

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF LONGFORMACUS.

By the Rev. Mr SELBY ORD.

Name, Situation, and Surface.

IT is uncertain whence the name of this parish is derived. It is in the shire of Berwick, presbytery of Dunse, and synod of Kelso. It is twelve miles long and six broad; surrounded by the parishes of Dunse, Langton, Greenlaw, West-ruther, Cranshaws, and Abbey St Bethun's. It is quite hilly; being in the midst of that ridge of hills which divides the flat and rich lands of East Lothian from the beautiful, well inclosed, and highly cultivated plains of Berwickshire. The greatest part of the surface is covered with heath, eaten by small black faced sheep, which, when removed to good pastures, may be so fattened as to weigh 10 or 12 pounds the quarter.

Cultivation and Produce.—The lands near the rivers Whitadder and Dye, have been improved by lime brought from East Lothian at the distance of 17 miles, and have been made to raise oats, barley, pease, rye-grass, red and white clover, and turnip. But the farmers are prevented from great exertions by the high rents, the great expence of manure, the badness of the roads, and the distance of markets. The increase

crease of corn is from two, or even one, to six. The present land rent amounts to L. 1700 a-year. There are no mills. The patron of the parish, Mr Home, is the only residing one.

Climate and Population.—The air is dry, cold, and piercing. The only diseases are rheumatism and cutaneous disorders, which seem to be occasioned by poor food, damp houses and want of cleanliness. Population, owing to large farms, to the tenants residing at a distance, and to part of the lands being turned entirely into pasture for sheep, is on the decrease. The number of souls is 452; of families, 100; of persons from 16 to 60 years of age, 112. The number of births, in the last six years, is 47; of marriages, 21; of deaths, 27. Many people born in this parish being obliged to seek employment in other parishes, all who die in the parish not being buried in it, and those only registered that are buried here, the deaths bear but a small proportion to the births.

Poor, and Wages.—There are 5 families, consisting of 13 persons, upon the poor's roll. They receive L. 15 *per annum*; which is raised by weekly collections at the church, and occasional cess upon the lands. A labourer's wages is 1 s. a-day; masons and joiners, 1 s.; taylor's, 6 d. and their meals. Household men servants wages are 6 or 7 pounds *per annum*, and women, 3 and 4 pounds.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The stipend of this parish is L. 100. There are about 70 horses, 500 score of sheep, and 200 head of cattle. There are favourable appearances of copper ore. Attempts were made to work it a few years ago; but patience and perseverance were wanting. Some cart loads of ore were dug up in making a road: The present minister

minister smelted some of it, and found it very rich. There are two hills of a beautiful shape, known by the name of the *Dirrington Law*s. There is a heap of stones at a place called *Byreclough*, 80 yards long, 25 broad, and 6 high. They were collected, probably, by some army, to perpetuate a victory, or some other remarkable event. The mosses and moors in the parish supply the inhabitants with fuel; but some coal is brought from a distance. The people, accustomed to the pastoral life in their early years, are rather inclined to indolence and ease. Their condition might be improved by the introduction of manufactures.

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