

## PARISH OF TWEEDSMUIR.

PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. GEORGE BURNS, D. D. MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THIS parish having originally been attached to that of Drummelzier, appears to have been formerly called Over-Drummelzier. As to the origin of its present name, which it has had at least since the year 1643, when it was erected into a new parish, it is only necessary to state, that the Tweed has its rise in this parish, and that a considerable proportion of the country, particularly beside the source of the river, is in a remarkable degree distinguished by the bleakness and moorishness of its aspect. The mean length and breadth of the parish are nearly equal, and are not less than eight miles. It is thirty miles in circumference, and has been calculated to contain sixty-four square miles, or about 33,380 Scotch acres. But if allowance be made for the vast inequalities of ground, the extent may be fairly estimated as at least two-thirds more.

The parish is bounded on the south by Moffat; on the east by Megget; on the west by Crawford; and on the north by Drummelzier. It is situated in the midst of that vast range of mountains which stretches into Scotland from Northumberland, advances to the head of Lanarkshire, passing through Selkirkshire and the northern boundary of Dumfries-shire, and terminates in the county of Ayr, thus forming a chain of connection between the east and west counties of the south of Scotland.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The highest hills in the parish are Broadlaw on the north, and that part of Hartfell or Hartfield on the south, which comprehends its highest point of elevation. By an accurate calculation, made by order of Government, Broadlaw was found to be 2741 feet above the sea level at low water, and Hartfell 2635, the former being the highest hill south of the Forth. From the summit of Broadlaw a prospect opens extensive and magnificent in the highest degree; for, while the eye passes over

mountain after mountain in apparently endless succession, like waves of a tumultuous sea, it rests not till it reaches the English border and the German ocean. It is worthy of remark, as regards this and most of the other hills in the parish, that they are of comparatively easy ascent, and are flat as attic plains on the top. Many of the inhabitants of the parish are supplied with excellent peat from these lofty regions, which is brought down in common carts, drawn by horses with comparative ease and safety. And, what constitutes at once the ornament and the value of these mountains, is, that they are clothed in the finest verdure, even to the top, and produce an herbage so luxuriant in summer, as to admit of being mowed to an indefinite extent. The pasture which they afford for sheep and black-cattle is of the richest and most nutritious quality; in proof of which, there is no part of this or any other country that produces flocks more healthy, or in higher repute in the English market. It may also be remarked, that these mountains have none of that Alpine boldness of contour by which the Grampians and most other hills of Caledonia are distinguished. The flats and morasses of this district are comparatively few and inconsiderable.

*Meteorology.*—It may be remarked under this head, that no material difference has been observed betwixt the weather here and at Edinburgh. Snow or rain in some instances has preceded that at Edinburgh by several hours; and in the case of a fall of snow which happened in November 1831, it was found that it fell to a greater depth in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis, than even in this elevated region. From the situation of these mountains in relation to the eastern and western seas, storms of snow and rain frequently spend their force before reaching them; and those who have lived long in the country give it as the result of their observation, that the sheep have seldom been denied their pasture for any length of time, in consequence of the depth or long continuance of the snow; and that the loss of sheep or lambs from the severity of the weather has at no time been very considerable. The average quantity of rain that falls annually throughout the county does not exceed twenty-eight inches; and hence it may be inferred that though showers are more frequent, yet that the actual quantum is not so great as in those counties which lie east and west of Tweeddale. A book of meteorological observations, kept by the late schoolmaster of this parish for several years previous to his death, exhibits the following results.

Mean temperature of the different seasons at Tweedsmuir, from 1821 to 1828, inclusive, reckoning March, April, and May, the months of spring; June, July, and August, those of summer; September, October, and November, those of autumn; and December, January, and February, those of Winter.

