

PARISH OF PEEBLES.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JOHN ELLIOT, A. M. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—IN the grant made by David II. of some of the Burgh mails, the name is spelled *Peblys*: but the ordinary spelling in the old records is *Peblis* and *Pebblis*. In the oldest record belonging to the Presbytery, extending from 1596 to 1600, the name is almost uniformly written as at present, *Peebles*. In the next oldest record, from 1603 to 1624, it is generally spelled *Peibles*. The author of *Caledonia*, after an indifferent sarcasm against Dr Dalgliesh in the former Account, for deriving the name from “the pebbles with which the soil abounds,” deduces it from the Celtic word *Pebyll*, corresponding with the Saxon word *Shiels*, and signifying moveable dwellings or temporary encampments. The parish is bounded on the south by Manor and Yarrow; on the west, by Lyne, Stobo, and Manor; south-east, by Yarrow and Traquair; east, by Innerleithen; and north, by Eddlestone. From east to west it extends about six miles, and from north to south about ten; but the most southern part, stretching three or four miles into Selkirkshire, is uninhabited. The burgh may be considered as the centre of the parish; and none of the inhabitants are above $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the parish church. The parish is calculated by the author of the “Companion to the Map of Tweeddale” to contain 18,210 acres; which calculation was submitted to the Court of Teinds in 1821, and sustained.

Topographical Appearances.—The general aspect of the parish is hilly, except along the banks of the Eddlestone water and the Tweed, on the latter of which is a vale of considerable size, commencing at Peebles, and extending to the extremity of the parish towards the east. None of the hills rise to a great height, as in some of the neighbouring parishes. They are, for the most part, grassy, except those towards the south, which are covered with heather, and abound in grouse.

Meteorology.—From the land being almost all of a light gravelly soil, from the absence of stagnant water or marshy ground, and from the elevated situation of the parish, the air is healthy, though keen. The medium height of the barometer at Peebles, 535 feet above the sea, is 29.2 in summer, and 29 in winter. The medium depth of rain yearly, on an average of seven years, is about 26.75 inches. The prevailing wind is the south-west, which blows at least nine months in the year. The eastern fogs, which overspread the Lothians, scarcely ever reach Peebles.

Hydrography.—The Tweed runs here a course of about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, dividing the parish nearly into two equal parts. The whole course of this beautiful and far-famed river, the fourth in magnitude in Scotland, is about 90 miles, with a fall of 1500 feet; and it is calculated to drain about 1870 square miles of country. Though at Peebles it has run only about one-third of its course, it has fallen no less than 1000 feet, *i. e.* $33\frac{1}{3}$ feet per mile; and in the remainder of its course to Berwick, about 60 miles, it falls 500 feet, or $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet per mile.* On entering the parish of Peebles, and onwards, the Tweed is confined within narrow banks; but immediately below the bridge, a beautiful and extensive vale opens, resembling more an Italian than a Scottish landscape. On reaching the parish of Peebles, it receives the Lyne water; which, in the opinion of some writers, is entitled to be regarded as “the head of Tweed,” and not a tributary. The Lyne, however, has nothing of the character of a great river, and does not contain a sixth part of the waters of the Tweed. A mile lower down, the Tweed receives the Manor water from the south, the Eddlestone water at Peebles, and the Haystone burn two miles farther down. All these streams abound in trout; and anglers may be seen on their banks almost all the year. The quantity of trout caught from April to October is immense, and far exceeds belief. Salmon are sometimes taken in considerable numbers, but, owing to the distance from the sea, they are much inferior in quality to those caught near the mouth of the river. The system of drainage has proved unfavourable to the run of salmon, for the heaviest rains are soon carried off, and a flood seldom lasts more than a few hours; whereas

* The Rhone at Geneva is only 1154 feet above the level of the Mediterranean, according to Sir G. Shuckburgh, and yet the rapidity of its course seems infinitely greater than that of the Tweed. This can be accounted for, only by the fact, that “the arrowy Rhone,” with its great mass of water, runs almost in a straight line, whereas the Tweed’s current is impeded by innumerable windings, which add to the beauties of this pastoral river.

formerly, a heavy rain required some days to run off; and the river being thus kept full, the fish could easily ascend.

Minerals.—Though the upper part of the country abounds in minerals, the parish of Peebles can boast of very few. Sandstone is unknown, and there has been no appearance of coal. A quarry of transition limestone, indeed, was opened many years ago about two miles from Peebles, on the Edinburgh road; but the lime was of so coarse a quality, and coals were so expensive, that the working of it was soon abandoned, and it has never since been resumed. Greywacke abounds in all the hills; and as it is frequently of a fine texture when dressed, the houses built of it have a very handsome appearance. The strata of the low grounds are generally covered with gravel and sand.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is reason to believe that Peebles contained a considerable number of inhabitants at a very early period. The fertile valleys on both sides of the Tweed would early invite settlers, and its secluded situation would afford them protection against hostile invasion. The wild mountains and thick forest of Ettrick protected the inhabitants against inroads from the south and east, and an equal barrier was opposed against invasion from the Lothians. It was only when the woods began to be cleared that the inhabitants at length took part in the disputed successions to the throne, or became exposed to the hostile inroads of the English.

Historical Notices.—The earliest notices of Peebles give intimation of some advancement in agriculture and civilization. The Inquisitio of David Earl of Cumberland, afterwards king David I. in 1116, found that there had belonged (it does not state how long) to the See of Glasgow, “*una carrucata (ploughgate,) terræ et ecclesia;*”^{*} and shortly after, we find mention made of a mill and brewery. It is seldom that a poor or thinly inhabited district can support extensive religious establishments; Peebles must therefore have attained to considerable eminence. Accordingly, we find that Ingelram Newbigging, Rector of Peebles, and Archdeacon of Glasgow, after having been made Chancellor of the kingdom by King David in 1151, was appointed Bishop of Glasgow in 1164. When Rector of Peebles, he vigorously defended the independence of the Scottish church against the claim of superiority set up by Roger, Archbishop of York, in a provincial council held at Norham, and afterwards at Rome, where he recommended himself so much to the

* Gibson's Glasgow, p. 263.

favour of Pope Alexander the Third, that he was consecrated by him Bishop of Glasgow, notwithstanding the opposition made by the agents of the Archbishop of York. *

