

# OBSERVATIONS

MADE IN

## A JOURNEY

THROUGH THE

*WESTERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND;*

*IN THE AUTUMN OF M,DCC,XCII.*

RELATING TO

THE SCENERY, ANTIQUITIES, CUSTOMS, MANNERS,  
POPULATION, AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES,  
COMMERCE, POLITICAL CONDITION, AND  
LITERATURE OF THESE PARTS.

---

Sed neque Medorum sylvæ, ditissima terra  
Nec pulcher Ganges, atque auro turbidus Hermus,  
Laudibus Italiz certent.—

O fortunatos nimium, sua si bona norint!      VIRG.

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By ROBERT HERON.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME FIRST.

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TO  
*THE RIGHT HONOURABLE*  
HENRY DUNDASS.

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SIR,

IN the little Journey in which I made the following remarks, I looked about me,—perhaps with a carelefs,—perhaps with a purblind eye;—but, *certainly* with the anxiety of an honest Briton, jealous for the honour, jealous for the prosperity of his country: And I thought, that I could discern the natural circumstances, and the *fair* accidental advantages which seemed favourable respectively, to the industry, the virtue, the wealth, the happiness of the inhabitants of the different parts of Scotland which I had occasion to visit,—to be, every where, happily seconded by the principles of the British Constitution, and the conduct of his Majesty's present Administration. I thought, that I could equally distinguish Improvement, in those places, in which its progress appeared slow, stationary, or retrograde, to be there checked by something unfavourable in their natural circumstances, or by accidental disadvantages; not by the negligence or injustice of the British Legislature, or by the weakness or partiality of the servants of the Executive Government.

THE

THE medley of narrative and reflection in which I have detailed those observations, has, I fear, little elegance of composition,—little that is new, important, or curiously minute in facts,—few proofs of any enlarged comprehension of intellect,—and few marks of depth or nicety of discernment, to recommend it to notice. And there is a considerable share of lighter matter intermingled.

YET, I presume to dedicate it to you, Sir, in the persuasion, that, to a Minister, who, without flun-ning, without courting popular applause, seeks only the welfare of his country, and the honour of his Sovereign, and pursues these objects with the zeal, the judgment, the knowledge, the energy necessary to command success;—to a Man whose steady virtue and abilities, thus conspire with the confidence of his country, to give a generous elevation to his character,—Nothing suggested by a modest joy in the national prosperity, and a modest wish to see that prosperity permanent,—can be altogether unacceptable,—even from a young man so very low and obscure as,

SIR,

Your most obedient

and very humble servant,

EDINBURGH, }  
May 16th, 1793. }

ROBERT HERON.

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**ADVERTISEMENT.**

## ADVERTISEMENT.

*UNACCOMPANIED with Engravings, and published in detached volumes ; this Work appears under considerable disadvantages. The second volume containing among other things the Author's observations on Galloway and Ayr-shire, and on the great seats of manufacturing industry in the shires of Renfrew, Lanerk, and Stirling, will probably be found more interesting than the present. Reviewing his work, when the charm of novelty and the ardour of composition are over ; the author finds it so very imperfect, in his own estimation, that he dares hardly hope for the notice of the Public, or the mercy of the Critic. The second volume will appear within a few weeks.*

EDINBURGH, May 21, 1793.

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## REASONS

WHICH INDUCED ME TO COLLECT THE MATERIALS  
OF THE PRESENT WORK.

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**I**T is difficult to reconcile the habits of studious, with those of active life. The advantages naturally attached to one of these modes of employment are not easily communicated to the other. He who retires to cultivate his understanding in his closet, is liable to lose that dexterity of hand, and that quick perspicacity of eye, which are acquired or improved in active external employments and amusements. The bustle of active life, again, is commonly unfavourable to our powers of Recollection, of Reasoning, and of Abstraction. Books turn us to theoretic speculation: and the business of the world has some tendency to unfit the Imagination, and the Reasoning Faculty for that exercise. Men of study often have their minds filled with general notions, without a due proportion of parti-

cular facts; men of business are sometimes capable of little else than minute details.

HAVING been, for a series of years, subjected to many of the inconveniencies, although perhaps, without reaping many of the advantages of a life of study and retirement: I lately resolved to try the benefits of a short excursion through some parts of my native country. I pleased myself with the hope that I might, in this way, *quicken my powers of observation*, by the view of those numberless, unconnected particulars, which, in every country, meet the traveller's eye. Among such a diversity of objects, some are unavoidably interesting. And wherever the mind is interested, its attention is engaged. It is thus roused from that languor into which, in long confinement within a narrow sphere, it is apt to sink. Its faculties gain a new elasticity and energy, and become capable of nobler exertions. A city and a sedentary life, especially when one moves not in a very extensive, social circle, have a tendency to deaden and relax all the firmer nerves of the soul. These, diversity of social converse, and varied aspects of nature and of life will best restore to their proper tone.

TRAVELLING, too, to him who is, in any degree, more capable of observation, than a post horse

horse, must prove a *distinct* and highly beneficial *line of study*. There are certain classes of the Arts, and of the objects of Taste, with which an acquaintance cannot be obtained otherwise than by travelling, to examine them in their natural situations. Of the operations of Agriculture, for instance, little knowledge can be gained from books alone: We will not easily conceive in what manner nature and human industry conspire to make the earth yield her vegetable stores in the richest abundance; unless we view the growing crop in the various stages of its progress, and observe the series of the husbandman's labours. The minuter arts of life, too, which are not practised by distinct classes of artizans, but by every individual, or every family, for themselves, can become known to us only by the same actual observation. Nor can books ever form the Taste to judge of the beauties of natural or ornamented scenery. The naturalist, in like manner, finds his most interesting cabinet in the wide range in which nature has originally disposed all the subjects of his science. Nay, it were endless to enumerate the different branches of knowledge which are to be acquired either solely, or at least most advantageously, in travelling.

*In studying the Civil History and Antiquities of my country, I had found the descriptions and draughts*



of the Geographer and the Land-Surveyor insufficient to enable me always to follow the historian or antiquarian with all the certainty I desired. Every one knows how unintelligible allusions to place must always prove, when the relative situation of the place is not understood. Descriptive poetry is, for this reason, always languid, unless where it exhibits only the more general features of the scenery. The barrows, the moats, the vestiges of camps, and the remains of towns and castles scattered through different parts of Scotland, can be but imperfectly known to him who has examined them only in the confused accounts of antiquarians. The fields where our most eventful battles have been fought cannot be distinctly conceived by the imagination which has nothing but the historian's narrative to aid it. It is pleasing, likewise, to examine what changes the scenes distinguished by the events of former times have since undergone; where the forest has mouldered down into a moss; or where the impassable morass has been improved by industry into a garden. Still more interesting is it, to compare the present language and manners of the inhabitants of any particular district with those anciently ascribed to them; and to trace the fluctuations they have suffered, and the circumstances by which these have been occasioned.

