

PARISH OF CAVERS.*

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JAMES STRACHAN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—CAVERS is an appellation common to a number of places both in Scotland and England. The term, however, is not found in the Saxon language, and is therefore supposed to have been introduced by a prior people. In the Cambro-British, there are the words, *Cae* and *ber*, signifying short field or enclosure; and it is not improbable that this is the source from which the name is derived, notwithstanding that both the extent and openness of the parish, as it now exists, would seem to render the appellation most inapplicable.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish lies nearly due east and west along the south side of the Teviot, and is computed to be about 24 miles long, and varying from 8 to 2 miles in breadth. It is bounded towards the north-west and north, by the parishes of Hawick, Wilton and Minto; on the east and south-east, by the parishes of Bedrule and Hobkirk; and on the south and west, by the parishes of Newcastleton, Ewes, and Westerkirk.

Its figure, on a general survey, may be regarded as in some degree resembling a sand-glass, from the circumstance of its being narrow at the middle, and expanded towards each extremity; but its outline, when minutely traced, is found to be exceedingly irregular, owing to the peculiar manner in which it intersects, and is intersected, by other parishes. From the Weensland-mill, below Hawick, to the junction of the Allan Water with the Teviot, above it, (including a distance of about six miles), a considerable portion of the parish of Hawick lies on the south side of the river; and this, together with the whole of the parish of Kirkton intervening, divides, in some measure, Cavers parish into two departments, leaving, however, the upper department considerably the largest. At this particular point, it is only about

* Drawn up by the Rev. Henry Scott Riddell, Caerlanrig.

two miles broad. The Teviot, with the exception just mentioned, forms its natural boundary to the north. To the east, it meets the Rule Water, but at the lower extremity, shoots out to a narrow point below it, towards Spittal, and thence, embracing almost the whole of the northern side of Rubberslaw, the boundary line proceeds in a southern direction, but with many irregularities, along the high mountainous ridges which separate the Teviotdale from the Liddisdale district, towards the top of Tutop, where the shires of Roxburgh and Dumfries meet. Taking from thence a north-west direction, but with many irregularities, it crosses the pass of Moss-paul by the Wisp, and Pikethowe to Teviotstone, the western extremity of the parish.

Topographical Appearances.—If this parish be irregular in its outline, it is not less diversified in its general lineaments, possessing almost every variety of hill and dale, glen and shaw, soil and pasturage. Its two principal characteristics, however, may be considered as these; its lower department, though undulating, is yet upon the whole flat, and in a state of regular and well-conducted cultivation, with hedges and hedge-row trees for enclosures, and portions of thriving plantation, suitably interspersed,—while the upper department is almost altogether of a pastoral character, and in a state of nature, diversified with lonely wild and stream, green hill, and deep glen. From Pencrestpen, a little pyramidal mountain, lying south of Stobbs Castle, where the pastoral part of the parish may be said fairly to commence, to Teviotstone, where it terminates, a distance of about fourteen miles,—an interesting family of hills lift up their heads, remarkable for their rotund and distinct appearance, and the manner in which they are interwoven with one another. These, although not very high hills, are nevertheless seen from many points at a very considerable distance; and as thus seen, especially on summer and autumn days, when fantastically overhung, as they often are, with all their splendid drapery of towering clouds, obstructing at one time, and emitting at another, the downward-darting rays of the sun, they exhibit a prospect which the lover of mountain scenery can scarcely fail to admire. These hills in the summer season are covered with verdure; few rocks or stones, and only some plots of heath here and there appearing; or on certain points of high exposure, a few acres of broken ground, termed in pastoral phrase “moss-hags,” lending a darker feature, and heightening the effect by contrast. Crawford, in his Cowdenknowes, has apparently, with fond recollection,

tion, well characterized the braes of Teviotdale, when he says, "the Teviot braes are green and gay." But Gilpin, in his Tour, thus ambitiously describes them, "the downy sides of all these valleys of the Teviot are covered with sheep, which often appear to hang on immense green walls : so steep is the descent in some parts, that the eye from the bottom scarce distinguishes the slope from the perpendicular. Several of these mountainous slopes, for some of them are very lofty," he adds, "are finely tinted with moss of different hues, which gives them a very rich surface." It may be added, that these hills seem to be a continuation of that irregular mountainous track which, from the head of Clydesdale, stretches across the country by Tweedshaws, Lochskeen, and Ettrickpen, and which separates the rivers and streams of this part of Scotland, sending them to the eastern and western seas.

