

PARISH OF BEDRULE.

PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

THE REV. ARCHIBALD CRAIG, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of the parish, as well as that of the stream near which it is situated, appears to be of Gaelic origin. From the modern spelling, one might be led to suppose that the village is so called, from its being in the hollow or what once formed the channel of the river. But neither the position of the village, nor the old spelling, will warrant this conclusion. It was formerly written *Bedderull*, *Bedderoull*, and *Badroull*, and the inhabitants still pronounce it as if written *Betherull*. *Rule*, or more properly *Roull*, is composed of two Gaelic words, and has no reference to or connection with *St Regulus*—*Ruchd-Thuil*, pronounced as if written *Ruchoul*, contracted into *Roull*, signifying the *rumbling-noised river*,—a meaning very descriptive of the stream, which, especially near the village, and till near its confluence with the Teviot, runs with a hoarse sound, over a very rough rocky channel composed of boulders and fragments of freestone rock, loosened by the action of the stream, through a long course of ages. *Bad* in Gaelic signifies a tuft of trees of ordinary extent, separated from a large neighbouring wood, or a collection of houses in a spot distinguished by its aptitude for building, compared with the surrounding localities, a meaning peculiarly applicable to the situation both of the old and new villages. Thus the whole word will be *Bad-ruchail*, pronounced by a true Celt very nearly as the vulgar *Betherull*.^{*} The true orthography then seems to be *Badroull*, as it is found in the ancient distich,

“ And Auld Badroull had on his Jack,
Wi’ a’ the Turnbulls at his back.”

And the name of the village in Gaelic means the village by the *roaring stream*.

Extent, Boundaries.—The parish of Bedrule is situated nearly in the centre of Roxburghshire. It is bounded on the east by the

^{*} I am indebted for this etymology to Dr Mackay, minister of Dunoon, the learned editor of the Gaelic Dictionary.

parish of Jedburgh ; on the south by Abbotrule, now annexed to the parishes of Southdean and Hobkirk ; on the west, by Hobkirk and Cavers, from which it is for the most part separated by the Rule ; on the north-west and north, by Minto and Ancrum, from which it is separated by the Teviot. It is somewhat of an oval figure,—in length, from north to south, upwards of 4 miles ; in breadth, from east to west, between 2 and 3 ; and it contains about 6 square miles.

It consists of nearly equal proportions of arable and pasture land,—a great part of the latter being moor-land, producing an excellent kind of heath, on which the sheep seem to thrive. The soil varies according to the difference of situation and climate, as happens in all cases, where there is a sudden transition from hill to dale. The lands that lie near the Teviot and the Rule are generally composed of a rich sandy loam, over a gravelly substratum, and some small portions of clayey soil. These lands are well adapted for wheat and turnip. As you recede from the streams above-mentioned towards Bedrule hill and the Dunian, the soil becomes generally thinner and more sterile, with a retentive clayey subsoil, and in many places very spongy, requiring much draining ; and few lands can be more favourably situated for that important operation, as they generally slope towards the streams above-mentioned. For except a few fields of haugh land, there is not a level field in the whole parish.

Mineralogy.—The hills surrounding the village are, like almost all the other hills of the south of Scotland, of the transition formation, and consist of greywacke. In the bed of the river Rule, there are excellent specimens of sandstone, horizontally disposed, of a reddish colour, and apparently belonging to the flötz formation. Some fine specimens of this sandstone may be seen about a quarter of a mile below the village. The new cut made for the Rule, immediately adjoining the manse, also displays the same rock, and along the right bank of the stream, below the manse about a mile, there are some quarries, in which the stratum has been dug to a considerable extent, and whence it is sent for building and ornamental purposes to different parts of the country. In the last quarry, the stratum of superincumbent earth is of great thickness, and the sandstone, which immediately succeeds to the alluvial deposit, seems to consist of a bed which is of great depth. The poet Leyden has noticed the occurrence of sandstone in the

course of the river* as one of its most remarkable characteristics, and as geological science was little attended to at the time he wrote his beautiful poem, the fact of his giving it so prominent a place in his description, may be considered as an evidence at once of the accuracy of the poet's observation, and of the circumstance having at all times formed one of its most characteristic features.

