

PARISH OF YARROW.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. ROBERT RUSSELL, D. D. MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—The ancient name of the parish was St Mary's. In some old records, it is called the Kirk of St Mary of the *Lowes*, (de lacubus,) the expletive being derived from its vicinity to two considerable lakes. There was formerly a chapel at Deuchar, (Du-choire, *i. e.* a small valley,—characteristic of its site,) and another at Kirkhope, to which the N. E. and S. E. districts of the present parish were attached. They appear, however, instead of being separate establishments, to have been subordinate to the mother church of St Mary. In the year 1640, the place of worship was changed to the banks of the Yarrow, which henceforth imparted its name to the parish. This appellation has a common etymology with that of several other streams in the kingdom—*Garw*, in the British, *Garbh* in the Gaelic, and *Garow* in the Cornish, signifying what is rough; and being highly descriptive of the river, whether of its rocky bed, or rapid flow. In the foundation charter of Selkirk Abbey, by King David in the twelfth century, the original term is translated *Garua*, which was afterwards softened into *Zarof*, *Yharrow*, and *Yara*, before assuming its present form.

This parish is perhaps the most extended in the south of Scotland. Its greatest length is eighteen, and breadth sixteen miles, with an area of 111 square miles. The figure is very irregular, and some parts of it are almost isolated, for which no other reason can be assigned, than that they formerly belonged to the royal forest. It is bounded on the N. by Traquair, Inverleithen, and

* This account has been drawn up by Mr James Russell, A. M. Preacher of the Gospel.

Stow; on the E. by Selkirk and Ashkirk; on the S. by Robertson and Ettrick; and on the W. by Meggat, Manor, and Peebles.

Topographical appearances.—This high tract, approximating the great central range, embraces in part three principal mountain chains. Their general direction is from W. S. W. to E. N. E. As the Ettrick and Yarrow run nearly parallel in their course, the secondary valleys are small; but where the Yarrow and Tweed diverge, the country is drained by longer and larger streams. Excepting a considerable table-land to the south, the hills are generally ridge-shaped and rounded on the tops, having acclivities of from 10° to 30° . There are two features characteristic of the whole. The valleys are so formed, that a projecting ridge on one side finds a corresponding recess in the other. In these lateral branches, too, the W. and S. W. sides are always steeper and barer than the opposite, insomuch that the fundamental strata of rocks are often prominent, or the surface is covered with stones, from which the soil is entirely washed away. Our forefathers easily accounted for this general appearance, by supposing that the sweep of the deluge came from the S. W., a point of the compass whence the greater part of our wind and rain was still seen to proceed. We subjoin from Ainslie's map a table of different elevations above sea level, but the accuracy of his estimates has been doubted. Blackhouse Heights, 2370 feet; Minchmoor, 2280; Hangingshaw Law, 1980; Shaws Hill, 1212; Yarrow Lochs, 560; Deuchar Bridge, 458; and Ettrick Bridge, 440. The scenery, which is chiefly of a pastoral character, is not unfrequently picturesque.

Meteorology.—As the welfare of the flocks, and the successful labours of the field depend much on the condition of the atmosphere, we shall now state such facts regarding it in this district as have come to our knowledge. The following is an average of six years, from 1826 to 1831, according to a diary of the weather kept by Mr Ballantyne at Tinnis, about 470 feet above the sea. Barometer and thermometer at 8 A. M. and 10 P. M.

No. of days that the wind blows from each point of the Compass.								Fair days.	Rain.	Snow	Mean of Barom.	Mean Heat of	
W.	N. W.	N.	N. E.	E.	S. E.	S.	S. W.					Spring,	Summer,
68	46	23	30	40	22	25	92	175	154	36	29.57	Autumn,	53°13
												Winter,	50°81
												Mean,	44°96

A register has also been kept by Mr Alexander Laidlaw, at Bowerhope, on the south side of St Mary's Loch, elevation 560

feet. It gives the yearly average from 1821 to 1831 inclusive, as follows :—

No. of days the wind blows from each point.								Fain days.	Rain.	Snow	Mean of Barom.
W.	N.W.	N.	N. E.	E.	S. E.	S.	S. W.				
71	35	15	22	40	16	28	101	154	169	42	29.44

On the 26th February 1808, the barometer stood as high as 30.80, and on 25th December 1821, it fell to 27.80, indicating a range of three inches; but in general the annual variation is only two inches. It appears that the prevailing winds are S. W. and W., and that our greatest rains are in August, September, and October. There has also been kept at Bowerhope a register of the first appearance of flowering of several of the deepest rooted plants, which makes the frequent difference of seasons, reckoned by this rule, to be eight days, and the greatest a fortnight. The *Luminous Arch* and the *Lunar Rainbow* have been witnessed but two or three times within the last thirty years. The *Polar Lights* are still often visible. At present, they very seldom pass or even reach the zenith; but about half a century ago they seem to have been more common, and to have stretched in fantastic groups and sweeping undulations quite to the southern horizon.

*Prognostics from Atmospheric Phenomena.**—For an account of the various *prognostics* of the weather applicable to this district, and no doubt to many others, we are indebted to one on whose intelligence and accuracy we can implicitly rely. First, as to prognostics from *atmospheric phenomena*.—When there is a copious deposit of dew, and it remains long on the grass; when the fog in the valleys is slowly dissipated by the sun's heat, and lingers on the hills; when the clouds apparently take a higher station; and especially when a few cirro-strati appear loose or slightly connected, lying at rest or gently floating along, serene weather may be confidently expected. A change of this settled state is presaged by the wind suddenly rising, by close continuous cirro-strati gathering into an unbroken gloom, and by that variety known as the goat's hair or grey mare's tail. Sometimes a few light fleecy clouds skim rapidly between the superincumbent vapour and the earth's surface, and are the forerunners of snow or rain. Should the cirri not pass away with the immediate fall, but extend towards the horizon, and present their troubled edges towards the zenith, there will be stormy weather for some time. When a modification of the cirro-stratus

* It will be observed that the prognostics here enumerated have an extensive application throughout Scotland.—J.

is formed to leeward, thick in the middle, and wasting at both ends, with its side to the wind like a ship *lying-to*, it indicates continued wind. After a clear frost, we sometimes see long whitish-coloured streaks of cirrus, whose two extremities seemingly approach each other as they recede from the zenith. This appearance is vulgarly called Noah's ark; and if it point from S. W. to N. E., we expect a thaw from S. W. Small blackish boat-shaped clouds rising in the west, and moving sideways, indicate a gentle thaw, with little or no rain. A short glare of red in the east about sunrise portends a rainy and windy day. When the sky shines from the watery exhalations around the mid-day sun, rain or snow will soon follow; when it has a green appearance to the E. or N. E., frost and snow. A crimson red in the west after sunset indicates fair weather; a purple red indicates sleet. Atmospheric changes are more likely to happen a few days after new or full moon than in the quarters. The point where she changes, seems to have little influence; if in the N. W., or N. W. by W., it is often succeeded by boisterous weather. When her horns are sharp and well-defined, we look for frost; when she is whitish and not very clear, for rain or snow. If the new moon seem to embrace the old, very stormy weather is likely to follow. This has long been a received opinion amongst our countrymen, as we learn from the old ballad of Sir Patrick Spens, supposed to refer to an early period of Scottish history.

“ I saw the new moon late yestreen, wi' the auld moon in her arm,
And ever alack, my master dear, I fear we suffer harm.”

Haloes are seen only when the cirro-strati are slightly but equally diffused over the sky; the sun or moon seems to “wander through the storm,” which is at no great distance. One side of the halo is often open or imperfectly formed, owing to the denseness of the vapour, and points to the quarter from which the storm is approaching. When Parhelia or mock-suns appear, the cloud is more stratified; hence, though, like haloes, they forebode a change, it is not so immediate. From the rainbow also, we draw prognostics of the weather. Sea-faring men say,

“ A rainbow in the morning—sailors take warning;
A rainbow at night is the sailors' delight.”

