

## PARISH OF DUNBAR.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNBAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE richest part of East Lothian, which is the finest corn district in North Britain, is the parish of Dunbar. The name is evidently derived from the castle, which had the same appellation, and stood on a lofty rock within sea-mark, dividing equally the length of the parish. This castle, according to Hollinshed and Buchanan, was conferred by Kenneth I. of Scotland, about the year 835, upon an eminent warrior, whose name was Bar,—hence it was called *Dun-bar*; but it is much more probable that this ancient hero took his name from the castle, and that the word is descriptive of the object and its situation, and signifies, both in British and Gaelic, according to the learned author of Caledonia, the fort on the height, top, or extremity.\*

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—The parish consists of a royal burgh and a landward district. The former is near the castle, to which it owes both its name and existence. The latter stretches along the coast from east to west, 7 miles, 6 furlongs, and 160 yards in length, and from south to north 3 miles, 6 furlongs, and 70 yards in breadth. The mean length is 6 miles and 6 furlongs, and the mean breadth 1 mile 5½ furlongs,—which gives 11¼ square miles of extent. It is bounded by the parishes of Tynninghame and Prestonkirk on the west; Stenton and Spott on the south; Innerwick on the east; and the German ocean on the north.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The figure is very irregular, being much indented both by the sea and by other lands. The coast to the east of the castle is of low rocky ledges, and to the west it is of craggy cliffs, which are lost under the sand of the beautiful bay of Belhaven. The surface presents a pleasing variety of hill and dale, ascending gradually from the sea towards Lammermoor—commanding an extensive prospect which embraces a great variety of striking objects,—St Abb's Head, Traprain-law, the beautiful woods

\* Chalmers, Caledonia, ii. 406.

of Tynninghame, the Bass, the May, and the boundless ocean. The highest ground is Brunt-hill, which is 700 feet above the level of the sea: near to which, on the march, is Downhill, which is 580 feet above the level of the sea, and is famous as the place where Leslie encamped previous to the battle afterwards noticed.

*Hydrography.*—The land is naturally so dry, that it would be difficult to find a spring on the surface. The water which supplies the town is brought two miles in leaden pipes from St John's well, in the parish of Spott,—which well is 200 feet above the sea.—The difference between high and low water is 18 feet.—There are four streams which wind their way from the hills, and run through the parish into the ocean,—the Tyne, which separates Dunbar from Tynninghame,—the Belton water, which, after running through the old parish of Belton, joins the sea at the old port of la Belle Haven,—Broxburn which gives its name to Broxmouth Park, and joins the sea there,—and Dryburn water, which is the eastern boundary.

*Geology.*—The rocky formations are all of the secondary class, and upon the coast they are laid bare, as if on purpose to attract the notice of the geologist. The strata are either horizontal or inclined, and at particular places nearly vertical. The direction is N. E. and S. W. and the dip is to the S. E. From the eastern march west to the inlet of Broxburn, these rocks are grayish, and at some places yellowish sandstone, stratified and nearly horizontal, with numerous superincumbent beds of bluish gray limestone. One of these calcareous rocks east of Catcraig is a bed of petrified shells; and another of them, on the west of the same place, is petrified coral, and resembles masses of worms. There is a boulder east of the Vault, and another on the west, both just within flood-mark, and not belonging to the neighbouring rocks, but of granite formation. West of the said inlet, is a narrow bed or dike of porphyritic basaltic greenstone. Here the grayish sandstone disappears, and the place is occupied by red sandstone, more inclined, and at places nearly vertical. Next in succession is a rock of greenstone, of red coloured trap tuff, and of red conglomerated sandstone. These rocks are marked with beautiful mountain-green spots and they fill up the space right on to the harbour, which is cut out of a thick bed of red-coloured trap, which Professor Jameson calls an iron shot porphyritic greenstone,—the columnar structure of which is visible all around, but particularly on the north-west side of the battery. These columns are either pentagons or hexagons, but not of equal sides, having one large and one small, and the rest nearly equal. They are jointed, but not so regu-

larly as those in the Island of Staffa, having convex ends answering to the concave bottoms of the incumbent joints; and they are neither in horizontal nor vertical layers, but are formed of an hundred concentric circles like the coats of an onion, and, what is still more peculiar, they are intersected by a thousand jasper veins as small as horse hairs, traversing but not intercepting one another in all directions. The septa of red and white sparry matter fills up the space between them, and they are pervaded transversely by veins of the same matter. Such is the external and internal formation of these basalts, which resemble the Giant's Causeway in Ireland, and are considered a great natural curiosity. Under these pillars, is a bed of red-coloured trap tuff resting upon sandstone, succeeded by lofty rugged rocks of the trap series, upon which the vestiges that remain of the ancient Castle of Dunbar are founded. Here the softer rocks have yielded to the perpetual motion of the waters, while the more compact remain, forming large caverns and rugged arches,—through which the tide rushes with impetuous fury, presenting a grand spectacle at all times, but awfully sublime during a storm. West of the castle, is a tract of sandstone, through the centre of which a mass of trap rock called the "doo rock" rises to a considerable height, and not being hid by debris, it may fitly be compared to the skeleton of a mountain in miniature. Craggy cliffs of trap rock continue onward until they are succeeded first by cliffs, and then by ledges of red and white sandstone, which disappear under the sand of Belhaven bay.\*

*Soil.*—The general character of the soil is a rich brown loam, having a substratum of clay or gravel of great depth resting, to the west of Belton water, upon trap; and from that water to Broxburn, upon a tract of red sandstone, which runs west through the county; and from that stream east, upon limestone, corresponding with the rocks upon the coast. Coal has been found here at several places, but not of sufficient thickness to be wrought. It abounds west of Haddington, and also directly opposite in Fife; and as Dunbar is in the same basin, there is a great probability that workable seams exist

\* The Fox man-of-war was unfortunately stranded off Dunbar in 1745, and there went to pieces. The wreck remained under water above thirty years, when a violent storm laid a part of it bare, and several masses, consisting of iron, ropes, and balls were found on the Belhaven sands, near the place, covered over with a very hard ochry substance, of the colour of iron, which adhered thereto so strongly that it required great force to detach it from the fragments of the wreck. Upon examination, this substance appeared to be sand, concreted and hardened into a kind of stone. In a paper upon the subject by Edward King, Esq. and published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, he concludes, "that there is on the coasts of this island, a continual progressive induration of masses of sand and other matter at the bottom of the ocean, somewhat in the same manner as there is at the bottom of the Adriatic sea."

here also. Mr Hay is just now boring for that mineral on his estate of Eastbarns. The work is conducted by a regularly bred miner, and the public-spirited proprietor has permitted me to copy the journal as below : \*

*Botany.*—The dominion of the plough is here so universal, that this is not a favourable situation for the botanist. It is difficult to determine what are the plants peculiar to the soil, but the following are not common, and have their habitats in the parish : *Aspe-*