I HAD also formed *some general ideas concerning the principles of civil policy, trade, and national industry*, the truth or fallacy of which I wished to prove by an examination and induction of corresponding facts. Only by seeking opportunities of conversing with intelligent traders and manufacturers; of enquiring into the negociations of trade, and viewing the operations of manufacturing industry; of acquainting myself with the actual state of manners and of police, of the different branches of public oeconomy, and of the establishments for the distribution of justice;—did it seem probable that I might attain the knowledge of those facts which I was thus anxious to collect.

*THE feelings of the heart, too, may be bettered by a survey of the varied scenery of one's native country; by remarking the character and condition of its various inhabitants, and beholding how greatly their ingenious industry has improved the conveniencies of nature. The attachments of patriotism are thus cherished in the breast. A generous desire that one may also contribute a mite, however small, to the service of one's country, is awaked in the soul. An emulation of worth and dignity of character is excited; and mean manners, and vicious conduct are regarded with increasing abhorrence.*

WITH

WITH these views in my mind, I prepared to leave Edinburgh in the beginning of August, 1792. I saw that such advantages might be gained in an excursion through some of the more interesting parts of Scotland. I could not indeed flatter myself, that I should be able to seize them all. The time, and the expence which I had to spare, were not considerable enough to enable me to gain many of them. But, such considerations as the above, served to make me set out with pleasure on my little tour, and to examine, with an eye of interest and curiosity the objects which occurred to my observation.

OF the facts which I had an opportunity to gather, I trusted few to memory; but carefully noted down, as I observed. With local facts I could not help interspersing those general principles to which my mind insensibly referred them. I was sometimes led to recollect the transactions of past times; and sometimes hurried on by imagination to conceive the possibilities of futurity. I confined not my views to any one particular tract of observation and enquiry. I was neither a sentimental, an agricultural, a commercial, a virtuoso, nor an antiquarian traveller; but a sort of compound of all these. Every class of objects, and almost every object had more or less of my attention. Only, I believe, it might  
 have

have been better, if I had been either more a mere matter of fact man, or a more vigorous thinker.

THE medley of narrative, observation, and reflection, which I have formed, I commit, such as it is, to the candour of the public. Perhaps it may yield entertainment; perhaps it may convey some instruction. If it shall be acknowledged to afford either, I shall be well pleased.



# JOURNEY

THROUGH THE WESTERN PARTS

OF

SCOTLAND.

---

*From EDINBURGH to the SOUTH FERRY.*

**B**Y the middle of August, Edinburgh is commonly deserted by all the *migratory* part of its inhabitants, whether people of gaiety, of study, or of business. The places of public amusement are shut up; the Parliament-house is left in empty solitude and silence; the college-gates are no longer thronged: only a few passengers saunter here and there, through the streets: the shopkeepers hang idly in their doors; and such of them as fancy themselves persons of taste begin to think of repairing, for half a week, to some fashionable watering-place. It was about this time that the allurements of the country drew me from Edinburgh.

HAVING, on the preceding year, travelled, on horseback, at an earlier time in the season, over the first part of the route I now intended to take;

VOL. I.

B

I resolved,

I resolved, on the present occasion, to prefer the stage-coach. I had been very little accustomed to the motion of wheeled carriages; and never before to the chance-company of a stage-coach: for both these reasons, therefore, this mode of travelling was recommended to me by its novelty. Of the amusement to be found among the accidental assemblage of mutual strangers with which a stage-coach is often filled, I had indeed conceived sanguine ideas. I fancied, that I might perhaps meet with some singular oddities of character, perhaps with some wonder of good sense and intelligence; that I should be entertained with the lofty strangeness and silence which my company would at first maintain;—with the gracious airs which each would, by degrees, condescend to assume, in order to encourage what he might deem the timidity of the rest;—with their awkward attempts at disguise of character and situation, through which the *cloven-foot* could hardly fail to appear;—with the ardour of mutual kindness, and the eagerness to oblige and entertain, to which all would probably be wrought up;—and with the fullness and *ennui* into which all were likely to sink back, when they should find, each his companions unwilling to allow his claims to importance: that, be these things how they might, I should at least find my own observation

of

of the objects on the way, assisted by the remarks of my fellow-travellers.

In these hopes I went to the Black-bull Inn, Robertson's, and took a seat to Perth, in the Stage-coach, or rather chaise, which runs between Edinburgh and Aberdeen. My fellow-travellers were two young gentlemen going to Aberdeen, in whom I was indeed disappointed of the peculiar entertainment I had expected; as I discovered nothing of them, but that they were very amiable in their manners, and sufficiently intelligent.

AT about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, we seated ourselves in the chaise; and the driver took his post. We had hardly set out, when he perceived something to be wrong about one of his wheels, and afterwards something to be equally so about the fastening of our baggage. We remained in the chaise, in the middle of Prince's Street, till all was rectified. In the mean time, I could not help regretting, that a street so elegant as Prince's Street, and which is frequented by the gay and fashionable, as the Mall of our metropolis, should be seated so immediately over a foetid marsh, and should enjoy no better a front prospect than that of the empty basin which once contained the North Loch, now awkwardly, although usefully divided by an earth-



en mound,—and of the smoky, irregular buildings on the north side of the Old Town. The Castle is too near, to form an object of grandeur in the prospect. The spire lately erected on the West-Kirk, has, however, a fine effect, especially in hazy weather, when seen from the Eastern end of Prince's Street. This street, and the whole line of buildings in the New Town still continue to be carried farther, westward. Many new houses are, at the same time rising through the Old Town, and indeed on all quarters of Edinburgh. Yet, I fear, that the population, and the opulence of this City do not, at present, increase in the proportion of the buildings. Families now occupy more room, and require more elegant accommodation than formerly. Besides, when any particular tract of industry has been opened and entered upon, it cannot be, all at once deserted, even although it shall have ceased to be highly advantageous. The builders and their workmen, having in a great measure supplied the first, eager demands of the citizens of Edinburgh for new and more elegant houses, are now obliged to content themselves with smaller profits, and to hazard greater risks, rather than forsake the line of employment which they have been accustomed to pursue. This circumstance proves advantageous to the citizens in general; affording them a greater choice of houses, whether

to purchase or to rent, and those, by consequence, at more moderate rates.

OUR driver, at length, satisfied himself and us, that he had made all safe. He then mounted and drove on. As we advanced, Pentland hills, with an intervening tract of rich, cultivated, and ornamented country appeared on our left. But, in the confinement of the chaise, we had only an imperfect glimpse of that prospect. We soon after left Drumsheugh, a feat of the earl of Moray's, on our right hand; and, within a little, found ourselves crossing the *water of Leith*. On the left, on the southern bank of the river, and immediately above the bridge, we observed a considerable depth and extent of quarry, cut in a whin-rock. Heaps of stones stood ready dressed, some for paving, others for building. Incrustations of spar appeared over the rock.

