

• PARISH OF INNERLEITHEN.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JAMES PATE, MINISTER.

THE REV. PATRICK BOOTH, ASSISTANT MINISTER.

Boundaries.—THE parish of Innerleithen is of a triangular figure, the base of which rests on the river Tweed, while the opposite angle falls on that ridge of mountains which bounds the prospect from Edinburgh, towards the south, and is well known by the name of the Morfoot Hills. It here meets the parishes of Edlestone and Temple, and were lines drawn from this point, to form the other two sides, one of these would fall upon the Tweed to the west, two miles below Peebles, and the other, where it meets the parish of Stow on the east, five miles above the junction of the river Ettrick. The parish contains, according to Armstrong, only 27,587 English acres.

Topographical Appearances.—The group of mountains in this parish forms part of that chain which runs from south-west to north-east, through the pastoral districts of the south of Scotland, until it sinks into the German sea, near St Abb's Head. The highest summits of this range are found where Tweeddale and Annandale meet Selkirkshire,—Hartfell, White Coomb, and Loch Craig, being 2800 feet above the sea. The parish is intersected by several deep glens, each traversed by its crystal rivulet, tending towards the main river. The largest of these rivulets is called Leithen Water, and gives its name to the parish. The only level ground in the parish is the alluvial land along the banks of the river,—which in Scotland is called *holm* or *haugh*. This being formed during the course of centuries, by the overflowings of the river, is of a very rich soil, though in general more suited for permanent pasture than for tillage. The same kind of land to a lesser extent may likewise be found upon the Leithen for three or four miles above its junction with the Tweed. A narrow border of gravelly loam likewise skirts the foot of the hills. The valley of the Tweed in Peebles-shire, like most of the upland valleys in Scotland, having been originally a chain of lochs, the soil consists of rounded and

water-worn gravel, with the addition of the soil, which in process of time has fallen from the acclivities above. A great portion of these slopes has been cultivated, and probably was the first land cultivated by the aboriginal inhabitants,—what was formerly called *croft land*, being of this description.

Meteorology.—The clouds, surcharged with vapour, take the same course as the great valley of the Tweed, which here runs from south-west to north-east; and during summer, many showers that would be highly favourable to our gravelly soils, and steep hill sides, fall on the mountains and the heads of the glens, while there is little or no rain in the intermediate valley. It is partly from this cause, and partly from the open nature of the subsoil, that our arable ground suffers so often from drought, that it is commonly said Innerleithen and Caberstone would require a shower every day. The south-west winds often blow with great force, and, from a certain point between west and south-west, the wind has sometimes the violence of a tornado. There is a hill above the farm of William's Lea, composed of schistus, where the wind has been known to lift the slaty fragments, making them clatter fearfully in the air, as they came in contact with one another; and once, it is said, during a snow storm, a quantity of stones, some nearly half a ton in weight, were found scattered and dispersed over a space of a quarter of a mile. If this report be true, the phenomenon was probably the result of electrical agency.

Experience has shewn that rain may be expected, of longer or shorter continuance, about the 20th of June, the second week of August, and the middle of October. There is generally about ten days of dry fine weather in February, and ten days of cold dry east wind in the month of May. On the last two days of May, or the first two of June, it has been observed that there is either a gale of wind or frost. Three years out of four there is a severe frost, so late as greatly to hurt the apple blossom, and the more tender sorts of stone-fruit. In some seasons, however, and in favourable situations, peaches come to a good flavour on open walls.

From the nature of the climate, it may be inferred, that in some seasons there are violent snow-storms. It has been well ascertained, that the power a flock of sheep possesses of suffering hunger when the ground is covered with snow depends greatly upon their pasture in the preceding autumn, or more immediately upon the fat and tallow they may happen to carry at the time, the tallow and superabundant fat being absorbed by hunger, and appearing to serve

the same purpose to the sheep, in enabling them to bear the famine of a snowy winter, as the hump upon the back does to the camel, in empowering him to survive the still greater privations of the desert.