* Strata.		Depth.		Strata.		Depth.	
		Fect.	Inches.			Fect.	Inches.
	Gray freestone bands,	4	4	Brought up,	199	8	
1.	Coal,	0	2	Gray parting,	0	3	
	Blue metal,	9	11	Blue metal,	2	4	
	White freestone band,	0	4	White freestone,	14	5	
	Blue metal,	1	6	6. Coal,	0	7	
	White freestone,	0	10	Gray freestone,	3	0	
	Gray freestone band,	24	8	Red freestone beds,	4	0	
	Blue metal,	8	4	Ironstone,	0	9	
	White freestone,	0	6	Red freestone beds,	3	0	
	Soft blue metal,	5	8	White freestone,	0	8	
	Limestone,	2	3	White freestone,	1	4	
2.	Coal,	0	3	Red Hill parting,	0	4	
	White freestone,	5	0	White freestone,	2	0	
	Blue metal parting,	0	2	Red freestone,	0	8	
	White freestone,	3	4	White freestone,	2	0	
	Blue metal parting,	0	3	Red Hill parting,	0	8	
	White freestone,	5	11	White freestone,	6	4	
	Blue metal parting,	0	4	Red Hill parting,	0	8	
	White freestone,	3	6	White freestone,	6	6	
	Blue metal parting,	0	7	Red Hill parting,	0	6	
3.	Coal,	0	5	White freestone,	6	0	
	White freestone,	4	6	Red freestone,	1	0	
	Blue parting,	0	4	White mixed with red,	21	0	
	Gray freestone,	7	5	White freestone,	2	3	
	Blue parting,	0	5	Red freestone,	1	6	
	White freestone,	2	5	White freestone,	2	0	
	Blue parting,	0	3	Gray freestone,	0	9	
	Black metal,	3	0	White freestone,	3	10	
	White freestone,	2	11	Red freestone,	1	6	
4.	Coal,	0	7	White freestone,	9	0	
	White freestone,	0	9	Red freestone,	1	1	
	Gray freestone,	2	10	White freestone,	4	0	
	Blue metal,	8	0	Red Hill parting,	0	6	
	White freestone,	25	6	Gray mixed with white,	4	6	
	Blue metal,	1	6	Red Hill parting,	0	6	
5.	Coal,	0	10	White and gray mixture,	6	6	
	White freestone,	0	6	Red Hill parting,	0	3	
	Gray freestone,	7	0	White and gray mixture,	5	6	
	Red Hill,	1	6	Red Hill parting,	0	3	
	Red freestone,	12	6	White and gray mixture,	4	6	
	Gray freestone parting,	0	6	Red Hill parting,	0	3	
	Red freestone,	27	0	White and gray mixture,	5	6	
	Hard freestone beds,	9	3	Red Hill parting,	0	3	
	Ironstone,	0	9	White and gray mixture,	3	0	
	Gray freestone parting,	0	3	Red parting,	0	6	
	Red freestone bed,	0	5				
	Carry up,	199	8	Total depth,	336	0	

*rugo procumbens*, among the ruins of the castle; *Eryngium maritimum*, by the sea coast; *Trifolium scabrum*, dry pastures by the sea; *Epipactis palustris*, marsh near Dunbar; *Verrucaria maura*, basaltic rocks at Dunbar; and *Menyanthes trifoliata*, marshes at Broxmouth. The following Algæ are found on the rocks and coast of Dunbar, *Lichina minor*, *Lichina confinis*, *Alaria esculenta*, *Rodomenia laciniata*, *Sphærococcus laciniatus*, *Ceramium cirrosum*, and *Fucus loreus*.

*Trees.*—There are scarcely any plantations but such as adorn the houses of proprietors. The land is considered too valuable to be laid out in that way, and the farmer has but little fancy for that kind of produce. He prefers a well-dressed hedge to the innumerable rows of brushwood which in England occupy at least a tenth part of the soil. At Broxmouth, there are many stately well-grown trees of all kinds, and at Belton there are lofty silver firs about two hundred years old, and a magnificent beech tree which, three feet from the ground, measures 18 feet 6 inches. The timber is tough, weighty, and of excellent quality.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is a history of Dunbar by Mr James Miller, a useful and meritorious work; it was published in 1830.

The origin of parishes in North Britain, says Chalmers, cannot be traced beyond the ninth century. The time when Dunbar was established is unknown; but, from the circumstance of its being the most valuable parish in Lothian, it is probable that it was one of the first formed in that district. It is distinguished for its fertility and cultivation, and it derived all its ancient importance from the castle, which was accounted the principal key of the kingdom.

The lands of Dunbar and the eastern marches were conferred by Malcolm Canmore, in 1072, upon Cospatrik Earl of Northumberland, a princely nobleman, who fled from the wrath of William the Conqueror, into Scotland, and there had a long succession of potent and warlike descendants, who were created Earls of Dunbar and March, and held the same possessions till they were forfeited in 1435. The castle rendered Dunbar the theatre of many warlike exploits. Twice it was the field of very deadly strife: In 1296, when the whole force of Scotland collected for the relief of the castle, were defeated in battle with great slaughter, by Earl Warrene, the English Commander, who wassent to press the siege: And again in 1650, when Cromwell defeated Leslie on the same

ground. "It is a sad reflection," says Chalmers, "that it was of little importance to a harassed people whether the fanatical Leslie or the miscreant Cromwell should prevail."\* The first of these actions is here called the battle of Dunbar, the other the battle of Downhill.—During the civil war in 1745, Sir John Cope landed his troops at Dunbar, where he was joined by two regiments of dragoons: he marched thence towards Edinburgh, and was ingloriously defeated in the battle of Preston.—In 1779, the famous Paul Jones lay off Dunbar several days with five ships, and alarmed the inhabitants, who prepared to defend the town.—In 1781, the American Captain Fall, another sea adventurer, tried to carry off a vessel from the mouth of the harbour. This led to a brief and decisive action: three shots were fired on each side, and one of them from the shore was so well directed by an old skilful seaman, that it nearly carried away the enemy's mast, and made him change his purpose. To defend the town and harbour against such assaults, a battery was erected in the same year, of sixteen guns,—which at the general peace were removed to Edinburgh.—When an invasion of the French was dreaded, it was believed that a landing might be attempted at Belhaven bay; to guard against which an encampment was made in 1803 on West Barns Links, under the command of General Don, a very active officer; and thereafter barracks were erected west of the castle for 1200 infantry, and at Belhaven for 800 cavalry. Dunbar was distinguished for its loyalty, and could boast of a corps of volunteers, and a troop of yeomanry cavalry collected from the parish and neighbourhood, equal to any in the kingdom.

*Burgh.*—Buchanan mentions Dunbar so early as the year 856, when it was burned by Kenneth King of Scotland. It has evidently grown up under the protection of its castle. It was of old surrounded with a wall, had three posts or gates, and its principal street is regular and spacious. It was created by David II. a free burgh, with limits as extensive as the earldom of March, with a market cross, with power to buy and sell, with a coquet and trone, and with a free port at la Belle Haven. Its privileges were afterwards confirmed and extended by several royal charters. In one of the last of these charters, dated "apud palatium nostrum de Halyrudhaus, 1 Mar. 1603," King James VI. confirmed to the provost, bailies, and community of Dunbar, the charter of David II.—a charter by King James II., dated 16th May 1445,—a charter

\* Caledonia, li. 426.

by Mary Queen of Scots, dated 18th June 1555,—and another charter by the same Queen, dated 31st March 1567; and defined the boundaries of the burgh according to a decision of the Court of Session, dated the 21st June 1569.