APPROACHING the bridge, we had remarked the gardens adjoining to the house of Deanes, which cover the slope of a hill, on the western side of which the river passes. The productions of those gardens are sold in the markets of Edinburgh. In summer they are occasionally visited by parties who come to eat the strawberries and other summer-fruits, where they grow. Adjoining to those gardens,

dens, on the east side, are the grounds of Dean-Haugh: and, at the eastern termination of the hill, stands the house of Dean-Haugh, built, in the style of an old Gothic edifice. It was the taste and antiquarian skill of the late Walter Ross, W. S. that gave it this form. I know not whether any ancient building ever stood here. But, the situation is one of those which our forefathers were accustomed to prefer for their houses. The same taste which gave its antique aspect to the house, has in like manner, presided in the ornamenting of the narrow domain belonging to it. Of the late possessor I cannot help adding, that his surviving acquaintance speak in very warm language of his knowledge in law, of his taste for antiquities, of his wit, humour, and talents for convivial conversation.

NEARLY opposite to the house of Dean-Haugh, and on the southern side of the river, is St Bernard's Well; a spring of mineral water, mineralized, I believe, by what is called, in the modern language of Chemistry, *sulphurated hydrogenous gas*. The northern bank affords another spring or two of the same character. It should seem, from the denomination, that St Bernard's Well must have been known by its medicinal qualities in the days of Popery. The same powers were then ascribed to Saints, which had been attributed by the ancient heathens

heathens to their host of Divinities. Every thing was zealously put under the protection of some faint or other. This mineral spring must have been then dedicated to St Bernard, whose name it has since retained. Its virtues had, however, been for a considerable time, overlooked by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. The citizens of Edinburgh repaired eagerly to distant watering-places, without enquiring, whether they might find medicinal water at home. But, within these few years, Lord Gardenstone became proprietor of St Bernard's Well. His Lordship's well known philanthropy and public spirit immediately suggested to him, the possibility of rendering its waters more useful to the public. He has, at a very considerable expence, built an handsome Grecian edifice over the spring, in which the waters are distributed by a proper person, and at a very trifling price, to *every one that thirsteth* for them. His Lordship's endeavours have accomplished his purpose. The citizens of Edinburgh are now persuaded, that these waters are salutary in various cases; and have, particularly, a singular tendency to give a good breakfasting appetite; in consequence of which, old and young, males and females, have, for these two or three last summers, crowded to pay their morning respects to *Hygeia* in the chapel which Lord Gardenstone has erected to her.

AT a small distance westward from the well stand large Mills in which the bakers of Edinburgh have a considerable part of their flour prepared. On either hand, whether westward or eastward from the bridge, the banks of this river present a range of scenery, cultivated and ornamented, as becomes the vicinity of a great city. Towards Leith, the prospect is wonderfully rich. Several small villages are scattered on the southern bank. On the northern, the houses of Mr Rothead, and of Mr Muir are two of the handsomest villas that Scotland has to boast of. This whole plain is indeed so besprinkled with handsome *boxes*, and divided into so many little ornamented domains, as to bespeak strikingly the increasing opulence of the citizens of Edinburgh, their taste for the more elegant conveniences of life, and their passion for the enjoyment and the dignity connected with the possession of a country-seat.—Westward, the banks of this river display fewer villas, gardens, and ornamented fields; but they exhibit that perfection of agriculture, which the husbandman is naturally prompted to cultivate, when he finds a ready market for the most valuable productions which his grounds can be improved to raise; wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, turnips, and those grasses which afford the best hay and green pasture. Beside finding a ready market for the articles which they raise, farmers in the vicinity

city

cinity of a great town have also the advantage of obtaining the richest of all manures from its streets, and from the public jakes.

As we advanced towards Queensferry, we had still under our eyes a rich and fertile country. The gentlemen's houses on either hand were numerous. Even the farm houses are uncommonly neat and seemingly commodious. The fields were covered with luxuriant crops, which, through the unusual wetness of the season, had yet assumed very little of a yellow hue. Dry stone-walls of a decent structure, divided them from the road. The interfections were formed chiefly by ditches and green fences. Clumps of wood were scattered here and there, as the waving inequalities of the ground, or other circumstances had directed. On the north-eastern side of the highway, and at no great distance beyond the Water of Leith, is a quarry of what species of stone I did not learn: but, I believe, that the builders of Edinburgh are furnished from it with large masses,—perhaps of grey granite. Where men are assembled in great numbers, every thing becomes valuable. Those articles which nature affords in such abundance, that, in other places the appropriation of them is unnecessary, are matters for sale and purchase in the neighbourhood

of a great city: water comes there to be sold by measure, and stones by weight.

WE had soon a glimpse of the Forth, and a view of the southern side of the rich county of Fife. The eye wandered, with delight, over one of the most populous, fertile, and cultivated territories in Scotland. Its coals, its limestone, its abundant crops, its thriving manufacturing villages, and the high rents which tenants are there enabled to pay to their landlords, without impoverishing themselves, occurred all together to the mind, and gave, insensibly, a new charm to the landscape. As the Firth opened more fully to the view, the heart was swelled with emotions of sublimity and pleasure. Its noble width, its influence on the industry and opulence of the adjoining country, the creations of human Art along its banks, the fleets of trade, or of war which its Roads have sheltered, the times when it constituted a boundary of the Roman Empire, and when it protected the Saxons from the incursions of the Scots, already victorious over the Picts,—crowded all into the train of thought which now passed through my mind. I was thus led to reflect on the benignity with which the author of nature has ordered the relative disposition of land and water in a manner highly favourable to human industry and happiness; on the power of man to subdue

subdue the stubbornness of nature, and to multiply wonderfully, by ingenious art, the conveniencies which nature affords; and on the varying aspects which the face of a country assumes with the various fluctuations of civil life.

IN a short time, we reached the South Ferry; which has been named Queensferry, in consequence of being the passage by which Margaret, Queen to our Malcolm III. used to cross the Forth, on her way to and from Dunfermline, where she chiefly resided. The Royal Burgh of Queensferry lies along the southern bank of the Forth. It is not large. What number of inhabitants it may contain, I know not. Nor am I better informed, in respect to the industry or trade of its citizens. Considerable quantities of soap were, not many years since, manufactured here; but, I believe, that this manufacture has been greatly checked by the severe exaction of the Excise Duties.

AT no great distance above the town of Queensferry stands Hopeton-House, a fine seat belonging to the noble family of Hopeton. Frequent excursions are made from Edinburgh to Queensferry, by parties who come to view this house, and the surrounding pleasure-grounds. These I have only seen at a distance; and, therefore, cannot enter into a



particular description of them. I am, however, tempted to mention (what I have learned, while extending the notes of my journey), that the citizens of Queensferry have lately received a most agreeable proof of the vicinity of Hopeton-House, in a present of £ 200, from the Earl and Countess of Hopeton, for the benefit of their burgh.

