

PARISH OF ETTRICK.

PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. JAMES SMITH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—In a charter of Alexander II. to the monks of Kelso, the Ettrick of Selkirkshire is repeatedly mentioned by the various names of “Ettric and Ethyric.” The name is of doubtful origin. “Eitrich in Gaelic signifies a furrow or trench. Eithrach in the same language means a wilderness.” Again, the *Ed* of the language of the British Aborigenes signifies a current, and *Terig*, mud; both names being characteristic of this river when its waters are raised * and agitated by the mountain-torrents.

In the last Statistical Account, the parish has been described as being at an average ten miles long by ten broad; but in a late survey published by Oliver and Boyd (1829) its area in square miles has been stated at 68.69 miles or 43,968 imperial acres. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Yarrow, and touched by Meggat in Peebles-shire; south and west by the Parishes of Moffat and Eskdalemuir in Dumfries-shire; and on the east, by a part of Yarrow and Roberton. Its surface is hilly and mountainous. The hills are beautifully rounded, and are almost all covered with rich green grass from top to bottom: Two or three indeed are spotted with heath, which only adds by its variety to the beauty of the scenery.

* Mr James Hogg, in his Statistics of Selkirkshire, published in the 18th number of the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, says, “In old deeds and charters it is first found written Alterick, then Atterick and finally Etterick. Atterick is really as good Gaelic as a borderer could spell. Alterick signifies the rising stream, or stream of the rapid ascent.”

Ettrick-pen, the highest of these, has been stated (above the level of the sea) at	-	-	-	-	2200 feet.
Wardlaw,	-	-	-	-	1986
Old Ettrick hill,*	-	-	-	-	1860

Meteorology.—The following is a table of the mean temperature of the atmosphere, as observed at Thirlestane, the seat of Lord Napier, for the four following years, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824.

	Winter.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.	Mean.
1821,	36°	42°.3	54°.3	47°.3	44°.9
1822,	36 .3	43	56 .9	44 .9	45 .4
1823,	35 .3	41 .9	52	46 .5	43 .7
1824,	35 .7	39	52	42 .3	42 .2

The following is a table of the prevailing winds for the same four years, as observed by Mr Alexander Laidlaw, Bowerhope, on the borders of the parish.

	Directions of the Wind.							
	W.	N. W.	N.	N. E.	E.	S. E.	S.	S. W.
1821,	68	27	7	20	38	17	21	127
1822,	88	20	11	19	40	13	36	112
1823,	81	33	18	11	39	24	31	92
1824,	64	51	14	34	40	9	17	101

The following is also a table of the weather, as kept by the same observing individual for the same four years.

	Fair.	Rain.	Snow.
1821,	160	147	58
1822,	168	163	34
1823,	155	153	57
1824,	168	153	45

Hydrography.—The Loch of the Lowes spreads itself at the northern boundary of the parish, through which the drain-like stream which forms the Yarrow makes its way. This lake is far inferior to St Mary's, which is only separated from it by a very narrow neck of land; St Mary's being about three miles long, half a mile broad, and from twenty-eight to thirty fathoms deep, while the Lowes is only one mile long, a quarter of a mile broad, and about twelve fathoms in depth. The Ettrick, on the south side of a range of hills, called, "the back-bone of the country," rises from among a few rushes between Loch-fell and Capel-fell, two miles above Potburn, said to be the highest farm-house above the level

* It is supposed that these elevations of the hills, as taken from the county map, are somewhat less than their actual height above the level of the sea.

of the sea in the south of Scotland. It is fed by many a little raging mountain-torrent. When it is small, and viewed from the top of the hills in a fine sunny day, it is like a thread of silver; but when raised by the storms and the rain, it bids defiance to all its banks, and sweeps over the adjoining haughs with the raging fury of a "mountain sea." After a course of about thirty miles N. E., the Ettrick loses itself in the Tweed, between Sunderland Hall and Abbotsford. *Timah*, a small rivulet, rises on the heights between the parishes of Eskdalemuir and Ettrick, which, after a course of about six miles in nearly a northern direction, falls into the Ettrick at Ramsay-cleugh, about a mile below the kirk. *Rankle-burn*, another stream, rises also between the parishes of Ettrick and Eskdalemuir. It is celebrated by the song of the maid of Rankle-burn, and by tradition, for being the place where the ancient progenitors of the family of Buccleuch first took up their residence: (*Satchells.*) After passing in a direction similar to the Timah, it falls into the Ettrick, opposite to the old grey dingy ruins of the tower of Tushielaw.

Geology.—The stratification of the range of hills in this district runs in general from S. W. to N. E. with a variety of dips. The rocks are of the transition series. It is wholly schistose, consisting of greywacke and clay-slate. The hills are therefore of a rounded form, and indicate the formation to which they belong. There are no interesting fossils or minerals found in the country. A piece of antimony glance was picked up in the channel of a little burn near the source of the Ettrick, some time ago, but though considerable search has been made since, no more has yet been found. Iron pyrites has also been collected in the romantic linus of the Ettrick. At Meucra, near the Lochs, a black rock has been sometimes visited by the admirers of nature, which some have pronounced to be glossy alum slate; it has the appearance of bone. Almost every kind of soil is to be met with here. But there is in general a deep moss on the top of the hills. This becomes by mixture of sand or gravel, mossy gravelly soil. There is often again a cold stiff clay on the sides, or near to the bottom of the hills; this again by mixture of sand or gravel, forms a new and different kind of bed for the plants and grasses. But the haughs on the sides of the river are in general of a fine *alluvial* soil, washed from the hills and formed on the banks. The soil, indeed, of whatever kind, is in general good, and would bear crops of wheat,

but the climate being cold, damp, and late, we could not expect it to ripen; therefore no such crop is ever attempted to be raised.

Zoology.—It may be noticed under this head, that till of late we have been but little visited by small birds of the singing kind. Now, among the young plantations, we hear the blackbird and the thrush, and a nameless train vieing with their notes to outdo the *laverock*, the ancient songster of the forest. And we may add that the words of Wordsworth are sometimes no fiction.

