

PARISH OF PENICUIK.

PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEED-DALE.

THE REV. W. SCOTT MONCRIEFF, MINISTER.

I.- TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name. [In the former Statistical Account, the name is said to signify in Gaelic, the Cuckoo's hill, (*Beann-na-cuaig.*) It is more probably, however, derived from the British Penycog or Penycoc, which has the same meaning. In Cornwall there is a village which bears a similar name; there it is spelt Penkuke. Several places in the neighbourhood are named from the Cuckoo, for example, Cukeu, Gowkley; and Cockpen, the name borne by a neighbouring parish, is plainly of similar origin. Formerly the parish and barony were co-extensive. In the ancient taxation, the church is rated at twenty marks. From the twelfth century to the Reformation, it continued an independent parsonage, the advowson of which seems to have belonged to the Lord of the Manor. In Bagimont's roll, as it was under James V., the rectory of Penicok was taxed at L. 8. In the Scoto-Saxon period, the manor was held by a family, who assumed their surname from it, and were patrons of the church. In 1296, Hugh de Penicok swore fealty to Edward I. This family retained the barony till the seventeenth century, when it passed by purchase into that of the Clerks, in whom it is entailed.] - This parish seems, of old, to have been dedicated to St Mungo, whose memory still lingers about a copious spring, hard by the church; and the same thing is attested by some old inscriptions upon its monuments. How, or when, the worthy saint became connected with the parish, does not appear. The name which it bears at present has long, however, distinguished it, and is probably as ancient as the other, as it betrays a Gaelic or rather British origin; - probably the latter appellation belonged to the barony, and the former to the church. The present parish includes two other, which were annexed to it in the year 1635, viz. that of Mount Lothian to the east, and St Catherine's to the north-west. The vestiges, for they can scarcely be called ruins, of both the ancient churches, may still be traced, - at least might have been so, till a few years since, when the remains of the latter were submerged in the waters of the Edinburgh Water Company's reservoir. Mount Lothian, (*Mons Laodiniæ*) frequently, but as appears from the Latin, erroneously written Monk's Lothian, was a chapelry belonging to the Abbey of Holyrood, whose monks kept their flocks on its rich and extensive pasturage; hence the corrupt name frequently given to it, of Monk's Lothian. A very curious account of the church of St Katherine will be found in the Notes to the Lay of the Last Minstrel. From these annexations, the parish has become very spacious, though not compact, stretching to a length of nearly 12 miles, with an average breadth of 4. The picturesque range of the Pentlands, and the river Esk, with its tributary streams, form

the most striking local features. The hills run from north-east to south-west, at an elevation of nearly 1700 feet above the sea. The river rises amongst them, and, flowing in a south-easterly direction, leaves the parish a little below the village of Penicuik after a course of about seven miles. The romantic valley of Logan Water, which divides the Pentland range, celebrated for its pastoral beauty, and supposed connection with the Gentle Shepherd, forms also a striking feature in the scenery of the parish.

Climate.- In its natural history the parish presents but few phenomena deserving particular attention. The most prevailing winds are the west and south. The east is not felt here so keenly as in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh; but the west, from blowing across the extensive moors between this and Linton, has but little of the blandness for which in general it is celebrated. It is both cold and damp. The progress of drainage and planting is annually, however, lessening this evil. Still at present, the climate, though much ameliorated by the astonishing progress of agricultural improvement of late, cannot be described as good. The great extent of wet moorland, together with the height of the country, averaging about 800 feet above the sea, necessarily produces cold and moisture. The former cause cannot be remedied, but the latter might; and from the happy effects of draining and planting at Whim, in the neighbourhood, good encouragement is held out to prosecute its removal. Drainage of moss would, however, appear to be at first accompanied by prejudicial effects to the health, as its decomposition is stated by Sir H. Davy to prove very unhealthy,

Hydrography.- The springs are both numerous and remarkably fine,- a circumstance which has proved of great importance to the parish, as it probably was the first inducement to establish those extensive paper manufactories for which the neighbourhood has long been celebrated, and which are at present carried on to a great extent. Chalybeate, mineral, and petrifying springs are also to be met with. It was, at one time, in contemplation to supply Edinburgh with water from the Silverburn,- one of the many beautiful streams which here descend from the Pentlands; but one in the neighbouring parish of Glencorse was ultimately preferred. There is only one natural loch of small extent; but the artificial ponds on the Penicuik demesne are deserving of notice, not merely from their picturesque beauty, but from their having been the first scenes where the extraordinary naval genius of John Clerk of Eldin displayed itself. To boating on these ponds in boyhood, that celebrated character used to ascribe his predilection for nautical investigations, which ultimately led to the publication of his Naval Tactics. The Esk, though here but an inconsiderable stream, is yet both highly ornamental and useful, as it forms the great charm of the beautiful domains of Penicuik and Newhall, and is the parent of

the many mills which have so contributed to enrich the parish. Its powers have of late been much lessened, however, as a mechanical force, from the progress of drainage in the upper districts, which has tended to render its floods more destructive, and its average stream much weaker. To remedy this increasing evil, the mill proprietors have in contemplation the formation of large reservoirs, to receive and store up the flood waters, with the double view of thus diminishing the force of its spates, and increasing its stream in drought. A similar plan has long been in agitation for the Water of Leith, a reservoir for which has been planned at Bavelaw, on the north-west of the parish. A considerable part of one already successfully formed on the Logan Water is also within this parish. A little way above this last mentioned sheet of water, the stream which supplies it forms the classical Linn of Habbie's How, which would repay the admirer of natural scenery for a somewhat long ramble amongst the hills, by its lonesome and romantic character. Innumerable picnic parties accordingly repair thither from Edinburgh during the summer months.

