

## PARISH OF HOUNAM

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE.

THE REV. GEORGE RUTHERFORD, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THIS parish appears to have formerly had the names of Howenham and Hounham. Its more recent orthography is Hounam. The name applies to the village and to the parish; but its precise origin cannot now be ascertained. The syllable *ham* is understood to be from the Anglo-Saxon word, signifying a mansion or dwelling-place; and it is believed that Howen,\* or Owen, is the name of some distinguished individual, who is reported to have lived in this quarter about the twelfth century.

The parish forms an irregular figure of about 8 miles by 6 in its extreme length and breadth; and, as regards its superficial extent, is computed to contain about  $22\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, or 14,458 acres. It might have been nearly of a circular form, had not one point, of considerable extent, projected beyond the rest towards the north-east. It is surrounded by the parishes of Morebattle, Eckford, Jedburgh, and Oxnam in Scotland, and borders on the opposite side with the county of Northumberland, where the top of the Fells, a range of the Cheviot hills, is the march.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The appearance of this parish exhibits, in general, little else than an assemblage of hills, chiefly appropriated to pasture, and constituting a part of that extensive range generally known by the appellation of Cheviot. The upper portion of the parish, towards the English border, is finely diversified in respect of surface, exhibiting a pleasing variety of waving elevations, and deep narrow dells, with intermediate romantic little valleys, that lie embosomed amid the hills. Numerous rivulets and brooks form a distinguishing feature in the scenery. There

\* Howen, the son of Bute, was a witness to the charter of Richard De Morville, Lord High Constable of Scotland, who died in 1189, A. D. *Diplom. Scotiæ*, pl. 75. Howen is merely the Saxon aspirate of the Cambro-British Owen.—*Chalm. Cal.* Vol. ii. p. 165.

are also black barren moors and uncultivated heaths, which afford shelter to a variety of game. The proportion of land fit for cultivation in the parish is exceedingly small. It is in general so hilly, that, out of 14,458 acres, there are not above 583 under tillage. About one-tenth of the whole is either rocky, or consists of heath or of moor land, or peat moss cut for fuel or converted into meadow land. The hills, however, afford valuable and extensive pasturage, and abound with perennial springs of the purest water.

Through the valleys formed by the rising grounds, the waters of Kale and Capehope take a serpentine course of several miles. Most of the low-lands in cultivation are on the banks of the Kale; and though there are some comparatively level tracts along it, well adapted for agricultural purposes, yet they generally rise, with an acclivity by no means gentle, till they terminate in heights. The vales formed along these water-courses are narrow; that of Capehope is not only more confined, but less fertile, and more heathy. The arable lands are, however, sufficiently productive to repay any care or labour that may be bestowed upon them. In some other vales, still more confined and secluded, there is also a proportion of land in cultivation; but these lands are better adapted for pasturage.

The western part of the parish is generally more level, although there are several rising grounds interspersed, which descend by a gradual declivity towards the Kale. At the bottom of several of these rising grounds, there is a portion of arable and meadow land, of a sandy earth, or light sandy loam or gravel.

There are few of the hills of an altitude deserving particular notice, though their general height above the sea is considerable, the loftiest hill, that of Hounam Law, situated at the north-eastern extremity of the parish, and the highest on the border except Cheviot, (which is 2856 feet of elevation,) attaining, according to barometrical measurement, 1464 feet of elevation, the summit whereof is in latitude  $55.30^{\circ}$ , and longitude  $2.24^{\circ}$  west from Greenwich. It is of a conical shape, has a declivity north and west, and may be ascended all the way on horseback. At the base, it measures about 9 miles in compass, and its superficial extent is 1730 acres. This eminence, which, from its green flat summit, commands a very rich and extensive prospect over a wide tract of cultivated country, is said to have been in former times a noted sea-mark.

The height of the lower hills has not yet been accurately ascer-

tained; but they are computed to vary from about 900 to between 1200 and 1300 feet in height. The lowest point in the parish is on the Kale, at the north-eastern extremity, about 460 feet above sea level.

The beds of Kale and Capehope waters are mostly formed of gravel and sand, with stones and fragments of rock similar to that of the adjoining hills, all considerably smoothed and rounded by attrition. The latter stream is a little more rapid in its course than the former, and flows with a velocity of one mile in twenty-six minutes. The beds of both streams afford the finest sharp sand for building. Excellent parish roads have been long open in the direction of these streams; but the want of wood in this tract, and, indeed, the scantiness of plantation between this and the English border, may have induced hasty travellers to reproach Scotland as a country destitute of trees.

