

PARISH OF CANONBIE.

PRESBYTERY OF LANGHOLM, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.*

THE REV. JAMES DONALDSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THERE are two opinions with regard to the derivation of the name of this parish. The one traces it to the Saxon word *Bie* or *By*, signifying a habitation or station,—making the term thus denote “the residence of the Canons;” the other, to the Latin *cœnobium*, which signifies a priory or monastry, and is a compound of the Greek adjective *κοινος*, common, and *βίος*, life, because the monks lived in common. The latter opinion is supported by the circumstance, that a piece of land, granted in donation to this priory, and specially designed in a charter confirmed by King William the Lion, in 1165, † is to the present day called Canonbie-holm, viz. the Priory-holm, as distinguishing it from Bee-holm, and Knotty-holm, which are in the immediate neighbourhood.

This parish is bounded on the south-east by the Liddle, which divides it from Cumberland; and on the north by Langholm. It extends 9 miles in length, in breadth 6, and contains 22,500 Scotch acres, or $36\frac{3}{4}$ square miles.

Topographical Appearances.—The appearance of this parish is uneven, and diversified by a variety of ridges and flat ground, except the land which lies along the banks of the different rivers, which is generally level. Canonbie, therefore, may be regarded as the low grounds of Eskdale; for the highest grounds, which rise by degrees towards the east and north-east, cannot be called mountainous, when contrasted with the general appearance of the surrounding parishes of Langholm, Ewes, and Castleton. The central part of the parish is intersected by the river Esk; and the great post-road to the south by Carlisle passes in the same direction, through a part of the country rich and variegated with woody

* Drawn up by a Probationer of the Church of Scotland.

† Ex dono Guido de Rossedale, assensu et consensu Rodolphi filii sui, quadraginta duas acras inter Esch et Lidle, ubi Esch et Lidle conveniunt.

hills of aged oaks, pastoral scenes, and verdant fields, which never cease to attract and arrest the attention of travellers; indeed, it is upon the whole one of the most picturesque and lovely districts in Scotland.

Soil.—The soil in this parish is various. Along the river Esk, is fine holm land of a light loam, exceedingly fertile, and well sheltered to the east and west by a considerable quantity of wood on the sloping grounds on each side of the river, the whole length of the parish from north to south. Upon this ground, crops of all kinds are highly productive, and early. On the banks of the Liddle, the soil is nearly of the same kind and quality as that along the Esk. On the higher grounds, the soil is cold, and of a wet clay mixed with moss, which, however, when properly limed, produces, in dry seasons, good crops of oats. From the recent improvements arising from draining and fencing, the greater part of this ground is now capable of carrying crops of all descriptions.

Climate.—The climate of the parish is rather moist, and though we have very heavy falls of rain during the season, the atmosphere appears to be by no means injurious either to health or vegetation; as there are a very considerable number of aged persons in the parish, and vegetation is earlier than in any parish of Eskdale. The climate, however, varies very much in different situations. Along the whole extent of the Esk, in this parish, which, as we have mentioned, is well sheltered on both sides, the air is found mild and temperate, even in severe seasons,—while, within the distance of two miles from that situation, it is keen and piercing.

The diseases common in this parish are rheumatism, consumption, and those of a nervous kind, brought on by the moistness of the atmosphere. Scrofula, about forty years ago, was rather prevalent, but, from care and attention with regard to matrimonial alliances, is now nearly extinct. The prevailing winds and the heaviest falls of rain are from the south-west.*

Hydrography.—There are no lakes in the parish. The two principal rivers are the Esk and Liddle, the former having its source in the highest grounds of the parish of Eskdalemuir, and the latter in the extremity of the parish of Castleton. These rivers, after receiving in their different channels, which have nearly the same extent of twenty-four miles, a considerable number of tributary streams, fall into one another at the southmost part of this parish, when the Liddle loses its name and waters in the Esk,—

* According to Colonel Mein's notes of the state of the weather for last year, rain fell more or less during 212 days.