	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.	Winter.
1821, -	42°.973	54°.616	46°.780	35°.980
1822, -	45.183	56.940	45.406	38.333
1823, -	42.796	52.253	44.886	32.990
1824, -	40.193	54.120	43.716	36.730
1825, -	41.966	55.680	45.070	35.546
1826, -	43.220	58.180	43.266	34.516
1827, -	42.256	53.873	46.246	34.090
1828, -	42.980	54.746	45.570	37.953

Mean annual temperature of a constant spring, and of the air at Tweedsmuir, from 1821 to 1828, inclusive.

	Constant Spring.	Air in the Shade.
1821, -	45°.711	45°.300
1822, -	45.866	46.129
1823, -	44.743	43.436
1824, -	45.055	43.565
1825, -	45.291	44.494
1826, -	45.565	45.212
1827, -	44.896	44.179
1828, -	45.195	45.316

#### MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1821	36°.02	35°.94	38°.86	45°.70	44°.36	51°.47	55°.01	57°.36	53°.99	46°.61	39°.74	38°.54
1822	38.00	38.46	41.12	44.00	50.43	58.77	56.92	55.72	48.30	40.02	41.90	34.50
1823	31.75	32.72	37.33	40.77	50.29	50.00	53.74	53.02	49.97	42.72	41.97	36.90
1824	36.77	36.46	34.14	40.11	46.33	53.20	55.51	53.59	50.41	42.29	38.45	35.47
1825	35.57	35.60	36.17	41.97	47.76	53.01	57.99	56.04	53.90	46.38	34.93	34.61
1826	30.15	38.79	37.49	43.02	49.15	59.23	58.39	56.82	49.76	45.27	34.77	39.71
1827	32.44	30.12	35.88	42.37	48.52	52.82	55.93	52.87	51.46	47.39	39.89	40.46
1828	37.36	36.04	38.96	41.34	48.64	54.23	55.86	54.15	50.56	44.00	42.15	40.51

The prevailing winds in this quarter are S. and S. W. which most commonly bring rain, whereas snow is generally looked for from the N. and E.

Small-pox and measles are the only infectious diseases known here, and have never appeared unless when imported. There are no epidemic or prevailing distempers.

Within these few years, several persons have died at the advanced ages of from 90 to 95 years; and there are two individuals, a male and a female, at present enjoying vigorous old age at upwards of fourscore. The average of deaths in the parish itself, does not exceed three or four per annum; but as many persons are brought from other parishes for interment here, the number of burials in the course of a year is very considerable.

*Hydrography.*—*Tweed.*—A very insignificant well near Tweed-

shaws, at the upper extremity of the parish, gives rise to the far-famed river Tweed, which runs ten miles through the parish, in a north-westerly direction, and, after pursuing a beautiful meandering course for ninety miles farther, loses itself in the German Ocean at Berwick. The source of the Tweed is half a mile from Lanarkshire, on the west, and the same distance from Dumfriesshire on the south, and it is not a little remarkable, that from the base of one and the same hill, the three celebrated rivers, Tweed, Annan, and Clyde, take their rise. It may with truth be said, that though the origin of the Tweed be humble, it is not *lowly*, as the spring whence it flows is fully 1500 feet above the sea's level. Almost innumerable are the tributary streams in this parish which the Tweed begins to receive from within two miles of its source, and which cause it to swell and to amplify as it rolls along. These have the names of *waters* and *burns* applied to them according to their relative degrees of magnitude or importance. The Core, Fruid, and Tala, three waters in this parish, run into the Tweed from the south-east. The first rises on the lands of Earlshaugh, and, after running three miles, falls into the Tweed a mile below Tweedshaws. The second has its origin three miles east from the source of the Core, and, after a course of seven miles, joins the Tweed a mile above the church. The third originates in a small spring half a mile west from Loch Skeen, and descends from the hills seven or eight miles, when it loses itself in the Tweed below the church, where a good stone bridge has been erected. There are in this parish nine burns, marked by the following names, viz. Tweedhope, Glencraigie, Badlieu, Old Fingland, Menzion, Glenriska, Moat, Harestone, and Polmood. These all run in a north-easterly direction to the Tweed, in which they empty themselves. The only other of any consequence is Gameshope *burn*, which joins Tala water four miles above the spot where it mingles with the main river. These different streams, great and small, have an abundant supply of trout, par, and eels; and in Tweed at spawning time, which commences about the end of autumn, salmon of considerable size often fall victims to the snares of the poacher, which are commonly the *light* and the *leister*. At the bridge over Tweed is Carlow's *Linn*, a small but interesting water-fall, formed by the rocky bottom over which the river here passes.

