

PARISH OF MINTO.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. DAVID AITKEN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—IN old charters, the name of this parish is written Mynthow, Myntow, Mintov, from which in more modern times it passed into Mynto and Minto. Different etymologies have been proposed, but all of them seem to be conjectural. Referring to the situation of the old village on the brink of a steep bank, or to the locality of the mansion-house on the opposite side of the glen, where an angular point is formed by the junction of two rivulets, it has been supposed that the origin of the name might be found in the British Mintau, denoting the brink or edge which extends out, Minto the exterior brink or border, and Mintua towards the brink. Ancient names, however, when borrowed from the natural features of the country, are generally derived from the most striking objects, and it is accordingly more probable, that the bold and

commanding eminence of Minto Craigs gave a designation to the parish. Agreeably to this view, as *Meym* is said to be the Cambro-British, and *Meen* the Scoto-Irish word for a kid, the Celtic etymologists have concluded the name to signify kid's hill, the more readily, it has been thought, from considering that kids delight in craggy heights; unfortunately, however, for this explanation, nothing has been found in these languages resembling *to* or *tow*, which bears the signification of a hill or craig. Another attempt has been made to derive the name from the British *Mynta*, which means an aggregate, or *Myntai*, what is aggregated, both of these words being applicable to an assemblage of rocks, which certainly present the appearance of being piled or heaped together. In the Welsh dictionaries, *Mynydh* is translated *mons*, and in Cornish *Mynnen* signifies the Alps, so that the name may be connected with the ancient British dialects, in which the etymologies of leading objects, such as hills and rivers, are generally to be found; but, at the same time, showing the room there is for conjecture, a derivation might also be obtained in the Saxon language, it being well known that the names of several places which end in *ov* or *ow*, such as *Grenehov*, *Stanehowe*, *Kalchov*, (*Kelso*), are formed from *hov*, the origin of the Scotch *heugh*, and of the old English *how*, a hill, and which in the lexicons is rendered *mons prærupta*,—a term peculiarly appropriate to the locality referred to. It must be allowed, that the first syllable cannot be so satisfactorily accounted for, though room for conjecture might be afforded by the Saxon *Mynta*, *Mint*, or *Mintan* translated *statuere*, *disponere*.

Extent, Boundaries.—The parish of Minto was formerly confined to the barony; it now comprehends a considerable part of the suppressed parish of Hassendean, and extends about $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 miles in length, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, and may contain about $8\frac{1}{2}$ of square miles. It presents somewhat of an oblong figure, and is bounded on the west by the parish of Wilton; on the north by Lilliesleaf; on the east by Ancrum; and on the south by Cavers, which in some places stretches across the Teviot, so that the river is only partially the boundary. A stripe of haugh along the southern extremity forms the only level ground. The surface in other places rises in frequent undulations, with a blunt outline presenting considerable variety. But the general appearance of the country is chiefly diversified by two green hills, the highest of which reaches an elevation of 877 feet,* and to the east of them by the Minto Craigs, a

* The heights in this neighbourhood are usually very inaccurately stated, and made to exceed the truth, from the calculations being based on a defective survey by

congeries of trap rocks, mostly covered with wood, which, with a bold eminence, 721 feet in height above the level of the sea, overhang the valley of the Teviot. These heights form a ridge running lengthways east and west through the greater part of the parish. To the south of them, the ground slopes to the river, and is farther diversified by some small glens or deans, watered by rivulets. Here, as in a great part of the south of Scotland, much of the most interesting scenery is concealed in these sequestered dells. Two may be mentioned as possessing much beauty, considering their scale and extent. The one, near the western boundary, is partly clothed with native brushwood and trees, receding into open glades; the rock in other places is exposed in projecting ledges, at the foot of which a clear stream finds its way, containing, even in the heats of summer, some deep pools; and having almost an appearance of grandeur, when flooded in winter. This picturesque spot was scarcely accessible, and comparatively little known, till of late, when, under the direction of the present proprietor of Teviot Bank, it has been laid open by judiciously formed paths. The other glen is narrow, and has more the character of a ravine. The upper part, by means of a head thrown across it, is formed into a piece of artificial water, which winds under the steep and smooth bank, on the edge of which Minto House is situated, and has its margin inclosed by tall evergreens, yews, weeping-willows, and several magnificent trees. The water, as it escapes, forms a considerable cascade, and below this the dean assumes its natural character, though still sufficiently intermixed with exotic shrubs, and maintaining enough of a dressed appearance to suit the neighbourhood of a large residence. From the sheltered nature of the situation, the trees thrive vigorously, and some of them have reached an uncommon size; among these, may be mentioned that most graceful of tall evergreens, the hemlock spruce, the common spruce, silver-fir, several varieties of maple, and some larches, among the finest which are to be found in Scotland. Emerging from this closely wooded defile, a path leads at a little distance to Minto Craigs, the most conspicuous and interesting object in this district. The lower part of the steep is strewn with large masses of rock, dislodged from the precipice above, which, with its irregular surface, covered with a greyish lichen, in some

Mr Kinghorn. The following levels are given as approaching nearer to correctness: Bed of the Teviot at Spitalford above the sea, 197 feet; Minto House, above Spitalford, 194 feet; Minto Craigs above do. 524; Minto Hill above do. 660; Ruberslaw above do. 1174 feet. In the above list, Ruberslaw was very accurately measured by the present Earl of Minto, 1st, by the spirit level, 2d, trigonometrically, and 3d, barometrically, the results by each method being precisely the same.

places projects, as if suspended in air, threatening to fall. Those fragments are rendered more picturesque from being partially overgrown with patches of ivy, and having their cavities filled with varieties of the fern, with foxglove, dianthus, and other flowering plants. With the characteristic form of the trap rocks, the crags rise into different points, presenting a succession of platforms, one of which tradition has long celebrated as Barnhill's bed, the retreat of a noted border outlaw of that name, mentioned in the "Lay of the Last Minstrel."* The ruin of an old tower or peel, which formerly belonged to the same person, crowns one of the heights, to which, and to the other eminences easy paths conduct, shaded by thriving trees. The view from the summit is highly diversified and beautiful. The windings of the "silver Teviot," through a pleasing vale, sometimes contracted and again expanding, can be traced above and below for many a mile, the prospect on the one hand being terminated by the fine outline of the Liddesdale hills, along with those on the confines of Dumfries-shire, and in the opposite direction by the smoother and more rounded forms of the Cheviots. Ruberslaw, the highest hill in this vicinity, rises immediately in front, with Denholm dean, celebrated by Leyden, on the right, and the narrow bed of the Rule on the left; while behind, to the north, are distinctly seen the Eildon-hills, the Black-hill, Cowden-Knowes, and more remotely Smailholm Tower, Hume Castle, and the low dark sky-line of the Lammermoors.