which, after running from the point of junction about seven miles in a south-west direction, falls into the Solway Frith. The banks of the Liddle, which, for the space of four or five miles, forms the boundary with England, are beautifully diversified with natural woods and thriving plantations. Among the various interesting objects presented to our view on this river, Penton Linns is undoubtedly the first. At this particular spot, the river is very much contracted by stupendous rocks, which rise abruptly on each side, and force the water into a broken narrow channel. There is a terrace-walk along the ledge of this frightful and dangerous precipice on the Scottish side of the river, from which you see the waters dashing and boiling among the huge rocks that are scattered indiscriminately below. The perpendicular precipices which narrow the bed of the river are overgrown with copsewood in every tint of foliage. In the centre of these scenes of sublimity, an isolated rock, which has braved the fury of the waters for ages, adds not a little to the prospect, particularly in a high flood, when its summit is only visible in the midst of the raging waters, surrounded by a few shrubs and bushes. Tarras, a small river which rises in the parish of Ewes, and divides on the north-east quarter this parish from Langholm, falls into the Esk three miles below the town of Langholm. This stream is remarkable for its rugged channel, romantic and picturesque scenery. It flows with so much rapidity through a narrow channel among immense masses of rock, and is so much broken by falls, that any person whom it may chance to sweep away, would be dashed to pieces before he could be drowned by its waters, which occasioned the following popular saying:

Was ne'er ane drowned in Tarras, nor yet in doubt,
For e'er the head can win down, the harns (brains) are out.

Its banks are beautifully covered with trees; and we may mention, that this small stream gave the title of Earl to Walter Scott of Highchester, who married Lady Mary, eldest daughter of Francis Earl of Buccleuch. The patent bears date the 4th September 1660. Besides these rivers which we have mentioned, there are a great many burns or rivulets, such as Archerbeck and Rowanburn, both of which fall into the Liddle; the others scarcely demand our notice. Many of these burns afford excellent sport to the angler.

Mineral Springs.—There are appearances of several chalybeate springs in various parts of this parish; but the principal mineral well resorted to by invalids is that at Heathet, which is situated on

the English side of the Liddle. This water has been found of great advantage to persons labouring under scorbutic disorders and complaints of the stomach.

There is also a celebrated petrifying spring near the river Tarras, the only one known in the whole range of the country. Mr Keir of Langholm, late factor to his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, collected the petrifications of moss, or fog, along the course of its stream, to the amount of several cart loads, which he caused to be burnt in the same way as limestone, and found it to be excellent manure, and to produce nearly the same effects as lime does.

Geology.—This parish abounds in coal, limestone, and freestone. The coal formation is found in hollows of the transition rocks. The sandstone rocks are very friable; and those found in the coal depositions consist of spherical concretions, which are again composed of curved lamellar concretions. Slate-clay of a greyish-black and ash-grey colour, which contains numerous impressions of shells, and sometimes also of ferns, is found; and clay-iron, in the form of spherical-shaped masses imbedded in slate-clay, in the coal fields. Some of these spheres are from a few inches to three feet in diameter, and are exactly similar to those found in the coal fields of Mid-Lothian.

The coal, which is worked at the two collieries of Archerbeck and Byreburn, appears generally to be intermediate between slate and pitch-coal, sometimes inclining more to the one, sometimes more to the other. The principal coal seam at Archerbeck, let to an English gentleman of the name of Lomax, is 5 feet 10 inches thick; and three yards below this, it is 3 feet 4 inches thick, and the coal is wrought by an open level. At Byreburn, it is wrought by a water engine upon a new construction, the invention of the late Mr Keir of Millholm. It is moved by means of a large bucket of a square form, suspended from the end of a lever, having a valve at bottom in the centre, which, by machinery, is made to shut and open in the instant of time the bucket should fill and empty itself. The other end of the lever is fixed to the pump-spear, or rod, and, by the continued action of the bucket descending and ascending, filling and emptying the water it contains, which is of such a weight as to make the beam preponderate, the pumping is carried on, and the coal pit cleared of the water collected below. Limestone is found in great abundance in different parts of this parish, but more particularly on the east side of the Esk. The lime burnt at Harelaw is in greatest request, both as yielding