There is a lake in the parish worthy of notice, not on account of its extent, for it is only 586 yards in circumference, but as being, perhaps, the highest sheet of water in the south of Scot-

land. It is called Gameshope Loch, and abounds in excellent trout, though, on account of the dark and mossy hue of the water, they are of a black colour. From what has now been stated, it may be inferred that this parish affords opportunities for fishing such as are seldom to be met with. It is accordingly much resorted to in favourable seasons by the lovers of that sport from Edinburgh and other quarters.

Every *water*, and almost every *burn*, has its range of hills and its valley, with scenery more or less beautiful, romantic, and interesting. There is high ground on both sides of the main river, and towards the lower extremity of the parish, the spots of cultivation, and fringes of planting which adorn its banks and the adjacent hills, give the whole an inland appearance, and cannot fail to please the eye of the tasteful observer. Near the top of Broadlaw hill, there is a remarkably fine perennial spring called *Geddes's Well*, and from the Hartfell spa at the south skirt of that mountain, chalybeate waters are transported for the cure of many ulcerous disorders.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—In this parish, nothing has yet been discovered to gratify the professed geologist or mineralogist. Greywacke and greywacke-slate (*whinstone* of the peasantry,) and some other lapideous strata belonging to the order of transition rocks, are to be found in abundance; but no *secondary strata* have been ascertained to exist, though, from the soft outline of these mountains, it might be supposed that sandstone could be found beneath the soil. It does not, however, appear that any attempt has been made by mining or otherwise to make geological discoveries or observations. In many places the soil is strong, being a thick mould formed of earth and moss. The arable parts of the parish present a soil in general of a light loam, with gravel and sandstone at the bottom.

*Zoology.*—The only rare animal that has been known to frequent this parish belongs to the feathered tribe, and is called *Erne*, or White-tailed Eagle, (the young bird, the Sea Eagle, or *Falco ossifragus*; the old bird, the White-tailed Eagle, the *Falco albicilla*;) which at one time used to hatch in an island in Loch Skeen, and to nestle among the clefts around Tala Linnfoots. So great were its ravages among the sheep, that every effort was made to extirpate it, and for many years past there has been reason to think that these efforts were successful. But in the course of the season just closed, it reappeared in the same as well as in

other parts of the parish, and committed several depredations. It had well nigh carried off a shepherd's boy, but fortunately it was discovered hovering over its destined victim, and driven away just before it had pounced upon its prey. Under this head it would be unpardonable to omit the *fidus Achates*, or shepherd's dog, whose docility, sagacity, and vast utility cannot be too highly appreciated. As occasion requires, and the shepherd issues the mandate, he either remains on permanent duty as a guard or watch over the flock when his master is necessarily engaged elsewhere, or he goes round the scattered sheep at a great distance and collects them, thus relieving the shepherd of the most arduous part of his labours, and accomplishing feats on these mountains which, without his dexterous management, could not perhaps be accomplished at all. Those of the true breed bring a high price, varying from L. 3 to L. 5, and even L. 6 Sterling.