Geology and Mineralogy.- The rocks in this parish belong to the transition, secondary, and alluvial classes; sandstone, limestone, and schistus, being everywhere to be met with. Coal is also abundant, but as yet it has never been wrought to any extent, or with a profitable return. [A pit was re-opened in 1838 on the Penicuik property. The coal is excellent, and the prospects of a profitable return are good.] This has arisen from the frequent occurrence of dikes. Limestone is quarried to a very considerable extent on the eastern limits of the parish, and has proved of the greatest benefit in reclaiming moorland. The rock formation on the plains, as indicated by its cropping up on the banks of the Esk, and its tributaries, is of sandstone and schistus, of various kinds, running out into the alluvial formations of clay and gravel, with deep intervening seams of quicksand. The different strata have, at various times, presented fossil organic remains, particularly those of shell-fish. In the Supplement to the Encyclopædia Britannica, an account is given of a fine fossil tree, which was found here in these formations. The Scots Magazine for 1818 also contains a drawing of it. There are also specimens of an unknown fossil tree at Newhall. Iron is the only metallic ore that has been met with. It occurs in beds and veins of schistus, as also in round fragments. A few garnets, and specimens of heavy spar, may also occasionally be found; but the parish contains little metallic wealth. The Pentlands are valuable only as excellent sheep walks. The solid rock of these hills is chiefly porphyry, with smaller masses of whinstone. Fragments of primitive rock, as of chlorite rock, granite, syenite, &c. occur among the hills. Gravel, however, predominates in most of the valleys and lower ridges of the range, presenting a fine soil for turnips. Still lower down, clay becomes the prevailing formation, varied by tracts of deep moss, which, though superficially quite sterile, yet generally present at the

depth of twelve feet a fine rich soil. In some places, this superincumbent mass of moss has been cut, and carried for fuel, and then the subsoil has been successfully cultivated. Very extensive beds of sand and gravel occur about the village of Penicuik, covering formations of sandstone and schistus. On the banks of the Esk these beds are from 4 to 15 feet deep, but they are found at other places much to exceed that depth. The deposits on either bank of the river are perfectly similar. The soils have of course an inherent intimacy with these subsoils, being light, where these are gravelly, and clayey, where these are tenacious and adhesive; the latter seem to predominate.

Botany.- Great attention has been paid by the present proprietor of the estate of Penicuik, as by his predecessors, to planting the property, which has been executed on an extensive scale with combined judgment and taste. The plantations, which cover a considerable portion of the barony, serve at once to shelter the otherwise much exposed face of the country, and to heighten its natural beauties, to a degree that one would little expect in a district so high in its climate and barren in its soil.

Scotch firs, spruces, larches are planted promiscuously with oak and other hard woods. Great attention is paid to thinning, and constant extensions are going on. The whole planting is done on the Scotch or pitting system. Though shelter and picturesque effect form probably the chief inducements to extend these plantings, yet the wood also yields a profitable return,- single trees having brought as high a price as L. 30. A saw-mill has lately been erected, and is in nearly constant use. There are upwards of 1000 acres under wood in the parish, of which 800 or so are on the barony of Penicuik. The present appearance and rental of this last-mentioned estate strikingly shows what great effect judicious perseverance in improving land' will produce. It is not much more than five and thirty years since there were scarcely any enclosures on that property, save some few in the vicinity of Penicuik House, and now, nearly through its whole extent, it presents the aspect of an enclosed and well sheltered country. Its natural and but recent wildness is every where relieved by stripes of planting, dikes, or hedge-rows. In that period, the rents have trebled, without being at all oppressive. The waste has been converted into a forest, and the wilderness into a fruitful field.

II.- CIVIL HISTORY.

There is but very little deserving of notice under this head. A short account of the principal events which had occurred within the memory of the inhabitants was published by one of their number, some years ago; but it contains nothing of general interest. "The simple annals of the poor," however amusing to the lover of nature, are unsuitable to this work. The agricultural improvements of the district

have been ably detailed in an essay, which obtained the Highland Society's silver medal for the year 1829. It was written by Mr James Jackson of Plaintree Shade, by Penicuik, and has been published by him in a volume of great merit, along with five other prize essays. To Mr Jackson's intelligence on all points of agricultural interest, the public are indebted for nearly all the information on these matters in this account of the parish. The essays referred to may be confidently recommended to the perusal of the farmer, not merely for the information to be derived from them, but also from the example which they furnish of what, even in disadvantageous circumstances, diligence and good sense may accomplish.

