

PARISH OF CRANSHAWS.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNSE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE.

THE REV. J. H. SIBBALD, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name—Boundaries.—THE name is supposed by some persons to be derived from the *Cranes* or *Hérons*, which were formerly numerous in this district; by others it is alleged that *Cran* in the name of this parish refers to the cranberry, which is a native of our hills and mosses. These derivations, however, are quite conjectural.

The parish is intersected by a part of Longformacus; and the part of it on which the church stands is a five-sided figure or pentagon, measuring nearly two miles in every direction, and consequently giving a surface of about six square miles. It is bounded generally by the Whitadder on the north and east, and a part of Longformacus on the south and west. The other part of the parish is an irregular figure, extending more than five miles in length by about two of mean breadth. The small river Dye divides it from Longformacus for four miles on the north side, and gives its margin an undulating form; the same parish encloses it on the east and partly on the south, after which the parish of Westruther completes the southern border, and that of Lauder the western.

Topographical Appearances.—The highest land on this side of the parish is called *Man-Slaughter Law*, and, according to tradition, receives its name from having been the scene of a very serious engagement. There is some reason for believing this report, as some pieces of warlike weapons have been found in the immediate neighbourhood, and a *tumulus*, such as was generally used to commemorate important events, is still remaining upon the north side of it.

Meteorology.—Fogs are here sometimes so dense and so regularly spread over all the lower grounds, both in spring and au-

tumn, as to mark a certain elevation over the whole country. The density of this vapour may be imagined from the fact, that a person descending from one of the neighbouring heights is seen from above, as if stepping deeper and deeper into water. So correctly is the surface line marked upon his person, and so complete is the deception, that the spectator is not without some degree of anxiety about his companion, whom he has seen walk over head into the abyss. When such fogs are partial, there is sometimes the appearance of a lake, with one or more streams connected with it.

Hydrography.—This inland parish abounds with perennial springs, and there is one in the neighbourhood which may yet impart health, as a chalybeate to the inhabitants of more wealthy districts. There are only two streams draining this district, the Whitadder and Dye, which unite a little to the south-east of this parish.

Geology and Mineralogy.—There are no rocks of the primitive class, although boulders of granite, sienite, and porphyry are washed down from rocks of conglomerate in the parishes of Stenton and Whittingham. The rocks of the transition class are greywacke and greywacke-slate: and these rocks are the principal ones in the parish. In Cranshaws-hill there is a very fine conglomerated rock, in which are disseminated particles of red iron-ore, from the size of a pea to that of a walnut. The surface of this rock is much broken by the action of the atmosphere and water. Near to it is one of sandstone of the secondary formation, coloured by grains of iron; this stone might be useful in buildings. The yellow ochre issuing from this hill is used by the people in painting the walls of their houses, and completely answers the purpose.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—There are only three landed proprietors, Charles Watson, Esq. of Saughton; the Honourable Charles Stuart; and Duke of Roxburghe. The last (having but a small property in the parish) bears a very trifling proportion of all public burdens.

Parochial Register.—The parochial register begins with 1731. It contains births, deaths, and marriages, and has been regularly kept.

Antiquities.—A sword had been found to the west of the Man-Slaughter-Law a considerable time ago. Upon inquiry I find it was converted into some other instrument at the parish smithy. To the east of the field where it was discovered there is a burrow which probably covers more; and there are two similar collec-

tions of stones in the other half of this parish, which, tradition says, commemorate the death of two twin brothers of the name of Edgar, who both fell while commanding different portions of an army that had mutinied. They are still known by the name of the Twinlaw-cairns. * Cranshaws castle belongs to Charles Watson, Esq. of Saughton; it is an oblong square of forty feet by twenty-four. The walls are forty-five feet high. The battlement on the top is modern; otherwise the date of the building might have been pretty nearly ascertained, as the water conduits are in the form of cannon. Before the union of the two kingdoms, it had been used by the inhabitants on this side of the parish as a place of refuge from the English borderers, as the old castle at Scarlaw (of which very little now remains) had probably been by the inhabitants of the other division.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1754, the population was	214
At the time of last Statistical Account,	164
In 1821,	156
In 1831,	136
In 1833, it does not appear to exceed	100

The decrease appears to have been owing to the junction of farms, and change of system.

1. Number of families in the parish,	24
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	16
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	4
2. The average number of baptisms recorded yearly, for the last 7 years,	8
of deaths,	1
of marriages,	2
3. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	41

No nobility or persons of independent fortune reside in this parish.

There are two proprietors in the parish who hold lands to the amount of L. 50 per annum and upwards.