A representative from Dunbar was admitted into the Scottish Parliament; but since the Union, it unites with Haddington, North-Berwick, Jedburgh, and Lauder, in sending one member to Parliament. The town was entirely burned in 1548, by the English army which Henry VIII. sent to punish the Scots for refusing to allow the marriage of their young Queen with his son. It is governed by a Provost, three Bailies, a Treasurer, and fifteen Councillors. Its annual revenue is upwards of L. 1300 Sterling, derived from property and imposts.

*Eminent Characters.*—Columba Dunbar was Dean of the Church of Dunbar in 1411, when he was promoted to the see of Moray.

Thomas Hay, Dean of Dunbar, was, in 1532, appointed a Senator of the College of Justice.

Andrew Wood, Rector of Dunbar, was in 1676, promoted to the Bishopric of the Isles, and continued to hold it by dispensation. He was translated to the see of Caithness, which he held till his episcopate was abolished at the Revolution. He died at Dunbar at the venerable age of seventy-six.

George Home of Manderston, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland under James VI., by whom he was, in 1605, created Earl of Dunbar, died at Whitehall the 29th January 1611, and was buried in the Old Church of Dunbar. A splendid marble monument, superior, it is said, in sculpture to any thing of the kind in Scotland, was erected to his memory: it is still preserved in the present church, and is 12 feet broad and 26 feet high. It is alleged that the Earl was attached to the prelatie form of worship; and accordingly, he is represented at full length, clad in armour, kneeling on a cushion, with his prayer book open before him. His supporters are two knights in armour; and above, on the one side stands Justice, and on the other, Wisdom. There are other appropriate figures and devices, and the whole is crowned with the arms of Home.

James Kirkwood, Rector of Astwick, in Bedfordshire, was born in the parish, and educated at the schools of Dunbar. He bequeathed in 1708, curiosities, books, and papers to the Presbytery of Dunbar, giving an account of his endeavours, in conjunction with

the Honourable Robert Boyle, in disseminating the Irish Bible throughout the Highlands of Scotland.

Patrick Carfrae, D. D. was translated from Morham in 1795, to the church and parish of Dunbar. He was perhaps the most eloquent and accomplished preacher of his day. It is well known that such was the opinion of a very competent judge, the late Lord Liverpool, who was a regular hearer in the church of Dunbar, when stationed here with his regiment. Doctor Carfrae possessed in a high degree all the requisites of an orator; and was one of the brightest ornaments of the classic age which is gone by.

A family of the name of Fall established themselves at Dunbar, and became during the last century the most extensive merchants in Scotland. They were long the chief magistrates of the burgh, and preferred the public good to their own profit. They have left no one to bear their name, not even a stone to tell where they lie; but they will long be remembered for their enterprise and public spirit.

*Chief Land-owners.*—The Duke of Roxburghe;\* Sir George Warrender of Lochend; Robert Hay, Esq. of East-Barns; Captain Hay, R. N. of Belton; General Hardyman of Heatherwick; Mrs Hamilton Nisbet Ferguson of Ninewar; William Sandilands, Esq. of Barnyhill; John Allan, Esq. of Links, &c. Most of the estates of these land-owners have long been in possession of their families respectively.

*Parochial Registers.*—Their earliest date is 1658. They have been regularly kept, and are not voluminous. The burgh register of sasines begins in 1620, the register of dispositions in 1737, and the council books in 1656.

*Antiquities, Castle, &c.*—The ruins of the castle form a remarkable antiquity. They are particularly described by Sir Walter Scott in his Provincial Antiquities, and Grose has preserved two views of them. Founded upon a lofty rugged rock within the sea-mark, and connected with a battery on the adjoining land, by a wall through which there is a covered passage, this castle was so strongly fortified both by nature and by art, that before the invention of gunpowder it was deemed impregnable. The date of the buildings is unknown; but they are evidently the work of different ages. Several of the towers communicating with the sea gave it great advantages over inland forts. Being conferred on Cospa-

\* The estate and mansion of Broxmouth belonging to the Dukedom are inherited by Mary Duchess Dowager of Roxburghe.

trick, it was the principal baronial residence of his descendants, and afforded the means of enabling these warlike lords to maintain power and authority, little less than royal, through a long succession of rude and turbulent ages. In 1296, the eighth Earl of that family, adhering to the English interest, his wife Margory Comyn surrendered his Castle of Dunbar to the Scots, when Edward I. sent Earl Warrene to press the siege of this important place, which led to the battle of Dunbar. Edward II. after his defeat at Bannockburn in 1314, sought refuge in this castle, and went from thence by sea to Berwick. The ninth Earl razed his castle of Dunbar, that it might not fall into the hands of the English, and was obliged by Edward III. to rebuild it at his own expense. It was often besieged, and as often bravely defended; but perhaps the most brilliant period of its history was about 1337, when it was defended by Black Agnes against the Earl of Salisbury. In 1434, George the eleventh and last Earl of Dunbar and March, was for his father's treason disinherited of his estates and seignories, which, with the hereditary castle of Dunbar, passed to the Crown, and were given to the Duke of Albany.

Jane Seymour, dowager of James I. the most beautiful and accomplished woman of her age, died in the Castle of Dunbar in 1446, and was buried at Perth. The Duke of Albany, on his flight from Edinburgh Castle in 1475, landed at his Castle of Dunbar, and proceeded thence to France. He returned and regained possession of this castle, and was compelled to fly from it a second time in 1483, when he left it in the hands of the English, who surrendered it to James III. in 1486. An act of Parliament passed in 1488 directs the Castle of Dunbar to be cast down and utterly destroyed, in such manner as to render it incapable of repairs in time to come, "because it has done great skaith in time bygone, and it were great danger to the realm if it were negligently kept in future." This act was not carried into effect till nearly a century afterwards.

Four times did this stronghold receive within its walls the unfortunate Queen Mary. In 1565, after the assassination of Rizzio, she fled to it that she might be safe from the conspirators; and in the same year Bothwell, who had assisted her escape, was appointed its keeper. The Queen and her court on a tour along the Tweed by Berwick arrived at this castle on the 17th November 1566, and remained there six days. After the murder of Darnley in 1567, Bothwell's guilty associates having recommended him to Mary for a husband, he marched at the head of a thousand horsemen, ar-

rested the Queen at Almond Bridge, and carried her forcibly with her principal attendants to this castle, where he kept her twelve days imprisoned. One short month after her union with Bothwell, Mary was compelled to fly first to Borthwick, and next, disguised as a page, to Dunbar Castle, where she collected forces from Lothian and the Merse, and marched to Carberry hill; there she joined the insurgents, and Bothwell deserted returned to Dunbar Castle

“ With shame and sorrow filled,  
Shame for his folly; sorrow out of time  
For plotting an unprofitable crime.”