Diseases.—On this head it may only be remarked, that, about sixty or seventy years ago, ague or intermittent fever was, during the easterly winds of spring, very common in habitations that were situated near the level of the haughs, along the river to the eastward of the Leithen; but, from a cause not satisfactorily ascertained, it is now unknown.

Hydrography—Springs.—The mineral spring at Innerleithen has become of late years greatly frequented. It was formerly called the *Dow-well*, from the circumstance, that, long before the healing virtues of the water were discovered, pigeons from the neighbouring country resorted to it. Had it been known in ancient times as a medicinal water, without doubt the Roman Catholic clergy would have taken advantage of the fact, and dedicated it to some saint.

The well springs from the base of the Lee-pen, and is about 200 feet above the street of the village. The mountain appears to be composed of greywacke, clay-slate, and red felspar-porphry. Originally the water issued at one spring, and that in no great quantity. The ground about it was wet and miry, and on one side only there was a form or long bench, which was used by the aged and infirm, who resorted to the hill. Its celebrity, however, increased, and a few years ago, Lord Traquair, the proprietor of the village, erected a neat and commodious building at the mineral spring, with a verandah in front, from which the water is served out to the visitors.

In digging for the source of the spring (that the water might be obtained as free as possible from any connection with the surface,) it was found to branch into two streams of different strength. These were analysed in 1822 by Dr Fyfe, and a quart bottle of each was found to contain the following ingredients: 1st stream, 36 grains, viz. carbonate of magnesia, 5.3; muriate of lime, 9.5; muriate of soda, 21.2 = 36.—2d stream, 60.6 grains, viz. carbonate of magnesia, 10.2; muriate of lime 19.4; muriate of soda, 31. = 60.6. The large quantity of carbonate of magnesia (seven parts in 10,000 of water,) renders it probable that it must contain a quantity of carbonic acid sufficient to constitute an acidulous spring, in order to be capable of holding the earth in solution. These waters, which have now rendered Innerleithen a place of fashionable resort, have long been celebrated for the cure of old wounds, diseases of the eyes, and for relieving stomach and bilious complaints;

though these effects are no doubt partly attributable to the pure air and dry climate of the situation.

There is another well known spring in this parish, which probably was famous long before that of Innerleithen was even known. It is situated among the hills near the boundary of Mid-Lothian. Before roads were made through the interior of the country, the ancient road from Ettrick forest, Eskdale, and Teviotdale, towards Edinburgh, was carried up the Leithen, entering the parish of Heriot moor, by a deep and narrow defile called the *Dewar-Gill*. The spring now referred to bursts from the foot of the mountain, and affords a supply of the purest water in extraordinary profusion.

As there are few *bogs* * along the foot of our hills to serve as reservoirs for the rain, the water of our rivulets is of the most transparent purity.

Geology.—The great range of mountains formerly alluded to, of which Innerleithen forms a part, belongs to the *greywacke* formation. The strata, which are of *greywacke*, *greywacke-slate*, and *clay-slate*, range from S. W. to N. E., or nearly so. The dip is at various angles. Red and grey porphyries accompany the greywacke. They are of great thickness in some places; and these attending rocks are found in different places, all the way from about a mile west of the village to Hollylee, four miles to the eastward.

At Grieston, on the Traquair side of the Tweed, where a slate-quarry has been long wrought, beautiful red porphyry is found resting upon the slate. The mountain of Windlestrae-Law is cut by a glen on its south face called Priesthope, and the rock is laid bare for a considerable way. Here alternating strata of red and grey porphyry, gneiss, and granite, and flinty slate, are observed.† The grey porphyry is of a beautiful pure colour, mixed with many crystals of felspar, and of great hardness. The red porphyry is of all shades, from a brownish-yellow to a dark blood-red. The latter has often been sent to Edinburgh for curling-stones, as it is both extremely hard, and does not splinter, and takes a very fine polish.

