PARISH OF CRAWFORD.

PRESBYTERY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. THOMAS ANDERSON, MINISTER.

I.—Topography and Natural History.

Name.—*Crawford* is supposed by antiquarians to signify *the road or passage of blood.* This derivation seems natural, from the circumstance of the old Roman road passing through the village and crossing the river Clyde below it, towards the old Castle of Crawford, which stands on the right bank of the river,—where it is probable many bloody conflicts took place between the invaders and the native inhabitants. Part of the parish was formerly known by the name of Douglas Moor, and part of it by that of Friar Moor, but the district or parish is now designated Crawford Muir. It lies in the south-east corner of Lanarkshire. There are two farms, in the corner of Lanarkshire, attached to the parish of Moffat, in the county of Dumfries, *quod sacra.*

Extent, &c.—The length of the parish is about 18 miles, and the breadth 14 or 15 miles, but from its irregular figure, it does not contain more than 118 square miles, or about 75,500 acres. It is bounded by eleven different parishes: chiefly by Crawfordjohn on the west; by Sanquhar, Durrisdeer, and Morton, on the south-west; by Closeburn, Kirkpatrick-juxta on the south; by Moffat and Tweedsmuir on the east; and by Lamington on the north.

Topographical appearances.—The range of the mountains is chiefly south-west and north-east; but the parish may rather be regarded as a group of mountains or hills, the glens or valleys running in every direction. The Louther mountains lie chiefly in this parish, and they are generally stated to be about 2450 feet above the level of the sea. The acclivity of the hills being in general gentle, they are for the most part covered with heath or grass, which affords excellent pasture for sheep. The valleys or flat grounds which separate the hills are partly dry, and partly wet and spungy. Grounds of the last description when improved by draining, as many of them are, produce great quantities of coarse hay,

which proves a seasonable supply, in the time of deep snow, for the sheep.

Meteorology.—The only meteorological observations that I have seen, as connected with the parish, are these made by Bailie Martin, at Leadhills, the highest inhabited village in the south of Scotland,—an abstract of which is here subjoined.*

Abstract of Meteorological Observations, from the year 1818 to 1832 inclusive, extracted from the Register kept by Bailie Martin, at Leadhills, Lanarkshire, in latitude 55° 28′ north; and longitude 3° 50′, west, at an altitude of 1240 above the sea; distant from Leith 48 miles, and 30 from Dumfries.

Years.	Mean annual temperature.	Mean temperature of the seasons.				Mean an. height of barometer.	Fair days.
		Winter.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.		
1818,	44 1–2	38 0	34 1–2	54 1–3	51 0	28 7–10	201
1819,	42 1–2	29 2–3	37 0	51 1–6	50 1–8	28 25–30	195†
1820,					47 2–3	28 5–8	205‡
1821,	43 3–8	37 1–2	37 0	49 1–3	50 1–2	28 5–8	180§
1822,	44 0	34 4–10	39 0	53 4–10	48 7–10	28 5–9	182‖
1823,	42 1–8	38 1–9	34 1–3	48 5–6	47 1–5	28 4–11	170¶
1824,	43 7–9	36 2–3	36 1–2	52 4–11	49 0	28 7–9	195
1825,	43 3–4	32 2–9	37 7–9	52 2–3	52 1–4	28 1–9	200**
1826,	45 1–6	35 1–6	38 2–3	56 0	50 2–3	28 2–3	193††
1827,	44 1–2	38 2–3	35 7–9	52 1–6	51 2–3	28 1–2	205‡‡
1828,	45 1–2	38 2–3	39 1–7	52 3–8	51 2–3	28 4–11	208
1829,	42 0	33 1–3	35 3–4	51 3–8	47 1–3	28 1–2	237
1830,	43 0	34 0	38 1–3	50 2–3	48 7–9	28 1–2	163§§
1821,	44 1–2	36 0	39 1–6	53 2–3	52 1–3	28 1–2	215‖‖
1832,	43 1–2	36 4–5	38 1–5	51 1–3	51 1–12	28 3–5	235¶¶

The winds are generally from west and south-west. In spring

* *Vide* early volumes of Blackwood's Magazine and Edinburgh Philosophical Journal for other details illustrative of the climate of the Leadhills.