Bothwell's dependents shortly thereafter surrendered the castle to the Earl of Murray, Regent of Scotland; and in 1567 Parliament ordered it to be demolished, and the artillery carried to Edinburgh, —which was so literally executed some months thereafter, that nothing now remains of this important place of strength but the vestiges of its former grandeur. These are in many parts now so completely effaced that the antiquary may here give full scope to his imagination, and delight himself with rebuilding this ancient castle *in the air*.

Patrick the sixth Earl of Dunbar, in 1218, founded in this parish a monastery of Red or Trinity friars; part of the building is still standing in the Friars Croft. The lands which piety or zeal had given them, says Spottiswood, were transferred after the Reformation to George Home of Friarsland.

In 1263, the seventh Earl founded here a monastery of Carmelites or White friars; but no vestiges of it now remain. Some Roman medals inscribed *Judea captiva* were found, on digging the site of the reservoir: hence it was supposed to have been formerly the site of the Carmelite friary. There was also a *Maison Dieu* at the head of the High Street; but its pious founder is now unknown.

In Broxmouth Park, there is a small mound of earth where Cromwell stood (and which is still called Cromwell's Mount,) when, looking through a glass, he beheld Leslie's army descending from the hill, and exclaimed the “ Lord hath delivered them into my hands.”

In a sequestered spot, not far from the door of Broxmouth House, is a rough tombstone, having the name of Sir William Douglas rudely inscribed upon it; he was one of the Douglasses of Kirkness, a branch of the Morton family, and the only individual among the fallen in that battle who has been honoured even with such a frail memorial to mark the warrior's bed.

*Modern Buildings.*—There is a Gothic church, having its base 65 feet above the level of the sea, with a magnificent tower 107 feet 6 inches high,—forming a well known land-mark to the mariner. It

was designed by Mr Gillespie Graham; and for accommodation, comfort, and chaste elegance, it is not surpassed. The burgh, by agreement, contributed one-fifth of the expense, and the heritors the remainder, according to their respective valuations. The church will long remain a proud monument of their liberality and attachment to the established religion of the land. There are also new Burgh schools. The Assembly Rooms built by subscription are erected in a bad situation. Dunbar House, where the Earl of Lauderdale generally resides, is situated within the Old Castle park, and has a very handsome front to the sea. Had it been placed near to the ruins of the castle, it would have had the most picturesque situation in the kingdom. Broxmouth Park is a modern mansion, sheltered from every wind, surrounded with hills and dales, woods, and waters, and every thing to render it a most desirable retreat. Lochend House is an elegant mansion in the Anglo-Gothic style, and is much admired for the chasteness of the building, and its commodious arrangements within. Belton House stands in a beautiful winding glen, embosomed among stately trees, and is finely sheltered, with its native stream gliding by. Heatherwick House stands on a gentle eminence, which is well wooded, and commands views of the surrounding plain, the town of Dunbar, Belhaven bay, and the extensive grounds of Tynninghame.

### III.—POPULATION.

The ancient state of the population of the parish is involved in the same obscurity as the early history of the country. The Celtic British, according to Chalmers, are the first names on the map of Lothian; the Saxon, the second; the Gaelic, the third; and the English, the fourth,—corresponding to the several successions of the colonizing people. It is probable that Dunbar, from its advantages, was one of the first selected settlements, and, from its name, that it was peopled by the first of these tribes. While the Earls of Dunbar were the sole proprietors of the parish, the population would consist of their retainers and followers; and as the castle rendered it the theatre of perpetual strife, the inhabitants must have experienced greater changes than any other part of the Lothian territory. While different people contended for the soil, little attention was paid to cultivation, and the country was not populous.

In 1755, by Dr Webster's account, the population amounted to	3281
1792, by last Statistical do.	3700
1801, by census,	3951
1811,	4114
1821,	5272
1831,	4735

The census of 1831 does not include the seafaring persons belonging to the parish; and there were then in it 2174 males, and 2561 females. The great increase in 1821 was occasioned by an attempt to establish a cotton factory at Belhaven, which introduced about 500 persons, chiefly from Ireland; and by an influx of discharged soldiers and sailors. The decrease in 1831 was occasioned by the failure of the factory.

In a census taken by the minister in 1834, the population was . . . 4536

Resident within the royalty . . . .	3217
Do do landward district . . . .	1319

The yearly average for the last seven years of marriages is	81
births, . . . .	84
burials, . . . .	89

It should be noticed, however, that many parents do not register the births of their children; and that the period which the average embraces includes two years when the mortality was unusually great. There are 1109 families in the parish, and the average number of persons in each family is  $4\frac{1}{11}$ .

There are 30 proprietors of land in the parish of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

*Character of the People.*—They are quiet, peaceable, and industrious, remarkably civil and obliging in their disposition, generally well-educated, and have less peculiarity in their dialect than is to be found in most other districts. They are at all times well dressed, and their houses are clean and comfortable. The inhabitants of the town have an abundant and cheap supply of fish; and the hinds command milk and meal, pork and potatoes. The latter class being paid in kind have but one interest with the farmer and landlord; and they have borne the present depression without a murmur. When the Reform Bill agitated the country, their voice was unheard. Both the burgh and landward inhabitants are loyal and well affected to church and state, and are regular in their attendance on public worship. They enjoy in a great degree the comforts and advantages of society, and are perfectly satisfied with their condition and circumstances. The heritors most cheerfully concur in every measure beneficial to the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The parish is all arable, and contains 7197 acres. There is no evidence that Dunbar was ever wooded.

It is known that agriculture flourished in this district during the twelfth and thirteen centuries. Kings, nobles, and churchmen, then amused themselves with rural pursuits; but the monks were the most skilful cultivators. The Union in 1706 was the grand

era of agricultural improvement to Scotland, in which East Lothian had the honour to lead the way; and nowhere is cultivation better understood and more perfectly executed than in this parish. The soil and climate are excellent; limestone and sea-ware, two powerful agents in the hands of the tillers of the ground, are here in superabundance; and there is a ready market for all kinds of produce. The farmers are respectable, skilful, and enterprising, and spare neither pains nor expense in availing themselves of their great natural advantages; and their labours are annually crowned with an abundant crop of the "finest of the wheat." The lands of East Barns, belonging to Robert Hay, Esq. produce an average of 14 bolls of wheat per acre, for a succession of years.

*Rent of land, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 16,953 Scots; the real rent in 1792 was L. 8000 Sterling; in 1823, L. 23,405. Annual revenue of the burgh in 1792 was L. 500; in 1834, L. 1362.

The highest rent, in the best times, was L. 8, and the average from L. 5 to L. 6, per Scots acre. When prices fell, these rents were generally converted into grain on the principle of a boll of wheat for every L. 1, 18s. of rent; but were still payable in money, at the rate of the fiars. The highest rent at present is L. 5, 5s. per Scots acre; near to the town, L. 6 per imperial acre. The average rent at present is L. 3, 10s. per Scots acre.