If any of the proprietors thought it worth their while to bore, it is likely that coal might be found in the course of the river. At all events, it is worth trying for. Attempts were made about forty years ago by the proprietor of the lands of Bedrule, who was at considerable expense in boring for coal, and though there were certainly some thin seams found, yet in the issue he was not so successful as his laudable enterprize justly merited. The failure, as is still thought, was not owing to the uncertainty of the symptoms, but to the great deepness of the main seam. Limestone is found in Bedrule hill, and Mr Pringle, the late tenant of Bedrule farm, opened a quarry, and constructed a kiln, from which he not only supplied his own farm with lime, but sold a considerable quantity to the neighbouring tenants. Mr Brodie, the present tenant, has not continued the practice, and considers the limestone of an inferior quality. The distance and consequent high price of coal must always prove a great impediment to undertakings of the kind in this parish.

Climate.—The climate in this parish varies considerably, as might be expected from its variety of elevation. The temperature of the higher parts, consisting of a range of hills, beginning at the Dunian on the east, and extending nearly the whole breadth of the parish, varies considerably from that of the lower grounds lying near the banks of the Teviot and the Rule; and while the former are white with snow, scarcely a particle will be found in the latter; so that we have, as it were, two climates in the same parish. Upon the whole, the climate is damp and vaporous, especially on the banks of the two streams. A dense and impenetrable fog frequently arises from the Rule, especially in the autumnal and winter months, and can be distinctly traced, till it joins a larger exhalation arising from the Teviot, at its confluence with that stream. Ruberslaw frequently attracts the lightning, and a thunder-storm in its neighbourhood is a very grand and magnifi-

* Between red ezlar banks, that frightful scowl,
Fringed with gray hazel, roars the mining Roull.
Scenes of Infancy, p. i. page 318.

cent object. A striking proof of the great humidity of the atmosphere, is the tendency which trees and bushes have to be covered with moss, when they have stood a year or two in the ground.

Zoology.—This parish is well stocked with the game usual in similar localities. The rooks and wood-pigeons are, by their numbers and voracity, very destructive to the fields and gardens. There is a heronry on the estate of Wells, in the immediate neighbourhood of the parish. These birds build their nests in tall trees, and are preserved with great care, as a thing rare in this part of the country. They are great enemies to the angler, by the destruction which they make among the trouts. Among the rarer birds may be mentioned the most beautiful of all British birds, the halcyon or kingfisher, on the banks of the Rule; the cross-bill (*Loxia curvirostra*.) The golden-crested wren occurs, but it is very rare.

Insects.—Of the almost innumerable tribes of the insect race, it would be impossible to give any adequate account, even if the writer were sufficiently conversant with the subject to manage the task. But it is deserving of notice, that he observed last season, in the vicinity of the manse, a species of butterfly, which has hitherto been supposed to be confined to England, namely the brimstone butterfly (*Gonepteryx Rhamni*.) The hitherto supposed absence of this beautiful species from Scotland has been plausibly ascribed to the great rarity of the plant *Rhamnus catharticus*, on which the caterpillar feeds. The insect occurs in abundance, as far north as York, and specimens are occasionally seen not much to the south of the border; but this seems to be the first instance of its having been observed in Scotland. The turnip saw-fly (*Athalia spinarum*) appeared in the parish last summer, and did some injury, although not by any means to the same extent as in some of the adjoining districts.

Botany.—The few plants worthy of notice in the parish are the following: *Pyrola minor*, woods about Wells; *Fedia dentata*, *Cichorium Intybus*, meadows on the banks of the Rule, occasional, probably introduced; *Epipactis latifolia*, *Euonymus Europæus*, *Sanicula Europæa*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, *Valeriana dioica*. There is a considerable extent of natural wood, consisting of birch, alder, hazel, wild-cherry, common and mountain ash. The oak and all kinds of fir seem to thrive well in this parish, especially the spruce. On the estate of Wells, in the immediate neighbourhood, there are some splendid specimens of spruce and oak; but the old

avenue to the mansion-house affords perhaps the most magnificent specimens of the lime to be found in this country.