From a very early period, Peebles was the favourite residence of many of the Scottish kings, and particularly of Alexander III. who seems to have been much attached to it, and who gave a substantial proof of his munificence by building and endowing the Cross Kirk, and a monastery for Red Friars. The place was chosen from its vicinity to the extensive forests, in which these princes might enjoy the amusements of the chase. During the usurpation of Edward I. "the baillyf, several burgesses, and tote la comunate de Pebles," swore fealty to him at Berwick in 1296. In 1304, the same king granted to Aymer de Valence "burgum nostrum de Pebbles cum molendinis." It does not appear, however, to have been created a Royal Burgh till the year 1367, when David II. granted it a charter, which was confirmed by charters from James II., James IV., and James VI. in 1621. The charter granted by David II. was probably given in reward for the loyalty of the inhabitants in having sent two representatives to the Scottish Parliament in 1357, to provide a ransom for their sovereign, who had been taken prisoner ten years before by the English at Neville's Cross. The town not being a royal burgh, must have been distinguished for its wealth and influence; otherwise it had not been entitled to join with sixteen of the principal towns in Scotland in sending representatives to Parliament.

The charter of James VI. confirming former grants and privileges, affords a strong proof of the liberality of former monarchs, and of the extensive possessions belonging to the burgh. "Our royal muir of Cademuir, Hamildean, Venlaw, Glentras, the Castle-hill, with the mill-granary, called the Ruid Mill, and Wauk Mill, built upon the side of the said Castle-hill, and with the mill-granary, called the Auld mill, upon the water of Peebles, the mill and granary of Innerleithen," † attest the wealth of the burgh in former times. Cademuir was afterwards divided into "*soums*" by the burgesses, and these *soums* are now sold like any other transferable property. The land is let as a sheep-farm, and the *soum*-holders receive rent according to the number of their shares. Of all the rest of the extensive possessions, little else now remains than the farm of Shielgreen, acquired by purchase, and a few fields near the town. "Large tracts of land," says the author of the Agri-

* Gibson's History of Glasgow, p. 11.

† Charter of James VI.

cultural Survey of Peebles-shire, "extending on the hills for six or seven miles downward to Gatehope burn, would seem to have been granted to Peebles in property, or in right of pasturage, the rights to which are now lost, from encroachment, or through dereliction."*

In 1712, in a petition to the presbytery against the induction of the presentee to the church by the magistrates, chiefly on account of his youth, they lay much stress on their paying *one-third* of the stipend. At present the stipend paid by the burgh is, on an average, only L.16 a-year. †

In 1545, when the Earl of Hertford, afterwards Protector Somerset, in revenge for the defeat which the English had sustained the year before under Lord Evers, from the Scots, commanded by the Earl of Angus, destroyed the towns of Kelso and Melrose, with their magnificent abbeys,—Peebles shared the same fate, and was reduced to ashes. The churches, greatly inferior to those two splendid edifices, seem to have escaped the vengeance of the invaders and were spared. In 1604, the town suffered severely from an accidental fire. The houses being thatched, the destruction of property was very great. In the civil war, Cromwell's troops occupied Peebles during the siege of Neidpath Castle, and, from want of accommodation, they stabled their horses in St. Andrew's Church, the principal place of worship in the parish. From there being no record or tradition of excesses committed, it is probable that the severe discipline of the Protector secured the inhabitants against any outrage of the soldiers. "The inhabitants of this district," says Pennecuik, "are of so loyal and peaceable dispositions, that they have seldom or never appeared in arms against their lawful sovereign; nor were there amongst that great number twelve persons from Tweeddale at the insurrection of Rullion-green or Bothwell Bridge. Of their loyalty they gave sufficient testimony at the fight of Philiphaugh, where several of them were killed by David Leslie's army, and others, the most eminent of their gentry, taken prisoners." In the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745, the inhabitants of Peebles remained unconcerned spectators of the struggle; and, though there were Jacobite families in the district, they had fortunately the prudence to take no part in the unhappy conflict.

But though the inhabitants of Tweeddale have been distinguish-

* Findlater's Survey, p. 10.

† Mr John Hay, the *youthful* presentee, after five years' litigation before the superior courts, overcame the objections made against him on the ground of his youth, and was an able and efficient minister till 1760.

ed for their peaceful habits,—in seasons of danger and alarm they rivalled their border brethren of Selkirk and Roxburghshires in patriotic devotedness to the service of their country. When the war broke out after the treaty of Amiens, and the country was threatened with foreign invasion, an additional levy of volunteers and yeomanry was ordered, and the loyal inhabitants of Peebles, considering the exigencies of the times, mustered no less than 682 effective officers and men as an infantry corps, and two troops of cavalry, making a total of 820 soldiers,—besides furnishing their *quota* to the militia. This force, out of a population of 8800, exceeded the muster made by any other county in Scotland, according to the number of its inhabitants; and in that spirit-stirring period, a finer body of men could not be found in Britain, nor one more prepared to repel foreign invasion, or “nobly die the second glorious part,” than the hardy and patriotic sons of Tweeddale. In Pennecuik’s time the number of militia was 266 foot, and 29 horse.

Ecclesiastical History.—At what period, Peebles was added to the diocese of Glasgow, it is difficult to ascertain. That it had belonged to it previous to the inquisition of David in 1116, we have already seen. When that prince refounded the see of Glasgow, he seems to have conferred on the bishops of Glasgow the whole of the ecclesiastical rights, while he retained the demesne of Peebles.

The church of St Andrew, for many ages the parish church, seems to have been built on the ruins of the old one in the year 1195, as it was consecrated by Bishop Joceline, who, in 1174, succeeded Ingelram, already mentioned. In 1260, the Conventual Church of the Holy Cross was built by Alexander III. in honour of St. Nicholas, who was supposed to have suffered martyrdom in the third century. This church of the Holy Cross was one of the four in Scotland called ministries, and their governor was styled minister. † It was founded for Red or Trinity friars, seventy in number; and was richly endowed, not only by its royal founder, but by many princely donations, particularly from the noble and powerful family of Frazer, who, during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, possessed a great part of Tweeddale. The strath of the Tweed, from its source to the brook which forms the eastern boundary of

* For a full account of the erection and endowment of this church, the reader is referred to the original record found in St. John’s College, Cambridge, and inserted in Pennecuik’s Description of Tweeddale, p. 33.

