

PARISH OF
GALASHIELS

Counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk

By the Rev. Mr Douglas

A modern-spelling transcription of the original account
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EDITORIAL NOTE

This edition modernises spelling, capitalisation, punctuation spacing, and typographical conventions. The original wording, order, measurements, arguments, and numerical data have otherwise been retained. Currency is presented in the familiar £, s, and d notation. Obvious OCR errors have been corrected against the scanned print. Where the original itself contains an apparent inconsistency, it is retained and noted.

SOURCE

The Statistical Account of Scotland, Volume II (Edinburgh, 1792), no. XXIII, pp. 299-316. [View the original scan](#)

Prepared for Galashiels Heritage Watch, July 2026.

Extent and Situation

The parish of Galashiels, in the presbytery of Selkirk, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale, lies partly in the shire of Roxburgh, and partly in that of Selkirk. The Tweed, which is here an inconsiderable river, divides it into two parts. The southern part belongs to the former, the northern to the latter county. It is of an irregular triangular form; but, at an average, may be about 5 1/2 miles in breadth.

Surface

The country is hilly, and may even be called mountainous; Meagle, or, perhaps, Meg-hill, or May-gilt, being 1,480 feet above the level of the sea. The hills are mostly green, though some of them have a little heath. They are remarkably dry, and furnish excellent sheep pasture. In some places, spots of rock appear, either a kind of rotten slate, or rotten granite; the latter, a few feet below the surface, is hard, and useful for building; and stones, of considerable size, of both kinds, are not infrequently found upon the surface, remarkably hard and durable. One or two of the hills are conical; but are so completely covered with grass, or turf, that nothing like lava can be seen. Nor are there any figured stones, coal, minerals, marble, freestone, or petrifications in the parish.

Soil and Agriculture

The soil is various; and the striking difference between the soil on the south, and that on the north of the Tweed, deserves particular attention. In the former, it is, in general, deep, heavy, cold, and wet, on a bottom of clay or of rock. It is, in some parts, perfectly red, and iron stones are found amongst it. In other places, it is very porous; but though light, is not sandy, or lying on gravel.

There are several small lakes, and mosses, which yield excellent peats; and, when drained, some of them are full of shell marl, of a good quality. Oats, a small quantity of barley, and a few peas, were the only crops raised, till within these few years, that marl began to be used. Turnips, red and white clover, are now introduced, and the annual

quantity of peas and barley is considerably increased. Of 500 acres, which, for the last five years, have been annually ploughed, not above four-fifths have, at an average, been sown with oats; whereas, formerly, that grain was sown upon, at least, nine-tenths of the ploughed ground. The other fifth is employed in turnips, clover, peas, barley, and a few potatoes; and, sometimes, in low grounds, there are small spots of wheat. They sow as early as the season will permit, which is never before March; yet they reap late, seldom before September, and sometimes have corn in the fields in November.

Though only 500 acres, or thereabouts, are, at an average, in corn every year, yet, of the 2,700, of which this part of the parish consists, at least 1,500 acres have, in a kind of rotation, been torn up, partly for the sake of enriching the soil with marl, but chiefly, because unskilful farmers, after having overcropped one part, by raising oats for many years successively, are forced to give it rest, and to break up what has long lain in pasture. Notwithstanding the wetness of the soil, and climate, the sheep walks are sufficiently dry, owing to the natural declivity of the ground, and, in some places, to draining.