Querns, or ancient hand-mills, have been found; and one, or

* By this word is meant those tracts of moist clay and peaty soil formerly covered with *Carices* and *Juncus articulatus*, that skirt the green hills of Dumfries and Selkirk-shires, and which, before they were begun to be drained with care and attention, retained the rain water, and from which it gradually flowed into the burns and rivulets, supplying them with water, holding in solution much decayed animal and vegetable matter. The draining of these bogs has neither benefited the sheep nor the salmon fishery.

† This stratified granite is mentioned by Professor Playfair in his illustrations of Hutton, as having been found by Sir James Hall and himself in Fasnet water, in the eastern declivity of the Lammermoor ridge; and he mentions also that it was found at Loch-Ken in Galloway. Windlestrae-Law lies in the direction of the strata between these two places.—Vide *Edinburgh Encycl. Article Selkirkshire*.

the remains of one, may still be seen in the neighbourhood, made of Aberdeen granite. Whether this may indicate that the Aberdonians of ancient times made a trade and profit of the stones on their moors, as at present, or whether it had been left by some retreating army, it is not easy to determine. It appears that the upper stone of these simple corn-mills, which was turned by a wooden peg in a hole near the edge, was always formed of rough mica-slate.

A quarry of large and thick slate, which was dressed for pavement, was once wrought at Hollylee; but the particular sort that was in demand, instead of rising with the acclivity of the hill, sunk downwards, so that it became impossible to work it, unless by actual mining. It was long, therefore, abandoned; but of late the present proprietor has, with admirable effect, used it again, along with Arbroath stone, in making tessellated pavement for the lobby and principal passages in his house.

A quarry of clay-slate for roofing was likewise wrought for many years below Thornylee, at the eastern boundary of the parish, but the workings were too near the river, so that there was a want of room for disposing of the *tirring* and refuse. Both slates and flags were moreover of inferior quality for pavement.

The mixture of gravel, not much water-worn, with ferruginous clay, which is called till, and is found over all the country, but never above the most recent alluvial deposits, was hardly to have been expected in the valley of the Tweed, where it is nearly a mile in width. But in driving the large beams that support the wooden bridge lately erected below Traquair house, so much opposition was met with from impenetrable matter, as to induce the belief that at no greater depth than six feet there was a bed of till.

There is a large accumulation of small rounded gravel and fine sand at the foot of the hill, called the *Curlee*. Some years ago a sand-pit was dug in it for the purpose of building and plastering. The sand appeared to have been deposited in layers, generally distinctly marked, and having an irregular waving appearance, as sand often has when left by the ebbing of an eddy tide upon a beach. Among the various strata, there was one consisting of the debris of coal. Taken altogether it distinctly indicates the agency of a large and deep body of water flowing with a current down the valley of the Tweed, and probably meeting with another flowing down the valley of the Leithen. But there is no coal in the course of either. This *coal-gravel*, therefore, could have been brought by

the waters of neither of these rivers. In Lothian the coal lies deep, and does not appear in the banks of the rivers. In Clydesdale it often crops out, and the small fragments we speak of resemble more what is met with in the western district.

Peat of a sufficient depth to be dug for fuel is found in great abundance around the sources of the Leithen, and in small extent on the top and southern declivities of Windlestrae-Law, which rises to the eastward of it; but it is so distant from the village and the farm-houses along the Tweed, that they find coal, although brought twenty miles from Lothian, to be greatly cheaper.

The tops of the higher mountains are covered with moss or peat of greater or less depth. On the ridges below the summits, its depth is often only a few inches, and of course it is less wet. On this there are tracts covered by *Nardus stricta*, *Juncus squarrosus*, and *Galium saxatile*. On the south-east side of Windlestrae-Law, among blocks of red porphyry, these plants are singularly luxuriant, and they are mixed with a species of *Agrostis* and *Anthoxanthum*. Every part of the latter plant is likewise greatly larger than on the banks of the river 1800 feet below. These plants always indicate the mossy soil on which they grow to be mixed with sand. Here it is probably derived from the porphyry.

