

UNITED PARISHES OF LONGFORMACUS AND ELLIM.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNSE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE.

THE REV. HENRY RIDDELL, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries.—THE derivation of the name of Longformacus is obscure. Little more light can be thrown upon it than what arises from the spelling of the name at different periods. In 1384, in a charter by the Earl of Orkney to his cousin, "James de Santæ Clair," the name occurs in the form of "Longfordmakehous." In 1395, in a charter by the Earl of March to James Sinclair of Lochirmakehous, the lands of "Lochirmackehous" are conveyed. And the same spelling of "Lochirmakehous" is observed in the charters of that time. In 1505 the spelling varies to "Lochirmacus," and in 1556, and downwards, the name is usually spelt as it now is. It is worthy of remark, that at present the ordinary appellation corresponds with the old spelling of "Lochirmacus." The spelling of the name of the parish of Ellim often varies even in the same writings,—thus Ellim, Ellem, Elm.

The parishes of Longformacus and Ellim were, on account of their general contiguity, united by decree of annexation, 18th February 1712. At that time the relative proportion of the two parishes, so far as population is concerned, was as two to one, 200 examinable persons being then in Longformacus, and 100 in Ellim.

The parish touches the parishes of Whittingham and Inverwick on the north; and extends southwards about eight miles, where it is bounded by the parishes of Langton, Greenlaw, and Westruther. On the east it is bounded by the parishes of Dunse and Abbey St Bathans; and it extends westward in one part about twelve miles, where it is bounded by the parish of Lauder. The parish of Abbey St Bathans cuts off an isolated portion, which belonged to the old parish of Ellim, called Blackerstone. This portion lies about eight miles distant from the parish church, and is about two miles long, and a mile and a-half broad; at

one part, this parish intersects that of Cranshaws. The boundaries of several contiguous parishes in this district are extremely involved.

Topographical Appearances.—The greatest elevation in the parish is Meikle Cese or Sayrs Law, which lies in the line of division between Berwickshire and East Lothian. It is under 1500 feet high. Two conical hills of considerable beauty, the Dirringtons, also lie in this parish. The greater of these, great Dirrington Law, is 1145 feet high.

Mineralogy.—Appearances of copper ore were noticed in the former Statistical Account of the parish. Various attempts have been made to work it; but after a recent trial upon a considerable scale, by an English company, it was abandoned; the ore, it is understood, not being sufficiently rich and plentiful to cover the expense of working it. These mining operations were carried on near the spot where the old church of Ellim stood. It is said that there are appearances of a richer vein, not far from this spot, on the opposite side of the river Whitadder, in the lands of Rigfoot, but no attempts have been made to work it.

Botany.—The parish affords a good field for the botanist. Amongst other plants which are to be found here, there are the following: *Arbutus uva-ursi* (Dirrington;) *Melampyrum sylvaticum*, (Banks of Dye;) *Orobis sylvaticus*, *Fumaria claviculata*, *Oscillatoria violacea*, (Flora of Berwick on Tweed, Vol. ii.) and *Jungermannia byssacea* (Dirrington.)

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Notices.—There is a farm in the parish called Otterburn. It is not likely that the contest between Douglas and Hotspur took place here; but as the field of that contest has not been determined, and as it could not have been at a very great distance from this parish, the fact of there being a place of the name of Otterburn here, deserves to be stated. That there were several severe contests in this neighbourhood, may well be presumed from its vicinity to the debateable land. Indeed, the name of an adjoining hill, Main, or Man-Slaughter Law, hands down the memory of a bloody conflict, supposed to be that which took place in 1402, between the Earl of Dunbar and Hepburn of Hailes; and a large heap of stones at Byrecleugh, in this parish, 240 feet long, of irregular breadth and height, but where broadest and highest, 75 feet broad and 18 feet high, appears to attest a similar conflict. The stones composing this heap have been carried

to their present place from a crag half a-mile distant. They have received the name of the "mutiny stones;" but there is no authentic account of the occasion which led to their accumulation.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1712, there were 300 examinable persons, which may give a population of 450. When the last Statistical Account was drawn up, there were computed to be 100 families containing 452 individuals. Since the beginning of this century the numbers have been accurately ascertained every ten years as follows: There were in

1801,	94 families, containing	207 males, and	199 females,	Total	406
1811,	90,	-	215,	229,	444
1821,	81,	-	191,	211,	402
1831,	81,	-	216,	209,	425

The families are fewer in number than they used to be, owing to several smaller farms being now thrown into one. The system of large sheep-farms prevails more than it used to do, in consequence of which there is less ground cultivated, and fewer families maintained.

1. Number of families in the parish, as before-stated,	-	-	-	81
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	49
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	-	16
The average number of children in a family is,	-	-	-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	-	-	-	5
of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45,	-	-	-	10
3. The number of persons in 1831, under 15 years of age,	-	-	-	175
upwards of 70,	-	-	-	15

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The extent of this parish is about thirty-three square miles, or rather more than 21000 acres imperial.

Of this amount there are cultivated, or occasionally in tillage,	-	-	-	2200
Never cultivated,	-	-	-	18,800
In undivided common,	-	-	-	0
Under wood,	-	-	-	350

It may be doubted whether capital could be profitably employed in cultivating more of the parish than has already been cultivated.