*Rate of Wages.*—The annual wages of a hind are, 66 bushels of oats, 18 bushels of barley, 8 bushels of beans, 4 bolls, or 48 cwt. of coals, L. 2 Sterling, a cow's grass and winter keep, 1500 yards of land along a drill for potatoes, 1 bushel of wheat for stacking and sowing, one month's meat in harvest, with a house and garden; for which he must furnish a shearer twenty-days. The wages of a female servant are L. 3 the winter term, and L. 3, 10s. the summer; a worker, 10d. per day, summer and winter; a labourer, 9s. per week; a carpenter, 2s. 6d. per day; a mason, 2s. 9d. per day. Smith and carpenter work is all done by contract. A double horse cart fully mounted with narrow wheels costs L. 12; do. with broad wheels, L. 14; an iron plough fully mounted, L. 4; a pair of iron harrows fully mounted, L. 3, 15s. and upwards, according to weight; upholding a pair of horses with cart, plough, and harrows by the smith and carpenter for a year, L. 6, 15s. Lime costs 1s. 6d. per boll imperial measure.

*Cattle.*—Corn being the staple produce here, very little stock of any kind is bred. On a farm of 500 acres, perhaps but one cow is kept by the farmer. The soil is rich. Breeding, it is said, will not pay.

The soundness of this opinion may at any time be questioned, but particularly at present, when the price of grain is so low. Great numbers, both of cattle and sheep of all kinds, are brought here to be fed; and as the green crops partake of the richness of the grain, it is perhaps the best feeding district in the kingdom. Cattle must be well fed, indeed, if a Dunbar farmer cannot improve them. Notwithstanding the high character of the short horns, judicious farmers assert, as the result of their experience, that the west Highland cattle, which either are, or retain the character of, the primitive breed, have the greatest aptitude to fatten and yield the largest return. One thing is certain, that when full fed their beef is most prized by the epicure.

*Husbandry.*—The soil being dry, it is easily pulverized, and cleared of rooted weeds; therefore, there is comparatively but little fallow. The rotation of crops is, 1. Turnips upon two or more ploughings dunged, and generally fed off; when carried off, a compost of lime and earth is generally applied. 2. Wheat, with clover and rye-grass seeds. 3. Grass, fed off with cattle or sheep. 4. Potato oats. 5. Beans drilled and dunged. 6. Wheat. Instead of oats, wheat is sometimes taken, and then the rotation is confined to four crops. This course, peculiar to the parish, has been called the Dunbar system; but objections have been made to it. Wheat, every second year, it is said, exhausts the soil; the answer is, that the food of plants in the soil may be exhausted by any kind of crop, while the soil itself cannot be exhausted. Where there is a command of manure, there is no system which will so richly repay the labours of the husbandman. It was adopted here, on one of the best farms, for many years, without any diminution either of quantity or quality; and in order to ascertain whether soil is injured by frequent crops of wheat—the glebe of Dunbar was properly dressed either with sea-ware, street-dung, or soot, and cropped with wheat, for five successive years. The result was, an extra crop every year, and the land left in such a condition that it may produce a crop or two of any kind without additional manure. The least crop in the succession was, on the third year,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  bolls per acre; it promised to be the greatest, but it was lodged flat, as the surface soon after it came into ear. All the other crops in the succession were above 12 bolls per acre. One season, exactly suited to the soil, there were  $16\frac{1}{2}$  bolls per acre; and the last of the five years, crop 1834, there were 14 bolls per acre. It was ascertained, that, on each of three of these years, there were more than 300 stones of straw per acre. The soil is a sandy loam. There is another field in the parish which has produced oats four successive years with

increasing produce and fertility. Hence it seems to follow that land properly cultivated and manured may produce abundantly the same kind of crop in regular succession. If the food of plants is exhausted in exact proportion to the weight of crop produced, it is worthy of investigation whether the advantage of changing the kind of crop does not arise from one kind giving off food for another kind, but solely from the different modes of cultivation which different kinds of crop admit of at different seasons.

Varieties of wheat have been recommended; but where the soil and climate are good, the kind most prized, both by the skilful miller and baker, is the white wheat from Kent and Essex. Some of the best growers there import seed from America; the produce of which has been tried here. It grows freely, has a tapering stalk, yields well, has plenty of straw, is eight days earlier, and brings the highest price in the London market. The grain of wheat in its wild state is a very paltry seed. It has been raised to its present plump state by cultivation; and by a little attention the process of improvement might be accelerated. The author has found, from experiments, that ears and even grains of wheat reproduced their like; hence, by a judicious selection of either, better and more prolific kinds than any hitherto in use might be obtained.

The duration of leases is generally nineteen years. Farm-buildings have here long been constructed after the most approved plans. The land is all inclosed either with stone dikes or thorn hedges; the latter are regularly cleaned and neatly kept.

Thrashing of corn by steam is the greatest improvement which has lately been introduced here. The work is thereby done so completely, that, on a large farm, the whole outlay is saved the first year: the farmer is enabled to bring his corn to the market at any season; and there is a great saving of horses, to which the rotatory motion of the mill is most pernicious. Pillars, whereon to build the corn in the barn yard, should have been more generally introduced. Some individuals have them of stone, but cast-iron ones are the best. They have a cover with a turned down edge,—which renders them a complete defence against vermin. They admit a free circulation of air to the stacks, and the saving is beyond calculation.

If there be any thing to censure in this improved district, it is the careless manner in which the corn is cut. Some seasons, in such a soil and climate, the whole crop is ripe at once. The country is then deluged with Irish reapers, who on their way south are here hired by hundreds, and perhaps the whole crop is cut in eight

days. Some of these poor creatures appear never to have cut corn before, and they have no object but to remain their hours and to receive their meat and wages. The field is too often a scene of confusion; there is neither a sufficient portion of work done, nor is it done in a workman-like manner. The corn being irregularly cut and laid in the sheaf, much of it is lost in working, and the irregular heads escape the mill in thrashing. Perhaps it is thought, that where nature has been bountiful, the fowls of Heaven and the poor have a right to their share; but it is certain, that when the corn is led from the field, a gleaner will with ease collect a bushel per day. It is true, some farmers rake their fields; but grain which remains on the ground is discoloured and injured; and the best raking is clean-cutting. There are distinguished exceptions in the parish; but the practice is too generally applicable to the district. It may safely be affirmed of the Dunbar farmers that they readily make trial of any thing that promises to be useful; that there is amongst them a great deal of good-natured emulation; and that they frankly communicate the results of their experiments. In short, so much has been done here, both by nature and by art, to render the earth productive, that perhaps there remains but little to carry husbandry to perfection.

*Quarries.*—Red freestone more or less compact abounds. There are also two quarries of gray limestone. The lime is very pure, very white, and forms a strong cement. Much lime for manure is carried from this quarter to Berwickshire. It is to be regretted that in this parish, where it abounds, it has not been so copiously applied for that purpose as it ought,—from a belief that the free nature of the soil does not require it; whereas Sir Humphry Davy asserts, that “all soils are improved by mild lime, and ultimately by quicklime, which do not effervesce with acids and sands more than clays.”