The largest and loftiest of these mountains is the Wisp, immediately above Moss-paul, rising 1830 feet above the level of the sea. But it is not so much either its largeness or its height, which renders it remarkable, as its position, and the diversified and extensive prospect which it commands. From its summit, the sea at Berwick-upon-Tweed is observed to the eastward : to the south and west, the Solway Frith, and, if the atmosphere be clear, the Isle of Man. Tutop is of equal height with the Wisp; or, according to some measurements, 10 feet higher. Pikethowe, Cauldcleugh, Gritmoor, and some others in this vicinity, are computed to be nearly of the same elevation. But, besides these, there are a few hills in this parish which serve to impress upon it a peculiar character. These, from their isolated positions, appear like pyramids in the wilderness, conveying the idea, that the district must at one time have been visited from the west by some violent inundation, sweeping almost every thing along with it. The little conical mountains referred to are the Maiden-paps, Leap-hill, Rubberslaw, Pencrest and Skelf-hill-pen. The last of these is the most remarkable. On the south side, it rises abruptly out of a deep glen ; on the north, it ascends more gradually till, attaining to a certain height, it becomes somewhat rocky and rugged, and then contracting itself suddenly, it towers yet higher, presenting a peak like the spire of some large edifice, "reared by human hands." This and Pencrest-pen are memorable for having preserved their British names through so many successive generations of different people. Rubberslaw, rising to a height of 1419 feet above the sea's level, though situated in the lower division of the parish, is

in some respects of a more bleak and rugged cast than any of these just mentioned. It bears more the appearance of volcanic eruption than any of the hills in the neighbourhood, or perhaps in this part of the island. Its hollow dells and rocky recesses were once the haunts of the persecuted Covenanters, and not only the place but the very stone on which the volume of God's word was laid when the celebrated Peden declared its truths to a large congregation there assembled, is still pointed out.—Independently of all these mountains above-mentioned, another range of hills, in the upper division of the parish, runs along the river. And then, constituting the immediate banks of the Teviot, are the holms or haughs, which are for the most part enclosed, and in a state of tillage.

Hydrography.—The Teviot takes its rise, and is the principal river, in this parish. The whole of its course is, in length, about forty miles, and in that course it receives the Borthwick and the Ale, descending from their wild moorlands on the north: and the Allan, the Slitrig, the Rule, the Jed, the Oxnam, and the Kail, with all their manifold tributaries, on the south. All the streams in this parish are tributaries to the Teviot, and which, rising in the south, find their way to it in a northern direction. To this, however, there are two exceptions, that of Lymycleuch burn, and that of the Frostly, which flow down their respective glens about five miles, in a direction nearly parallel to the Teviot, the former rising at the Pikethowe, and the latter in Linhope-grains. The Allan Water, the next tributary deserving of particular notice, issues from two fountains in the same range of hills which we formerly described, and which send the Hermitage Water south to join the Liddle. This stream, after pursuing its course some miles by Skelf-hill and Priesthaugh, through one of the loveliest pastoral vales, perhaps, in the south of Scotland, turns abruptly from an eastern to a northern direction, and, after a rough and rapid course, discharges itself from overhanging birken bowers into the Teviot at Allamouth Peel, about a mile above Branhholm. The Slitrig, a stream of greater note, also takes its rise in this parish. Issuing from several springs in the Leap-hill, Maidenpaps, and Gritmoor, it likewise for some time flows in an eastern direction; but on leaving the stately woods around Stobbs Castle, it turns its course due north, and, after a run of ten miles, mingles itself with the Teviot, as just mentioned. The Rule, a rapid mountain stream, bounds in part this parish on the east. The woods which adorn its banks,