The people generally marry early, and in consequence, we have neither male nor female unmarried above the ages of 50 and 45. They are generally very poor, but contented with their situation and circumstances, frugal, sober and industrious, generally regular in their attendance on religious ordinances, and, I am happy to add, that the form of godliness is observed in most of their families. I have been told that discussions have sometimes taken place on a Sabbath morning as to who should enjoy the privilege of going to church.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—There are at present seven

* See Account of Westruther.

pairs of work-horses in the parish. The number of acres, therefore, under tillage, allowing fifty acres to each plough; will be 350, which, considering the nature of the land and climate, can scarcely be expected to furnish much produce for the market. More had been cultivated at one period, but was allowed to return to its original state, with the exception of a few patches, which are turned over occasionally, to renew the pasture. It is very doubtful whether the farmer would gain by keeping much more land under the plough, while the market prices are so low, all the roads in such a neglected state, and the distances to places of sale so great.

Live-Stock.—The sheep are of the Cheviot breed, and amount to about 4400 in number; and the black-cattle a mixture of several kinds, in number from 70 to 80, average price L. 6, 10s. at two years' old.

Rate of Wages.—Wages of men and women hired by the half year are about L. 7 per annum. Those of hinds or farm-servants average L. 28 per annum, inclusive of the value upon their cow's grass, meal and potatoes. The practice of giving these servants grass for so many sheep is now abandoned, and L. 3 or L. 4 given in lieu of it.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce cannot be exactly ascertained; but the following statement (not including pasture) must be pretty near the truth.

Oats, barley and pease, 800 bolls at the Lammermoor fair prices,	L. 770	9	4½
Turnip, 70 acres at L. 2 per acre,	140	0	0
Potatoes, 10 acres, allowing 20 bolls per acre, at 6s. per boll,	60	0	0
Sown grass 2000 stone at 6d. per stone,	50	0	0
Natural hay 5000 stones at 3d. per stone,	62	10	0
	L. 1082	19	4½

Manufactures.—It may be mentioned under this head, that two ingenious young men of the name of Bertram, both blacksmiths, have lately invented an instrument, by which their labour in forming hoops for carriage wheels of every diameter is wonderfully abridged, and the fuel generally used completely saved. They can produce twelve cart hoops in this way in one hour, without the use of fire, except in joining the two points, and without the use of the hammer at any other part of the process. This instrument must soon come into general use: indeed, drawings of it have been sought, and one of these little machines is already at work at Innerwick in East Lothian. It is intended to make an effort to secure a patent for these young men, who, for character and genius, are highly deserving of patronage.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—The situation of the parish church is rather inconvenient for the one-half of the parishioners, being about five miles from several of their houses, and yet it would be impossible to find a site for it equidistant from the two inhabited portions of this parish, without removing it out of the parish entirely, it being intersected, as already stated, by a part of Longformacus parish. It was built in 1739, and is probably in a worse state of repair than any Established church in the south of Scotland. The present manse was built in 1811, and wants the necessary accommodation, having only one room on the ground-floor. Both it and the church are about to undergo repairs at present, and do certainly require them, being in a much worse state than most hunting stables in the county. The church accommodates 120 persons. The extent of the glebe is fifteen acres, and when in good order might be let at L. 1, 10s. per acre. The stipend is upon the Government bounty list, and is all paid in money, amounting to L. 150, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

Every family in this parish attends the Established church. The number of hearers may be about 100 or upwards. They are regular in their attendance, and very attentive during divine service. The number of communicants (inclusive of those from other parishes) varies from 80 to 100.

There is a Bible Society in this parish, but contributions have not been pressed for a few years in consequence of the circumstances of the district. When first instituted, the annual receipts were about L. 15 per annum, but the decrease was rapid, as was to be expected among such a poor population. Occasional collections are made at the church for the Scottish Missionary Society, the General Assembly schools, and the Edinburgh Infirmary, the whole amount obtained for these institutions being under L. 5 per annum.

Education.—We have no school but the parochial, in which all the usual branches of education are taught. The salary is the maximum, and the school fees amount to L. 10 per annum. The expense of education is from 10s. to 16s. per annum, according to the respective attainments of the scholars. The schoolmaster's house is a good one of two stories, and the garden of the legal extent. There is not an individual in the parish who has reached the age of 15 but can both read and write.

Library.—We have a parochial library under the patronage of

George Buchan, Esq. of Kelloe, who very generously presented to it L. 5. The number of volumes at present amounts to 200, and a large addition is expected when our own heritors shall favour us with their subscriptions.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are at present three persons all aged and infirm, receiving parochial aid, and the sum given to each is 1s. 6d. per week. The minister proposed to the heritors of this parish several years ago, that the regular assessment for the maintenance of the poor should be dispensed with, and something in the name of donation substituted when the kirk-session should require it. This proposal was thankfully accepted by the heritors, and is still acted upon. For several years the contribution of the heritors in this way has amounted to L. 12 per annum. The average amount of church collections is L. 6 a-year.

Fuel.—The fuel in general use is peat and turf, which may cost about 1s. 6d. per cart, when ready for using, and 1s. more when brought home.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

To improve this parish, a good road is indispensable from three miles to the east of the manse to the head of Whitadder. There is a very level line for the purpose. The materials are at hand throughout that distance, and some miles would be saved to the traveller. Plantations also are much wanted.

July 1834.