The uniform quiet of a country parish was, in the case of Penicuik, interrupted about the year 1810, by its extensive paper manufactories being turned by Government into depôts for prisoners of war, and the peaceful cottages attached to them into barracks for the military necessarily required. The paper-mills of Valleyfield were on that occasion fitted up for the reception of 6000 prisoners, whilst those of Eskmills, then used as a cotton manufactory, accommodated 1500 British soldiers. This occurrence could not fail to produce results very unfavourable to the social and religious well-being of the parishioners. The peaceful artisan gave place to the soldier; and the din of a camp, with its attendant irregularities, prevailed where formerly nothing had interrupted the orderly occupations and Sabbath solemnities of a Scottish village. This circumstance gave, however, unusual life and activity to the place, and enriched some of its inhabitants; but it may be doubted, if it proved in any way advantageous to their moral habits and religious feelings; nor perhaps, have the unfavourable effects then produced on these latter, even now quite disappeared. On the close of the war, however, in the year 1814, the mills happily returned to their former proprietors and purposes, - an event which was hailed by the inhabitants with a general illumination, and other demonstrations of their heartfelt joy. The only memorial which now remains of the residence of so many warlike strangers, is a very chaste and appropriate monument erected by the proprietor of Valleyfield mill, over the remains of upwards of 300 prisoners of war, who were interred in a beautiful spot amidst his grounds. The design was furnished by Hamilton, and bears, after recording the purpose for which it was erected, the following line from the elegant but little known Sanazarius suggested by Sir Walter Scott: "Grata quies patriae, sed, et omnis terra sepulchrum." Underneath is this simple addition, "Certain inhabitants of this parish, desiring to remember that all men are brethren, caused this monument to be erected." It is understood, however, to have been raised at the sole expense of A. Cowan, Esq.

Eminent Men.- The parish cannot boast of many names celebrated in the world either of letters or of arms. Individuals have not been wanting, however, of

that plain, but practically most useful stamp, who accomplish in a quiet way for their neighbourhood most beneficial and happy results, and whose memorial may, therefore, be preserved in parochial history. Of this description was Sir James Clerk of Penicuik, whose combined judgment and taste accomplished effects which, for the times in which he lived, may be considered astonishing. The house and grounds of Penicuik are striking monuments of his enterprize and taste, and of the economical judgment with which he managed his resources. In his days the rental of the estate must have been but trifling, and yet the princely mansion which he erected was not left as a burden on his heirs. The parish church and Ramsay's Monument also remain to attest the taste and liberality which distinguished him. His brother, John Clerk of Eldin, has been more celebrated, and is better known as the author of *Naval Tactics*. As such his character belongs to his country; nor is this the place to discuss the merits of a work which has occasioned no little controversy. It is but justice to the present proprietor of Penicuik to state, that he is distinguished by the same judgment and enlightened liberal policy as a landlord, which characterized his predecessors, so that the improvements which were commenced by Sir James Clerk have been efficiently sustained and prosecuted up to the present time by his successor. The name of Mr Brotherston also deserves to be recorded, as having been the first to introduce cotton-spinning into Scotland, which he accomplished at Eskmills in this parish, about sixty years since.

Nor should the name of James Niven be altogether passed over in an account of his native parish. He distinguished himself as a traveller and a botanist, and as such was honoured with the patronage of several scientific societies and individuals, among whom was the accomplished and unfortunate Josephine, who found, in the culture of flowers at Malmaison, probably as much real happiness as she had ever experienced as Empress of France, at the Thuilleries. A more detailed account of him may be found in Loudon's *Gardener's Magazine* for March 1827.

The Chief Landholders. - The land is possessed by 13 heritors paying parish rates. Of these Sir George Clerk is by far the most considerable, his valuation amounting to one-half of the whole. There are only three other properties of considerable extent besides that of Penicuik, viz. Newhall, Logan House, and Bavelaw. The nine remaining are inconsiderable.

Parochial Registers. - The records of the kirk-session have been preserved entire from the year 1654 to the present time. The perusal of these volumes has not been rewarded by any discovery deserving of insertion in this place. Yet the following notice of the battle of Pentland, which was fought in this neighbourhood, may interest some readers. It occurs under the date of December 9, 1666. The battle took place on the 28th November. "Disbursed to John Brown, belman, for mak-

ing Westlandmen's graves, 3s. 4d." This may perhaps be taken as a confirmation of a charge brought by Crookshank, in his History of the State and Sufferings of the Church of Scotland, against the people of the neighbourhood, " that they were very cruel to the fleeing army of the Covenanters, many of whom they killed, and others they took prisoners." The battle was not fought in the parish, but a little to the eastward, so that those whom John Brown interred were most likely some of the unfortunate individuals alluded to by Crookshank, as having been killed by the people of Penicuik in their flight westwards.