THIS Ferry is one of the most frequented passages over the Forth. The others are by the ferry-boats between Leith and Pettycur, and by the bridge of Stirling. Stage-coaches between Aberdeen, Perth, and Edinburgh run this way. The intercourse between the Mid-Highlands and the South-eastern parts of Scotland is chiefly in this line. And a good number of carriers travel, this way, weekly, or oftener. Travelling by this ferry, upon a former occasion, I remember to have here met a drove of Dutch or Flemish horses, of a great size, which, having been accidentally landed somewhere on the East coast of Fife, were conveyed by this way to Leith, the port to which they had been consigned. Upon the present occasion, we were met at the ferry, by a company of reapers from the Highlands, who were going southward, to assist in the labours of the harvest: for the Highlanders, if an idle race, are so, from the circumstances of their country,

not

not through unwillingness to earn the comforts of life by honest industry.

I AM sorry, I cannot say of the Inn at the South-Ferry, that it is more than tolerable.

*SOUTH FERRY to KINROSS.*

AFTER waiting some time, till a boat which was in the middle of the Firth when we came within sight, arrived, and landed its freight; we entered it, and proceeded to the opposite shore. The passenger enjoys a fine prospect from the middle of the Firth. At Queensferry it is suddenly contracted, by the projection of the land on the northern shore, to the breadth of two miles; but, spreads out, almost immediately, towards the West, into a beautiful and capacious bay. The view extends westward, nearly to Stirling; and eastward to the mouth of the Firth, near the isle of *May*. The eye gazes, by turns, on the coast of Lothian, and on that of Fife; sometimes fixes for a few moments, on the isles of Inch-Colm and Inch-Garvy; and is then perhaps caught by the smoke arising from the salt-pans and fire-engines of Burrowstounness; or remarks, on the northern shore, Lord Elgin's lime works, Rosythecastle and Dunibrissel, a seat belonging

to the Earl of Murray ; while Burnt-Island, the road of Leith, and Edinburgh castle are seen in distant perspective. On the isle of Inch-Garvy is a ruinous fortification which was repaired, I believe, when the late Paul Jones threatened these coasts. In this passage, I saw, for the first time, several porpoises, a well-known species of fishes, abounding in this Firth. Their carcases afford a proportion of oil which renders them not unworthy of the fisherman's pains. The form is not unlike that of a hog. Divers sea-fowls hovered over, or floated before us.

WHILE carried in security across the Firth, I was insensibly led to reflect on the amazing improvement of Scottish dexterity and skill in naval matters, since the time when the navigation even of this Firth was reckoned perilous. Such, indeed, was, anciently, the danger of shipwreck on our coasts in the winter-months, that a law was enacted in the reign of James III, and was afterwards, frequently renewed,—enjoining ; “ That there be na schip frauched out of the realm, with any staple gudes, fra the feast of Simon's day and Jude, unto the feast of the purification of our Lady, called Candelmas\*.” It was at an earlier period, probably, than the institution of this decree, that many of the Scottish nobles were lost in the Firth, in

\* James III. Parl. 2. Chap. 15.

an expedition on which they were sent out, at an unfortunate season, under a Sir Patrick Spence. The ballad in which this mournful event is recorded, having been frequently sung to me, in my infant years, rises to my remembrance, accompanied by so many pleasing adventitious associations, that I cannot forbear inserting it here. It is a specimen of the poetry and the language, and is descriptive of the manners of the *Saxonised* Scots,—possibly of the thirteenth or the fourteenth centuries. Dumfermline seems to have been, then, a favourite seat of the Scottish sovereigns.

The king sits in Dumferling toun,  
 Drinking the blude-reid wine :  
 O whar will I get a gude sailor,  
 To sail this schip of mine ?

Up and spak an eldern knight,  
 Sat at the king's richt kne :  
 Sir Patrick Spence is the best sailor  
 That sails upon the se.

The king has written a braid letter,  
 And sign'd it wi' his hand ;  
 And sent it to Sir Patrick Spence,  
 Was walking on the sand.

The first line that Sir Patrick red,  
 A loud lauch lauched he :

## JOURNEY THROUGH

The next line that Sir Patrick red,  
The teir blinded his ee.

O wha is this has don this deed,  
This ill deed don to me;  
To fend me out, this time o' the zeir,  
To fail upon the se?

Mak haste, mak haste, my mirry men all,  
Our guid schip fails the morne.  
O say na fae, my maister deir,  
For I feir a deadlie storme.

Late, late yestreen, I saw the new moone,  
Wi' the auld moone in her arme;  
And I feir, I feir, my deir master,  
That we will come to harme.

O our Scots nobles wer richt laith  
To weet their cork-heil'd schoone  
But lang owre a' the play wer play'd,  
Thair hats they swam aboone.

O lang, lang may thair ladies sit,  
Wi' thair fans into their hand,  
Or eir they se Sir Patrick Spence  
Cum failing to the land.

O lang, lang may the ladies stand  
Wi' thair gold kems in their hair,  
Waiting for their ain deir lords,  
For they'll se them na mair.

Have owre, have owre to Aberdour,  
Its fifty fathom deip :  
And thair lies guid Sir Patrick Spence,  
Wi' the Scots lords at his feit.

So frail were then the stoutest vessels in the Scottish navy ; so fearful its most skilful mariners ; so difficult the navigation of the Firth of Forth ! Beside these circumstances, this ballad commemorates facts illustrative of the manners of those times. It was then a fashion, it should seem, prevalent among the nobility to wear cork-heeled shoes. The ladies used fans, and wore no ornament on their heads, except a metal comb, confining the hair. The hat, not the Scottish blue bonnet, was the fashionable covering for the heads of the men.—Nor are these simple strains destitute of poetical merits. There is a beauty in the manner in which Sir Patrick Spence is represented as passing hastily from his reflections on the probable danger to which he was injudiciously or maliciously exposed, to give orders for the necessary preparations for the voyage ; in the image introduced by the sailor who wishes to divert him from his purpose ; in the abrupt transition to the fatal consequences of this ill-timed voyage ; and in the images by which the distress of its miscarriage is marked.

WHILE my thoughts were, thus, insensibly withdrawn from the present scenes, our boat reached the northern shore; and I was roused from my musing, by my fellow passengers stepping eagerly upon the land.

• NEAR the North Ferry are considerable masses of granite, disposed in perpendicular stacks. Above these is a reddish earth full of friable, micaceous nodules. In these granite rocks, extensive quarries have been cut, and the stones carried to pave the streets of London. The village, called the North Ferry, is much smaller than the opposite burgh on the southern shore. It is probably of equal antiquity. Here stood once a chapel which was endowed by Robert I, and religious service performed in it by the monks of Dunfermline.

ABERDOUR, mentioned in the last Stanza of the above ballad, is the name of a parish and a village, situated East from North Ferry, on the same side of the Firth. The Earl of Morton has there an handsome seat. It has been long the property of the noble family of Douglas.—To obtain the privilege of a burial-place in their church, Allen de Mortimer, from whose family the estate of Aberdour passed into the hands of the Douglasses, bestowed one half of his lands on the Monks of Inch-Colm.