† Connell on Tithes.

the parish of Peebles, separating it from Innerleithen, was the property of that family,—extending to about thirty miles.

Some branches of the family of Frazer acquired extensive property in East-Lothian, and we learn from Crawford's Lives of the Officers of State, that a branch of that family was proprietor of the lands of Forton, in the parish of Athelstaneford. Frazer of Forton seems to have given from his lands of East Forton ten bolls of wheat and ten bolls of barley, to the monks of the Cross Church of Peebles; and that quantity of grain continued to be delivered to the minister of the Holy Cross Church of Peebles after the Reformation, when monastic institutions were abolished in Scotland. That donation of grain from the lands of Forton had been reckoned so valuable, that it was included in the deed of entail of the March estate, and has descended to the Earl of Wemyss and March, the heir of entail.

In 1218, Patrick, the fifth Earl of Dunbar, founded a monastery of Red friars at Dunbar; and Christian Bruce, wife of Patrick, the seventh Earl of Dunbar, and only daughter of Robert the Bruce, competitor with Baliol for the throne of Scotland, built a noble mansion for the Red friars at Dunbar. That establishment was suppressed at Dunbar sometime before the Reformation; and in the inventory of the late Duke of Queensberry's papers, is the following extract: "Gift by King James the Fifth, under the Great Seal, to the Holy Cross Church of Peebles, of a house in Dunbar built by Christian Bruce, Countess of Dunbar, and given by her to the brethren of the order of the Holy Trinity, formerly at Dunbar, then translated to Peebles, dated 5th July 1529."

It appears from other documents, that sundry houses in the West Port of Edinburgh, and certain lands in the parish of Cra-mond, had been gifted to the Cross Church of Peebles. All the above sources of income appear to have been conferred on William Earl of March, second son of the Duke of Queensberry, at the periods of the Revolution of 1688, and of the Union in 1707, together with fifty acres of rich glebe land lying in the vicinity of the church,—only four acres being reserved for the minister of the parish of Peebles.

Dr Pennecuik mentions *three* churches and *three* old steeples. The *third* church was the chapel attached to the castle, which in former times stood on the mound called the Castle-hill, on which the present church is built. The chapel stood twenty or thirty yards to the east of the present church, and occupied the middle

of the High Street. It was a long narrow Gothic building, but when or by whom built is unknown. It seems not to have belonged to the see of Glasgow, but, according to the Rev. James Morton, author of the *Monastic Annals of Teviotdale*, King William confirmed to the monks of Kelso the possession of the chapel of the castle of Peebles, with a ploughgate belonging to it, and 10s. a-year, granted by his grandfather, King David, out of the revenues of the burgh, to found a chapel in which to say mass for the soul of his son Earl Henry. * Immediately to the west of this chapel ran the town wall; and a *port* opened to a deep ditch or pass, which might be considered a kind of *fosse*, to prevent an entrance from the bridge. The chapel continued for many years to be the place of the meeting of presbytery and kirk-session, and frequently for the celebration of marriages, till the building of the present church was begun, when it was pulled down. Of the castle and its chapel, not a vestige now remains.

A hospitium dedicated to St Leonard for the support of aged and infirm persons, and for temporary relief to strangers, stood at the eastern extremity of the parish, on the farm of Eshiels, part of the Hayston estate. No part of it now remains. At the Reformation, the church of the Holy Cross became the parish church; but from the numerous meetings of the heritors for repairs, as recorded in the session-books, it seems for many years to have been in very bad order. It was finally abandoned in 1784, when the present church was opened for public worship. Of St Andrew's church little now remains except the tower. It stands in the midst of a spacious burying-ground, which, though of great antiquity, contains no monuments of any great interest. The Cross church, when deserted, by being used as a quarry, was fast disappearing, when a public-spirited citizen, the late Mr John Turnbull, purchased it from the magistrates, and stopped the work of desecration. The late Sir John Hay, whose family vault it contained, afterwards purchased it, and, planting a considerable piece of ground around it, enclosed the whole with a wall. The cross, which stood on that part of the High Street which still bears its name, was also doomed to destruction, and was sold for building materials. It was a work of great antiquity, having been erected by one of the Frazers of Neidpath Castle before the time of Robert the Bruce, and bears the arms of the Frazers. After the pedestal had been

* Morton's *Monastic Remains*.

removed, and used in the ignoble work for which it was sold, the shaft was purchased, at about five times the price which had been paid for the whole, by the present Sir John Hay, and was by him transported to his seat of King's Meadows, where it ornaments the pleasure-ground of the only descendant of the Frazers now in Tweeddale.

Parochial Registers.—The oldest session record is entitled “ a Register of the Kirke at Peebles, containing the discipline of the sessione by the elderis, and diligence of the deacones for the poore, there begun in the year 1657. Mr John Hay, minister.”—The session consisted of no less than eight elders and six deacons for the burgh, and seven elders and six deacons for the landward part of the parish. The records appear to have been kept with great accuracy till 1760, from which time till 1808 they are written on detached pieces of paper, and, like the Sibylline leaves, they have been *ludibria ventis*, as many of them are irrecoverably lost. The presbytery and synod records extend back as far as 1596, and are in a state of good preservation. The oldest register of baptisms begins in 1622, and ends in 1659; that of funerals begins in 1660.

Antiquities.—On the top of the hill of Cademuir may be traced the remains of a Roman camp, and on Janet's Brae, about half a mile east from Peebles, the remains of two camps are still visible. The castle of Neidpath has been so often described of late that a very short notice of it may suffice. It is a large square building, more distinguished for massive strength than architectural beauty. It was built and long possessed by the powerful family of Frazer, and, by the marriage of the heiress of that house, passed, along with the hereditary sheriffship of the county, into the family of the Hays of Gifford, the ancestor of the present Marquis of Tweeddale. In 1686, the second Earl of Tweeddale sold his estates in Peebles-shire to the first Duke of Queensberry, who settled them on his second son, the Earl of March, who, on the abolition of heritable jurisdictions in 1747, claimed L. 4000 for the sheriffship of Peebles, and was allowed L. 3418, 4s. 5d. for that office and the regality of Newlands.* The late Duke of Queensberry, who was born in the town residence of the noble family of March in Peebles, commonly called the deans' house, as it had belonged to the deans of Peebles in former days, spent the early part of his life, and was educated in Neidpath Castle.

* List of Claims.