particularly at the mansion-house of Wells, (one of the seats of Sir W. F. Elliott, of Stobbs and Wells, Bart.) are of great variety and value. After flowing twelve miles, and, touching upon the lower extremity of the parish, it joins the Teviot at Spittal, opposite Minto Craggs.

Climate, &c.—The climate is, upon the whole, cold and moist, especially in the upper division of the parish. Of late years, however, it has much improved, owing to the great extent of draining which has taken place. No distemper, in particular, now prevails.

No slate, limestone, or coal has ever been found, or is supposed to exist in this parish.

All the streams abound with trout, and are visited annually by salmon from the sea. The principal spawning season is about Martinmas. There is abundance of almost all kinds of game in the parish, but especially of black game. The hill-fox, or, as sometimes termed, the grey-hound fox, is a native of the upper part of the parish. This species is much larger, more elegantly formed, and of a greyer colour, than the more inland or plantation fox. The erne or Scottish eagle, in certain seasons, frequents the more mountainous districts of the parish.

There are no plants or fruits which are not found in the parishes around, save the foxfoot, the foxglove, the cranberry and cloudberry.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Notices.—The history of the parish, or, more particularly, the history of the Kirklands of Cavers, as they are for the most part designated in ancient records, is so intimately connected with the history of Roxburghshire in general, that they cannot well be treated of separately. It appears that Roxburghshire was established as a sheriffdom as early as the Scoto-Saxon period: and, as the Douglasses were mainly instrumental in freeing Teviotdale from the oppression of the English in the reign of Edward III., or about the year 1384, that sheriffship, together with the property of the lands of Cavers, for a long succession of generations, followed the fortunes of this bold and ambitious house. The lands of Cavers, with the sheriffwick of Roxburghshire, were granted to George Earl of Angus in 1398. On his demise in 1402, this office and that property seem to have been invested in Isobel Countess of Mar, who transferred them, but without the necessary assent and sanction of the King, to the Earl of Douglas, then a prisoner in England. By this it was supposed that both had become escheat: and King Robert III., desirous of rewarding

the eminent and loyal services of Sir David Fleeming of Biggar, conferred upon him, in 1405, the lands of Cavers with the sheriffwick of Roxburghshire. He was not long permitted, however, either to enjoy these lands or fill this office. As Sir Alexander Ramsay of Dalwolsy, a former sheriff of this shire, and a man equally eminent for his bravery and justice, had been seized upon by Sir William Douglas, the Knight of Liddesdale, when in the act of discharging the duties of his office, carried to his Castle of Hermitage, and there immured in the dungeon till he died of want, so Sir David Fleeming was assassinated at Longherdmanston, when returning from conducting James, heir to the crown, on board the ship which was to carry him to France, by James Douglas, second son of Archibald Earl of Douglas, who fell at the battle of Vernueil. After this the lands of Cavers, together with the hereditary sheriffship of Roxburghshire, were possessed by the family of Douglas till the abolition of the heritable jurisdictions. From an unprinted act, of date 11th June 1646, it appears that a parliamentary ratification of the Kirklands of Cavers passed in favour of (Douglas,) the sheriff of Teviotdale. The town of Cavers was taken and laid waste by the English in 1596, and whether it ever was rebuilt and replenished does not plainly appear. The old baronial castle, which was of very considerable strength and importance, was situated not far distant from the place where the old church of Cavers is still standing. William the first Earl of Douglas granted the advowson of the church of Caegers to the Monks of Melrose, in whose abbey he was interred in 1384. After the Reformation, the patronage of Cavers Church was granted to Douglas of Cavers, with whose lineal descendant it still remains.