*Botany.*—The earliest spring food for the sheep in this district is the plant bearing a white cotton head, vulgarly called moss-crop, *i. e.* bog cotton, the *Eriophorum polystachion* of Linnæus. To this it is thought Ossian refers when he thus describes a certain beautiful female; "If on the heath she moved, her breast was whiter than the down of Cana, &c." It begins to spring about Candlemas in propitious seasons, and grows in mossy ground. Drawing, the *E. vaginatum* of Linnæus, succeeds it in March, and the sheep gently seize upon the part above ground. Heath is the last in order, and it being the practice to burn a part yearly, in order to secure a succession of it, the burnt or young part is first discernible.

Tradition as well as living authority informs us, that this country abounded in wood of a natural growth; but, partly through the cupidity of proprietors in turning their timber into cash, regardless of the interest of their successors, and the beauty of the country, and partly through the increasing demand for mutton and broad-cloth, the hills are now denuded of their trees, and almost wholly devoted to pasture for sheep. Some old ash trees still remain at Fruid and Hawkshaw, and it is found that larch, birch, Scotch and silver fir, and poplars, agree best with the climate and soil of this elevated region. It is unfortunate that leases are not long enough to encourage tenants to plant trees to any extent, but it is gratifying to be able to report that the Earl of Wemyss and Sir James Montgomery of Stanhope, Bart. have not been altogether inattentive to this object. In the course of a few years, the young and

thriving plantations around the onsteads at Crook and Harestone, belonging to the former proprietor, and at Nether Menzion, belonging to the latter, cannot fail to add greatly to the beauty and comfort of the dwelling places.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Accounts of the Parish.*—Besides the former Statistical Account of the parish furnished to Sir John Sinclair by the Rev. J. Muschet, there is a more extended one in the Edinburgh Literary and Statistical Magazine. It is understood to have been written by the Rev. James Gardner, last minister of the parish.

*Antiquities.*—At the source of the Tweed, and where this parish borders on Annandale, there is a spot called *Tweeds-cross*, where stood one of those erections so frequently to be met with on public roads in this kingdom before the Reformation,—probably placed as devotional land-marks to guide travellers from one monastery to another. “Tweed’s cross is generally thought to have been a place of Druidical worship to the sun, and it is more than probable that it afterwards became a mark of direction on so precarious a pass, as well as a terminate point of division between the shires.” From its elevated site, 1632 feet above the level of the sea, it justly claims a pre-eminence over every other human erection of the kind in the south of Scotland.\*

Near Earlshaugh, in this vicinity, is a hill called the *Crown of Scotland*, for reasons now unknown.

On the right side of the road leading towards the Bield Inn, is the shepherd’s house of Badlieu, the property of Lord Forbes, and well known as the residence of Bertha, so celebrated for her beauty and her tragical fate. Grimus, King of Scotland, who had a hunting-seat at Polmood, was captivated by her charms, and the birth of a son was the consequence of an illicit connection between them. During the absence of the king, occasioned by an attempt on the part of the Danes to invade the northern frontiers of his kingdom, Bertha, her father, and her child were murdered by assassins employed by the queen. The queen did not long survive this act of barbarity. The king on his return caused the grave to be opened, and contemplated with mingled feelings of grief and horror the three mangled bodies. From that period he lost

\* In the immediate neighbourhood of this cross, during a severe snow storm in February 1831, the guard and driver of the mail coach to Edinburgh were compelled to leave the coach, and attempted to carry the letter-bags on their shoulders; but unfortunately having gone off the high road, they became exhausted, and sunk lifeless among the snows. They hung the bags upon a pole at the side of the road, which is still marked out to the passing traveller.

all relish for the joys of life, and soon afterwards died on the field of battle in the eighth year of his reign.

