

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

COUNTY OF BERWICK.

BY THE REV. JOHN EDGAR, A. M. MINISTER OF HUTTON.

Name.—THE ancient name of Berwickshire was the Merse, which it probably derived from its local situation as a border or march district. This name, however, appears to have been restricted to the lower and more fertile part of the county, while the hilly and more sterile district was denominated Lammermoor. It is difficult to ascertain the precise limits of these two divisions, and the distinction is now only nominal. The only occasion on which it is recognized is at the striking of the fiars of the county,—the price of Lammermoor grain being fixed at a lower rate than that of the Merse. It is almost superfluous to observe that this County derives its present name from the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, in its immediate vicinity. With this ancient place, though not within its territorial limits, and though governed by English laws, Berwickshire is intimately connected. It is the only town of considerable importance, either for population or trade, in the district, and the principal sea port whence the corn, wool, and other agricultural produce of the county are exported.

Situation and Extent.—This county is situated betwixt $1^{\circ} 41'$ and $2^{\circ} 34'$ of West Long. from London; and betwixt $55^{\circ} 36' 30''$ and $55^{\circ} 58' 30''$ of North Lat. Its extreme length is 34 miles, and

its extreme breadth 21. Its mean length is 28 miles, and mean breadth 17 miles. It contains 476 square miles, or 304,640 English acres.* Berwickshire forms the south-eastern limit of Scotland: it is separated from Haddingtonshire on the north by an irregular boundary; the counties of Edinburgh and Roxburgh bound it on the west, by a crooked and zig-zag line; and the latter county, Northumberland, and North Durham form its southern limits. On the east, the county is washed by the German Ocean. Its maritime coast extends nearly 20 miles, commencing near Lamerton, at the eastern point of Mordington parish, and terminating at the north part of the parish of Cockburnspath, where it joins East Lothian. On the south-east it is bounded by the liberties of Berwick.

Topography.—The aspect of the county is considerably diversified. The Lammermoor district, if it cannot be called mountainous, is at least hilly, bleak, and moorish. Some of the hills in Lammermoor are of considerable altitude; they are generally covered with heath, and have round and flattened summits. The following table shows the heights of the principal hills above the level of the sea, and the parishes in which they are situated:—

<i>Names of the hills.</i>	<i>Altitude.</i>	<i>Parishes.</i>
Lammerlaw, -	1500 feet, -	Lauder.
Sayerslaw, -	1500 do. -	Longformacus,
Dirringtonlaw, -	1145 do. -	Do.
Boonhill, -	1090 do. -	Legerwood,
Soutra, -	1000 do. -	Channelkirk,
Cockburnlaw, -	912 do. -	Dunse,
Dunselaw, -	690 do. -	Do.

Berwickshire cannot boast of such romantic features, and such striking localities as characterize some of the northern and western counties, and which prove so attractive to travellers. But still it is not without its beauties, though these are of a more subdued and less marked kind. Though there is a general uniformity in the Merse, yet even its flattest parts are not without many gentle swells and undulating elevations, which diversify the scenery, relieve the uniformity of a continued plain, and impart an agreeable variety to the prospect. These elevations generally range from the north-west to the south-east. In the district properly denominated the

* This account of the measurement of the county is taken from Kerr's Agricultural survey, published in 1809. It differs in some degree from Mr Blackadder's measurement. According to the authority of Mr Blackadder, as quoted in the Agricultural survey of Berwickshire, published in 1809, the whole may be distributed into the following divisions: Lowlands of the Merse, containing 100,226 acres; lowlands of Lauderdale, 7280; lowlands of Cockburnspath, 2200; hill lands of Lauderdale and Lammermoor, 175,734.—J. E.

Merse, extending from the Tweed to the Whitadder, and which is the most level part, a continued succession occurs, at short intervals, of those slight but well defined eminences. But what this county wants in the beauties of nature, has been abundantly supplied by the embellishments of art. Studded with handsome country seats, snug farm-houses, comfortable cottages, and clean and thriving villages, adorned with tasteful clumps, and extensive columns of wood of almost every variety of forest trees, and presenting to view numerous and well laid out fields of corn and pasture, completely enclosed with thriving hedges, and managed according to the most improved methods of modern husbandry, it appears in striking contrast to the barren and sterile aspect of the upland grounds, with which it is skirted on almost every side, and to what we may imagine its appearance to have been a century ago, when there were few vestiges of culture, no enclosures, and but little wood. The view towards the south, south-east and west, from the heights above Chirnside, is one of great variety, and by no means destitute of picturesque effect: it never fails forcibly to strike a stranger. It is doubtful whether in any district of Scotland such an extensive, rich, and well cultivated rural panorama can be found, or whose external features bear so near a resemblance to some of the fertile plains of "merry England." The Lammermoor hills are seen in all their sterile and heath-clad blackness, their rounded forms well defined, and placed, as it were, as a protection to the wide and cultivated plains which they enclose. Extending for many miles, the Merse appears reclining in calm repose, its surface decked with various objects of rural interest, and interspersed with trees, hedgerows, woods, rich pastures, and spacious and fertile corn fields. To the south-west is seen Hume Castle, frowning from its elevated site on the plain beneath, and recalling the remembrance of feudal times. At a farther distance, in nearly the same direction, appear the Eildon hills, towering to the clouds, while far to the south-east, the huge masses of the Cheviot mountains, rising in dim and dusky grandeur, arrest the eye of the spectator, and furnish a fine and imposing termination to the scene.