And shepherds and husbandmen assent to the truth of this old adage. In the former case, (as the arch must be opposite the sun,) it appears in the west, whence our rains generally come; in the latter it irradiates the east, and indicates that the rain is passing from us. Aurora borealis is most likely to appear in change-

able weather, and is often followed by a S. W. wind. From the appearance of falling stars, it may be inferred that the equilibrium of the atmosphere, held probably by the agency of electricity, is destroyed. They generally forebode wind; and when many of them are seen, they are faithful, though silent monitors, warning us to prepare, with the earliest dawn, for the coming storm. There is often much lightning in the night both with and without clouds, which announces unsettled weather, especially if it be whitish in colour. If the thunder clouds are low, we may expect heavy showers or continuous rains. A thunder storm from the south is followed by a genial warmth; from the north by cold and hail. When the wind shifts to the west after rain from S. or S. W., it generally fairs up, or there are but a few showers. Frost and snow from S. W. are the forerunners of bad weather. If the wind turn suddenly from S. W. or S. to N. N. E., while this is accompanied with a smell resembling that of coal smoke, a severe storm will follow. Sometimes in the month of May, often in June, &c. an undulatory motion may be observed in the air, near the earth's surface. This is the land-tide, called by the peasantry *Startling Jack*, which generally takes place when the weather is a little sultry; the weather afterwards becomes colder. A haze or *ouder*, as it is often named, indicates a mild state of the atmosphere, and prognosticates a long continuance of heat and drought. The summer of 1783 was remarkable for this appearance. It is generally accompanied with a moderate S. W. wind, and sometimes a calm, but it never remains long with a north or east wind. When evaporation is perceptibly carried on by the sun's heat, we expect cold to succeed.

Prognostics from Animals.—The troubles that befall our species are not without their use in this respect; headach, toothach, rheumatism, pain in corns, and old sprains and sores, being frequent signs of the approaching storm. Before thunder, many have a feeling of listlessness, oppression, and uneasiness. The lower animals, but such especially as are still in a state of nature, or exposed in the open fields, are very susceptible of atmospheric changes. Sheep eat greedily before a storm, and sparingly before a thaw. When they leave the high parts of their range,—when they bleat much in the evening, or during the night, we may expect severe weather. Goats seek a place of shelter, while swine carry litter and cover themselves better than ordinary, before a storm. Wind is foretold by the cat scratching a post or wall,—and a thaw, when she washes her face, or when frogs come from

their winter concealment. The gathering of grouse into large flocks, the diving of sparrows in dry dust, the fluttering of wild ducks as they flap their wings, the dismal lengthened howl of sea-gulls in an inland place, or around lakes, the mournful note of the curlew, the shrill whew of the plover, the *whet-whet-whet* of the chaffinch perched upon a tree, the crowing of the cock at unusual times,—all prognosticate rain or snow. When the fieldfare, red-wing, starling, swan, snowfleck, and other birds of passage, arrive soon from the north, it indicates an early and severe winter. When gnats bite very keenly, when flies keep near the ground, (shown by swallows that feed upon the wing flying low,) we look for wind and rain. But the most wonderful influence of atmospheric changes is upon those creatures that burrow in the ground. The earth-worm appearing in abundance indicates rain. In like manner, the mole seems to feel its approach, as a day or two before he raises more hillocks than usual; and when after a long severe frost he begins again to work, it will soon become fresh. The effects of electricity are well known both on the atmosphere and on animals; and the deposition of the aqueous vapours with the relaxing damp near the surface of the earth, which in certain states takes place, may give rise to this increased activity.

Additional Prognostics.—Before rain, many plants close their petals and hang down their heads, as the trefoil, mountain-daisy, and chickweed; a paved floor of clay-slate and cellars become damp; in lakes and springs the water rises higher, and the efflux is greater. But the barometer excels all these prognostics; and by combining the observations of both, one may predict the weather with considerable certainty. If it fall a day or two previously, the storm is likely to last; if shortly, it will neither be so severe nor protracted. A similar rule is applicable to the rise of the barometer. But allowance must be made for the influence of certain winds. With the same quantity of rain or snow, the mercury stands highest with a N. E. and E. wind; then N. and W. and S. W., and S. in order. It stands lowest of all when the wind is N. W. and S. E. The extremes both of heat and cold depress, while a moderate temperature raises it. Thus, after long frost and snow, it generally rises before a thaw. Sometimes it is very low with little rain, or in fair weather. But in this case the equilibrium of the atmosphere is destroyed, and nothing is wanting but a sufficiency of aqueous vapour, which may be falling at no very great distance. For example: on January 30th 1814, barometer 28.70, it was mostly clear in this district; but in Inver-

ness-shire there fell a great quantity of snow. In like manner, when the wind is variable, it often blows hard from opposite points, even in this northern part of our island. Thus, 1st April 1813, was a stormy day in Inverness-shire, and the wind N. E.; whereas in Selkirkshire, a very severe blast of snow came from S. W. In both places the wind went to N. W. by W. at night. We mention these things, to show that there are often secondary causes in operation, and at the time to us unknown, which tend to render our calculations incorrect.

The *Climate* of the parish is damp and cold. This must be ascribed to the mists that rise from the marshy grounds, the vicinity of the central mountain range, which serves as a nucleus to embody the hovering exhalations, the prevalence of the W. and S. W. winds, and the peculiar exposure of the vallies to those from the E. and N. E. The vicissitudes of the weather are extremely frequent. Of late years, however, the climate has been much ameliorated by draining, and might be still farther improved by plantation. The diseases in some measure connected with it, are catarrh, rheumatism, consumption, and fevers. These are more prevalent in the vale of Ettrick than of Yarrow, owing to the greater extent of marshy and meadow-ground; but the district is far from being unfavourable to health or longevity. One individual within the memory of man reached the very advanced period of 106 years; and a number have nearly seen the course of a century. There is a woman still alive (1833) who remembers the *forty-five*, when she assisted in putting some cattle and household articles beyond the reach of the Highlanders.

Hydrography. Springs.—The greater part of the springs are perennial. Their temperature is in general about 45°. Calcareous springs are found in fifteen different places; sometimes near each other, and rising in lines. The accumulation of calcareous deposit from one of them, amounting to about forty cart-loads, was once collected for agricultural purposes, but, owing to the steepness of the hill, could not easily be removed. There is a sulphureous spring on Craig farm, and another on Catslacknow, which probably flow from a bed of alum-slate. The latter is sometimes resorted to by the peasantry; but the strength is considerably diluted from its situation in the midst of a marsh, the water of which oozes through. It is called St Philip's Well; and its dedication to a patron saint, as was usual in Roman Catholic times, would seem to intimate that it had been famed for its medicinal virtues. There are two

chalybeates on Bowerhope. The oxide of iron is found in many of the mosses, and seen in the water that flows from them.

Lakes.—The principal lake in the parish, or indeed in the south of Scotland, is St Mary's, connected by a stream with a smaller one, which has the pleonastic appellation, Loch of the Lowes (lochis.) The former is seven and a-half miles in circumference, and in some places thirty fathoms deep; the latter one mile and a-half, and eleven fathoms. Both, to high-water mark, are exclusively the property of the Right Honourable Lord Napier, who has beautified some parts of them by plantation. It is evident that they have originally formed one lake, whose margin extended a considerable way to the N. E. The difference of level is only fifteen inches; and the narrow neck of land which now separates them has been raised by the opposite currents of the Corseeleugh and Oxleugh Burns. In the introduction to the Second Canto of "Marmion," there is a graphic description of the surrounding scenery. It partakes not of the rich or romantic, but has a character of soft repose,—derived from the unbroken slope of the hills, the winding of the water as it washes their base, and the stilly solitude on every side. The margin of the lake is skirted with a few old trees, that serve but to remind us of the ancient forest. At a short distance, too, are the relics of Catholic and feudal times, which harmonize with such a scene, as we trace the vestiges of St Mary's Chapel, with its lone church-yard,—“then gaze on Dryhope's ruined tower, and think on Yarrow's faded flower.”

