

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Barony of Minto.*—The earliest notices of the Barony of Minto occur in the fourteenth century, at which time it was in the possession of a family belonging to the ancient and powerful clan of the Turnbolls. Some smaller pendicles, however, would appear to have been held by other proprietors, for there is a\* charter of Robert I. granting part of the mill lands to one Gulielmus Barbitonsor;† and another grant in the twelfth year of Robert III. to Laurencius de Govane and his heirs, on the feudal tenure of their yearly presenting to the King a bow and twelve arrows, at the chapel of the assumption of the Virgin Mary, in Ettrick Forest.‡ The lands of the barony were, in 1390, granted by John Turnbull to Sir William Stewart of Jedworth, and confirmed by a charter of Robert III., signed the same year at Minto, in the presence of Walter and Matthew, Bishops of St Andrews and Glasgow. In the following year, another charter confirmed to the same person the lands and tenements of the town and territory of Minto, along with the advowson of the church freely disposed to him by John de Abernethy. This Sir William Stewart is considered to be a descendant of Sir Allan Stewart of Dreghorn, killed at the battle of Hallidon Hill in 1333, and to have borne the title both of Jedworth and Castlemilk. He is described in the charter confirming the grant

\* The authorities for these facts are chiefly the *Rotuli Scotiæ*, Ayscough's Catalogue, and in one or two instances Rymer's *Fœdera*.

† It is just possible that this may have been a relative of John Barbour, the poet, who was a contemporary, as it has been conjectured his father might be the John Barbour to whom Robert I. ordered the payment of a sum of money to be made by Sir Alexander Seaton, Governor of Berwick. All research has hitherto failed to ascertain the poet's birth-place; perhaps the mention of these names at the same period of time in connexion with the south of Scotland, might, in the absence of better data, be held as favouring the supposition that he was sprung from a border family.

‡ In Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. vii. p. 273, A. D. 1380, mention is made of the barony of Minto as consisting of two parts. "Item le deux parties de Baronie de Myntehowe, oue l'avouson de l'eglise q'estoit à Johan Turnebole."



of the lands by Turnbull as his nephew, and they would appear to have been faithful companions in the daring adventures of those troubled times, for in the year 1400 they made a fierce irruption together into England, in the account of which Turnbull is styled "*Out with the Sword*,"—a surname expressive of his heady and war-like temper. Still long after the grant just referred to, notice repeatedly occurs both of the Stewarts and Turnbells of Minto,—a circumstance which is, however, satisfactorily explained in the following curious extract from the "*Genealogy of the Stewarts refuted* :—"

"In the charter chest of Lord Minto is a notarial instrument, dated April 23, 1429, purporting that, on that day at Minto, it was attempted, by virtue of a precept of seisin, to invest Sir William Stewart of Dalswintoun in the lands of Minto, and that those proceedings were interrupted by Walter Turnbull, who declared the hereditary seisin then granted to Sir William Stewart null and void, as he himself was the true heir and legal baron of Minto.—From another notarial instrument in the same charter-chest, dated 1425, we learn that Walter Turnbull had prepared himself for this event a few years before. An inquiry at his instance had been instituted relative to John Turnbull, his father, who had made the grant of Minto in 1390. A jury, nominated for the occasion, declared that he laboured under the effects of a leprosy at the time when the deed was executed,—a circumstance which, according to the laws of Scotland, as they then stood, rendered the proceedings void. The inquest into the validity of the charter of the lands of Minto seems to have been in consequence of an account received in Scotland of the fall of Walter's father, Sir John Turnbull, at the battle of Cravant, in 1423. After much dissension between the claimants, it appears that, by a brief of perambulation by King James II. addressed to Sir Archibald Douglas of Cavers, Sheriff of Teviotdale, that officer made a partition of the estate of Minto between Sir William Stewart and Walter Turnbull, in certain proportions; according to which the posterity of both continued to hold them."\*

*Family of Minto.*—After† long remaining in the possession of

\* The *Genealogy of the Stewarts refuted*, pp. 46, 47.

