

PARISH OF OLDHAMSTOCKS.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNBAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. ROBERT MOORE, A. M. MINISTER. •

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of the parish is derived from the name of the kirk town: and the ancient appellation of the village was usually written in charters, Aldhamstoc and Aldhamstok. These forms of the word are evidently derived from the Saxon *Aldham*, the old habitation, and *stoc*, a place.

Extent, &c.—This parish lies six miles east of the town of Dunbar. It extends from the German Ocean on the east into Lammermuir; and is bounded on the north and west by the parish of Innerwick; on the south by that of Cockburnspath. Its length from north-east to south-west is about 6 English miles, and its breadth from north-west to south-east from 2 to 3 miles.

The face of the country presents a succession of little hills gradually rising about each other, and receding from the shore.

Soil.—The soil is generally sharp and dry; very fertile towards the sea, but at a distance from the shore, barren and heathy. Some account of the Geology of this parish will be found under the General Observations on the County.

There is a seam of coal in the parish, but it has not been wrought.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

“The church of Oldhamstocks is ancient. In the ancient Taxatio, it was rated at the high value of 60 marks. In Bagimont’s Roll it was rated at L. 10. This church never belonged to any monastery; the patronage of the rectory seems to have continued with the lord of the manor, who cannot be easily traced on so doubtful a frontier: Oldhamstocks appears not among the manors or baronies of Haddington constabulary in the tax-roll of 1613; and from this circumstance we may infer that it had been long

• Drawn up from Notes furnished by different individuals.

merged in the barony of Dunglass. After various successions, the patronage of the church of Oldhamstocks became invested in Hunter of Thurston. On the 28th of August 1296, Thomas de Huntingour, the parson of Oldhamstock, swore fealty to Edward I. at Berwick, and was thereupon restored to his rectory.*

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners in the parish are, Sir James Hall of Dunglass, Bart.; James Hunter, Esq. of Thurston; Thomas Dods, Esq. of Statencleugh; and James Balfour, Esq. of Whittinghame.

III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1801,	-	575	
1821,	-	725	
1881,	-	720	
Number of families in the parish,	-		152
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-		88
in trade, manufactures or handicraft,	-		32

One or two small boats belong to Bilsdean creek, and are chiefly employed in catching lobsters.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages. The villages in the parish are Oldhamstocks and Bilsdean.

Church and Schools.—The minister's stipend, on an average of the seven years from 1829 to 1835, inclusive, amounts to L. 297, 15s. 6d.† There are 3 schools in the parish. The parochial school is situate in the village of Oldhamstocks. The salary of the master is L. 25, 15s. and his fees amount to about L. 19 a year: he has also about L. 6 a year from other sources. In the other schools, only the ordinary branches are taught. All the people in the parish have been taught to read, and all the young can write; and there are very few who are not also taught the common rules of arithmetic.

Poor.—

The number of poor in the parish of Oldhamstocks, on the average of the years 1835-6-7 is, on permanent roll, 11
lunatics, 2
receiving occasional relief, 2‡

		In all	15‡
The funds distributed; permanent poor, (average)			L. 33 4 0
lunatics,			50 0 0
occasional poor,			2 16 8
education,			0 14 0
			<hr/>
			L. 86 14 8
Received from church door collections,	L. 19 7 11		
assessment,	78 8 8		
Total funds,		<hr/>	L. 97 16 2

* Chalmers' Caledonia.

† Farther particulars concerning the ecclesiastical state, &c. will be presented in the tables to be appended to the General Observations on the County.

‡ Occasional poor, 1835, 2; 1836, 2; 1837, 4; average 2‡.