“ The swans on sweet St Mary’s lake,
Float double, swan and shadow.”

Sea-trout and salmon, when the rivers are flooded in the winter season, make an excursion up the Ettrick, the Timah, and Rankleburn, and they often even find their way into some of the smaller tributaries. But trout, perch, and pike, are the only natural and permanent inhabitants of all our waters.

Botany.—Though the country be alpine, we have not discovered any rare alpine plants in it. Among the long grass interspersed with *spretts* may be seen the *orchis* in many of its beautiful varieties; the meadow cardamine (*Cardamine pratensis*), with its lovely lilac petals; and among marshes, the white Parnassian grass (*Parnassia palustris*), and butter plant (*Pinguicula vulgaris*). The plants of Eriophorum (*Eriophorum vaginatum*) or cotton-grass, in the mosses or among the black bent, or heath, are like so many little tufts of cotton waving in the breeze, or sparkling in the sun. The lucken-gowan, (*Trollius Europæus*), is met with also very frequently among the meadow grounds, or the low sloping sides of the hills. And the cloud-berry, (*Rubus chamaemorus*), is gathered on some of the mountain tops. These are samples of the Flowers of the Forest.

The grasses found here, as connected with soil, and with the feeding of the flocks, are more interesting, as they are more useful. Deer-hair, (*Scirpus cæspitosus*), is generally found on a thin mossy soil, mixed with heath; it is only of service for summer pasture. Stool bent, (*Juncus squarrosus*), rises where there is a considerable mixture of sand with the soil; this is an evergreen, and is preferable to the deer-hair. It has been called “an excellent bait,” being a hardy perennial. White bent, (*Nardus stricta*), and flying bent, (*Aira cærulea*), are also less valuable, being less durable, living and dying in autumn with the deer-hair, and leaving a whiteness on the hills like the decay of winter, and straw-

like rustling leaves, ever borne and wafted by the wind in gusts among the hills. But of the three following, we believe, the shepherd would say, we could scarcely speak too highly. 1. *Eriophorum vaginatum*, which in its youngest state is called moss-crops, is greedily pulled up by the sheep; in a farther advanced state it is called *ling* or *laing*. This, to speak in the words of one who has long observed its advantages, is a very valuable spring pasture; it is a hardy perennial, and affords a grateful and nourishing food. 2. *Sesleria cærulea*, blue moor-grass, or *pry*, is also a hardy perennial. It resists the severity of the winter. It remains green through the spring months, and is one of the most valuable of all our mountain grasses. 3. *Juncus acutiflorus*, sprett, is very abundant among the hills. It grows most luxuriantly on a wettish soil. While it serves for pasture, it is chiefly cut for hay, during the autumnal months; and, while it is very serviceable for the black cattle during the winter, a portion of it is usually kept for the sheep, in case of a "lying storm."*

The name Forest, implies that the district was once "the land of trees." But the freebooters and moss-troopers in the time of James IV. cut and destroyed many of them, and even John Murray, the Sheriff of Selkirkshire, who should have protected the rights of his royal master, has his name enrolled among the number of the delinquents. At last, James V. we are told, "showed a disposition to change the forest into what it now is,—a sheep-walk, by stocking a part of it with extensive flocks." There are now but few remains of the ancient forest. An old tree may be seen here and there, and sometimes a few together, to mark both the antiquity, and the natural features of the wood of the country. The kinds of the natural wood must have been very numerous. We have counted between twelve and fourteen in one wide cleugh alone. The prevailing, however, are the ash, the mountain-ash, the birch, the alder, the willow, the thorn, &c. But while the natural wood is dwindling, decaying, and dying, several young plantations are rising, flourishing, and waving among our hills, and all seem to indicate that the forest can yet support and nourish them.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Eminent Men.—Alexander Cunningham, the historian, was a native of this parish; and his father, Alexander Cunningham, was

* For a list of the different grasses, see the article "SELKIRKSHIRE," in the Edinburgh Encyclopædia.

minister of the parish. He was educated at Selkirk school, and originally destined for the church. During the reign of George I. he was appointed Minister to the State of Venice, and retained his functions from 1715 to 1720. Long after his death his Latin history came into the possession of Dr Hollingberry, Archdeacon of Chichester. The original has not been published, but a spirited translation, executed by William Thomson, LL.D. made its appearance under the title of "The History of Great Britain from the Revolution in 1688 to the Accession of George the First." Lond. 1787. 2 vols. 4to.*

In an old house at Ettrick Hall, about a quarter of a mile from the church, with its gable standing to the road, and a broken window, through which a traveller may peep into the dark damp interior, was born and nursed "the Ettrick Shepherd."

" Here first I saw the rising morn ;
Here first my infant mind unfurl'd,
To judge this spot where I was born
The very centre of the world."

In this parish the truly patriotic and benevolent Lord Napier has his usual residence. "This nobleman, the descendant of the great Napier," to use the words of a popular writer, "has, for some years past, employed his time and talents, together with much money, in improving the stock on the hills, and introducing into a district, hitherto bound up in its own natural wildness, all the attributes and amenities proper to the most civilized regions."—"His enthusiasm has been one of benevolence, and from the full half of the beautiful cottages he has planted in this wilderness, the prayers of the widow and the orphan nightly ascend to Heaven in his behalf."

In this parish rest the remains of the Reverend Thomas Boston, sometime its minister. On his monument, on a white marble tablet, is the following inscription:—"As a testimony of esteem for the Reverend Thomas Boston Senior, whose private character was highly respectable; whose public labours were blessed to many; and whose valuable writings have contributed much to promote the advancement of vital Christianity, this monument (by the permission of relatives) is erected by a religious and grateful public, A. D. 1806. He was born at Dunse March 17, 1676. Ordained to the pastoral charge of Simprim September 21, 1699; removed

* Of this history Dr Thomson says, "We shall find reason to pronounce it a just and legitimate composition, and perhaps to rank its author in the first class of our historians."

from thence to Ettrick, May 1, 1707; and died May 20, 1732, leaving a widow and four children."

