

**STATISTICAL  
ACCOUNT OF  
PEEBLES-SHIRE**

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Statistical Account of Peebles-Shire by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

**STATISTICAL  
ACCOUNT OF  
PEEBLES-SHIRE**



THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
PEEBLES-SHIRE.

BY  
THE MINISTERS OF THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES,

UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF  
A COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE BENEFIT OF  
THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE CLERGY.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS, EDINBURGH,  
AND 22, PALL MALL, LONDON.  
MDCCCXLI.

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## PARISH OF PEBBLES.

PRESBYTERY OF PEBBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JOHN ELLIOT, A. M. MINISTER.

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—In the grant made by David II. of some of the Burgh mails, the name is spelled *Peblys*; but the ordinary spelling in the old records is *Peblis* and *Pebblis*. In the oldest record belonging to the Presbytery, extending from 1596 to 1600, the name is almost uniformly written as at present, *Peebles*. In the next oldest record, from 1603 to 1624, it is generally spelled *Peibles*. The author of *Caledonia*, after an indifferent sarcasm against Dr Dalgliesh in the former Account, for deriving the name from “the pebbles with which the soil abounds,” deduces it from the Celtic word *Pebyll*, corresponding with the Saxon word *Shiels*, and signifying moveable dwellings or temporary encampments. The parish is bounded on the south by Manor and Yarrow; on the west, by Lyne, Stobo, and Manor; south-east, by Yarrow and Traquair; east, by Innerleithen; and north, by Eddlestone. From east to west it extends about six miles, and from north to south about ten; but the most southern part, stretching three or four miles into Selkirkshire, is uninhabited. The burgh may be considered as the centre of the parish; and none of the inhabitants are above  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the parish church. The parish is calculated by the author of the “Companion to the Map of Tweeddale” to contain 18,210 acres; which calculation was submitted to the Court of Teinds in 1821, and sustained.

*Topographical Appearance.*—The general aspect of the parish is hilly, except along the banks of the Eddlestone water and the Tweed, on the latter of which is a vale of considerable size, commencing at Peebles, and extending to the extremity of the parish towards the east. None of the hills rise to a great height, as in some of the neighbouring parishes. They are, for the most part, grassy, except those towards the south, which are covered with heather, and abound in grouse.

*Meteorology.*—From the land being almost all of a light gravelly soil, from the absence of stagnant water or marshy ground, and from the elevated situation of the parish, the air is healthy, though keen. The medium height of the barometer at Peebles, 535 feet above the sea, is 29.2 in summer, and 29 in winter. The medium depth of rain yearly, on an average of seven years, is about 26.75 inches. The prevailing wind is the south-west, which blows at least nine months in the year. The eastern fogs, which overspread the Lothians, scarcely ever reach Peebles.

*Hydrography.*—The Tweed runs here a course of about 5½ miles, dividing the parish nearly into two equal parts. The whole course of this beautiful and far-famed river, the fourth in magnitude in Scotland, is about 90 miles, with a fall of 1500 feet; and it is calculated to drain about 1870 square miles of country. Though at Peebles it has run only about one-third of its course, it has fallen no less than 1000 feet, *i. e.* 33½ feet per mile; and in the remainder of its course to Berwick, about 60 miles, it falls 500 feet, or 8½ feet per mile.\* On entering the parish of Peebles, and onwards, the Tweed is confined within narrow banks; but immediately below the bridge, a beautiful and extensive vale opens, resembling more an Italian than a Scottish landscape. On reaching the parish of Peebles, it receives the Lync water; which, in the opinion of some writers, is entitled to be regarded as “the head of Tweed,” and not a tributary. The Lync, however, has nothing of the character of a great river, and does not contain a sixth part of the waters of the Tweed. A mile lower down, the Tweed receives the Manor water from the south, the Eddlestone water at Peebles, and the Haystone burn two miles farther down. All these streams abound in trout; and anglers may be seen on their banks almost all the year. The quantity of trout caught from April to October is immense, and far exceeds belief. Salmon are sometimes taken in considerable numbers, but, owing to the distance from the sea, they are much inferior in quality to those caught near the mouth of the river. The system of drainage has proved unfavourable to the run of salmon, for the heaviest rains are soon carried off, and a flood seldom lasts more than a few hours; whereas

\* The Rhone at Geneva is only 1154 feet above the level of the Mediterranean, according to Sir G. Stauckburgh, and yet the rapidity of its course seems infinitely greater than that of the Tweed. This can be accounted for, only by the fact, that “the arrowy Rhone,” with its great mass of water, runs almost in a straight line, whereas the Tweed’s current is impeded by innumerable windings, which add to the beauties of this pastoral river.