*Meteorology.*—The temperature of the atmosphere must be considerably influenced by the nakedness of the parish and of the neighbourhood, which is generally destitute of growing wood. The thermometer ranges from about 28° in winter to 76° in summer on Fahrenheit's scale. The medium temperature of the year is 48.7° of Fahrenheit. The rains which prevail most are towards the end of August and the month of September. The heaviest rains are from the westward; and storms of thunder, accompanied with torrents of rain from the south-west, are of not unfrequent occurrence, especially after a continuance of dry weather. Sometimes, also, in the spring months, there are frequent and heavy rains from the south-east. Our stormiest weather is generally from this quarter. Our steadiest and driest weather is from the north and north-west. The soil being either naturally dry, or drained where it was damp, the frequent recurrence of showers is beneficial, so that we are little afraid of a wet season. The average number of days in which rain falls throughout the year, is about sixty. The climate is somewhat moist; and this may be in some measure accounted for from the quantity of high grounds contained in and surrounding the parish, which must attract any vapours that may arise and are driven in this direction. But the parish may be regarded on the whole as remarkably healthy. From the sudden changes of temperature, however, to which it is exposed, pulmonary complaints are not uncommon; and cases of chronic rheumatism, catarrh, quinsy, and others of the inflammatory kind, occasionally occur. Malig-

nant fevers rarely make their appearance. Of simple typhus, a case seldom occurs, and intermittent fevers have almost disappeared. The climate is exceedingly favourable to vegetation, producing a constant verdure, and the most luxuriant herbage on the plains and undulating hills. Both the climate and soil are sufficiently favourable to the production of most descriptions of grain. For barley, especially, it seems to be singularly well adapted. Potatoes and turnips are in general a good crop, and of excellent quality.

*Hydrography.*—Many excellent perennial springs arise out of the gravelly soil, or from fissured rocks in the hills, and descend in small streams toward the plains, forming numerous rivulets. In the more elevated portions of the parish, there are a few periodical springs, which flow during the winter and spring months, and then cease to flow till the return of winter. Some of these springs are impregnated with a little iron.

There is but one medicinal spring \* deserving of notice. Its composition has never been subjected to chemical analysis, but its waters are said to be gently diuretic, and of some virtue in stomach complaints.

The only stream connected with the parish worthy of particular notice is the Kale † water, which takes its rise from the northern declivity of the border hills, a little above the Hindhopes, in Oxnam parish; whence it proceeds in a northerly direction, intersecting the parish in nearly equal halves. After a variety of beautiful windings, and a run of eight miles in a direct line, and of about seventeen counting its windings, this water unites at the village with that of Capehope. ‡ In its course through the parish it receives other tributary streams; but its breadth is small in comparison to its length,—varying from 27 to 45 feet. Its bed being of a gravelly nature, this stream frequently undermines its banks, changes its channel, and not unfrequently overflows its banks. Possessing a clean gravelly bottom, its waters are remarkably transparent. It

\* Situated at the base of the west declivity of the hill called Cranshaw-law, a little to the westward from Hounam village.

† The Kale derived its ancient name (Caile) from the woody coverts which embellished its banks; *Cell* and *Celli* in the British signifying a grove, and *Coill*, in the Gaelic, a wood.—Chalmers's Caledonia.

‡ The Capehope derives its name from one of those small vales from whence it takes its rise, and to which the term Hope is generally applied where the bases of rising grounds meet each other without leaving any level. The names of the different Hopes in this parish are as follows: Cape-hope, Crib-hope, Callaw-hope, Dor-mont-hope, Bear-hope, Kirk-hope, and Heather-hope.

flows with a velocity of one mile in twenty-seven minutes. After a course of seventeen miles in a direct line, and about thirty-three counting the windings, this stream discharges its waters into the Tiviot, about a quarter of a mile below Eckford church.

Falling over a rocky precipice of several feet in height a little to the westward from the village, the Kale forms a cascade, called "the Salmon Leap," and which, when the stream is flooded, becomes an object of interest. An excellent road pursues nearly the whole line of this stream. Besides the Kale and Capehope waters, we have a variety of streamlets, romantic in their scenery, and abounding in trout.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The parish appears to be composed principally of rocks of the porphyry formation. In these rocks, there occur cavities and veins more or less filled up with grey amethyst, rock-crystal, common quartz, calc-spar, heavy spar, agates of various kinds, and also jaspers. The jaspers and the agates are frequently very beautiful. Hitherto no ores or native metals of any kind have been met with among the prevailing rocks, although rich mines of metals have been worked to a very considerable extent in other countries where porphyry rocks resembling those of this parish prevail.

The soil is various, but when cultivated generally productive. The low-lying land of the vales, and the holms on the banks of the different streams, consist of a light kindly soil, either of a sandy earth or light sandy loam, upon a gravelly bottom. In the haughs adjoining the Kale, the soil is alluvial, containing many rounded stones, with sand and gravel, intermixed with vegetable mould, and appears to have been formed by deposits washed down, in the course of ages, from the higher grounds. It is well adapted to potatoes, turnips, barley, and almost every variety of crop,—though apt to suffer much in a severe drought.

The soil on the higher grounds, though fertile, is of a less kindly quality, from its exposed situation. In general, it is sharp and dry upon the hills, inclining much to a sandy gravel, on a gravelly or rocky bottom; or it has a subsoil either of a clayey retaining nature, or of indurated clay, or clay mixed with boulders of porphyry and gravel, or ferruginous clay or till. A blackish moory earth, with a wet and tilly substratum immediately under it, is here and there to be met with. On the high grounds, also, there are sometimes found mossy strata upon earthy gravel, having a substratum of a very retentive clay or till.

The subsoil in the low ground is generally gravel or sand, apparently resting on water.

Peat abounds in the upper districts of the parish, where there are a number of *peataria* extending to some hundred acres.