Antiquities. [A very particular account of all that can pretend to the interest of antiquity, will be found in the Appendix to the last Statistical Account.] - Newhall House seems, in former times, to have been the seat of a religious establishment of some note. Lying on the confines of a very extensive and desolate waste, and on the line of the principal route from Edinburgh to the south-west, from which at this point there was a pass over the Pentlands to the north, it seems to have been originally intended to serve as a hospice for the shelter and refreshment of travellers, over what must have been at the time a dreary tract of country. A farm house in its immediate neighbourhood bears the name of the Spittal; and though at present good roads and inns have rendered such institutions unnecessary, the poor wayfarer is still held entitled to receive gratuitously the accommodation of a night's lodging at the Spittal of Newhall. On the summit of the pass before alluded to, at the elevation of 1500 feet above the sea, there are the remains of a Roman Catholic station. The cross which hallowed it has disappeared, but the stone which formed its pedestal still remains, with two deep indentations, which have evidently been worn by the knees of the many passing worshippers. Some workmen rudely overthrew this stone last year, and were rewarded by obtaining possession of a few old copper coins. Brunstane Castle, on the Esk, upwards of two miles above Penicuik, is a ruin of considerable extent, and has evidently been a place of importance. It would seem to have been built in the year 1580. Logan House is another remnant of feudal times, which possesses rather an interesting character from its romantic situation, enclosed as it is on all sides by the Pentlands, and encircled by the rather classic stream of the same name. It became a favourite hunting-tower of the Scottish kings. It was on the adjacent grounds that the celebrated match took place between the hounds of King Robert Bruce, and Sir William St Clair of Roslyn, as more particularly detailed in the Notes to the Lay of the Last Minstrel, and which led to the erection by the latter of the Chapel of St Catherine's, about a mile below the hunting-tower. The picturesque ruins of this ancient monument of Sir William St Clair's gratitude to his propitious saint, was submerged, as has been stated, by the Edinburgh Water Company, on the formation of their great reservoir. The remains of its walls may

still be perceived rising from the waters, when they are unusually low, as was the case last year (1835.) Some old coins were found under the altar piece, on its being turned up some years since. The scenery on this romantic stream has long disputed with that on the Esk at Newhall, the honour of being the local habitation of the *dramatis personae* of the Gentle Shepherd. They both have had and still have their advocates,- and much has been written and still more said on the subject. But, as the amount of authorship in favour of the Esk rather preponderates, that stream, otherwise so classic, enjoys the envied honours. It is unnecessary to describe the mansion-houses of the gentry. They remain as they were when the last account was written; nor is any of them deserving of notice except Penicuik House, which is an elegant modern mansion, in the Grecian style, celebrated for its Ossian's Hall, a large room, the ceilings of which are painted by Runciman, the designs being taken from Ossian's Poems. Runciman was, when young, employed with others to paint Penicuik House. Whilst so engaged he attracted the favourable notice of Sir James Clerk, then a great patron of Scottish genius. By him he was sent to Rome, where he studied for some time. His death is said to have been occasioned by the painful exertions he was obliged to make in painting the roof of the hall, which he had to perform lying on his back. Pieces so executed cannot, of course, be expected to display the highest perfection of the art; but they present very fair specimens of Runciman's style, and perhaps both the ground and the subjects were the most favourable for his bold, but exaggerated manner. The most marked improvements have taken place within the last forty years on the farm-houses and steadings. All those on the Penicuik barony have been rebuilt in a substantial way, with slated roofs and other improvements, at once for use and comfort. The same may be observed as to the Newhall property.

Nor have the manufacturing class been behind the agricultural, in improving their mills and dwelling-houses. A corresponding degree of improvement is discernible in the shops and dwelling-houses in the village. The former being lighted with gas, and neatly fitted up, are equal to those of most country towns, and give to the place a greater air of prosperous comfort, than is generally to be met with in a Scotch village. A number of new dwelling-houses have been erected during the course of the last six years, and all in a style of superior convenience and elegance. It is believed that, did the proprietor encourage feuing, many more would be added. In the year 1831, an enterprising individual converted the Government cavalry barracks, which stood to the north of Penicuik, and which had remained unoccupied since the end of the war, into a foundery, which employs a number of hands, and is in constant operation.

III.- POPULATION.

It has not been in my power to ascertain from any authentic documents the ancient amount of the population. There occurs, at times, in the minutes of session a note of the number of communicants, as, for example, in June 1721, there were 375, in June 1779, there were only 345. The diminution is not, however, to be ascribed to a falling off in the population, but to the erection of a Dissenting place of worship at Howgate, in the year 1750. Under the date of 1779, I find a note intimating that it appears from a roll made up by the minister at that time, there were then in the parish 1349 individuals young and old.

Population in	1801, .	1705
	1811, .	1827
	1821, .	1958
	1831, .	2255

From these it appears that the population has been progressively on the increase. This must be ascribed chiefly to the paper manufactories; for though there has been during the last fifty years, a great improvement in the agriculture of the parish in reclaiming waste lands, &c. still, from the converting of small farms into large ones, which has taken place to a considerable extent, the increase of the agricultural population has been checked. Inhabitants of the parish now living can easily remember the days when upwards of twenty heads of families would regularly cross the Pentlands to worship at Penicuik; now scarce a single individual comes from that quarter of the parish, all the families there being reduced to two or three. Improvements in machinery are now also beginning to operate in the same way on the manufacturing population, as a much larger amount of produce can now be raised by fewer hands. It would be incorrect, therefore, to estimate the prosperity of the parish by the increase of the population. In the month of November 1835, the writer took up a new census, when he found no more than 2286 souls, - which shews that the population has not been much on the increase since 1831. Of this number, 1250 are resident in Penicuik or its immediate neighbourhood. The following table exhibits the yearly average of births, deaths, and marriages for the seven years preceding Whitsunday 1831.