Hills.—The highest hill in the parish is the Dunian, at the south-east extremity of the parish, where it joins the parish of Jedburgh. It is a round flattish-topped hill, containing about 300 acres. It is 1031 feet above the level of the sea, and is seen at a great distance, especially towards the north-east; and as there is no intervening height between it and the sea, it is seen from the utmost boundary of the coast in that direction, and at sea serves as a land-mark for mariners. The name is of Gaelic origin, and signifies the hill of John, or St John's hill.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Antiquities.—There are the distinct vestiges of an encampment on the farm of Newton, not far from the high-road between Jedburgh and Hawick. It lies on a sloping piece of ground in Newton moor, surrounded, on all sides but one, with running water. It is of a peculiar form, neither round nor square, but a kind of oval; and must have been very secure. The fossa on the north side is pretty entire, about 12 feet in height, and seemingly as wide at the top, narrowing toward the bottom. I am rather inclined to think it is Roman, especially as there was, till lately, a Roman encampment about a mile distant, in a field called Stirk-rigg, which is now totally defaced with the plough. The circumference of the one first mentioned is supposed to be 200 paces, the diameter 68 paces. A pendicle with the ditch continued on the south side, and joined to the west, but a little disjoined to the east, was found to be 127 paces round. This pendicle, when united with the larger, gives the form of an oblong square to the whole.

There is, almost a quarter of a mile northward from this camp, a pond, commonly called Newton pond, now used as a dam for collecting water from the neighbouring heights; from which it is conducted to Newton farm, to drive a thrashing-mill. It is, however, chiefly supplied from a perennial spring of excellent water, which issues from a sandy bottom in several small jets, on the south margin of the pond. This well is called Lady's well, or Our Lady's well. The dike is strongly built, and bears marks of antiquity; and the tradition in the country, that it was constructed by the monks of Jedburgh, as a fish pond, intimates a fact that seems to be highly probable.

The only remains of the old castle of the Turnbulls of Bedrule

are the foundations of several buildings, which occupy a considerable space of ground. They are situated on the right bank of the Rule, on an eminence, at a small distance from the church. The dike which separates them from the ploughed land on the east, contains some hewn and ornamental stones, which, there is every reason to conclude, formed a part of the ancient castle. About a furlong to the north-west of the ruins, on the other side of the Rule, which washes one side of it, is a mound partly artificial and partly natural, called Fastcastle, and seems to have been an outwork to the main building. It is of considerable height and compass, and must have been once surrounded with water, and, as its name imports, must have been very strong. Though this mound is now in the parish of Cavers, it seems, from its vicinity to, and connexion with, the Castle of Bedrule, to deserve a place in this account.

From the site of the castle of Bedrule, the prospect of the surrounding country is very extensive, exhibiting a combination of mountain and glen scarcely to be equalled.* Among these objects, Ruberslaw, and the magnificent woods of Wells, containing about fifteen miles of walks, form a very prominent part of the picture.

At Fulton, once a separate village and farm, but now united to Bedrule, there is a considerable ruin of one of those strongholds called Border Peels. There are three side walls pretty entire, and of great thickness and solidity. The building is about the usual size, of a square form, with loop-holes in the wall, for the discharge of arrows.*

Historical Notices.—The earliest account of this parish is to be found quoted by Chalmers in his *Caledonia*, where he says that Randolph, eldest son of Dunegal of Stranith, (Nithsdale,) a Gaelic chief in the reign of David I., possessed a large share of his father's land, and, as the head of the family, was superior of the whole.

* There is a tradition in the country, that the last person who inhabited this Peel was one of the Turnbulls, between whom and the Kers of Fernihirst there was a deadly feud. A band of the latter came to seize Turnbull, and having got access by stealth into the tower, came upon him, who, never dreaming of such a visit, was holding his infant child on his knee, while the gudewife prepared the *sowens* for supper, and amusing it by singing the old Scotch ballad,

Little wat ye wha's coming,

Joek and Tam and a' 's coming.