Meteorology.—The hills and trap rocks just described occasionally attract and detain the clouds which sweep along the vale of the Teviot, so that in summer thunder storms are rather frequent, and have been known to be severe. Probably from the same cause, heavy falls of rain have taken place, giving rise to local inundations. These would appear formerly to have been more common than they have been of late years. One took place in 1783, and another in 1789, by both of which the pond-head, a strong mass of building near Minto House, was carried down. But the most remarkable which is remembered, happened on the 9th of August 1806, when it rained in torrents nearly three hours, accompanied by incessant thunder and lightning. Formerly, ague was so common a complaint that few in any condition of life escaped it, but now it has entirely disappeared, owing to the draining and other improvements of the land. Typhus and scarlet fevers, though not frequent, occasionally visit us in autumn, and are most prevalent in

* "On Minto-crags the moon-beams glint,
Where Barnhill hewed his bed of flint."—*Lay of the Last Minstrel.*

low and close situations. In this neighbourhood there are a few fatuous persons; and this state, it may not be unworthy of remark, would appear to be connected with the lymphatic temperament.

Geology.—Though of small extent, this parish is not altogether without geological interest, from its occupying the position where, in the valley of the Teviot, the transition rocks first disappear, and are replaced by others of a subsequent formation. At the western boundary, there is still a continuation of that great deposit of greywacke which stretches downward from Dumfries-shire in an easterly direction, and in vertical or highly inclined strata. It skirts the whole of the north side of the parish, but on the south is seen terminating in the bed of the Teviot, the last indications of it being exactly opposite to Teviotbank House. It occurs in the form of greywacke slate, where the laminae are thin, soft, of a white and sometimes greenish hue, interspersed with small specks of mica; and likewise in beds a foot or two thick, of a bluish-gray colour, in which cases it has the appearance of a sandstone, and forms a good building material. In some places, it is extensively penetrated by veins of calcareous spar, and the mass itself has occasionally so much lime disseminated through it as to effervesce freely with an acid. In the bed of the Teviot, under Hassendean-burn House, and to the east of it, in the glen through which Hassendean-burn flows, sections are exposed of a coarse red conglomerate, alternating with thin beds of sandstone; and near the site of the old peel at Hassendean, these nearly horizontal strata may in two places be perceived overlying the vertical strata of greywacke. These rocks are also seen in contact in a hollow formed by the small rill which marks the western boundary of the parish; while another line of junction, less acted on by the weather, has been laid open to the north-east, near Standhill. This conglomerate consists of a red argillaceous basis, containing imbedded portions of quartz, red porphyry, agate, greywacke, and flinty slate, all more or less rounded by attrition. In size the fragments vary from one to several inches, the most abundant are of a quartzose nature, having frequently a reddish or brown colour, with a conchoidal fracture. This deposit would therefore seem not only to have succeeded the older transition rocks, but also to be composed of the materials these afforded, after they had undergone the action of water; the softer parts forming the cement in which the harder are imbedded along with some other foreign substances. That the

subsidence must have taken place under very different circumstances appears on examining the strata, in which some layers consist of comparatively small nodules, and pass gradually into a coarse sandstone, which would appear to have settled from a fluid in a state of rest, while in other instances the fragments are so large, and heaped together in such disorder, as to indicate currents of considerable force. And that, further, there were successive periods at which the water was alternately at rest and in motion, may be likewise inferred from the beds of sandstone and conglomerate being piled several times one above the other. That in this fluid also, there must have been diffused a great quantity of iron in the state of an oxide or peroxide, from whatever source it may have been obtained, is evident from the deep red colour of all these lower deposits. In following the strata upwards, however, we find that the supply of iron must subsequently have varied, as beds of some thickness occur which are of a yellowish or even white colour, among which are still interposed other layers of red sandstone. With some local variations from the contiguity of the trap rocks, the inclination of these strata is very small; their general dip is towards the east or south-east, at an angle of three or four degrees. The light coloured stone has occasionally a greenish tinge on the outer surface of the beds; in these cases, it also contains small scales of mica, and specks of iron are sometimes found scattered through the mass, which give it, when weathered, a dotted rusty appearance. Neither the red nor white varieties effervesce with an acid, but veins of carbonate of lime are found on the exterior of the layers. It has not yet been ascertained that fossil remains occur in any of these rocks. The accounts sometimes given by the workmen, refer, there is little doubt, to those dendritic appearances which are formed by the exposure of particles of iron, and are merely superficial.

Rising through these sedimentary rocks, or forming a nucleus, on the sides of which they rest, there are two unstratified masses of igneous origin, but which have assumed their present state under different circumstances. The one, divided in the middle, forms the green hills of Minto, which have a smooth round outline, and are covered with grass to their summits, though in several places, on a level with the turf, the rock is exposed. It consists of a greyish-coloured basis, in which are mixed different fragments, some of them like small grains, others as large as a nut; several are four or five inches in size, and a few as many feet.

The larger imbedded portions are hard; and among them are found hornstone, lydian-stone, and nodules, which have the look and texture of greywacke, but so altered as to have become silicious. This variety of rock is called trap-tufa, from its resemblance to the tufaceous beds found in the neighbourhood of volcanoes; and there can be little doubt its origin is similar, and that the heated mass, as it was raised, was of such a temperature as to carry along with it portions of foreign matter, only partially changing them. It is accordingly a mechanical compound, like the conglomerate already described,—with this difference, that the basis of the latter is aqueous, and of the other igneous. It is, however, at the same time to be remarked, that, from their generally rounded shape, the fragments would appear to have been water-worn before they were incorporated in the fiery matters to which they owe their vitreous lustre and consistency. Might not this, perhaps, assign to the elevation of the tufa,—a date posterior to the accumulation of the rolled fragments which compose the conglomerate beds; or, may not these, altered by heat, form the tufa?

About a mile distant to the south-east, there is another mass of trap, forming Minto Craigs, but which having been projected at a higher temperature, and crystallized in cooling, has assumed that state to which the name of greenstone is given. It rises in several peaked eminences, the bolder and more exposed fronts of which are turned towards the south. It is rather finely granular, and in some places exhibits an imperfect columnar structure. In consequence of this, it has been separated by the action of the weather, forming those irregular fragments with which, in the course of ages, the southern slope of the height has been strewed.

There are also, in different parts of the parish, newer deposits of an alluvial nature, which may be here mentioned. Gravel is found to the depth of many feet, chiefly composed of fragments, derived from the greywacke rocks, and thereby shewing that the currents by which they had accumulated had set in from the west, the direction in which those strata are found. There is also throughout the district, and covering the sandstone, so as greatly to interfere with its being quarried, a deposit of reddish clay, known by the local name of *dent*. In some places, it has a depth of 40 and 50 feet, is penetrated extensively by calcareous veins, and arranged in layers, having the appearance of an argillaceous sandstone, loosely integrated. It is of recent origin, and might

deserve examination, to determine whether it contains any, and what organic remains. In some of the hollows, marl has accumulated, and may still be observed going on by percolation from the soil. The origin of the lime, at least in part, is to be referred to the greywacke rocks, in the neighbourhood of which it is that the deposits take place. From the description given of the rocks, the nature of the soil may be readily inferred:—that which rests on the greywacke is a stiff white till; while from the argillaceous nature of the sandstone, and the covering of *dent*, the land in other places is also clayey and retentive of moisture, except in the alluvial tract near the river, and where the deposits of gravel are found, and likewise near to the greenstone rocks, which by their decomposition form a black and rich mould.