On the opposite side of the Tweed, and close by the road leading from the church to Menzion house, there are the remains of a Druidical temple, or Pictish court of justice. Only one stone is left of a number similar in appearance and size which stood together, and which have been removed for the purposes of dike-building, &c. It is called the Standing-stone, and is five feet above the surface of the earth. From behind it, a person of diminutive stature, known by the name of Little John, discharged an arrow at the head of a freebooter of formidable dimensions who greatly annoyed the peaceful inhabitants, and who, though on the opposite side of the Tweed, was unable to elude the deadly stroke.\* A tumulus at the spot where he fell is still pointed out as the giant's grave; and certain it is that sixteen years ago a labourer, in removing the stones of a cairn at the spot, found the grave of some ancient hero. "The sides of it," says the late incumbent of this parish, "were all regularly lined with smooth thin stones, and the top well covered with a large flag of full length." Fragments of an urn of strong earthen-ware were found within, a piece of which was brought to the minister at the time.

About thirty years before this event, a grave of the same description, and containing an urn, was found under a cairn upon Nether Oliver, the property of the Earl of Wemyss. And at a later date, upon the lands of Menzion, there was found another grave, with side stones about six feet, and a covering stone two feet thick, and five in length. Over this monument there was no cairn or heap of smaller stones. At Fruid, Hawkshaw, and Oliver are vestiges of those ancient castles, towers, or strengths, of which the strath of Tweed from this part of Peebles-shire, down to Elibank Tower, and from thence to Berwick, exhibits so many relics.

The parish church stands upon an eminence resembling a Saxon moat, triangular in form, and thirty feet in height. It has sometimes been called *Quarter Knowe*, and supposed to have been a place of Druidical worship. Forsyth in his *Beauties of Scotland* says, that "it is generally supposed to be an ancient tumulus, and is vulgarly called a Roman work." Some of the old inhabitants suppose that it is an elevation left by the confluence of the Tala and Tweed, which they say at one time overflowed the low

\* This event is thought to have given rise to the well-known story of Jack the Giant Killer.

grounds now forming the glebe. A veil of mystery hangs over it which will probably never be dispelled; but as it forms the parish burial ground, as well as the site of the church, an opportunity is afforded, every time a grave is opened on the higher parts of the eminence, of observing the vast accumulation of stones which at one time or other may have there been brought together by human hands.

*Family of Porteous.*—Hawkshaw was formerly, and for upwards of 1000 years, the residence of the family of Porteous, allowed to have been the chief of the name; and the armorial bearing of that family has for a motto, "*Let the Hawk Shaw.*" Near the dwelling-house are faint vestiges of a chapel and burial-ground, where the sculptured head of a monk was found some time ago.

Near Tala Moss, in the same neighbourhood, there is a spot near which a detachment of sixteen horsemen from Oliver Cromwell's camp at Biggar was surprised and barbarously murdered by Porteous of Hawkshaw.

It is also reported that here at one time a number of predatory barbarians from the English border were attacked and killed by the inhabitants.

*Family of Fraser.*—Oliver Castle was the paternal seat of the Frasers. "This noble and ancient family," says Nisbet, "were originally from France, and settled in Scotland so early as the reign of Achaius 794, coëval with Charlemagne. The posterity of this emigrant were Thanes of the Isle of Man, and afterwards in Tweeddale, where they first assumed the name from the French strawberry *Frasses*. In the reign of Malcolm IV., they possessed an immense tract of land in the south of Scotland, particularly in Tweeddale, and were dignified with the power of High Sheriff of the county; and in the reigns of Alexander II. and III., and during the minority of the queen, Sir Simon Frazer, lord of Oliver Castle, 1292, with the heroism of a sound patriot, fought and defeated, with the assistance of Cummin and 10,000 Scots, a superior number of Edward First's army, said to have been 30,000 strong, near Roslin, 27th February 1303. But he did not long enjoy these merited honours, for, like the renowned Sir William Wallace, he was put into the hands of Edward, and, like him, died a martyr to his country's wrongs. His son being sent into exile in France, left his two sisters in possession of the estate, who soon after divided the lands in marriage with Fleming of Wigton,\* and Hay of Yester;† but,

\* Ancestor of the Earl of Wigton.