The Kers rushing in upon him, exclaimed, "Little wat ye wha's coming" indeed, and were proceeding to seize him. Turnbull, though thus totally unprepared, leaped up and seized his sword, and being a powerful man, was preparing for resistance, but was withheld by the tears and entreaties of his wife, who clung to him and prevented farther resistance. What became of him, after he had thus fallen into the hands of his enemies, the writer has not been able to learn.

Randolph married Bethoc, the heiress of some lands in Teviotdale. The descendants from this marriage assumed, in the thirteenth century, the surname of Randolph. Sir Thomas Randolph, afterwards Earl of Murray, was the great grandson. * We find a charter granting the lands of Bedrule, called Bethocrule, to James Douglas, who is styled *Militi dilecto et fideli nostro*—by Robert I. But the charter being mutilated, the date and witnesses' names do not appear.†

The family of the Turnbolls, famous for their predatory habits in ancient times, produced a man no less illustrious as a scholar than as a benefactor to his country. This was William Turnbull, son of Turnbull of Bedrule. He was first a prebendary of Glasgow, afterwards Doctor of Laws, and Archdeacon of St Andrew's, in the bounds of Lothian a Privy-Counsellor, and keeper of the privy-seal. He is styled *William de Turnbull Dno Prebendæ privati sigilli custodi anno 1441*.‡ When Bishop Bruce was translated from Dunkeld to Glasgow 1447, Turnbull was elected Bishop of Dunkeld; but Bruce dying in the same year, Turnbull was then elected Bishop of Glasgow, and consecrated in the month of April 1448.

This bishop (says Keith) was a person of an excellent character. In 1452 or 1453, he procured a bull from Pope Nicholas V. for erecting a College for literature within the city of Glasgow; after the complete settlement of which noble monument of his care for the cultivation of learning, he took a journey to Rome, where he died 3d September 1454.§

Rewcastle, or as it is written in old records, Roughechester, Rewlcastle, or Rouchcastle, is said to be a place of great antiquity. The castle has vanished, and even the site can hardly be distinguished—*etiam periere ruinæ*. There is a tradition that the courts of Justice were originally held there, and afterwards removed to Jedburgh. The farm-house is substantial, being lately erected; but the rest of the houses are in a very ruinous condition. Under the tasteful and active management, however, of the

* Chalm. Caled. Vol. iii. p. 71.

† Rot. i. No. 12 Registr. Mag. Sig. Robert I. Bethoc inherited the lands of Bethocrule and Roughechester, which is now called Rewcastle, in Teviotdale. Randolph, the son of Dunegal, and his wife Bethoc, granted to the monks of Jedburgh, a carrucate of land with common of pasture, in the vill of Rughechester, and this grant was confirmed by William the Lion. The original charter was engraved by the munificence of the Duke of Buccleuch.—Chalmers, Caled. Vol. iii. p. 71-72. 4

‡ Reg. Chart.

§ Catalogue of the Scottish Bishops down to 1688. By the Right Rev. Robert Keith.—Chalmers's Caled. Vol. iii. p. 622.

present proprietor, George Pott, Esq. of Dod, we may expect soon to see a great improvement on this farm. He has already commenced erecting stables, forming part of a plan of new offices, which, in point of elegance and accommodation, are of a very superior kind. The situation of Rewcastle commands the view of one of the most extensive and varied landscapes in the country. In this landscape, you have the vale of the Teviot from Hawick almost to the Tweed, bounded on N.W. and N. by Eildon Hills, the Lammermoor Hills, Home Castle and the fertile plains of the Merse; and on the south and west by the giant height of Ruberslaw, and the range of hills which stretch to the Etterick and Yarrow. There are few places in this county capable of more improvement, and in the hands of the present spirited proprietor much may be expected. This property formed a part of the estate of Knowsouth, long in the possession of the ancient family of the Rutherfords of Knowsouth. But shortly after the death of the late Captain Rutherford, the estate was sold by his heirs to the present proprietors.