In the table-land to the south are a number of small lochs, Shaws, Clearburn, Hellmoor, and Akermoor, whose size varies from a mile to a mile and a-half in circumference. Some of them contain inexhaustible deposits of shell-marl; one has been drained, and the marl successfully used in agriculture. Our vallies seem formerly to have been, like many others in Scotland, a chain of lakes. The most marked trace of this kind is at Newhouse, where the Ettrick has worn its way in the course of ages. The rocks rise almost perpendicularly,—and, overgrown as they are with furze, and overhung with copsewood, present a view of Nature's rude magnificence.

Rivers.—In noticing the rivers of the parish, we shall confine our attention to that from which it derives its name, though it includes also part of the Ettrick and Tweed. “The hills whence classic Yarrow flows,” form the boundary with Dumfries-shire, and send a

number of streams to the lochs, of which the principal are Meggat, and what is sometimes called Little Yarrow. After leaving these beautiful sheets of water, and running for fourteen miles over a gravelly and rocky channel, the river joins the Ettrick. The length from its source is about twenty-five miles. From the country being now drained, it swells more quickly than formerly, but not to any height till the loch first overflow; and, on the other hand, a strong south-west wind, by acting on St Mary's as a reservoir, often makes it rise without rain. The strath traversed by this stream has long been classic ground. It is, indeed, singular how many men of genius have at once felt and deepened the charm. "The sang of the outlaw Murray," and "the Douglas Tragedie," both belong to these scenes; and the oldest verses to "The Yellow-Hair'd Laddie," are also localized by certain allusions which they contain. But the best known of the ancient ballads (similar in subject and style to another fragment, "Willie's drown'd in Yarrow,") is, "The Dowie Dens of Yarrow," commemorative of a melancholy event that had made a deep impression on the popular mind. It is supposed to have suggested to Mr Hamilton of Bangour, the more modern song beginning, "Busk ye, busk ye, my bonnie bonnie bride." Hence, also, the plaintive strain of Logan, "Thy braes were bonny, Yarrow stream, &c.;" and Wordsworth's fine effusions, "Yarrow unvisited," and "Yarrow visited," to which, it is hoped, an unpublished piece, entitled "Yarrow revisited," will soon be added. In celebration of a female beauty, the two songs of "Mary Scott," and "The Rose in Yarrow," are preserved. We might refer, besides, to "Yarrow Vale" by Mr McDonald; "The Braes of Yarrow," by Allan Ramsay; another set by Miss Thomson, and many of a similar kind; while the incidental allusions to this little stream are without number.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The rocks throughout the parish belong to the transition class, and consist almost entirely of grey-wacke, with a basis of clay-slate. The general direction of the strata is from S. W. to N. E., but it often varies for a short way: the dip is generally 45°, though it ranges from the perpendicular to the horizontal. At Newhouse Lynns the river Ettrick has cut through the barrier of an ancient lake for three-fourths of a mile, and to the depth of a hundred feet. Its course is almost straight for a considerable way, when it suddenly diverges; and in one place, the thin strata which are laid bare are bent to a curve of more than 220°. Flinty slate, and loose fragments of porphyry,

feldspar, and quartz, may be observed in glens connected with the head of the Yarrow. There is a formation of new sandstone up Dryhope Burn, and also a bed of transition glossy alum-slate, the latter being found again in a soft and friable state, from exposure to the air, by the side of the river near Yarrow-ford. Iron pyrites occurs plentifully on Bowerhope, and calcareous spar on Kirkstead. In the rocky bank close by the house of Langhope, is a deep bed of rich micaceous earth, having a beautiful metallic lustre. A seam of clay between the strata of slate crosses the Blackcleugh in Blackhouse, and contains glittering particles of a similar nature, which are probably mica also. Pieces of insulated galena have been sometimes picked up. No limestone has as yet been discovered in the parish; but the number of calcareous springs indicate its existence at no great depth.

The skulls of the *Urus** described by Cæsar, and an extinct species of deer with large palmated antlers, have been found imbedded in the marl mosses. An old spur, with a rowel nine inches in circumference, was found by Sir W. Scott in Huntly Meadow. The extensive tracts of peat are full of decayed trees, a great proportion on the hills being the birch, and in the low grounds the oak. As instances of the preservative quality of this vegetable formation, two facts may be noticed. There was a tradition of a suicide having been buried in a moss near Berrybush more than a century before; and, in digging the place a few years ago, the body was found entire, with the bonnet, coat, plaid, hose, &c. quite fresh. In casting another close to the dwelling-house of Whitehope, a layer of lint was met with covered with stones. It had evidently been laid out to steep on the subsoil and not removed, and was six feet below the surface.

A great part of our soil is a light, hazel-coloured loam, formed from the decomposition of the rocks, and much mixed with stones. It is common on the sides of the hills, and the gentle acclivities along their base. In some places there are *Trifolium repens*, *Bellis perennis*, *Plantago lanceolata*, &c. which make an excellent pasture. Where it is deep, *Polypodium vulgare* is found in abundance; but, where thin and exposed, it is apt to be overrun with *musci*. On the sunny slopes, as Wardlaw Craig, Catslacknowhill, Deucharhope, &c. *Cistus helianthemum*, or the rock-rose,

* A head of the *Urus* or *Bison*, in the hall at Abbotsford, which was found in a neighbouring moss, indicates an animal nearly three times the size of the Chillingham wild cattle, and corroborates Cæsar's description.

sometimes covers the surface, to the exclusion almost of every other plant; and in fine seasons, between June and July, a whole hill-side is one entire yellow blow. Along the banks of the rivers, and generally at their confluence with the tributary rivulets, there are low flat promontories of water-worn gravel, which abound with *Tormentilla officinalis*, *Calluna vulgaris*, and different kinds of lichens. Another variety of soil is clay, having a strong affinity to bog, into which it gradually runs, as the subsoil becomes less porous. This commonly covers the bases of the hills that slope eastward,* but partakes less of sweet palatable plants than the light loam already mentioned. The bog soil in this parish consists mostly of argillaceous clay, with a mixture of fine sand, and a little vegetable mould near the surface; the subsoil being uniformly stiff cold argil, sometimes interspersed with stones or round gravel. It produces abundance of *Carices*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Holcus lanatus*, with several of the *Poa*, *Aira*, and *Festuca* tribes. Since draining has taken place so extensively, these have been in a great measure supplanted by *Cnicus palustris* on the mossy ground, *Aira cæspitosa*, *Melica cærulea*, and *Agrostidæ* on the clay. And lastly, we have tracts of peat stretching for miles, and varying in depth from a few inches to seven feet. *Scirpus cæspitosus*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Nardus stricta*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Galium saxatile*, and *Vaccinium myrtillus*, are found in greatest abundance; *V. Oxycoccos* and *Rubus chamæmoris* only in a few places.

Zoology.—“Two species of mice have occasionally been met with, which, as yet, have been overlooked by scientific naturalists. One inhabits the tops of the highest mountains, and is a little larger than the *Mus sylvaticus*. The fur has a silky softness and lustre; and as the animal is turned round, it falls open by its weight in a shed along the body, being apparently attached to the skin by a filament of extraordinary fineness and elasticity. The other is of a size between this and the *Mus aquaticus*; has like them a short tail and ears; the tail tipped with white. It has very

* These clay bogs have perhaps been deposited by an eddy of the great western deluge. When the current of this tremendous *debacle* beat violently against the face of a mountain, it seems as if the debris and mud transported by the waters had settled down along the base of an opposite ridge, or it might have been swept round into the lee side of that from which it had been washed away. The soil in question rests upon masses of *till*, i. e. collections of gravel somewhat water-worn, and cemented by very tenacious clay; and the hollow parts, where there are springs, are often covered with some feet of peat moss.

large, strong, grooved, semicircular teeth, and inhabits the low grounds, but is extremely rare. Only three have been observed; one of which, when running, stopt at times, and stood upright with its fore-paws over its eyes, like a weasel or squirrel." *

The woodlands of this district were formerly inhabited by various animals that have disappeared; as the urus, the stag, and another species of deer. The wolf, the mountain-boar, and the wild cat, were common in early times. We learn from the old song, that Ettrick forest abounded with "the hart, the hynd, the doe, the roe, and of a' beasts great plentic;" and hence it was long reserved for the royal chace. The names of places too, some of them common to different spots, still refer to the animals by which they were frequented; thus we have *Ox-cleugh*, *Deer-law*, *Hart-leap*, *Hynd-hope*, *Fawn-burn*, *Wolf-cleugh*, *Brock-hill*, *Swine-brae*, *Cat-slack*, &c. A few otters may be found about the rivers, but badgers are now very rare, and foxes nearly extirpated. Hares, however, and in the lower parts of the parish rabbits, are plentiful. Black and red grouse, partridges, snipes, with a few pheasants, are the principal game. In 1649, and for long afterwards, the black-cock and grey-hen were found on the hills, but at length disappeared, till they gradually returned from the S. W. border, about the same time that means were taken to introduce them by the late Duke of Buccleuch. When the season is severe, swans arrive from the north.