On the north of Tweed, the soil, in general, is dry and shallow, lying partly on gravel, a good deal on till, and some on rock. It is remarkably full of small stones, which almost everywhere cover the surface. It has been found, however, by experience, dangerous to remove them, unless the shallow soil is, at the same time, deepened and enriched. They are said both to reflect heat, and to retain moisture; and to them is to be attributed, in some degree, the luxuriance and excellent quality of the crops, in this part of the district; which, considering the small depth of the soil, are truly astonishing. Even here, there is a considerable portion inclining towards clay; some of it is stiff and deep, though, on the whole, not difficult to work. In some hollows, there are swamps, and a kind of moss, yielding very bad peat; and all the spots, where moss appears, if laid together, would scarcely exceed 10 acres. No marl can be found, by all the trials which have been made; and, though it may appear incredible, and cannot easily be accounted for, it is nevertheless confidently asserted, by some, who have made the search, that there is no marl in the whole range of country, from Tweed to the vicinity of Edinburgh, except in some places of the Merse.

On the clay soil, and high grounds, both oats and peas are sown as early, and reaped as late, as on the south of Tweed. But on the dry soil, which, though shallow, produces the surest and best crops, oats are never sown, except in a very tempting season, till the very end of March, or beginning of April. When the seed time of oats is over, potatoes are planted, and the land, designed for barley, receives a second furrow. From the 28th of April, to the 12th, or even the 15th of May, peas are sown; and from that time, barley, till the beginning of June. This late sowing supplies, in some measure, the defect of soil; generally secures a sufficient growth of straw, and never endangers the loss of a crop, from the lateness of reaping. In every season, the latest sown grain, on dry gravelly sand, ripens before the earliest sown on clay land; and grain of every kind, sown on dry soil, earlier than the above periods, seldom turns well out, except when the ground is very full of manure. Though harvest has been known to commence early in August, and to be

mostly over in September, yet it more commonly begins with September, and ends about the middle of October.

This dry land may consist of 500 acres, of which 300 are annually in oats, and the remaining 200 in barley, peas, clover, potatoes, and turnips, nearly in equal proportions. But as the three last are produced in great perfection, it may be expected, that the increase of these green crops will diminish the quantity of oats, still annually sown, and help to check the ruinous system of impoverishing land, by a succession of white crops. A few acres here, as well as in the southern district, are sometimes dedicated to wheat. The rest of the land in tillage, on the north of Tweed, which is either inclining towards clay, or lying in a high exposed situation, consisting mostly of irregular spots on the sides of hills, cannot be so accurately ascertained, but may be safely computed at 200 acres; on which hardly any other grain is sown, except oats, the small quantities of barley and peas being scarcely worthy of notice.

Superficial Contents and Produce

On the whole, the number of acres in the parish is calculated at 8,000. Of these, upwards of 1,200 are annually in tillage, of which above 900 are in oats, and about 300 in barley, peas, clover, potatoes, and turnips. The difference in the quality of grain should also be remarked. In the worst season, oats, on some dry grounds, will yield at least at the rate of 8 stone of meal per boll, Linlithgow measure; while, in the same season, they will not, on wet lands, yield 5 stone. Barley will also weigh, on dry grounds, 18 1/2 stone (the Linlithgow boll), and on marled ground, scarcely 12 stone; and, in general, all grains are heavier on a sharp soil. There can be no doubt but that more grain is raised than consumed in the parish. But as a great deal of wheat, flour, and bread is bought for consumption here, and, on the other hand, as large quantities of every sort of grain, wheat excepted, are exported to Edinburgh, Dalkeith, and Peebles, the surplus of grain produced, more than what is used, cannot be calculated with any degree of certainty.

Ploughs and Cattle

There are 37 ploughs in the parish, mostly made after Small's model, some with moulds of cast metal, and some in the old Scottish form; which many, after trying the other, think most suitable to a stony soil. They are, in general, drawn by two horses, though four are sometimes seen in a plough, or two horses and two oxen. There are 109 horses in the parish; of which 92 are employed in draught, including ploughs, carts, and huckstering. The rest are young, occasionally, perhaps, yoked in the harrows, or employed as saddle horses. Single-horse carts are mostly used, and their number may be 64; all, except 5, carrying, solely, coal, manure, grain, and wood. The black cattle may amount, at least, to 300, mostly young or milch cows, besides those fed on turnips, the number of which cannot be ascertained.