Tradition affirms that the kirk of Cavers originally stood at Old-North House, a little village which has now nearly disappeared, in the upper division of the parish, and about ten miles distant from the present site of Cavers Church. The report goes further, and asserts that the kirk was a thatched one, but no records, if such ever existed, have been discovered to throw light on the transference, or to confute or confirm that report. Certain it is, that there is here an old burial-place, though so much decayed as scarcely to be recognizable; and the writer of this has conversed with two old and respectable individuals of the district, who could remember two persons being interred in the kirk-yard of Old North House. Their graves are still discernible by the

careful observer, together with a number of what may have been whin head-stones kything around, but whose tops are now level with the green sward above. Sheepfolds now occupy the place where the church is said to have stood.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners are, His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; Sir William F. Elliott of Stobbs and Wells, Bart.; and James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers, the patron of the parish.

Eminent Men.—Of eminent characters connected with the parish, George Augustus Elliott, Lord Heathfield, may be mentioned first. He was the ninth son of Sir Gilbert Elliott of Stobbs and Wells, Bart., the lineal descendant of the far-famed "Gibbie an' the Gouden Garters," who, under peculiar circumstances, married Mary Scott, a flower of Yarrow, and received along with her as dowery, in faithful fulfilment of her father's promise, "the half o' a Michelmas moon."* Lord Heathfield was born at the paternal estate of Stobbs in 1718. He discovered, in early youth, a predeliction for a military life, and entered upon his brilliant career as an officer in the 23d Regiment of Foot or Royal Welsh Fusileers. He rose step by step to a high status in the army and in his country's estimation. Serving in Germany, he was wounded at the battles of Dettingen and Fontenoy. Having been appointed to the 15th Regiment of Light Dragoons in March 1759, he headed, in the August following, the second line of horse, under the Marquis of Granby, at the battle of Minden. After having been constituted a Lieutenant-General, he was called from Germany for the purpose of assisting as second in command at the reduction of the Havannah. In 1774, he was appointed Commander-in-chief in Ireland, but feeling on his arrival dissatisfied with the appointment, he requested to be recalled, which request was complied with; and on the demise of Lord Cornwallis, he was made Governor of Gibraltar, which place he defended during the siege in the years 1779-80-81 and 82, with such skill and bravery as merited the highest praise. In acknowledgement of the services done to his country here and elsewhere, a pension of L. 2000 a year was awarded to him in 1783, when he was created a Knight of the Bath. In 1787, he was raised to the dignity of a Peer of Great Britain, but, dying in 1790, he did not long enjoy these honours, so nobly won and worthily conferred.

* This means what he could plunder from his enemies on the English Border during the period implied. Her father was Adam Scott of Kirkhope, in the parish of Yarrow.

Dr John Leyden, so eminently distinguished by the poetical genius which he displayed, and the classical knowledge which he acquired in so short a life, was born at the village of Denholm, in this parish, in September 1775, of parents humble in their rank and circumstances of life, but eminent for their moral worth and intelligence. He entered the University of Edinburgh in 1790, and in due course was licensed to preach the gospel as probationer in the Church of Scotland. Ambitious, however, of still higher attainments in literature and science than he had yet achieved, he shortly after this entered upon the study of medicine, with a view of going abroad, chiefly in order that he might procure opportunities of enhancing his acquirements in the oriental languages, and thereby gratifying the passion which reigned supreme in his heart. Through the patronage of the Right Honourable William Dundas, he was appointed assistant-surgeon in the hospital of Madras, but in which situation he did not long continue. After holding the situation of assistant-surgeon in the Mysore Survey, and a professorship in the College of Bengal, he eventually, under the patronage of Lord Minto, the then Governor-general of India was promoted to the office of Judge of the twenty-four Purgunnahs of Calcutta. He accompanied the Governor-General on the expedition to Java, made for the purpose of investigating the manners, language, and literature of the tribes of that island, and for which Leyden's extensive knowledge of the eastern dialects and customs, eminently qualified him. There he was seized with fever, and this extraordinary man, in whom were combined such virtues, learning and genius, and withal such athletic powers and activity, as are never, or very rarely to be met with in one individual, after three days illness, died on the eve of the battle which gave Java to the British Empire.