the purest and whitest and the largest quantity of powder from the bushel of shells. The lime quarries at Harelawhill and Holhouse are easily wrought, and seem inexhaustible; and the country for thirty miles round is abundantly supplied at 10d. per imperial bushel, four of which will fill a single horse cart. The race of the fine mills lately erected at Hollows is cut through strata of blue limestone; below which is a stratum of sandstone, schistus, and clay three feet thick, succeeded by a seam of coal four inches thick, which is presented at the mill sluice. On the west side of the Esk, near Hollows House Tower, a considerable body of shell limestone is found dipping south-east, and stretching towards Annandale, resembling the Kelhead and Arbigland rock. About forty yards above Blakebeck bridge are some thin strata of limestone dipping west one in four; beyond this, a body of grey sandstone appears. About a mile from the foot of the burn, are strata of limestone; and a little higher up are strata of blaes, succeeded by a seam of coal about four inches thick. The bed of the Esk below Langholm low bridge is founded on the primitive rock; from thence to a little below Canonbie it is occupied with the coal metals. From this point to the mouth of the river, the secondary strata of a reddish colour prevail. Freestone of various kinds is everywhere found in this parish,—which is well adapted for building, as being durable and easily wrought. It may be here mentioned, as a somewhat singular circumstance, that within the space of 200 yards in one particular place, coal and peat, limestone and freestone, may be digged.

Zoology.—All the common birds are found in the extensive woods of this parish.

Salmon, grilse, and sea-trout, previous to the building of a call by the late Dr Graham of Netherby, for the purpose of supplying his mills with water, were most abundant in the Esk and Liddle, and taken in vast numbers. On account of their run being intercepted, they are not now so plentiful, as it requires a considerable flood to enable them to get over this barricade. The whiten or herling (*Salmo albus*) and the common trout are also abundant in these streams. Indeed the Esk trout and whitens are held in high estimation, on account of their delicate flavour. Tarras is also famous for its good bull-trout, according to the old rhyme,

———“ And Tarras for a gude bull-trout,
If it be ta'en in time.”

Botany.—In this parish, there are no very rare plants to be met

with; though there is no parish in the district which abounds so much in woods. In the various plantations, oaks in particular are of large size, and seem well adapted for the soil. Planes, beeches, elms, firs of all kinds, ash and poplars grow rapidly, being properly fenced and pruned. Around Hollows Tower, there are some large oaks and plane trees. A limited quantity of oak is annually cut down, which furnishes bark to the tanner, and wood for the various purposes of the tenant.

A variety of orchards were planted about forty-eight years ago, at the expense of the Duke of Buccleuch, upon such farms as were thought most favourably situated for the purpose. They have all turned out well, yielding a fair proportion of fruit of good quality, —particularly those at Woodhouselees, Forge, Rowanburn, Priorliden, and the one at the manse.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The Duke of Buccleuch is the sole proprietor of this parish; and its valuation in merks Scotch, with half of Mortn annexed in 1703, is L. 7462, 6s. 8d.

Eminent Men.—Among the men of former times, noted for their border exploits, we may mention, as a native of this parish, the celebrated Johnnie Armstrong of Gilnockie, a brother of the laird of Mangerton, chief of the name, whose place of residence was at the Hollows. Johnnie and all his retinue were condemned and hanged upon growing trees at a place called Carlenrig Chapel, about ten miles above Hawick, on the high road to Langholm, by James V.; also William Armstrong, called Will of Kinmont, a descendant of Gilnockie; and Hector Armstrong, Harelaw,—whose exploits on the borders are well known.