Knowsouth.—William O. Rutherford, Esq. of Edgerston, and Sheriff of the county of Roxburgh, is now the proprietor of Knowsouth, having purchased it from Charles Scott, Esq. one of the heirs of the late Captain Rutherford. Mr Rutherford has been at great expense in building a very elegant villa, and in making other improvements on a similar scale. The house is of that style of architecture which is known by the name of the Elizabethan style, of which we have other specimens in the neighbourhood. It is, however, more ornamented than any I have seen, and the situation, that of the old mansion-house, being admirably adapted for this style of building, and well surrounded with wood, gives a grand and imposing appearance, as seen from the high road between Kelso and Hawick, which passes near it. Nor does it lose much from a nearer inspection. There are few more delicious spots than Knowsouth, and a more appropriate style of architecture than that adopted by Mr Rutherford can scarcely be imagined. There are two magnificent elms at a little distance from the house, which deserve particular notice, not so much from their size, which is very considerable, as from their wide spreading and numerous branches, which extend in every direction from the parent trunk. One of them measures 12 feet 3 inches in circumference, the other 11 feet 3 inches. They seem to have been coëval with the old mansion-house, and to have been pollards, which may account for the great number of

branches all springing out near one another. They must at least be a century old.

Newton.—This village, in point of size and importance, is next to Bedrule. The estate of Newton formerly belonged to a family of the name of Ker, cadets of the family of Fernihirst. There was a house of strength there, which is now demolished. The foundations of the old mansion-house, with the venerable avenue of trees, still bespeak the taste and grandeur of the olden times. It was lately in the possession of William Ogilvie, Esq. of Chesters, who sold it to the present proprietors, Thomas and John Scott, Esqs. The communion cups of Bedrule church were a present from Ker of Newton and his lady, according to the inscription* on each of them, bearing date 1716. Newton now forms but one farm, though it was divided into two in the memory of persons still living. But Stirkrigg, the name of the other farm, is not now discernible, the farm-house and all its appendages have passed away, and the plough has obliterated all vestiges of the place where it stood.

Proprietors and Tenants.—Sir William Francis Eliott, Bart. of Stobs and Wells, is the chief heritor, being the proprietor of Bedrule and Fulton. Besides Sir William, there are four considerable proprietors, and four smaller ones. None of the heritors are resident, except George Bell, Esq. of Menslaws, who farms his own property with great skill and success.

Parochial Register.—The registration of births, deaths, and marriages, seems to have been kept much better at an early period, than at present. The Session Records of this parish go back as far as about 1660; but the precise date cannot be ascertained, as the leaves at the beginning have been mutilated. This book, both for its singular form and penmanship, and the minuteness and accuracy with which every public transaction both of ministers and elders, is recorded, both on Sundays and on week-days, is a valuable relique of the olden times. It is of a narrow oblong form, being a folio doubled lengthways, like a merchant's day-book. The paper is coarse, and so closely written that every inch of it is occupied. It is to be regretted that many pages at the commencement and in some other places are so worn and defaced as to be illegible. The registration of births has been very irregularly kept for many years past, and though the present incumbent has repeatedly and earnestly impressed the propriety and duty of parents enrolling

* The words of the inscription are—"This cup gifted by Newton Ker and his Ladie to the church of Bedaroule, 1716."

the names of their children born in the parish, he cannot boast of much success.

Clergy.—Mr Joseph Tennent is mentioned in an old record of presbytery, as minister of Bedrule, as far back as 1606, and seems to have been one of the first incumbents after the Reformation. He lived till about 1631. He also held, for a considerable time, the living of Abbotrule, the cure of which he likewise served till about 1621; when it was disjoined from Bedrule, and Mr James Ker, laird of the Grange, (an estate in Abbotrule,) was ordained there, and was the first Protestant minister of that parish after its disjunction from Bedrule. Mr Tennent was succeeded by Mr David Fowlis, who was admitted 30th October 1633, by the Bishop of Caithness,* and presbytery of Jedburgh. Mr Fowlis was soon after translated to Oxnam, which in those times seems to have been considered as one of the most valuable livings in the south of Scotland; and Mr Henry Peirson succeeded him in the benefice of Bedrule. But the Covenanters soon after gaining the ascendancy, both these gentlemen were removed from their churches, for their attachment to Episcopacy.