REMARKS.

† One day in July, thermometer at 78°. December 13th at 13°. Barometer, September 22d and October 3d, 4th, 5th, at 29° 2′.

‡ Thermometer, January 17th, at 7°. November 28th, a shock of an earthquake at 8 A. M.; a more severe one at half-past 11 P. M. 29th, a slight shock half-past 10 P. M. It was felt by the miners in the mines. The barometer 29° 1′.

§ May 25, thermometer 28°. On the 26th at 29°. In January 23d, barometer at 29° 5′, and four following days at 29° 4′

‖ June 9th, thermometer in the sun against a wall stood at 106° at 5 P. M.

¶ November 12th to 18th, barometer at 29°.

** July 26th, thermometer 80° at 2 P. M. Barometer, January 4th to 13th, at 29° or above; on the 10th at 29° 6′.

†† June 26th, thermometer 86° at half-past 2. In the sun, 109° at 6 P. M. In April 27th, at 28°.

‡‡ January 3d, thermometer at 7°.

§§ April 30th, thermometer at 12° at 4 A. M., and so high as 54° at 4 P. M. July 30th, in the sun, 125°

‖‖ December 9th, barometer at 27° 3′. December 27th, at 29° 1′,

¶¶ August 26th, Aurora Borealis extremely brilliant about 10 P. M., and the noise distinctly heard by persons whose veracity cannot be doubted. It resembled the sound of distant waters.

they are frequently from east and north-east, and are generally cold and dry. The heaviest rains are supposed to fall in the month of September. The old inhabitants state that deep snows are less frequent than in former times.

As the parish has in general rather a northern exposure, and the lowest part of it towards the north-west is about 850 feet above the level of the sea, the climate cannot be supposed to be very genial, yet it cannot be said to be unhealthy. Rheumatism seems to be the only prevailing disorder with which the inhabitants are afflicted,—no doubt occasioned by the fogs and damps prevalent at high altitudes.

Hydrography.—This parish abounds with springs of the purest water. Two of these send forth mineral waters resembling those of Moffat. They are all on one line, and about eight miles distant from each other; but the springs in this parish have never been analyzed. There is a spring on the boundary of the parish which possesses a strong petrifying quality, and all the *fog* around it is turned into stone, from whence beautiful specimens are often taken. There is another spring in the parish at Campshead still stronger.

The Clyde is the principal river which takes its rise in this parish; all the others flow into it, except the Evan, which joins the Annan near Moffat. The source of the Clyde is about 1400 feet above the level of the sea, and upwards of fifty miles from Glasgow. It runs in a small stream till it joins the Daer, a very considerable river which takes its rise near the boundary of Closeburn parish. The Clyde receives a number of tributary streams in this parish. It has a north-west direction, with a gentle declivity, and flows over a broad gravelly bed. It leaves the parish at Abington, when it takes a north-east direction by Lamington.

Geology.—To those interested in the study of the transition rocks of that particular series which forms the greater part of the southern high land of Scotland, this parish affords many facilities. Here, as in other districts of the mountainous region of southern Scotland, greywacke, with its subordinate formations, predominates.

Soil.—The soil which chiefly abounds in the parish is the moor soil. On the banks of the Clyde the soil is rich. Cultivation is carried on chiefly on the banks of the Clyde, and at the junction of the smaller streams with the Clyde. Within this small space are found soils of various kinds, gravelly, sandy, loamy, and alluvial. By the improvements that have taken place, in consequence of the use of lime, the regular change of early seed, and the cultivation of green

crop, the harvest is now much earlier than in former times, and the crops much more abundant.

II.—Civil History.

It is supposed that in the charter-chest of the Marquis of Lothian, there are a variety of papers which, if examined, might illustrate the state of the parish before the Reformation. A chapel or church at Crawford was dedicated to Constantine, King of the Scots, about the year 943; and the greater part of the parish belonged at one time to the monastery of Newbattle, and the lesser part to Holyrood.

Eminent Men.—The celebrated poet Allan Ramsay was a native of this parish. He was born at Leadhills, and lived there for fifteen years, when he went to Edinburgh, and commenced a circulating library.