Sheep

Horses and black cattle are here objects of inferior consideration to sheep, for which all parts of the parish are well adapted. According to the best information, their number must be nearly 5,000; some farmers thinking it greater, and some less. This number, which cannot be far from the truth, is maintained on little more than 6,000 acres; from which circumstance, some idea may be formed of the value of the pasture. They are, in general, of the long-bodied kind; rather small, feeding only to 8 1/2 lb., rarely to 10 lb. per quarter, on the hill, but improving to 12 1/2 lb. and even to 15 lb. per quarter, in sheltered enclosures. The dryness of the pasture, and small size of the sheep, give them a juice remarkably rich, and a flavour remarkably delicate. Their wool is not fine, yielding only about 12s per stone of 24 lb. English, and taking 8 or 9 fleeces to a stone. The value of it is lessened by the quantity of tar, with which it is the universal practice to salve the sheep, being fully equal to that of oil or butter; but, in this neighbourhood, farmers now begin to use 2 and even 3 pints of oil, or melted butter, to one pint of tar, and think their wool is improved by this change. Judges assert that smearing is, in general, unskilfully performed in this corner, the season being too far advanced, and the ingredients being both improperly proportioned, and carelessly laid on. Without entering into points, which must be determined solely by the experience of store farmers, it is natural to think that this operation should take place early in the season, before the days shorten; because quantities of rain and snow are then apt to fall; and when the sheep are once thoroughly drenched, they do not readily become dry enough to receive the salve to advantage. Besides, the first attacks of cold and wet are always most to be dreaded and guarded against. Perhaps also, when done early, the wool will be more easily laid aside, so as to let the salve reach the skin, which alone, and not the wool, it is intended to protect.

In justification, however, of the farmers of this parish, let it be remembered that about one fourth part of their profit arises from raising corn; that their harvest is late, and that, without neglecting their crops, they cannot well attend, earlier than they do, to smearing their sheep. Let it also be observed that, as their chief dependence is on their flocks, it is natural for them to be timorous in venturing on innovations, which may be attended with risk; and they can only be expected to adopt, by slow degrees, any alteration on the mode of treating their sheep, however promising it may be, until it is fully sanctioned by experience.

Original note: It seems further probable, that good oil, being known to defend against water, to meliorate wool, and destroy vermin, if substituted for butter, and used in a larger proportion to the tar, might both increase the weight and the quality of the fleeces. The farmers, however, in general, prefer butter to oil.

Commons, Woods, etc.

There is no land in common, or lying waste; but upwards of 69 acres are occupied by houses, gardens, orchards, stack-yards, and dunghills. About 200 acres are in wood, mostly planted, though part is natural. Lakes, mosses, and the beds of Tweed, Gala, and Ettrick, by all of which the parish is either intersected or bounded, will occupy, at least, 100 acres. The produce of the orchards is trifling, consisting only of a few common apples, pears, and plums. But the woods are valuable. Oaks, ashes, and elms grow to a large size, and are of an excellent quality; Scots firs, planes, and birches are in great abundance, and equally thriving; and the larch, the beech, the mountain ash, and several kinds of willow, though less frequent, are in great perfection. The woods are frequented by the birds and quadrupeds which are common through Scotland: snipes, woodcocks, swallows, sea-gulls, and wild geese are annual visitants. Wild ducks remain through the year. Little damage has ever been done by wind, thunderstorms, or inundations. In spring 1782, both Tweed and Gala were swelled higher than they had been for 30 years before, yet did no mischief worthy of being mentioned.