*Zoology.*—The parish has long been remarkable for its improved breed of sheep,\* which are all or nearly all Cheviots; and only a few crosses of Cheviots and Leicester, on some of the farms in the lower districts. They are much esteemed for the delicacy of their mutton; and the fleece is remarkably soft, and sometimes very fine.

The only animals certainly existing in the parish in former times, and which have now disappeared are, *Lutra vulgaris*, *Sciurus vulgaris*, and a species of deer which frequented the upper districts. *Ursus meles*, and *Mustela putorius*, have only disappeared from the parish at a comparatively recent period. *M. vulgaris* and *Vipera communis* are still to be met with. *Vulpes vulgaris* is no stranger here, and is destructive to lambs and poultry.

The parish is not distinguished by many of the rarer species of birds. We may enumerate the following: *Gallinula chloropus*, *Tetrao tetrix*, *T. Scoticus*, *Numenius arquata*, *Buteo nisus*, *Fringilla carduelis*, *F. linaria*, *Turdus merula*, *T. musicus*, *T. torquatus*, *T. viscivorus*, *Sturnus vulgaris*. *Ardea cinerea*, *Anas boschas*, and *Larus canus*, are occasional visitants to the waters. *Charadrius pluvialis* and *Vanellus cristatus* breed in the upper districts, but draw towards the coast, and spend the winter on the low lands that border the sea. *Scolopax rusticola* and *S. gallinago* make their appearance in flocks about the month of November, and remain with us for a few days on their way south. The latter breeds here, but not numerously. *Motacilla Regulus*, (one of the *Sylviadæ*) sometimes visit us in flocks. *Alcedo ispida* is also an occasional visitant to the waters. Black and red game, with partridges, are all abundant.

Trouts of various sizes and of peculiar excellence are produced in the Kale, which has been long the resort of the fisher. Its tributary streams abound in trout of rather an inferior flavour. *Leuciscus phoxinus*, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, *Cobitis barbatula*, *Anguilla vulgaris*, are all abundant. *Petromyzon marinus* is to be found on the sides of sandy banks. The only fish which now seems extinct, and which used to be very plentiful, till of late years, is the parr. In the floods of October and November, great quantities of

\* The parish is chiefly indebted for its improved breed of sheep to the late Messrs Charles and John Robson, while they were in possession of Chatto and Philogar farms.

salmon and sea-trout ascend the Kale for the purpose of spawning. Only a very few of the lesser migratory sort find their way up the stream at the season when they are at all valuable.

*Botany.*—Besides the more common species of plants, there are to be found in this parish the following:—*Euonymus Europæus*, a rare plant in Scotland, grows among the rocks in Shoreden-cleugh; *Asperula odorata*, *Hedera Helix*, *Hyacinthus non-scriptus*, are to be met with in Chatto-cleugh; *Dianthus deltoides*, *Saxifraga granulata*, *Sedum acre*, in great abundance on the porphyry rocks; *S. villosum*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Rubus chamaemorus*, *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, on the heaths and mossy grounds; *V. myrtillus*, *V. Vitis-idaea*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, *L. alpinum*, on the north and north-west declivity of Hounam-law, and elsewhere; *Digitalis purpurea*, *Solidago virgaurea*, on the sandy grounds by the side of the waters; *Rubus fruticosus*, on the glebe lands; *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, abundant in our meadows. In other parts of the parish, we meet with *Papaver Argemone*, *Centaurea scabiosa*, *Iris pseud-acorus*, *Trichonema Bulbocastanum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Cistus Helianthemum*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Trifolium striatum*, *Sedum Telephium*, *Thlaspi arvense*, *Tormentilla reptans*, *Cicuta virosa*, *Hippuris vulgaris*, *Leontodon palustre*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Valeriana dioica*, *V. officinalis*, *Gnaphalium dioicum*, *Drosera vulgaris*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Comarum palustre*, and various species of *Orchis*.

The broom, the whin, fern or braken, rushes, and corn chamomile are all abundant. The cultivated crops of corn are barley, and the best varieties of common and early oats. The corn-cockle and wild mustard prevail to a considerable extent in some of the cultivated lands, and are pernicious to the growing crops.

A considerable portion of the parish was at one period richly wooded; and the remains of a very extensive forest of hazels, (*Corylus avellana*,) having the appearance of great antiquity, are to be met with on Chatto-crags. On the low-lying lands of Kirkrow, are still a number of trees of great beauty, and of extreme luxuriance both in foliage and ramification. Philogar used to be much admired for its woody banks; but the greater part of the wood is now cutting down by the proprietor. Boughtrig and the two Granges also present a few clumps of trees. A number of full-grown elms and plane trees, of considerable age and size, surround the church and burying-ground, which are reported to have been planted by a former minister of the parish.

The trees planted by the Messrs Douglas on their property of Chester House have succeeded well, and are now arrived at considerable maturity. More recent plantations of various sorts of forest trees and shrubbery have been executed on a considerable scale in the neighbourhood of, and around the Duke of Roxburghe's villa of Greenhill, which are in a thriving state; and new and ornamental plantations are rising on part of Mr Dickson's property, which will tend much to beautify the scenery around the village. The hedge-rows are usually interspersed with oak, ash, and elm. The soil seems congenial to ash, elm, beech, Scotch and larch fir, plane-trees, and various species of ornamental trees. Those that grow spontaneously are the hazel, the birch, the alder, the oak, and the mountain-ash.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Events.*—Of the early history of this parish little or nothing is known. Situated on the frontier of Scotland, and bordering for a number of miles on England, the parish and neighbourhood, in former times, was undoubtedly a perpetual scene of border warfare. The sites of several ancient forts are still discernible.