Having described the nature and relative position of these rocks, a few remarks are added respecting the theory of their age. The greywacke deposits, underlying the unconformable strata of the sandstone, are obviously older than the latter; and it has been supposed that, being sedimentary rocks, now greatly inclined from some force acting since their deposition, they may have been previous also to the igneous rocks, and received from the elevation of these their present position. A cause, however, less of a limited and local nature, must be sought for the distortion so characteristic of these transition strata; and a newer era, assigned to several at least of the trap irruptions, which in some cases seem to have happened after the subsidence of the sandstone which they have hardened. Thus, for example, a few years ago a quarry was opened at the foot of the Minto hills, which, after a short attempt, was abandoned in consequence of the hardness of the freestone, which broke the tools of the workmen. In opening also a footpath on the west corner of the crags, the strata of sandstone were found cropping out,—here likewise so hard and crystalline as to give out sparks when struck with a hammer. The dislocations and slips in the quarry from which Minto-House was built, might be viewed as disturbances produced by the action of fire. Still, notwithstanding these facts, and although they should prove that some of the irruptions are newer, on taking a general view of the sandstone strata in the neighbourhood, and their position relatively to the trap rocks, which are rather abundant, it is difficult to resist the notion that these sedimentary deposits are the most recent. And the view which, to the writer of this account, as yet seems best to explain the actual appearances, is to consider the

trap rocks, as already existing, as peaks and irregular masses in the collection of waters from which the sandstone subsided, and at the time of their subsidence to suppose this sea moved by submarine currents, so as to cause the chief deposit of sand to take place on the east side of those elevated summits, where, accordingly, it is now found, forming a long ridge, sloping off as it recedes. Agreeably to this supposition, on the south side of the Teviot, the sandstone is most abundant to the east of the trap hills of Ruberslaw, the Dunion, and Lanton, inclining gradually from them. While on the north side also, it is to the east of the Minto hills, Craigs, and Standhill, that the strata occur in greatest quantity with the same appearance and inclination; and still farther down the country, this also takes place at Peniel-heugh. But whether we suppose the current to have existed while the stratified rocks were only settling, or subsequent to their assuming a solid form, it is necessary farther to admit the agency of water at a much more recent period, rushing in the same direction, from the great quantity of boulders of greenstone scattered over the surface of the ground, and uniformly to the east of those places where the rock is found *in situ*.

It is a question of much difficulty to what member of the series these sandstones belong.—So far as is known, no fossil remains have hitherto been observed to aid in the determination, and, though occupying the place of the old red sandstone when it occurs, yet, judging from the grain of the rock, the small inclination of the beds, nowhere exceeding an angle of 8° or 9° , the circumstance also of the upper strata being usually white, and the lower red, along with their apparent connection with those which are so extensively developed in Berwickshire,* and there observed overlapping the coal measures, it may be held in the meantime as the most probable view, that they belong to the new red sandstone formation, the *gris rouge*, and *roth-todte-liegende* of continental geologists.

Zoology.—Few of the animals can be considered as rare. The *Caprimulgus Europæus*, however, which has of late once or twice been shot, is not common in this part of the country. The kingfisher is occasionally to be seen on the banks of the smaller rivulets, and in the same haunts the water-rail and solitary snipe are met.

* See the Geological Survey of Berwickshire, by David Milne, Esq. Advocate, in the 11th Number of the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture.

The following * list contains the more remarkable insects which have been found,—

Odontonyx rotundatus	Anthobium melanocephalum
Omaseus orinomum	Acidota crenata
Steropus Æthiops	Vespa Britannica
Abax striola	Mancipium Cardamines
Bembidium flavipes	Melitæa Euphrosyne
Elmis Volkmar	Vanessa Urticæ
—— parallelipipidus	—— Atalanta
—— æneus	—— Io (rare)
Enicocerus viridi-æneus	Cynthia cardui
Hydræna testacea (Curtis, British Entomology)	Hipparchia Blandina
Antherophagus glaber	—— Hyperanthus
Ips quadripustulata	—— Pamphilus
Atopa cervina	Lycæna Phleas
Laupyrus noctiluca, said to have been once observed.	Molobrus Thomæ
Hylobius Abietis	Dioctris rufipes
Rhagium indigator	Perphyrops diaphanus
Galeruca Tanacetii	Chrysops cæcutiens
Chrysomela Hyperici	Sargus Reaumuri
Meloe proscarabæus	Xylota sylvarum
Bryaxis impressa	Conops flavipes
	Tephritis Zoe
	Sepsis cylindrica.

The following plants, found in the alluvial ground, are by no means generally distributed, and some of them have not hitherto been observed in any of the adjoining districts: *Euphorbia Esula*, *Saponaria officinalis*, *Cichorium Intybus*, *Glaucium luteum*, *Oenothera biennis*. The two latter are of rare occurrence, and the last, although admitted into the British Flora, is not strictly indigenous. In the wooded portions of the parish, the following are the rarer phenogamous species that occur.—*Spiræa salicifolia*, *Pyrola minor*, *Circeæ lutetiana*, *Campanula latifolia*, and *C. rapunculoides*, *Euonymus Europæus*, *Viburnum Opulus*, *Allium ursinum*, *Betonica officinalis*, *Malva moschata*, *Epipactis latifolia*. On the borders of fields, the somewhat local species *Fedia dentata*, *Silvaus pratensis*, *Scabiosa columbaria*, and *Sanguisorba officinalis*, are at times met with, together with *Gentiana campestris*, *Agrimonia Eupatorium*, *Gnaphalium sylvaticum*. The species that follow, some of which are rare in the south of Scotland, occur among the trap-rocks of Minto craigs.

<i>Avena pratensis</i>	<i>Trifollum arvense</i>
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	<i>Senecio sylvaticus</i>
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	<i>Asplenium Trichomanes</i>
<i>Sedum reflexum</i>	—— septentrionale (in great abundance)
<i>Lychnis viscaria</i>	—— <i>Adiantum-nigrum</i>
<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	<i>Polypodium Phegopteris</i>
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	

* For the list of insects, and of the rarer plants, the writer is indebted to Mr James Duncan, a native of Roxburghshire, and author of a Catalogue of Coleopterous Insects, printed in the Wernerian Memoirs, and of the volumes on Entomology in the Naturalist's Library.