Population

From traditional accounts, as well as from the vestiges and ruins of houses, the population, both of the parish and of the village, must have been considerable about a century ago; and the general opinion is that it has diminished. According to the return made to Dr Webster, in 1755, the number of souls then amounted to 998. Since 1770, when the present incumbent was admitted, the population has been on the increase. By a list, taken at that time, the inhabitants were between 870 and 880. A second list, taken in January 1789, made their number 901; of whom, 412 were males, and 489 females; 352 were under 14 years of age, and 20 were above 70. By an accurate list, taken in January 1791, their number was as follows:

Population	Number	Age	Number
Males	426	Below 10 years	253
Females	488	Between 10 and 20	181
Total	914	Between 20 and 50	344
Married	280	Between 40 and 70	115
In widowhood	53	Above 70	21
		Total	914

Editorial note: the overlapping age bands 'Between 20 and 50' and 'Between 40 and 70' are printed this way in the original.

In the village of Galashiels, 581; in Lindean, 51; in the country, 282. There are 209 families; of whom, 18 are farmers, 28 are cottars, whose residence depends on their remaining in the same service; and all the rest are leaseholders for a longer or shorter

time.

The number of deaths, marriages, and births cannot be ascertained, because many bury at Lindean, and some in other parishes; and many, from neighbouring parishes, bury at Galashiels. Many of different sectaries also are not married by established clergymen; and a still greater number neglect to register the births of their children. Yet the rapid increase of population, and thriving state of the parish, are plainly evinced by this circumstance, that, on the estate of Mr Scot of Gala alone, there have been built, within these 20 years, six farm houses, with complete office-houses, and 32 good dwelling houses, in the village; besides 39 dwelling houses (on a part of the parish of Melrose, which lies immediately contiguous to it), containing 201 inhabitants, not included in the above statement; all of whom, except 4 families, removed from Galashiels, for the sake of getting feus, in a spot more convenient for carrying on their business. This suburb, to which hitherto no reference has been made, must necessarily be included in the following information, relative to the diseases, employment, character, and religious opinions of the inhabitants.

Air and Diseases

From the nature of the soil, the air must be dry and healthy. There never was, in the memory of man, any destructive epidemical distemper in the parish. Even the smallpox, measles, and chincough are not fatal, nor very infectious. Though each of these has repeatedly visited the village, during the last 20 years, yet none of them, at any time, became general or violent among the children. One half of them, at least, escaped the infection, and very few of the other half died. Inoculation is gradually gaining ground. Perhaps the mildness of the natural smallpox makes its progress slower than it otherwise might be. Agues and slow fevers are the most prevalent diseases; rheumatisms and piles are not infrequent. Fluxes and dysenteries sometimes make their appearance. But the far greater number of deaths is occasioned unquestionably by severe labour, and want of proper attention to cleanliness, diet, and health.

Manufacture of Woollen Cloth

The manufacture of coarse woollen cloth is here carried on to great extent. It has rapidly increased within these few years, and is now brought to great perfection. From Midsummer 1774, to Midsummer 1775, only 722 stones of wool were manufactured into cloth by the clothiers, and scarcely as much more could be made by private persons; whereas, in the current season (1790) 243 packs of wool (each pack containing 12 stone of 24 lb. English) have been purchased by the manufacturers; besides which, they receive from different quarters, wool, yarn, and woven cloth, to a considerable amount, to be dyed and dressed for private use, or for sale. The highest price given, per stone, for wool, this season, is 19s, and the lowest 7s 9d; but in general, the quantity purchased is of that fineness, as to raise the average price to 15s per stone. The wool, being bought in fleeces, as it comes from the sheep, must be assorted, scoured, and freed from refuse, in which

process it loses at least one-fourth of its weight. A stone of the finest of it, weighed after being thus prepared, will yield 32 slips of yarn, each containing 12 cuts, and each cut being 120 rounds of the legal reel. Of this yarn, 1,300 threads is the greatest number put into the breadth or warp of any web, which, when finished, exceeds seven-eighths of a yard in breadth, and fetches, in ready money, at least 5s per yard wholesale from a dealer, or about 6s, when sold in retail. The coarsest cloths are made of wool which yields only, when scoured, 8 slips per stone. They are woven with no more than 600 threads of warp in the loom, are about six-eighths of a yard in breadth, when finished, and are sold, in wholesale to dealers, at 1s 4d per yard.