Peblis to the Play, &c.—Peebles, though in former times celebrated for games and amusements, at which sovereigns presided, can now boast of no such diversions. “*Peblis to the Play*” gives us a good specimen of former sports and pastimes. “It was composed,” as a profound scholar, and good judge of early Scottish literature writes to me, “by James I., one of the most distinguished characters of the age in which he lived. It is written in the same stanza as *Christ-kirk on the Grene*. Like that poem, it is descriptive of rustic merriment and of rustic quarrels, and it is conspicuous for the same rich vein of native humour. It was first published by Pinkerton, and occurs in his select Scottish Ballads, Vol. ii. Lond. 1783.” By a strange and unaccountable mistake which a perusal of one stanza of the poem would have corrected, *Peblis to the Play* has often been ascribed to Allan Ramsay, who, like Hercules of old, seems to have fathered all unappropriated prodigies. Connected with the locality of Peebles is another poem of merit though little known. “From an edition which appeared at Edinburgh in 1603, Mr Pinkerton has also published,” says the learned author of the *Life of Buchanan*, “*The Thrie Tailies of the Thrie Priests of Peblis*. These tales, with apparent propriety, have been referred to the reign of James III. Many of the allusions are completely applicable to the conduct of that deluded prince. King James, it will be necessary to recollect, was slain in the year 1488; and the style of the poem does not seem of a modern cast. “The three priests of Peebles having met on St Bride’s day for the purpose of regaling themselves, agree that each in his turn shall endeavour to entertain the rest by relating some story. They acquit themselves with sufficient propriety. The tales are of a moral tendency, but at the same time are free from the dulness which so frequently infests the preceptive compositions of our earlier poets.”* The earliest edition that has been traced of this curious poem was “imprinted at Edinburgh be Robert Charteris,” 1603, 4to. It is a book of great rarity, and probably not more than one copy exists.

III.—POPULATION.

Before the Reformation the population was probably far greater than at present. The numerous religious houses, the charitable endowments, the *hospitia*, the mills and breweries, all betoken a great propulation, and a well-maintained set of inhabitants. There is much truth in many of our old Scotch songs, which ascribe

* Irving’s *Lives of the Early Scottish Poets*, Vol. i. p. 372.

comfort and plenty to the neighbourhood of mills and breweries. As every farm-steading, and almost every hamlet had its brewery, and generally its mill, and as numerous cottages were invariably, till about the middle or close of last century, attached to farm-houses, we might naturally expect to find a great population. Besides this, the members of religious houses were in general not only good farmers themselves, but they taught their tenants, to whom they were kind and indulgent landlords, the best mode of cultivating their lands. Hence we almost invariably find that the prevalence of religious houses in any district during the time of Popery, so far from checking agricultural improvements, had the opposite effect; and if the best land of the parish belonged to such establishments, it was not because the monks or friars appropriated it to themselves, which they had no power to do, but because, while the bulk of the community were engaged in warfare, or were too indolent or ignorant to cultivate their lands, *they* were rendering theirs productive by their superior diligence, industry, and skill. So far from many of the inmates of the religious houses being only lazy drones, "*fruges consumere nati*," they laboured with their own hands to raise the produce which they consumed.

Other circumstances some ages ago contributed to the population of Peebles. It was the favourite summer quarters of the Scottish kings for the sports of the chase till the accession of James VI. to the crown of England; the residence of many of the Scottish nobility, and the castle of Neidpath, the seat of the powerful family, whether of the Frazers, the Hays, or the Douglasses,—could not fail to attract a numerous train of followers and dependents. Add to this, that the great extent of the burgh lands and free pasturage must have contributed to keep up a great population, as many of the burgesses were enabled by their civic privileges to live as small farmers.

The present incumbent has examined the presbytery and session records from the earliest date, but he can no where find any entry made of the number of the inhabitants. Dr Webster's report gave 1896 souls; but Mr Findlater observes, that "that return was made up from calculations founded upon the proportion which the whole population is supposed to bear to the examinable persons upon the minister's examination roll." No accurate calculation can be given from such *data*. It is extremely difficult to make up accurate lists, and the number of examinable persons may fluctuate in different years.

According to Dr Dalgliesh's return in the former Statistical Account, the population was

In the old town,	-	-	-	350
In the new town,	-	-	-	1130
In the landward part of the parish,	-	-	-	440
				— 1920

The Government return of 1801 gave 2088 *
 1821 - 2701
 1831 - 2750 †

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. Families chiefly employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | 93 |
| trade, manufactures, and handicraft, | - | - | - | 365 |
| 2. All other families not comprised in the above lists, | - | - | - | 185 |
| 3. Occupiers of land employing labourers, | - | - | - | 27 |
| only their own families, | - | - | - | 3 |
| 4. Labourers employed in agriculture, | - | - | - | 100 |

From the 1st of January 1827 to the 1st of January 1833, the number of proclamations was 134, giving an average of $22\frac{1}{3}$ yearly. Of these cases, when both parties belonged to the parish, the number was 79; and 55 when only one belonged to the parish.

The number of baptisms, as recorded from the beginning of 1827 to the end of 1832, is 284, averaging $47\frac{1}{3}$ a-year. But, as many of the dissenters do not register the births of their children, the above list is considerably below the number of children born.

As the church-yard has been for some years past carefully watched, the remains of persons belonging to other parishes are frequently brought hither for interment; a very accurate return, therefore, of the number of deaths in this parish cannot be given. But as nearly as can be calculated, the average number of deaths may be stated at 47 a-year, for several years past. From 1780 to 1789, inclusive, the yearly average was $48\frac{6}{10}$; from 1790 to the end of the century the number was $31\frac{5}{10}$ a-year; and from 1800 to 1809, inclusive, it was $48\frac{9}{10}$ a-year.

In 1660, the number of baptisms was 59	In 1660, the number of burials was 43
1661, - - - 52	1661, - - - 89
1662, - - - 69	1662, - - - 58
1669, - - - 65	1669, - - - 103
1700, - - - 38	1700, - - - 67
1799, - - - 41	1799, - - - 39
1800, - - - 44	1800, - - - 61

It is not probable that there will be any great increase of population either in the burgh or landward part of the parish for many years to come. Hamlets have disappeared; and no more cottages are kept up than what are sufficient for the accommodation of the

* The number of males returned was probably less than it ought to have been, owing to the reluctance of the young men to be billeted for the militia, and their names being therefore suppressed.