Before the Reformation, the church was in the diocese of the Bishop of Glasgow, and was conferred on the Abbey of Jedburgh at the end of the twelfth century. (MS. Adv. Lib. Hounam, sh. Roxburgh, alias Teviotdale Di. Glasgow, Pr. Jedburgh, &c.) When the Bishop of Glasgow and the Abbot settled their disputes in 1220, (as noted by Chalmers, Cal. Vol. ii. p. 166,) it was agreed that the whole tithes of corn within the parish of Hounam should be appropriated to the use of the canons; the vicar receiving L. 10, or the altarages, in his option.\* The lands of Kirkrow, Kirkhope, and Steeple-side, are reported to have formed part of the patrimony and spirituality of this church, during the reign of the Roman Catholic religion. The Reformation restored the independence of the parish. The patronage of the church belonged for a considerable period to the lands of Kirkrow, but was lately sold separate from these lands, and is now held by Sir George Warrender.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owner is the Duke of Roxburghe, a minor. His property, including the farms of Hounam-mains, Main-side, Greenhill, Bearhope, West Grange, Weary Streams,

\* "Chart. Glasgow: In this particular settlement there was a reservation to the canons, (which shews the practice of the age,) that they should have in this parish an acre of land, "ad reponendum bladum suum in loco competenti."

and South Cote, embraces nearly a third of the whole parish, and rather more than a third of the whole valued rent of the parish. The property of Walter Dickson, Esq. including the farms of Nether Chatto, Sharplaw, and Kirkrow, stands next in extent and value, and comprises nearly a fourth of the valued rent. Thomas Turnbull, Esq. is the only resident heritor, and his property of Howgate, which he holds in his own possession, amounts to about a sixtieth part of the whole valued rental of the parish.

The remaining landed property in the parish is very much divided. The names of the other land-owners, taken in the order of their rentals, are as under, viz. William Oliver Rutherford, Esq. Boughtrig; William Scott Ker, Over Chatto; Sir George Warrender, West Side Over Whitton, and Heatherlands; Thomas Stavert, Philogar; James Ainslie, East Side Over Whitton, and East Grange; Robert Boyd, a minor, Capehope; James, Alexander, and Pringle Home Douglas, Chester House.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest date of our parish or sessional records, comprising entries of the proclamations of the banns of marriage, baptisms, discipline, division of poors' money, and the proceedings of the kirk-session, is 1690. The records from this date to the year 1728 are very imperfect. Since the latter period, they have been better attended to, and are in general pretty accurately kept. From 1772 to November 1775, there is an entire blank in the minutes of session. Since 1775, they have been kept with considerable care, and the entries are regular as far as relates to the minutes. No accurate account can be given of deaths and burials, from the imperfection of the registers; and even the births and baptisms are not regularly recorded.\*

*Antiquities.*—The traces of ancient camps and other remains of antiquity are discovered here in a variety of situations. The ancient Roman Iter, commonly called the "Street," and which can be traced to the south as far as Borough Bridge in Yorkshire, traverses this parish. After passing a hamlet, which is named from it Street-house, it crosses the Kale water near to Pennymuir. It afterwards proceeds to the Tweed by-St Boswell's Green, whence

\* It may be worth mentioning, that there are belonging to the kirk-session three folio volumes, in a state of excellent preservation, of the Acts of Assembly, commencing 16th day of October 1690, with the following inscription in front of the title-page of volume first: "This and other two volumes of Acts of Assembly, comprehending all their acts to the year 1753, inclusive, are to belong to the session of Hounam. ... Delivered by James Carmichael to the session, at the death of Mr John Rogers, minister of Hounam, the Donor, this 15th August 1774."

it bends its course towards the Lothians. Vestiges of encampments and semicircular entrenchments may still be traced on some of the rising grounds in the line of this old Roman way. The most conspicuous of these encampments is discovered on the summit of Wooden-law. The largest and most complete camp is upon Hounam-law.\* There are also visible remains of some other smaller encampments on several of the lesser hills.

There is nothing in the shape of a ruin worthy of notice in this parish, with the exception of a vaulted building, the only existing remains of the original structure, which, in all probability, was one of those fortresses or border keeps, erected by the border chieftains for the defence of the country from the incursions of the English borderers; or it may indicate the site of one of the strong chain of fortifications erected by the Romans. It occupies a situation on a rising ground, which overlooks a beautiful bend of the water, at a short distance north from the village, and gives the name of Chester House to the property on which it stands. It is bounded on the north by a deep narrow ravine. Tradition gives no account of it, but it was certainly built as a place of security in the days of violence.—Another ruin, in some respects similar to the one above-mentioned, is to be seen at Heatherlands, towards the north-west extremity of the parish.