In more modern times, we cannot overlook, as natives of this parish, the sons of the Rev. Mr Petrie, who died minister of Canonbie,—four of whom, by their talents and industry, acquired splendid fortunes. The eldest, Dr Robert Petrie, was an eminent physician in Lincoln, and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh; the youngest, William Petrie, Esq. died second in Council at Madras, a man highly distinguished for his benevolence, and agreeable manners in private life, and for the great abilities with which he discharged the important duties of the public station which he filled. Dr Russell, author of the *History of Modern Europe*, and the celebrated Benjamin Bell, Esq. surgeon, were also natives of this parish.

Antiquities.—In this parish, which, from its locality, was more

exposed than any other in the district to the plundering incursions of the English borderers, the inhabitants were by no means inattentive in erecting strongholds as places of defence and protection against the visits of these ruthless marauders. In this parish, therefore, many vestiges of these strongholds can be distinctly traced. As the most entire of the kind, we may take notice of the tower of Hollows, the residence of John Armstrong. It was situated near the eastward of Hollows Bridge, upon a situation, which, in natural beauty, cannot be equalled in Scotland. It is in the form of an oblong square, extending in front about 60 feet in length, and at each end of the squares about 46; the height may be estimated at nearly 72 feet. It has two round turrets with loop-holes at each of the east and west angles, and is built of red sandstone; though now roofless, it must have been in former times a building of considerable strength.—At no great distance from Penton Linns, on the banks of the Liddle, was situated the strong tower of Harelaw, formerly the residence of Hector Armstrong, a famous freebooter. This was the Armstrong, who, from bribes held out to him by Regent Murray, betrayed the Earl of Northumberland into his hands, after he had fled to him for protection. In the year 1569, the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland, Ratcliffe, brother of the Earl of Sussex, &c. raised an army, and tendered their services to set at liberty from the power of her enemies, the unfortunate Queen Mary of Scotland, who was at the time a prisoner in England. They were unsuccessful in their attempt, and being forced to abandon their forces, fled to the Scottish borderers for protection. The Countess of Northumberland, the Earl of Westmoreland, and Ratcliffe, remained with Scott of Branxholm, and Kerr of Fairnihirst, till they were safely conveyed to the continent. The Earl of Northumberland, as already stated, took refuge with Hector of Harelaw, who treated him, for a considerable time, with every mark of confidence and regard; but these feelings gave way, and in the hopes of the large reward offered him by the Regent, he betrayed him into his hands, who carried him from Harelaw to Lochleven Castle, and who shortly after gave him up to Elizabeth, by whose orders he was executed. Armstrong profited little by this base act of treachery, as he soon after fell into poverty and disgrace, and his conduct became a proverb on the border, when a person betrayed his friend,—“that he had put on Hector of Harelaw’s coat.”—Besides the towers of Hollows and Harelaw, it appears from the remains that there had been one at

each of the following places, viz. Mumbyhirst, Auchonreveck, Halgreen, Woodhouselees, and Sark, where Kinmont Willie was buried.

Priory.—The date of the charter confirmed by William the Lion in 1165, as mentioned in page 483, proves that this priory must have existed previous to that time; but for how long a period, after much investigation, the writer has not been able to make out with any degree of certainty. Some vestiges of the convent are still to be seen at Halgreen, about half a-mile to the east of the church. From Halgreen, a private road is still kept open through enclosed fields to the church, confirmed by use and wont. In the year 1533, Henry VIII. claimed this monastery, as having belonged at one time, as well as the whole parish, to England; and on this false pretence, ordered hostilities to be committed upon the Scottish borders. By some means, its destruction was not effected at this time by the English monarch, who would soon have expelled its pious inmates, and secured their revenues. In 1542, after the unfortunate surrender of the Scottish army at Solway Moss, the English soldiers pillaged and laid in ruins both the monastery and church. Some years ago, the *chrismatory*, a piece of singular and grotesque sculpture, was dug up in the church-yard, and is in the possession of the present incumbent.

Roman Stations.—The remains of a Roman station are very visible somewhat less than a mile to the east of Gilnockie, on the rising ground: it is evidently the first of the line of connection that was situated in Eskdale from the famous station at Netherby to Catle-over, or o'er, the upper camp, in the parish of Eskdalemuir, which is of the oval form.