The eastern part of the county differs considerably in the character of its topography from the parishes in its internal part, —being more diversified with hill and dale, more variegated with rising grounds, and not presenting such an uniform and level appearance. In several places, this district is intersected with rugged

gullies and deep ravines, apparently produced by some violent natural convulsion,—through which meander gentle rivulets, whose tiny waters bear no proportion to the magnitude of their banks. The sea coast is generally high, rocky, and precipitous, presenting a bold front to the ocean, frequently rising perpendicular and abruptly from the sea, and indented and variegated with promontories and bays. The elevation of the coast is very considerable, especially in the neighbourhood of St Abb's Head, an object well known to mariners, and which forms the most prominent point on this line of coast,—at which the range of the Lammermoor hills, which extend so far across the island, may be considered as commencing. Of the several bays on the coast, the most remarkable is that of Coldingham, which, being protected by the high lands of St Abb's Head from the north-west, affords excellent shelter and secure anchorage-ground to vessels when prevented, by the prevalence of westerly winds, from proceeding up the Frith of Forth.

Climate.—During the spring, cold easterly winds generally prevail for several weeks. These retard vegetation, and produce their usual pernicious effects on gardens, and corn and grass fields. Summer weather seldom commences before the end of May, and indeed a too forward spring is not generally desired by farmers. The prevailing wind in summer is the south-west. Great and long-continued falls of rain do not frequently occur. Excessive droughts are more common, and by experienced agriculturists a series of dry weather, though of considerable duration, is considered more suited to the soil, and better calculated to secure a productive crop, than the other extreme. The winters may be pronounced, on an average, to be mild. Heavy falls of snow are of rare occurrence, and when they do happen, the snow seldom lies on the ground for any length of time, though on the Lammermoor hills it frequently retains its place weeks after it has disappeared in the lower parts of the county. In regard to climate, the Merse is rather favourably situated. Sheltered by the Lammermoor hills on the north, and by the Cheviot mountains on the south, the clouds which are generated by evaporation from the German Ocean are attracted by these hilly ranges, so that, while the operations of spring and harvest are proceeding in the lower part of the county with spirit and activity, under the cheering influence of genial and dry weather, in the higher they are not unfrequently interrupted and retarded, or, performed imperfectly, from the prevalence of

heavy rains, and from the moist and cold nature of the climate. The well known fact, that, in the best districts of this county, a considerable breadth of land is annually sown with wheat after turnips, sometimes so late as the month of April, and that fair crops are the result, is a criterion, and by no means an unfavourable one, of the character of the climate.

Soil.—A great variety of soils exists in the county; some districts being remarkable for a stiff and stubborn clay, others for a mixture of clay and loam; a rich loamy soil characterizing one part of the county, while another is distinguished for a mixture of sand, gravel, and loam, in various proportions; and on the same soil all these diversities are sometimes amalgamated. When it is considered that, not unfrequently on the same farm, all these varieties occur, and sometimes even on the same field; and that all these kinds of soil are modified by the character of the subsoil, which also exists in as great diversity,—to classify the varieties of the soil, or to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the extent to which these endless peculiarities prevail, would be almost if not altogether impossible. It may, in general terms, be observed, that clay forms the discriminating character of the lands in the “How of the Merse;” loam that part of the soil which skirts the chief rivers; while turnip soil is found in those parts of the Merse where there is not too great a preponderance of clay, and in the arable portion of the Lammermoor district. The lands on Tweedside, and along the banks of the Whitadder and Blackadder, generally consist of a fine deep loam, well fitted for raising luxuriant crops of almost every description, resting commonly on a gravelly subsoil, though sometimes on a stiff tenacious clay. These tracts of land are the most valuable in the county, and have been long under a course of skilful management. In the intermediate tract betwixt these rivers the land is less valuable, and degenerates into a stiff and hard clay, difficult to work, and from resting on a subsoil of stiff till, liable to be saturated with moisture, and long retaining it when thus saturated. The remainder of the arable part consists of a sharp sandy and gravelly soil, well adapted for raising turnips, combined in different proportions with loam and clay, easily wrought, and varying in quality and value according to the nature of the subsoil on which it is incumbent. This species of land is highly valued, and those farms which contain a considerable proportion of turnip soil are generally preferred by the tenantry. In the Agricultural Report of this county, published by the late John Home, Esq. W. S.

upwards of thirty years ago, the proportion of the various kinds of soil are thus given: Deep loam on the principal rivers, 25410 acres; clay lands in the How of the Merse, 40380; turnip soil, 119780; meadow, moss, and moor, in Lauderdale and Lammermoor, 99870.