Land-owners.—The following noblemen and gentlemen are the chief proprietors and land-owners at present. His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, proprietor of Buccleuch Easter and Wester, Anelshope, Crosslee, Deephope, Gair, and Roplaw Shiel. The right Honourable Lord Napier of Thirlstane, Gamescleugh, Scabeleugh, and Craighill. The Reverend T. G. Torry Anderson of Tushielaw and Cacerabank, &c.

Parochial Register.—The parish register of Ettrick commences in 1693. The Reverend James M'Mihan stands on the first page surrounded with his twelve elders. Each of these elders had his proper district assigned him, and the religious duties pointed out which he was to perform. One part of the duty was, that "two should watch in their turn on the Sabbath, to see that none withdrew from public worship, and that there might be no disorder about the doors, &c." The records during the ten years of Mr M'Mihan's incumbency are interesting.* Four years after his translation to Hownam, Mr Boston was called to the parish. He has ranged the births and baptisms by themselves,—has kept a separate portion for proclamations and marriages,—and we have his thickly written quarto—"the book of discipline." The records show he was a disciplinarian indeed. †

Antiquities, &c.—This parish has been sometimes called the united parishes of Ettrick and Buccleuch. If we were to take the extent of territory, indeed, belonging to the Buccleuch portion as a reason for entitling it to the name of *parish*, these lands are together as extensive as the lands of ancient Ettrick; but, in "a decret of disjunction of certain lands (viz. the lands of Deepup, Mount common, Gemmelscleuch, Ettrick-side, Anelshope, Buccleuches Easter and Wester, Tushielaw, Cacerabank and the Corslies,) from the

* Something of the history of the people and the times may be gleaned from the records. At one time we find him with the greatest difficulty obtaining *heather, thack,* and *divots*, to keep the kirk and manse in repair; at another he is seen "scraping" for the poor; and anon making collections for the Bursars,—for the captives of Barbary,—for the harbour of Cullen,—for the bridges of Lanark and Melrose,—for the Church of Holland, &c. We read also that Tushielaw should buy a mort-cloth with the collection made at the sacrament,—and "speak for a bell if it be cheap."

† The registration of baptisms is regularly kept, as far we have been able to learn, from 1693 to 1711. But there is a blank between 1711 and 1725, which we cannot account for; the baptisms of 1725 being immediately after the baptisms of 1711 in the same volume. This may be one reason why there has been in a certain quarter, and still is, and may yet be, much fruitless litigation!!

parish of Yara and annexation of the same to the parish of Ettrick, dated 28th May 1650, we find the following reasons for their disunion from the one, and for their annexation to the other; these lands were "lyaut far distant from their ain paroch kirk," they were therefore annexed to Ettrick "quharunto they ly mair *ewest*."

Buccleuch.—In the lonely vale of Rankle-burn, surrounded by a dense mass of hills, are the two forlorn farm-steadings of the Buccleuchs. A deep ravine, near the road leading from them to Hawick, is pointed out as the place where the buck was slain, and which gave, according to tradition, their name and title to the family of Buccleuch. Let the limping lines of old Satchels carry us thither.

" Good Lancelot Scot, I think his book be true,
Old Rankle-burn is designed Buccleuch now;
Yet in his book no balls read he,
It was buck's cleuch, he read to me;
He told me the name, the place, the spot,
Came all by the hunting of the buck.
In Scotland no Buccleuch was then.
Before the buck in the cleuch was slain."

A small crook, in the steepest part of the cleuch, about half-way between the east-house and the mill-dam-ford, (which is a pool or ford on the Hawick road,) is pointed out as the place where the buck was taken; but, if Satchels be correct, it was not here the buck was slain, for he says,

" The very place where the buck was slain,
He built a stone house, and there he did remain."

Now the foundations of such a house, as we might conceive it should be, were dug up between three and four years ago, and upon the spot has been built, within these twelve months past, the farm-house of Easter Buccleuch.* In the buck's cleuch are the marks of the site of an old mill.

" For they built a mill on that same burn,
To grind dog's bran, tho' there grew no corn."

Fifty years ago, the walls of this mill were "knee high;" now they

* "There are no vestiges of any building at Buccleuch, except the site of a chapel, &c." says Sir Walter Scott in his notes to the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*; and all the writers we have seen giving a description of this ancient and famed spot, use nearly the same language. But we are inclined to think that the family of Buccleuch had once a baronial residence *here*." See in the *Notes to the Lay of the Last Minstrel*, an account of this spot written by the person who dug up the foundations.

are only a rude outline, being a very little above the ground, overgrown with moss. About a Scotch mile above the farm-steading, and close on the Rankle-burn, is to be seen the lonely spot on which once stood the noted kirk or chapel of Buccleuch. There is still here to be seen the feeble outline of the old wall, with the kirk-yard dike; and around the whole is the crumbling form of a *stell* or *fauld*, for the sheep on the farm at certain seasons. The marks where houses seem to have stood, are still visible on the burn side.

Tushielaw.—Passing from Buccleuch, we come upon the gray ruins of the tower of Tushielaw, on the side of a hill near the road on the Ettrick, which seem to request a moment's inspection. It is not easy to say whether it is more famous in song, in tradition, or in the realities connected with its history. A powerful family of the name of Scott were once its inhabitants; and they were not more powerful than famous, as freebooters and moss-troopers. In 1502, "Patrick Turnbull, in Walchope, produced a remission for resetting, supplying, and intercommuning with Archibald and Ninian Armstrangis, and William Scott, son of David Scott of Tushielaw, in their stouthreifs, slaughters, burnings, and other crimes committed by them." And there is a famous tradition that Adam Scott, (probably brother of the said William,) commonly called the King of Thieves, on being taken by King James V. one morning before breakfast, was hung on an ash tree over his own gate; along the principal branches of which it is said there are still to be seen the *nicks* and *hollows* formed by the ropes on which many an unhappy wight had been suspended by the rigorous and powerful baron.* It is to this noted chief of the border we find granted a "Remission for treasonably breaking prison, and his warde within the castle of Edinburge, apud Edinburge," November 28, 1505. Nearly twenty years after this, (March 25, 1525,) we stumble on