On the farm of Hounam-mains, south-eastward from Hounam, are distinct traces of a very extensive fortification called, probably from its figure, the Rings. In this parish and neighbourhood, there are the remains of several cairns or barrows, the tombs of ancient warriors. Two eminences, called moats, exist in this parish. Situated on elevated ground to the eastward of, and at no great distance from, the village, is a semicircle composed of a number of upright stones. There is a tradition which bears that these stones were, at a remote period, human beings, who, for reaping on the Sabbath, were metamorphosed into so many stones. They are to this day called the eleven shearers. There is every probability that they indicate the site of a Druidical circle or oratory. There are many single stones of large dimensions scattered over the parish, said to be of Druidical origin.†

\* Within these few years a large iron gate, taken down from the top of Hounam-law, was to be seen at Cessford Castle, belonging to the Duke of Roxburghe.—Vide former Stat. Report.

† In the M.S. are noticed some other of the minor antiquities of the parish, coins, querns, tombstones, &c.

*Modern Buildings.*—These are constructed of stone and lime, and covered with roof slate. The hewn work is of red freestone, from a quarry belonging to the Duke of Roxburghe, in the parish of Eckford. Hounam, the only village in the parish, occupies a pleasant situation on the eastern bank of the Kale, in the neighbourhood of the parish church, and at the base of a gently rising ground, which, gradually retiring, terminates in hills of considerable height. It is a place of considerable antiquity, and is in the course of being considerably improved and enlarged. A very substantial house for an inn, with stabling, and two other dwelling houses of two stories each, have been lately erected; and some others have been projected. A range of houses, called, from the circumstance of their having originally belonged to a tailor, Thimble-row, is so nearly adjoining to Hounam on the north, that a stranger would think it a continuance of the same village. This range of houses, together with all the other buildings in the village, excepting the school and school-house, are feus upon the lands of Kirkrow, the property of Walter Dickson, Esq. Very commodious and substantial farm-buildings have lately been erected at a considerable expense, and on a liberal and well arranged plan, by this gentleman, and by the Duke of Roxburghe. Several new and substantial bridges have been erected within these few years. There is no other mansion-house in the parish, except that of Greenhill, a seat of the family of Roxburghe. It is deservedly admired for the amenity of its situation. It is a favourite resort of the Duke, and much attention and expense have been bestowed upon it. The buildings are remarkably neat, and the surrounding grounds tastefully laid out. Its elevation is about 610 feet above the sea.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population appears to have been anciently much greater than it is at present. Whole families, besides single individuals, have, within these few years, emigrated to America. The farmers, paying more attention to their sheep walks than formerly, hardly allow a single house to stand on any part of their farm, excepting such as are necessary for their shepherd's accommodation; and landlords themselves do not encourage the erection of more cottages than are absolutely necessary. The decrease of population previous to the year 1791 is attributed in the former Statistical Report to "the mode of agriculture almost universally adopted in the parish about that period, of converting the arable into

pasture land." The decrease since that period, may be chiefly ascribed to non-residence, emigration, razing of cottar houses, the resorting of the poor and of operatives to towns, where they meet with more employment, and to the too general system adopted by landlords, of uniting a number of small farms into one, \* and allowing a single individual tenant, not only to rent several of these farms in one parish, but to have a number of farms united in this manner in different parishes. Such a system is, indeed, as has been elsewhere expressed, "the bane of the comfort, happiness, and independence of the lower classes."

Population in 1755,	-	632	
1791,	-	365	
1801,	-	372	
1811,	-	373	
1821,	-	327	
1831,	-	260	
The population residing in Hounam	-	-	41
the country part of the parish,	-	-	219
Number of persons under 15 years of age,	-	-	91
betwixt 15 and 30,	-	-	83
30 and 50,	-	-	43
50 and 70,	-	-	32
upwards of 70,	-	-	11
The number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	-	-	7
unmarried women upwards of 45,	-	-	6
families in the parish is,	-	-	49
chiefly employed in agriculture, as occupiers, labourers,	-	-	
or shepherds,	-	-	38
in retail trade, manufacture, or handicraft,	-	-	9
other families,	-	-	2
The average number of children in each family,	-	-	9
Number of inhabited houses,	-	-	41
of unfinished houses,	-	-	1

There is but one proprietor of land resident in the parish the rental of his estate, which he holds in his own possession, exceeds L. 50.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—If any of our people do fall into bad habits it is chiefly from the cheapness of whisky. The style of living and of dress has been much improved during the last thirty years; and in no class more than among servants. Oatmeal porridge, used with milk, or with beer made from treacle, is the ordinary breakfast of the working classes, and of the younger branches of every family. Barley and pease-meal bannocks and potatoes are principal articles of food, which, with the produce of a small garden, and occasionally a little bacon or salted mutton, occupy a chief

\* One tenant at present rents no fewer than five different farms in the parish, all belonging to different landlords, and is non-resident. Another tenant rents a single farm, which used to give employment to seven tenants and their families.

place both at dinner and supper. Coffee and tea are daily becoming more general among all classes; and few of our tenantry now breakfast without one or other of them, or dine without animal food. The people are generally intelligent, moral, and exemplary in their attendance on religious ordinances. The writer is sorry, however, to say, that poaching in game prevails to a considerable extent; but chiefly by persons not resident in the parish. Daring bands of these modern freebooters from the English borders have lately traversed the hills, making great havoc among the game. The waters have recently been fished to great excess, and not by the most legitimate means of capture. The Kale and all its tributary streams are poached without interruption during the season of spawning. Smuggling in whisky holds out strong temptations to illicit traffic, and lawless gangs of smugglers from the English borders have long infested this neighbourhood.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The number of acres standard imperial measure in the parish is 14,458, roads, fences, &c. included. The real rent of land is about L. 5000; of which are paid from sheep, L. 3973, and from corn and cattle, L. 1027.