† Ancestor of the Marquis of Tweeddale.

hearing of the unexpected success of Robert Bruce, returned to claim his right, and to support that of his country. The king, however, on his remonstrance, finding the possessors in nowise willing to relinquish so valuable a property, granted to him an equivalent of lands in the north.\* These noble families have now no interest in Tweeddale. †

There can be no doubt that the glens and mountains of this parish were among the favourite haunts of our persecuted forefathers in the reign of Charles II. Donald's Cleugh, in Gameshope, is generally understood to have been so named from its being the retreat of that sturdy adherent of the Covenant, Donald Cargill, after he had fled from his charge in the Barony church of Glasgow, in consequence of the violent persecution directed against the covenanters of the west. †

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners in this parish are the Earl of Wemyss and March, and Sir James Montgomery of Stanhope, Bart.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parish registers commence in June 1722, and have been kept with tolerable regularity.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755 the population was	-	397
1775,	.	250
1790-8,	.	227
1800,	.	277
1831,	.	288

1. Number of families in the parish,	-	-	49
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	24
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	5
not in any of these occupations,	-	-	20
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	-	-	5
women, including widows, upwards of 45,	-	-	3
3. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	-	-	121
upwards of 70,	-	-	9

\* Buchanan of Auchmar, in his inquiry into the genealogy of ancient Scots surnames, says, "That great man Sir Simon Frazer, so famous in the reign of Robert I., was Lord of Tweeddale, and resided at Oliver Castle in that county;" and adds, that "the Tweedies, now possessors of that castle and adjacent estate, are supposed to be descended from the ancient Frasers, now of Lovat and Saltoun." How the Tweedies became proprietors of Oliver Castle is variously conjectured, but it is undoubted that they resided at Drummelzier in James First's time, and were possessors of almost the whole lands from Neidpath Castle, near Peebles, the ancient property and chief residence of the Frasers of Oliver Castle, in this parish. It is thought that Drummelzier was alienated from them about the latter end of James Fifth's time. The site of the old castle of Oliver is still pointed out at a clump of trees on high ground opposite the manse, but on the other side of the river; and contiguous to it is the present mansion-house, a plain substantial edifice, the occasional residence of Lawrence Tweedie, Esq. now Laird of Oliver. As to the origin of the Tweedies, see Waverley Novels, Introduction to the Betrothed, pp. 6-8.

† A different account of that secluded region given by Mr William Hogg, brother of the Ettrick Shepherd.

The decrease of population has been owing to the extension of farms. The whole property of the parish belongs to nine individuals, only one of whom ranks as a resident heritor. There are only five or six individuals that can be called resident tenants.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The people in general live in comfort, and scarcely any are unable to lay in their mart for winter. Poaching prevails to a considerable extent both in game and salmon; but, on the whole, the people are intelligent, moral, and religious. The shepherd's plaid is universally worn.

At Tweedhopefoot, two miles north from Tweedshaws, there lived a well-known character in his day, called Jamie Welsh, and ironically nick-named the *Bairn of Tweedhopefoot*, a perfect Milo in physical strength, huge in corporeal bulk, and having "*a heart of oak*," in respect of personal courage. His putting-stone is still shown, and it is a heavy lift for any ordinary man. It is said that he carried a load of meal (16 stones) on his back all the way from Peebles, a distance of 24 miles, and only rested twice.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The number of English acres actually under tillage and enclosure does not exceed 300. But it is impossible to calculate how much is arable, a great proportion of the mountains being quite capable of cultivation; though, from the expense of lime and other causes, it is not considered an object to bring it into that state. Oats, barley, turnips, pease, potatoes, and artificial grasses are the usual crops, and succeed well. The average return of grain is six bolls to one sown. There are no acres in undivided common; and the number of those under wood does not exceed 25.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land per acre is 18s. The average rate of grazing is L. 3, 10s. per ox or cow, and 5s. per ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year. The valued rent of the parish stood thus in 1819:

Earl of Wemyss,	L. 1657	7	0
Sir James Montgomery of Stanhope, Bart.	720	0	0
Anderson of Carterhope,	278	10	10
Lord Forbes,	272	7	0
Scott of Fingland,	237	9	2
Stewart of Hawkshaw,	228	12	0
Tweedie of Oliver,	215	13	6
Welsh of Earlshaugh and Tweedshaws,	180	0	0
Stewart of Glenbreck,	172	7	0
Total in Scotch money,	L. 3062	6	6

*Rate of Wages.*—A good man-servant gets L. 12 per annum; and if married, a house in addition, and sometimes a cow's grass, if

he does not receive victuals from his master. A very capable servant-woman gets at the rate of L. 6 per annum. Mechanics charge 2s. 6d. per day with victuals, and 3s. *without* victuals.

*Shepherds.*—That very useful class of men receive as wages 45 sheep, (which may be valued at 7s. each,) 3 loads, or 6 bolls, of meal (per annum,) a cow, and dwelling-house, with a garden or potato plat. In some cases, where the charge is extensive, two or three milch cows are allowed; and if a shepherd has to employ a son, or any young man, as an assistant, a proportion of meal and sheep is granted for his wages and maintenance. Being more in the capacity of stewards or overseers than servants, our shepherds have much confidence reposed in them by their masters, or rather employers, and enjoy advantages and comforts corresponding to the importance of the station they occupy. They are seldom removed from their situation; their fidelity insures it to them till old age unfits them for the discharge of its duties, and often it descends from father to son.

*Husbandry.*—Smearing of sheep is universally practised, and tar and palm-oil forming a cheaper preparation, and no less efficacious than others that have been recommended, is now very generally used, though, to prevent the undue preponderance of the first named ingredient, many add a considerable proportion of butter and train-oil. Light stocking is carefully attended to, and ewe milking is almost entirely abandoned. At the great show of the Highland Society at Dumfries, Mr James Welsh of Earlshaugh, who is the present tenant of Carterhope, gained the highest premium for black-faced, and Mr William Aitchison, present tenant of Menzion, for Cheviot. The former has for upwards of two years past tried the experiment of crossing the whole of Carterhope ewes with the Leicester breed of tups, which is found to succeed well. The price obtained for 600 sold at Liverpool last year was 14s. 6d., which he considered a good return.

In this parish there are 16,000 sheep, of which 9,000 are Cheviot or white-faced, and the remaining 7,000 are black faced. The former were introduced about thirty years ago, and, on account of the superior quality of the wool, are allowed to give the best return, especially when reared on land grassy and dry. But as the latter are generally supposed to be a hardier race, some give them the preference as best adapted for high, wet, and badly sheltered situations, though the opinion of some of the most intelligent, judicious, and experienced of our store-masters is decidedly against this notion.

About fifty years ago draining commenced in this parish on a large scale, and at a rough calculation not less than 80,000 roods have undergone that process. Catching of moles, building of stells or shelters for the sheep in stormy nights, and erecting march dikes or fences between different farms, are great improvements, and much has been done in these respects of late. The uncedmented or Galloway dike is preferred as a fence for sheep. The duration of leases for such farms as this parish contains is extremely various, being 4, 6, 8, 14 to 19 years. The farm-houses are all slated and built of stone and lime, and most of them are two stories high. Several of the shepherds' houses are built of stone and lime, and covered with slate.

The greatest obstacle to improvement is the distance of lime and extent of land carriage for all kinds of material. A single cart of lime when every thing is hired costs 13s. or 14s.

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

Oats at 14s. 6d. per boll, barley at 22s. per boll, and pease at 20s. per boll, the only grains cultivated in the parish,	L. 303 14 0
Potatoes at 5s. per boll,	143 15 0
Turnips at 50s. per acre,	80 0 0
Meadow hay at 4d. per stone,	241 17 6
Cultivated do. at 6d. per stone,	61 15 0
Wool at the present prices, not less than 18s. per stone,	2400 0 0
	L. 3231 1 6

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The nearest market-town is Biggar, which is twelve miles from the Crook Inn. In the parish there is no village of any description.