Most of the lakes are stored with pike, perch, eels, trout, and minnow. It is curious that the pike are now seldom seen in St Mary's, where they once were abundant, and larger than in the upper loch. Salmon, grilse, whitling, trout, eels, par, minnows, barbels, and sticklebacks, tenant the rivers. Formerly many lampreys came up to spawn, weighing six or seven pounds, but are now rare. A minute species, however, about the thickness of a crow-quill, is abundant, and may be seen in swarms during the month of May, frequenting the shallow streams, where it deposits its spawn on fine sand. In an economical point of view, the different varieties of trout, though of late years much thinned, are alone important. Salmon and grilse abound only during close-time. They ascend the rivers for spawning in the beginning of October with what is

* Vide Edinburgh Encycl., Art. SELKIRKSHIRE, written by Mr William Laidlaw, who examined both species. The alpine was found on Blackhouse heights: the other, with the white tip on the tail, which probably indicated the male, at Blackhouse and Craig Haugh.

called the Michaelmas flood; and those that have escaped the poachers, return to the sea about, or after, Candlemas.

The whole herbage on the hills around the sources of the Et-trick and Yarrow was destroyed by a caterpillar in 1762, long called the *wormy* year, until 1802, when in June and July a similar occurrence happened. The upper parts of this parish, with the high lands adjoining, were then overrun by a species of grub-worm, belonging, it was at that time believed, to the order Lepidoptera, and genus *Papilio*. * A few of them were fed in a bottle by Mr A. Laidlaw at Bowerhope, when, after undergoing the usual metamorphosis into a chrysalis, they emerged beautiful butterflies, — laid about one hundred eggs, and died. They made their first appearance on the drybenty land, consuming every thing green; and though thousands of crows and other birds fed constantly upon them, they gradually spread into the boggy and finer pastures. The only plants spared were *Calluna vulgaris*, *Juncus squarrosus*, and *Galium saxatile*. When they were feeding, from six to eight might have been covered with the palm of the hand; and where a burn intercepted their progress, they lay in heaps by the side. Some heavy rains at length drowned or swept them into the drains, many of which were literally stopped. They again made their appearance in 1812, 1824, and 1826; but their ravages were confined to some of the heights bordering on Dumfries-shire. †

A similar infliction was felt more partially in 1829, and since by the larva of a *Tipula*, — the common long-legged fly. This species is different from the former in appearance and habits; infesting the soft boggy land. It is as thick as a goose-quill; of a dull purple colour; never burrows deep in the soil; works its way like the earth-worm; and eats only the roots, or at least the white parts of the grass. The black caterpillar that devoured the turnip crop in 1805, and has never been seen since, was the larva of a fly somewhat like a gutter-wasp, of the genus *Tenthredo*, (Lin.) The

* Kirby and Spence suppose the perfect insect to have been a moth of a genus called *Phalena* by Linnæus, *Bombyx* by Fabricius, and *Charax graminis* by Stephens.

† It is quite certain that the devastation of the herbage is occasioned by the larvæ of the *Charax graminis* of Stephens, (*Phalena graminis*, Lin.); but the cause of this insect being produced in certain places and seasons in such destructive numbers, has not been ascertained. The injury done to the pastures in some parts of the island, however, is perhaps compensated by the increased production of grass in future seasons; at least, in one case, the herbage of a portion of a hill destroyed in 1824, was, at the distance of six years, and in comparison with other parts of the same hill, perceptibly and materially improved.—Ent. Mag. i. 200.

turnip-fly which is now destructive, is a beetle, *Haltica nemorum*; but from its being generally bred on the manure, to burn a little straw over the surface is found an effectual way of killing it. The large and beautiful green caterpillar, dotted with pencils of black spines, of the Emperor-moth, or *Saturnia spini*, (*Phalæna pavonia*, Lin.) is often found feeding on the heath, where it fixes the brown silk bag it weaves for its winter habitation. But the moth itself, nearly as large as a wren, is rarely seen. There are several insects also that injure fruit trees,—cankering the leaves, and eating the blossom.

Botany.—The botany, like the mineralogy of the district, and probably connected with it, is very uniform. The more rare plants are *Rubus chamæmorus*, which arrives at perfection only on Dryhope, Blackhouse, and Kirkstead; *Festuca vivipara* on the N. skirts of Wardlaw and Altrive; *Vaccinium oxycoccos* on Gil-disgreen and Shaws; *Trientalis Europæa* on Blackhouse Heights; *Trollius Europæus* and *Cnicus heterophyllus* in a cleugh falling into Douglas burn; *Sedum villosum*; *Circea Alpina* on S. E. verge of St Mary's Loch; *Cochlearia officinalis*, in the springs along the ridge between Newburgh and Eldinhope; *Campanula latifolia* in a ravine, Deuchar Hope; *Drosera rotundifolia*, Deuchar Hope; *Scutellaria galericulata* in pond at Whitehope; *Melampyrum sylvaticum* in Newhouse Bank; *Allium ursinum* and *Adiantum capillus veneris*, at Newhaugh Lynns; *Thalictrum alpinum* on the opposite bank of Helmburn. The medicinal plants best known are *Tormentilla officinalis*, the root of which is uncommonly astringent, good for sore throats, and efficacious in curing old ulcers; *Achillea millefolium*, which is common in Yarrow, and highly astringent also; *Linum catharticum*, a purgative when boiled; *Menyanthes trifoliata*, used as a tonic, an infusion from the leaves being taken for stomach complaints, and mixed with *L. catharticum* for rheumatism; *Digitalis purpurea* and *Alsine media* absorbents, and applied for swellings, &c.

In former times, the straths of the Ettrick and Yarrow received the appropriate designation of Ettrick Forest. The name is still retained, but is no longer characteristic of the country, which is almost one continuous sheep-walk. The woods began to be cleared several centuries ago; and the depth of the many mosses may point in some degree to the period of their destruction or decay. The only remnant of the old forest, where the identical trees still stand, is believed to be a few oaks on West Faldshope Hill; but they are remarkable for their age alone, being small and stunt-

ed from the dry rocky nature of the ground. There is a great deal of fine wood at Hangingshaw, the once beautiful seat of the Murrays of Philiphaugh, and now belonging to James Johnstone, Esq. of Alva. A plane-tree measures in circumference near the root, 16 feet, in solid contents 390 square feet; a beech, circumference 13 feet, contents 202 square feet; a lime, circumference $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet, contents 180 square feet; an oak, circumference 11 feet, contents 166 square feet. But Hangingshaw is remarkable chiefly for the extent and variety of its valuable trees. Many of the same kinds are scarcely inferior in size to those already specified; while the ashes, elms, larches, and Scots firs, (raised from Highland seed, and the timber of which is of very superior quality,) average 8 feet in circumference, and 100 square feet in contents. The soil appears congenial to trees of every sort; and so adapted is it to its ancient covering, that copses, particularly of birch, will spring spontaneously wherever the ground is enclosed.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Accounts of the Parish.—There are no ancient or modern accounts, so far as we are aware, that refer solely and specially to Yarrow parish. Two MSS., however, are to be found in the Advocates' Library, which notice its former condition in a general description of Selkirkshire. The one was written in 1649, by William Elliot of Stobs and Walter Scot of Arkilton. The other is Hodges' MS., bearing the date of 1722; but it is chiefly a detail of names, localities, and distances. In the Edinburgh Encyclopædia, Art. SELKIRKSHIRE, there is an excellent statistical account by Mr William Laidlaw, a native of this parish, and author of the well-known song, "Lucy's flittin," &c. We may refer also to a prize essay on the same subject by the Ettrick Shepherd, written in a popular style, and published in Transactions of the Highland Society for 1832. The Duke of Buccleuch possesses about two-thirds of the parish, and the other land-owners are, in the order of the valuation of their estates, as follows: James Johnstone, Esq. of Alva, the Earl of Traquair, Lord Napier, Lord Elibank, James Mercer, Esq. of Scotsbank, Hugh Scott, Esq. of Harden, the Earl of Minto, Miss Williamson of Cardrona, James Russell, Esq. of Ashiesteel, and Henry Rutherford, Esq. of Redfordgreen. Landed property here very seldom changes hands.