John Armstrong of Gilknockie, the famous border freebooter, along with a number of his companions, was, by order of King James V., executed at Caerlanrig, and interred there, in or near by the chapel burial-ground.*

* This individual, by harassing and plundering his neighbours on the English borders, appears, in carrying forward his predatory adventures, to have acted principally upon the mistaken notion of his being his country's eminent benefactor; and his kindred and Scottish neighbours seem to have encouraged this notion to the utmost in esteeming him highly as such: King James, however, having sworn that he would "mak the thresh-buss keep the cow," thought very differently, and all the marauder's entreaties and proffered presents (which latter were neither few nor of small value,) could not avail in inducing the Prince to preserve his life. A number of his companions were carried to Edinburgh as hostages for insuring the better behaviour of their friends left behind on the border; but nothing at this time could chain down

Parochial Registers.—These have hitherto been very imperfectly kept, and are consequently very defective.

Antiquities.—The principal antiquity of this parish is the Cat-rail, or Picts work ditch, (meaning literally in the language of its constructors,) the partition of defence. It passes through the centre of the parish in a south-east direction, for the space of about seven miles. Entering it at the farm of Northhouse-haugh, it proceeds to Doecleugh, where it appears particularly distinct. Leaving two hill-forts or British strengths on the left—the one on Skelf-hill farm, and usually called Doecleugh Castle,—the other on the farm of Priest-haugh, and uniformly called the Brugh hill,—it enters the Dod, and ascends the Carriage hill, where it again becomes peculiarly prominent. From this height it descends and crosses the Langside-burn, where it constitutes the known boundaries of several estates. Traversing thence the northern base of the Maiden-paps to the Leapsteal, it holds its onward course into Liddisdale through the pass of the dividing hills near Robertslin.

There are likewise, besides these just mentioned, a number of camps in the parish, some of which are called Roman, and others of them Saxon camps. An old castle or border tower stood at a place called Castleweary, in the upper division of the parish, scarcely any vestige of which is now remaining. Allan-mouth-peel, another feudal fortress, situated at the junction of the Allan with the Teviot, appears from the portion of it yet remaining, together with the wall and fosse with which it has evidently been surrounded, to have been a place of considerable importance in feudal times. Its last occupier, it is said, was a brother of Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch, the then warden of the Scottish border. At Caerlanrig, about forty years ago, a number of urns, said to be Roman, were dug up. There is here also one of these camps. At Priest-haugh a great number of gold coins were found some considerable time ago, supposed to have been there deposited by the attendants of Queen Mary, when she visited Bothwell at Hermitage Castle, in Liddisdale. In ancient times Cavers, like several other parishes in Teviotdale, had an hospital for the poor,

the border spirit, or induce its inhabitants to alter their freebooting habits, and these hostages were shortly afterwards executed at Edinburgh; which circumstance seems to have given rise to the impression and report that obtains with not a few, that Jonnie Armstrong himself was put down at Edinburgh, and not at Caerlanrig, which, however, is not the fact.—See Buchanan's History.

wounded, and old. It was situated at a place called Spittal, at the lower extremity of the parish.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish now amounts to 1625.

In 1801, it was	1382
1811,	1402
1821,	1504
1831,	1625

Number of families in the parish,	316
chiefly employed in agriculture,	153
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	103

The total number of proprietors in the parish is 7, all of whom possess land of L. 50 a-year in value and upwards. Only one of them is resident.