The sheep walks comprehend about	-	13,590 acres.
Of these there are about of heath and of mossy pasture, from which the inhabitants are supplied with peat,	-	1500
The land in cultivation or occasionally in tillage, or in meadow, about	-	766
Under wood, natural or planted,	-	102
	In all,	<u>14458</u>

There are no lands in a state of undivided common.

*Rent of Land, &c.*—The average rent of land per acre\* may be about 7s. The average yearly rent of grazing may be at the rate of about L. 5, 10s. for an ox or cow, if fed in winter with fodder. The year's grazing for full-grown hill-fed sheep may be from 6s. 6d. to 7s.

*Rate of Wages, &c.*—Full-grown farm-servants maintained in the family are commonly hired by the half year. Men-servants, besides board, are paid from L. 5, 5s. to L. 6, 6s. for the summer, and from L. 4, 4s. to L. 5, 5s. for the winter half year. Female servants receive from L. 4, 10s. to L. 5, 5s. for the summer, and from L. 1, 15s. to L. 2, 2s. for the winter half year, with board. Married men-servants, or hinds, besides being paid L. 3 of money,

\* The lands are seldom let at any certain amount per acre. The farmers calculate the value by the number of sheep the lands are known or supposed to keep.

receive 5 loads of oatmeal, 3 bolls of barley, 6 bushels of pease, from 1000 to 1200 yards of drill, lineal measure, for potatoes; 4 caps of lint-seed sown; 3 or 4 double cart-load of coals, by paying the coal-hill price; a cow kept; a free house and garden, for which they furnish a female bondager for shearing in harvest, and other out-door work, who is paid by the tenant at the rate of 10d. per day in summer, and in winter somewhat less. A shepherd's wage consists of 2 cows, and from 40 to 45 sheep, to graze on the farm to which he belongs;—coals and potatoes as above described, and a free house and garden. The general rate of a day-labourer's wage, without victuals, is, for men during summer, 1s. 8d. per day, and for women 1s.; and during winter for men from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., and for women 10d., sometimes less. In harvest, the wages rise to from 13s. to 14s. for men, and for women from 12s. to 13s. per week, with victuals. Doing work by the piece is very general; such as mowing and ditching. Mowing costs from 2s. 6d. to 3s. the acre; and the general rate of a mower's wage is about 2s. 6d. per day without victuals. Masons and carpenters have each from 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. in summer, and about 2s. in winter, without victuals. A tailor has 1s. 6d. a-day and his victuals. Blacksmiths, furnishing the necessary iron, are paid at the rate of L. 3 per annum for each pair of horses kept upon the farm. This includes shoeing, and repairing plough irons and harrows; and for every riding horse shoeing L. 1.

*Prices.*—Coal carried and delivered here costs, per cwt., about 8½d.; peats, per cart load, 3s.; average price of wool per stone of 24 lbs. for the last three years, L. 1, 12s.; artificial hay, from 7d. to 9d. Potatoes sell at the average rate of 5s. 6d. per boll of six imperial bushels. A pound weight of the best butter costs from 7d. to 8d.; cheese from 12s. to 14s. per stone of 24 lbs.; average price of eggs about 4s. 2d. per hundred; chickens from 7d. to 9d. each.

*Stock.*—The common breed of cattle are the short-horned, to the improvement of which great attention has been paid. The number of cows kept in the parish is 65; young cattle, 110. The best sorts of the Cheviot breed of sheep, which are found to thrive remarkably in every part of the parish, constitute the stock on the hill pasture; while, on the lower and arable lands, it has been found of late to answer a good purpose to cross a part of the ewes with Leicester rams. The wool is thereby much improved both in weight and quality. The number of sheep kept through

the year is 13000, which produce about 1600 stones of wool, 24 lb. to the stone. The horses employed and bred here are almost all farm work-horses of a middle size, either of the English or of the Lanarkshire breed. The number of horses kept is 38; young horses bred yearly by the farmers, 13. Swine are reared by almost every cottager and farm-servant who is married, but do not constitute a part of the farmer's stock, as an article for the market. The small breed is chiefly preferred, and the number bred and fattened yearly is 25. Poultry and bees yield a small profit.

*Husbandry.*—At an early period, the farms in this parish were much more subdivided, and occupied by a number of small tenants, who extended the cultivation on the hill grounds to some hundreds of acres more than is now even occasionally in tillage. The appearances of cultivation can still be traced on many of the hills, where no grain can now be produced; and regular ridges and furrows are in many places very distinct. Since the middle of the last century, these farms have been converted into extensive sheep walks, occupied each by one tenant. The approved course of husbandry now pursued in the parish has nothing in it of a peculiar nature. The crops to which most attention is paid are barley, oats, and turnips. A crop of turnips is the most valuable that is raised. Barley alone can be considered as an article for the market.