Coins.—A variety of Roman and English coins has been found in this parish at different times. The late clergyman, the Rev. John Russell, found an aureus denarius of the Emperor Nero, on a field in the glebe to the east of the church. A number of silver coins, which are in the possession of William Oliver, Esq. of Dinlabyre, were found on the 29th of October 1811, by a person who was employed in draining some marshy ground near the place where the rivulet Rowanburn falls into the Liddle. They were contained in an old purse, and some of them were remarkably entire. On one side is *Civias London*, the city of London, and on the reverse is *Edwr. Angl. Dns. Hyb.* a contraction for *Eduardus, Angliæ Dominus Hybernæ*, Edward Lord of England and Ireland. We can have no doubt that these coins are all of Edward I. of England,—because, if they had been coins of any of the other Edwards, some figure

would have followed the name, as a part of the title of distinction of every king who comes after the first of the name. We may remark, that, during the reign of Edward I., there was a constant communication with Scotland, "the affairs of which," says Hume the historian, "form the most interesting period of his reign." From great numbers of coins of the same kind being found in various parts of Annandale, particularly around the burgh of Lochmaben, we are of opinion that these coins were secreted in Canonbie and Annandale, at the time when Warrenne, in 1298, marched an army of 40,000 men into the latter district to re-establish the authority of Edward, which Wallace had for some time so nobly opposed.

Modern Buildings.—Among these worthy of note, as held in feus from his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, are, Woodhouselees, the occasional residence of George Bell, Esq. merchant, Leith; Forge, that of Pultney Mein, Esq.; Marsh House, of Colonel W. Mein; Crookholm, of Colonel N. Mein; and Woodslee, of George Scott Elliott, Esq. of Larriston.

The corn-mills erected some years ago at Hollows are extensive buildings, and the machinery of the most approved kind. These mills are driven by a subterranean dam cut through the solid rock, and, by this means, have at all seasons of the year an abundant supply of water from the Esk, near the banks of which they are situated.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish in 1755, amounted to	1733
1794,	2725
1801,	2580
1811,	2704
1821,	3084
1831,	2997

Number of families in the parish,	595
chiefly employed in agriculture,	256
in handicraft,	188
all other families,	201
inhabited houses,	576
uninhabited,	9
Average number of baptisms for the last seven years,	72
deaths,	32
marriages,	27

Character, &c. of the People.—The dispositions and habits of the people of this parish have undergone, within these last fifty years, a wonderful change for the better. At that period, much of the spirit of the borderers pervaded the inhabitants; and gambling was carried on to such a degree that all industry was laid aside, so that many depended for their subsistence upon the precarious results

arising from their success in horse-racing and cock-fighting, which tend more, perhaps, than any other hazardous games, to demoralize the people. Great praise is due to the then Duke of Buccleuch in bringing about this happy change. The great improvements carried on by his Grace in the parish gave constant employment both to artisans and labourers; and as the Duke resided in the neighbourhood for some months during the busiest part of the year, and almost daily overlooked these improvements, he had an opportunity of knowing the character of each of the workmen, whom he encouraged and rewarded according to their industry; and offenders not only lost employment, but were obliged to leave the parish. The tenants are a highly respectable, intelligent, and independent class of men, who spare no expense or trouble in the improvement either of their farms or of their stock. As masters, they are kind and indulgent to their servants, and set them an example, in their walk and conduct, of all that is religious and moral.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

This parish contains, in Scotch acres,	22,500
Of which there are cultivated, or occasionally in tillage,	16,000
In pasture, part of which may be cultivated,	5,500
Under valuable wood and plantations,	1,000

Rent of Land.—In a parish like this, where the soil is various, the rent per acre is regulated according to the quality. Some of the fine holm-land along the banks of the different rivers lets so high as L. 1, 10s. per acre; and on the high grounds from 2s. 6d. to 10s. The grazing of a milk cow or full-grown ox for the year, L. 2, 10s. to L. 4, 10s., and of a sheep 5s.