James Taylor, son of one of the overseers of the mines, first suggested to Mr Miller of Dalswinton, the idea of propelling vessels by the power of steam, and assisted that gentleman in his experiments. He was born here in the year 1757, and died at Cumnock in 1825. Setting aside the invention of Jonathan Hulls in 1736, which led to no practical use, the above individual has certainly the distinguished honour of first applying steam power to propel vessels on water. The successful experiments were made at Dalswinton in 1788. *

William Symington, practical engineer, was likewise a native of this village, and deserves notice from his having been employed by Mr Miller and Mr Taylor in fitting up the steam-engine on board the pleasure boat at Dalswinton, and afterwards suggesting the application of that power to land-carriages.

Land-Owners.—The chief land-owners in the parish are, in the order of their valuations, Lord Hopetoun, Henry Colebrooke, Esq. Lord Balgray, Lord Douglas, the Duke of Buccleuch, George Irving, Esq. and Mr John Forsyth; there are five other smaller land-owners.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest date of the parochial register is 1707. This register has been regularly kept, but is now in a very bad state.

Antiquities.—Although there are no remains of religious houses

* For a more particular account of this splendid discovery, reference may be made to a biographical sketch of Mr Taylor in No. 58 of Chambers' Edinburgh Journal; also a Brief Account of the rise and progress of steam navigation, with an impartial inquiry into the claims of the principal pretenders to the honour of that important discovery, lately printed at Ayr; and lastly to the newspapers at the period of the discovery.

in the parish except the old church, yet it is evident, from various circumstances, that there were at one time many houses or places of worship. One place, in particular, is pointed out as an ancient burying-ground, and lies on the bank of what is called the Chapel Burn.

There are two or three apparently old Roman camps in the parish. The one that is most entire, and the largest, is on Boadsberry hill, the property of George Irving, Esq. The other is on the farm called Whitecamp, and lies towards Tweedsmuir. The two great Roman roads by Moffat and Dumfries had their junction in this parish, which, when formed into one great road, passed on towards Lamington.

The old Castle of Crawford or Tower Lindsay bears every mark of having been strongly fortified and surrounded by water. There are various traditions regarding it, but none of these appear particularly interesting. The farm-houses in ancient times were generally vaulted, and served as small fortifications. This was necessary during the times when the Douglas family and Johnstone of Annandale were carrying on their petty wars, and when the borderers were committing their ravages.

Some years ago an earthen vessel or urn was dug up on the castle farm, which contained something like small pieces of bone. This urn is in the possession of Mr James Watson, the present tenant.

Mansion-House.—The only new modern building is Newton House. It was built a few years ago by the late Lord Newton, wholly on a plan formed by his Lordship, and is both substantial and commodious.

III.—Population.

It appears that the population of this parish was in former times much greater than at present. At the time of Dr Webster's Report in 1755, the population was 2009; at present it is 1850. The practice, which now so generally prevails in this country, of uniting many small farms into one, is no doubt the chief cause of the decrease. There is, perhaps, no parish where this practice has so generally prevailed as in this; and, indeed, nearly the half of this extensive parish is in the hands of non-resident tenants,—the resident tenants occupying only two or three farms. In the memory even of the present generation, fifteen families lived where there is now scarcely the vestige of a ruin. Other parts of the parish show the same marks of depopulation.

The population is thus distributed:—

In the town or village of Crawford,		217
Leadhills,		1188
In the country part of the parish,		445
The average of births,		59
deaths,		26
marriages,		13
persons under 15 years of age,		578
above 70,		23
The number of families in the parish is		406
chiefly employed in agriculture,		59
in trade, manufactures, and handicraft,		35
not included under either of these descriptions,		312

All the proprietors of land, to the number of twelve, possess land upwards of the yearly value of L. 50.

IV.—Industry.

Agriculture.—Notwithstanding the extent of the parish, the arable ground is very limited, being not more than 1200 acres. As the parish is chiefly pastoral, it is difficult to say to what extent improvements might be carried on with advantage to the tenant. A very few hundred acres might perhaps be added to the arable grounds; but it is the opinion of the judicious farmer, that much improvement might be made by turning up large tracts of rough moorlands, and sowing them with various kinds of grass seeds; and by adding a portion of lime, according to the nature of the soil.