† From a very accurate list made out in 1830 by the elders, there were in the Old Town, 537; in the New Town, 1563; in the landward part of the parish, 717; making a total of 2817.

cultivators of the soil. The town is not extending its limits, and when a house is built, it is generally a handsome structure raised on the site of one that has fallen to decay, adding to the beauty of the town without increasing the number of inhabitants.

The number of illegitimate births in the parish annually may average 5.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The number of Scotch acres under the plough is 2500: and it is believed that a very small portion of land not yet cultivated could be cultivated with profit.

Plantations.—When Dr Pennecuik published his Description of Tweeddale in 1715, there seems to have been very little wood in this county. “Their greatest want,” says he, “is of timber, little planting to be seen in Tweeddale, except it be some few bushes of trees about the houses of the gentry, and not one wood worth the naming in all this open and windy county; so that this unhappy want of foresight in their forefathers necessitates them to be obliged to the sheriffdom of Lanrick for most part of the timber necessary for their houses and husbandry.”* This reproach is now fortunately wiped off, and the county, particularly the lower part of it, presents a different aspect from what it did in Pennecuik’s days. The late Sir John Hay, the principal proprietor in this parish, towards the end of last century, in addition to various improvements on the estate of Haystone, planted above 300 acres. The present Sir John Hay has within these three years planted upwards of 700 acres, and is still carrying on the work of planting. The Earl of Wemyss and March has also planted between 200 and 300 acres; and other proprietors, though on a smaller scale, have ornamented their estates with plantations.

The land is a light sharp soil, well adapted for oats, barley, and pease. Of late years, wheat has been sown to a considerable extent, and if the returns are not equal to those in the Lothians, the deficiency is not to be ascribed to the unskilfulness of the farmer, but to the difference of soil. The quality seems excellent.†

Husbandry.—The farmers having, from experience, found that the land “had become tired of bearing rye-grass and clover,” instead of a rotation of four years, extend it to five and six years. Turnips are universally cultivated, and are frequently eaten on the

* Description, p. 4.

† The wheat raised on the glebe this year from white Essex wheat on potatoe land, and sown in October, weighed 18 st. 12 lb. imperial weight, of four bushels to the boll, exclusive of the sack.

ground by sheep. The ordinary rotation is, 1. after grass, oats; 2. pease, turnips, or potatoes; 3. wheat or barley, and then ryegrass and clover. The writer of this in spring 1832, and again in 1833, tried the experiment of sowing oats of the Kildrummy kind in the month of February, as he had seen practised in the south of England. Both experiments perfectly succeeded, though he was told that one-half of the seed would be destroyed by the wet, and the other half be devoured by birds. The return this season from scarcely three quarters of an English acre was 8 bolls 4 bushels imperial measure, of 6 bushels to the boll, and 2 bushels of light grain. It was of excellent quality. When made into meal, it yielded a good deal more than what millers term *meal for corn*. In the beginning of last November, he sowed two small patches with barley and oats, the braird of which promises well.

Breeds of Live Stock.—The Teeswater breed of cattle is generally reared by the farmers, as it fattens best for the butcher. The sheep are the Cheviot and black-faced breed. *Smearing* is generally practised, and tends greatly to the preservation of sheep. Tar and palm-oil are generally used on black-faced sheep, and tar and butter on the Cheviot. About six fleeces of the black-faced smeared make a stone of 24 lb., and from six to eight fleeces of the Cheviot. *Rock mercury* was at one time used for smearing, but as it was found neither to contribute to the warmth of the sheep, nor to promote the growth of the wool, it was laid aside. Wool has been sold at higher prices this year than for many years past. Black-faced, *smeared*, was sold at 13s. a-stone, and the Cheviot from 20s. to 23s. a-stone of 24lb. The diseases to which the sheep in this parish are most subject are sickness and the louping-ill. The former is inflammation in the bowels or blood, and prevails in pastures where heather abounds. *Hogs* suffer most from this disease. Castor-oil or salts are the best remedies. The louping-ill or palsy prevails in the month of May and beginning of June, particularly during a dry east wind. It attacks lambs and sheep of all ages. *Sturdy*, or water in the head, may also be mentioned in the list of diseases. The seat of the disease is easily discovered by that part of the skull becoming soft and spongy. If not near the root of the horns, it is generally cured by applying red hot iron; but this seldom succeeds if the disease is near the horns.

Rent of Land.—The rent of arable land may be reckoned at 25s. an acre, except a few fields near the town, which bring a higher rent. One of the best farms in the parish, and per-

haps in the county, consisting of 450 acres, all arable, is let for L. 625 a-year. The yearly rental of the parish is supposed to be about L. 7000.

Rate of Wages.—Female servants receive from L. 4 to L. 5 from Whitsunday till Martinmas, and between L. 2 to L. 3 for the other half year. Ploughmen, when lodged in their masters' houses, receive from L. 8 to L. 14 a-year. When married men, they are paid in meal, money, a cow's grass, &c. Shepherds in this pastoral county have generally a certain number of *grazings* for sheep, and their wages must therefore depend on the price of wool and the value of sheep. Labourers during the summer are paid from 9s. to 12s. a-week: masons and wrights, 15s.

The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows.

Assuming that there are 3000 English acres, and that *five* years are the usual rotation, 600 acres will thus be annually allowed for each crop. An entire crop is seldom taken of one kind of grain, &c. as in the fourth and fifth *break*.