*Fisheries.*—White fish of all kinds and lobsters are caught off the coast. The cod are pickled, and sent to London; the had-docks are smoked and sent chiefly to Edinburgh and Glasgow. The lobsters are preserved in pits cut out of the rock within sea mark, which are called hullies, and sent to London. In August and September, herrings of excellent quality are caught off Dunbar: some years, 300 boats have been so employed; but of late, either the fish have not been upon the coast, or, what is more probable, the fishermen have not found them.

*Raw Produce.*—Wheat having fallen in price so much of late, a considerable portion of barley is now sown after turnips, in place of wheat, in the rotation above stated; but supposing these two kinds

of crops to be equal in value, that will make no difference on the average gross amount of raw produce,—which, from the extent of land in the parish, and the rotation of cropping, may be calculated thus: Deduct from the whole parish 100 acres for roads and hedges, and 300 acres of *links*, which are not allowed to be ploughed, and then there will remain 6797 acres, which are either occupied as follows, or with some other produce equally valuable.

Turnips, 1133 acres at L. 6, 10s. per acre, - - -	L. 7364	10	0
Wheat, 2266 acres, 32 bushels at 7s. 7d. per bushel, - -	27494	2	6
Grass, 1133 do. at L. 5, per acre, - - -	5665	0	0
Oats, 1133 do. at 58 bushels per acre, at 3s. 1½d. per bushel, 10262	16	5½	
Beans, 1133 do. at 26 bushels per acre, at 4s. 1d. per bushel, 6014	6	10	
Links, 300 do at L. 1, per acre, - - -	300	0	0
Lime, 18000 bolls annually, at 1s. 6d. per boll, - -	1300	0	0
Fish annually - - - - -	800	0	0
Lobsters, - - - - -	150	0	0

Annual amount of raw produce, L. 59,350 15 9½

The average of the grain is taken from the examination of Mr Brodie of Thornton Loch, before a committee of the House of Lords in 1814; and the price is the average of the Haddington fiars for the last seven years. Bone manure having enabled the hill farmer to raise turnips, their price has fallen in the low lands.

*Manufactures.*—The expectations formed of the flax mill erected at West Barns in 1792 were not realized; and the cotton factory established at Belhaven in 1815 was also a failure. Both of these undertakings were productive of loss to the parties concerned, and introduced many paupers into the parish. Such factories can only exist advantageously where numbers of persons in manufacturing employments are congregated together, and such a population and that of a rich agricultural district have never been found to harmonize.—There are two founderies here, which manufacture machinery of various kinds. Mr Sked, the proprietor of one of them, is celebrated for his steam-engines.—Dunbar was of old famous for its malt. It is equally so at present for its ale.

*Navigation.*—The same causes which have depressed shipping everywhere else, have affected that of Dunbar,—so that now it is not equal there to what it was in 1792, when there were sixteen vessels of 1505 tons burthen in all, besides two Greenland ships of 675 tons. At present there are eighteen small vessels, of only 1233 tons burthen in all, three of which are chiefly employed in foreign, and the others in the coast trade. The subjoined statements may give an idea of the trade of the port.

1. Number of vessels with cargoes that have entered inwards at the Custom-house, Dunbar, from *foreign ports*, in the year ended 5th January 1835 :

Of vessels, 23; tons, 2310; men, 134. Amount of duties received on foreign goods imported in the year ended 5th January 1835, L. 2942, 15s.

2. The number of vessels *coastwise*, that have discharged and loaded cargoes at Dunbar, in the year ended 5th January 1835:

*Inwards*—Of vessels, 244; tons, 11,919; men, 762.

*Outwards*— Do. 149; tons, 7081; men, 478.

3. Foreign grain imported at Dunbar in the year ended 5th January 1835: Wheat, 203 quarters 4 bushels; barley, 3346 quarters.

4. Quantities remaining in the bonded warehouses at 5th January 1835:—Wheat, 441 quarters 1 bushel; barley, 3346 quarters; oats, 145 quarters, 7 bushels; total, 3933 quarters.

5. Coals imported at Dunbar and its creeks during the same year:—Scotch coals, 9489 tons, 13 cwt.; English do. 763 tons, 5 cwt.; English cinders, 31 tons, 16 cwt.

6. Corn imported coastwise during the same year:—Wheat, 342 quarters; barley, 2007 quarters, 2 bushels.

7. Corn exported coastwise during the same year.—Wheat, 3608 quarters, 3 bushels; barley, 3936 quarters, 1 bushel; oats, 6067 quarters, 1 bushel; beans and pease, 1981 quarters, 7 bushels; malt, 359 bushels; wheat flour, 231 sacks. Whisky exported, 91,900 gallons.

Three distilleries, one of them in the parish, and the other two in Haddington, have done no work for the last two years. This must have greatly affected the grain market, and also the trade of the port.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—Dunbar is inhabited chiefly by the merchants, shopkeepers, and artisans required in such a situation; and it is the only market-town in the district. It had formerly a sample market for grain every Thursday, which in 1832 was converted into a stock-market every Tuesday.

Grain is brought to it from the surrounding country, but principally from the high-lands of Berwickshire, in the proportion, some days through the eastern toll, of ninety cart load from that quarter, to nine from the county of Haddington. The love of change led to the establishment lately of a stock-market at Tranent. This divided the Haddington market, which was decidedly the most important grain-market in Scotland; lessened competition, introduced inferior grain, and reduced the prices. The sellers are now at the mercy of the buyer; whatever portion of grain is presented, the result is the same. If there are no merchants, then

there are no sales; and if only two or three appear, it is in their power to regulate the market.

*Villages.*—There are three villages, namely, East-Barns, West-Barns, and Belhaven.

*Means of Communication.*—Seven miles, six furlongs, and ninety yards of the great road to London, pass through the parish; and there are excellent conveyances, both east and west. There is a post-office in the town, where the royal mail arrives every day at forty-five minutes past ten o'clock in the forenoon from the north, and at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock forenoon from the south. Steele's coach, which is both speedy and comfortable, leaves Dunbar for Edinburgh every week-day at seven o'clock in the morning, and returns to it on the same day at the same hour in the evening. The Union and Berwick coaches pass and repass every week-day. There are carriers twice every week, and regular packets to Leith and London.