There is no natural wood in the parish; and till within these few years there were few trees in it excepting around Newton and the old castle. A number of small clumps have been planted during the last ten years. Still the number of acres under wood does not exceed 150. It seems evident that the clumps are too small to do much good in this high climate. There are a few old trees in the parish; these are chiefly ash, elm, and plane. It is quite uncertain whether these are the remains or not of the old forests. A charter, in the charter-chest of the Marquis of Lothian, secures to the inhabitants of Crawford the liberty to cut wood in the Forest of Glengonan, where there are now only two or three solitary trees.

Rent of Land.—As nothing but the best land is kept in cultivation, the average rent may be stated as high as L. 1, or perhaps L. 1, 5s. The rate of grazing may be thus stated; an ox or cow, L. 2, 10s.; a ewe, 4s. 3d. for the year.

Rate of Wages.—There are few men-servants engaged expressly for the purpose of farm labour; but those who are thus employed may receive wages varying in the rate betwixt L.6 and L.12; young girls receive from L. 1, 10s. to L. 3, 10s.; full-grown stout women, who can milk cows, from L. 4 to L. 8 for the year. Shepherds

in general receive little money from their masters. They enjoy the profits of what is called a pack, that is, forty or fifty ewes with their lambs. This is an encouragement to look after the interest of the flock in general. Should, however, the shepherd leave his master, he does not carry his little flock along with him; it is taken off his hand at a valuation, and is transferred to his successor at the same rate, and forms part of the stock of the farm: besides, he receives forty or fifty stones of oatmeal, perhaps a few potatoes, and has a cow kept through the year at the expense of the master.

Stock.—In former times, the short or black-faced sheep formed the principal stock of the parish. This is still the case on the higher grounds; but of late years, in consequence of the high price of wool, the Cheviot breed has been introduced, where it can be done with propriety. In other cases, a cross breed between the short or black-faced and the Cheviot is preferred. This breed, by frequent crossing, has been brought almost to the real Cheviot, and gives satisfaction to many who have tried it.

The duration of leases is generally from nine to fifteen years; some few leases reach the extent of nineteen years. These short leases are very unfavourable to the improvements even of a pastoral country. Though draining and enclosing have been carried on to a great extent, (and perhaps there are few parishes where these improvements have been carried on to a greater extent,) yet short leases are a drag to the exertions of the tenants. The drains that are made, and the dikes reared, are generally at the expense of the land-owner, the tenant paying six or six and a-half per cent. on the outlay. Were the leases longer, many small enclosures would be made, many drains would be opened, and much ground would be turned up by the very active tenantry at present in the parish. It must be observed, that the chief landholders afford every encouragement to their tenants, and provide them with comfortable accommodation.

Slate Quarry.—A slate quarry (transition clay slate) on the property of the Earl of Hopetoun gives employment to six or eight men through the year. The slate, in general, is reckoned soft; some of it, however, is of an excellent quality.

Leadhills.—The mining village of Leadhills, lies in the south-west of the parish at the distance of a mile from Wanlockhead in Dumfries-shire, where lead mines are also carried on. It contains a population of 1188. It is situated in an irregular valley surrounded by hills covered with heath, and at a short distance on

the south-east is overlooked by a lofty heather ridge, rising to the height of 2450 feet above the sea, and from the summit of which the view is truly grand and extensive. To the south the view is bounded by the Solway Frith, the mountains of Skiddaw and Helvellyn in Cumberland, and the Isle of Man; to the west by Aisla Craig, Isle of Arran, Benlomond, and the Paps of Jura; and on the north, by the range of the Pentlands

The appearance of the village is peculiar from the detached manner in which the cottages are placed on the eminences or in hollows of the valley, according as the fancy or caprice of miners suggested. The principal houses are, a large and somewhat ancient mansion called the Ha', belonging to the Earl of Hopetoun, and from which the noble family take their title. One of its wings is converted into a chapel, in which divine service is regularly performed by a chaplain, principally supported by the Earl of Hopetoun. The villa appropriated for the agent of the Scotch Mines Company is neat, and the garden laid out with considerable taste, producing strawberries, gooseberries, black and red currants, &c. and the usual culinary vegetables. In favourable years a few apples are also obtained. The house and grounds are surrounded by a thriving plantation of beech, larch, common and mountain ash, plane and elm trees.