Some of the best grazing farms in the district are to be found in this parish. They vary in extent from 180 to 2900 acres. Leases are in some cases of seven, in others nineteen and twenty-one years' endurance. Generally, the new tenant enters at Whitsunday to the grass and green crop lands, while the old tenant has the white crop then upon the ground. By means of draining, burning of moors, liming, &c. which are carried on to a considerable extent, the land has of late years been rendered doubly valuable. The Duke of Roxburghe and Walter Dickson, Esq. have judiciously spared no expense in erecting neat, commodious, and substantial farm steadings of stone and lime, with slate roofs, in place of the former old clay cottages; and in other respects have given great encouragement to their tenants to carry on their operations with energy and spirit. Great improvements are observable in making and keeping in repair the parish roads.

*Produce.*—The average amount and value of raw produce raised yearly in the parish may be as follows:—

Produce of grain of all kinds, &c.	-	L. 1124
potatoes, turnips, and other plants, cultivated in the fields for food,	-	633
land in pasture,	-	5687
hay, meadow, and cultivated,	-	980
Dairy produce, poultry, &c.	-	621
Miscellaneous produce,	-	90
Total yearly value of raw produce,	-	L. 9335

Large quantities of butter and ewe milk cheese, of the very best qualities, have long been produced in this parish.\* Poultry and eggs are weekly collected by persons who make a trade of transporting such articles to the different market-towns.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets and Means of Communication.*—The village of Hounam has no post-office; but letters, newspapers, and parcels are regularly brought to it. The nearest market-town is Jedburgh, which lies upon the west of, and is distant about nine miles from, the centre of the parish. A carrier goes and returns from Jedburgh weekly. Kelso, our post and principal market-town, lies upon the north of, and is distant about twelve miles from, the centre of the parish. With Kelso, we have regular communication by carriers. The rate of carriage is 1s. 4d. per cwt.—The parish is intersected by upwards of thirteen miles of good parish roads, which are kept up from the statute-labour funds. These and the district roads are well supplied with substantial bridges, and are mostly in a tolerable state of repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church occupies a situation within the precincts of the glebe, and, like many other of our parish churches, might be more central to the population, though it is not more than about four and a-half miles distant from the remotest of the inhabitants, being about two and a-half miles from the north-east extremity of the parish, and between five and six miles from its south-west extremity. It is a very ancient building, and was originally in the form of a passion-cross, of great extent, and from end to end a burying-place; but is now a plain rectangular house of 50 feet in length by 19 feet in breadth within the walls, 10 feet having been taken off its length in 1752. This edifice is but indifferently seated, and in a state of bad repair, and so exceedingly cold in winter as to prevent many a well-disposed person

\* Hence the old proverbial distich,

“ There’s as gude cheese at Chatto as e’er was chew’d wi’ chafts,  
There’s as gude butter at Philogar as e’er was weigh’d wi’ weights.”

from giving a regular attendance on the public duties of the Sabbath. The want of a legal division of the church seats is also felt to be an evil, and the apportioning anew the seats would tend much to promote the comfort and convenience of the congregation. It affords accommodation for 225 persons, allowing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet to each; and the sittings are all free.

The manse was built in 1776, but is placed too near the river, and consequently in a damp situation. It was never very sufficiently built. It underwent a repair in the year 1832, when an addition of two rooms was made to it, which have rendered it a tolerably convenient house. The extent of the glebe, exclusive of garden ground, with policy attached to the manse, is about six and a-quarter acres arable, and two and a-half acres pasture, fences, &c. which are in very bad repair, included. Its yearly value in rent may be about L. 11 Sterling, which is considerably below the average value of the other glebes in the presbytery.

The stipend, from the Revolution to 1791, amounted to L. 75, 5s. 10d. in money, including L. 3, 6s. 8d. for communion elements, and 21 bolls of victual. In 1791 the victual stipend was augmented to 63 bolls, Tiviotdale measure. In 1805, the victual stipend was fixed at 3 chalders meal, and 3 chalders, bear, Linlithgow measure, together with the above L. 75, 5s. 10d. money stipend. By the last augmentation, commencing with crop and year 1820, the stipend, as then modified, amounts to 14 chalders, half barley, half oatmeal, Linlithgow measure, payable at the rate of the county fiars, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. is given for communion elements. On an average of the last seven years the stipend amounts to L. 204, 1s. 2½d. Sterling. It may also be stated, that there belongs to the minister a servitude for turf and peats from Mainside-fell.

There are no chapels or dissenting meeting-houses of any kind here, though there are eleven families of dissenters connected with the United Secession, who attend public worship in the seceding meeting-house chapel at Morebattle. The parish church is, upon the whole, pretty well frequented and attended by the greater part of the inhabitants. A few families are divided among themselves,—part going to the church and part to the meeting-house. The sacrament is dispensed once in the year, and usually to about 47 communicants, not including strangers from other congregations who join in that ordinance.

No societies for religious purposes exist in the parish. The average-yearly amount of ordinary church collections for the last

seven years is L. 1, 16s. 7d. Sterling. This includes the extra collections made at the celebration of the holy sacrament.