† In the *Criminal Trials*, there is an entry, October 18, 1526, with respect to Robert Stewart of Mynto, for his being with umquhile John Earl of Lennox in the field of Linlithgow; and from Lesley's *History of Scotland*, we learn that, seventeen years afterwards, in the battle of Glasgow Moor, fought 1543, the "*Laird of Minto*, who was on the part of Lennox and Provost of Glasgow, was evil hurt." Upwards



these families, the estate of Minto was purchased by Walter Riddell, second son of Walter Riddell of New-house, and by his daughters, who were coheiresses, it was sold, previously to the Union, to Sir Gilbert Elliot, ancestor of the present family of Minto. This eminent person, born in 1651, was a younger son of Gawen Elliot of Midlem Mill, who was the fourth son of Gilbert Elliot of Stobs, commonly called "Gibbie with the gowden garters," by Margaret daughter of Walter Scott, of Harden, better known by the sobriquet of "Maggy Fendy." Being the second son of a younger branch, Gilbert was destined to the profession of the law; but in that stirring period of history, he appears also to have taken an active interest in political affairs, as, on the 16th July 1685, he was found guilty of treason, and forfeited for being in arms with \* Argyle,—the process describing him as a writer in Edinburgh. He seems, however, to have been soon pardoned by the King, for in little more than two years afterwards, he applied to be admitted an advocate, when his examiners, it is said, "stumbled to meet with him, till he first showed his remission lest it might infer converse against them." He was one of the deputation of Scotch gentlemen who waited on King William in Holland, to concert measures for his coming over to England, so that at the Revolution, from the prominent part he had taken, the act of forfeiture was rescinded, and

of sixty years thereafter, in a letter of the privy-council to the King, as to the deadly feud between the Earls of Eglinton and Lord Sempil, this sentence occurs: "August 27, 1606, We had likewise in hand the process of Glasgow, wherein we have found very great insolence and riot committed by Mynto and a number of the commons of the town, and have committed the persons guilty to ward within the burgh of Linlithgow, till your Majesty's pleasure be known." Several scattered notices of the Turnbulls likewise occur. There is a remission, dated 5th April 1499, to William Turnbull of Minto, and Archibald Turnbull, son to umquhile John Turnbull, for the slaughter of umquhile John of Ruthersford, and for their treasonable passing and remaining in England." Only three years afterwards, however, in 1502, the Turnbulls of Minto were again engaged in several acts of violence, destroying the place of Barnhills, and burning twenty-six bolls of bear, and forty bolls of oats, pertaining to George Ruthersford of Langnewton, in his place of Sandystanes, so that, on account of these outrages, we find, in 1506, William Turnbull of Minto, along with Mark, Edward, and Walter Turnbull, his accomplices, set forth as "rebe's, and at the horn." The same lawless habits still continued a century later, for Thomas Turnbull, apparand of Mynto, was concerned in the slaughter of Thomas Ker of Crailing and his servant, which took place on the 14th September 1601. There was, indeed, at this time, as we learn from a contemporary document, "a deadly feud standing betwixt the haile name Trumbill in the aue part, and the laird of Pharnihirst, the haile Kers, and the haile inhabitants of the towne of Jedburgh on the other."

\* Fountainhall, in his *Notices of the Transactions of 1685*, says, "As to the stock with which Argyle furnished his shi's and arms, Rumbold said that he thought it did not exceed £. 12,000 Sterling; how he got it, some said an English widow in Amsterdam, called Mistress Smith, advanced him considerably; others say that Polwart, Torwoodly, and Mr Gilbert Elliot went to Geneva, and to the Protestant churches of Germany, begging supply to the poor afflicted Protestants of Britain." —*Historical Observations*, i. p. 191.



cester sheep, are the common breeds. The fences are well kept, and the farm-houses and offices in good repair.

Leases generally run from fifteen to nineteen years.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land may be estimated to be somewhere about 18s. or L. 1 an acre. L. 1, 15s. for an ox or cow, and 6s. for a ewe—are the average rates of grazing for the year.