The library was instituted by the miners in the year 1741, and consists of 1600 or 1700 volumes. The terms of admission and annual subscription are extremely moderate, and consequently afford every facility for intellectual instruction, thus, in some measure accounting for the character which the workmen have long had of possessing a more than usual share of intelligence for men in their situation.

The soil is indifferent, and in a natural state would only afford pasture for sheep; still, under every disadvantage, the miners by their industry, aided by the kindness of the noble proprietors, who give land to improve, rent free,—have by spade labour alone brought into cultivation somewhat more than a mile square, yielding one year with another not less than 10,000 stones of hay, and a considerable quantity of grass for summer use. The potatoe crop averages 8000 or 10,000 stones, and to these may be added a small quantity of oats. The two last occasionally suffer from wet or frost. In the year 1731, little cultivation had been attempted, and only two cows were kept in the village; in 1773, twenty cows were maintained, and at present there are upwards of ninety,—the produce of which

affords material assistance to the miners in supporting themselves and their families during the present depressed state of the mining concerns. At this moment, when the capabilities of spade labour engage so much attention, it is surely consolatory to know from experience how much it can effect on coarse lands, and at an elevation of 1300 feet above the level of the sea.

The prevailing diseases are, rheumatism, hernia, and affections of chest, especially the last. The men engaged in reducing the ores are occasionally seized with the *painters' colic*, or, as the smelters term it, "mill-reek;" but from the improved construction of furnaces, the disease is becoming less frequent. It, however, causes a considerable mortality among animals, both wild and domestic; and though the symptoms vary in the different species, yet in all they exhibit the usual effects of the poison of lead.

Mining District of Leadhills.—The mines are of considerable celebrity, and have in all probability been worked from a very remote period, although the written documents reach no farther back than the year 1600. It is well known that lead mines were opened by the Romans in England; and as one of their principal military roads passed through the parish, and the remains of several of their camps in this and the adjoining one are still visible, it may be reasonably supposed that people possessed of so much intelligence might have discovered them.

The mineral district comprehends a space about 3 miles in length by 2½ in breadth, and is principally composed of greywacke and greywacke slate, which range from south-west to north-east. These strata are associated with transition clay slate, called edge metal, from its vertical position, through which the metalliferous veins pass. A basaltic, or, if I may be allowed the expression, a basaltic-greenstone vein, crosses the country from east to west; it is 50 or 60 yards in breadth; and the detached masses on the surface, in many instances, have a pentagonal form, and seem as if they had been acted on by fire. Specimens of calcedony are found in it, but they are coarse, and of little or no value.

A thick bed of flinty-slate also occurs among these transition rocks, which on each side degenerates into a clayey substance, which, by weathering, becomes very white and soft, and if properly examined may be found useful in the arts. This bed points south-west and north-east, is vertical, and the lead veins do not penetrate it. The veins appear to the north, but are too poor to be

wrought. In addition to the above, irregular beds and masses of quarry-stone or felspar rock are found.

The principal lead veins run south-east and north-west, with a dip or hade to the east of one foot in three. Several of them have afforded large quantities of ore, especially the High Work, Meadow-head, Brow, and Susannah veins, the last yielding a great part of the produce for many years. It is now nearly abandoned, from the low price of lead holding out little encouragement to sink deeper than at present,—the present depth being about 140 fathoms from the surface. The common and compact galena or lead glance are the principal ores, and furnish all the lead used in the arts; besides these, they contain small quantities of green, black, and yellow lead ores; white and black carbonates; sulphate and sulphotricarbonates of lead; phosphate and earthy lead ores; copper and iron pyrites, malachite, azure copper ore, gray manganese, blende, and calamine. The vein stones are quartz, calcareous spar, brown spar, sparry ironstone, heavy spar, &c.