Of the numerous cryptogamous productions the following may be specified :

Equisetum sylvaticum	Agaricus integer
Jungermannia asplenoides	----- floccosus
----- furcata	Helvella leucophæa
----- bidentata	Phallus impudicus
Merulius cantharellus	Sphærobolus stellatus
Agaricus subdulcis	Peziza scutellata and lentifera
----- piperatus	Stemonites fasciculata
----- procerus	Phacidium coronatum
----- deliciosus (plentiful in some seasons)	Physarum aureum

The beautiful *Peziza coccinea* has been once observed in the neighbourhood of Minto House.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Barony of Minto.—The earliest notices of the Barony of Minto occur in the fourteenth century, at which time it was in the possession of a family belonging to the ancient and powerful clan of the Turnbells. Some smaller pendicles, however, would appear to have been held by other proprietors, for there is a* charter of Robert I. granting part of the mill lands to one Gulielmus Barbitonsor ;† and another grant in the twelfth year of Robert III. to Laurencius de Govane and his heirs, on the feudal tenure of their yearly presenting to the King a bow and twelve arrows, at the chapel of the assumption of the Virgin Mary, in Etrick Forest.‡ The lands of the barony were, in 1390, granted by John Turnbull to Sir William Stewart of Jedworth, and confirmed by a charter of Robert III., signed the same year at Minto, in the presence of Walter and Matthew, Bishops of St Andrews and Glasgow. In the following year, another charter confirmed to the same person the lands and tenements of the town and territory of Minto, along with the advowson of the church freely disposed to him by John de Abernethy. This Sir William Stewart is considered to be a descendant of Sir Allan Stewart of Dreghorn, killed at the battle of Hallidon Hill in 1333, and to have borne the title both of Jedworth and Castlemilk. He is described in the charter confirming the grant

* The authorities for these facts are chiefly the *Rotuli Scotiæ*, *Ayscoff's Catalogue*, and in one or two instances *Rymer's Foedera*.

† It is just possible that this may have been a relative of John Barbour, the poet, who was a contemporary, as it has been conjectured his father might be the John Barbour to whom Robert I. ordered the payment of a sum of money to be made by Sir Alexander Seaton, Governor of Berwick. All research has hitherto failed to ascertain the poet's birth-place; perhaps the mention of these names at the same period of time in connexion with the south of Scotland, might, in the absence of better data, be held as favouring the supposition that he was sprung from a border family.

‡ In *Rymer's Foedera*, vol. vii. p. 273, A. D. 1390, mention is made of the barony of Minto as consisting of two parts. "Item le deux parties de Baronie de Myntehous, oue l'advowson de l'eglise q'estoit à Johan Turnebole."

of the lands by Turnbull as his nephew, and they would appear to have been faithful companions in the daring adventures of those troubled times, for in the year 1400 they made a fierce irruption together into England, in the account of which Turnbull is styled "*Out with the Sword*,"—a surname expressive of his heady and war-like temper. Still long after the grant just referred to, notice repeatedly occurs both of the Stewarts and Turnbuls of Minto,—a circumstance which is, however, satisfactorily explained in the following curious extract from the "*Genealogy of the Stewarts refuted* :—"

"In the charter chest of Lord Minto is a notarial instrument, dated April 23, 1429, purporting that, on that day at Minto, it was attempted, by virtue of a precept of seisin, to invest Sir William Stewart of Dalswintoun in the lands of Minto, and that those proceedings were interrupted by Walter Turnbull, who declared the hereditary seisin then granted to Sir William Stewart null and void, as he himself was the true heir and legal baron of Minto.—From another notarial instrument in the same charter-chest, dated 1425, we learn that Walter Turnbull had prepared himself for this event a few years before. An inquiry at his instance had been instituted relative to John Turnbull, his father, who had made the grant of Minto in 1390. A jury, nominated for the occasion, declared that he laboured under the effects of a leprosy at the time when the deed was executed,—a circumstance which, according to the laws of Scotland, as they then stood, rendered the proceedings void. The inquest into the validity of the charter of the lands of Minto seems to have been in consequence of an account received in Scotland of the fall of Walter's father, Sir John Turnbull, at the battle of Cravant, in 1423. After much dissension between the claimants, it appears that, by a brief of perambulation by King James II. addressed to Sir Archibald Douglas of Cavers, Sheriff of Teviotdale, that officer made a partition of the estate of Minto between Sir William Stewart and Walter Turnbull, in certain proportions; according to which the posterity of both continued to hold them."*

Family of Minto.—After † long remaining in the possession of

* The *Genealogy of the Stewarts refuted*, pp. 46, 47.

† In the *Criminal Trials*, there is an entry, October 18, 1526, with respect to Robert Stewart of Mynto, for his being with unquhile John Earl of Lennox in the field of Linlithgow; and from Lesley's *History of Scotland*, we learn that, seventeen years afterwards, in the battle of Glasgow Moor, fought 1543, the "*Laird of Minto, who was on the part of Lennox and Provost of Glasgow, was evil hurt.*" Upwards

these families, the estate of Minto was purchased by Walter Riddell, second son of Walter Riddell of New-house, and by his daughters, who were coheireses, it was sold, previously to the Union, to Sir Gilbert Elliot, ancestor of the present family of Minto. This eminent person, born in 1651, was a younger son of Gawen Elliot of Midlem Mill, who was the fourth son of Gilbert Elliot of Stobs, commonly called "Gibbie with the gowden garters," by Margaret daughter of Walter Scott, of Harden, better known by the sobriquet of "Maggy Fendy." Being the second son of a younger branch, Gilbert was destined to the profession of the law; but in that stirring period of history, he appears also to have taken an active interest in political affairs, as, on the 16th July 1685, he was found guilty of treason, and forfeited for being in arms with * Argyle,—the process describing him as a writer in Edinburgh. He seems, however, to have been soon pardoned by the King, for in little more than two years afterwards, he applied to be admitted an advocate, when his examiners, it is said, "stumbled to meet with him, till he first showed his remission lest it might infer converse against them." He was one of the deputation of Scotch gentlemen who waited on King William in Holland, to concert measures for his coming over to England, so that at the Revolution, from the prominent part he had taken, the act of forfeiture was rescinded, and

of sixty years thereafter, in a letter of the privy-council to the King, as to the deadly feud between the Earls of Eglinton and Lord Sempil, this sentence occurs: "August 27, 1606, We had likewise in hand the process of Glasgow, wherein we have found very great insolence and riot committed by Mynto and a number of the commons of the town, and have committed the persons guilty to ward within the burgh of Linlithgow, till your Majesty's pleasure be known." Several scattered notices of the Turnbulls likewise occur. There is a remission, dated 5th April 1499, to William Turnbull of Minto, and Archibald Turnbull, son to umquhile John Turnbull, for the slaughter of umquhile John of Rutherford, and for their treasonable passing and remaining in England." Only three years afterwards, however, in 1502, the Turnbulls of Minto were again engaged in several acts of violence, destroying the place of Barnhills, and burning twenty-six bolls of bear, and forty bolls of oats, pertaining to George Rutherford of Langnewton, in his place of Sandystanes, so that, on account of these outrages, we find, in 1506, William Turnbull of Minto, along with Mark, Edward, and Walter Turnbull, his accomplices, set forth as "rebels, and at the horn." The same lawless habits still continued a century later, for Thomas Turnbull, apparand of Mynto, was concerned in the slaughter of Thomas Ker of Crailing and his servant, which took place on the 14th September 1601. There was, indeed, at this time, as we learn from a contemporary document, "a deadly feud standing betwixt the haile name Trumbill in the ane part, and the laird of Pharnihirst, the haile Kers, and the haile inhabitants of the towne of Jedburgh on the other."