Mr Henry Elliot was the Presbyterian minister who succeeded Mr Peirson, and was admitted by the presbytery of Jedburgh, assisted by commissioners, from the neighbouring presbyteries of Selkirk, Kelso, and Erselton; and died about 1653. The church of Bedrule was kept vacant, in those contentious times, for the space of five years. Mr Hugh Scott was ordained here 17th March 1658. He did not continue long minister; for on the re-establishment of Episcopacy, he was removed from his church for nonconformity. Mr James Adamson, minister of Carriden, was preferred to the living of Bedrule, 7th September 1664, and continued minister here during the reigns of Charles and James, and seems to have died about the time of the Revolution. He was succeeded by Mr James Borland in 1690, who was the first minister settled here after Presbyterianism was re-established. From his epitaph, written in respectable Latin, we learn that he met with a good deal of opposition from the Episcopalians in the parish—"qui juvenis veritatis viam per varios casus et prælatis ipsum persequentibus invictus tenuit."† Mr Borland was succeeded by Mr John Gilchrist in 1714, who in 1748 was succeeded by Mr

* Dr John Abernethy, then Bishop of Caithness, and minister of Jedburgh. He was the author of a work, entitled *A Christian and Heavenly Treatise, containing Physic for the Soul.*

† Epitaph in Bedrule church-yard.

George Dickson,* whom the late Mr William Brown succeeded in 1788, and died 23d May 1836,—having been minister of Bedrule for the long space of forty-eight years. The present incumbent was appointed assistant and successor to the late Mr Brown in 1832.

The late Mr Brown was a man of considerable talents and literature. Previously to his being ordained a minister, he taught as an usher in an academy in France, and in one in the neighbourhood of London, besides being some time a teacher in Watson's Hospital at Edinburgh; and was tutor in the family of Sir John Stewart of Allanbank at the time he was presented by the late Joseph Hume, Esq. of Ninewells, to the church and parish of Bedrule. He published an edition of the New Testament, with short explanatory notes, and marks to guide the learner in pro-

* It was during Mr Dickson's incumbency that the iniquitous transaction of the suppression of the parish and church of Abbotrule took place, which Mr Dickson strenuously opposed, along with Dr Charters of Wilton. Mr Dickson's reasons of protest are recorded in the Presbytery records, and as they are cogent in argument, and very interesting in the present state of the Church of Scotland, I have deemed it proper to insert them in full.

Protest of Mr George Dickson, Minister of Bedrule.

From this resolution of presbytery Mr George Dickson dissented, and craved that his dissent, with the reasons thereof, might be recorded in this day's minute, and took instruments in the clerk's hands, May 7, 1777.

The reasons are :

1mo. Because he humbly conceives that this method of constituting a pastoral relation is without rule or precedent in this Reformed Church, nay is such a dangerous innovation as the presbytery by their ordination vows are bound to guard against.

2do, Because such a *faux pas* in our Presbyterial conduct will be watched by our dissenting neighbours, as a very welcome handle to draw away to themselves many of our people, as well as a great part of these annexed parishes.

3tio, Because he conceives it is unwarrantable to appoint or require the people of Abbotrule parish to attend public institutions and divine worship at Southdean and Hobkirk, without first holding visitations of these two churches, and finding proper accommodation for their people so appointed—proper places to attend divine worship in—the present places of worship there will accommodate little more than one-half of the inhabitants so conjoined,—and he presumes that the presbytery will not pretend to dispensing powers, allowing one-half of their congregations to stay at home, nay, not even till such repairs of their churches, were they set about just now, should be executed; far less when they do not know about when they shall be set about. He does not dispute but these present houses might hold twice as many,—for any thing he knows, ten times as many, disembodied spirits. But while the worshippers there continue in the body, it necessarily behoves the presbytery, he presumes, to take care that those embodied worshippers have places to worship in, suited to their present embodied state. And there seems the more reason to doubt of these repairs being speedily, if ever, made. That after all that has been said of maintaining a school at Abbotrule, the school-house is going into disrepair, already it is stated : and there has been a school kept there, this last season, to the no small danger, if not certain detriment of some persons' souls. Complaints thereof has lately been made to him, as member of presbytery, again and again. Such complaint is far from being groundless or trivial; the instruction of youth in the great Christian Book being of inexpressible importance. Craving leave to add more reasons, if he shall afterwards see cause.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery of Jedburgh. Gzo. Dickson.

nunciation. It is a very useful book, and might be very advantageously introduced into public schools.