Hydrography,—The principal rivers connected with this county are the Tweed, Whitadder, Blackadder, and Leader. The smaller streams are the Eye, Dye, Ale and Leet, besides a great number of burns that cannot be particularized. The salmon-fisheries on that part of the Tweed which skirts this county are of considerable value, and furnish employment during the season to a number of individuals. Of late years, however, it is matter of regret, that their value has been much diminished in consequence of a deficiency of fish. The rentals have accordingly sunk, some of them to a third of what they were a few years ago. Many causes have been assigned for this remarkable failure. None of them, however, appear satisfactorily to account for it. It has been conjectured that, in consequence of the pier of Berwick, which was erected some years ago, obtruding too far into the mouth of the river, its inlet has been narrowed, and the fish thereby prevented from entering it. But by practical fishermen, and other intelligent persons well acquainted with the natural history of the salmon, this cause has been rejected as insufficient to account for the failure,—it being well known that salmon are not easily deterred from resorting to their usual haunts, and are abundant in rivers with a much narrower entrance than that of the Tweed. Others have ascribed the deficiency to the general use of lime for agricultural purposes,—which being washed from the land by heavy rains, and in this way conveyed into the Tweed, produces a deleterious effect on the fish. But the practice of liming land in this district has not been recently introduced, and existed for many years, when there was no complaint of this failure. By others, it is thought that the river is overfished, the number of boats on the water having been much increased of late years. The most general opinion, and perhaps the most satisfactory one is, that the deficiency is to be accounted for from the illegal destruction of fish during close time in the upper part of the river and its tributaries,—which, in defiance of law, and in direct violation of the rights of property, has been persisted in to an alarming extent, especially in the higher district of Tweed-side. It is hoped that the Act lately obtained—a rigorous execution of the law on offenders—a stricter vigilance by those interest-

ed in the fisheries—and more vigorous measures on the part of proprietors—will contribute to check this evil, and to restore the river to its former state of productiveness.

The Tweed, so celebrated in song, and so renowned in history, and associated in the breast of every Scotsman with such interesting recollections, is, in the parts of it connected with this county, a magnificent and imposing stream,—maintaining through all its course its characteristic transparency—winding and tortuous in its career, and presenting on its banks a variety of interesting scenery. The road from Berwick to Kelso by Ladykirk and Coldstream, a great part of which passes close by the Tweed, is one of the most delightful in point of scenery in the south-east of Scotland. There is excellent salmon-fishing with the rod in this section of the Tweed, and in the autumn it is resorted to by amateurs of this interesting sport. A clause in the late act of Parliament renders it lawful to fish with the rod for a month after the usual fishing with nets has closed.

The other rivers in the county also abound with trout, and in the spring and summer seasons afford good sport to the angler. The Whitadder takes its rise in the hilly part of East Lothian, and is remarkable for the rapidity of its current, the steepness of its banks, and its numerous and circuitous windings. After receiving several considerable contributions from various nameless rivulets, and being joined by the Blackadder at Allanton, it unites with the Tweed about three miles above Berwick. The Blackadder rises in the parish of Westruther, passes Greenlaw, the county town, and after permeating the Merse, and imparting its charms to several gentlemen's seats which skirt it, joins the Whitadder. It is distinguished for the quality of its trout, which somewhat resemble those of Loch Leven, and are esteemed for their flavour. The Leader winds through Lauderdale, to which it gives its name, and from the upper part of which it issues, and runs into the Tweed, near old Melrose, at the point where it becomes the boundary of Berwickshire. The Leet, originating in the How of the Merse, unites with the same river at Coldstream, and the Eye, which rises in East Lothian, and flows in an easterly direction, falls into the sea at Eyemouth.

Coldingham Loch is the only natural piece of water of any extent in Berwickshire. It covers about thirty acres,—is remarkable for its high situation and its proximity to the sea—abounds with

perch—and imparts a lively character to the bleak and sterile tract by which it is encompassed.

Minerals.—There are neither coal nor lime in this county,—at least none that would bear the expense of working.

Agriculture.—

Table shewing the number of Acres cultivated, annual Value of Raw Produce, &c.

	Acres cultivat.	Acres never cultivated	Acres under wood.	An. value of raw produce.	Valued rent in Scots money.
Ab. St Bathans,	2300	2600	100	L. 2,555	L. 1113 10 10
Ayton,	6000	250	800	33,000	6620 1 0½
Bunkle,	7280	1600	420	16,165	6232 11 0½
Channelkirk,	5000	12,000	200	not stated	4729 13 9
Chirnside,	4629		371	14,580	4307 5 10
Coldingburn,	50,000	7000	500	52,550	13,037 10 0
Cockburnspath	5200	3000	500	19,580	6561 3 11½
Coldstream,	8100		not stated	28,182	8743 4 7
Cranshaws,	350	not stated	do.	1,062	1271 7 1
Dunse,	6000	5000	1000	not stated	11,069 6 2½
Earlston,	5600	2118	915	do.	5948 13 11½
Eccles,	11,000		not stated	do.	15,604 3 4
Edrom,	7579		580	32,500	10,128 7 8½
Eyemouth,	840	10		6,939	1665 7 3½
Fogo,	4800		305	20,067	4042 3 9
Foulden,	2386	330	260	10,517	2595 16 8
Gordon,	4300	4100	500	15,345	4398 8 9
Greenlaw,	6276	3151	435	13,160	6836 3 11½
Hutton,	4950	61	250	19,657	6380 14 7
Ladykirk,	3050		50	11,330	4393 15 0
Langton,	3000	4000	200	not stated	3092 14 2
Lauder,	12,060	25,043	650	29,270	11,433 1 5½
Legerwood,	5300	2830	300	11,792	4023 3 6½
Longformacus,	2200	18,800	350	not stated	3701 18 9
Merton,	3460	1590	500	do.	5675 5 7
Mordington,	2597	900	26	6,848	2045 16 0
Nenthorn,	3080	30	310	9,120	2380 19 9
Polwarth,	1281	1373	398	3,297	1624 9 7
Swinton,	5383	70	25	21,282	4424 9 7
Westruther,	11,000	150	850	9,270	4418 4 7
Whitsome,*	4520	200	180	16,748	5058 1 5½