Live-Stock.—The common breed of sheep is the Cheviot, to the improvement of which the strictest attention is paid,—in selecting stock of the largest bone and finest symmetry to breed from. Farmers on the lower and enclosed grounds rear a considerable number of what they call half-bred, by crossing the largest Cheviot ewes with a Leicestershire ram; by which the size of the stock and quality of the wool are greatly improved. This stock is generally sold when lambs to English dealers. Betwixt 3000 and 4000 sheep are pastured in this parish. The Galloway breed of cattle is preferred over the whole district, as the best adapted for the pasture grounds. They thrive well, rise to a good size, find a ready market, and bring a fair remunerating price. Some farmers, however, in this parish rear considerable numbers of the Teeswater breed. Cows vary in price, according to age and con-

dition, from L. 6 to L. 12. Two year old stots (the age at which they are generally sold) bring from L. 5 to L. 8. Farm-horses, in good condition, may be purchased at from L. 18 to L. 30.

A great number of swine are fed for the English market in this parish. Every cottager has his pig.

Husbandry.—With regard to the state of husbandry in this parish, when contrasted with that adopted fifty years ago, perhaps no parish in Scotland has been so much improved in appearance. Under the superintendence of the late Mr Keir, new roads were made,—farms laid out and enclosed where the plough had never before entered,—suitable dwelling-houses and offices were built, and slated at the Duke's expense,—and leases granted to the tenants upon such terms as enabled them to carry on their improvements. All the modern improvements, therefore, in agriculture are introduced here, and carried forward with great spirit, as far as reclaiming waste land, draining, and enclosing can possibly go. The late James Bell, Esq. who possessed Woodhouselee, one of the largest farms in the parish, was amongst the first who set the example of improvement, and who, by his superior skill in farming operations, brought his farm from a state of nature to the highest condition of cultivation. The late George Bell, Esq. sixty-five years ago, was the first who introduced the culture of turnips in this district, and the laying down of his grass fields with clover. Mr Church, Tower of Sark, a very enterprising farmer, has of late years improved a considerable extent of mossy ground by broad ploughing and liming, which now yields him good crops. Leases taken within these few years are commonly for nine or thirteen years. There are no obstacles to improvement in this parish arising from the want of capital, or the want of encouragement by the noble proprietor:

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—Langholm, distant six miles from the church of Canonbie, is the post-town, and the nearest place where markets are held. Markets are held also at Longtown and Carlisle, the former distant six miles, and the latter fifteen. Ready sales for cattle, pork, and land produce of every kind, are found at both places.

Means of Communication.—In no parish in Scotland has so much been done to improve the means of communication as in Canonbie. About sixty years ago, every place out of the course of the river Esk was almost inaccessible, except during a very dry summer. Since that time, good roads have been made on the east and west

side of the parish, and branches carried from these to the principal farm steadings in the parish. For making and keeping these roads in a state of repair, the Duke of Buccleuch, at the time, appropriated five per cent. out of the whole land rent of the parish, with L. 50 additional from his private purse. A half-penny was also levied at the different coal pits upon every horse load, equal to 2d. the cart load,—besides the conversion of the statute labour, which was altogether inadequate at the time to carry on these great improvements. The whole annual amount may have been at the time about L. 400. The funds arising from the toll-bar, placed exactly upon the side of the Scotch dike, went entirely towards the repair of the post-road.

Bridges.—In this parish, there are ten bridges of one arch over the different rivulets, and a great number of smaller ones. Over the Esk there are two bridges,—one having three arches, and the other two; the former, distant a mile and a-half from the latter, was built about ninety years ago at the expense of the county. The parishioners who lived to the west of the river had no access to the church or to the east side, before this bridge was built, except by wading or crossing on horseback, or in a boat, when the water was not fordable. The boat having been upset at one time, and several persons drowned returning from church, and many individuals having lost their lives after this catastrophe, the building of this bridge was at last executed.

