from there being now any aversion to apply for parochial relief, there is rather a disposition to demand it as a right.

The average of church collections may be stated to amount to L. 26 annually. These are distributed among the industrious poor by the minister and session, without any interference on the part of the heritors.

Fairs.—Two fairs are held annually in the parish, at which, however, no business is transacted.

Inns.—In the former Statistical Account, it is observed, “there are very few law pleas or disputes in this parish, because we have only one writer. There is one good inn, and too many alehouses.” With the latter part of the quotation the writer most cordially agrees. We have no fewer than 14 alehouses; and, as two or three would be amply sufficient for all the business transacted in the town, it may easily be supposed that the effect of such a number upon the morals of the people must be most pernicious.

Fuel.—Fuel is abundant and cheap in this parish, being procured by land carriage from Berwick at an average price of 9s. per ton; and from the Firth of Forth and Newcastle at average rates of 10s. and 12s. respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was written, the rental of this parish has been more than doubled, the natural consequence of the improved management of the lands, and of the high prices obtained for all kinds of agricultural produce during the late war. Should prices, however, remain long at their present level, the rental must again decline, as the returns at present received by the farmer are far from being remunerating. During the last thirty years, the condition of the labouring part of our population has also been much improved. They are better fed and better dressed than formerly; and it is believed that, in respect of cleanliness, they may justly claim their full share in the improvement, in this respect, which is acknowledged to have taken place among the peasantry of Scotland. To no part of our population do these remarks apply with more accuracy than to our fishermen and their families. In every community the idle and the dissipated will be found; and the uncertainties of a sea-faring life seem unfortunately, in many instances, to give increased force to evil habits; yet, generally speaking, it may with safety be asserted, that they are a sober, industrious, and well-behaved set of men. They go to sea in boats of not less than nine tons register, (worth L. 80, including tackling and nets,) which are their own property; and, in place of creeping along the coast, as their fathers were accustomed to do, they launch boldly out into the deep, (proceeding sometimes to a distance of twenty miles from shore,) and bring in large cargoes of fish of the best quality, to supply the markets of the country. Formerly, very few of them were in the habit of attending public worship; the greater part of them now attend it with tolerable regularity; and the young amongst them present themselves as candidates for admission to the Lord's table in nearly the same proportion, to their entire number, as is found to exist among the other classes of the community.

Our streets are better paved and better kept than formerly; yet further improvement is still needed, and were the inhabitants to avail themselves of the provisions of an act of Parliament lately passed, to enable small towns like Eyemouth to maintain an effective police, &c. that improvement, it is believed, might be effected. It has been mentioned, that the roads leading from this place to all parts of the country are good. A bridge over the Whitadder, somewhere between Chirnside and Hutton, would tend much to improve our access to Tweedside, and to insure the prosperity of the corn market lately established here.

January 1835.