* Fountainhall, in his Notices of the Transactions of 1685, says, "As to the stock with which Argyle furnished his ships and arms, Rumbold said that he thought it did not exceed £. 12,000 Sterling; how he got it, some said ane English widow in Amsterdam, called Mistress Smith, advanced him considerably; others say that Polwart, Terwoodly, and Mr Gilbert Elliot went to Geneva, and to the Protestant churches of Germany, begging supply to the poor afflicted Protestants of Brittain." —Historical Observations, i. p. 191.

he was appointed clerk to the privy-council, which office he held in 1692. He was subsequently created a Baronet in 1700, and received from King William a charter of the lands of Headshaw and Dryden, which was ratified by Queen Anne in 1705, though mention is also made of an earlier charter of these lands, dated 1696. On the 28th June 1705, he took his seat in the Court of Session by the title of Lord Minto, and, as it appears, he became also a Lord of Justiciary. A portrait of him is still preserved in Minto House, painted about three years before his death, which took place probably in 1718, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. The preceding account, though minute, may have some general interest, not only from his being the founder of a family which has risen to distinction, but from the part he filled in an eventful period of national history, and the high character he maintained for talent and integrity. He is mentioned by Wodrow in his history, in these very honourable terms: "Mr Elliot, since Lord Minto, is lately dead, and filled one room in the Bench of Justiciary, where an unjust sentence was given forth against him, as well as a place in the College of Justice he so well deserved, by his unshaken probity and boldness against all unrighteousness and vice." The following amusing anecdote is taken from Dr M'Crie's *Memoirs of Mr William Veitch*: "When Lord Minto visited Dumfries, of which Mr Veitch was minister, after the Revolution, he always spent some time with his old friend, when their conversation often turned on the perils of their former life. On these occasions his Lordship was accustomed facetiously to say, 'Ah! Willie, Willie, had it no been for me, the pyets had been pyking your pate on the Nether Bow port;' to which Veitch replied, 'Ah! Gibbie, Gibbie, had it no been for me ye would ha'e been yet writing papers for a plack the page.'"

The second Sir Gilbert was born in 1693 or 1694, became a Lord of Session on the 21st June 1726,* a Lord of Justiciary 20th August 1733, and was afterwards appointed Justice-Clerk. He likewise sat in Parliament in 1725, concurring in his politics with John Duke of Argyle, whose confidence he enjoyed, and whom he assisted in the management of Scottish affairs. It was in his time that the grounds at Minto began to be laid out and improved. A pond head was thrown across the glen in 1735, and considerable alterations and additions made to the house in 1744-45. Before

* It is said that in this year, 1726, the German flute was first brought into Scotland by Sir Gilbert Elliot, who, to his other accomplishments, added a taste for music.

this, the only trees near the house consisted of an avenue of old ash, one or two of which are still standing; and the village then stretched along the opposite bank in a straggling line, with the church and manse nearly in the midst of it. The greater part of these houses was removed to Minto Green, the site of the present village, the banks of the pond planted, and on one side a row of larches was placed most probably in 1736, being among the first that were introduced into Scotland. There is a tradition, that the seed was sent in a frank by John Duke of Argyle, sown in flower-pots, and kept in the hot-house till, by the advice of the Sardinian Ambassador, who chanced to be on a visit, the plants were removed to their present situation, where several of them have now attained a height of 100 feet.* On the opposite bank, there is a shady avenue of beech of the same date, when the dwelling-house was also farther improved, and a library† formed, such as at that time was rarely to be met with in Scotland. From this his family seem greatly to have profited, as they were distinguished by their acquirements. One of them, Miss Jane Elliot, who died in 1805, is still affectionately remembered from her talents and delightful conversation, but has acquired a more extensive and lasting celebrity as the authoress of the "Flowers of the Forest," of which no less an authority than the late Sir Walter Scott has said, that "it is expressed in a strain of elegiac simplicity and tenderness which has seldom been equalled, and imitates the manner of the ancient minstrels so happily, that it required the most positive evidence to convince me that the song was of modern date." This lady appears to have been no less remarkable for strength of character than accomplishment, for at the time of the Rebellion in 1745-46, her father being forced to conceal himself from a party of Jacobites among the craigs, then only covered with broom and long grass, she received and entertained the officers, and, by her presence of mind and composure, averted the danger. The Justice-Clerk died suddenly at Minto in 1766, and was succeeded by his son, the third Sir Gilbert, who seems to have been also intended for the profession of his father and grandfather, as he passed his civil law trials in 1743; but, having early associated with the public men of his day in London, he engaged actively in political life, was returned Member of Parliament, first for the county of Sel-

* For the measurement of these and other remarkable trees, see p. 375.

† The library has subsequently received many valuable additions, and may be computed as now containing 12,000 volumes.

kirk in 1754, afterwards for Roxburghshire in 1765, and became also Treasurer of the Navy. He died in 1777, of a pulmonary complaint, at Marseilles. He possessed an amiable and highly cultivated mind, and, in the midst of his other pursuits, found leisure for those of literature, favourable evidence of which is preserved in the beautiful pastoral song,—“My sheep I neglected, I broke my sheep-hook,” published in the notes to the Lay of the Last Minstrel, and in the draught of a letter to David Hume, the metaphysician, printed along with the first Dissertation to the new Encyclopædia Britannica by Dugald Stewart, and by that competent judge, held to be remarkable for “sound philosophy and purity of English style.” The fourth Sir Gilbert, father of the present Earl, was distinguished by eminent talents for public business, as is shewn in the number of high offices to which he was successively called. In 1793, he was appointed Governor of Toulon, Viceroy of Corsica in 1794, Minister Plenipotentiary at Vienna in 1799, President of the Board of Control in 1806, and Governor General of India in 1807. He was created Baron Minto, and admitted to the peerage in 1797, and raised to the rank of an Earl in 1812, with the additional title of Viscount Melgund; for his eminent services in the East, he also received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. He died soon after his return from India, on his way to Scotland in 1814, aged sixty-three years. Though much of his time was spent abroad, the improvements of the paternal estate were continued by Lady Minto, daughter of Sir George Amyand, whom he married a few weeks before his father’s death. Besides extensive additions to the plantations, the present House of Minto was built, being finished in 1814. The present Earl, born in 1782, and married 1806 to Miss Brydone, daughter of Patrick Brydone, Esq. author of the Tour in Sicily, and maternal grand-daughter of Principal Robertson, has also been actively employed in political life. He early represented his native county in Parliament, has since held the appointment of Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Berlin, and at present fills the office of First Lord of the Admiralty.