* The tradition is undoubtedly incorrect. Adam Scot, called the King of Thieves, was tried, convicted, and beheaded, at Edinburgh, on the 18th May 1530. Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. p. 145. The words of the record are as follows: "1530, Mail 18. Adam Scot of Tuschelaw, convicted of art and part of theftously taking black mail from the time of his entry within the castle of Edinburgh, in ward, from John Brown in Hoprow; and of art and part of theftously taking black mail from Andrew Thorbrand, and William his brother; and for art and part of theftously taking of black mail from the poor tenants of Hopecaillzow; and of art and part of theftously taking black mail from the tenants of Eschescheill. Beheaded. Quhaerfor the king caused hang the 18th May William Cockburn of Henderlande, and Adame Scott of Tuschelaw, thieves apprehendit in Edinburgh, to terrifie otheris;—and they were heidit, and their heidis fixit upon the Tolbuith of Edinburg."

his name among a list of border barons who agreed to assist the Earle of Angus to stanch thift, reiff, slaughter, &c. &c.

Thirlstane.—About two miles above Tushielaw stands the old tower of Thirlstane surrounded by a few venerable ash trees. The young springing wood serves as a guard both for the old baronial castle and the lately erected seat of the family of Thirlstane.

Gamescleuch.—On the opposite side of the Ettrick is to be seen a pretty distinct outline of the tower of Gamescleuch. In the genealogy of Scott, &c. in the possession of Lord Napier, it is said: “John Scott of Thirlestane married a daughter of Scott of Allahaugh, by whom he had four sons, Robert, his heir, and Simon, called Long-spear, who was tutor of Thirlstane, and built the tower of Gamescleugh.

Old Chapels, &c.—Near the farm-house of Kirkhope, (on the Ettrick,) the place of an old kirk steading is still visited; its site is so covered with grass and moss, however, that its dimensions are barely discernible. Near the farm-house of Chapelhope (on the side of the lakes,) is the place of the steading of another chapel. It is now grown over with moss, but the enclosure and form of the foundations of the chapel are still perfectly distinct. There is yet something like the appearance of the rows of graves; and not many years back, some “muggers” deposited in these romantic and sequestered grounds the remains of one of their dead.

There have no coins been dug up in the parish in so far as we know. An old tripod or urn, and two axiform stones, small toward the middle, probably used for the skinning of the red deer, were found some years ago, and are now in the possession of Lord Napier. The cane, and what is said to have been the small sword, of Boston, are still preserved in the parish.

III.—POPULATION.

It appears from tradition,—from the amount of church collections,—from the number of paupers on the roll on the sessional records,—and from the number of small farms, with the farmers and their families residing on them, that the population 140 years ago must have been much greater than at present. The following is the state of the population subsequently.

In the year 1755,	.	.	397
————— 1790,	.	.	470
————— 1801,	.	.	445
————— 1811,	.	..	440

In the year 1821,	.	.	475
----- 1831,	.	.	530

The average of baptisms for these last four years, viz. from 1829 to 1832, both inclusive, is 18; of marriages, 3; of deaths, 7. The number of families in the parish is 89.

The number of persons employed in agriculture is 75; in manufactures, retail trade, or handicraft, 24; of professional or other educated men, 4; of labourers not agricultural, 37. The only resident proprietor is Lord Napier.

The people speak the dialect of the forest, which is simple and soft in its tones, and, we should think, rather agreeable to the ear of a stranger. They are a reading people, and well-informed on almost every subject. We can still trace amongst them the seeds of the gospel as sown here by the venerable Boston. They are quiet and inoffensive, and seem to cultivate all the dispositions which tend to peace and good agreement, to religion and morality.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy—The number of acres in the parish has been stated at 43,968. Of these about 217 are under the plough, and about 163 acres more might be profitably cultivated. Above 270 are planted and beautified with thriving young wood. About 43,086 acres are constantly waste, or in permanent pasture, whereof 120 are meadow. Hard and soft wood alike rejoice in the soil; and were the lands only protected indeed from the flocks, we could almost believe “that every foot of ground would again spring up in natural wood.” There are besides about 2700 acres now enclosed. Of these there are one or more fields of greater or less extent on every farm.

The parish consists of twenty-nine farms, there being no common lands now. Of these, nine are only occupied by resident tenants, the remaining twenty being led farms. Those tenants who do reside amongst us are mostly bachelors,—respectable in the world,—and as wealthy and well-doing as the pressure of these hard past times will admit. But the day seems coming when every farm must have its own tenant, with his growing and flourishing young family around him, like the shepherds and shepherdesses of our border legends.

Rent of Land, &c.—The hills and low lands taken together, though in general fertile and productive, as far as the climate will admit, and rich as pasture, yet, owing to the distance from mar-

kets, and to the nature and quality of the food required for the flocks, &c. let at an average of from 2s. 6d. to 15s. an acre. A cow can be grazed for 40s.; an ox for about 45s.; and a sheep for 5s. through summer and winter; the grazing of an ox being about nine times the annual grazing of one sheep.

Breeds of Live Stock, &c.—"From the time of King James," says Mr Hogg in his *Statistics of Selkirkshire*, "down to the year 1785, the black-faced, or forest breed, had continued to be the sole breed of sheep reared in the district, and happy had it been for the inhabitants had no other been introduced to this day. However, about that period, the farmers in the eastern division of the county began to introduce the Cheviot breed, which, for the space of ten years, continued to creep westward, by slow degrees, till the year 1796, when the demand for Cheviots began to increase so rapidly, and still to go on progressively, till it absolutely grew little better than the tulipo-mania that once seized on the Dutch." Ettrick had soon her complement of this new breed. They first appeared on the farm of Crosslee. Shortly after they were to be seen spreading and feeding on all our pastures; and in spite of the indignation of the old shepherd at the rash conduct of his young master, the black-faced "ewie wi' the crooket horn" was banished entirely from her native hills.