N. B.—The returns do not always shew whether the “acres never cultivated,” include or do not include those or part of those “under wood.”

Berwickshire may be described as almost purely agricultural. The great majority of its population derive their means of subsistence from their connection with the various departments of this useful art. In the few manufactories established in the county, the number of individuals employed bears a small proportion to those engaged in rural labours. Even the tradesmen in the small towns and villages depend much on the prosperity of the farming inte-

* The united parishes of Hume and Stitchill will be treated under the county of Roxburgh, to which they partly belong.

rest, as they must look for employment in their different vocations almost exclusively to the agriculturists, and their servants and dependents. Perhaps no county in Scotland is more entirely of an agricultural character, or more interested in this great branch of national and productive industry. The artisan, the labourer, and the hind, have all a deep concern in its success, as well as the actual cultivator of the soil, and the proprietor. They share in its depression and participate in its prosperity, and the various fluctuations to which it is exposed are felt, either for good or evil, by all classes of the community. To this art great attention has been paid. The march of agricultural improvements commenced at a comparatively early period in the Merse. So far back as in the year 1730, the judicious, spirited, and well-directed exertions of a few landed proprietors, gave a new character to the husbandry of the county. Among those patriotic and public-spirited individuals, who led the way in this good work, the names of Mr Swinton of Swinton, father of the late Lord Swinton; Mr Hume of Eccles; and at a later period, Lord Kames,—deserve to be honourably mentioned, as having contributed by their example to give a stimulus to rural improvement, which has been productive of the best effects, and which has raised Berwickshire to a high rank in the scale of agriculture. This spirit quickly spread to tenants of skill, enterprise, and capital. Their success stimulated others to follow their footsteps. Encouragement was given by proprietors to tenants, by granting them leases on liberal terms, and of a proper duration. Lands were enclosed, moorish tracts improved, lime and manure liberally applied, the turnip husbandry extensively pursued, and by the general use of thrashing-machines, and a thorough improvement of turnpike and parish roads, facilities were afforded for marketing grain on a scale commensurate with the improved productiveness of the soil, and the increasing capabilities of the county. Notwithstanding the severe depression under which this interest has laboured for some years past, and which at no period was more felt than at present, this county still retains its agricultural pre-eminence. Improvements are still proceeding to a certain extent, and perhaps there is no district of Scotland where agriculture is conducted with more of the precision and exactness of a science. The average size of farms in this county may be stated at from 300 to 400 English acres. The duration of leases is generally nineteen years. Of all agricultural improvements of modern times, perhaps the most valuable is the perfection to which drain-

ing has been carried. From the nature of the soil, and its tendency to humidity, no county required this improvement more than Berwickshire, and though much yet remains to be done, nowhere has it been more successfully or more extensively pursued. Drains are now laid out in a more scientific style than formerly, and, as a natural consequence, their operation on the soil is far more efficient and salutary. As an instance of the extent to which draining has been carried, it may be mentioned, that, upon an extensive farm in the united parish of Bunkle and Preston, drains have been made, the measurement of which amounts to twenty-four miles. The practice of cutting sheep drains has also been pursued in the pastoral and upland districts of the county, and the result has proved highly beneficial, by improving the herbage, and carrying off the superabundant moisture.

At the end of last century, the local connection of this county with the English borders directed the attention of some considerable landed proprietors to effect an improvement on the breeds of cattle and sheep. The late Mr Robertson of Ladykirk merits particularly to be mentioned as having taken the leading part in this branch of improvement, to which he was sedulously devoted. His liberal fortune and rich and extensive old pasture land on the demesne of Ladykirk, afforded him means and opportunities which few enjoyed, of carrying this department of rural economy to greater perfection than perhaps any other individual in Scotland. His efforts were crowned with success, and his breeds of sheep and cattle still continue to be highly prized by connoisseurs and adepts in these matters. The tenantry also followed his example on a more limited scale. The old breeds of cattle and sheep were gradually displaced, and kinds were introduced of more productive value, better adapted to the soil and climate, more kindly feeders, and sooner prepared for the butcher. To this department considerable attention is still paid in this county: and as its agriculture is of a mixed description, combining the raising of corn with the breeding, rearing, and feeding of stock, it is naturally to the farmer an object of no small importance, and his success very much depends on it. By the gradual extension of the turnip husbandry, which has gained for Berwickshire the appellation of the Norfolk of Scotland, and to which, by the application of the modern improvement of bone manure, a greater breadth of land can now be devoted, means are afforded of feeding for the market a much larger

quantity of stock than in former times ; and from this county being within a reasonable distance of the great stock markets in the north of England, and from the establishment of new markets for cattle and sheep at Coldstream, Dunse, and Ayton, at which places business in this line to a large amount is transacted, opportunities are presented to the farmers of readily disposing of their stock to any extent.