Hassendean—Though now, in a considerable part, incorporated with Minto, a brief notice may here be given separately of Hassendean. Sir Walter Scott, in a note to the Lay of the Last Minstrel, states that Hassendean is a corruption from Hazeldean; and Leyden, in the Scenes of Infancy, has adopted the latter spelling, but for this there is not the slightest authority, either in tra-

dition, or in the old records, where the name frequently occurs. It is written Halstaneadene, Halstenden, Halstansdene, and Hasteneden, from which, perhaps, it changed into Hassingden, and Hassendean, as softer to the ear. It may either signify the dean of the holy stone,—a supposition which is strengthened from its containing a place of religious worship from a remote period, or it may simply mean Halstein's, or Hastein's dean, these being common Scandinavian names, and the appellation might be taken from some person of distinction who resided there, or to whom it belonged. So far back as the twelfth century the lands of Hassendean were granted by David I. to Walter,* the son of Alan; and by a charter of Robert the Bruce, they were confirmed to Sir James de Conyngham, and held by a tenure of feudal and military service, with the payment of L. 11 Sterling, in two equal parts, at the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas. There is another charter dated 1409, confirming a grant by his kinsman, William de Conyngham to John Turnbull, son of Adam Turnbull of Whitehope of the lands of Hassendean-Bank. From Satchell we learn that David Scott, about 1446, was the first of that name designed of Hassendean, and was the eldest son of Sir William Scott of Kirkurd, who exchanged the lands of Murdiston for those of Branhholme. It is to this old branch of the Scotts that Satchell alludes in the lines,—

“ Hassendean came without a call,
The ancientest house of them all.”

We learn, however, from an entry in the Criminal Trials published by Pitcairn, that there was in 1493 a Walter Talzour Baro de Hassindene; for in that year he was permitted to compound for intercommuning with the English, the Laird of Buccleuch being his surety. A Sir Alexander Scott of Hassendean was killed at the battle of Flodden in 1513. Among the border barons who in 1530 neglected to fulfil their bonds, there was a William Scott of Hassendean, who is again mentioned in 1539, as having been robbed by Thomas Turnbull of Rawflat of some important legal documents; while, farther, in 1564, the Criminal Trials record the slaughter of a David Scott, laird at Hassendean, by William Elliot of Horsliehill. It does not seem to be ascertained at what period the male line of this family failed, though it may perhaps have been at the death of the said David Scott; but in the appendix to

* See Ayloff's Catalogue, and the Rotuli Scotie.

Satchell it is stated that the lands returned by purchase to the Scotts of Buccleuch, while the representation of the family devolved on William Scott of Burnhead and Crowhill, as lineal male descendant of the first John Scott of Burnhead, younger brother of David of Hassendean, and second son to Sir Walter Scott of Kirkurd. The lands comprised originally in the barony of Hassendean have long been separated; besides that still belonging to His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, a part forms the present estate of Teviotbank, another that of Hassendean-burn, while Hassendean-bank, a fourth portion, belonged to the Duke of Roxburghe, and was sold by him to Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto to redeem the land-tax.

Church at Minto and at Hassendean.—Of the church at Minto notice occurs in the fourteenth century; and a curious circumstance respecting it, not easy to be explained, is learned from a charter of Edward III. in 1374, that it at that time belonged to the diocese of Lincoln. When the lands of Hassendean were granted by David I., the church was separately given by him to the Bishop of Glasgow, and before the year 1181 the grant had been confirmed by two Popes, Alexander and Lucius. Shortly afterwards, in 1192, the well known Joceline, Bishop of Glasgow, who had been Abbot of Melrose, gave to the monks of that abbey the church lands and tithes of Hassendean, in pure and perpetual alms, or, as it is expressed, “ad susceptionem pauperum et peregrinorum ad domum de Melros venientium.” The cell built for this purpose was known by the name of the Monk’s Tower, and the land belonging to it, which adjoins the present dwelling-house of Hassendean-burn, is still called the Monk’s Croft. It was restricted by William the Lion to the pasturage of 200 ewes, 16 oxen, and 4 cows.* In 1560,† these religious establishments were abolished, but the church was still continued, and, along with its pertinents, granted to Walter Earl of Buccleuch. In 1576, we find a Thomas Newbye, reader at Hassendean, the whole vicarage being vacant by demission of Mr Thomas Westoun; and from the Criminal Trials we learn that, in 1590, this Newbye, along with

* In 1488, William Douglas, vicar of the kirk at Hassendean, was bound and obliged to “ane venerabil fader in God,” Bernard Abbot of Melrose, not to interfere with the claim of the abbot and convent, to the “erde silver of the quer of the said kirk of Hassendean,” on the ground of their long having been in peaceable possession of “browkyng and joying of the same.”—*Liber de Melros*. This “erde silver of the quer” was the money charged for burial in the choir.

† The “*Liber de Melros*” records the demission of the monastery of Melrose in favour of William, Earl of Morton, to whom was also conveyed the patronage of Hassendean, the deed, signed by James, Commendator of Melrose, bearing the date of 1608.

Thomas Ker in Old Roxburgh, and James Scot of South Synton-mill, was "delated for sustaining of the process of excommunication, and contravening of the acts of Parliament in baptising of bairns and making of marriages without any function." From the presbytery records it appears, that, for some time previous to 1666, attempts had been made to remove the church to Roberton; for of that date there is an entry of the report of a committee to the Archbishop of Glasgow, bearing, that "advantage had been taken of the pupilarity of the deceased Mary Duchess of Buccleuch, to whom the greater part of the parish belonged, and of the confusions under the late usurpation, to procure a warrant from the same usurpers for changing the seat of the said kirk at Hassendean, and building ane new kirk at Roberton, and that they did accordingly build the said new kirk at the west end of said parish." At length in 1690, the church was wholly suppressed, not, however, without so determined an opposition on the part of the parishioners as to make it necessary to call in the aid of the Sheriff of the county, an ancestor of the family of Cavers; and it is related that, on this occasion, an old woman threatened him with the judgment of Heaven on account of his sacrilegious work, denouncing the extinction of the male line of the family. It is to this tradition that Leyden alludes in the lines,

Then circles many a legendary tale
Of Douglas race foredoomed without a male,
To fade unblessed, since in the churchyard green,
Its Lord o'erthrew the spires of Hazeldean.—

From the site of the old building being exposed to the encroachments of the Teviot, it became gradually dilapidated, but the churchyard was still continued for burying up to 1796, when an unusually high flood tore open the graves, and made it necessary to remove the remains of the dead. The river has continued to alter its bed, till it appears, from measurements in the possession of the proprietor of Hassendean-burn, that the site of the old church, formerly on a projecting point on the north bank, is now marked by a sand bank on the opposite side, nearly in a line with the termination of a garden wall.