The ore is prepared for reduction by bruising or pounding, and then subjecting it to a stream of water,—by which means the impurities are carried off, and the pure ore is collected. It is then put into a small blast furnace with peat or turf, coal, and a small portion of lime, by which process the volatile ingredients are carried away, the ore becomes oxidized, then decomposed, and the oxygen combining with the carbon flies off in the form of carbonic gas, while the lead in its metallic state sinks to the bottom of the furnace. It is then drawn off into a reservoir, and put into moulds with an iron ladle or spoon. At present the mines yield annually about 700 tons of lead.

A manufactory of small shot was established about eighteen months ago, and is likely to succeed. All the different kinds are made, and of the best quality. The largest varieties are considered superior to any produced by the English manufactories.

Silver is contained in the lead, but in too small quantity to repay its extraction. *

Gold is found in all our neighbouring streams, disseminated in minute particles through the till or clay more immediately covering the rocks, and also occasionally interspersed in quartz. The search for this precious metal was formerly conducted on a large scale, and afforded a remuneration to the adventurer. During

* *Vide*, for further particulars of the mineralogy of the district, Professor Jameson's Mineralogy of the County of Dumfries, published by Blackwood in 1805.

the reign of Elizabeth, several Englishmen and Germans obtained commissions from the Scottish Regent, and employed a number of men in the above work. They obtained very considerable quantities, which were sent to Edinburgh, and coined into bonnet or unicorn pieces. The manuscript records of these works, some of which are to be found in the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh, state that specimens of native gold were sometimes found, weighing from one to several ounces. In more recent times, the largest found have not weighed more than two guineas, and these very rare; at present it is only occasionally sought after, and then only for the curious, as the amount got will not repay the expense of collecting.

Produce.—The amount and value of the gross produce of the parish may be thus stated:

Oats, including fodder,	L. 900
Green crop,	420
Meadow and bog hay,	437
Dairy produce,	785
Young cattle,	350
Product of sheep,	9200
Horse,	50
Lead mines,	6000
Slate quarry,	250
	L. 18392

The rental may be about L. 8500.

V.—Parochial Economy.

Villages.—The village or town of Crawford contains a population of 217. In ancient times, it enjoyed many privileges, and was under the superintendence of a bailie of barony, and in later times under what was called a *birley* court. It has now lost all its privileges,—a circumstance, perhaps, not much to be regretted. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in country labour. The nearest market-towns are Moffat on the south, and Biggar on the north, each about fifteen miles distant. Although it may thus be considered far from a market-town, yet it enjoys great advantages, having daily communication with Glasgow, Edinburgh, Carlisle, and Dumfries. The great road from Glasgow to Carlisle, and that from Edinburgh to Dumfries by Biggar, runs through the middle of the parish for the distance of thirteen or fourteen miles. The mail-coach passes through the village daily to and from Glasgow, and a heavy coach runs daily between Edinburgh and Dumfries.

The village of Leadhills has been already described. It has

enjoyed the privilege of having a post-office for many years, and has at present a daily post.

Means of Communication.—The turnpike roads are in the best state of repair. A new and elegant stone bridge was built at Newton in 1824; and by the liberality of a few of the proprietors, a chain bridge was thrown over the Clyde at Crawford in 1831, the span of which is upwards of 75 feet. This bridge affords great accommodation; the children are thereby enabled to attend school regularly, and the inhabitants the church.

Ecclesiastical State.—In the present state of the parish, the church, though not in the centre of the parish, is perhaps in the most advantageous situation. It is an old building, but in a state of good repair, having been new seated about twenty years ago. It affords accommodation for about 260 sitters, and it will soon be made to contain 50 more. There are at present no free sittings, except the communion tables. The manse was built about 25 years ago, and has since been repaired. The extent of the glebe is about 12 acres. There are 4 acres of arable ground and 8 acres of what is called a grass glebe, and the whole may be valued at L. 15. The stipend is 15 chalders of victual, the one-half barley, and the other oat-meal; L. 8, 6s. 8d. are allowed for communion elements. The stipend may thus be stated at L. 220.

There is a chapel or preaching station at Leadhills. In 1736, the Earl of Hopetoun obtained the sanction of the General Assembly, to employ a chaplain or preacher for the benefit of the miners, at the same time retaining the power either to employ one, or not, as his Lordship should deem expedient. The salary is paid by Lord Hopetoun and the Mining Company, and amounts to about L. 70, with a house. There is not a dissenting meeting-house in the parish, nor more than twelve or fifteen persons connected with dissenting houses of any kind. The number of communicants connected with the Established Church may be about 480.