On two or three farms, a few years back, the "old black-faced" had again made their appearance; but they begin again to decrease; for they find they are only welcome where the "white-faced gentry" will not thrive. Notwithstanding the regrets of the "shepherd," therefore, we rather think the Cheviots will continue to be our permanent friends and favourites. The number of sheep, as near as we can guess, may be about 26,000. The cattle here are of inferior concern. The cows are generally short-horned, or of the Ayrshire breed. Highland kyloes are beginning to be introduced on two or three farms, to pasture among the flocks on the hills. The practice is most commendable. They feed on the leavings of the sheep. They bring the rough pasture to a *bearing* for producing a more plentiful crop of pasture-grass; and a double advantage is gained, for a double crop is maintained and obtained, while the whole pasturage on which they feed is enriched, bettered, increased, and prepared for a plentiful revival on the following spring. The whole number of black cattle at Whitsunday (1832,) was 389, and of horses 58.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish may be as follows :

108 acres oats and barley, at L. 4 per acre,	-	-	-	L. 432
54 ——— potatoe and turnip,	-	-	-	351
54 ——— grass, at L. 3 per acre,	-	-	-	162
120 ——— meadow, at L. 2, 10s. per acre,	-	-	-	300
42966 ——— pasture,	-	-	-	11500
				L. 12745

Pastoral Society.—“ To facilitate the improvement of live stock,” says Mr Alexander Laidlaw, an observing and intelligent farmer, “ the first pastoral society was instituted in 1818, by the enterprising exertions, and under the immediate patronage, of Lord Napier. It can now reckon amongst its members the greater part of the landed proprietors of the county, besides a good many patriotic gentlemen of the country. And it has not only been uniformly supported by every respectable farmer in Selkirkshire, but also by many of that valuable class of men in Peebles, Roxburgh, and Dumfries-shires. This society not only stirs up a spirit of emulation among farmers in general, but serves also as a school where the young farmer will *see* the real and apparent properties of live stock pointed out by the judges, but also *hear* the relative advantages and disadvantages of almost every breed fearlessly discussed at the annual general meeting.” The society meets annually, and generally on the 18th June. The meetings are held at the three following places, viz. one year at Newark, near Selkirk; another at Tinnies, in Yarrow; and the third at Thirlstane fair grounds, in Ettrick. *

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets, Roads, &c.—The nearest market-town is Moffat, at the distance of sixteen miles. But Selkirk, the county town, about eighteen (miles) from Ettrick Kirk, and Hawick, about the same distance, are the chief marketing places. The post town is Selkirk. Letters and newspapers, &c. are conveyed twice a week by a regular carrier belonging to the parish; and there are, besides, two from Selkirk, two from Hawick, two from Edinburgh, and one from Galashiels weekly during the summer months. There are about thirty miles of road in the parish on which any car-

* As to improvements in this parish, we refer the reader to a volume on this subject by Lord Napier, published in 1822, and entitled, “ A Treatise on Practical Store Farming, as applicable to the mountainous region of Ettrick Forest, and the Pastoral District of Scotland in general.”

riage may travel. And the trustees, under the unremitting superintendance of Lord Napier, are still making and mending. "The roads and bridges," says Mr Hogg in his Statistical account of Selkirkshire, "were never put into a complete state of repair till the present Lord Napier settled in the country; and to his perseverance Ettrick forest is indebted for the excellence of her roads, now laid out and finished in every practicable direction. With an indomitable spirit of perseverance, he has persisted against much obloquy and vituperation, and from none more than the writer of this article. But honour to whom honour is due, Lord Napier has effected wonders; and the late impervious Ettrick forest may compare, in the beauty and efficiency of her roads, with any mountain district in the united kingdom."

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is in nearly the centre of the parish. Two or three families are distant from it more than six miles, yet some of them are almost as regular in their attendance, as the day returns, for public worship. It was rebuilt (and enlarged) on the same site nine years ago. It is very neatly fitted up within; chaste in its style; commodious and comfortable. It is seated to contain 450 free sitters. The manse was built within these last twenty years. It is also in good repair, and comfortable. How different from the time when the incumbent could with difficulty obtain *divots* and *heather* to *thack* it and make it habitable! The glebe contains about twenty-three English acres; ten of which were lately allowed as pasturage or grass glebe. The whole may be reckoned at about L. 20 a-year. The stipend, in 1755, converted to money, was L. 65, 2s. 2d. Immediately prior to the 30th of June 1808, it consisted of L. 105, 11s. 1½d. in money, with two chalders of oat-meal and two of barley, together with L. 8, 6s. 8d. as allowance for communion elements (*see Survey of Selkirkshire*, 1829). The present stipend is fifteen chalders, or 174 quarters, 6 bushels, and ¼ gallon imperial measure, half meal and half barley, with L. 100 Scots, or L. 8, 6s. for communion elements. The average yearly amount of stipend converted to money may be L. 230. The locality (*interim*) of the parish of Ettrick and Buccleuch commenced with crop and year 1821, and was modified in February 1822.

There are no chapels or dissenting meeting-houses amongst us, but there are several Dissenters. There is a family of four of the Relief persuasion. There are above thirty-two united to the Reformed Presbyterian Synod, the *old light* of which Boston speaks,

who form a part of the congregation of Ettrick and Eskdale. They have sometimes sermon here, though they have no stated minister, house, or place of meeting. There are two score and ten belonging to the flock of the United Associate Synod. In all, there may be 15 families of Dissenters. Their general place of worship is in Selkirk; but as the distance is so great, many of them attend the parish church as regularly as the most of our most regular attenders.