Parochial Registers.—A large proportion of the old parochial registers was burnt about seventy years ago, along with the manse.

In those extant, the date of the earliest entry is 1691 ; but from the beginning till nearly the middle of last century, with the exception of a few years between, there is a perfect blank. Since 1741, however, the registers have been more regularly and carefully kept.

Historical Events.—This parish formed a principal part of the sheriffdom of Ettrick Forest. It was recovered, with the surrounding districts, from the English by Sir James Douglas, and as a reward of his services conferred on him by a grant from his sovereign and friend Robert Bruce, who erected them into a free regality. These lands were again forfeited to the Crown, on the attainder of the family of Douglas in 1455, when a part of them was bestowed on Sir Walter Scott, ancestor of the Buccleuch family, who had exerted himself in suppressing the rebellion of the Douglasses. In 1503, James IV. endowed his queen, the Lady Margaret of England, with the Forest of Ettrick and Tower of Newark, which had formerly been the dowry of Mary of Guelders. Hence, probably, our two farms of Deloraine (*de la reine*) received their name, or afterwards perhaps from *Mary of Lorraine*. It would also appear that about this time the wood began to be cleared away. We learn from Pitscottie, that James V. had “10,000 sheep going in the forest under the keeping of Andrew Bell, who made the king as good an account of them as if they had gone in the bounds of Fife.” This royal demesne was his frequent resort to enjoy the pleasures of the chase.

“ Of such proud huntings many tales
Yet linger in our lonely dales ;
Up pathless Ettricke and on Yarrow,
Where erst the outlaw drew his arrow.”

A pass between the two valleys preserves the traces of one of these expeditions. It retains the significant name of the *Hart's leap* ; the distance of the leap, being distinctly visible at the time when the ground was covered with snow, is still marked by two grey whinstones, twenty-eight feet apart, which are said to have been raised by the king and his followers. Under the Crown, the proprietors of the forest held their lands as rentallers, or king's *kindly tenants*, as they had done under the Lords of Douglas. Very few of them received charters until the year 1587, when James VI. came of age. The quit rents paid to the Crown by the kindly tenants continue burdens on the estates to the present day, and are collected by the chamberlain of Ettrick Forest. There

are several holdings for payment of a dog-leash, a bow, a pair of arrows, &c. in allusion to the ancient sports.

Eminent Characters.—1. Mary Scott, so well known in tradition and in song by the title of *The Flower of Yarrow*, was a native of the parish. She was the daughter of John Scott of Dryhope, and gave her hand to Walter Scott of Harden—no less famed for his freebooting than his bride for her beauty.* 2. Connected with this parish, was *Sir Gideon Murray*, who rose to be one of the senators of the College of Justice, by the title of Lord Elibank. The appointment took place in 1613,—when the Lords dispensed with any trial of his qualifications “because of the certaine knowledge they had of them.” 3. *Dr. John Rutherford*, a man of genius himself, and father of a family of genius. He was long known in his professional career as the Yarrow Doctor, from having been a native of this parish, where his father was installed clergyman after the revolution. He studied under Boerhaave; and in 1727, being elected Professor of the Practice of Physic in the Edinburgh University, contributed greatly to establish its high character as a school of medicine. 4. Elibank was the birth place of Russell, the learned historian of ancient and modern Europe. 5. Equally celebrated in a different sphere, was his kinsman, the late *Colonel William Russell of Ashiesteel*, whose heroic military exploits in India, and in particular at Manilla, reflect honour on himself and his country. 6th, For ten years subsequently to the death of the gallant Colonel in 1802, Ashiesteel was the country residence of *Sir Walter Scott*, who had before been appointed Sheriff of Selkirkshire. While living at this outskirts of the parish, he won his earliest laurels; and a small hillock covered with trees, beneath whose shade much of his poetry was penned, is still called “the Sherra’s Knowe.” 7. Among the eminent characters, linked by long residence with Yarrow parish,

* A curious contract relating to their marriage is still preserved in the charter-chest of the present Mr Scott of Harden. From this it appears, that the Laird of Dryhope engaged to find his son-in-law in man’s meat and horse meat at his tower of Dryhope for a year and day—five barons becoming bound, that, on the expiry of that period, the latter should remove without attempting to continue in possession by force! A notary public, signed for all the parties to the deed, none of whom could write their names. A daughter of the Flower of Yarrow was wedded to Gilbert Elliot of Stobs, commonly called “Gibby wi’ the gowden garters.” At their marriage, as at Harden’s own, a contract was made, equally characteristic of the rudeness and rapine of the times. Finding it inconvenient to take home his wife, Gibby besought his father-in-law to lodge her for some time;—a demand which was complied with only on condition that he should give as her board the plunder of the first harvest moon. From them was descended the late Lord Heathfield.

must be mentioned *Mr James Hogg*, author of the "Queen's Wake," and commonly called the "Ettrick Shepherd."

Antiquities and Traditions.—The ruins of St Mary's Chapel are now level with the dust, and mark only where it stood. It was injured by the clan of Scott, in a feud with the Cranstouns; but continued a place of worship during the first part of the seventeenth century. The vestiges of the chaplain's house are also visible; and the ancient cemetery is still used by several families. About 400 yards to the eastward, there is a small mound called *Binram's cross or corse*, with a few stones on the top,—probably, as tradition represents, the burial-place of some necromantic priest, from decayed wood and ashes being found on its being opened.

There are still some remains of the old towers or Peel-houses, which were formerly occupied by the feudal barons, and their retainers. The oldest of these now standing, and whose figure has been different from all the rest, is Blackhouse, situated in a solitary glen up Douglas (Dhu-glas, *i. e.* dark-grey) burn. This wild tract formed one of the most ancient possessions of the Black Douglasses. Godscroft represents them as baronial lords of it in the time of Malcolm Canmore; and this was the usual retreat of the good Sir James, when recruiting for Bruce. It is here too, that tradition has placed the scene of "the Douglas Tragedie," and seven large stones on the neighbouring heights are shown as marking the spot where the seven brethren were slain. Elibank Castle, connected also in popular story with doughty deeds, still overhangs the Tweed. The lower part of the massy walls of Dryhope is nearly entire.

There is a piece of ground lying to the west of Yarrow Kirk, which appears to have been the scene of slaughter and sepulchre. From time immemorial it was a low waste moor till twenty-five years ago, when formed into a number of cultivated enclosures. On more than twenty different spots were large cairns, in many of which fine yellow dust, and in one an old spear, was found. Two unhewn massive stones still stand, about 100 yards distant from each other, and which doubtless are the monuments of the dead. The real tradition simply bears, that here a deadly feud was settled by dint of arms; the upright stones mark the place where the two lords or leaders fell, and the bodies of their followers were thrown into a marshy pool, called the *Dead Lake*, in the adjoining haugh. It is probable that this is the locality of "the Dowie Dens of Yarrow." One cannot easily, however, unravel the details, or fix the

date of the event which the old ballad describes. Some suppose it to have been a duel fought betwixt John Scott of Tushielaw, and Walter Scott of Thirlestane, that proved fatal to the latter; but, as appears from authentic records, this took place on Deuchar Swire.* Others have identified it with the fray at a hunting-match in Ettrick Forest, in which a son of Scott of Harden, resident at Kirkhope, was killed by his kinsman the Scotts of Gilman-cleugh. But the tales of tradition, which are often a few scattered leaves torn from the book of time, it is difficult to collect or connect with accuracy. About 300 yards westward, when the cultivation of this moor began, the plough struck upon a large flat stone bearing a Latin inscription. Bones and ashes lay beneath it, and on every side the surface presented verdant patches of grass. It was examined by Sir Walter Scott, Dr John Leyden, Mungo Park, and others of antiquarian lore. From the rudeness and indistinctness of the carving upon the hard block, only the following characters can be deciphered: *HIC MEMORIÆ ET — — — — HIC IACENT IN TUMULO DVO FILII LIBERALI.*†

On Dryhope Haugh, there stood a large cairn called *Herton's Hill*, in the midst of which, when the stones were removed about thirty years ago, to enclose the surrounding fields, some urns were found, besides a coffin formed of slabs, and containing ashes. There may still be seen to the westward of Altrive Lake, on rising knolls, five considerable tumuli, probably remains of the ancient Britons. None of them have been opened; but the surface of the largest exhibits a mixture of charcoal and ashes. Its top was surrounded by a circle of stones thirty yards in circumference, with a small square of stones in the centre that were taken away to build dikes; a purpose, to which also feudal castles and sepulchral cairns have been so often applied. "To what base uses we may return, Horatio!"