*Wages.*—The common rate of country labour for men is 1s. 8d. per day in summer; in winter 1s. 6d. A good deal of farm-work is done by women, who receive from 8d. to 10d. a day, according to the season. Hinds and ploughmen's wages are paid partly in meal, and partly in money. They have also, in general, a spot of ground for growing vegetables; a cow kept for them by their employer, who plants for their use a certain space in the field with potatoes, and drives a fixed quantity of coals. Cottages are sometimes let to labourers, on the condition of their working in harvest, and the hinds are bound to supply workers in the field when wanted, who are called *bondagers*. Men employed in cutting hay have better wages, than when at other day labour. They have been paid, of late years, from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per day. Harvest wages for men, besides victuals and lodging, run from 12s. to 13s. per week, and women's from 11s. to 12s. The rate of payment of masons and carpenters is from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day. Smiths occasionally do work by contract, that is to say, keep a pair of horses in shoes, and a plough in good repair, for a fixed sum per annum.

*Fuel.*—From the distance of coal, fuel is an expensive article; L. 1 per ton may be given as the price of coals, and 4s. 6d. per cart of wood, which is a good deal used.

The total rental of the parish may amount somewhere to about L. 3220 per annum.

*Produce.*—The following may be given as an estimate of the average gross amount of raw produce.

<i>Produce of grain of all kinds,</i>	L. 6014	0	0
of potatoes, turnips, &c.	1560	0	0
of hay,	290	0	0
of land in pasture, rated at L. 1, 15s. per cow or full-grown ox, and at 6s. per ewe or full grown sheep,	1325	0	0
of gardens and orchards,	100	0	0
of thinning and felling wood,	400	0	0
Total value of raw produce,	L. 9689	0	0

*Wood.*—There are above 786 acres in wood, all of it planted; the trees chiefly grown being oak, ask, elm, spruce, larch, with a few beeches and poplars; of these the oak among the hard-wood seems the best adapted to the soil, making straight and clean shoots,

this, the only trees near the house consisted of an avenue of old ash, one or two of which are still standing; and the village then stretched along the opposite bank in a straggling line, with the church and manse nearly in the midst of it. The greater part of these houses was removed to Minto Green, the site of the present village, the banks of the pond planted, and on one side a row of larches was placed most probably in 1736, being among the first that were introduced into Scotland. There is a tradition, that the seed was sent in a frank by John Duke of Argyle, sown in flower-pots, and kept in the hot-house till, by the advice of the Sardinian Ambassador, who chanced to be on a visit, the plants were removed to their present situation, where several of them have now attained a height of 100 feet.\* On the opposite bank, there is a shady avenue of beech of the same date, when the dwelling-house was also farther improved, and a library† formed, such as at that time was rarely to be met with in Scotland. From this his family seem greatly to have profited, as they were distinguished by their acquirements. One of them, Miss Jane Elliot, who died in 1805, is still affectionately remembered from her talents and delightful conversation, but has acquired a more extensive and lasting celebrity as the authoress of the "Flowers of the Forest," of which no less an authority than the late Sir Walter Scott has said, that "it is expressed in a strain of elegiac simplicity and tenderness which has seldom been equalled, and imitates the manner of the ancient minstrels so happily, that it required the most positive evidence to convince me that the song was of modern date." This lady appears to have been no less remarkable for strength of character than accomplishment, for at the time of the Rebellion in 1745-46, her father being forced to conceal himself from a party of Jacobites among the craigs, then only covered with broom and long grass, she received and entertained the officers, and, by her presence of mind and composure, averted the danger. The Justice-Clerk died suddenly at Minto in 1766, and was succeeded by his son, the third Sir Gilbert, who seems to have been also intended for the profession of his father and grandfather, as he passed his civil law trials in 1743; but, having early associated with the public men of his day in London, he engaged actively in political life, was returned Member of Parliament, first for the county of Sel-

\* For the measurement of these and other remarkable trees, see p. 375.

