

PARISH OF EDNAM.

PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JOSEPH THOMSON, MINISTER.

L—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, and Extent.—EDNAM, contracted from Edenham, signifies a hamlet on the river Eden, and is descriptive of the situation of the village. In its form this parish approaches to a square; its greatest length being $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and its greatest breadth 3 miles. It comprehends nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. Ednam is bounded on the north by Eccles; on the west, by Stichel, part of Nenthorn, and Kelso; on the south, by Kelso and Sprouston; and on the east, by Eccles and Sprouston, from which last mentioned parish it is separated by the river Tweed.

Topographical Appearances.—Ednam hill, the only one in the parish, shelters the village on the east. It rises to no great height, being arable to the top, but commands a very extensive view of the surrounding country. The scenery in this parish, though not marked by any very striking feature, is highly pleasing. The vale of the Eden is extremely beautiful, and on each side of it is a gently undulating surface, ornamented with trees in clumps and in hedge-rows, and covered with the fruits of a rich and cultivated soil.

Climate.—No distempers prevail, which can be traced to local causes; and the general state of health in this district is such as to evince the salubrity of the climate.

Rivers.—Except the Tweed, which runs in a north-easterly direction, the Eden is the only stream belonging to Ednam. This small river has its source in the parish of Gordon; after passing through the parishes of Earliston, Smailholm, and Nenthorn, it forms

for a short way the boundary between Ednam and Kelso; and then dividing the former parish into two unequal parts, it falls into the Tweed about three miles and a half below Kelso.

Soil, &c.—The land in this parish consists of the following varieties of soil in nearly equal proportions, viz. loam with a gravelly subsoil; clay upon rather a porous subsoil; light gravel with porous subsoil, and a light soil upon strata of moorland. These soils rest principally upon a freestone bottom.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The first settlement which took place at Ednam is believed to have been, next to that at Jedburgh, the earliest in this part of the country. There is no history of this parish either printed or in manuscript, and no individual resident in it possesses any document illustrative of its history or antiquities; nor is its name associated with any important historical event. From the chartulary of Kelso, and other documents referred to in the “*Monastic annals of Teviotdale*,” it would appear that the parish of Ednam had contributed to the support of the monks of the convent of Kelso. Besides the privilege of digging turf for fuel in Ednam moor, and the fishing in the Tweed from the bounds of Kelso to those of Birgham, the monks had three ploughgates of land, and also Ednam mill, with power to prevent the erection of any other within the parish, and to enforce the services which the inhabitants were bound to render to the proprietor of the mill.

Eminent Men.—James Thomson, author of the *Seasons* and other poems, was born in the village, most probably in the manse of Ednam, in the year 1700. He was the son of Thomas Thomson, the first minister settled in Ednam after the Revolution,—and of Beatrix Trotter, his wife. This parish cannot be expected to furnish any traditionary recollections of Thomson. When he was little more than a month old, his father was translated to Southdean; and there is no reason to believe that the poet had any further connexion with the place of his nativity. He received the rudiments of education in the town of Jedburgh. His earliest poetical efforts are said to have been encouraged and directed by the Rev. Robert Riccaltoun, minister of Hobkirk; and after finishing his course of study in the University of Edinburgh, he left Scotland, and never returned to it. In the year 1819–20, an obelisk, 52 feet high, was raised to his memory. It stands on a rising ground within the property of Mr Waldie of Hendersyde, nearly a mile from the village. The expense of this erec-

tion was defrayed by subscriptions contributed or promoted by the members of the Ednam Club, which was composed of several gentlemen living in the parish and neighbourhood, who used to meet and dine together in the village on the anniversary of the Poet's birth. Their last meeting was held in September 1819. A miniature of the poet from a painting in the collection of the late Earl of Buchan was presented to the club by his Lordship, and is kept in the manse.

The late William Dawson, Esq. of Graden, a distinguished agriculturist, who introduced the turnip husbandry into Scotland, was born at Harpertown, in this parish; and there is some reason to believe, from a comparison of the biography of Captain Cook with the parish register, that the father of the circumnavigator was a native of Ednam.

Landholders.—The landholders in this parish are, Lord Ward, the proprietor of the estate of Ednam; John Waldie, Esq. of Hendersyde; — Moffat, Esq.; Sir William Don, Bart.; Robert Thomson, Esq., formerly one of the magistrates of Edinburgh; and Sir William Dickson, Bart.

Modern Buildings.—Hendersyde Park, the residence of Mr Waldie, is the only mansion-house in the parish.

There are three corn-mills and a brewery.

Parochial Registers.—February 6, 1668, is the date of the earliest insertion in the register of baptisms. In this register there is one considerable blank, owing, probably, to the loss of one of the books.

III.—POPULATION.

According to a census taken with great care between the 14th and 25th of May 1838, the population of this parish then amounted to 589; of which number 274 were males, and 315 females. There were at that time 118 families. One landholder is resident.

The means of subsistence and the comforts of life are as generally diffused here as in any other part of the country; and, with not very many exceptions, the people are peaceable, sober, industrious, and attentive to the ordinances of religion.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture, &c.—There is no waste land in this parish. Of about 3700 acres of arable land, two parts are in corn, two in pasture and hay, and one part is in turnips and fallow. There are 40 acres in *policy*, 70 in pasture along the banks of the rivers, and

about 70 planted with trees of almost every description. The average rent both of arable ground and of pasture is about L. 2 per acre.