	Births registered.	Marriages registered.	Deaths registered.
1825,	- 39	- 21	- 41
1826,	- 36	- 14	- 43
1827,	- 41	- 12	- 66
1828,	- 35	- 17	- 61
1829,	- 32	- 16	- 47
1830,	- 32	- 20	- 49
1831,	- <u>18</u>	- <u>12</u>	- <u>68</u>
Total,	<u>233</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>375</u>
Average	33	16	53

The register of deaths may be presumed to be correct, because no interment could take place without registration. The list of marriages may also be considered as pretty accurate, but no reliance can be placed on that of births, - which may be taken to exhibit only one-half of the actual number of births. The Dissenters, who amount to one-third of the whole population, rarely, if ever, register the births of their children, and many of the Established Church neglect it, notwithstanding all that can be said to induce them to do so. Seventy births per annum, at an average, I should consider as a fair approximation, instead of 88, as the table would make it. There are 417 persons under seven, and 97 above the age of seventy. Instances of individuals reaching to the term of ninety are pretty frequent. I have seen a reel danced in the neighbourhood of Penicuik by four persons, whose united ages came to 320 years. There are at present 55 males above fifty years, who are unmarried, or are widowers, and 64 females above forty-five, who are unmarried. The total number of families was 522 in 1835, the average number in each family being $4\frac{1}{2}$. In the village of Penicuik it is, however, under 4, but in the landward part of the parish it is upwards of 5. Number of inhabited houses, 500.

The people are, in general, strong and healthy, but not so in any remarkable degree. Insanity has prevailed more than might have been expected. In the year 1830, two individuals committed suicide under its influence, one of whom accomplished the death of her attendant relative, and the other nearly succeeded in a similar attempt. There were then 5 others in confinement for lunacy, and nearly the same number fatuous. There are only two deaf mutes, and one blind at present. The number of deaths from suicide, murder, or other violent causes within the last ten years in the parish and vicinity seems deserving of record, as remarkably great, amounting to no fewer than 20. Of these, 8 persons committed suicide; 2 were murdered; 2 drowned; 2 lost in snow; 1 killed by lightning; 1 killed violently without intent to murder; 2 by machinery; and 2 by intemperance.

Number of illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years, 16.

Sir George Clerk, and H. Brown, Esq. of Newhall, are at this period the only resident proprietors of considerable fortune. There are, however, altogether nine landed proprietors whose income exceed £50. Before the passing of the Reform Bill, the parish yielded only five qualifications; there are now three old freeholders and 77 new voters enrolled, as qualified to vote.

Amusements. - The favourite game in this part of the country is curling, to which the parishioners of Penicuik have long been devoted. In their contests with the neighbouring parishes, they have hitherto been very successful. There is a numerous Curling Club, whose members annually play for a silver medal given by their patron, Sir G. Clerk. [This club has presented their excellent patron with a finely mounted hunting

horn, the crest of his family; and their indefatigable secretary, Mr Jackson, with an elegant ink-stand, in the form of a curling stone, of the value of £12.]

Character, &c. of the People. - The habits of the people are in general cleanly, but there is not in this respect, nor as regards their dress and style of living, any thing remarkable.

By the following returns, which may be relied on as accurate, it is to be feared that intemperance prevails to a greater extent than might have been expected:

Stock of spirits in hand within the parish at 5th January 1838,	1461 gallons.
Brought in since and 22d March,	<u>787</u>
Total at 22d March 1838,	2198
Stock in hand 22d March 1838,	<u>1810</u>
Consumption during the quarter,	888 gallons.

Supposing the average price per gallon to be 8s. 888 gallons comes to £355, 4s., which, multiplied by 4, gives £1420, 16s. To this sum, large as it is, must be added one-fifth more for four spirit-shops not included in this return, and the whole sum spent annually on ardent spirits within the parish will be about £1700, although it is to be hoped that this sum is not all expended by parishioners. A Total Abstinence Society exists, and numbers 100 members.

As the manufacturing population are in the receipt of regular and good wages, their houses present on the whole a greater appearance of comfort than is generally to be met with in the cottages of our peasantry. The character of these latter is decidedly moral and intellectual, and their standard of civilization high. They read much, and take a pride in the acquisition of knowledge. These laudable qualifications are not, as may be expected, unaccompanied, in every circumstance, by those unhappy effects, which generally flow from a, "little learning." Political reading and discussion preponderates, accompanied with no little degree of disaffection to the institutions of the country, particularly the rights and privileges of the Established Church. A great number of the paper manufacturers are Dissenters, and, almost without an exception, Voluntary Churchmen. The tenantry are an exceedingly shrewd and industrious class; some of them are also Dissenters, but they are more moderate in their political sentiments than the other class. The weavers are not a numerous body, amounting in all to eight, and they are much depressed by low profits. But, on the whole, a great change for the better has taken place within the last thirty years, in the social condition of the people, - though I cannot affirm that this improvement arises from an increased diffusion of godliness. While it may with confidence be affirmed that infidelity and open irreligion have