From these facts, it seems fair to conclude that the average produce of wool must be 20 slips of yarn per stone, and that the average price of cloth should be 3s 2d per yard wholesale. Yet, in fact, notwithstanding the high average price of wool, and its consequent fineness, the average quantity of yarn produced does not exceed 16 slips per stone, and the average price of cloth wholesale is scarcely 2s 6d per yard; a striking proof of its excellence. For all manufacturers know that wool, spun beyond its fineness, makes unthrifty cloth; whereas a thread, coarser than the wool will admit, is both more easily drawn, and more equal; and consequently makes the finest and most durable cloth. In spinning wool, 241 women are constantly employed, besides occasional spinsters. Such of them as have no avocations will make 12 cuts in a day, for which they are paid 6d. But as family concerns, field and harvest work, and such other by-jobs, take up a great part of their time, let 100 days in a year be allowed for these avocations, and still, in the remaining days of the year, they would spin, at the above rate, more yarn than can be produced from the 243 packs of wool, purchased for the current season. Yet not only are they always furnished with as much wool as they can spin, but three machines also, with 30 and 36 spindles each, which, at an average, spin at least 24 slips in a day among them, are employed always two, and often three days every week. In like manner, there are 43 looms in the village and suburbs, 9 of which are only occasionally used by the aged and infirm, and by young boys. Supposing these 9 to be equal to 2 looms constantly occupied throughout the year; and supposing the 36 looms, thus made up, to weave only, at an average, 7 yards raw cloth, which is equal to $4\frac{3}{4}$ yards dressed cloth, each day, for 300 days in the year, they would thus weave several thousand yards of more cloth than can be made out of the above number of packs.

Now, as many weavers are known not to be a week idle throughout the year, and some of them, for a course of weeks in temperate weather, work 12 and even 15 yards per day, the above computation is abundantly moderate. Again, every slip of yarn is allowed, by the manufacturers, to make, at an average, a yard of cloth; consequently, from the 243 packs, containing 2,916 stone, and each stone yielding 16 slips of yarn, there should be produced 46,656 yards of cloth; yet, from the most accurate enquiry, the actual number cannot be found to exceed 43,740 yards. To reconcile these seemingly inconsistent circumstances, let the following observations be attended to: first, many neighbouring farmers reserve some part of their wool, and many families in the village purchase small quantities, which are spun at home during winter, or given out to be spun at the ordinary rate. The yarn is sent to the weaver, the web to the dyer, or perhaps the wool, from the

beginning, is committed to a clothier, to be manufactured into cloth. A great part of the cloth, thus made, is intended for the market, though most of it is generally for private use. Nor is it unusual, for the manufacturers themselves, to buy woollen yarn, and webs from the loom, to bring forward into cloth for sale. In this manner, about 30 packs of wool may annually be spun and woven, besides the quantity purchased by the manufacturers. Secondly, the manufacturers do not employ all their wool in making cloth. A considerable quantity of blankets, flannels, and worsted stuffs for women's gowns, and children's frocks, are made both by them and private families. And some of the coarsest of their wool is sold, and carried off for other purposes. And thirdly, the weavers are occasionally employed in working linens, cottons, and other stuffs, from mixtures made of linen, cotton, and worsted. As the actual number of yards woven annually by them cannot be collected from their memories, or such accounts as they keep, it must be calculated, by taking the whole 43 looms, at the low rate of 4 yards each of dressed cloth per day, and reckoning 300 days in the year, which will make them amount nearly to 52,000 yards of cloth of all kinds, ready for the market.

The price of weaving, including winding and preparing the yarn, etc., is from 2d to 3 1/2d per yard. Taking the average at 2 3/4d, a weaver earns about 1s 7d each day; and the 43 looms will draw about £1,000 a year. A journeyman clothier gains 4s per week, besides board; and being in constant employment through the year, without the expense of providing implements for carrying on his work, his wages may be considered as nearly equal to those of the weaver.