The parish church, it would appear, from the old records of the parish, has been generally *well frequented*, though we do not know if we might say *well attended*. After the admission of Mr Boston (in 1707), there is a complaint by him on record, of the “indecent carriage of the people at the kirk, going *out* and *in*, and *up* and *down* the kirk-yard the time of divine service. The clerk was therefore appointed to go out after the first psalm in the forenoon and afternoon, to see if any be found about the church-yard, &c.” Afterwards, the elders were enjoined to “prevent or correct the abuse.” But what was to be expected of a people shut up from the whole world. The road to their county town was little better than the channel of the river. They had long been destitute, too, of all the means of improvement. “There had been little knowledge of religion among them,” says Boston, “till the time of confusion and persecution; so that John Anderson in Gamescleuch told me of a time when there was not a Bible in the church, except the minister’s, his father’s, and another.” There was besides this, a vacancy of four years from the time Mr M^cMihan left the parish till Mr Boston was settled among this people as their pastor, though every tenant had applied to his laird again and again, to endeavour to have them supplied with a Gospel minister. The kirk of Ettrick is, however, now well attended. When Mr Boston dispensed the sacrament for the first time (July 16), in 1710, he says ‘he had only about fifty-seven communicants belonging to the parish.’ When he dispensed the same ordinance for the last time, (June 13) in 1731, the number of communicants was 777.*

* Boston gives the following interesting account of the solemnity. “The tokens distributed to communicants were about 777; the collection on the three days L. 77, 13s. 4d. Scots. There were about nine score strangers in Midghope; four score of them William Black, husband of Isbel Biggar, entertained, having baken for them half a boll of meal for bread, bought 4s. 10d. worth of wheat bread, and killed three lambs, and made thirty beds. And I believe their neighbour Isbel’s brother would be much the same. This I record once for all, for a swatch of the hospitality of the parish; for God hath given this people a largeness of heart, to communicate of their substance on these and other

As before the times of the Bostons, so after their days, the people of Ettrick had not for any length of time any regularly stated pastor. One was translated to another parish, a second died in early life, and a third soon acquired evil habits, and lived to an advanced age, leaving a "bare subsistence," to a helper, who resigned his charge always just as soon as he could find another open door. He has now been dead between twenty and thirty years, yet the writer of this article is the twelfth incumbent from the elder Boston, in the period of very little more than a century. The people of Ettrick, therefore, have had many changes by no means favourable to spiritual or mental improvement; yet we can say, that our congregation, considering our population, is by no means inconsiderable, and that our communicants have increased, and are increasing in numbers every year. When we first dispensed the sacrament in this place, eight years ago, the number of communicants belonging to the parish might be about 118. Last year (August 26, 1832), they had advanced to the number of 147.

Bible Society.—A Bible and missionary society was instituted here in 1819, "having for its object the dissemination of the scriptures, without note or comment." The present Lord Napier is president of that society, and a great proportion of the heads of families, both churchmen and dissenters, have enrolled themselves as members. There is an annual sermon preached in behalf of its funds. The average of the collection and subscriptions for the last four years, is L. 11, 12s. 4d. and these have been generally equally divided between the Edinburgh Bible and Missionary Societies.

Education.—There is one parochial school. Mr John Beattie, a teacher of this school, died about seven years ago, his father and he together having been schoolmasters in the parish for the space of 101 years. There are no other stated schools in the parish. A woman may be seen sometimes giving lessons to a few small children. In the house of a shepherd may be found sometimes also, a boy or girl teaching the children of two or three families united. Our scattered population, indeed, is unfavourable to the education of the young; yet we believe, there is not one above six years old who has not been taught the first lessons of reading, and been instructed in the principles of religion. The present

occasions also. And my heart has long been on that occasion particularly concerned for a blessing on their substance, with such a natural emotion as if they had been begotten of my body. Those within a mile of the church still had a greater weight on solemn occasions."

teacher is the first in the parish who ever received a classical education. All the branches usually taught at a parochial school may now be obtained here. The school salary is the maximum, and the amount of school fees, &c. may be about L. 15 a-year. The schoolmaster has all the legal accommodations allowed to teachers, if by this be meant school-house and garden. The people are alive to the benefits of education; and we believe, that they are not far inferior to those of any parish of the same kind in the south of Scotland.

Library.—A parish library was instituted between twenty and thirty years ago. It was long in a weak state, but still it stood and gained strength; now it is vigorous and progressing. There are belonging to it between thirty and forty members, and it contains nearly 600 volumes. A list of its proprietors, with the laws of the society, and a catalogue of the books, were printed in 1824, a donation of five guineas being presented by Lord Napier for that purpose, who is also himself a member, and who, with two or three other proprietors of the parish, have presented to it some very valuable volumes.

Poor.—Regular assessments appear to have been introduced in 1725, and have continued ever since. In 1791 “the number of persons receiving alms was fifteen: the assessment upon the heritors for their support L. 37, per annum.” The number of persons at present on the roll is five, among whom is a well known character, the original of the “Davie Gellatly of Waverley.” The assessment for the present year (1833), is L. 23, 19s. 1d. with an addition of L. 4, allowed as collector’s fee. But the average number of paupers for the last seven years is 7, and the average sum of assessment for the same time is L. 41, 15s. 2d. The church collections have been generally appropriated to assist the industrious poor. For the last year, these collections have amounted to nearly L. 16, but the average sum of the last seven years may be stated at little more than L. 10.

Prisons.—Though there be no resident magistrate or lawyer generally in the parish, or ready way of getting legal redress, yet there is a small prison “the round house,” near the fair grounds. It is placed there, however, perhaps more *in terrorem* than *in paenas*.

Fairs.—Here there are four fairs held annually. One in the end of March for the sale of *grit ewes*; for the hiring of servants, and especially for the hiring of shepherds. Another held in the end of July, called the *lamb fair*, where wool and lambs are disposed

of, and a great deal of other business transacted. The third is in the month of September, for the sale of *draft ewes* and small lambs, and for the purchasing of tups and fat sheep. This is the largest of the four, and is a very important market both for the seller and purchaser. From 8000 to 10,000 head of stock have stood in it, and many of them exchanged owners. The fourth, called the Little fair, is held in November, and is principally for selling and purchasing fat sheep for *marts*. Sometimes, also, stock for *keep* is exposed and disposed of, and occasionally a master may find a servant who has been disappointed at the general time of hiring. No custom has hitherto been levied, and we hear that it is not likely that ever any will be exacted.