* To this Sir W. Scott latterly believed the ballad to refer, in which case the stones must commemorate a different event, as Deuchar Swire is at a considerable distance.

† Dr Leyden was disposed to regard it as a relic of the Romans. Such an introduction, however, as *hic memoriæ* is foreign to the Latin idiom; and *hic jacent* are words, which, if they do occur in a genuine *prose antique*, (*Dis Manibus Sacrum* or *D. M. S.* being almost universal,) are at least so rare as to justify a suspicion that the stone where they are found is of Christian inscription. Neither does the material, which is unhewn *greywacke*, seem to smack of classical antiquity. The altars, milestones, &c. excavated along the line of Adrian's wall, are uniformly of *sandstone*, and in places where it must have been far transported.

For farther details of the antiquities of this parish, see the MS. of this account, preserved among the Archives of the Church.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the amount of population was, according to Dr Webster,	1180
1792, By last Statistical Account,	1230
1801, By Census under direction of Parliament,	1216
1811, Do.	1225
1821, Do.	1249
1831, Do.	1221

It would appear from the very large average of births registered for the ten years previous to 1700, that the number of inhabitants was then much greater than at present. According to well authenticated testimony, corroborated by the numerous remains of old houses, a similar statement is applicable to the middle of last century, so that in all probability Dr Webster's report was far too low. The depopulation which afterwards began to take place, must doubtless be attributed to the monopoly of farms, the number of cottagers being limited by the necessary purposes of husbandry, and the removal of the inhabitants to towns or manufacturing districts. Of late there has also been a considerable emigration to America. But, notwithstanding, the population has remained nearly stationary for the last forty years, which has been owing chiefly to the compensation arising from two farms having been parcelled out among many small feuars.

The yearly average of births* for the last seven years was 33; of deaths, 23; of marriages, 11. Number of inhabitants in villages, 138; in the country, 1083. Number of resident families of independent fortune, 1; of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, 11; of unmarried men (bachelors and widowers) upwards of fifty years of age, 33; of unmarried women upwards of forty-five, 72; of families, 227; of children at an average in each family, 5; of persons insane, 1; slightly fatuous, 3; blind, 2. The number of persons employed in agriculture as occupiers or labourers is 169; in manufactures, retail trade, and handicraft, 52; of professional and other educated men, 5; of labourers not agricultural, 71.

It may be remarked that the shepherd's plaid is a standing article of dress; but the wide blue bonnets and coarse homespun coats of former times are no longer to be seen.

* The number of births, as stated above, is somewhat greater than the average in the parochial registers, as a few annually are not recorded. The number of deaths is the result of the most accurate estimate that can be made.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.

	Acres.
Land cultivated or occasionally in tillage, - - - - -	2740
Uncultivated, - - - - -	67800
Capable of cultivation with a profitable application of capital, -	260
Under-wood—natural, 260; planted, 350, - - - - -	610

The Scots fir being formerly supposed peculiarly suited to this climate, small clumps of it were planted on many of the farms, but now with their branchless stems and tufted tops, only add to the barrenness of the scene. Oak, ash, elm, beech, and plane, are the kinds planted at present where the ground is dry; with alder, birch, larch, spruce, and Scots fir, as nurses. The management, though in some places not very systematic, is allowed to be good. The indigenous wood consists of oak, (cut down periodically for the sale of the bark,) ash, elder, birch, elm, hazel, hawthorn, haggerberry, mountain-ash, &c.

The average rent of arable land in the parish is 15s. per acre; of grazing, L. 5 per cow; of pasturing, from 4s. 6d. to 5s. per sheep. The rental of the parish may be about L. 12,000. Farm servants with families have, in lieu of maintenance, three loads of meal, the produce of a cow, and a quantity of potatoes; besides which, ploughmen receive on an average L. 9, and shepherds the keeping of 45 sheep, equivalent generally to L. 18. The yearly wages of female servants vary from L. 5 to L. 7, exclusive of their board. Country artisans, as masons, carpenters, and smiths, make per day from 2s. to 2s. 4d.; common labourers, as roadmen, 1s. 8d. From the records of a society, it appears that the average price of wool and sheep in Selkirk county, from 1826 to 1831 inclusive, has been as follows:—Cheviot wool per stone of 24 lb. English, smeared with tar, 10s. 7d.; do. smeared with turpentine, 14s. 2d.; do. white or unsmeared, 17s. 1d.; stock wether hogs unclipt, 12s. 9d.; stock ewe hogs unclipt, 14s. 2d.; ewe hogs sold at market, 11s. 3d.; top wether lambs, 6s. 6d.; second ewe and wether lambs, 5s. 3d.; draft, 12s. 8d.; wethers unclipt, 19s. 9d.; wethers for turnip feed, 20s. 6d.

Breeds of Live Stock, &c.—About the end of last century, the black-faced breed of sheep was gradually supplanted by the Cheviot. The experiment commenced on the lower farms, but from attachment to established practice, and an idea that the lambs could not sustain the cold or storms of spring, it was slowly extended, till the rising value and demand for fine wool at length made it general. Of late

years, however, when former prices were no longer realized, the original race has been partially replaced. They are found to thrive best of any on exposed mossy lands, and in stormy seasons are by far the surest stock. There are now 1300 black-faced in the upland parts of the parish, which are generally crossed with the Cheviot or Leicester breed. On some grassy farms, the Cheviot is in like manner crossed with the Leicester, which supplies the most valuable lamb for the butcher market. But in this case, when the stock is a stationary one, it is apt to degenerate, as *second* ewe lambs are bought in annually in place of the draft ewes, so that this system succeeds best when a *flying* stock (*i. e.* one changed every year,) is kept, and this can be done only on enclosed farms. Some storemasters let their flocks go unsmearcd, others use turpentine and different salves, while many retain the old Scottish preference for tarry wool. The lambs are now generally three weeks later in being sold than they were thirty years since. It has been said that they are later in being fit for sale, owing to the less nutritious grasses produced by over-draining and mole-catching. But the circumstance, it would appear, arises chiefly from the market being first supplied with park lambs of finer breed and faster growth, and from the discontinuance of ewe-milking, which made an early sale matter of necessity. Great attention has lately been paid to the improvement of stock, as far as breeding, pasture, shelter, and shifting are concerned. The cattle kept for domestic purposes were formerly a coarse kind of the Dutch breed. The Ayrshire breed was afterwards partially introduced, and latterly the principal attention has been directed to the short-horned breed,—a mongrel kind of which is now the prevailing stock. They are more readily purchased for feeding, and a considerable number is annually reared. The dairy, indeed, has not been better replenished, but this is an object of minor importance. A number of Highland cattle also is grazed on the hills. Where the pastures are coarse, since the complete draining of the bogs, they consume what the sheep would not eat, and must be left to rot; and besides, as a new sward soon springs up, provision is at the same time made for keeping more sheep than before.