At

At Aberdour was anciently a convent belonging to the nuns, called the poor *Clares*.—In this neighbourhood, not many years since, resided the late Captain Stuart of Dunearn; a man who deserves to be remembered for his taste in the fine arts, and his amiable fondness for their productions. He had formed a noble cabinet of select pictures, and had collected one of the finest libraries in Britain. So passionately was he attached to his books and his paintings, that he could not travel without those dear companions. He might, with the most just propriety, have adopted the language used by Cicero, when speaking of polite literature:—*Delectant domi, non impediunt foris, pernoctant nobiscum, peregrinantur, rusticantur*. His library and his collection of paintings have, since his death, been sold and dispersed. Collectors of books and paintings deserve the grateful remembrance of their countrymen. They import stores, which when dispersed, contribute greatly to the diffusion of taste and knowledge.

NEARER to the streight of Queensferry, lies Inch-Colm; a small island, on the northern side of the Firth. On this isle, at a very remote period in the ecclesiastical history of Scotland, a chapel had been built, and dedicated to St Columba. Alexander I, having sought shelter here from a storm by which he was overtaken in crossing the Firth, was hospi-



tably received, and entertained for three days, by a hermit (probably of the communion of the Culdees, the disciples of Columba) whom he found occupying the chapel. Struck with pious gratitude to heaven, and perhaps solicited by the hermit, the monarch soon after founded here a monastery, dedicated it to St Columba, and established in it a society of Augustine Monks. This monastery was pillaged by the fleet of Edward III. of England, when he invaded Scotland. The ruins of the church, of a square tower belonging to it, and of some others of the ancient buildings, still remain. On a rising ground, on the south east side of the buildings, is still to be seen a Danish monument of which an engraving has been given by Sir Robert Sibbald.

DUNIBRISSEL, already mentioned as an agreeable object in the prospect from the opposite side of the Frith, and the seat of the Earl of Murray, stands within sight of Inch-Colm. It was the seat of the celebrated Earl of Murray, the natural brother, and the persecutor of the lovely, frail, and unfortunate Queen Mary. His son whose handsome person and gallant manners were suspected to have made an impression on the heart of Anne of Denmark, spouse to James VI. which might have proved too powerful for her conjugal fidelity,—was here murdered.

The

The earl of Huntley, Murray's inveterate enemy, was the ready minister of James's jealousy. A pretext was easily found. Huntly was sent to apprehend Murray. The latter refusing to surrender, the house was set on fire. Its master might have escaped in the darkness of the night, had he not been discovered by the glare of the flames, and instantly slain.

AT some distance westward above North Ferry, and on the same side of the Firth, are the vast Lime-Kilns belonging to the earl of Elgin. They are disposed in a row. Their openings are under a covered way, formed, on the front, by arches and pillars, into a magnificent colonnade. Their situation is beneath the strata of limestone, which are of inexhaustible extent. It is conveyed, as broken, into the kilns, by rail-roads. For shipping the lime, whether burnt or crude, there is a convenient pier,

CONSIDERING the natural advantages of this district of country, one can hardly help wondering that it is not still more opulent and populous. Coal, one of the first conveniences of life, it possesses in the most plenteous abundance. Washed, on one side, by the Frith of Forth, on the other, by that of Tay, and forming, by its eastern side, a boundary of the bay; its commodities may be all conveyed

conveyed by sea-carriage, to a proper market. Coal is an article, necessary and favourable above almost all others to the progress of manufactures. And lime is the most excellent manure that the husbandman can employ, if not to enrich a barren, at least, to subdue a stubborn soil.—With these advantages, Fife is, indeed, wonderfully rich and populous; yet not so as to preclude the hope of its continuing to improve in wealth, industry, and population.

BEFORE leaving the vicinity of the North Ferry, let me take a more particular view of Rosyth-Castle. Its situation is not far westward from the Ferry, opposite to Hopeton-House, and on a rock which juts out into the river. It was originally the seat of a collateral branch of the royal family of Stuart. It came afterwards into the possession of Primrose, Lord Roseberry. It is now the property of the earl of Hopeton. It is a ruinous pile, and has long been uninhabited.

FROM North Ferry we proceeded by a winding, rising road, to the burgh of Inverkeithing. Its extent is not great. Its street and houses have an air of antiquity. Here was a royal seat, in the reign of David I. By the charter of the burgh, granted by William, its liberties extend between the rivers  
Dovan

Dovan and Leven. Under the town is a fine bason or bay, communicating with the Forth. Its citizens have some coasting, and perhaps some foreign trade.

THE inhabitants of Inverkeithing discovered, in a late instance, a wonderful zeal for the purity of the clerical character. They had lost an old and respectable pastor. Another was presented to the benefice and charge. They did not much like the presentee's style of preaching. And they discovered, that he had not obtained the presentation, without the exertion of *Election-Interest* by some of his friends. Their horror was excited by what they called an act of Simony. They determined never to have the pulpit or the sacred duties profaned in their parish, by an incumbent whom they deemed so unworthy. They accordingly commenced a furious opposition to his settlement, and carried the cause from presbytery to synod, and from the provincial synod, before the General Assembly of the Church. Their opposition proved vain. Their objections were found to be frivolous, their accusation such as they could not distinctly prove; the presentee, a very respectable young man, was ordained to the charge; and his opponents have, I believe, comforted themselves, by seceding from the established church.

I RELATE this incident as an instance of the censorial power exerted by the people of Scotland over their clergy, and of the manner in which it is restricted and moderated. Some patron presents a licentiate to the benefice and cure, in the case of a vacancy. The presentee preaches before the people; and their dispositions towards him are consulted. If pleased with his character and preaching, they *call* him to be their minister. If they dislike him, they may oppose his settlement. The time was when a presentee opposed by a parish, even on general grounds, might have been disappointed of his benefice. But, upon the principles on which the church-courts now proceed, some act or habit absolutely inconsistent, by the ecclesiastical law, with the clerical character, must be proved, before a licentiate in divinity can be judged incompetent for presentation to a living. As the unjust or frivolous objections of the people against the morals or abilities of their clergy, have been more and more slighted; dissenting congregations have become more numerous, and the dissenting clergy have acquired greater influence. The multitude are a stubborn body: you may check or restrain, but, it is not easy to convince them. And, I know not if the existence of sects in religion, and of dissenting or seceding clergy be not, upon the whole, greatly

greatly beneficial to the morals and the piety of the inferior classes of the people.

FROM Inverkeithing to Kinross, the country on both hands, is in no high state of cultivation. It should seem that through this tract, the farmers make the breeding and feeding of black cattle, their chief business. The fields are uninclosed; and few attempts appear to have been made to subdue the barrenness of the heathy moors. I observed one gentleman's house, on the east side of the highway, surrounded by young wood, and by inclosures which seemed to have been disposed with considerable taste. But, there was little in the general aspect of the country from which a traveller could infer, that it was the seat either of industry or of opulence. Riding this way, on a former season, I remember to have fallen into company with some farmers from the Lothians, who were on their way to a fair at Kinross. They told me, that they went to purchase cattle which were bred in this neighbourhood, or perhaps farther north, and which they would fatten for the butcher in their rich grass parks; or rather on the turnips which they raised in their course of agriculture.