Education.—There are three schools in the parish. The school at Leadhills is the only one besides the parochial school, that enjoys the benefit of an endowment. The salary attached to the Leadhills school is about L. 30 and a house. The common branches of education only are taught in these schools. The parochial schoolmaster enjoys a salary of about L. 34, with legal accommodation. The school fees may amount to about L. 15 more. Such is the value that the people in general set on education that all the farmers who have young families employ a teacher, espe-

cially during the winter, and many of the shepherds who are at a distance from a school follow the same plan.

Poor.—In consequence of the mining operations being somewhat fluctuating, numbers of individuals occasionally leave the place, and afterwards become a burden on the poor's fund. The number of persons on the roll may be about 10, exclusive of the poor in Leadhills, who are supplied by a stated sum, given by the heritors and Lord Hopetoun. The average sum given to the poor on the roll is about L. 2, 10s. The whole amount required in support of the poor in the parish is about L. 85; L. 50 of which is contributed voluntarily by the heritors, and the remaining sum is raised by the collections, &c. at the church and chapel, and by donations from Lord Hopetoun. The aversion to receive parochial relief, by which Scotland was formerly distinguished, seems here, as in many other places, to be on the decline.

Fairs.—There are two fairs held at Leadhills during the year, chiefly with the view of supplying the village with the necessaries and the comforts of life. These fairs are very advantageous to the country around, and are generally well attended.

Inns.—There are two inns at Crawford and one at Leadhills, which afford excellent accommodation to travellers. No alehouse is allowed at Leadhills.

Fuel.—In the higher parts of the parish, peat or turf is the fuel generally used, and is procured mostly from the tops of the hills. Peat ground does not abound in the parish, and it is difficult to procure enough of it for the use of the smelting operations at Leadhills. Coal, brought from Douglas, is generally used in the lower parts of the parish. Thus fuel is procured at no small expense. The coal is carried upwards of fourteen miles, and access to the peat is difficult.

Miscellaneous Observations.

The improvements that have been made in the parish within the last fifty years are very striking; both as they regard rural economy and the morality of the people. The improvement on the stock or sheep is very apparent,—the quality is better, the number is greater. This may arise from various causes combined,—the spirit of emulation which exists amongst the tenants in the parish,—the extensive improvement made on the sheep-walks by draining,—and the vast extent of separation dikes, which allow the flocks to pasture at ease on their own grounds, and which afford shelter from the storm.

Among the lower orders of the people, there are now more temperance and industry than formerly.

The inhabitants of Leadhills have long enjoyed a respectable character, and every encouragement is held out for them to maintain the high character which they have gained. They have an excellent library, and through the liberality of the Earl of Hopetoun they enjoy many comforts. They have been allowed as much of the waste or muirland as they can cultivate.

July 1835.

PARISH OF CULTER.

PRESBYTERY OF BIGGAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JAMES PROUDFOOT, MINISTER.

I.—Topography and Natural History.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—The name of this parish is a Gaelic compound, consisting of *Cul*, the back part or recess, and *Tir*, the land or country. The village of Culter accordingly, viewed from any commanding station in the adjacent valley, appears to occupy the "Back part or Recess of the District."

In 1794, a decreet was given by the Lords of Council and Session suppressing the parish of Kilbucho, and annexing part of the same to that of Culter. By this deed, which took effect on the death of the then minister of Kilbucho, a very considerable addition was made both to the territorial extent and population of Culter. The following remarks, therefore, refer both to Culter, as described in the former Statistical Account, and to that part of Kilbucho which has since been added.

Extent, &c.—The mean length of the parish, as it is now constituted, is 7 miles, and the mean breadth somewhat less than 3. It contains 19 square miles. In shape, it is a long narrow tract, extending from north to south; the Kilbucho part forming a large excrescence on the eastern side of its northern extremity. It is bounded on the west by Lamington and Symington; on the north by Biggar and a small part of Skirling; on the east by the united parishes of Broughton, Glenholm, and Kilbucho; and on the south by Drummelzier and Crawford.