Suppression of Churches.—The suppression of the parish and church of Abbotrule, (said to have been formerly a pendicle of Bedrule,) and the uniting it to the already too extensive parishes of Southdean and Hobkirk, was a most unjustifiable transaction, to use no harsher term, and hurtful both to the religious and moral improvement of the people, and withal a most impolitic step. It is grievous to think of the many suicidal acts of this nature, which many presbyteries throughout the Church of Scotland committed during last century. Neither of the leading parties of the church are blameless in this matter; for they seem to have vied with one another in this absurd conduct, however much they differed in other things. In country parishes, the writer firmly believes, that this suppression and annexation of parishes, and, along with the suppression of the church, the suppression also of the parish schools, as in the case before us, has been one of the most fertile causes of dissent. The church is now reaping the bitter fruits of these misdeeds, in the bold and menacing attitude which a huge body of Dissenters in this country have now taken against our Establishment. It is to be regretted that the Church Extension Committee have, in all their laborious statistical investigations, never thought of devoting their attention to this subject. An investigation into all the suppressed parishes and churches in Scotland during last century, would lead to many discoveries, most important at this critical position of our national church. It would show how much the spirit of sectarianism has been promoted in many parts of the country from this single cause. It would show how much the peasantry in the districts of the suppressed parishes had suffered,—not only from their greater distance from their new parish church, but from the distance of the school being such as to prevent the greater part of their children from attending it, for one-half of the year.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish, by the return to Dr Webster in 1775, was 297 souls. In 1793, the number was about 259. At present, according to a census made by the author, the number is 257, of whom 116 are males, and 141 females. In 1832, the population amounted to 300 and upwards,—since which time there has been a remarkable decrease. The decrease may be accounted for by the decay of cot-houses, and the tendency of late to

L. 5 Sterling. About twenty acres are planted with potatoes, which produce yearly about 800 bolls, most of which are consumed at home. A portion of both meadow and cultivated hay is raised; but the writer has not been able to ascertain the quantity, or any thing like an approximation to it. All that is raised is consumed on the different farms.

The quantity of wool grown in the parish is about 400 stones annually.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages and Country Seats.—There is no village of any considerable size in the parish. Bedrule itself, once a populous place, has now dwindled away to little more than a farm onstead. The houses in the village were all lately built, and being covered with slate, have, from their situation, a very neat and cheerful appearance. The farm-house of Mr Brodie is partly new, and is very commodious, and from its site, which has been chosen with great taste, it has a very imposing appearance, and commands a wide prospect of scenery in a high degree beautiful and magnificent.

Church.—The present church was erected about thirty-four years ago. It is built on the site of the old one, and though not so long, is considerably broader, and is capable of holding about 140 individuals. It is situated on the top of the bank, having a pretty steep ascent from the level of the stream, and has a commanding view of the surrounding country. What is rather uncommon, the belfry is on the eastern gable of the building, and has an awkward appearance. Sir W. F. Elliott, Bart. chief heritor, got a plan drawn out of a proposed improvement, with an elegant spire on the west end for a belfry and clock, and Gothic windows instead of the present ones. This plan, if carried into effect, would render the church one of the most beautiful and picturesque of country churches. The expense would not be great, as the finest freestone in the country could be got from Sir William's quarry in the neighbourhood. It would also add to the accommodation, by converting both the present passages into seat room, and affording the convenience of a vestry, which in all country churches at any considerable distance from the manse, is of great importance both to the comfort and health of minister and elders.