greatly declined, it must be allowed that that high-minded devotion which eminently distinguished the people in former times is now rarely to be met with. They who can recall those primitive days before the effects of war or manufactures were known to this rural district, lament the decay of religious feeling, and the disuse of those services at the family altar from which spring so many social blessings and civil virtues. I fondly believe, however, that domestic religion is now again reviving. Poaching is a crime which has been, of late, much on the increase, and has led to scenes happily not often exhibited on this side of the Border. The landed proprietors endeavour to protect their game, by employing keepers, while their tenantry are strictly prohibited from shooting; an unhappy arrangement, and one that signally defeats its own end. The tenantry have no interest in detecting the poacher, and the game-keepers are intimidated, and are consequently of little service. Some time since, one of these keepers was fired at and severely wounded by four poachers at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. Smuggling has been completely abandoned. As there are constantly two revenue officers at Penicuik, there would be little prospect of practising it with success. Pawnbroking, properly so called, does not exist, though there are many melancholy instances of pledging goods for spirits.

IV.- INDUSTRY.

I have found it impossible to arrive at any thing like a definite estimate of the amount of cultivated and uncultivated land in the parish. The difficulty arises from the width and unenclosed character of the parish. The subjoined statement may be regarded as conjectural. The extent of the parish is estimated to be 20,000 acres. Nearly 7000 are in the estate of Penicuik, of these I should say one-half are in tillage, of the remaining 3500, I should think 1500 might be reclaimed with profit. The estate of Logan House numbers 4000 acres, or thereby; these, with the exception of 50 acres or thereby, are all in pasture. This is rather more than one-half of the whole parish. Of the other half, I should think that as much as can be profitably reclaimed has been so already; not more than a third of this, however, is in tillage.

Agriculture. - There is no undivided common, nor any extent of underwood. The woods, which cover upwards of 1000 acres Scotch, consist of forest trees, and those on the Penicuik property are kept in the very best order, under the care of a judicious forester. There is a wide extent of unreclaimed moorland to the south-west of the village of Penicuik, which is, however, being gradually, though slowly, brought under the plough. It may be expected, however, that this process will now proceed with greater rapidity and success, as two excellent turnpike roads have

lately been carried through the midst of it. The most astonishing efforts have been made by Mr Carstairs of Springfield on 500 acres of perhaps the bleakest moorland in Scotland. This most indefatigable and meritorious individual purchased some years since, this then most uninviting property, and has continued since then his efforts to reclaim it, with a perseverance which no difficulties or discouragements have been able to damp. He has intersected the moss, which is nearly a dead level, with railways and a canal, on which, by carriages and boats, he transports the peat-moss from the interior to spots where he is able to dispose of it, by selling it for fuel, or burning it for manure. Already, the waste presents a much more cheerful aspect, and a sort of oasis is formed amidst its weary and desolate expanse. It is pleasant, moreover, to know that the enterprising proprietor is no loser by his improvements; at least, he is quite satisfied with the returns from his moorland. It may also be stated that his ingenuity and enterprise are not confined to agricultural pursuits; for, having in such a climate rather a superfluity of water, he makes the surplus from his canal serviceable in turning a mill for the manufactory of combs. There are very considerable facilities for the reclaiming of waste land throughout the whole parish, from the abundance of lime at its eastern and western extremities; while coal is not distant. The tenants on the Penicuik property have availed themselves of the judicious liberality of their landlord in allowing them to drive lime on the very lowest terms. They are, consequently, diminishing yearly the extent of waste land. The climate appears to be sensibly ameliorated by their exertions. It is to be regretted that the facilities enjoyed in many places for irrigation, particularly with moss water, do not seem to be appreciated.

The duration of leases is with scarce any exception, nineteen years. The former proprietor of Penicuik gave one for a term of thirtyeight years, but the result is understood to have been unfavourable both to landlord and tenant. If, at the end of his lease, the farmer has been improving, it is renewed to him, at a rent determined by the award of a competent and impartial judge. Thus, few changes take place amongst the tenantry on the Penicuik property especially, who are to a man enterprising and improving farmers, and warmly attached to the landlord under whose judicious management they thrive. [This state of matters has suffered a little modification from the unfavourable harvests of last three years, 1836-37-38. One or two changes have taken place within this period; but, had it not been for good management on the part of both landlords and tenants, these changes must have been much more numerous.] Enclosures are generally formed of dry stone dikes, though hedges and ditches prevail in the better cultivated districts; a mixture of beech or thorn is preferred to any other. On the Penicuik property drainage has been carried on extensively, and, of course, with, the happiest results. The proprietor opens the drains, and the tenant fills them. Furrow draining is being introduced but slowly, while that by tiles, which has proved so singularly successful in the west of Scotland, partic-

ularly in Ayrshire, has not yet been attempted.