† The library has subsequently received many valuable additions, and may be computed as now containing 12,000 volumes.



kirk in 1754, afterwards for Roxburghshire in 1765, and became also Treasurer of the Navy. He died in 1777, of a pulmonary complaint, at Marseilles. He possessed an amiable and highly cultivated mind, and, in the midst of his other pursuits, found leisure for those of literature, favourable evidence of which is preserved in the beautiful pastoral song,—“ My sheep I neglected, I broke my sheep-hook,” published in the notes to the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*, and in the draught of a letter to David Hume, the metaphysician, printed along with the first Dissertation to the new *Encyclopædia Britannica* by Dugald Stewart, and by that competent judge, held to be remarkable for “ sound philosophy and purity of English style.” The fourth Sir Gilbert, father of the present Earl, was distinguished by eminent talents for public business, as is shewn in the number of high offices to which he was successively called. In 1793, he was appointed Governor of Toulon, Viceroy of Corsica in 1794, Minister Plenipotentiary at Vienna in 1799, President of the Board of Control in 1806, and Governor General of India in 1807. He was created Baron Minto, and admitted to the peerage in 1797, and raised to the rank of an Earl in 1812, with the additional title of Viscount Melgund; for his eminent services in the East, he also received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. He died soon after his return from India, on his way to Scotland in 1814, aged sixty-three years. Though much of his time was spent abroad, the improvements of the paternal estate were continued by Lady Minto, daughter of Sir George Amyand, whom he married a few weeks before his father’s death. Besides extensive additions to the plantations, the present House of Minto was built, being finished in 1814. The present Earl, born in 1782, and married 1806 to Miss Brydone, daughter of Patrick Brydone, Esq. author of the *Tour in Sicily*, and maternal grand-daughter of Principal Robertson, has also been actively employed in political life. He early represented his native county in Parliament, has since held the appointment of Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Berlin, and at present fills the office of First Lord of the Admiralty.

*Hassendean*—Though now, in a considerable part, incorporated with Minto, a brief notice may here be given separately of Hassendean. Sir Walter Scott, in a note to the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*, states that Hassendean is a corruption from Hazeldean; and Leyden, in the *Scenes of Infancy*, has adopted the latter spelling, but for this there is not the slightest authority, either in tra-



dition, or in the old records, where the name frequently occurs. It is written Halstaneadene, Halstenden, Halstansdene, and Hastaneden, from which, perhaps, it changed into Hassingden, and Hassendean, as softer to the ear. It may either signify the dean of the holy stone,—a supposition which is strengthened from its containing a place of religious worship from a remote period, or it may simply mean Halstein's, or Hastein's dean, these being common Scandinavian names, and the appellation might be taken from some person of distinction who resided there, or to whom it belonged. So far back as the twelfth century the lands of Hassendean were granted by David I. to Walter,\* the son of Alan; and by a charter of Robert the Bruce, they were confirmed to Sir James de Conyngham, and held by a tenure of feudal and military service, with the payment of L. 11 Sterling, in two equal parts, at the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas. There is another charter dated 1409, confirming a grant by his kinsman, William de Conyngham to John Turnbull, son of Adam Turnbull of Whitehope of the lands of Hassendean-Bank. From Satchell we learn that David Scott, about 1446, was the first of that name designed of Hassendean, and was the eldest son of Sir William Scott of Kirkurd, who exchanged the lands of Murdiston for those of Branxholme. It is to this old branch of the Scotts that Satchell alludes in the lines,—

“ Hassendean came without a call,  
The ancientest house of them all.”

We learn, however, from an entry in the Criminal Trials published by Pitcairn, that there was in 1493 a Walter Talzour Baro de Hassindene; for in that year he was permitted to compound for intercommuning with the English, the Laird of Buccleuch being his surety. A Sir Alexander Scott of Hassendean was killed at the battle of Flodden in 1513. Among the border barons who in 1530 neglected to fulfil their bonds, there was a William Scott of Hassendean, who is again mentioned in 1539, as having been robbed by Thomas Turnbull of Rawflat of some important legal documents; while, farther, in 1564, the Criminal Trials record the slaughter of a David Scott, laird at Hassendean, by William Elliot of Horsliehill. It does not seem to be ascertained at what period the male line of this family failed, though it may perhaps have been at the death of the said David Scott; but in the appendix to

\* See Ayliffe's Catalogue, and the *Rotuli Scotiæ*.



Satchell it is stated that the lands returned by purchase to the Scotts of Buccleuch, while the representation of the family devolved on William Scott of Burnhead and Crowhill, as lineal male descendant of the first John Scott of Burnhead, younger brother of David of Hassendean, and second son to Sir Walter Scott of Kirkurd. The lands comprised originally in the barony of Hassendean have long been separated; besides that still belonging to His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, a part forms the present estate of Teviotbank, another that of Hassendean-burn, while Hassendean-bank, a fourth portion, belonged to the Duke of Roxburghe, and was sold by him to Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto to redeem the land-tax.