The other bridge was finished about forty-two years ago. It is built upon an extensive scale, and has a very striking appearance, which attracts even the attention of the most incurious traveller, who, if circumstances permit, halts to admire the beautiful scenery around him,—which, as far as wood and water, bank and brae go, is almost the finest landscape the imagination can paint. The span of the largest arch of this bridge is 70 feet, of the smaller one, 45; the height to the pass way 46 feet; and the extreme length 244. This bridge has been of the utmost utility to the country, by opening up a ready and safe communication, as well as shortening the distance several miles in going and returning from his Grace's colliery at Byreburnfoot. The turnpike road takes also a new direction for a mile and a-half, by which means a pretty long and heavy pull, from north to south, on the old road, and also, the most exposed situation on the road between Langholm and Longtown,—are avoided. The road which leads

from the east end of the new towards the old bridge, is cut along the side of a steep bank, covered with wood, forming something in the shape of an amphitheatre; at the south end of which, another bridge with two arches is built. These operations, for boldness of design, and from the labour and difficulty of execution, astonish every passenger. These works were finished at the Duke's private expense, and must have cost him many thousands of pounds. There is also a bridge erected lately over the Liddle above the Penton Linn, which opens a ready communication to England for the people of Liddesdale and the western part of Canonbie, which lies in that direction.

The Edinburgh and Carlisle mail, besides stage-coaches to London and various parts of England, travel through this parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church of Canonbie was dedicated to St Martin, and, as it stood upon the banks of the Liddle, it was often called the church of Liddle. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, it was called both the church of Liddle and the church of St Martins. When the canonry was established in the twelfth century, it was called, “*Domus de religiosis de Liddal*,” before it obtained the name of Canonbie, the canons' residence. In the reign of David I., one Turgot de Rossedale, who then occupied the district on the lower Esk, founded a canonry in connection with this church. He placed this canonry on the peninsula which is formed by the junction of the rivers Esk and Liddle, and granted to it the adjoining lands, with the church of Kirk-Andrews, and its pertinents. The words in the original grant are, “*Ex dono Turg. de Rossedale domum religiosam de Lidle cum tota terra ei adjacente, ecclesiamque de Kirk-Andrews, cum omnibus ad illam pertinentibus.*” In the twelfth century, he gave it to the monks of Jedburgh. The church of Canonbie continued with the canonry, which was a cell of Jedburgh, till the Reformation disunited and destroyed the whole. After the Reformation, the patronage and the tithes, with the whole property of the priory of Canonbie, were vested in the King by the general annexation act; afterwards they were granted to the Earl of Home in 1606, which grant was ratified in Parliament in 1621,—when a stipend of 500 merks yearly was settled on the minister serving the cures of Canonbie and Wauchope, which had been united by the King's Commissioners. They afterwards passed to the Earl of Buccleuch in the reign of Charles I. The Duke of Buccleuch is patron of the parish.

The present church, a handsome and elegant building, was erected in 1822, at an expense of L. 3000, and may contain 1000 sitters. It is very central, and stands on the east side of the Esk, near the village, which is on the west side. The manse was rebuilt in 1800, and since that time has undergone some substantial repairs, along with the office-houses. The glebe consists of 20 acres English of good arable land, including garden and office-houses. The stipend, according to last augmentation, dated 20th November 1822, is 16 chalders, half meal, half barley, payable according to the highest fiars of the county,—with L. 10 for communion elements. There are 516 families attending the Established church, and 68 families belonging to the Secession. There is neither an Episcopalian family nor a Catholic one in the parish. The average number of communicants is 805. Collections are occasionally made for the General Assembly's Highland Schools and Indian Mission; and there is a yearly subscription of one guinea to the Dumfries Royal Infirmary.