600 acres sown grass, 150 stone per acre, at 7d per stone,	-	L. 2,625	0	0
600 do. the same in pasture for 300 cattle at L. 3 each,	-	900	0	0
600 do. oats, 8 bolls per acre, at 12s. per boll,	-	2,880	0	0
150 do. potatoes, 20 bolls per acre, at 5s. per boll,	-	750	0	0
150 do. pease, 4 bolls per acre, at 15s. per boll,	-	450	0	0
300 do. turnips, at L. 3 per acre,	-	900	0	0
200 do. wheat, 12 bolls per acre, at 25s. per boll,	-	3,000	0	0
400 do. barley, 10 bolls per acre, at 16s. per boll,	-	3,200	0	0
The annual thinnings, &c. bark of the larch, &c.	-	300	0	0
Grazing for 8000 sheep at 5s. each per annum,	-	2,000	0	0
		L. 17,005	0	0

To the above may be added wool, lambs, &c.				
Wool, black-faced, <i>smeced</i> , 1000 stone at 13s. per stone,	-	650	0	0
Do. Cheviot, <i>smeced</i> , 143 st. at 22s. per st.	-	157	6	0
Do. do. <i>not smeced</i> , 143 st. at 32s. per st.	-	228	6	0
5000 lambs sold, averaging 10s. each,	-	2,500	0	0
2000 kept for breeding, feeding, &c.	-	1,000	0	0
2000 ewes, hogs, wethers, &c. sold annually at 20s.	-	2,000	0	0

*L. 5,535 12 0

Manufactures.—Much has been said against the want of enterprise and public spirit in the inhabitants not introducing manufactures. The high price of coals is one obstacle; and, though there is plenty of water, it might be difficult to procure another *fall* of water in addition to that of the Tweed used for the corn-mills, and that of the Eddlestone water for the waulk-mills. A manufactory for carding, spinning, and making cloth, flannel, and plaiding to a very considerable extent, has for several years existed. In the

* No allowance is here made for deaths, which, in wet winters and barren springs, are very considerable; the calculations, especially on the last two items, are probably too high, as the total amount shews rather more than the usual proportion to the rental.

same establishment waulking and dyeing are carried on. Stocking-making is also a branch of manufacture here, but of very limited extent. Cotton webs are sent from Glasgow, but afford a very poor remuneration to the weavers, few of whom can, with the utmost diligence, earn more than six shillings a-week.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Town.—Peebles, the capital of the county, and the seat of the presbytery, is situated on the north side of the Tweed, in latitude $55^{\circ} 38' 40''$, and $3^{\circ} 6'$ west longitude, the meridian of Edinburgh passing through the town. It is 21 miles south from Edinburgh, 22 from Selkirk, and 54 from Glasgow. The town is divided into the Old and New, the former standing on a high ridge of ground, with the Tweed forming the southern boundary; and extending to the east on a lower tract of ground; it is bounded by the Eddlestone or Peebles water. The New town, with the exception of a few paltry houses on the south side of the Tweed, lies in a peninsula formed by that river and the Eddlestone water. This water runs in almost an opposite direction to the Tweed, and falls into it, contrary to the course of most rivers, forming an acute angle, with the apex pointing up the stream. The New town presents the strange anomaly of being bounded on the south by a river running due east, and on the north by another river running due west.

The burgh of Peebles, till the passing of the bill which altered the representative system, joined with Selkirk, Linlithgow, and Lanark, in returning a member of Parliament. It was then thrown into the county. The town-council consists of a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild and treasurer, with twelve councillors. The number of electors amounts to about 94. The revenues of the burgh amount to about L. 643, from the following sources.:

Rents of lands,	-	-	-	-	L. 333	2	6½
Rents of mills, houses, &c.	-	-	-	-	168	14	2
Customs, &c.	-	-	-	-	120	5	0
Feu-duties,	-	-	-	-	10	9	8½
Interest on fences, &c.	-	-	-	-	10	17	9½
					————— L. 643 9 2½		

The amount of debt in October 1833 was L. 5426, 2s. 5d. The income at present is more than sufficient for all expenses, and even for discharging part of the debt. The town is very well supplied with water, and lighted with gas from the burgh funds. The weekly market for grain in bulk has within these few years been revived, and the magistrates, with a becoming liberality to encourage the farmers to bring their grain, make no demand for customs.

Roads and Bridges.—From the excellence of the materials of

which they are made, the roads in Tweeddale are generally very good, but too narrow, and in a hilly country where precipices are so common, the want of parapets is greatly felt, and adds to the danger of travelling by night. It is not known when the bridge across the Tweed at Peebles was built. As the style of architecture in the different arches and piers is not the same, it was probably built at different times.* It consists of five arches in the channel of the river, and three small arches on dry ground, for carrying off the water when the Tweed overflows its banks. The bridge is inconveniently narrow, being only eight feet wide, admitting only one carriage at a time, but it will probably be widened in the course of next summer, as an act of Parliament has been obtained for that purpose. An iron bridge for foot-passengers was thrown across the Tweed a little below Peebles, where it is 108 feet wide, by Sir John Hay, about sixteen years ago, to connect his pleasure grounds, which lie on both sides of the river. It is a light handsome structure, and, though much exposed to violent winds, it is as perfect as when it was built. A survey was made several years ago by Mr Telford, for the purpose of forming an iron rail-road between Glasgow and Berwick, but the design was abandoned.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church was built in 1784, and stands at the west end of the High Street, on a small eminence, on which the castle of Peebles formerly stood. It is a substantial edifice, built of dark-coloured whinstone, and if a little more architectural taste had been shown, it would have been very ornamental to the High Street. In imitation of Catholic and Episcopal churches, it is placed due east and west instead of fronting the High Street, which runs a few points north-east and south-west. The massive steeple which, by being built inside the church, destroys the uniformity of the gallery, should have been placed outside of the church, and flanked with a few pillars. The seats in the body of the church, by running *across* instead of *lengthways*, make the audience sit with their side to the pulpit. Being built on a gravelly mound, and the whole of the workmanship being of the best order, the church is extremely comfortable for the audience, and this comfort has been still farther increased by a stove having been introduced two years ago.

The stipend, which was augmented in 1821, consists of 139 bolls, 1 peck of oatmeal, and the same quantity of barley, paid according to the highest rate of *fiar* prices in the county, and L.39, 19s. surrendered

* On one of the piers are the letters IVII26, which may perhaps be meant for 1426.

teind in money. In this is included the sum of L. 10 for communion elements. The amount of stipend varies from L.250 to L.400 a-year, according to the fiars prices. The teinds are so nearly exhausted, that no farther augmentation can take place. According to Penne-cuik, the annual value of the living of Peebles was 6000 merks, *communibus annis*, but to this was attached the rectory of Manor.* At the revolution in 1688, on the final establishment of the Presbyterian Religion, when a valuation was made of the different livings, in the Presbytery Records it is stated, that the minister of Manor declared, "that his paroch being a pendicle of Peebles, he was presented with the small vicceradge of the paroch, for the payment whereof, he had his localitie from the parson of Peebles. The parson of Peebles furnishes the communion elements." It is stated by Dr Dalgliesh, that at the reformation, "the patron of the parish assigned part of the vicarage tithes of Peebles to the master of the grammar school." A vicar still exists in the parish who draws between L. 17 and L. 18 a-year, from the small tithes, but has no connexion with the grammar-school, nor any ecclesiastical establishment, farther than presenting in church. This appointment is in the gift of the patron of the parish.