Of those who purchase wool, and superintend the whole process of making it into cloth, there are 13 masters, who employ, at present, 50 journeymen and apprentices, in assorting, scouring, and scribbling the wool, before it is given out to spin; and in scouring, milling, dyeing, cropping, pressing, and finishing off the cloth. The unwearied attention which they bestow on all the various departments of their complicated employment, and the proficiency which they have attained, have obtained for them, many years successively, almost all the premiums advertised by the Trustees for cloth of 5s, 4s, 3s, and 2s value per yard. It is, however, on the whole, reckoned a disadvantage, that so many different objects must occupy their attention. In England, there are wool-sorters, who buy and prepare the wool for spinning; spinsters, who buy it, and sell the yarn to weavers; who again sell the webs after they are wrought and scoured. In some places they are purchased by dyers, and after being milled and dyed, are sold again to those whose province it is to fit and polish them for the market. In other places the persons both dye and dress them.

From the materials thus becoming the actual property of those, through whose hands they pass, in the different stages of the work, it may be presumed that the several parts of it will be more expeditiously and better done, to ensure its selling quickly, and to good advantage. As spinsters will learn to examine the wool, weavers the yarn, and dyers the web, before making a purchase, all of them are thereby stimulated to take the greater care, to avoid all faults and blemishes, which would hurt the sale, or lessen the profits of their labour. Besides, it seems probable that the fewer employments any man follows, the

greater will be his proficiency in them. They who constantly and exclusively are kept scribbling wool will work more, and to better purpose, than others who are accustomed equally to perform every branch of the manufacturing line. In like manner, the finest dye will always be given by him whose sole business it is to mix and prepare the colours, and fix them on the cloth. And the sweetest polish will come from the hand which is only put forth to the shears, the teasel, and the press.

In opposition, however, to this reasoning, specious and conclusive as it may appear, some intelligent manufacturers here prefer their own method, of conducting the whole process from first to last; asserting that, from universal experience, the yarn and webs which they purchase are greatly inferior to those which are made under their own eye; and assigning, as the reason of this inferiority, that, having the absolute direction both of spinning and weaving, and a perfect knowledge of the respective abilities of such as they employ, in these departments, they must easily perceive, and can keep out of their webs, all faulty yarn; they must be acquainted with all defects in weaving; and, if they are of a nature not to be corrected, or concealed by the subsequent operations which the cloth undergoes, they can make both spinsters and weavers accountable for their several mistakes, which cannot thus be amended. And the excellence of all cloth depending, in a great measure, on the equality of the yarn, both as to fineness and twisting, they have the advantage of knowing and employing the hands which come nearest to each other in these respects, and the weavers who excel in working finer or coarser yarn.

Spinning machines possess one eminent advantage over common wheels. The yarn on 30, or 36 spindles, is all equally twisted, and drawn to the same fineness. And from the nature of the motion, the twist cannot be hard, nor the thread fine, which renders the cloth soft, firm and durable. The most dexterous spinster cannot twist so equally, and so gently, twenty slips of yarn, from wool of the same quality, as a machine can do twenty thousand. And it is now universally agreed that both warp and woof, twisted as gently as the loom can admit, is most susceptible of being driven close by the mill, of receiving the strongest dye, and of acquiring the smoothest surface.

Artisans

Besides the manufacture of woollen cloth, which is no doubt the staple of the parish, other branches are carried to a considerable extent. Ten persons are employed, as skinners and tanners, who pay, for the white and tanned leather which they make, from £66 to £98 of excise to Government, at an average, yearly. Seventeen are wrights, who, besides jobbing as cabinet-makers, and house carpenters, and wheel and mill wrights, and making all the common implements of husbandry, drive a very considerable trade, by purchasing growing timber, blocking it into ploughs, carts, hay-rakes, etc., annually, all which are sold to plough and cart-wrights, and farmers, at a considerable distance. There are 3 blacksmiths, 3 bakers, 5 shoemakers, and 9 tailors. The number of merchants and shopkeepers cannot easily be ascertained, as almost everybody buys and sells or barter.