*Church at Minto and at Hassendean.*—Of the church at Minto notice occurs in the fourteenth century; and a curious circumstance respecting it, not easy to be explained, is learned from a charter of Edward III. in 1374, that it at that time belonged to the diocese of Lincoln. When the lands of Hassendean were granted by David I., the church was separately given by him to the Bishop of Glasgow, and before the year 1181 the grant had been confirmed by two Popes, Alexander and Lucius. Shortly afterwards, in 1192, the well known Joceline, Bishop of Glasgow, who had been Abbot of Melrose, gave to the monks of that abbey the church lands and tithes of Hassendean, in pure and perpetual alms, or, as it is expressed, “ad susceptionem pauperum et peregrinorum ad domum de Melros venientium.” The cell built for this purpose was known by the name of the Monk’s Tower, and the land belonging to it, which adjoins the present dwelling-house of Hassendean-burn, is still called the Monk’s Croft. It was restricted by William the Lion to the pasturage of 200 ewes, 16 oxen, and 4 cows.\* In 1560,† these religious establishments were abolished, but the church was still continued, and, along with its pertinents, granted to Walter Earl of Buccleuch. In 1576, we find a Thomas Newbye, reader at Hassendean, the whole vicarage being vacant by demission of Mr Thomas Westoun; and from the Criminal Trials we learn that, in 1590, this Newbye, along with

\* In 1488, William Douglas, vicar of the kirk at Hassendean, was bound and obliged to “ane venerabil fader in God,” Bernard Abbot of Melrose, not to interfere with the claim of the abbot and convent, to the “erde silver of the quer of the said kirk of Hassendean,” on the ground of their long having been in peaceable possession of “browkyng and joying of the same.”—*Liber de Melros*. This “erde silver of the quer” was the money charged for burial in the choir.

† The “*Liber de Melros*” records the demission of the monastery of Melrose in favour of William, Earl of Morton, to whom was also conveyed the patronage of Hassendean, the deed, signed by James, Commendator of Melrose, bearing the date of 1608.



Thomas Ker in Old Roxburgh, and James Scot of South Synton-mill, was "delated for sustaining of the process of excommunication, and contravening of the acts of Parliament in baptising of bairns and making of marriages without any function." From the presbytery records it appears, that, for some time previous to 1666, attempts had been made to remove the church to Roberton; for of that date there is an entry of the report of a committee to the Archbishop of Glasgow, bearing, that "advantage had been taken of the pupilarity of the deceased Mary Duchess of Buccleuch, to whom the greater part of the parish belonged, and of the confusions under the late usurpation, to procure a warrant from the same usurpers for changing the seat of the said kirk at Hassendean, and building ane new kirk at Roberton, and that they did accordingly build the said new kirk at the west end of said parish." At length in 1690, the church was wholly suppressed, not, however, without so determined an opposition on the part of the parishioners as to make it necessary to call in the aid of the Sheriff of the county, an ancestor of the family of Cavers; and it is related that, on this occasion, an old woman threatened him with the judgment of Heaven on account of his sacrilegious work, denouncing the extinction of the male line of the family. It is to this tradition that Leyden alludes in the lines,

Then circles many a legendary tale  
Of Douglas race foredoomed without a male,  
To fade unblessed, since in the churchyard green,  
Its Lord o'erthrew the spires of Hazeldean.—

From the site of the old building being exposed to the encroachments of the Teviot, it became gradually dilapidated, but the churchyard was still continued for burying up to 1796, when an unusually high flood tore open the graves, and made it necessary to remove the remains of the dead. The river has continued to alter its bed, till it appears, from measurements in the possession of the proprietor of Hassendean-burn, that the site of the old church, formerly on a projecting point on the north bank, is now marked by a sand bank on the opposite side, nearly in a line with the termination of a garden wall.