Manse.—The manse was built, according to a date affixed to the lintel of the kitchen window, in 1794, and is a very substantial and commodious house, without any of the gaudy ornaments of some lately erected manses. The great objection to it is the too great

number of windows, which lay a tax on the minister disproportioned to his stipend. Half the number of windows would have been sufficient; but it was built when clergymen paid no window-tax.

Of the 46 families in the parish, 25 attend the parish church, and 21 belong to Dissenting congregations of different denominations. There is no dissenting place of worship in the parish; but those who frequent such places go to Jedburgh.

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GENERAL REMARKS.

A few years ago, there was a great spirit of emigration in this parish, as in most other parishes in the neighbourhood. But, since

L. 5 Sterling. About twenty acres are planted with potatoes, which produce yearly about 800 bolls, most of which are consumed at home. A portion of both meadow and cultivated hay is raised; but the writer has not been able to ascertain the quantity, or any thing like an approximation to it. All that is raised is consumed on the different farms.

The quantity of wool grown in the parish is about 400 stones annually.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages and Country Seats.—There is no village of any considerable size in the parish. Bedrule itself, once a populous place, has now dwindled away to little more than a farm onstead. The houses in the village were all lately built, and being covered with slate, have, from their situation, a very neat and cheerful appearance. The farm-house of Mr Brodie is partly new, and is very commodious, and from its site, which has been chosen with great taste, it has a very imposing appearance, and commands a wide prospect of scenery in a high degree beautiful and magnificent.

Church.—The present church was erected about thirty-four years ago. It is built on the site of the old one, and though not so long, is considerably broader, and is capable of holding about 140 individuals. It is situated on the top of the bank, having a pretty steep ascent from the level of the stream, and has a commanding view of the surrounding country. What is rather uncommon, the belfry is on the eastern gable of the building, and has an awkward appearance. Sir W. F. Elliott, Bart. chief heritor, got a plan drawn out of a proposed improvement, with an elegant spire on the west end for a belfry and clock, and Gothic windows instead of the present ones. This plan, if carried into effect, would render the church one of the most beautiful and picturesque of country churches. The expense would not be great, as the finest freestone in the country could be got from Sir William's quarry in the neighbourhood. It would also add to the accommodation, by converting both the present passages into seat room, and affording the convenience of a vestry, which in all country churches at any considerable distance from the manse, is of great importance both to the comfort and health of minister and elders.

Manse.—The manse was built, according to a date affixed to the lintel of the kitchen window, in 1794, and is a very substantial and commodious house, without any of the gaudy ornaments of some lately erected manses. The great objection to it is the too great

number of windows, which lay a tax on the minister disproportioned to his stipend. Half the number of windows would have been sufficient; but it was built when clergymen paid no window-tax.

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GENERAL REMARKS.

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the year 1834, a year fatal to thousands of emigrants from this country, who fell victims to cholera soon after their landing in Canada, the fever of emigration has in a great measure subsided.

The inhabitants of this parish and of the neighbouring parishes have several striking peculiarities of dialect. For instance, instead of me and he, they pronounce these words as if written *mēi* and *hēi*; instead of tree, they say *trēi*; and three, *thrēi*, which is precisely the German *drei*, by the substitution of *th* instead of *d*. They pronounce the Scotch twa, with a peculiar drawl, making it a dissyllable, as if written *twéah*; and brae they make *bréah*. All these sounds are rather pleasant to the ear; but their pronunciation of the initial *h* in some words is harsh, and cacophonous in no ordinary degree. Thus the proper name Hope, signifying a particular kind of glen, they pronounce as if written *whupp*; and hole, as if *whull*; horn as if *whurn*. These peculiarities, as far as the author has been able to ascertain, are confined to the higher districts of Roxburghshire. It might afford a curious subject of inquiry how this peculiarity of sounding the initial *h* originated, and how far it might serve to throw light on the Aeolic Digamma, a subject which has so long divided and perplexed scholars “*et adhuc sub judice lis est.*” These peculiarities of dialect are, of course, generally confined to the lower ranks of the people,—although, such is the effect of habit and imitation, you hear sometimes people, from whose education and rank you might augur differently, utter the same harsh and barbarous sounds.

May 1837.