Character of the People.—In the character of the people there exists considerable diversity, according to the localities which they inhabit, and the employments which they follow. In general they are sober, industrious, and intelligent. As the farms, for the most part, are extensive, and the farmers wealthy, there is considerable disproportion of rank; but the farm-servants and shepherds are kept comfortable, and these seem, especially in the landward part of the parish, contented with their condition and circumstances. Their habits are cleanly, and their food wholesome. About six or seven years ago, poaching, not by the inhabitants of the parish, but by poachers from a distance, prevailed to a very great extent; but vigorous measures having been adopted to prevent the inroads of those lawless bands of immoral and misguided men, who infested the whole country around, poaching has become a thing very rarely practised.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Live-Stock.—The upper division of the parish is particularly well adapted for pastoral purposes. The sheep are all white-faced, and regular stocks are kept. Great pains have long been taken to obtain and preserve the true Cheviot breed, since if this breed becomes corrupted, its tendency to degenerate is fully more than that of any other. Through attention and superior skill, some farms in the parish are stocked with sheep, which are almost purely Cheviot. The total number of sheep pastured in the parish is about 11,500. The cattle are for the greater part of the Teeswater breed, and great attention has likewise been paid to rearing and improving them.

Rent.—The grazing of a cow or full-grown ox, L. 5; that of a ewe or full-grown sheep, 6s. Valued rental of the parish, L. 18,877, 16s. 8d. Scots; real rental, L. 18,000 Sterling.

Wages.—The rate of labour per day, for men, during summer, 1s. 4d., and for women, 10d. including victuals; and during winter, for men, 1s., and for women, 6d. The wages of artisans vary from 2s. to 3s. per day.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—Hawick, in the adjoining parish of that name, is the nearest market-town, distant about a mile from the nearest point of the parish, and from Cavers church about three miles. The only village is Denholm, situated near the lower extremity of the parish. It contains a population of about 500 souls. The principal means of subsistence is stocking-weaving, given out by the stocking-manufacturers of Hawick. The wages, of course, are regulated by the extent and quality of the workmanship. A skilful and industrious person may win, on an average, throughout the year, 15s. per week.

Means of Communication.—These, for the greater part, are suitable and good—the turnpike roads being pretty numerous, and in general in a very sufficient state of repair. The main road between Edinburgh and Carlisle, entering at Tein-side bridge, runs through the upper part of the parish, a distance of about seven miles, on which are four mails in the day to and from Edinburgh. Besides these, there are also two other coaches which run the same way in the same time. A turnpike of the same quality as the main one, branching off at Hawick, runs through the lower division to Jedburgh, Kelso, &c. Another, up the Slitrig, communicates with the English border counties, by Note-o'-the-Gate, Carter-fell, &c.; while the *county roads*, leading in various directions, are too numerous to be here noticed. A penny post-office is established at Denholm, and another at Caerlanrig Chapel. There are many bridges in the parish, some of which are constructed of stone, and others of wood, the latter being chiefly for the conveniency of foot-passengers; and the fences, whether consisting of hedges, dry stone dike, or of stone and lime, are in general pretty well kept.

Ecclesiastical State.—As one church could not possibly accommodate the whole parish, the present one was built with a view to the accommodation of the lower division of it; and for this it is pretty well placed. It was erected in 1822, and contains seats for 500. The building is very substantial, as well as somewhat elegant, and is at present in an excellent state of repair. The number of communicants is about 300.

The manse was built in 1813, and is also in good repair.