The grain raised in this county is mostly sold at Berwick, where there is a weekly corn-market. It is sold by sample, and the quantity annually disposed of is very great. It is believed that Berwick ranks amongst the third or fourth rate towns in Great Britain in respect of the quantity of corn exported. A great deal is sent to London. A stock corn-market has also lately been established at Eyemouth.

The Lammermoor district not being adapted for tillage, but a small portion of it is under the plough. It is therefore principally devoted to the pasturage of sheep, which is deemed a more safe and profitable method of employing capital in this part of the county, than the attempting to raise grain, which frequently yields a precarious return. The hills, neither being so high nor so sterile as in other mountainous tracts in the south of Scotland, afford sound and healthy pasture for sheep of the Cheviot and black-faced breed,—the management of which is well understood and successfully practised by the intelligent and active Lammermoor farmers.

A number of fields remain permanently in pasture, generally in the hands of proprietors. They are annually let by public roup—afford a fair return—and are convenient for breeders, dealers in stock, and butchers.

Population.—The population of this county has been more stationary than of most other counties in Scotland, which is doubtless to be ascribed to its almost exclusively agricultural character. There is a sufficient supply of labourers, and though the farmers, from the badness of the times, now employ as few hands as with propriety they can, there are seldom any unemployed. For these few years past, a considerable emigration of persons belonging to the labouring classes has annually taken place to Canada, which, were it to proceed at the same rate for any length of time, would have the effect of sensibly diminishing the population.

Table shewing the Population of the Parishes in the County of Berwick in 1755, 1794, 1801, 1811, 1821, 1831.

	In 1755, according to Dr Webster's census.	In 1794, according to the first Statistical Account.	In 1801, according to govern- ment cen- sus.	In 1811, according to ditto.	In 1821, according to ditto.	In 1831, according to ditto.
Abbey St Ba- thans, -	80	164	138	154	150	122
Ayton, -	797	1245	1453	1379	1481	1602
Bunkle, -	691	622	674	768	787	748
Channelkirk,	531	600	640	707	730	841
Chirnside,	510	961	1147	1239	1189	1248
Cockburnspath,	919	883	930	904	966	1143
Coldingham,	2313	2391	2391	2424	2676	2668
Coldstream,	1493	2521	2269	2384	2801	2897
Cranshaws,	214	164	166	186	156	196
Dunse, -	2593	3324	3157	3082	3773	3469
Earlston,	1197	1351	1478	1528	1705	1710
Eccles, -	1489	1780	1682	1820	1900	1886
Edrom,	898	1336	1355	1360	1516	1435
Eyemouth,	792	1000	899	962	1165	1181
Fogo, -	566	450	507	450	469	433
Foulden,	465	344	393	368	396	424
Gordon,	737	912	802	851	737	882
Greenlaw,	895	1210	1270	1260	1349	1442
Hutton,	751	920	955	1030	1118	1099
Ladykirk,	386	590	516	535	527	485
Langton,	290	435	428	418	477	443
Lauder,	1795	2000	1760	1742	1845	2003
Legerwood,	398	422	495	560	476	565
Lougformacus,	399	452	406	444	402	425
Merton,	502	557	586	614	610	664
Mordington,	181	335	330	275	302	301
Nenthorn,	497	400	395	398	393	380
Polwarth,	251	288	291	307	298	288
Swinton,	494	898	875	866	919	971
Westruther,	591	730	779	822	870	830
Whitsome,	399	590	560	536	661	664

Roads.—From being in former times proverbially bad, the roads are now excellent, and much attention is paid to keeping them in proper repair. When toll-bars were first established, great opposition was made to this measure; and acts of violence and outrage were resorted to. The people are now convinced of their error, and justly appreciate the advantages that are derived from having easy means of communication betwixt the different districts of the county. The proprietors connected with the different trusts take great pains in superintending and managing the road affairs. The parish roads are maintained by the statute labour conversion money; and overseers, who are generally respectable farmers, are appointed in every parish for inspecting the roads, managing the funds, and seeing them properly applied. In the internal part of the county, there are several cross roads

which are little used, and which, without any loss either to individuals or the public, might with propriety be shut up. In some places of the district, the want of bridges to afford a safe passage over the rapid streams which intersect Berwickshire is severely felt, and much complained of. In that part which is situated on the lower extremity of the Whitadder, this is particularly the case. The numerous fatal accidents that have occurred to persons attempting to cross the rivers while in flood, have excited an almost universal anxiety that something should be done to prevent the occurrence of such heart-rending visitations. Several of the proprietors have shown a deep interest in providing a remedy, by the erection of bridges; and it is hoped that the time is not distant when measures will be taken to obviate this defect.