Wages.—The wages of agricultural labourers vary with the price of grain, in which they are most frequently paid. Ten shillings per week is about the average amount of what is earned by such of them as are paid in money, and by day-labourers in general. Journeymen masons and carpenters earn higher wages.

Live-Stock.—The cattle are of the kind denominated “short horns;” and the sheep are principally of the Leicester breed. Great attention has been paid to the improvement of stock. Mr Andrew Thompson, tenant in Highridgehall, in this parish, has succeeded in rearing a stock of sheep of the purest Leicester breed, which, on account of its excellence, has attracted the notice of competent judges from every part of the united kingdom.

Husbandry.—Either the four or the five shift system of husbandry is adopted. The land is thoroughly drained; no part of it is irrigated; but of late there has been a good deal of embankment. Leases are for nineteen or twenty years; and the capital and skill of the tenants, the accommodation afforded to them in farm buildings and enclosures, and the management of the different properties, are all favourable to the agriculture of this parish, which is understood to be in a highly improved state.

Improvements.—Within these few years, cottages upon an improved plan have been built on two of the farms belonging to Mr Waldie of Hendersyde. These cottages do not occupy much ground, but, besides other conveniences, they contain an upper as well as an under flat; and thus they afford greater facilities than have hitherto been enjoyed by the labouring classes, for separating the sick from the healthy, and also for assigning separate sleeping apartments to the male and female members of families. The universal adoption of this improvement would contribute greatly to the health, the cleanliness, and the comfort of the rural population; and might even be expected in the course of time to operate with beneficial effect upon their manners and morals, in so far as it would probably lead to a greater degree of reserve than at present obtains in the intercourse between young persons of different sexes in the humbler ranks of life.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish is, as nearly as can be ascertained, as follows:—

Produce of grain of all kinds,	L.8790	0	0
potatoes, turnips, &c.	9045	0	0
hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	1100	0	0
land in pasture,	2520	0	0
Total yearly value of raw produce raised,	L.15,395	0	0

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The village of Ednam, the only one in the parish, is about two miles and a quarter from the post and market-town of Kelso. There are two stone bridges and two wooden ones, all in an excellent state of repair. Besides parish roads, there are three turnpike roads,—one three miles and a half in length, and the other two more than two miles each.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church, the only place of worship, is conveniently situated, being near the village, and though not in the centre of the parish, not more than two miles from any house therein. It was built in the year 1800, is in good repair, and affords accommodation for about 260 persons. No seat-rents are levied. The manse, an excellent house, was built in 1833-4. The glebe consists of five Scotch acres, and is let for L. 18 per annum. The stipend is paid in money, and, together with the allowance for communion elements, amounts to L. 158, 6s. 8d.; L. 111, 2s. 2d. being payable from the land, and L. 47, 4s. 6d. received from the Exchequer.

According to the census taken in 1838, the number of families belonging to the Established Church was 44, the number of Dissenting families 42, and the number, in which some of the members attended the Established Church, and some went to dissenting places of worship, 32. Three hundred and forty-five persons of all ages were connected with the Establishment, 240 were Dissenters, and there were 6 Episcopalians. There is no reason to believe, that since the date of the census referred to, any material alteration has taken place in this parish, either in the amount of population, or in the relative proportion of persons connected with the Establishment, and Dissenters. As has already been stated, the inhabitants of this parish, of all denominations, are, with not very many exceptions, attentive to the ordinances of religion. The average number of communicants in the parish church is about 160. There are no Societies for religious purposes; the average amount of church collections yearly for such purposes is about L.6.

Education.—The parish school is the only one, and no other is required. The branches of education taught in it are, reading of English and English grammar, writing, arithmetic, mathematics,

geography, Latin, Greek, French, and the principles of the Christian religion. The schoolmaster has a house and garden. His salary is the maximum; and the average yearly amount of school fees, which are very moderate, is L.36.

There is no person in the parish between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read, and none between nine and fifteen who cannot write. There are two persons, one of them a woman of twenty-four, and the other a man of sixty, who cannot read; both of whom came lately into the parish from distant parts of the country. The benefits of education are fully enjoyed and duly valued. Mr John Gibson Smith, the teacher, by conciliating the affection of his numerous pupils, by adapting his instructions to their opening minds, and keeping alive amongst them an intense interest in the business of the school, succeeds in imparting to them as much knowledge as can be acquired in the time allotted for the education of children of the labouring classes. Religious instruction, occupying, as it ought to do, a prominent place in his plan of tuition, is conducted by him in such a way as to lead the young to an accurate acquaintance with Scripture history, and to clear views of the system of Divine truth contained in the Shorter Catechism, and thus to prepare them for being intelligent and profitable hearers of the word.

The writer of this Account has been informed, that the deposits in the Kelso Savings' Bank from this parish are from servants and from minors, and amount to L.19, 2s. 1d.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The heritors of this parish assess themselves and their tenants half-yearly for the maintenance of the poor. The average number of persons on the poor's roll is 21; and the rate of allowance is different in different cases, varying from L.3, 10s. to L.6, 6s. per annum. Persons in destitute circumstances, whether paupers or not, occasionally receive assistance from the ordinary church collections, the average yearly amount of which is rather more than L.7.

Alehouses.—There are three houses in which ale and spirits are sold, a greater number certainly than is either necessary or desirable. At the same time, these houses are frequented by not many of the parishioners, but chiefly by travellers and persons from the town of Kelso.

Fuel.—The only kind of fuel in common use is coal, which is procured at the rate of 7½d per cwt. from Northumberland.

July 1839.