Caerlanrig Chapel.—This chapel is situated in the upper part of the parish, and is intended for the accommodation not only of the inhabitants of that district of Cavers, but also of those in the upper part of the parish of Hawick. The bounds pertaining to it are about ten miles long, and, on an average, nine broad. The chapel is centrally situated. It is said to be of 200 years standing and upwards, as a Protestant place of worship, and has been thrice built on different sites. It seems to have superseded the Roman Catholic chapel, which stood here in the burial-ground, and which is still preserved and occupied as such: or else it was found necessary for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the district when the kirk at Old-Northhouse was removed, or done away. At first, and until a chaplain was appointed to the charge, the minister of Cavers was under the inconvenient necessity of performing public duty at Caerlanrig chapel, one Sunday every month. It is not distinctly known when a chaplain was first appointed, and this practice discontinued. The present chapel was erected by the contributions of the inhabitants of the district, about forty years ago, the ground, the wood, slate, and lime being given by his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch. It is at present in good repair, but found to be too small. The seats are all free, unless in so far as they are appointed to, and appropriated by, heads of families. As no endowment has been procured, and no regular stipend assigned, the chaplain is not ordained, and the chapel consequently is not constituted as a Chapel of Ease. In so wild and extensive a district, this occasions very great inconveniency, both to the preacher and the people, as well as to the ministers of the two parishes respectively to which the chapel belongs. The number of souls dependent upon this chapel for religious instruction is 700, 216 of whom reside in the parish of Hawick, and the rest, of course, in the parish of Cavers. Others, also, from the outskirts of the neighbouring parishes, frequently attend, as being nearer to the chapel than to their own churches.

The annual allowance to the chapel minister is, on an average, L. 52—L. 25 of which is given by way of bounty by his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; L. 5 by James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers; and L. 3 by the minister of Hawick. The rest is contributed by the farmers, and other inhabitants of the district, each giving as he thinks proper, or finds convenient.

As no manse or dwelling-house had hitherto been annexed to the chapel, the Duke of Buccleuch, about two years ago, appoint-

ed one to be erected at his sole expense: this he keeps in repair, allowing, at the same time, some other valuable perquisites.

The poor of the district being regularly supported by their respective parishes of Hawick and Cavers, the collections made in the chapel are applied to the keeping of it, together with the side-parochial school, in repair, and the procuring of other requisites, such as communion elements, &c. unless when, in cases of emergency, some portion is appropriated to charitable purposes.

Both at the church and chapel, Divine service is generally well attended.

Dissenting Chapel.—There is a Dissenting house or chapel at Denholm, understood to be supported by James Douglas, Esq. of Cavers. It belongs to the denomination of Independents. There is also a considerable number of other Dissenters, who, for the most part, adhere to one or other of the various Dissenting congregations in Hawick.

Education.—The total number of schools in the parish is 3, all of which are parochial,—one situated in Denholm,—another near Stobbs on the Slitrig,—and another at Teviothead or Caerlanrig Chapel. The two latter are termed *side*-parochial schools. The branches usually taught are, English, English grammar, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, mensuration of superficies, solids, heights, and distances, algebra, &c.

	Cavers.	Slitrig-Cavers.	Teviothead or Caerlanrig.
The present salaries are,	L. 30	L. 12	L. 15 13 1½
School-fees drawn,	25	19	19 0 0

The school-fees are payable by the quarter of thirteen weeks, and are, for English, 2s.; for English and writing, 2s. 6d.; for English, writing, and arithmetic, 3s.; and for higher branches, 5s. The teachers have the legal accommodations. Through the generosity of his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, and his Chamberlain for this district, (William Ogilvie, Esq. of Chesters,) the *side* parochial schoolmaster at Caerlanrig has, of late, received ground not only for a garden but for the keep of a cow. There is no person betwixt six and fifteen years of age, nor upwards of fifteen, in the parish, who cannot read or write, although from many, the schools are distant and inaccessible.

Libraries.—There are four libraries in the parish. The Subscription Library at Denholm was instituted in 1805, and contains at present 880 volumes. The Woodside Library is the property of Mr Douglas of Cavers solely, to which any person can have access gratuitously. It was instituted in 1825, for the use of the

young people attending Denholm Sabbath school, and contains about 1000 volumes.*

The Caerlanrig Chapel or Teviothead Library was instituted a considerable number of years ago, and consists of a pretty large collection of well selected books. The Juvenile Library at the same place is, as the name implies, principally intended for the benefit of the young, but free to all.†

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor are provided for by assessment conducted in the usual manner; the annual average amount of which, for the last ten years, is L. 273. The average number of persons receiving parochial aid, as regular paupers, during the same period is 53, and the average sum allotted to each is L. 5, 3s. per annum. The assessment for the current half-year is L. 132, and there being 49 paupers on the roll, the average sum allotted each is 2s. 0½d. per week.