*Harbour.*—The harbour is safe and commodious, has 9 feet of water at neap, and 14 at spring tides, and admits vessels of 300 tons burthen; but on account of rugged rocks at its entrance, skilful pilotage is required. The convention of Royal burghs in 1785, voted L. 600 to improve it; and Cromwell in his time granted L. 300 to repair the east pier, which had been destroyed by a storm.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The worthy St Baldred, it is said, was the apostle of East Lothian. He fixed his cell at Tynninghame, and preached the Gospel through the district, sometime during the sixth century; and his successor was the pious St Cuthbert; but the subject is involved in obscurity. The parish belonged originally to the bishopric of Lindisfarne; and at the decline of the Northumbrian kingdom, it was ceded in 1020, with the rest of Lothian to the Scottish King, and annexed to the bishopric of St Andrews. In addition to the present parish, it then contained the parochial districts of Whittingham, Stenton, and Spott, which were chapelries subordinate to the mother church. This very extensive parish had six chapels, namely, Pinkerton, Heatherwick, Whittingham, Penshiel, Stenton, and Spott. Dunbar with its chapel of Whittingham was valued in 1176 at 180 merks, which, says Chalmers, "is a greater valuation than any other church in Scotland could bear." The Earls of Dunbar were proprietors of the whole parish, and patrons of the church and subordinate chapels. Patrick the tenth Earl, in 1342, converted this parochial into a collegiate church, which was the first establishment of the kind in Scotland.

It consisted of a Dean, an Archpriest, and eighteen Canons; and the revenues of the church of Dunbar, with the incomes of the chapels of Whittingham, Spott, Stenton, Penshiel, and Heatherwick, were assigned for their support. The founder annexed to this college the churches of Linton or Prestonkirk, Dunse, and Chirnside; and he reserved the patronage of the whole to himself and his successors. Afterwards, the chapels were converted into parish churches, but still dependent on the mother church as prebends of the college. When Heatherwick was made a distinct parish, it was a rectory called Belton, which was the name of the estate and also of two villages. It remained a separate parish until the Reformation in 1560, when it was re-annexed to Dunbar, and then also Dunbar ceased to be collegiate. The patronage of the church fell to the Crown with the forfeiture of the Earldom of Dunbar in 1494. The said earldom and patronage were enjoyed by the Duke of Albany, and at his forfeiture they again fell to the Crown, in 1483. The patronage of the church of Dunbar now belongs to the Dukedom of Roxburghe, and it is liferented by Mary Duchess Dowager of Roxburghe.

It appears that the church was named St Bae's, after its founder, according to a traditionary rhyme regarding three female saints, who strove to build a church nearest to the sea.\*

We find that in a charter by King James IV. it is called *Ecclesia Collegiata Sancti Bae de Dunbar*. The building must have been repeatedly renewed and altered. When last taken down, its style was a mixture of Gothic and Saxon; and it was in the form of a cross. It was inconvenient, and not large enough for the population. The last time Divine service was performed in it was on Sunday, 7th March 1819. The foundation stone of a new church was laid on the site of the old one, 17th April 1819; and on the 20th April 1821, the new church was opened for the ordination of the present incumbent. It is most conveniently situated for the whole parish. Almost the whole inhabitants are within three miles of it, and scarcely any of them beyond four. It contains 1800 persons, and has 61 free sittings for the poor of the parish.†

The manse was built in 1767. The glebe is four Scotch acres in extent; and there is no grass glebe. The stipend is twenty

\* " St Abb's upon the Nab,  
St Helen's upon the Lea,  
St Bae's, upon Dunbar sands,  
Stands nearest to the sea."

† In 1822, a new method of letting church seats was adopted in the part of the burgh. A price was marked upon certain pews belonging to it, and the Provost nailed them up, that none might enter till they were let. The kirk-seats complained

chalders. There are upwards of 1200 communicants in the parish belonging to the Established Church.

In 1792, there was a Burgher meeting in Dunbar, and an Anti-burgher meeting at East-Barns. The latter was in 1820 transferred to Dunbar. One of them is now called the High Meeting, and the other the Low Meeting; and they both belong to the united Associate Synod. There was then also a small meeting of Wesleyan Methodists; and what was said in the last Account respecting these societies, is applicable to them still, "their congregations are made up of a collection of people from all the parishes in the neighbourhood."

There are 815 families that adhere to the Established Church, and 294 families of Dissenters or Seceders of various denominations.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools,—the one at West-Barns having all the legal accommodations, with the maximum salary, and the other, at East-Barns, having only one-half chalder, and the interest of L. 100 Sterling, bequeathed by William Hume, tenant at that place, and of L. 50 Sterling bequeathed by the Reverend George Bruce; and both these sums are committed in trust to the Presbytery of Dunbar, for the benefit of the school. The burgh has an English and a grammar school, united at present under one master, and a mathematical school. The teacher of the former has a house and forty guineas of salary; that of the latter a house and L. 20 Sterling. There are three unendowed schools.

The rural inhabitants of the parish are very attentive to the education of their children. Education is also highly prized by the people of the burgh; and if among the latter there are individuals who are inattentive to the instruction of their children, they should on no account be discharged from the task by their children being

to the Sheriff of this proceeding, who immediately ordered the pews to be opened, and having heard parties, found, "That although the heritors of the parish may be entitled to stipulate for, and receive rents from the parishioners for the seats in the parish church, yet, in default of obtaining tenants, they are not warranted in shutting them up in the manner here complained of, and therefore prohibits and interdicts the respondent, the chief Magistrate of Dunbar, from shutting up, in the manner complained of, the seats held by that burgh in the parish church, and finds him liable in the expense of this proceeding, reserving to him his relief against the magistrates and the community of said burgh, as accords." The Provost presented a petition against this interlocutor, alleging that the shutting up of the seats was the act of the magistrates, and not his individually. The kirk-session answered, that they had no means of ascertaining by what authority he acted, but what they affirmed they offered to prove. The Sheriff then ordered the magistrates and council to be called, conjoined the two processes, interdicted them from shutting up the seats, found them liable in the expense, and reserved to them recourse against each other. The magistrates next presented a bill of advocacy to the Court of Session, which was repelled, and the case remitted *simpliciter* to the Sheriff. The magistrates acquiesced, and paid the whole expense of procedure.

educated at a free school, which corrupts the parent and degrades the child. They ought rather to be stirred up to a sense of their duty, and prompted to place themselves and their children on an equality with their neighbours. The heritors and kirk-session provide for the education of all orphan children.

*Library.*—There is a Subscription Library, containing many hundred volumes; and a reading-room. The mechanics also have a library of several hundred volumes.

*Banks.*—In the town there is a branch of the British Linen Company, and also one of the Commercial Bank of Scotland.

*Friendly Societies.*—Many of these have, from time to time, existed in Dunbar; but, being established on erroneous principles, most of them were of short duration. The only one which has weathered the storm is the Sailors Society. It was established, beyond the memory of man, for the benefit of superannuated seamen and their widows. Its funds were originally derived from a duty of eight pennies on the pound Scots out of all wages paid to masters, mates, and sailors frequenting the port. This society must have been well managed, for now it has both lands and money.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The management of the poor is committed to the kirk-session, who regularly account to the heritors. The number of the poor and their allowances are perpetually changing. While, in other places, poor rates have increased,—here, by a stedfast adherence to the spirit of poor laws, they have been greatly diminished. The annual expenditure is at present about L. 450 Sterling,—which sum is raised, 1. by the interest of Binning's mortmain of L. 75 Sterling, paid by the burgh; 2. by incidents at marriages and funerals; 3. by collections at the church door; 4. by a regular assessment.