Education.—The number of schools in this parish, exclusive of Sabbath schools, is 5. The parish schoolmaster's salary is L. 31, 6s. 7d., with the legal accommodations. The teachers of the auxiliary, or, as they are called, side schools, are allowed as salary the sum of L. 5 each. These schools are placed at Glenzier, Harelaw Hill, Hag, and Tail. The probable amount of fees actually paid to the principal schoolmaster may amount to L. 30, allowing 25 per cent. for irrecoverable debts,—with the additional emoluments arising from the offices of session-clerk and collector of the poors' rates. The branches taught in the public school are English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, French, Greek, and Latin. The charges per quarter for these branches are, English reading, 2s.; English and writing, 2s. 6d.; arithmetic, English grammar, and writing, 3s. 6d.; Greek and Latin, 5s. mathematics, 10s. 6d.; French, 7s. 6d.; and book-keeping (a complete system,) L. 1, 1s. There is not a single individual betwixt six and fifteen years of age unable to read. All the people appear very much alive to the benefits of education; hence they would sooner deprive themselves of many of the necessaries of life than that their children should be unable to read and write. From the number of schools in this parish, and no part of it being so far distant from some of them as to prevent attendance, no additional schools are required. There is not a coal-miner's child above six

years of age who cannot read a little, and repeat many of the questions in the Shorter and Mother's Catechisms.

Library.—A Library was instituted in this parish in 1818. The annual contribution for the purchasing of books is the sum of 4s. 6d. exclusive of entry money. Though not numerous, the books are very select; and the collection is under the best management.

Charitable Institutions.—There are two Friendly Societies in the parish, which have considerable funds for the relief of sick members. They have been in existence for many years, and have afforded relief to many distressed members and poor widows.

Savings Bank.—A Savings Bank was begun here sometime ago. As long as four per cent. was allowed upon the deposits, very considerable sums were lodged. Since the per centage was lowered, no money has been paid in for years, and the whole amount is withdrawn, except L 20 or L 30.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid at the present time is 75; but occasional assistance is given to 25 others. The average sum allotted to each of those who are upon the poors' roll is about L. 1 per quarter. Poor rates were established in this parish in the year 1778, when the annual amount was only L. 54, 2s.; which left a considerable surplus in the collector's hand, after affording the necessary relief to 24 persons, the whole poor then in the parish. At Martinmas 1793, the number of poor on the roll was 68, and the assessment for their support was L. 176 a year. Last year, the sum of L. 457, 15s. 8d. was distributed among the poor. Of this sum L. 408, 9s. 8d. was raised by assessment, at the rate of 1s. 2d. per pound, the landlord paying one-half, and the tenant the other; from church collections, L. 27, 5s.; from the use of a hearse, the property of the poor, and from fines for irregular marriages and immoral conduct, L. 21, 16s. We believe there is, with a few exceptions, a disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief, which they consider as degrading. But, at the same time, it must be allowed, that this independent spirit is by no means so strong as it was forty years ago.

Inns.—There is one principal inn in the parish, kept in the most orderly manner, where travellers meet with every accommodation and comfort; also four alehouses in different places. These low tippling-houses produce the worst effects upon the morals of the people. It is much to be regretted that the Justices of Peace do

not refuse to grant licenses to toll-bar-keepers, two of whom in this parish sell ardent spirits.

Fuel.—This parish is most abundantly supplied with coal and peat, which are procured at a very small expense; a single horse load of coal costs from 4s. to 4s. 6d., and one of peat from 8d. to 1s. according to the distance.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The crops in this parish are generally cut down with the sickle, except on the farm of Woodhouselees. Mr Bell for many years has used the scythe; and, from experience, has found that there is a great saving of expense, grain, and fodder. Mr Bell states, that two mowers, with one person to collect the sheaves to each, and a man to bind and stook, will do more work than twice the number with the sickle. This practice is gaining ground.

In 1793, the rental of this parish did not much exceed L. 3000, now it is L. 7462, 10s.

The Duke has erected at his own expense kilns for making draining tiles, which he supplies to the tenants on their paying a per centage on the outlay. The Eskdale and Liddesdale Pastoral Society, which has its shows of stock for premiums, alternately at Langholm and Castletown, has been productive of the best effects in improving the breed of every description of farm stock.

February 1836.