Antiquities.—In common with the greater part of the south of Scotland, this parish formerly contained several towers of strength or border 'peels, but these, with a fate which has been too frequent, have, for the most part, been removed. That of Horsley-hill has long disappeared, and only a fragment of one wall remains at Hassendean, forming the gable end of a cottage. The tower

at Minto occupied the situation of the present mansion-house, and is named in the list of those which were destroyed by the Earl of Hertford in 1545. The only vestige of any interest which has survived, is a ruin of small size, but considerable strength, placed on the summit of the Craigs, commonly called Fatlips Castle, but from what circumstance does not appear. It is figured in Grose's views in Scotland, and seems at that time to have had a part of the second story left, which is now wanting. It is supposed to have been a stronghold belonging to Turnbull of Barnhills, whose *bed*, or place of outlook, is on a projecting platform immediately beneath; and another tower, also assigned to that noted freebooter, is situated a little to the east, at the boundary between Minto and Ancrum parishes. The old church at Minto, taken down in 1831, was a very plain building, the greater part of which may have been erected since the Reformation; but one end, containing a pointed arch, was evidently more ancient, and some stones built into the walls, and, as it was very curious to observe, with their carved sides uniformly turned inwards, must have belonged to a structure, which, judging by these fragments, had been tastefully ornamented. On removing the foundation of one of the walls, at a few inches from the surface inside the building, and under two small stones placed on end and meeting at top, a collection of about 400 small silver coins was found, chiefly silver pennies, of Edward I. II. III., with one or two of the Scottish Kings Alexander and Robert.* But this place would appear formerly to have been the depository of more treasure than this; for, from the Criminal Trials before alluded to, we learn that, on the "21st November 1493, John Sinclare in Mynto, and 4 others came in the King's will for treasonably concealing and stouthreif of X^{xx} pas pennys pertaining to the King, found in the

* There is reason to believe that various objects of antiquarian interest are from time to time discovered in this district, many of which are afterwards either destroyed or thrown aside. Two that have recently come into the possession of the writer may be worthy of notice. The one is a silver hoop ring of massive dimensions, weighing six pennyweight ten grains; it is bevelled to fit the tapering of the finger, and had been gilt. It bears the following inscription, terminated by a cross, each letter being contained in a separate square compartment, IHSUS NA. This may signify Jesus of Nazareth, and most probably the ornament was worn by some priest or monk. The other is an ancient seal, in the form of a thin circular plate of copper, an inch and a half in diameter, on which is cut a rude representation of the Paschal Lamb, with the fore legs singularly crossed, surmounted by a banner. Round the margin is the legend *ADEN PASTORAL*. The most probable conjecture is, that this was the seal belonging to the individual who had the charge of the flocks of one of the great monastic institutions, inscribed with his name and office. Aden, or Alden, is a name frequently met with in old documents; an individual so called was "Senescaldus," or Steward at Melrose under the reign of William the Lion, in the twelfth century.

kirk of Mynto," the Laird of Bethroule and William Langlandes becoming their sureties. In a note, the learned editor, Mr Pitcairn, adds, that "these were likely to be ten score 'paces nobiles of paiss,'" English gold coins or nobles, which are frequently mentioned in our old acts of Parliament. Although found in the kirk of Minto, there is no reason to suppose they were "pace" or Easter offerings. There is no doubt that this "pace" was *treasure trove* accidentally turned up and concealed by Sinclare, and as such it belonged to the King, who, on the other hand, could have had no claim to pious Easter offerings made in grateful remembrance of the resurrection." Though no remnant of the old church at Hassendean is now left, some idea of its appearance may be formed from a view in Cardonnel's Etchings representing part of the walls and an arch, which the description says was the "eastern end of the choir, of Saxon architecture, and no inelegant design." The short and massive columns or piers are in the style usually, though not very properly, called Saxon; but the arch, which is rounded, has the Norman zig-zag ornament or chevron. The remains of some other buildings were turned up to the north of the burying-ground when the garden wall now standing was built. It is said that the wood, taken from the ruins of the church, and employed in joisting some out-houses, was found to be Spanish chestnut, which is alleged to be so extensively found in the old ecclesiastical buildings of Scotland, as to countenance the idea of its having been, at one time, generally grown in this country, and to a large size. There is reason, however, to suspect that in most of these cases the timber is that got from the *Quercus sessiliflora*, which in grain and texture bears so close a resemblance to the Spanish chestnut, that it requires a practised eye to distinguish them.

Modern Buildings.—The freestone of the neighbourhood affords a good material, both in colour and durability, and has been employed in several buildings recently erected, all of which show an increased attention to elegance of design. Minto House, from a plan of Archibald Elliot, Esq. architect, is a large and commodious structure, having an imposing effect, to which the situation greatly contributes. The House of Teviotbank has been lately built from a tasteful design, in the old English style, by William Burn, Esq. architect. The manse and church are also new, for which William Playfair, Esq. architect, furnished the drawings;—the first being a Tuscan villa, the latter a Gothic building,

—both of them in a style of art, of which, in Scotland, there are as yet but few examples in works of the same kind.

Heritors.—There are in the parish four heritors,—the Duke of Buccleuch; Earl of Minto; Archibald Dickson, Esq. of Hassendean-burn; William Scott, Esq. of Teviotbank; one non-resident, one constantly resident, and two occasionally so.

Parochial Register.—The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register, is 1703. During last century, entries were made with more regularity than has since been observed. No register is kept of deaths. Marriages, as ascertained from the proclamations, may be stated at 5 yearly.

III.—POPULATION.

The only village, Minto, according to the census of 1831, contains 108 inhabitants, the other parts of the parish, 373,—making together a population of 481; but in 1828, as ascertained by the writer, it amounted to 530. In 1831, the number of families was 95, with 85 inhabited houses.

The population is, of late, rather on the decrease, partly from the enlargement and junction of farms, and the giving up of the nurseries at Hassendean-burn, which, after having been established upwards of a century, have recently been removed to Hawick.