A committee of three heritors and three magistrates, with the assistance of the kirk-session, appointed to investigate the subject, lately ascertained that the total number of paupers in the burgh, and the landward parts of the parish, was 103. Of these, 86 have a settlement in the burgh; in the landward district, 17. It was further ascertained that, of these 103 paupers, 50 were born and brought up in the burgh; in the landward district, 10; emigrated from other parishes, 43.

In 1724, it was agreed between the heritors and the town, that for the year ensuing *allenary*, the town should pay one-sixth of the money raised in the parish for the maintenance of the poor,—but with a special clause, that this should not become a precedent for the future. The other five-sixths were paid by the heri-

tors and tenants of the landward district. This agreement was not renewed,—but different rules were adopted till the year 1774, for which and the subsequent years, the town of Dunbar has paid only one-sixth of the assessment. The attention of the heritors was at length directed to the subject by certain extraordinary claims which were made on the part of the burgh. The chief magistrate claimed a right *ex officio* to give orders upon the funds;\* and if two or more bailies attended the meetings, each claimed a right to vote.

The heritors being thus called upon to look to their interest, were advised to institute an action of *déclarator*, to have it found “that the management and maintenance of the poor of the landward district and of the burgh are separate and distinct, and that the pursuers, as heritors of the landward district, with their tenants and other inhabitants thereof, are not liable for the support of the poor of the burgh, but for that of the poor resident within the landward district *allenary*, and the provost, magistrates, and council, as representing the community of the said burgh of Dunbar, ought and should be decerned and ordained, by decree foresaid, to sustain and manage the poor of the said burgh according to law: Or otherwise, in the event of the pursuers failing in the above conclusion of their action, then and in that case it ought and should be found and declared, by decree foresaid, that the power of taking up the lists of the aggregate poor, determining the assessments, and managing the funds, belongs to the meeting of heritors, provost, minister, and elders, and that the assessment to be imposed for the support of the aggregate poor shall be laid on the whole inhabitants of the parish equally, whether in burgh or landward, according to the estimation of their substance, without exception of persons.” The action came before their Lordships of the Second Division, who ordered the opinions of the other Judges to be taken thereon. Three of the Consulted Judges having returned opinions for a separation, and six of them against it, their Lordships of the

\* The writer conceives it to be of importance that the terms of the letter written on this occasion by the Provost to the Clerk of the Poors' Funds should be here inserted.

Dunbar, 1st November 1825.

SIR,—I gave an order upon you yesterday, to pay a woman twenty shillings to account of the maintenance of three poor children she has had the charge of, belonging to the parish, and which order I understand you have refused to pay, nor will you assign your reason in writing for your refusal, but have sent me a message that you have not time to write. I now again demand of you either to pay the order, or to state your reason why you withhold the money, as I consider a refusal a dereliction of your duty as clerk of the poors' funds, and I shall hold you personally responsible, and shall accordingly take the necessary steps to oblige you to account for your conduct; and in the meantime the town of Dunbar will withhold their share of the money they have been in the practice of paying towards the itinerant poors' allowance, as well as the cess allocated upon the town at the last meeting of heritors.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant.

Second Division, four in number, on 10th April 1833, resumed consideration of the case, with the returned opinions, and, unanimously concurring with the minority of the Consulted Judges, decerned in terms of the first conclusion.

The burgh appealed; Lord Brougham having offered, when he had ceased to be Chancellor, to hear Scotch cases, heard this one: and on his motion, the House of Lords, 10th April 1835, "Ordered and adjudged, that the interlocutor complained of in the said appeal be, and the same is hereby, reversed, and it is further ordered, that the cause be remitted back to the Second Division of the Court of Session, in order that the said Court may proceed further in the said cause, as shall be just and consistent with this judgment."

The kirk-session were called as parties in this action, but did not appear. They are most anxious, however, for an equitable settlement of the question, and the minister has never concealed his opinion, that the separation contended for would eventually benefit both parties. Since it has thus been found that there can only be one roll of poor in a parish, if it shall be further found that there must also be only one management and one assessment laid on the whole inhabitants according to the estimation of their substance, this judgment may prove most vexatious even to the burghs. It directly or indirectly affects every parish in Scotland. It leaves the burghs which have landward districts without a law; it introduces confusion into the whole system, and, there is reason to believe, that it is neither supported by the facts of the case nor by the acts of Parliament.

The case is one of very great importance: and those who take an interest in it may consult the process. Lanark is about to try the same question.

*Jail.*—The jail is in a very bad condition, and has been legally condemned; but fortunately it is seldom occupied. Two town-officers and two Sheriff-officers are all the police required in this peaceful district.

*Fairs.*—There are two fairs in the year, where all the usual wares and cattle are exposed:—one of them at Whitsunday, and the other at Martinmas, old style, if these days shall fall on a Tuesday; if not, on the first Tuesday thereafter.

*Fuel.*—Coal is the only fuel used, which is imported from Wemyss, Charleston, Borrowstounness, and Sunderland. Scotch coal costs from 7s. to 9s. per boll of 12 cwt. English coal from 10s. to 12s. according to quality.

*Inns.*—There are two inns in Dunbar, with excellent accommodation, and there are fifty-four persons residing within the parish licensed to sell beer and spirits,—a number by far too great. This is a sore evil, which has long been complained of, and it appears to be increasing. “There are,” says the judicious writer of the last account, “no fewer than forty-six licensed alehouses where low-priced spirits are retailed, and where the execrable custom of dram-drinking is practised. This we may justly pronounce to be the bane of all good and the source of all evil,—the ruin of health and morals,—and of all domestic duty and comfort,—the reproach of man, and the disgrace of woman.”

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

This parish is but of small extent, but it yields a large rental. An improved system of agriculture having been early introduced, its external surface has been but little changed since the last account; but by a copious application of manure, and by excellent cultivation, the soil has been rendered much more productive. The education—the habits and comforts of the people—the revenue of the burgh, and the rental of the parish—have all been greatly improved.

The plough now in use is not the best that might be devised to pulverize the soil, especially strong clays, so as to render them most productive. One with more coulter—to cut the furrows into small pieces, would permit the roots of plants to spread more freely—render the soil more capacious of moisture, and more susceptible of heat.

The nearer that field cultivation is brought to that of garden, the greater the return; and an implement to be drawn by a horse to Dutch-hoe the stubble, as soon as the crop is carried off, and sometime before the land is ploughed, would be the most effectual remedy against annual weeds. The trench plough, invented by Mr Smith of Deanston, might be introduced here with great advantage.

A railway has been projected from Cairnie, in the parish of Inveresk, to the town of Haddington, and port of Dunbar. A plan and estimate have been prepared by Robert Stevenson, Esq. civil-engineer.

All the hinds receive the same amount of gain—whatever be their merits as servants or workmen. It is worthy of consideration whether it would not greatly promote the interest of the farmer, as well as ultimately that of the hind, to hold out to the latter, the prospect of a higher allowance to such as excel.

*September 1835.*