*Antiquities.*—In common with the greater part of the south of Scotland, this parish formerly contained several towers of strength or border peels, but these, with a fate which has been too frequent, have, for the most part, been removed. That of Horsley-hill has long disappeared, and only a fragment of one wall remains at Hassendean, forming the gable end of a cottage. The tower



qualities of the timber. When suffered to assume its natural form, which takes place here, it flings out bold and vigorous side branches, starting off from the main stem, and then bending upwards with a free and stately sweep, while the slender spray hangs in long lines, yielding to the breeze, with its bright lively green, in early spring beautifully contrasted with the rich brown of the bark, which is sometimes varied by a white and yellowish lichen, and is cut into rough and deep furrows. An account of the planting of these trees has been already given; there are good grounds to believe that they are at present one hundred years old.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—The parish roads extend to nearly fourteen miles, and have, of late years, been much improved in keeping; the outlay has generally been from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2 Sterling on each L. 100 Scots, which, as the valuation of the parish is L. 5163, 4s. Scots, allows an annual assessment of from L. 80 to L. 100 Sterling.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church, which is the only one, and is attended by the great bulk of the population, affords accommodation for 350 persons, exclusive of a private gallery belonging to the Earl of Minto. The average number of communicants is 160.

*Poor.*—For the last twenty years and upwards, there has been very little difference either in the number of persons receiving parochial aid, or the allowance made to them. The average of persons may be stated at 8, and the sum allocated to each L. 7. They have, of late, been chiefly aged persons, and non-resident. The church collections for the poor, together with the interest arising from a mortification of L. 50, amount to L. 10, 10s. 10d. yearly.

*Education.*—Sewing is taught by a female, who also gives some elementary instruction to the younger children; besides this, there is only the parish school, which last year was attended by 112 scholars. The branches taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, geography, Latin, and French. The teacher has the maximum salary, with the interest of a mortification of L. 100. He acts as clerk to the heritors and kirk-session.

There are neither ale-houses nor tolls in the parish, nor, for some time past, has there been any resident pauper on the poor's roll.

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and attaining a considerable size and age. The management of the plantations is well attended to, more care being bestowed on pruning and thinning than is common in some other parts of the country. Scarcely any of the trees seem to be older than the date of the union, and planting to any extent does not go farther back than the middle of last century. The size of some of the older trees, however, is such as to deserve notice. A silver fir, in the glen below Minto House, has a bole of about 40 feet in length; its girth at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the ground is 10 feet 4 inches; 20 feet from the ground, 7 feet 9 inches; and at 40 feet 7 feet. An ash near the house, at 2 feet from the ground, is 14 feet in girth; at 10 feet from the ground, 13 feet; and where it divides into 2 limbs, each of them is 9 feet in circumference. Another ash in the policy measures 100 feet in height; its girth at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the surface of the ground is 15 feet, and at 18 feet from the ground  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet. An oak tree was found, at 3 feet from the ground, to be 11 feet in girth, and at 9 feet to be 9 feet. There is a well-grown poplar 90 feet high, with a bole 50 feet long, of which the mean girth is 6 feet. Several beeches have attained a good size. They would seem to have been the first trees planted near mansion-houses in Scotland, and frequently in avenues; they commonly branch out a short way from the ground, but are otherwise of considerable dimensions. One measures 14 feet round, at 3 feet from the surface. The most remarkable trees, however, in this place are some larches, planted on the top and sides of the glen below Minto House, and, it may be remarked, over the sandstone rock, which in this instance has had none of the hurtful effects, ascribed to it by some writers, to wood of this species. One of the finest and most characteristic in its appearance, close to the pond side, is 80 feet high, and at 3 feet from the ground measures 11 feet in girth; at 20 feet from the ground 8 feet; and at 40 feet, where it parts into two tops of considerable dimensions, 7 feet in circumference. Though of less bulk on the whole, a number are taller, reaching 100 feet in height and upwards; at 25 feet from the ground, they average 6 feet in girth, and have a clean and straight bole, varying from 40 to 60 feet long. The noble and picturesque character of the oldest of these trees cannot be judged of by those who have only seen the larch as a thin sapling, drawn up in a crowded and choked plantation, or stunted in some bleak hedgerow, and bending from the wind. When in a favourable situation, and properly treated, it is not less noble and ornamental, than it is valuable from the useful and durable



—both of them in a style of art, of which, in Scotland, there are as yet but few examples in works of the same kind.