The old part of the manse was built in 1770, and a front was added to it in 1812, giving four additional rooms. It stands on the top of a steep bank, 22 feet above the surface of the Tweed, which washes the garden on the south. It is in excellent order, and in every respect is a very desirable residence. The glebe consists of $6\frac{1}{2}$ English acres, of which about three quarters of an acre are meadow, and the rest arable, and of excellent quality. When the addition was made to the manse, upwards of an acre of meadow land was *excambed* from the glebe, for a piece of ground which lay adjoining to the garden of the manse. The Earl of Wemyss, who succeeded to the title and estates of the Earl of March, on the death of the Duke of Queensberry, is patron of the parish.

There are four dissenting places of worship in the burgh; two of the Associate Synod, one of which formerly belonged to the Antiburgher communion; one of the Relief; and one Episcopal. That which belonged to the Antiburghers is now vacant, the last two clergymen having gone to America; but another is on the eve of being settled. The stipend is to be L. 65 a-year, with a house and garden. The other Associate Synod congregation pay their minister L. 130 a-year, including communion ele-

* Description, p. 2.

ments, besides a house and garden. The minister informs me that his charge extends to no less than *nine* parishes. The clergyman of the Episcopal communion had from the beginning of his labours in 1828, L. 70 a-year, but a reduction of L. 20 being proposed, he resigned his charge at Whitsunday last. Another has lately been appointed. Of the Relief congregation, I cannot give any accurate account.

The total number of families attending the Established church is about 232; of families attending the chapels of dissenters, 108.*

Education.—There are two teachers who are appointed by the magistrates, and have salaries from the burgh funds. The master of the grammar-school is allowed a good house for the accommodation of boarders, and L. 10 a-year of salary: from 16 scholars he receives L. 16 a-year. The boarders enter into a different calculation. The master of the English school has a salary of L. 28, and when the number of scholars is considerable, L. 10 additional for an assistant, but no house. His fees amount to betwixt L. 30 and L. 40 a-year. His fees as session-clerk are somewhat under L. 10 a-year. A female teacher is allowed L. 10 a-year by the burgh. The number of scholars attending the grammar-school is 18 day scholars, and 48 boarders. † In the three schools taught by females, the number of scholars at present is 87, making in all, the number of scholars at the day schools 491. In this list, those attending the evening classes are not included, as several of them are day-scholars. There is no parochial school, and considering the population of the parish, it may reasonably be inquired why provision is not made for such an establishment, as was done some years ago in Haddington and several other burghs. The grammar-school has long and deservedly been distinguished as a boarding establishment, and never more so than at present. There are no mortifications nor any funds for the education of the poor, who are taught at the expense of the kirk-session. For several years a Sabbath evening school has been taught in each of the two meeting-houses belonging to the Associate Synod: this school, however, is not limited to the children of any particular congregation. The present incumbent in the beginning of last summer began a Sabbath evening school with three assistants, which promises to do much good.

* When the heads of families attend different places of worship, they are not included in these enumerations. From a census taken by the elders in 1830, the number of individuals belonging to the different congregations was as follows:—

Number of grown up persons attending the Established church, 850; 1st Burgher congregation, formerly Anti-Burgher, 105; 2d Burgher congregation, 247; Relief congregation, 329; Episcopal meeting-house, 7.

† In the English school there are 81 scholars; and in three private schools the scholars amount to 257.

Poor.—In a populous parish, where no compulsory assessment is levied, and where the management of the poor devolves on the kirk-session, few duties fall to a clergyman which require greater prudence, caution, and patient investigation, than the application of the poors funds. Most of my brethren will concur with me in stating, that in the first two or three years of our incumbency, the persons who draw most freely from the session funds and the minister's purse are the least deserving objects, and it is only when taught by experience we become a little more discriminating in our charities.

In the oldest session record, where any mention is made of the distribution of money to the poor, the receipts from 23d April 1662 to 25th March 1663, were L. 62, 5s. Scots, and the disbursements L. 137, 8s. Scots; and there was a debt due by the kirk-session of L. 232, 4s. From that date to the present time, there has been a number of regular poor on the list. In 1699, the sum of L. 88 Scots, and a few months afterwards L. 95, were distributed among 74 "clamant" poor. In 1733, the collection at the dispensation of the Sacrament was L. 91, 17s. Scots; and on that occasion, and on many others both before and after that date, the common beggars received nearly the same allowance as the regular poor. Eight years before that date, in 1725, there were 18 regular poor on the list, and 15 who occasionally received relief. And a meeting of the heritors and kirk-session "appoint that any of the said 33 poor persons who shall apply to the minister, and shall be furnished with certificates under his hand for charity, are to be served by the householders within the paroch, according to their several abilities, once a-week, and discharges the inhabitants of the paroch to serve any others."* That we may compare the state of the poors' funds a hundred years ago with the present expenditure, it may be farther stated, that from July 1732 to August 1739, the receipts were L. 3156, 17s. Scots, and the disbursements L. 3086, 19s. The maintenance of an orphan child in 1733 was L. 2 Sterling, and 10s. for clothing; at present, the common allowance is 2s. 6d. a-week. A coffin for a pauper, paid by the kirk-session, cost 4s. Sterling. The average allowance to a regular pauper seems to have been 8d. a fortnight. For many years previous to 1760, from L. 60 to L. 90 Scots was the collection made at the sacrament; from that time till the end of the century, about L. 8 Sterling. At present, the number of poor on the roll is 28; of these 7 are men, and the remaining 21 women. The allowance

* Session Records.

varies from 1s. to 3s. 6d. a-week. In the return made lately by the writer of this article to Parliament, the average allowance for 1832 was 1s. 10½d. a-week. In addition to the above, there are 19 orphan children on the list, and one insane female lodged at the rate of L. 18 a-year. The whole annual expenditure, calculating for seven years, is L. 272.* There has for some years been rather a reduction than an increase. No allowance is made to persons out of employment, if able to work; but if, from bad health, they cannot earn a subsistence, parochial relief is given without the session taking any cognizance of their substance. A different system prevails in England; and the writer of this article has known the church-wardens dispose of a poor man's cow before they granted him relief in his illness; the consequence of which was, that no distinction being thus made between provident and improvident habits, he continued a pauper for life.