Inns.—Two years ago a new inn was built on the banks of the Ettrick, near the old mansion of Tushielaw. It is neatly fitted up, and has several comfortable apartments.

Fuel.—Peat is the usual fuel; and it can be cut for about a shilling the cart-load. But coal is beginning to be a favourite, and many would prefer a “coal fire,” were it not for the expence, on account of the distance from which the material is to be brought. But we are glad to see the long-contemplated road across the Moorfoot hills at length commenced. It will be of immense advantage to the district of Yarrow and Ettrick in the importation of coal and lime.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

“I remember,” says an old man of *eighty*, “when there was not a cart in the parish, nor above Singlee, (ten miles below Ettrick kirk), and but one little enclosed park behind Thirlestane.”—“They carried the manure to the fields, and the peat from the hills in *creels* on horses backs,” now there are about thirty-six carts and twenty ploughs, and on every farm one or more enclosures. Formerly there was a village at Ettrick House, containing thirty-two families; now there is but one house inhabited by a shepherd, built on the ruins of an old tower, which perhaps gave rise to the name. Two elders generally resided here, and out of a list of sixteen poor, seven had their residence in Ettrick House. Of the “ten proprietors of the parish,” says the writer of the last Statistical Account, “none reside in it.” At present, Lord Napier, the patron of the church and parish, lives amongst us, and from his seat as a centre, life and cultivation are spreading and diffusing their happy influence all around us.

“The Scotch fir,” says Dr Russell, “is almost the only species of wood to be seen here, and that in very small quantities.” Now there is almost every forest tree of every name, mixing with waving pines and firs, in all the varieties of their shades and colouring. The seat of Lord Napier is embosomed in woods, and many of the farm steadings and snug cottages on the Ettrick, are fringed and skirted round with a few lovely young trees. Improvement of this kind, indeed, is spreading all around us, in something like the imperceptible stealth of creeping ivy. The black-faced sheep depastured our hills forty years ago; their crop of “wool,” says Dr Russell, “was of the coarsest kind, and little adapted for manufacture; a stone of it being worth little more than six shillings.” Now the Cheviot breed is introduced, and is in much repute among the generality of the store-farmers, both for its wool and for the reception it meets with in the fat market. “The farmers in former times,” adds the above writer, “fled with their flocks into Anandale for shelter and provision during the winter storms:” Now they no longer “build up semicircular walls of the dead, to screen the living,” but have *stells* or *rounds* into which the shepherds gather them when the threatening snow approaches, and have, besides, a store of *bog-hay* on the hills as a supply for the flocks in case of a severe and continued storm. “The lochs, partly in this parish, and partly in Yarrow, (says the above-quoted writer,) formerly lay like two dark deep dreary pools, shut round with an insuperable barrier,” and, though abounding in fish of various kinds, were rarely visited. Now, St Mary’s and the Lowes, surrounded by verdant hills, and associated with many romantic legends, form a scene alike interesting to the angler and the literary pilgrim.

September 1833.

SUMMARY.—TABLE I.

PARISH.	Square miles in extent.	Acres.					Total yearly value of raw produce raised.
		Cultivated, or occasionally in tillage.	Uncultivated.	Capable of being cultivated with a profit.	In undivided common.	Under-wood.	
Selkirk,	10	8000	2800	0	0	1000	L. 10,681 18 0
Galashiels,	15	8000	6000	0	0	500	10,869 10 6
Yarrow,	111	2740	67800	260	0	610	28,606 0 0
Ettrick,	68	217	43086	163	0	270	12,745 0 0
	204	8957	119186	423	0	2380	L. 62,992 8 6

SUMMARY.—TABLE II.

POPULATION IN 1831.				ECCLESIASTICAL STATE.				Parochial Schoolmaster's Emoluments.				SAVING BANKS.			Annual amount of Contributions for the Poor.			
In Towns.	In Villages.	In the Country.	Total.	Families attending Church.	Families of Dissenters and Seceders.	Amount of Parochial Stipend.	Schools of every description.	Salary.	Fees.	Total.	Number.	Amount yearly invested.	Amount yearly withdrawn.	From legal assessments.	From Church collections.	From alms, legacies, &c.	Total.	
1800	0	1083	2838	220	335	L. 392 2 2½	7	L. 50 0 0	L. 80 0 0	L. 130 0 0	1	L. 240	268	L. 191 1 5	L. 25 0 0	L. 20	L. 236 1 5	
1130	0	404	1534	184	88	242 11 9½	5	30 0 0	60 0 0	90 0 0	1	299	307	97 10 0	25	4	122 10 0	
0	188	1083	1221	210	17	259 6 5¼	4	51 6 6½	22 0 0	73 6 6½	1	29	37	160 0 0	10	4	174 0 0	
0	0	580	580	74	15	280 0 0	1	33 0 0	15 0 0	48 0 0				41 15 2	10		51 15 2	
2930	188	3050	6118	688	455	1034 0 5¼	17	164 6 6½	177 0 0	341 6 6½	3	568	607	490 6 7	70	24	584 6 7	

EXPLANATIONS OF THE ABOVE TABLES.

1. SELKIRK.—The state of the Poor's Funds omits the interest of a mortgaged sum of 500 marks.
2. GALASHIELS.—The amount yearly withdrawn from the Savings Bank is calculated on the supposition, that the sum due to depositors at the end of the year 1830 was the same as that due at the end of the year 1829; and the average allowance to those of the poor who receive interim aid, is assumed to be equal to that given to the enrolled poor.
3. YARROW.—The parochial schoolmaster's emoluments are apportioned between two schoolmasters.
4. The averages for a number of years past are generally stated in the above columns for Yearly Produce, Schools, Banks, and Poor's Funds; the exceptions are specified in the text.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE COUNTY OF SELKIRK.*

This county, the most inland of Scotland, is bounded on the north by Peebles-shire and Mid-Lothian; on the east by Roxburghshire; and on the south by the shires of Roxburgh and Dumfries. Its figure is so irregular as to contain but a small area compared with the greatest length and breadth. The extreme length from the source of the Ettrick to that of the Caddon is about 30 miles; and the extreme breadth from the Borthwick Water to the foot of Glensax is nearly 20.