*Heritors.*—There are in the parish four heritors,—the Duke of Buccleuch; Earl of Minto; Archibald Dickson, Esq. of Hassendean-burn; William Scott, Esq. of Teviotbank; one non-resident, one constantly resident, and two occasionally so.

*Parochial Register.*—The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register, is 1703. During last century, entries were made with more regularity than has since been observed. No register is kept of deaths. Marriages, as ascertained from the proclamations, may be stated at 5 yearly.

### III.—POPULATION.

The only village, Minto, according to the census of 1831, contains 108 inhabitants, the other parts of the parish, 373,—making together a population of 481; but in 1828, as ascertained by the writer, it amounted to 530. In 1831, the number of families was 95, with 85 inhabited houses.

The population is, of late, rather on the decrease, partly from the enlargement and junction of farms, and the giving up of the nurseries at Hassendean-burn, which, after having been established upwards of a century, have recently been removed to Hawick.

*Character of the People.*—The people generally are industrious and well-conditioned; individuals, from time to time, rising in their station of life, or enabling their children to do so, by giving them the benefit of a higher education. Chiefly from the improvements in this particular, the language within the last forty years has undergone a considerable change. It is not improbable, that, ere long, the ancient dialect of the district, which has several interesting peculiarities, may become, in a great measure, extinct.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres, standard imperial measure, cultivated or occasionally in pasture, may be computed at 3205; there are 1458 in pasture. Of this, little or none could with advantage be taken into cultivation, while some land, which was at one time ploughed, is now suffered to lie permanently in grass. The improved system of husbandry, and of the rotation of crops, is everywhere in use; bone dust has, of late years, been employed in the growing of turnips; and increasing attention is paid to the draining of the land, which, from the nature of the soil, is productive of the greatest benefit.

*Live-Stock.*—The short-horn cattle, and the Cheviot and Lei-



cester sheep, are the common breeds. The fences are well kept, and the farm-houses and offices in good repair.

Leases generally run from fifteen to nineteen years.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land may be estimated to be somewhere about 18s. or L. 1 an acre. L. 1, 15s. for an ox or cow, and 6s. for a ewe—are the average rates of grazing for the year.

*Wages.*—The common rate of country labour for men is 1s. 8d. per day in summer; in winter 1s. 6d. A good deal of farm-work is done by women, who receive from 8d. to 10d. a day, according to the season. Hinds and ploughmen's wages are paid partly in meal, and partly in money. They have also, in general, a spot of ground for growing vegetables; a cow kept for them by their employer, who plants for their use a certain space in the field with potatoes, and drives a fixed quantity of coals. Cottages are sometimes let to labourers, on the condition of their working in harvest, and the hinds are bound to supply workers in the field when wanted, who are called *bondagers*. Men employed in cutting hay have better wages, than when at other day labour. They have been paid, of late years, from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per day. Harvest wages for men, besides victuals and lodging, run from 12s. to 13s. per week, and women's from 11s. to 12s. The rate of payment of masons and carpenters is from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day. Smiths occasionally do work by contract, that is to say, keep a pair of horses in shoes, and a plough in good repair, for a fixed sum per annum.

*Fuel.*—From the distance of coal, fuel is an expensive article; L. 1 per ton may be given as the price of coals, and 4s. 6d. per cart of wood, which is a good deal used.

The total rental of the parish may amount somewhere to about L. 3220 per annum.

*Produce.*—The following may be given as an estimate of the average gross amount of raw produce.