Zoology.—In the year 1830, on the glen heads below the tract of sheep-pasture, we have noticed the larva of a species of the large long-legged *Tipula* devouring the herbage upon the hill sides, cutting the plants above the roots, and just before they assume the green colour. The swaird adhering together by the intermingled mosses could have been rolled up like blanket.*

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The land-owners in the order of the valuation of their properties are as follows:

Sir James G. Suttie,	-	-	-	L. 2575	7	5
James Ballantyne, Hollylee,	-	-	-	1300	0	0
Thomas Horsburgh of Horsburgh,	-	-	-	1252	7	10
Earl of Traquair,	-	-	-	913	16	2
R. N. Campbell of Kailzie,	-	-	-	536	8	10
Miss Innes of Thornilee,	-	-	-	467	16	8
William Stewart of Glen Ormiston,	-	-	-	244	1	5
William Eckford, Green Head of Innerleithen,	-	-	-	9	0	0
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				L. 7298	18	4

* We have been assured from good authority, that, in the year 1762, the green hills around the heads of Ettrick and Yarrow were rendered completely brown by the ravages of a smooth light brown caterpillar with dull yellow stripes; and that forty years after, in 1802, a similar visitation took place. In that year countless flocks of crows and sea-fowl were seen for many days hastening to the banquet.

Parochial Registers.—The registers of the parish have been preserved, and are legible from the year 1660.

Antiquities.—The names of rivers and mountains, of slopes, burns, cleughs, and tower steads, in this parish are allowed to show that the inhabitants whom the present Gothic race drove out, spoke a dialect of the Celtic language, intermediate between that of the North Highlands and the Welsh, and that their successors retained many of their names of remarkable objects. *

Porras-hill, or Purves-hill, is a farm-steading placed on a rising ground, where a number of remarkable terraces descend to near the level of the river, about 200 yards long. The present road occupies the line of the lowest but one of these; three rise above it, all about eighteen feet broad. There is then a larger interval between the terraces, as if the upper series of them had been intended to be separated from the lower, but this space is not regular, for it is much wider at the one end than the other. Above this there are other three terraces approaching towards the brow of the declivity on which they have been formed, but none of them so parallel as those below. We abstain from offering any conjecture as to the purposes of these works.

Modern Buildings.—Several new houses have lately been built in the village for the accommodation of those who resort to the place for the benefit of the waters. The mansion-houses most worthy of notice in the parish are those of Mr Stewart of Glen Ormestone, and Mr Ballantyne of Hollylee. A beautiful wooden bridge was some time ago erected under the superintendence, and according to a plan, of Mr Jardine civil-engineer. It displays much scientific art in the design and execution.

III.—POPULATION.

There are no documents by which we could form any estimate of the population before Dr Webster's report in 1755. The earliest parish registers give merely an account of marriages, and probably only a part of these.

The population in 1755, according to Dr Webster, was	559
By the last Statistical Account,	560
In 1801,	609
1811,	677
1821,	705
1831,	810

The increasing celebrity of the mineral spring may account for the progressive increase of the population; and this might be supposed to be the chief cause, had not the increase in the village been

* Notices of several hill-forts, and towers, &c. in the parish will be found in the original MS.

only 59, while in the country it has been 141. The temporary lodgers in the village during summer are of course not included in the above state of the population. We are unable to assign any satisfactory reason for the increase,—the manufactory in the parish having employed more hands when the last account was written than it does at present, and the quantity of land in tillage being more now than it was then.

The number of persons residing in the village at this time, not including summer lodgers, is 447; in the country, 363.

It is important to add, that the number of lodgers in the village for the benefit of the waters in the course of the summer 1832 was no less than 1438.

1. Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	-	-	160
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	-	59
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	-	-	-	39
other families,	-	-	-	-	-	68
2. The average number of births yearly for the last seven years,	-	-	-	-	-	10
of deaths,	-	-	-	-	-	7
of marriages,	-	-	-	-	-	5
3. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	-	-	-	-	-	346
upwards of 70,	-	-	-	-	-	24

There are three gentlemen, all of moderate fortune, resident in the parish, and on their own lands.

The number of proprietors of land is 8; and the property of only one of these is below L. 50 a-year.