Rent of Land. - The rent of arable land varies from 5s. to £5 per Scotch acre. Milch cows are pastured from Whitsunday to Martinmas for £5; two years do. for £2; sheep from 5s. to 12s. per annum. The breeds of cattle and sheep have been of late much improved by being crossed. The Ayrshire enjoys a preference here, being found much better adapted to the climate than the short-horned or Teeswater breed. which proved on trial by far too delicate for the situation. Formerly, the Galloway breed was preferred to any; but the great improvements which have, of late, been made on pasturage have admitted of the introduction of superior breeds. There is still much room for improvement in this department of farming, which, on many accounts, is the most important in this district, the rents being chiefly paid from the dairy produce. The horses reared and used are mostly of the Clydesdale breed.

Value of Raw Produce. - I have been unable to ascertain with accuracy, the gross amount of raw produce raised yearly; but an idea of its value may be formed, from the gross rental of land, including farms, parks, and gardens, kept by the proprietors. This amounts to £6827 per annum. If, to this amount, two rents be added, we obtain the sum of £20,481, which will serve with sufficient accuracy to represent the yearly value of the agricultural produce. The rental of houses and mills is upwards of £1000.

Manufactures. - Paper-making, with the trifling exception of weaving, is the only manufacture prosecuted in the parish; but it is carried on to a considerable extent. The quantity of rags yearly converted into paper averages above 1000 tons, and the whole value of the manufacture may amount to £80,000 per annum. There are five paper machines [Another machine is being now put up at Eskmills, September 1839.] constantly employed, for at least twelve hours per diem, and occasionally through the whole twenty-four hours. These on an average cast off paper in a continuous web of 4½ feet wide, at the rate of 10 yards per minute, or a mile in the three hours. Each machine therefore throws off, on an average, 4 miles length of paper per diem, and the five machines accordingly may produce daily a quantity of paper 90 miles long by 1½ yard wide; or a whole surface of 52,800 yards. Upwards of £24,000 per annum is derived by Government from this beautiful manufacture, in the shape of duty, which amounts to about 80 per cent. This is supposed to equal the whole amount paid by Ireland to the revenue on this article; so that this parish is as productive in paper duty as the whole sister kingdom. The above-mentioned machines, which require the attendance of only one man and two lads, accomplish as much nearly as 30 men and lads could perform formerly by the vat; yet the continually increasing demand, and the consequent extension of the works, has kept up if not multiplied the number engaged in this manufacture. There are at present

about 400 men, women, and children, continually employed from ten to twelve hours per diem, six days in the week; the men receiving, from 2s. to 3s. per diem, the women from 9d. to 1s. 3d., and the children from 6d. to 10d. As the work is not, except perhaps in its first stage of rag-cutting, unhealthy, the mills ventilated and heated, the workers, well paid and comfortably lodged, no prejudicial effects result from the manufacture, and the morals are in general very exemplary. [Since these details, which refer to 1836, were received, the duty on paper has been reduced to one-half, and a great extension has followed in the production of that article. Steam power has been required to aid that of water, often incapable of accomplishing the work in demand.]

V. - PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The village of Penicuik has no regular market, but its numerous shops furnish at all times every necessary and luxury of domestic life. It has annually two fairs, held on the third Friday of March and the first Friday of October, chiefly for hiring servants. The police consists of a number of special constables, who act under the bailie of the barony; their services are seldom required. The bailie holds a court monthly. Besides Penicuik, which contains a population of 687 souls, there are three other hamlets in the parish, Kirkhill, with 394 souls; Howgate with about 120; and Nine-mile-Burn with upwards of 20 families.

Means of Communication. - Three great turnpike roads traverse the parish from north to south, viz. the old Dumfries road by Howgate; the new one by Penicuik, and a lately much improved line by Nine-mile Burn. There is also another turnpike road recently opened, running diagonally to these, and connecting Penicuik with Linton, while a parallel line is being carried through between Penicuik and Nine-mile Burn. The parish is, therefore, in all directions intersected by good roads.

Ecclesiastical State. - The parish church is conveniently situated in regard to the great bulk of the population, upwards of 1200 souls residing in its immediate vicinity; but it is widely removed from the eastern and western extremities of the parish, from which it is upwards of four and six miles distant. It is a chaste structure of Grecian architecture, and is in good repair; it bears the date 1771. As, however, it cannot accommodate more than 500, not one-fourth of the population, it is greatly too small. Plans, are, however being made out, with the view of adding 300 sittings; and it is to be hoped, that another year will not pass without seeing them completed. [These plans were fully carried out in the year 1837, at an expense of nearly £600 Sterling, including a heating apparatus. Of this sum, about £400 was raised by subscription, the remainder was borrowed, and the debt so contracted is being liquidated by a very small pew rent on the new sittings. These are all eagerly secured and fully occupied; and no experiment of the kind could have been more successful or gratifying to the kirk-session, by whom it was carried through.] At present there are upwards of 100 freesittings. The manse, which was built about forty years since, is large and commodious, but is a

very insufficient building. The contractor, who had undertaken its erection on too low an estimate, failed before he had completed it, and the work was carried on by his creditors, who run it up in the slightest manner. The glebe contains from 6 to 7 acres of good ground, which let with the farm offices for £20 per annum on lease. The stipend amounts to £78, all in money, and the teinds are exhausted. It comes, of course, under the benefit, of the Act for Augmenting Poor Livings.