Character of the People.—The people generally are industrious and well-conditioned; individuals, from time to time, rising in their station of life, or enabling their children to do so, by giving them the benefit of a higher education. Chiefly from the improvements in this particular, the language within the last forty years has undergone a considerable change. It is not improbable, that, ere long, the ancient dialect of the district, which has several interesting peculiarities, may become, in a great measure, extinct.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of acres, standard imperial measure, cultivated or occasionally in pasture, may be computed at 3205; there are 1458 in pasture. Of this, little or none could with advantage be taken into cultivation, while some land, which was at one time ploughed, is now suffered to lie permanently in grass. The improved system of husbandry, and of the rotation of crops, is everywhere in use; bone dust has, of late years, been employed in the growing of turnips; and increasing attention is paid to the draining of the land, which, from the nature of the soil, is productive of the greatest benefit.

Live-Stock.—The short-horn cattle, and the Cheviot and Lei-

cester sheep, are the common breeds. The fences are well kept, and the farm-houses and offices in good repair.

Leases generally run from fifteen to nineteen years.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land may be estimated to be somewhere about 18s. or L. 1 an acre. L. 1, 15s. for an ox or cow, and 6s. for a ewe—are the average rates of grazing for the year.

Wages.—The common rate of country labour for men is 1s. 8d. per day in summer; in winter 1s. 6d. A good deal of farm-work is done by women, who receive from 8d. to 10d. a day, according to the season. Hinds and ploughmen's wages are paid partly in meal, and partly in money. They have also, in general, a spot of ground for growing vegetables; a cow kept for them by their employer, who plants for their use a certain space in the field with potatoes, and drives a fixed quantity of coals. Cottages are sometimes let to labourers, on the condition of their working in harvest, and the hinds are bound to supply workers in the field when wanted, who are called *bondagers*. Men employed in cutting hay have better wages, than when at other day labour. They have been paid, of late years, from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per day. Harvest wages for men, besides victuals and lodging, run from 12s. to 13s. per week, and women's from 11s. to 12s. The rate of payment of masons and carpenters is from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day. Smiths occasionally do work by contract, that is to say, keep a pair of horses in shoes, and a plough in good repair, for a fixed sum per annum.

Fuel.—From the distance of coal, fuel is an expensive article; L. 1 per ton may be given as the price of coals, and 4s. 6d. per cart of wood, which is a good deal used.

The total rental of the parish may amount somewhere to about L. 3220 per annum.

Produce.—The following may be given as an estimate of the average gross amount of raw produce.

<i>Produce of grain of all kinds,</i>	L. 6014	0	0
of potatoes, turnips, &c.	1560	0	0
of hay,	290	0	0
of land in pasture, rated at L. 1, 15s. per cow or full-grown ox, and at 6s. per ewe or full grown sheep,	1325	0	0
of gardens and orchards,	100	0	0
of thinning and felling wood,	400	0	0
Total value of raw produce,	L. 9689	0	0

Wood.—There are above 786 acres in wood, all of it planted; the trees chiefly grown being oak, ask, elm, spruce, larch, with a few beeches and poplars; of these the oak among the hard-wood seems the best adapted to the soil, making straight and clean shoots,

and attaining a considerable size and age. The management of the plantations is well attended to, more care being bestowed on pruning and thinning than is common in some other parts of the country. Scarcely any of the trees seem to be older than the date of the union, and planting to any extent does not go farther back than the middle of last century. The size of some of the older trees, however, is such as to deserve notice. A silver fir, in the glen below Minto House, has a bole of about 40 feet in length; its girth at $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground is 10 feet 4 inches; 20 feet from the ground, 7 feet 9 inches; and at 40 feet 7 feet. An ash near the house, at 2 feet from the ground, is 14 feet in girth; at 10 feet from the ground, 13 feet; and where it divides into 2 limbs, each of them is 9 feet in circumference. Another ash in the policy measures 100 feet in height; its girth at $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the surface of the ground is 15 feet, and at 18 feet from the ground $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet. An oak tree was found, at 3 feet from the ground, to be 11 feet in girth, and at 9 feet to be 9 feet. There is a well-grown poplar 90 feet high, with a bole 50 feet long, of which the mean girth is 6 feet. Several beeches have attained a good size. They would seem to have been the first trees planted near mansion-houses in Scotland, and frequently in avenues; they commonly branch out a short way from the ground, but are otherwise of considerable dimensions. One measures 14 feet round, at 3 feet from the surface. The most remarkable trees, however, in this place are some larches, planted on the top and sides of the glen below Minto House, and, it may be remarked, over the sandstone rock, which in this instance has had none of the hurtful effects, ascribed to it by some writers, to wood of this species. One of the finest and most characteristic in its appearance, close to the pond side, is 80 feet high, and at 3 feet from the ground measures 11 feet in girth; at 20 feet from the ground 8 feet; and at 40 feet, where it parts into two tops of considerable dimensions, 7 feet in circumference. Though of less bulk on the whole, a number are taller, reaching 100 feet in height and upwards; at 25 feet from the ground, they average 6 feet in girth, and have a clean and straight bole, varying from 40 to 60 feet long. The noble and picturesque character of the oldest of these trees cannot be judged of by those who have only seen the larch as a thin sapling, drawn up in a crowded and choked plantation, or stunted in some bleak hedgerow, and bending from the wind. When in a favourable situation, and properly treated, it is not less noble and ornamental, than it is valuable from the useful and durable

qualities of the timber. When suffered to assume its natural form, which takes place here, it flings out bold and vigorous side branches, starting off from the main stem, and then bending upwards with a free and stately sweep, while the slender spray hangs in long lines, yielding to the breeze, with its bright lively green, in early spring beautifully contrasted with the rich brown of the bark, which is sometimes varied by a white and yellowish lichen, and is cut into rough and deep furrows. An account of the planting of these trees has been already given; there are good grounds to believe that they are at present one hundred years old.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The parish roads extend to nearly fourteen miles, and have, of late years, been much improved in keeping; the outlay has generally been from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2 Sterling on each L. 100 Scots, which, as the valuation of the parish is L. 5163, 4s. Scots, allows an annual assessment of from L. 80 to L. 100 Sterling.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church, which is the only one, and is attended by the great bulk of the population, affords accommodation for 350 persons, exclusive of a private gallery belonging to the Earl of Minto. The average number of communicants is 160.

Poor.—For the last twenty years and upwards, there has been very little difference either in the number of persons receiving parochial aid, or the allowance made to them. The average of persons may be stated at 8, and the sum allocated to each L. 7. They have, of late, been chiefly aged persons, and non-resident. The church collections for the poor, together with the interest arising from a mortification of L. 50, amount to L. 10, 10s. 10d. yearly.

Education.—Sewing is taught by a female, who also gives some elementary instruction to the younger children; besides this, there is only the parish school, which last year was attended by 112 scholars. The branches taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, geography, Latin, and French. The teacher has the maximum salary, with the interest of a mortification of L. 100. He acts as clerk to the heritors and kirk-session.

There are neither ale-houses nor tolls in the parish, nor, for some time past, has there been any resident pauper on the poor's roll.

October 1838.