Husbandry and Produce.—The extent of land that had once been cultivated is very great. Many spots, on which are gathered heaps of stones, seem to have been tilled with mattocks, and formed oases in the midst of the forest. The traces of the plough are also visible far up the hill sides, which have returned to their natural state.

Some waste land has lately been reclaimed, but little more could be done in this way *with any profitable application of capital*, owing to the dampness of the climate, and distance from lime. Indeed, in the higher district, much at present under crop might be better laid out in permanent pasture, were it not that the farmer must keep a pair of horses to drive his fuel and hay. The turnip husbandry is pursued; the rotation being the four or five shift. Though in late seasons there is a greater luxuriance of straw than grain, the crops in general are sufficiently ripened; and winter wheat, which is occasionally sown, seldom fails to be productive, and of excellent quality. The turnips are often nearly destroyed by the disease called *finger-and-toe*, against which bone dust seems to be the best preventive.

Draining has been much practised in our bogs, and perhaps carried too far, especially on clay soils. At first, no doubt, it has a considerable effect in improving them, but if the drains are kept open, the ground will, in eight or ten years, be overrun with *Aira cæspitosa* and *Agrostideæ*. It is a common observation, that during the last twenty years the pastures have become much coarser. Various remedies have been resorted to;—in some cases the drains being stopped altogether, and in others allowed to fill up a little before a second, but particularly before a third or fourth cleaning. For real improvement, it accords with the experience of practical farmers to drain closely on mossy bogs, more sparingly on stiff clay, and merely to take off the surface water on thin ground covered with *bent* or coarse grass. Irrigation, so much in vogue about the beginning of this century, has, like all experiments begun without attending to local circumstances, been nearly laid aside. The Yarrow is too pure for this purpose, leaving the richer particles in the loch whence it flows. The water, when first applied to a meadow, tends greatly to eradicate the *fog*, and decompose the half-decayed roots and leaves, and will, therefore, for some time, act as a stimulus with seeming advantage. But when the meadow is annually mowed without an occasional top-dressing, or where there is no extraneous matter in the irrigating stream, the system will in the end produce, as it has done here, comparative or complete exhaustion. Substantial farm-houses with suitable offices are built almost everywhere, and the farm-servants accommodated with comfortable cottages. Pretty good slate may be obtained in various parts, but no quarries have been regularly wrought. All the arable land, and some of the sheep walks, are enclosed.

The duration of the leases on the Duke of Buccleuch's estate is

only nine years. His farms are never advertised, and the occupiers rarely removed; so that this cannot be considered any great drawback in a district chiefly pastoral. Some of the other land-owners grant leases of nineteen years. On Lord Napier's property, the rents are paid according to the price of the three leading articles,—wool, top wether lambs, and draft ewes,—having a reference to the sales of a particular farm. There are restrictions, however, in many of the leases, which more than their shortness form an obstacle to improvement. Such is the clause that prohibits *moor-burning*, with a view of protecting the game. It is only in its young state that heath is loaded with a profusion of palatable shoots, suited for the feeding of sheep. This is the kind, too, which grouse uniformly prefer in the morning and evening twilight, when they eat with the greatest avidity, requiring the strong bushy parts merely for cover and breeding. Let the old heath then be burnt in successive patches, and the common interest of landlord and tenant would be enhanced by a provision both for the feathered and woolly tribes. In many leases also, there is an obligation to catch the moles. Several of the store-masters and most of the shepherds are opposed to the practice, especially on strong grassy land. Since the long proscription thus instituted, the ground, it is said, has been overgrown with harsher grasses or insipid *fog*, and the *pinning* in consequence introduced. But the mole, by raising its hillocks, which are spread either by the sheep or manual labour, and thus supplying an annual top-dressing, imparts a richness and variety to the pasture. As the practice of extermination is, to say the least of it, of doubtful utility, the farmer should be left to the exercise of his own self-interest and discretion.

Agriculture suffers in some measure from the want of well-timed embanking. More march fences between different farms are required; and in some upland places, a few enclosures, with better pasture than the rest for such of the stock as are not thriving, would be a decided advantage. So would enclosed clumps of plantation generally, upon the hills; they would beautify the country, ameliorate the climate, furnish fuel from their thinnings, and give additional shelter and value to the sheep-walks. The greatest obstacle to improvement is the distance from coal, lime, some kinds of manure, and markets.

While too little encouragement has been given by proprietors, the influence of a local institution has been considerable and extensive. The Pastoral Society of Selkirkshire was established in

1819, under the patronage and through the patriotic exertions of the Right Honourable Lord Napier. It meets yearly; but in this parish the meetings are only triennial. Besides occasional grants of money from the Highland Society, it has expended considerable sums for bettering the breeds of Cheviot and black-faced sheep, horses, and cattle. Nor have the humble followers of the flock been forgotten, as premiums are also given for dexterity in sheep-shearing.

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

Oats, 750 acres under crop; 27 imp. bushels per acre; at 2s. 9d.			
per bushel,	-	-	-
			L. 2784 7 6
Barley, 250 acres under crop; 27 imp. bushels per acre; at 3s. 9d.			
per bushel,	-	-	-
			1215 12 6
Cultivated Hay, 500 acres under crop; 150 stones of 22 lb. each per acre, at 8d. per stone,	-	-	-
			2500 0 0
Turnips, 375 acres under crop; at L. 4 per acre,	-	-	-
			1500 0 0
Potatoes, 125 acres under crop; at L. 7 per acre,	-	-	-
			875 0 0
Pasture Land, 43,000 sheep at 8s. per head,	L. 17,200	0	0
205 cows	L. 7 do.	1435	0 0
176 young cattle,	L. 3, 10s. do.	616	0 0
125 Highland cattle,	L. 2 do.	250	0 0

			19,501 0 0
Gardens,	-	-	-
			80 0 0
Annual thinning and periodical felling of woods and copse,	-	-	-
			100 0 0

Total yearly amount of raw produce raised,			L. 28,606 0 0

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication, &c.—There is no market town in the parish; and the nearest is Selkirk, nine miles distant from the church. The only villages are Yarrow-Ford and Ettrick-Bridge, which are but small. The roads are excellent, being made and kept in repair by a contribution on the part of the landlords and tenants, levied in lieu of statute-labour. Along each of the rivers Ettrick and Yarrow runs a line of road—two cross roads between them, another leading to Tweedside, besides a small portion in detached corners; which in all extend to a length of thirty-seven miles. There is also a rough tract over Minchmoor, which was long the mail road from the south; it was the route that Montrose took after his defeat at Philiphaugh, and is still the line of march for troops. We have three bridges across the rivers; one of which being old and ill-constructed, another is about to be built in its vicinity.

Ecclesiastical State.—This parish formerly embraced the pa-

rish of Buccleuch, which was annexed to Ettrick, and some farms north of the Tweed, annexed to Innerleithen in 1650; the great extent of Yarrow being the principal reason of their disjunction from it. The church is ten miles distant from the extremities of the parish; but the situation is central. It appears to have been built in the year 1640. It was put into a state of very complete repair in 1826, and affords accommodation for 500 persons. The sittings are divided among the heritors according to their valuations, and by them among their tenantry. The manse was erected in 1811. It is singular that the glebe lies eight miles to the west; it is on the side of the loch, and is the same that was attached to St Mary's Chapel, no excamb having ever taken place. The original boundaries are forgotten; but it is altogether hill pasture, and will support sixteen soomes of (*i. e.* 160) sheep. The annual value of the glebe is L. 32, 16s.; allowance for grass glebe, L. 20 Scots, or L. 1, 13s. 4d.; communion element money, L. 8, 6s. 8d.; and the stipend in victual, sixteen chalders, equal to 186 quarters, 3 bushels, and $1\frac{3}{4}$ gallon imperial; or in money, on an average of prices for the last seven years, L. 259, 6s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. The old valued rental of the parish amounts to L. 31,377, 9s. 8d. Scots. The deans of the Chapel Royal are titulars of the teinds, and generally take a grassum for nineteen years. His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch is tacksman, paying a small annual rent. The numbers belonging to the Established Church are, of families 210, and individuals 1161; to the Dissenters, families 17, and individuals 60. The average number of communicants at the Established Church is 330, and divine service is generally well attended.