It is never advantageous to breed domestic cattle in those places where they can be best fattened, and

most profitably sold. From the Highlands, from Galloway, and from the wilder pasture grounds of Ireland are the farmers in the vicinity of the great cities in Scotland, and in England, supplied with young cattle at much lower rates than the expence of rearing them would amount to. These cattle having either nearly or entirely reached their full growth, are in a condition to benefit by the rich pastures or stall-feeding which a country highly improved by agriculture affords. Sheep, no less than cows and oxen, pass, in the same manner, from hand to hand, and from wilder and lower-rented walks, to others more cultivated and more expensive, till their carcases are, at length, produced in the shambles. The same observation may be extended to the human species. Population is not increased in those places where it appears most numerous. In great cities, the expence of house-keeping and of education deters people from marriage; while various causes concur to render marriages less productive here than in the country. It is from those parts of Britain where the population seems most scanty, that emigrants come to repair the waste of human life in the scenes of crowded society. The young hasten from scenes of pasturage to earn the higher wages which are paid for the labours of husbandry. The husbandman's children desert their father's employment, and crowd to the seats of trade  
and

and manufacture. And, the citizen of a small town sends his son to settle in the capital. It is not so much want of the means of subsistence, as the allurements of cultivated and luxurious life, which depopulates the wilder seats of society.

ABOUT three miles south from Kinross, stands the house which has been celebrated, in a fine paper in the *Mirrou*, as the residence of the late Michael Bruce, an amiable, young man of no mean poetical powers. He was the son of poor parents; was, in religion, of the sect called Seceders; and died, in a consumption, while he was yet very young. His poems have been given to the public in a small volume, of which, I believe, the late Mr Logan was the editor, and in which he intermixed some small pieces of his own, to make up the volume. Bruce's poems discover much of the imagination and feelings of the genuine poet; and more of the appropriated language of poetry, than one so young could otherwise have been supposed capable of acquiring. The edition has been sold off; and I believe that proposals have been circulated, for reprinting them for the benefit of his mother who still survives, and is, by no means, in comfortable circumstances. I should suppose, that this edition must be eagerly encouraged by all persons of taste and humanity. Sweet to the good old woman must be the bread,



which she receives, as the reward of the talents and virtues of her deceased son.

KINROSS, although a small town, enjoys the privileges of a royal burgh, and is the capital of Kinross shire. It is of considerable antiquity, and may perhaps have been anciently more flourishing than at present. It has some manufactures of linen, and of cutlery wares. Travellers find comfortable accommodation in two clean, convenient inns, kept at present, by civil, attentive landlords; one, within the town; the other, not half a mile northward from it.—One fact in the Scottish history by which, among others, the antiquity of Kinross is testified, is, That Alexander II. and his queen were here seized by a faction of their subjects, at the head of whom were the once powerful family of the Comyns, in the year 1255.

THE scenery of this little burgh is not unpleasing. The kitchen-gardens of the inhabitants are interspersed among the houses, and some of them planted round with trees. On one hand is the house of Kinross, Lochleven, its isles, and the hills bounding it on the North and the South East; on the other, an extensive tract of low ground, brown with heath, yet with an intermixture of more agreeable verdure. The house of Kinross seems an handsome, modern building,

building. It was built by Sir William Bruce. Its present proprietor and occupant is Mr Græme.

THE loch is beautiful and extensive. Its circumference may be about twelve miles. It is irregularly indented by the land. Its greatest depth is said to be about twenty four fathoms. Of its isles, one is large enough to afford pasture for several cattle. On one of them, the isle of St Serf or Servanus, are some small remains of the ancient priory of Portmoak. This isle is said to have been granted by Brudi VII. king of the Picts, to Servanus and some other clergy, disciples of Columba. By these a church was founded in the isle. In the reign of David I. this establishment of regular clergy of the order of St Columba, was suppressed; and the isle and its sacred buildings bestowed upon clergy of the church of Rome.

THE castle of Lochleven, which was anciently a royal residence, stands on another isle in this lake. It was granted by Robert III. to Douglas, laird of Lochleven. The isle in which this castle stands, is about eight acres in area. In the year 1335, it is said to have been besieged by Sir John de Sterling, with a body of English troops. The difficulties of the siege, and the peculiar situation of the castle, led him to think of a singular expedient

dient for the reducing of the garrison. The river Leven, running eastward out of this lake, he stopped its stream with a great dyke. The outlet of the lake being thus shut up, its waters rose higher and higher upon the isles, till that on which the castle stood, was so overflowed, that the garrison saw themselves in danger of being drowned. Meantime, the festival of the blessed Margaret returned to be celebrated at Dunfermline: And de Sterling, the English commander, went thither, to assist in the solemnities of the occasion. Taking advantage of his absence, four men were sent from the garrison, to break down the dyke, and open its ordinary outlet to the dammed-up water. The labour was difficult: however, invoking St Servanus, the protector of the lake, they persisted, till a breach was made, by which the water issuing, swept away the English tents and baggage. The governor of the castle, who thus defeated the stratagem of the English, was Alan de Vipont, of a family who were the ancient possessors of Rosythe Castle before-mentioned. While the English army were in the confusion occasioned by the sudden bursting out of the waters upon their camp, de Vipont sallied out, with the whole soldiers of his garrison, attacked those besiegers, put them to flight, and returned to his camp, laden with spoils. The truth of this story is, however, doubtful.

In Lochleven castle, too, was our beautiful and unfortunate queen Mary confined, after she had been separated from Bothwell, and made captive by her own subjects. Here was she sternly reproached by her austere, and ambitious brother, Murray; from whose gratitude and fraternal affection, she had hoped for consolation, instead of the insult which she experienced. The lady of the castle, William Douglas's wife, was, if I remember right, Murray's mother: and one circumstance which aggravated Mary's sufferings, during her confinement in Lochleven castle, was the haughtiness of that woman; who asserted that she had herself been lawfully married to James, and that her son was, by consequence, rightful heir to the Scottish crown, and Mary illegitimate. Yet, in this family, Mary found a deliverer. George, the young brother of William Douglas, captivated by her charms, allured by the insinuation of her manners, and touched with pity for her misfortunes, stole the keys of the castle from his brother, released the royal prisoner, conveyed her from the island to the opposite shore, and conducted her to her friends. I have seen an exquisite ode on this subject; the composition of the late Mr Macdonald, whose tragedy of *Vimonda*, sermons, and miscellaneous poems, particularly those published in the newspapers, under the signature of Matthew Bramble, have been generally and deservedly admired.

The

## JOURNEY THROUGH

The ode on the story of Mary's escape from Lochleven-castle was published in the Edinburgh Magazine.

THE remains of this castle, which are yet to be seen, consist of a rectangular wall, flanked with small towers; with some other walls of a chapel, and of the apartment in which Mary was confined. On the east side of the castle are some ancient trees; and among these the remains of an ash tree, the size of which must once have been great.