Amusements of the People.—The people in this parish have been always much addicted to athletic exercises and games, which have probably been much encouraged by the dry soil and the climate, and by the beautiful village green. The latter, though considered as the common property of the village, has been appropriated, feued, and built upon. The fondness of the young men of the village for the sports of the place attracted the attention of the visitors, and induced them often to participate. The gay loungers at the watering-place came habitually to take an interest in the games; and in 1827 forty-two noblemen, knights, and gentlemen joined in instituting an annual competition for prizes in all gymnastic exercises; an annual sum being subscribed for defraying the expenses. The records of the St Ronan's Club (as it is called) show that the young men of the village have carried off their share at least of the honours awarded.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The extent of land that bears the marks of having been occasionally in tillage may be fully 2400

acres. Yet, if we except two farms that have almost wholly been brought into regular cultivation within the last ten or fifteen years, there is not such a thing as an arable farm in the parish. They are all sheep-farms, with arable land attached to them. Thirty years ago, when they were let on lease, nothing was said about the value per acre: it was the sheep which the farm could contain that were valued. The number of acres which remain constantly in sheep-pasture is 25,700. The number of acres that are at present uninclosed sheep-pasture, and that might be cultivated, may perhaps amount to 1500, or somewhat more; but whether any thing like this extent could, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land, may be reasonably doubted. There are about 500 acres of planted wood; and probably 30 acres of brushwood, consisting of hazel and birch chiefly, intermixed with dwarfish specimens of the trees and shrubs enumerated as indigenous. The trees generally planted now are larch, oak, ash, and elm.

Rent of Land.—As the arable land in the parish is never let by the acre, the value of it is a somewhat difficult matter to settle. We are inclined to state the average rent at 23s. per acre, and the produce at L. 3, 9s. 6d. The average rent of the sheep-pasture is nearly 2s. 7½d. per acre; the average produce 4s. 8d.

As the sheep-pasture has sometimes no arable ground attached to it, the value is more easily determined; the average of the uncultivated land is nearly 4s. 3d. per sheep's grass; on cultivated land 9s.; and an ox or cow L. 3, 10s.

Rate of Wages.—The wages of labour of a man throughout the year is 1s. 8d. per day; and of a woman for hoeing turnips, hay-making, and barn-work in winter, 10d.

Breeds of Live Stock.—The old breed of cattle in Tweeddale was light-bodied and long-legged, with rather long up-turned horns, and spotted brown, black, or white. About forty or fifty years ago this breed was greatly improved by the produce of an Alderney bull and two queys, that were brought into the country by the late Earl of Traquair. Of late years, well-bred bulls from Northumberland are annually procured by some of the principal farmers; and consequently, allowing for the bareness of our pasture, the breed of cattle is every year drawing nearer to that of the shires of Selkirk and Roxburgh, and perhaps might be in some risk of becoming in general too heavy for the district.

The breed of sheep is the black-faced and Cheviot, both greatly

improved of late, excepting in the quality of the wool,* which is now much coarser.

It may be added, that the breeds of sheep, cattle, and horses have received great benefit from the Selkirkshire Pastoral Society, instituted by Lord Napier about ten years ago, and of which our resident proprietors and principal farmers are members.

Quantity of Live Stock.—The number of cattle is 383; horses 80; sheep, 16,040; goats, 50.

Husbandry.—The state of farm-buildings and enclosures is good; and perhaps the extent of the former is greater than has ever yet been found quite necessary. Leases are of all sorts, according to the pleasure of the parties.

Improvements.—The only great improvement in the parish has been effected by Mr Stewart of Ormiston, or Glen-Ormiston. By the most excellent system of cultivation, he has raised the value of his property, so that the annual return or rent in pounds Sterling is much more than double the valuation in pounds Scottish; and that without including the annual value of more than 200 acres in very thriving plantations,—a fact very rarely paralleled in the records of the agriculture of this country.

Produce.