Ecclesiastical State.—Though in the course of last century several unions of parishes took place, yet few are of an inconvenient size. In several parishes the churches being situated at their extremities, are rather inconveniently placed for the parishioners. The largest parishes in point of territorial extent are those of Lauder and Coldingham, both of which comprise vast tracts of unimproved and unimprovable moor. In the latter parish, there is a Chapel of Ease at Renton, where a preacher regularly officiates. It is doubtful whether sufficient permanent funds could be obtained to justify the presbytery in ordaining a clergyman in this chapel. The most populous parishes are Dunse and Coldstream. The smallest parish in point of extent is Eyemouth, and the least populous Abbey St Bathans. There are about fourteen Dissenting meeting-houses of various denominations.*

* Part of the parish of Oldhamstocks is situated in Berwickshire, and detached at a considerable distance from the rest of the parish, which is in East Lothian. In all other matters, except *quoad sacra*, it forms a part of the former county.

Table shewing the Ecclesiastical and Educational Provisions in each Parish.

	STIPEND.			GLEBE.			Communi- cants.	Fam. at Etab. C.	Dissent.		No. of Schools.	Amount of parochial schoolmas- ter's salary.			Fees.				
	Chalders. Meal and Barley.	Money, in- clud. com. elements.		Acres.	Value.				Fami- lies.	Indivi- duals.		L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.		
Abbey,		158	6	8	14	14	0	0	80	18	5	1	30	0	0	10	0	0	
Ayton,	10	10	0	0	11½	38	0	0	360	180	145	7	34	0	0	84	0	0	
Bunkle,	16	8	6	8	44	40	0	0	230	92	50	1	34	0	0	30	0	0	
Channelkirk,	12	5	32	0	0	9	18	0	250	129	34	1	30	0	0	40	0	0	
Chirnside,	17	8	6	8	8	24	0	0	400	200	74	3	34	0	0	30	0	0	
Cranshaws,		158	6	8	15	22	10	0	90	24	0	1	34	0	0	10	0	0	
Earlston,	16	0	0	0	8	40	0	0	404	107	190	3	28	0	0	not stated.			
Eccles,	16	0	0	0	21	not stated			505	not stat.		5	34	0	0	not stated.			
Gordon,	5	5	90	0	0	12	30	0	0	173	12	1	34	0	0	20	0	0	
Greenlaw,	15	14	31	7	6	10	30	0	0	370	204	98	2	34	0	0	45	0	0
Hutton,	16	10	0	0	13	30	0	0	430	213		4	34	0	0	40	0	0	
Ladykirk,	6	88	2	8	11	33	0	0	170	63	45	1	25	13	3	40	0	0	
Lauder,	13	14	77	11	9	9	18	0	0	650	318	112	4	35	0	0	not stated.		
Longformac.	15	8	6	8	11	32	0	0	135	65	16	1	34	0	0	10	0	0	
Merton,	16	10	0	0	14	14	0	0	240	not stat.		1	30	0	0	10	0	0	
Swinton,	16	0	0	0	21	63	0	0	440	193	25	2	34	0	0	25	0	0	
Westruther,		160	16	8	20	30	0	0	420	158		34	1	28	0	0	10	0	0
Whitsome,	16	2 bolls wheat.	8	7	4	30	60	0	0	200	85	40	2	34	0	0	26	0	0
Coldstream,†	16	8	6	8	11½	50	0	0	500	242	210	7	34	0	0	77	0	0	
Nenthorn,		150	0	0	7½	22	0	0	95	49	19	1	25	0	0	9	10	0	
Fogo,	15	8	6	8	11	30	0	0	145	58	30	1	25	13	3½	46	0	0	
Polwarth,	64 bolls oats. 80 meal, 80 barley.	5	11	1½	14	not stated			120	62		3	1	28	0	0	19	0	0
Langton,	105 b. oats and barley.	122	0	0	10	do.			220	64	32	1	25	4	4	32	0	0	
Dunse,	20	10	0	0	10	37	0	0	600	390	446	8	34	4	4	70	0	0	
Foulden,	77 bolls oats. 38 barley.	59	9	3.	8	24	0	0	160	57		106	1	34	0	0	10	0	0
Edrom,	16	8	6	8	10	not stated			350	235	55	3	24	0	0	10	0	0	
Coldingham,	18	10	0	0	10	27	10	0	560†	not stat		8	23	0	0				
Cockburnsp.	17	8	6	8	7½	22	10	0	285	112	87	3	30	0	0	45	0	0	
Eyemouth,	80 bolls, 54 oats 18 pease				10	30	0	0	300	250	30	7	34	0	0	25	0	0	
Mordington,	150	0	0	0	15	37	10	0	98	45	14	1	34	0	0	30	0	0	
Legerwood,	14	8	6	8	10	15	0	0	195	85	13	1	28	0	0	20	0	0	

Education.—The parochial and private schools in Berwickshire are well attended, and are sufficiently numerous for the population of the district. Few parents are without the means of educating their children, and the offspring of those who from poverty are unable to do so, are in most parishes instructed gratuitously, or at the expense of the heritors.