Church, Living, and School

The parish church was originally situated at Lindean, to the south of Tweed, but was removed, in the course of the last century, to Galashiels. The living, which is in the gift of Mr Scot of Gala, was, in 1775, augmented from £800 to £1,000 Scots, with £4 3s 4d sterling, for communion elements; and the glebe (including 9 bolls, 3 firlots of barley, Linlithgow measure, which the minister receives annually, for a part of it lying in Lindean) will rent about £15 sterling. The schoolmaster has £6 7s 2d of salary, and from 80 to 120 scholars; a tolerable house, but no garden. There is also a school at Lindean, with a small salary, said to be a part of the parish salary, granted when that village was considerable for the number of its inhabitants.

Heritors and Rent

There are only 6 heritors; 4 of whom have dwelling houses in the parish, and two of these four are resident. Their cumulo valued rent is £8,225 13s 4d Scots: and their real rent may amount to £1,600 sterling, over and above all public burdens.

Poor

The poor, at present, upon the roll, amount to 14 (13 of whom are females), and that number may be taken as the average for 15 years past. Several others receive occasional aid. The sum levied and contributed, for their support, annually, is about £30, but it is gradually increasing. As most of them can work, their allowance is but small, in general, not above 9d per week, except in times of scarcity.

Disadvantages

The greatest disadvantage, which the parish and suburbs labour under, is no doubt their distance from lime and coals; both of which they bring from Middleton, 21 miles from Galashiels, and upwards of 24 miles from several places in the parish. Notwithstanding this great distance, lime is found to be cheaper manure, and coals cheaper fuel, than the marl and peats in the southern district, though both are excellent of their kinds. Want of a post is another material disadvantage, to which the village is subjected. Offices are established at Stagehall, Selkirk, and Melrose. The first, a single house, though farthest distant, is most convenient, being on the road to lime and coals; but, notwithstanding the obliging care of the postmaster there, the arrival of letters, 7 miles from a post-office, must always be tedious and uncertain. There is a certainty that the revenue which is drawn there would be at least trebled, were the office removed to Galashiels. A third great inconvenience, which the manufacturers suffer, is want of a stock to carry on their work to a sufficient extent; of consequence, they are obliged to purchase on credit, and at a high rate, every necessary article of manufacture, and to sell the produce instantly, at whatever ready money it will fetch. Whereas, were they able to

pay at once for all they purchase, they would both have more profit, and they could continue to manufacture their goods, without being reduced to the necessity of disposing of them, till a proper price could be obtained.

Character of the People

In the parish and suburbs of the village, there are no less than 15 houses, where ale or spirits are retailed. Yet the people, in general, are sober and industrious in the extreme. Not one is addicted to dram-drinking or tippling; and very rarely is a tradesman, especially a manufacturer, seen in liquor. A respectable number attend public worship in the established church, and about 200 receive the sacrament of our Lord's Supper annually. At the same time, there are many who adhere both to the Burgher and Antiburgher principles, and a few belong to the Church of Relief. There are also some classes of Independents, and Baptists; besides several who disclaim all attachment to any sect whatsoever, and seem to have no fixed principles of religion. Concerning the numbers, and the peculiar tenets, of these various separatists from the establishment, the present incumbent has never been led to make any particular inquiry, from an opinion that while they are peaceable and good members of society, and 'live soberly, righteously, and godly,' the speculative points, on which they may differ, are of very little importance. And it gives him much pleasure to find a spirit of forbearance and toleration universally prevailing, among all ranks and denominations in the parish.

Original note: For an answer to the queries relating to Roman and other antiquities, see Pennant's Tour, printed in 1772.