The poor are supported by the collections at the church doors, averaging L. 62 a-year,—by the interest of L. 700,—by mortcloth money, and the voluntary contribution of the heritors, paid according to the valuation of their lands. Though they contribute about two-thirds of the whole money expended on the poor, and though only three paupers belong to the landward part of the parish, the moderator of the kirk-session, at the half yearly meetings, has only to state how much money is required, and it is cheerfully granted, with the exception of one individual, whose contribution would be about L. 2 a-year, but who has long refused to pay.†

* In this sum are included clothing and education for several of the children,—the salaries of the treasurer and kirk officer,—the fees of the synod and presbytery clerks, &c.

† The most objectionable part of the present system of managing the poor is the *law of settlement*, the bad effects of which are forcibly experienced in this parish. With the exception of two or three small villages, there is no other place than the county town to which a labouring man can resort, when, by reason of bodily infirmities or advancing old age, he is not equal to the duties of an able-bodied man. As there are no supernumerary cottages in the country parishes, he must give up his house to his successor, and betake himself to the burgh, where lodgings of all descriptions can be procured. If he can struggle on for three years by jobbing, working on the public roads, or by living on the savings of his industry, without applying for relief to the parish in which his best years were spent, and which was benefited by his labour, when he can work no longer, or his means are exhausted, a settlement for himself, or, in the event of his death, for his widow, is thus obtained in this parish. We are thus burdened not with the poor either of the town or the landward part of the parish, but by many from all the neighbouring country parishes. This was an evil so much felt so far back as 1749, that “the session, considering that there are several poor old people come into this place and parish who likely will prove burdensome to the poors' box, and who are not clothed with sufficient testimonials, do therefore appoint the elders in their several bounds to take strict notice of such, and apply to the magistrates for their concurrence to remove them out of the place, unless they produce sufficient testimonials from their respective parishes to which they belong, and from whence they come, that they are willing to receive them back as soon as they prove troublesome and burdensome to this place.”† The resolutions and enactments of the

† Session Record.

In the application of money to the poor, it may be mentioned, that the collections made at the administration of the Lord's Supper, now twice a-year, amounting to about L. 15 or L. 16, are given, not as in former times, doubling the fortnight's allowance, to the regular paupers, but are disposed of by giving two-thirds of the collections to communicants at the sacrament, who are not on the poors' list, and the remainder to the regular poor who are members of the church.

In treating of the poors' laws, it is not unusual to prognosticate that Scotland will soon be in the same condition as England. No opinion can be more erroneous, as no Scotch act of Parliament bears any resemblance to the 43d of Elizabeth, as it is now interpreted and acted upon. The poor in Scotland are under the management of the heritors and kirk-session; in England, a magistrate in a distant part of the county can award what relief he thinks necessary, without knowing the merits of the case, till the Quarter Sessions are held.

If the funds of the poor are administered with a steady and judicious hand, there is no great prospect of any considerable increase of expenditure, unless the population should be greatly augmented. The utmost caution, however, should be observed in admitting poor persons on the permanent roll, for then it is almost impossible to strike them off. All donations or legacies left to the poor of any parish ought to be strictly applied to them, and not given indiscriminately to new incomers who have not gained a settlement, or to paupers belonging to other parishes. To extend such charities equally to all, is to hold out a premium and encouragement for the poor to settle in places to which they do not belong, and to consume those resources which should be applied to the native population.

Inns, &c.—The number of inns in the burgh is 6, of taverns 7, and of grocers' shops where spirits are sold, 17. There are 3 breweries. The reduction of the duties on whisky was defended by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the plea of underselling the smuggler, and thus putting a stop to illicit distillation. It may reasonably be questioned if the country has gained by the change in the excise laws. No doubt, smuggling supported a lawless race of men who set order and good government at defiance; but it ought to be remembered that illicit distillation was confined

kirk-session were excellent, but unfortunately neither the magistrates of this burgh nor any other magistrates can enforce them. The grievance is severely felt, but we cannot remedy it. A legislative enactment that would extend the law of settlement to five or rather to seven consecutive years of residence, would confer a great benefit on towns surrounded by parishes where the work of depopulation is going forward, and would thus in a great measure equalize the burden of supporting the poor.

to certain districts, and its demoralizing influence was not generally felt. Cheap whisky, from the licensed distiller, is vended through the *whole* country, and many districts, formerly strangers to the small still, and distinguished for the order and sobriety of the inhabitants, now suffer from its baneful effects. Private vices have, in the fullest sense of the word, been made for the time to produce, not public benefits, but an increased revenue, as if any state could be benefited by the corruption and moral degradation of its inhabitants. The consumption of whisky by the drunkard, may for a while swell the returns of the excise, but eventually, the prosperity and the welfare of the country must suffer from his unproductive labour.

Banks.—A branch of the British Linen Company's Bank was established some years ago in the burgh. There are two friendly societies,—a savings' bank,—a curling and coursing club. The royal archers occasionally visit the place. Poaching is very little known. Salmon are killed at all seasons when found in the river; but unless an information is lodged with the sheriff-substitute or the justices of the peace, no notice is taken of the trespassers in *close* time. The *leistering* of salmon may be considered a kind of amusement, requiring much skill and address, and affords a good recreation for those of sedentary habits; and so far from leading, like poaching in game, to corruption of morals, many who engage in it, are as respectable and well-behaved young men as the burgh contains.

Fairs.—The charter granted by James the Sixth, confirmed to the burgesses the right of holding "three free fairs thrice in the year," two of which were to be continued for the space of forty-eight hours, and the third to last no less than eight days, "according to use and wont." Four fairs are now held annually for hiring servants, and the sale of cattle and sheep, but one day is found quite sufficient for transacting all the business of each fair.

Fuel.—There is very little *peat-moss* in the parish, and coals form the chief article of fuel. They are brought from Mid-Lothian, and cost about 8d. or 9d. the cwt.

Prison.—A list of the commitments for the last six years was prepared; but as many of these were for offences of a trifling nature, such as being a vagrant, and suffering one night's confinement, it is unnecessary to swell these pages with the detail. The average number of commitments for the county for the last six years amount to about 28 a-year.

March 1834.