At all the schools the ordinary branches of education common in Scotland are taught, accompanied with the elements of religious

* Not stated.

† The number of families whose religious denomination is here accounted for, appears to be considerably less than the total number of families in the parish.

‡ Church, 560.

§ Chapel, 140.

|| Two of which are parochial.

knowledge. It has been observed of late years, that the number of Latin scholars has decreased much, several parishes of considerable population being destitute of these entirely. Perhaps this is not much to be regretted. Some of the parochial and other teachers have adopted Mr Wood's system of tuition with great success,—a method certainly superior to the old mechanical system, and which at an early age gives such scope and exercise for the intellectual powers. The establishment of normal schools for initiating young men in the important and arduous task of teaching, from whom parochial schoolmasters could be selected, would, it is generally believed, be attended with salutary effects, and tend much to improve and increase the efficiency of the present system. The schools are annually examined by committees of the respective presbyteries within whose limits they are situated, and the reports transmitted to the General Assembly. In all the schools the Scriptures are daily read.

Sunday schools prevail in most parishes, and it cannot be doubted that their effect is beneficial, when they are conducted by teachers of good character, and sound religious principle. It is thought, however, by some, that they have a tendency to make parents careless about the religious instruction of their children,—an effect which would be much to be deplored, as certainly this kind of knowledge cannot be imparted with such interest and efficiency from any lips as from those of a parent. On the other hand, when parents are negligent with regard to the spiritual improvement of their families, as is sometimes the case, Sunday schools supply this deficiency, and are highly useful and salutary.

Poor.—Table shewing the Number of Paupers, and the amount of Assessments for Poor Rates in each Parish.

	No. of paupers.	Annual assessment.		No. of paupers.	Annual assessment.
Abbey St Bathans,	2	L. 4 18 0	Gordon, -	25	L. 142 0 0
Aytoun, -	55	400 0 0	Greenlaw, -	28	222 0 0
Bunkle, -	19	70 0 0	Hutton, -	34	180 0 0
Channelkirk, -	16	50 0 0	Ladykirk, -	18	100 0 0
Chirnside, -	55	270 0 0	Langton, -	5	29 0 0
Cockburnspath,	30	120 0 0	Lauder, -	22	150 0 0
Coldingham, -	140	600 0 0	Legerwood, -	12	50 0 0
Coldstream, -	109	700 0 0	Longformacus,	2	
Cranshaws, -	3	12 0 0	Merton, -	8	40 0 0
Dunse, -	130	710 0 0	Mordington, -	18	100 0 0
Earlston, -	34	163 0 0	Nenthorn, -	7	20 0 0
Eccles, -	50	270 0 0	Polwarth, -	9	50 0 0
Edrom, -	30	150 0 0	Swinton, -	38	227 0 0
Eyemouth, -	35	199 0 0	Westruther, -	24	91 0 0
Fogo, -	10	54 0 0	Whitsome, -	18	115 0 0
Foulden, -	12	58 16 0			

The poor are supported in this county almost universally by compulsory assessments, the one-half of which is paid by the proprietor, and the other by the tenant, according to the valued rent.

The collections made at church on the Lord's day are a fund quite inadequate for this purpose, and poor rates having been long established, these collections have in most cases dwindled into an insignificant sum; and in the smaller parishes are insufficient for defraying those expenses which from time immemorial have been paid from this source. It cannot be denied that a heavy burden is thus imposed on landed property, and that the usual bad effects are produced on the character and habits of the poor themselves, which flow from this mode of maintaining them. The report of almost every parish testifies that they have no hesitation of applying to be placed on the poor's roll,—that they claim it as a right to which they are legally entitled, and of which they do not consider it disgraceful to take advantage,—and that the lofty feeling of independence, and the praiseworthy delicacy which used formerly to be the characteristics of the Scottish peasantry, and which shrunk from the idea of receiving parochial aid, have now in a great measure disappeared. One thing which has made this change more visible here than in other parts of the country is the proximity of this county to England, where it is well known that the poor are supported at a profuse and extravagant expense. Accordingly, the border counties are assessed at a higher rate than any other district. At the same time, it would be difficult to devise any more equitable or efficient method for the support of the poor, and which would fall so equally on proprietors, whether resident or not. And, as long as none but the aged and infirm are admitted on the roll, and the assessments are imposed by the proprietors themselves, or their factors, who have an interest in keeping them as low as possible, there appears to be no great danger of the poor rates ever arriving at such a formidable height as in England. Notwithstanding the disadvantages under which Berwickshire labours from its vicinity to England, and from the poor being infected with the extravagant notions of their southern neighbours on this subject, the average assessment for their support does not, it is thought, much exceed sixpence in the pound Sterling of rent, which is paid jointly in equal proportions by the proprietor and occupier,—a sum of a moderate amount when compared to what is paid in some of the adjoining parishes of Northumberland and North Durham, where it is not uncom-

