

Extract from "Some Reminiscences from the middle of the last century"

By S.E. Simpson 1923

The Old Parish Church

Of those far-off days I have many hallowed memories. I can picture its old-fashioned box seats and very few pews. The sittings were then all plain unpainted wood, except for the circular patch of white paint with blackletters intimating the various places in the parish to whom the sittings were allotted with the numbers foreach. We entered by the West door, where, I remember, hung a big board which enumerated the various charges for grave-digging, the use of the mortcloth and other charges. I remember my forbears sat in the first box seat on the left on entering. Along with them sat the then School-master of Burnmouth, Mr. Falconer, his father, and sister. The seat immediately in front was occupied by the late Charles Colville, writer, Ayton. Away to the East end of the aisle was the Laird's gallery, or the Castle Loft, as it was called. The pulpit stood against the South Wall, and right in front of it was the north aisle with the Bell Loft at the end, the Vestry being underneath it, with another entrance to the Church. I remember how we had all to tum out to Church in those days, and no excuse excepting illness could prevent us being present at the services. So, from being a regular attender, I have many strong impressions of the good that can be received in early life. What a boon this would be to the youth of to-day if they took advantage of it.