The average amount of gross produce yearly raised from the arable land may be nearly	L. 8438	0	0
The average return of grain crops being, wheat, 26 bushels per imperial acre; barley, 36 do.; oats, 36 do.; pease, 24 do.			
From sheep,	6215	0	0
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	L. 14,653	0	0

The value of the produce of cattle and horses is included, as pasture, turnips, hay; and those are all valued per acre.

Manufactures.—A large building for a woollen manufactory was erected about forty years ago by a Mr Brodie, a native of Traquair. He carried on the works at his own risk for several years. At his death the manufactory was let, and has since been in the hands of several tenants. At present 50 people are employed in it, and 2500 stones of wool are wrought in it yearly. The people work ten hours a-day. Weavers are paid per week, 14s.; slubbers, 14s.; piecers, 3s.; shawl-plaiters, 4s.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town and Means of Communication.—Peebles is the

* It seems now to be fully ascertained that fine wool cannot be raised in this country with profit—fat mutton and fine wool in successive generations of sheep appearing to be incompatible with each other by some law of nature.

nearest market-town, and is distant about six miles. In the summer season there is a one-horse chaise daily, and two daily coaches from the parish to Edinburgh.

The length of the toll-road down the Tweed is ten miles; and from Tweed to the source of the Leithen, is above nine miles. In summer, there is a daily conveyance to and from Glasgow and Kelso, which passes through the village.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church could not well be better situate for the convenience of the whole parish. It is a neat small building, containing seats for above 350 people. It was built in 1786, and is in comfortable repair. The manse was built about 1780. The glebe consists of 12 imperial acres, and is worth about L. 20 of yearly rent. The stipend is 15 chalders, half meal and half barley, and L. 100 Scots for communion elements, having been augmented in the year 1821.* Its average amount for the last seven years has been, exclusive of the allowance for communion elements, L. 234, 6s. The average number of communicants is about 264.

The dissenters in this parish are very few: fewer perhaps than in any parish of the same size in this part of the country.

Education.—There is no school but one in the parish. It is parochial. The schoolmaster employs an assistant, and teaches the ordinary branches and Latin. His salary is the maximum. The school wages are, for reading English, per quarter, 2s. 6d.; for writing, arithmetic, &c. 3s. 6d.; for Latin, 5s: but the actual amount received will probably not exceed L. 40. There are no persons in the parish above ten years of age who cannot read and write.

Library.—There is a circulating library in the parish, and a reading-room attached to it.

Friendly Society.—A friendly society was instituted in 1808 by the influence of the late Mr Nicol, minister of Traquair, and on such sound principles, that its funds have been gradually increasing. There are 100 members.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The collections in the church average about L. 21, 10s. a-year, and the assessment upon the heritors and tenants amounts to about L. 80. The number of poor is 13, and the average allowance to each 2s. 2d. per week, besides house rent to several of them, and L. 5 for medical advice. The people have not now the same aversion as formerly to seek relief from those funds.

* The stipend was augmented in 1821; but unexpectedly not in the same ratio as that of the minister of Traquair,—which was augmented about the same time.

Inns.—There are three inns in the village ; two of them large and commodious,—each having an ordinary or public table during the spring and summer seasons.

Fuel.—Except among the shepherds living in the heads of the *hopes* and *glens*, who use peats, the fuel chiefly depended upon by the inhabitants is coal from Lothian. The nearest is 16 miles distant. But a new road up the Leithen is now making, and will be completed next summer ; by which the conveyance of coal will be facilitated, and the expense diminished.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Plantations of spruce and Scottish fir in the uplands, for enclosures to the sheep, would be a great improvement.

There is no soil in the parish so fitted for becoming rich pasture as the haughs in the valley of the Tweed. But instead of *water-dikes*, as they are called, reared sometimes at great expense along the margin of the stream, perhaps it were better that every obstruction was removed from the river while in flood, and the muddy waters encouraged to float over and top-dress these lands when laid into pasture. Experience has often shown, that no process of manuring is so cheap and so enriching. Besides, this would enable the proprietor or tenant to bestow his attention and manure upon the accessible slopes of the hills, which, in course of time, it may be found worth while to cultivate.

March 1834.