mon for the rates to reach so high as 3s. or 4s. in every pound Sterling of rent. It ought also to be mentioned, that the cases of pauper lunatics, supported at asylums by their respective parishes, contribute greatly to augment the assessments, as, even in the most economical style, this cannot be done but at a considerable expense. It may also be stated, as a fact of some importance, that there is scarcely an instance known of a pauper of this county wandering about as a mendicant soliciting charity; though the district is inundated with vagrants of this description, who come from those parts of Scotland which pride themselves in having no compulsory provision for the maintenance of the poor. Considerable sums are frequently expended, certainly not always very judiciously, by parishes on litigations in pauper cases. The encouragement of friendly societies—a rigid examination into the merits of every application for being admitted to the poors' roll—a determined resistance to the principle of able-bodied persons receiving parish aid—and the continuance of that moderate and spare pecuniary allowance common in Scotland, seem the best methods for keeping the poor rates low, and for preventing those pernicious effects which they have produced in England. It is to be hoped that the change lately introduced into the administration of the English poor laws may check their baneful and deleterious influence, retard the growing evil, and prevent the lower orders of this, and the other border counties from being assimilated in this respect to the peasantry of the south.

Character and Habits of the People.—The general character of the population, as described in the parochial reports, differs in few respects from that of the inhabitants of the other agricultural districts of Scotland. Like other gentlemen of the same rank in Scotland, the landed proprietors are distinguished for their attachment to the civil and religious institutions of the country, for their zeal to promote the interests of agriculture and to advance local improvements, for their attention to their tenantry, for their willing co-operation in extending the benefits of education and religion, and for their benevolence, to the poor. Those of them who reside constantly upon their estates enjoy the respect and esteem of those among whom they live; and several of them, by carrying on extensive improvements on their properties, take the best method of obtaining the favour of the lower classes, and at the same time of promoting their interests, by giving them employment.

The tenantry of the county are a highly respectable body of men,

intelligent, active, and enterprising; many of them persons of liberal education, well acquainted with all the most improved processes of agriculture, and generally respected and beloved by their servants and dependents. Though the times are not favourable to them, yet most of them are cheerful and happy, and look forward under the divine blessing to more prosperous days. They commonly live on terms of intimate and friendly intercourse with their neighbours, possess sound religious and moral principles, attend regularly on divine ordinances, and are seldom deficient in their attention to the comforts and wants of their inferiors.

Assailed by few temptations, and little subject to those debasing influences which produce such fearful effects, both moral and physical, on an urbane population, the labouring classes are distinguished for honesty, industry, and contentment. Education and the ordinances of religion are within the reach of all, and are seldom neglected. Indeed, moral and religious habits are so blended and entwined with all their feelings and associations, that they seem in little danger of ever lapsing in any considerable degree from the characteristics which have been so long distinctive of our Scottish peasantry. To every sincere lover of his country it would be matter of deep regret, if any causes should produce a change to the worse in this valuable and interesting class of the community. Were there fewer public-houses, were toll-keepers prevented from selling ardent spirits, and were some measures adopted by Government for abolishing the temptation of smuggling whisky into England, all of which circumstances, as they now exist, tend to the demoralization of the lower orders, salutary and beneficial effects would follow.

Owing to the contiguity of the sister kindgom, this county in the "olden times" must have been the theatre of many a lawless foray and hard fought encounter between the rival borderers. Every trace or memorial of such ages has now, however, disappeared from this part of the country; and even those traditions which in most parts of Scotland are so fondly cherished by the peasantry, and handed down from generation to generation with all but religious care, have vanished without leaving a trace behind. The phenomenon is remarkable, and cannot easily be accounted for. The early period at which systematic agriculture commenced in this district, and the complete change in the habits of the people that in consequence ensued, is the only circumstance that seems adequately to account for the fact. In the labours of active industry and the exer-

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tions of the present day, they seem entirely to have lost sight of, or to have forgotten, the sayings and doings of the "*temporis acti.*"

Table shewing the number of Commitments, &c. for Crime in the County of Berwick during the year 1834.

Crimes.	Persons remaining untried from preceding year.	Persons committed for trial.		Persons convicted.		Persons acquitted.		Persons tried.		Sentences of those convicted.
		M	F	M	F	M	F	No.	Before what court.	
Robbery and assault,	3	1		3				3	Justiciary.	1 sent death, 2 transportation for life. Imprisonment for 3 months or less.
Theft,	...	5		3				3	By jury, without jury, and by justices or other court.	
Theft by housebreaking,	...	2		1		1		2	Justiciary.	Transportation 14 years.
Assault,	...	15		14				14	6 by jury, 3 without jury, 5 by justices or other court.	Imprisonment for 3 months or less.
Breaking windows,	...	1		1				1	Without jury.	Do.
Rioting,	...	1		1				1	Do.	Do.
Vagrancy and breaking windows,	...	2		2				2	Do.	Do.
Vagrancy,	...	2		2				2	Justices.	Do.
Contravening Act 9 Geo. IV. sect. 69.	...	2		2				1	Without jury.	Do.
Trespassing in search of game,	...	1		1				1	Do.	Do.
Contempt of Court.	...	1		1				1	Do.	Do.