*Education.*—There is in the parish only one established school,—the parochial. The yearly salary of the schoolmaster is the maximum, viz. L. 34, 4s. 4½d. with legal accommodations. The emoluments of the schoolmaster as session-clerk are 15s.,—as clerk to the heritors, L. 6 per annum. The children of paupers are taught gratis; and the number of scholars attending the school is in winter about 27, and in summer about 17. The yearly amount of school fees received by the teacher does not much exceed L. 9. Children are commonly sent to school about six years of age, and there are none upwards of seven years who cannot read, and few above the age of ten or twelve that cannot write.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—There is no other provision for the poor in the parish but what arises from the weekly collections at the church, fees for proclamations, the use of the mortcloth, and the legal quarterly assessments laid on the landholders and their tenants,—the landholders paying one-half, and the tenant the other half,—which yield at an average about L. 38, 5s. per annum. In former times, the heritors used voluntarily to assess themselves to a certain amount over and above the legal assessment. The sum thus assessed for was called the surplus fund, and was appropriated by the kirk-session to the relief of incidental distress. This wholesome practice, which operated powerfully in keeping paupers from the poors' roll, has of late years been discontinued. The average number of poor on the roll is 8; and the yearly sum allotted to each varies from L. 3 to L. 5. Some individuals who are incapable of doing anything for themselves receive as high as L. 6. Several persons not on the poors' roll get an occasional supply. A practice prevails in the parish of raising a small sum for the relief of a poor family by means of a charity ball, or some other amusement. Such is the feeling of independence on the part of the people generally that it is with considerable reluctance they are induced to apply for relief.

*Fairs.*—Pennymuir Border Tryst is held twice every year on the Oxnam side of the south-west boundary of the parish, and close upon the old Roman road which divides the two parishes of Hounam and Oxnam. It takes place on the 31st day of July and 15th day of October, and is one of the principal marts for the sale of lambs and draft ewes in the south of Scotland. The customs of

this fair belong to the Duke of Roxburghe. Capehope fair, which in former times was a market of considerable resort, has for a number of years ceased to be held.

*Inns, Alehouses, &c.*—There are two inns or public-houses in Hounam village, besides one on the Oxnam side of Pennymuir, on the very boundaries of this parish. One-half of the number in Hounam would be quite sufficient for the parish.

*Fuel.*—The nearest coal field to which there is access by a road is that of Etal, in the county of Northumberland, a distance of twenty miles from the centre of the parish. The fuel generally used by the poorer classes in the upper districts of the parish is peat, of which the high grounds afford an almost interminable supply. It is of tolerable quality, and the expense consists solely in cutting, winning, and leading home. The average labour and carriage may probably cost about 1s. 6d. per cart load, when stacked up for use; or about L. 2 per annum for each householder. The price of a cart load of coals is from 13s. to 14s. per ton of 20 cwt. including carriage.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

It is stated in the former Statistical Report, that no fewer than nine houses, with cottagers in them, at Mainside, all of whom the writer visited on his admission in the year 1775, were thrown down to make way for a single farm-house and its appendages; and that “the lands were formerly parcelled out into four times at least the present number of farms, and there was also much of these farms in tillage. So late as the year 1756, there were no fewer than seven tenants, with large families, on the farm of Hounam-Mains, now all rented by one tenant, who employs one shepherd. There were also several small, but proud lairds in the parish, whose lands are now lost in the large farms, and of whose mansions there are now no remains.” That report states the number of inhabited houses to have been 66, and the number of corn-mills and kilns to have been 3; the number of houses at present is 49, and there is no corn-mill or kiln now in existence. A great part of the lands have changed owners; and the number of landholders has increased since the publication of the last Statistical Account, from 8 to 10. The land rents have risen from L. 2720, to nearly L. 5000, and were a few years ago between L. 6000 and L. 7000 per annum. A large extent of stone fences has been erected, and many of the farms have been better enclosed and subdivided with hedges and other fences. The management of the land is more judicious, and the mode of cultivation greatly improved, as evinced

by the superior cleanness and condition of the land on most of the farms. Much of the surface water has been removed by draining, and the soil is in consequence improved. In the cultivation of the arable soils, the greatest improvement which has taken place is the introduction of the culture of turnips, a crop to which the soil is eminently adapted. The mode of husbandry having been altered and improved, prices of labour and raw produce of every description have undergone a proportional alteration. The breed of cows and cattle and other stock has been very much improved, and the sheep stock even more so. The writer is doubtful whether much improvement can now be made on the general system of our husbandry,—except only in subjecting the land to a less severe cropping, and in creating additional shelter by more extended plantation. Were the same taste and spirit displayed in this respect by the other land-holders as by the Duke of Roxburghe and Mr Dickson of Chatto, Hounam, from the nature of its surface and localities, the salubrity of the atmosphere, and beauty and variety of the scenery, might be one of the most attractive of our border parishes. A very superior coal, and not inferior in quality to any in Scotland, might be had at a very moderate price from Reed water in the neighbourhood of Birdhopecrag; but it is much to be regretted that the road leading from Pennymuir to the lime and coal-works there, so far as it extends through Oxnam parish, is but partially made. If this line of road were to be completed, and supported out of the general funds of the district to which it belongs, which, in all probability it will be the case ere long, it would be of incalculable benefit not only to this parish, but to the district generally, as it would open an easy intercourse to the westward in Scotland, as well as into England.

*March 1836.*