Topographical Appearance.—Viewed from a commanding height the whole county seems crowded with hills, among which neither a house nor any mark of human life appears. In the lower parts of the district, where the country is more open, and the surface undulating, cultivation occupies a considerable breadth, covering the minor hills, and skirting the base of the mountains; but in the higher parts it is confined to narrow strips along the streams, and so deeply seated as to be invisible to the eye from any of the adjacent summits. The valleys are too narrow to be called dales, and are simply named from their rivers. That of Tweed, being more important, has obtained the name of Tweedside; but, in the common language of the country, as if the smaller rivers had not a side on which a habitation might be placed, it is said of the people, as if they lived in waters, “he lives in Caddon, he comes from Ale, or he belongs to Ettrick, or to Yarrow.” The hills vary in elevation from a few hundred to two thousand feet. They have an appearance of sameness in their general character, but they have often a considerable variety; in particular those around St Mary’s Loch and the Loch of the Lowes, where they rise in steep dark masses, especially towards the head of the glen, having their own tops concealed in clouds. The county has also some of the least agreeable scenery which the eye of man can endure, that of a cold plain black heath; which lies between Borthwick Water and the Ettrick, and which is relieved only by small lakes of no character, serving only to suggest the swampy nature of their situation.

Rivers.—The Tweed gives ten miles of its beautiful course to adorn this county, and the Gala four miles, along the north-eastern boundary. The Ettrick, which joins the Tweed three miles higher

* These remarks have been furnished by the Rev. N. Paterson, Minister of Galashiels.

than the Gala, is properly the river of the county, dividing it nearly in the middle, and having a course of about thirty miles within it. The Yarrow flowing out of St Mary's Loch, ends its short and sweet career in the Ettrick, near the town of Selkirk.

Mountains.—The best idea that can be formed of the mountains of this parish, may be gathered from what they appear once to have been, viz. one large high bed of greywacke and clay-slate, now cut by the larger rivers into long-shaped divisions, and cross cut, by the smaller streams, to a less depth, and into smaller and rounded divisions. In the rocky pool there can be no question as to a recent cut having been made; and there stratum answers to stratum on the opposite sides; so is it with the whole valley wide or narrow. The dip of the strata is various; but the direction, from N. W. to S. E. is so uniform that it might serve for a guide to the wanderer in mist. There are exceptions, however, to this uniformity in construction and in materials. At Newhouse Lynns, seven miles above Selkirk, the rocks forming the banks of the Ettrick, rise to a surprising height and perpendicularity. There the strata deviating from their plain courses are strangely incurvated; an appearance likewise presented at Newark, where the Yarrow, in the same manner, has quarried its rocks for the benefit of the mineralogist. The component matter of the hills, at the western extremity of the county, on the borders of Peebles-shire, where extensive layers of porphyry alternating with thin strata of slate and granite are found, appears also to be changed. The whole county, from its great multitude of hills and streams, affords the best illustrations of the coincidence of vallies, and of the exact proportion that subsists (the rocky substances being so much the same) between the descending torrents, and their respective grooves.

Turnpike Roads and Carriages.—The Edinburgh and Carlisle road by Galashiels and Selkirk runs eleven miles within the county. The public carriages on this road are the London mail, and one daily Stage-coach. Belonging to the same line of road are nine miles of turnpike from Crosslee by Yairbridge to Selkirk. No coach passes this way, the road being hilly, and that by Galashiels being preferred. From Hollilee, on the borders of Peebles-shire, to Galashiels are nine miles of turnpike. On this road there is one daily coach from Glasgow by Lanark to Kelso. From the borders of Peebles-shire, in the parish of Traquair and passing through Etterick, is a road of twenty-five miles lately made turnpike; but partly maintained by Statute labour.

On this road, tolls are exacted only of travellers not belonging to the county. Carriers, but no coaches, pass this way.

Tolls.—The tolls are let annually by public roup. The rates are for a chaise, 1s. a gig, 6d. a rider or a cart, 3d. The amount of revenue for this year is L. 1089, including one pontage for the new bridges over Tweed and Ettrick, which yields L. 125.

Character of the People.—The description under this head in the account of the parish of Selkirk is applicable in general to the population of the county. It may be added, that all persons above six or seven years of age can read,

The following table of the ages of the population has been taken from the returns made to government in 1821. *

Under 5,	-	974	From 50 to 60,	-	425
From 5 to 10,	-	980	60 to 70,	-	254
10 to 15,	-	748	70 to 80,	-	127
15 to 20,	-	686	80 to 90,	-	38
20 to 30,	-	1048	90 to 100,	-	7
30 to 40,	-	753	100 and upwards.	-	0
40 to 50,	-	597			
					6637

Miscellaneous Observations.—The arable land of the county lies on an elevation of from 280 to 800 feet. None of it, therefore, is the best as to climate. Yet it is a remarkable fact, that the agriculture of this county is equal to any in Great Britain. Wheat abounds in the lower districts, and has been raised at the height of 700 feet, to what would be called a good crop in the Lothians; and considerably higher, near to the head of Ettrick, oats, turnips, barley, and clover hay thrive in regular rotation. We could wish much that the dwelling-houses and farm-buildings in this county were as worthy of commendation as the agricultural skill which is every where displayed in it.

* In this enumeration are included those small parts of the parishes of Ashkirk, Inverleithen, Peebles, Robertson, and Stow, which belong to the county of Selkirk. The ratios, however, may be held to apply to the four parishes before described, as forming the county of Selkirk.