THE water-fowls on the isles within Lochleven are herring-gulls, pewit-gulls, and great terns. The lake abounds with eels, pikes, perches, and a species of red trout of peculiar excellence. The fishing of the lake is rented at an hundred guineas, by the landlords of the two inns at Kinross. The trouts are celebrated through the whole country, by the name of *Lochleven trouts*; and are a delicacy eagerly purchased at an high price, in the fish-markets of Edinburgh, Perth, and such other towns as they can be conveyed to, in a fresh state.

IN the inn on the north side of Kinross, we dined luxuriously, on some Lochleven trouts. As we entered our chaise to proceed to Perth, several carriages stopped at the inn door, the company in which were, as we understood, a party from England, on  
a tour

a tour to the Highlands of Scotland. This, has, indeed, become, from various circumstances, a very fashionable summer tour, within these last ten or twelve years. The celebrity of Dr Johnson's name rendered the English curious to learn something of a place which he had visited as a scene in which he might contemplate nature in her grandest, wildest aspects, and human society in its rudest, simplest form. The narrative of his Journey which was, indeed, more properly a series of reflexions, than a narrative of a Journey, or the continued description of a country, was very eagerly read through both England and Scotland. The indignation with which the Scots heard some of his reflections upon the circumstances of their country, and their national character, contributed to make his book still more generally read, and to excite a curiosity among many, to know, whether he or they said truth.—About the same time, or earlier, Mr Pennant, after the publication of his British Zoology, was induced to make the tour of Scotland, and presented a large and pleasing account of it to the Public. Pennant, I must, by the way, observe, is one of the acutest and most minute observers who have ever yet travelled. There is between Johnson and him this remarkable difference, that Johnson seems, even in travelling, to have looked about him, merely to take a few, a very few hints, which might, each

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suggest a long train of thought ; but Pennant, little capable of ingenious reflection, never chuses to think, when he can find any thing to describe. In addition to the writings of these two travellers, the progress of Gardening and of Landscape-painting in England, contributed to persuade English company to visit the wilder scenes in Scotland, in the Summer months. Rivers, lakes, towering cliffs, and foaming cataracts make a noble figure in landscape ; and in the progress of gardening in England, that has come to be esteemed the most perfect gardening, which best imitates and combines into unity all the beautiful and all the sublime aspects of nature. Beside all this, the Highlands of Scotland are known to afford great abundance of game : and not many years have passed since the proprietors of the lands in the Highlands began to shew any great solicitude to preserve their game. No wonder, then, that their moors were much frequented in the shooting season. It must be added, too, that the accommodation which travellers find in the Highlands of Scotland, is such as may well recommend the tour. The roads, at least all the great roads, are excellent ; the inns are commodious, for the greater part, clean, and affording generally, good beds, comfortable meals, and not bad liquors. All these circumstances together, and with them, the consideration, that almost every place of summer-resort, through  
England,

England, had been before visited, till it had ceased to please, seem to account for the crowds of gay people, which have, for a good many years backwards, thronged these roads, in the months of summer and autumn,

BEFORE bidding adieu to Kinross, I cannot help hinting, and it is with diffidence I suggest the hint, that the name seems to me, to have originated from the particular form which the shore of the lake assumes where it is contiguous to the town,—with the circumstance of this place's having been an occasional residence of some of our ancient kings. Although uncertain in which of the ancient languages of the North, *Rofs* is a simple appellative; I have, however, observed, that various places over the sea-coast of Scotland, where the coast presents a form similar to that of the coast of Lochleven at Kinross, bear equally the denomination of *Rofs*. I may add, in respect to the first syllable of this compound name, that many of the names of places in Scotland beginning with *Kin* or *Kil*, I suspect all to be derived in this part of the word, either from the Saxon *King*, or the Latin *Cella*: for I know not that either of these frequently occurs as an initial syllable in either the Celtic or the Gothic language; and it seems probable that those places of the names of which, either makes a part, might be distinguished by the



contiguity of the cell of some monk, or by some circumstance in which a king was concerned.

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*KINROSS to PERTH.*

AS we proceeded northward from Kinross, the country presented, by degrees, scenes of higher and higher cultivation. But, it was now evening; and we were shut up in a carriage; so that we soon lost the view of the adjoining landscapes; and could estimate neither the beauties of the scenery, nor the state of the agricultural industry of the country.

WHEN, however, we entered the delightful vale of Strathern, I was almost involuntarily and insensibly led to recollect, that I had formerly viewed its scenery with admiration, and with the exulting satisfaction of a Scotchman, proud of his country, and of every advantage which it possesses. As I have since had occasion to traverse this fertile tract by day, I shall not here set down the indistinct, although fond recollections which, at this time, occurred to me. Only, let me beg my reader, before we cross the Erne, to step a short way westward with me, to Pitcaithly Wells.

the Erne, to step a short way westward with me, to Pitcaithly Wells.

In this vicinity there are, several wells of mineral water, some of which are inclosed and their waters eagerly drunk as medicinal. They are situated in a nook of the vale, sheltered, or rather embosomed, on the west and south-west sides, by green hills; separated from the river, on the north side, by a gently rising ridge; and open towards the east and north-east; unless it may be thought to be somewhat confined by a soft swelling of the plain. The tract of ground lying immediately round these wells, consists chiefly of corn-fields in a state of high cultivation, divided by hedges, in some parts surrounded by rows of trees, and having small clumps here and there interspersed, where the surface swells softly into little knolls. The soil is naturally deep and rich: but, I must confess, that I neglected to examine the particular characters of the mould, and of the next strata of rocks. This is precisely one of those situations in which the Romish clergy were accustomed to seat their religious houses; sheltered, well watered, and surrounded with arable ground.

I AM not sure, at what particular period, the medicinal virtues of these springs were first discovered.

I should

I should suppose, that, if this had happened during the reign of Roman Catholic Superstition, these wells would have been appropriated, as engines of power, by the monks or priests; the virtues of the water ascribed to the benign influence of some saint; and the springs dedicated to that Holy Name by whose benediction they were understood to have been endowed with healing powers. But, as their name implies nothing of this; I am inclined to believe, that their medicinal qualities are of later discovery, than the days of Popery. I know not whether an analysis of these waters was made by any person before Dr Donald Monro; whose experiments were published in the year 1772. His account of these waters, for want of proper opportunities to repeat his analysis, is by no means conclusive. Mr Stodart, an ingenious surgeon in Perth, has since examined the different springs with greater pains,—and from the improvements which the science of chemistry, has, in the interval, received,—I am inclined to believe, with greater accuracy. His experiments were made in 1792; the results of which he has obligingly permitted me to state in the following table.

A TABLE

PART OF SCOTLAND.

A T A B L E

Shewing the contents, in a wine gallon, of each of the mineral waters belonging to the estates of Pitcaithly and Dumbarny.