Two societies for religious purposes are established. "The Yarrow Parish Bible, Missionary, and Jewish Society," has an annual collection at the church doors, averaging L. 12. There is also a Missionary Society at Redfordgreen; the members belong to the parishes of Yarrow, Ettrick, and Robertson, and the yearly contributions vary from L. 6 to L. 10.

Education and Literature.—The total number of schools is four; of which two are parochial, and the other two supported by subscription of individuals. Beside the usual branches of instruction, Latin and geometry are occasionally taught. A large and handsome new school-house was built at Yarrow in 1830. It is now in excellent order. The schoolmaster's house has been long a great resort for boarders, to the number frequently of twenty-five; the board being moderate, and the situation particularly healthy. The paro-

chial teachers have the legal accommodations, with the maximum of salary between them; of which L. 31, 6s. 6½d. is allotted to the school at Yarrow, and L. 20 to that at Ettrickbridge; the fees at the former amounting to about L. 10 per annum; and to L. 12 at the latter. The general expence of education per annum, may be rated at from 8s. to 12s., exclusive of books and stationary. One of the private schools is particularly necessary to accommodate the families in the uplands of Yarrow, and were well worthy of aid from those proprietors whose estates are contiguous. There are still two points in the parish, Ashiesteel and Redfordgreen, so remote from the existing schools, as to prevent attendance on any of them,—being five miles across the hills from the nearest. The population around each of these points does not, however, exceed seventy individuals. There is also a Sabbath school at Ettrickbridge.

Libraries.—A circulating library is established in the parish; while many of the farmers and others are connected with those in Selkirk. A few years ago, the shepherds had a Debating Society among themselves, which, owing to their distance from one another, has been discontinued.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank was established at Selkirk in 1815, of which a branch exists in Yarrow. At present the amount of money belonging to the parish in the treasurer's hands is L. 120; and on an average of the last seven years, L. 29 has been annually lodged, and L. 37 withdrawn. The investments are usually made by servants, of whom the greater part are females.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor are supported chiefly by legal assessment, that method having been introduced in 1751. Some parts of its progress may be noticed.

	No. of Paupers.	Ann. Assess.	Ann. Allow. to each.
1751,	28	L. 56	L. 2 0 0
1757,	51	90	1 15 0
1800,	60	360	6 0 0
1801,	60	290	4 17 0
Aver. of last seven years,	30	160	5 7 0

The cases of the poor who are maintained at their own houses, are considered twice in the year. The usual allowance for each child is 1s. and each aged pauper 2s. 6d. per week. The average of church collections expended in gratuities, education, &c. is L. 10; donations and legacies, L. 4. It appears that, shortly after the introduction of the poor's rate, the numbers on the list had attained

their maximum, till the scarce and dear years at the beginning of this century. It appears, too, that pauperism has not made much progress, there being nearly as many persons on the roll, and as much allotted to each (allowing for the difference of the value of money) at first as at present. The tendency of the system, however, has been partially felt in relaxing industry, and encouraging improvidence,—in loosening the ties of the nearest kindred, and lowering the tone of independence,—and leading to insolence or ingratitude. It is not therefore, from the principle of the system, that no great evil has arisen but from the countervailing checks,—the aversion of farmers to have more cottagers than what are necessary for their husbandry, together with the strict economy and surveillance exercised by the managers of the poors' funds. Those on the list are chiefly old women, widows with young helpless families, and persons weak in body or intellect. There were several individuals on it lately at the age of 93.

Inns.—Three alehouses are kept in the parish, which are absolutely necessary for the accommodation of travellers, but somewhat demoralizing within a certain sphere.

Fuel.—Heath, turf, and wood, are burnt by the peasantry, but in small quantities, for coal and peat are the fuel principally used. Coal is brought from the pits in Mid-Lothian, a distance, on an average, of thirty miles, so that on arriving here, it cannot be rated lower than 1s. 3d. a hundred weight. A mode of improving peat as fuel, by compression, has lately been introduced by an ingenious gentleman of this parish, Mr Walter Tod, Langhope. From his experiments it appeared, that, by taking an equal weight of each, this preparation, compared with the best coal, burnt as long, and gave six degrees more of heat. Compared with the original peat, it lasted double the time, and raised the thermometer fourteen degrees higher. By this means, also, fuel can be secured in rainy seasons, and at any leisure time before frost sets in, so that it is to be hoped the improvement will soon become general.*

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

A very considerable change has taken place in the husbandry, habits, and household economy of the people in this parish, since

* Its importance, however, will be still greater in the arts, especially the melting of metals. The various specimens we have seen are beautifully black and compact, and the expence of preparation is trifling; but for a description of the process itself, we must refer to Mr Tod's Prize Essay in Trans. of Highland Society for 1832.

the date of the last Statistical Account. The Cheviot have superseded the black-faced sheep; and, with the breed, the management has been materially altered. There is no ewe-milking as formerly, and no *hog hirsels* kept, but the different parts of the stock roam promiscuously and at large. In very severe snow-storms the flocks on the higher grounds used to be removed to the low country of Annandale in quest of food, but now a store of hay is cut from the bogs, and forms ample winter provision for the sheep during any storm; while *stells*, or enclosures for sheep, at the same time, are more numerous and accessible. Within the last forty years, too, the country has been thoroughly drained. Equally great have been the improvements in the agriculture of the parish. The system of having outfield and infield was long practised; the milk ewes and cattle being folded at night, and the ground thus manured for cultivation. Cropping, too, went on till the particular spot was exhausted. But now a better system prevails, the arable and meadow land being enclosed and subdivided,—the two-horse plough used,—turnip husbandry introduced,—a regular rotation of cropping followed,—and wheat, so long deemed unsuited to our soil and climate, frequently raised with success. During the same period, however, the principle of *non-residence* has been largely acted on; and out of forty-five farms in the parish, twenty are *led* farms. On many of these were formerly large families, with servants and cottagers, and there are five such lying adjacent,—a state of things the more to be regretted, when its only advantage is a trifling addition of rent, and the saving of outlay on farm buildings.

The new houses of the tenants have for the most part been built in better style and situations than the old, which were small thatched cottages, placed generally on some sloping bank, or up some secluded burn, where security was sought in marauding times. The roads also have been greatly improved, and are far more frequented. Besides, all classes are better fed and clad. The dress is no longer of home produce or manufacture. What used to be the luxuries have become the necessaries of life, so that, instead of a single carrier on foot as formerly, a number of carts supply the Yarrow vale with wheaten bread. A solitary newspaper formerly made its passage up the water by slow stages and through many hands, contrasting forcibly with the regular and rapid circulation of periodicals at present. Withal, there has been a striking change in the habits of the peasantry. Local attachments have given way to general knowledge. The

legends of superstition are in a great measure forgotten, and its rites forsaken. There is no longer "heard a liling at the ewes' milking," or "The tales at the farmer's ingle." The minstrel's strains, however, had lingered long after the deeds which they commemorated were over. In this pastoral district it was that Sir Walter Scott found many of the old ballads which had been handed down for ages as a patrimony from sire to son. But, on the publication of his "Minstrelsy," the spell that bound them was broken; and these relics of Border song, thus laid bare to the light of day, have, like the friendly and familiar spirits of Border superstition, on being noticed with peculiar kindness, entirely disappeared, and that, too, in consequence of the very effort made to preserve them. In this district, too, there existed almost a feudal relation between master and servant; there being instances in which the domestic has grown up and grown grey beneath the same roof; but now the half-yearly term is too often one of change, and the stipulated service performed with mechanical unconcern.

The capabilities of improvement in this parish have been for the most part suggested in the course of the preceding account. It may only now be noticed, that there is still room for one or two more bridges and for additional roads, communicating with Tweed-side and along the south bank of the rivers, or at least leading to the farm-houses placed there. And farther, were the parish of Meggat disjoined from Lyne, the adjacent parts of Ettrick and Yarrow annexed to it, and a clergyman regularly to reside, this would prove highly beneficial to the people of that sequestered district, and extend the ministrations of an establishment by which, pre-eminently, "the gospel is preached to the poor."

September 1833.