The money raised by means of the weekly collections made at the church, amounting to about L. 9 a-year, is left to the sole management of the kirk-session, and is distributed in small sums among such poor of the parish as require only a temporary relief.

As the system of giving parochial aid, above described, has obtained for many years, the certainty which it gives of relief being afforded, generally induces a readiness to take advantage of it on the part of the necessitous.

Saving Banks.—The nearest of these is at Hawick; and there is another at Jedburgh: both are in a flourishing condition. The one at Hawick was instituted January 7, 1815. At the 30th May last, the number of depositors was 473, from all classes of the community, but especially those for whose benefit such institutions are chiefly intended.‡

* This library is not confined to this parish. About ten years ago, Mr Douglas adopted the scheme of Mr Samuel Brown of Haddington, in regard to "Itinerating Libraries," which was to send fifty volumes to a convenient station, where they should remain, in order to be read by the inhabitants of the place, for a twelvemonth, and then be returned, when another box, containing fifty other volumes, should be forwarded, and so on.

† As this library is altogether free, a quarterly lecture is about to be instituted, the collections arising from which are to be applied partly to the repairing of the old books, and partly to the purchasing of new ones.

‡ The following shows the state of this Bank, as ascertained by official documents submitted to the last general meeting of managers, on the 1st of August 1839.

Amount due to the Savings Bank by the British Linen Company,	L. 6894	12	5		
Gross sum of deposits made during the year ending 30th May last, including interest on Bank account,				1761	0 0
Amount paid to depositors during same period,				1933	10 0
Received from 114 depositors, L. 814	17	0			
Added to accounts still open,	946	3	0		
Received from British Linen Co. 883	0	0			
				Paid L. 124 acct. in full,	1378 8 0
				Paid from accts. still open,	555 0 0
				Paid to British Linen Co.	662 0 0

Inns.—In Denholm, there are 4 or 5 inns: in the landward part of the parish, 3. These latter, being more especially for the accommodation of travellers, are regarded as an advantage; and, in general, it is not understood that any of these houses have had any demoralizing effect.

Fuel.—Peat is a good deal used for fuel in the upper department of the parish. In the more inland parts, the principal fuel is coal. It is brought far, and from various quarters—Mid-Lothian, Berwickshire, and other places: it is therefore very expensive. Of late, however, since the Duke of Buccleuch took his coal-mines in Cannoby into his own hand, great quantities of coal have been brought thence into this parish: and there is a prospect from this source of immense benefit to many.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Very considerable improvements have taken place in this parish since the last Statistical Account was written, both with respect to the farming of land, and the management of stock, as well, indeed, as in many other matters. With regard to agriculture, as much has been done, or is doing, especially on the estate of Cavers, as seems advisable in a district where the climate is precarious, and coal and lime are wanting.

Store-farming has been improved. Summer hirsling is given up, and ewe-milking done away. The flocks, being left to wander wide and more at will than formerly, acquire more strength and condition for enabling them to brave the hardships of winter. More stells, and on more eligible situations, have been erected for shelter, and greater quantities of hay, in case of severe and protracted storms, are generally provided.

The parishioners are more comfortably accommodated than formerly in their houses. Greater attention is paid to clothing and cleanliness: and the daily food is in several respects more wholesome.

In the upland division of the parish, there is much land lying untouched that might be tilled: but considering the precariousness of the climate, it is very questionable whether the land in its natural state, and as it is presently stocked, is not more profitable to the possessor than it ever otherwise could be. The greatest deficiency is the want of plantations.

September 1839.