*Means of Communication.*—There are post-chaises and horses at Crook, where is also our post-office. The great road from Edinburgh to Dumfries by Moffat runs ten miles through the parish; and, as the mail-coach passes along it daily, it is of course kept in a state of excellent repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is scarcely two miles from the lower extremity of the parish, and, consequently, some of the parishioners have to travel eight miles in order to reach it. It was built in 1648, and is at present in good repair. It accommodates 160 individuals, and about 30 free sittings are afforded by the communion seats, which, however, have lately been removed to make way for a stove during the severer months in winter; but in summer, when required for the greater attendance at that time, they are replaced.

The manse was built thirty-six years ago, and, along with the church, has just been receiving extensive repairs.

The glebe contains 9 acres and 17 falks Scots measure, of excellent quality, and may be worth L. 20 Sterling per annum.

The church, manse, and glebe are situated on a beautiful peninsula formed by the junction of Tweed and Tala. The stipend is 14 chalders, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. Of valued teind there is about L. 60, which is paid in money, without conversion into meal and barley. The last augmentation was obtained in 1821, leaving the teinds unexhausted.

The parishioners are all attached to the Established church, and attend its services, with the exception of two individuals, who had been brought up in Secession principles at Peebles, and generally attend a meeting-house at Biggar, though they frequently appear along with their family at the parish church. The communicants are 120, and, considering the scattered state of the population, and the distance of many from the house of prayer, the usual attendance at Divine ordinances is remarkably good.

*Education.*—Besides the parish school, there are occasionally two private teachers hired for the convenience of a few families at a distance. The branches taught in the parish school, besides the ordinary ones, are geography, French, Latin, and Greek. The salary is L. 32 Sterling per annum; and school fees amount to about L. 12 more. The legal accommodation of a dwelling-house is afforded. The garden is only one-half of the legal allowance, but in lieu of the other half, one boll of meal is granted. For teaching reading the master charges 8s., writing, 10s., arithmetic, 12s., Latin and Greek, 14s. per annum.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—There was formerly a voluntary assessment among the heritors, but at present there is no assessment of any kind. The only support for the poor is derived from the weekly collections at church,—the proceeds of mortcloth and proclamations of banns. The spirit of independence is very strong among the people of this parish, and great aversion is generally felt to receiving aid from the *poor-box*, as it is called. There is at present only one pensioner on the poors' funds, who receives 1s. 3d. per week. Foreign mendicity annoys us greatly, and the conveyance of cripples, &c. from hence to Moffat, on the one hand, (fifteen miles) and to Broughton, on the other (eight miles,) forms, as might be expected, a very important item in our annual expenditure. The annual amount arising from all the usual sources

combined for the support of the poor, does not reach at an average L. 10 Sterling.

*Inns.*—There are three of these in the parish, but, being situated on the turnpike road, they may be considered necessary for the accommodation of travellers. At the same time they are, to a certain extent, demoralizing in their influence, especially on the habits of those who live in their vicinity. From the responsibility attached to the office of shepherds in this district, where they are entrusted with almost the whole management, men of truly upright characters have been generally selected, and it certainly speaks volumes in favour of their principles, that few of them are at all injuriously affected by the temptations which the contiguity of taverns seldom fails to present.

*Fuel.*—Coal of good quality cannot be procured nearer than Douglas, twenty-six miles distant, and of course it is an expensive fuel. But excellent peat abounds in the parish, which is of immense value, as respects the comfort of the poor. Such was the wetness of the summer 1830, that it was scarcely procurable, and coals were used in most houses during the following winter; and persons upwards of seventy years of age had recourse to this kind of fuel who had never seen it in their houses before.

*April 1834.*