There is a meeting house of the Secession denomination at Howgate, built in the year 1750, which may accommodate about 400. The stipend is raised wholly by seat rent. Of the population, 1434 reckon themselves adherents of the Established Church; 852 are Dissenters, chiefly of the Secession body. There are not 10 Roman Catholics in the parish. Divine service is well attended in the church. At the last summer communion, there were 540 communicants; but there are upwards of that number on the roll. The roll of heads of families entitled to exercise the veto contains 190 names. The church is lighted by gas. The collections for the poor average about £30; an extraordinary contribution may amount to from £6 to £8, although £18 has been obtained. There is an association in connection with the Established Church for religious purposes both at home and abroad. Its receipts by subscriptions and otherwise have, for the first six months, amounted to upwards of £20. This sum has been mainly raised by very small individual contributions.

Education. - There are eight daily, and four Sabbath schools. Of these, two are infant schools,- one maintained by the Misses Cowan, and the other much aided by the grant of a house, &c. by the proprietor of Eskmills. The number of pupils constantly under instruction varies; but on an average it may be stated as high as 340 or thereabouts, or about one-seventh of the whole population. The parochial school alone can be said to be endowed, though two or three others are assisted by the heritors, &c. The parish teacher draws the maximum of salary, but does not, from the infirmities of age, act as schoolmaster. The office is filled by an assistant, who is wholly dependent on fees. Little beyond the common branches of reading, writing, and arithmetic, is in demand or actually communicated. The usual fees for these branches may amount to £45 or £50 per annum. His other emoluments may amount to £6 per annum. I am not aware of any persons betwixt five and fifteen years of age who are not capable of reading, and of very few who cannot write, at least at the last mentioned age. In general, the people have been, and are quite alive to the benefits of education, as the number, of schools testifies; and an additional one will be opened in a month or two, making in all 9 schools, or one to every 255 inhabitants; nor is any of these so far removed from parishioners, as to prevent their sending their children.

Literature. - There is one Subscription Library, containing upwards of 1200

volumes, to which 50 subscribers belong; another, in connexion with the Secession meeting-house at Howgate, is set up, and another is contemplated in connexion with the church.

Friendly Societies. - There were lately four Friendly Societies in the parish, but the oldest of them has been given up. The next in order is not in a flourishing way; but the latest, which was established nearly forty years since, has now a capital of upwards of £1200. It may be questioned, however, if any of them has produced beneficial effects. Their annual parades are sometimes attended with not, a little riot and intemperance.

Savings Bank. - A Savings Bank was established some years ago. In 1835, the contributors amounted to 60, and the stock to little short of £900. From £10 to £20 may be deposited monthly, - sometimes more, but generally less than this is drawn out. It has increased in its transactions, for in the year 1821 the deposits were only £250. The manufacturing class deposit the greatest amount, and the effects on their habits are very beneficial.

Poor and Parochial Funds. - There are at present about 40 paupers on the roll, who receive from 5s. to 8s. per month. There were lately no fewer than four lunatic paupers, but one only now remains. The funds for the support of the paupers are raised from an assessment on the real rent, imposed twice a-year, the average yearly amount of which for the year 1838 was £160; from mortcloth [In the year 1833, a number of persons associated themselves to deprive the poor of the profits of the mortcloth dues, though the kirk-session had reduced these to one-fourth nearly of their former amount, in the hope of accommodating matters without one. The session were, accordingly, constrained to have recourse to legal measures, and obtained a decret in their favour in the year 1836, in which the other party had acquiesced.] dues, which, from being resisted by the Dissenters, chiefly yield little; and from collections, which, from the great number of Seceders who contribute nothing, do not bring more than £30 per annum. Total amount of contributions for the poor upwards of £200 a-year. The kirk-session made a strenuous attempt in the year 1831 to act on Dr Chalmers's views, as to doing away the compulsory assessment, and supporting the ordinary poor by voluntary contribution. It was, however, unsuccessful, and ended by the heritors imposing the assessment according to the real, and not, as had previously been the case, by the valued rent. This has involved them in a series of law pleas with the manufacturers and feuars, occasioning great expense, and much heart-burning. The questions which have arisen are now (1839) all adjusted. The poor are pressing on the funds, and often endeavour to make good their claims by having recourse to law. Pauperism is not held so much in horror as it once was, and ought to be. The first regular assessment was imposed in the year 1800, - one of unexampled scarcity. Matters with respect to the poor are otherwise, however, well managed. The parish is divided into seven districts, over each of which there is at

least one resident elder and one deacon, whose duty it is to examine minutely into every case of pauperism. The deacons are generally farmers, or others of business habits, and well acquainted with, and looked up to, by their respective districts. Their appointment, which took place in 1834, has been productive of the happiest effects, and may be recommended for adoption elsewhere. So large and efficient a session seems to produce a most beneficial action and effect on the religious and secular interests of the parish.

Drawn up in 1836,
Revised July 1839.