In the vicinity of the village of Longformacus, there is a good deal of planting, especially surrounding the mansion-house of Longformacus, where there are some elm and ash trees of considerable age and height. There are also extensive plantations at the Retreat, on the lands of Blackerstone.

Husbandry.—Barley, oats, turnips, potatoes, rye-grass and clover, are the usual crops cultivated. There are about 450 score of sheep pastured. Of this number there are about 300 score

Cheviot, 100 score black-faced, and 50 score half Leicester. A few horses are bred by the farmers, chiefly for their own use: and a considerable number of calves are reared. The cattle are of the common Berwickshire breed, coarser than those in the lower part of the county.

It is not the practice in this district to take in cows or sheep to graze; when this is occasionally done, the average rent of keeping a milk cow for the year is L. 5, 5s., and a sheep, 5s.

Rate of Wages.—The wages of herds by the year are usually as follows: 10 bolls oats, 3 bolls barley, (or one boll of peas for one of the bolls of barley,) the keep of from 30 to 36 sheep, the keep of a cow, half a boll of potatoes planted, and the carriage of firing. They receive a house, but are obliged to shear for it in harvest, and to keep a servant called a *bondager*. This bondager works for the master when he requires him, at the rate of 10d. a-day, payable to the herd; and he shears at harvest for the house rent for a period, which is often fixed at three weeks endurance,—at which time, food only is allowed.

The wages of hinds are much the same with those of herds; instead of the keep of sheep, L. 8 or L. 9 is paid. They hold their house under the same conditions as the herds. Women-servants receive from L. 4, 10s. to L. 5 for the summer half year, and L. 2 for the winter half. Able-bodied labourers receive 9s. a-week in winter, and from 10s. 6d. to 12s. in summer, according to their skill and activity.

Rent.—The present rental of the parish amounts nearly to L. 4000; about L. 800 of this rental arises from grass parks let for pasture from year to year; the remainder from lands let on lease for various terms, but usually for nineteen years. There are nine heritors, none of whom are resident. Several large farms are led, that is left to the charge of herds or stewards for the tenants,—who live on arable farms in the lower district. John Home Home, Esq. of Longformacus, is the patron and largest heritor of the parish.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The farm-houses and roads and enclosures in this parish are generally in bad repair. The road from Haddington to Coldstream goes through this parish, and also another road from East Lothian to Dunse,—both of which are but indifferently maintained out of the statute-labour money. This money is collected upon twenty ploughs, the estimated number kept, and is totally inadequate to the maintenance of the parish roads. In

consequence of this, the cross roads are left in a wretched state, and thus a formidable bar lies in the way of improvements.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is conveniently enough situated, considering the extreme irregularity of the boundaries of the parish. In this neighbourhood one parish so shoots into another, that the congregations are often found to be composed of the inhabitants of several parishes. The church was built upwards of a century ago. It has been lately repaired, and is in good order. It is seated for 200 persons; the sittings are appropriated to the different properties, so that there are no free sittings; the feuars in the village occupy the sittings which are unemployed, merely through tolerance. The manse was built sixteen years ago. It is three quarters of a mile distant from the church. The glebe consists of fully eleven acres of good land; it is perhaps the best land in the parish, and may be valued at not less than L. 2 an acre. A right of pasturage has been assigned to the minister in place of a glebe for the old parish of Ellim. This right gives the minister the privilege of pasturing forty sheep on the farm adjoining the old church of Ellim. It has of late years, by agreement between the minister and tenant, been commuted into the annual payment of L. 10. The stipend was modified for crop 1831 at fifteen chalders, half meal and half barley, converted at the highest fair prices of Berwickshire; and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

Out of 81 families, 16 are Dissenters, and attend meeting-houses chiefly at Dunse.

The church is usually well attended. The number of communicants is about 135.

A branch association in connection with the Dunse Auxiliary Bible Society was lately established.

Education.—There is one parish school, where the usual branches of education are taught. The schoolmaster's salary is the maximum. He has the legal accommodations. The amount of school fees received by him may be L. 10 a-year. The means of education are accessible to all, and there are none of a proper age who cannot read. The minister meets such children as may be sent by their parents, at the church on Sundays, before and after the usual services, and the number of those who then regularly attend upon his instruction exceeds 30.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The funds provided for the poor are derived from the collections at the church doors, the interest of L. 100 mortified, and, when these fail, from assessments. Owing to the non-

residence of the heritors and of some of the principal tenants, and the non-attendance of others, the collections are small; they may be stated at L. 8 per annum. There are at present two old women who receive regular, and four individuals who receive occasional, charity from the kirk-session. Five shillings a month, with house rent and firing, has been the usual allowance for a pauper receiving regular assistance. The disposition to refrain from seeking parochial relief may still be seen in this parish, but it is fast wearing away.

Inn.—There is an inn in the small village of Longformacus. The people are generally sober, and no injurious effects are perceptible from the existence of this inn.

Fuel.—The fuel of the country, here generally called *eldin*, consists of dried turf, peats, and cuttings from the plantations. Coal is brought from England at considerable expense. When delivered at Longformacus, it costs, at an average, 10d. per cwt. The best peats are got from one of the moors towards the southern part of the parish. In a favourable year, such as 1831, when well dried, they make good firing; but the expense of cutting, winding, drying, and leading, together with the rapidity with which they burn, makes the cost of them little inferior to that of coals.

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