<i>Produce of grain of all kinds,</i>	L. 6014	0	0
of potatoes, turnips, &c.	1560	0	0
of hay,	290	0	0
of land in pasture, rated at L. 1, 15s. per cow or full-grown ox, and at 6s. per ewe or full grown sheep,	1325	0	0
of gardens and orchards,	100	0	0
of thinning and felling wood,	400	0	0
Total value of raw produce,	L. 9689	0	0

*Wood.*—There are above 786 acres in wood, all of it planted; the trees chiefly grown being oak, ask, elm, spruce, larch, with a few beeches and poplars; of these the oak among the hard-wood seems the best adapted to the soil, making straight and clean shoots,



and attaining a considerable size and age. The management of the plantations is well attended to, more care being bestowed on pruning and thinning than is common in some other parts of the country. Scarcely any of the trees seem to be older than the date of the union, and planting to any extent does not go farther back than the middle of last century. The size of some of the older trees, however, is such as to deserve notice. A silver fir, in the glen below Minto House, has a bole of about 40 feet in length; its girth at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the ground is 10 feet 4 inches; 20 feet from the ground, 7 feet 9 inches; and at 40 feet 7 feet. An ash near the house, at 2 feet from the ground, is 14 feet in girth; at 10 feet from the ground, 13 feet; and where it divides into 2 limbs, each of them is 9 feet in circumference. Another ash in the policy measures 100 feet in height; its girth at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the surface of the ground is 15 feet, and at 18 feet from the ground  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet. An oak tree was found, at 3 feet from the ground, to be 11 feet in girth, and at 9 feet to be 9 feet. There is a well-grown poplar 90 feet high, with a bole 50 feet long, of which the mean girth is 6 feet. Several beeches have attained a good size. They would seem to have been the first trees planted near mansion-houses in Scotland, and frequently in avenues; they commonly branch out a short way from the ground, but are otherwise of considerable dimensions. One measures 14 feet round, at 3 feet from the surface. The most remarkable trees, however, in this place are some larches, planted on the top and sides of the glen below Minto House, and, it may be remarked, over the sandstone rock, which in this instance has had none of the hurtful effects, ascribed to it by some writers, to wood of this species. One of the finest and most characteristic in its appearance, close to the pond side, is 80 feet high, and at 3 feet from the ground measures 11 feet in girth; at 20 feet from the ground 8 feet; and at 40 feet, where it parts into two tops of considerable dimensions, 7 feet in circumference. Though of less bulk on the whole, a number are taller, reaching 100 feet in height and upwards; at 25 feet from the ground, they average 6 feet in girth, and have a clean and straight bole, varying from 40 to 60 feet long. The noble and picturesque character of the oldest of these trees cannot be judged of by those who have only seen the larch as a thin sapling, drawn up in a crowded and choked plantation, or stunted in some bleak hedgerow, and bending from the wind. When in a favourable situation, and properly treated, it is not less noble and ornamental, than it is valuable from the useful and durable



qualities of the timber. When suffered to assume its natural form, which takes place here, it flings out bold and vigorous side branches, starting off from the main stem, and then bending upwards with a free and stately sweep, while the slender spray hangs in long lines, yielding to the breeze, with its bright lively green, in early spring beautifully contrasted with the rich brown of the bark, which is sometimes varied by a white and yellowish lichen, and is cut into rough and deep furrows. An account of the planting of these trees has been already given; there are good grounds to believe that they are at present one hundred years old.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—The parish roads extend to nearly fourteen miles, and have, of late years, been much improved in keeping; the outlay has generally been from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2 Sterling on each L. 100 Scots, which, as the valuation of the parish is L. 5163, 4s. Scots, allows an annual assessment of from L. 80 to L. 100 Sterling.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church, which is the only one, and is attended by the great bulk of the population, affords accommodation for 350 persons, exclusive of a private gallery belonging to the Earl of Minto. The average number of communicants is 160.

*Poor.*—For the last twenty years and upwards, there has been very little difference either in the number of persons receiving parochial aid, or the allowance made to them. The average of persons may be stated at 8, and the sum allocated to each L. 7. They have, of late, been chiefly aged persons, and non-resident. The church collections for the poor, together with the interest arising from a mortification of L. 50, amount to L. 10, 10s. 10d. yearly.

*Education.*—Sewing is taught by a female, who also gives some elementary instruction to the younger children; besides this, there is only the parish school, which last year was attended by 112 scholars. The branches taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, geography, Latin, and French. The teacher has the maximum salary, with the interest of a mortification of L. 100. He acts as clerk to the heritors and kirk-session.

There are neither ale-houses nor tolls in the parish, nor, for some time past, has there been any resident pauper on the poor's roll.

October 1838.