Names of the Waters.	Weight.*	Cubic inches.				Grains.			
		Atmospheric air.	Carbonic acid gas.	Carbonat of lime.	Sulphat of lime.	Muriat of soda.	Muriat of lime.		
East Well,	216	4	8	5	5½	100	180		
West Well,	198	4	8	5½	5	92	168		
Spout Well,	172	4	6	5	3½	82	146		
Dumbarny Well,	124	4	5	5½	3	57	102		
South Park Well.	98	4	5	5	3	44	84		

\* This column shows the number of grains that a gallon of each of the springs weighs more than distilled water.

MINERAL waters, while the circumstances were unknown, to which they owed their peculiar qualities, seemed to be medicines provided by the benignity of nature, or by particular Providence, to alleviate the ills of human life, by counteracting, with extraordinary operation, the attacks of disease. It was not imagined that there could be the most remote possibility of imitating them by art. Hence were their springs regarded with a degree of devout veneration; and the sick, and the feeble crowded to them, as to *waters of life*. But, the progressive improvement of chymistry has already begun to rob these waters of their honour. Common water can now be artificially mineralized. Many of the simpler, natural, mineral waters have been perfectly imitated. It is probable, that all the others may soon be prepared in the same manner. Processes may be performed in the laboratory of the Chymist, which were supposed possible only in the great laboratory of Nature. And, the Scorbutic and the Rheumatic may then seek from the Apothecary's shop, that remedy for which they now repair to the Wells of Pitcaithly.

YET, if it should ever be so; I fear, the remedy, however perfectly prepared, would become much less effectual. Medicines, in general, accomplish the purposes for which they are administered, not so  
much

much by their actual operation, as by their influence on the imagination of the patient. But, where most means are used, and the greatest pains taken, there will the highest hopes of recovery be naturally excited. Now, in removing from a distance, perhaps,—to the vicinity of a mineral well, to use its waters, there is so much of pains, of preparation, of difficulty, such a change of the objects which suggest and regulate the ordinary current of thought; that, the imagination is unavoidably much more affected, and more confident hope encouraged, than in the more ordinary application of medical remedies. Besides, almost every disease, under which there can be any hope of benefit from the use of mineral waters, yields more or less to the influence of air and exercise. And, the advantage of these is commonly best enjoyed in a removal from the scene in which the distemper was contracted.

BUT, watering-places have other allurements, beside the benefit they promise to the health,—by which company are attracted to frequent them. The friends of the sickly are often induced to attend them. The diseased who have yet strength to repair to such places, in pursuit of health, are often capable of partaking in amusements more or less active. Others, too, frequent these places, rather because they fear, than because they actually feel,

the attacks of disease. Thus a circle of society is composed. The persons of whom it consists, are idle, and removed from the scenes of their ordinary employment. Their only care is therefore, to divert themselves. They join in such amusements as the circumstances of the place, and the fashion of the Times recommend. When the place in which they have assembled, is once understood to be a scene of amusement, other idlers resort to it, for amusement alone; till that which was the recess of the sick and the melancholy, becomes a region of festivity, the theatre of the gay. Hence the celebrity, and the gaiety of Bath, Tunbridge, Scarborough, Harrowgate, Buxton, Gillisland, Peterhead, Pitcaithly. Those who have been accustomed to spend their winters in great cities, and to tread the round of the fashionable amusements which great cities afford in that season, may retire in summer, to rural retreats, to "green fields and shady groves;" but, in the solitude of these, they are not qualified to find enjoyment: the restraints of Fashion permit them not to return to Town, till the stated period shall have arrived: In their distress, then, they impatiently repair to any scene of gaiety that has a resemblance to those from which they have been obliged to retire,—that affords a crowd by mingling with which, they may forget themselves. Those, again, whose circumstances have denied them the gratification

gratification of a Town Life in winter; yet, to display their taste, to exhibit their persons and their state to the fashionable world, and at least to sip, if they cannot drink deeply of what they fancy pleasure, haste with equal eagerness to the same scenes of summer festivity.

By such means is that assemblage of company brought together, which flutters about our more fashionable watering-places. Hence are places which a stranger who had not visited nor heard of them, might suppose to be, in some sort, hospitals of the sickly and the dying,—rather the favourite theatres for the diversions of the gay. Although the virtues of medicinal waters should come to be despised or neglected, yet watering-places may still continue to be frequented: And if those who visit them for the recovery of lost health, profit not by the use of the waters; easy exercise, and cheerful society may do what the waters cannot.

THE situation of the Mineral Spring at Pitcaithly, the efficacy with which its waters are said to operate, in the cure of the diseases for which they are used, and the accommodations which the neighbourhood affords,—are all of a nature to invite equally the sick and the healthy. Two or three houses are kept, in the style of hotels, for the re-



ception of strangers. There is no *Long Room* at the Well. But, there are pleasing walks through the adjoining fields. Good roads afford easy access to all the circumjacent country. This delightful tract of Lower Strathern is filled with houses, and gardens, and stations from which wide and delightful prospects may be enjoyed, all of which offer agreeable points to which the Company at the Well may direct their forenoon excursions: conversation, music, dances, whist, and that best friend to elegant, and lively, social converse, the tea-table, are sufficient to prevent the afternoons from becoming languid: And, in the evenings, nothing can be so delightful as a walk, when the setting sun sheds a soft, slanting light, and the dew has just not begun to moisten the grass.—Thus is Pitcaithly truly a rural watering-place. The company cannot be at any one time, more in number, than two or three families. The amusements of the place are simply such as a single family might enjoy in an agreeable situation in the country; only, the society more diversified by the continual change and fluctuation of the company. It may, hereafter, become a still more fashionable place of summer resort: and a greater variety of amusements may be introduced at it; and those of a less simple, undissipated nature. I remember hearing a lady lament, at one time, with a degree of pathos, that persons  
who

who visited Pitcaithly, were, by the circumstances of the place, denied all those elegant diversions which great cities afford; and, at another time, speak of it with contempt, as a fit haunt for none but the droufy and the dying. And I had the misfortune to betray my low breeding, and unrefined taste, by expressing a fondness for the sequestered situation, the cultivated scenery, and the simple recreations of this sweet place; and preferring it as a watering-place to those scenes of more fashionable resort, where the dissipation, the follies, the false enjoyment of courts and of the gayer circles in opulent cities have been transplanted into spots which ought to have been kept sacred to rural innocence, simplicity, cheerfulness, and exercise.

It is with real, not affected delight I remember the scenery, the accommodation, and the amusements at Pitcaithly Wells. Yet, upon reflection, I am not sure but that my imagination may have transferred to the circumstances of the place, some part of the pleasure which I owed rather to the very agreeable society I was fortunate enough to meet with, during a few days which I, on a former season, spent there. I believe, I shall not easily forget, how much I was surpris'd to find an accidental assemblage of strangers with all the good qualities, and the obliging manners of a select society of friends. The  
entertaining,

enteraining, convivial anecdotes, and the lively *bon-mots* which I had occasion to hear, might have animated the dullest parties, in the gloomiest season. The female beauty and elegance on which I was permitted to gaze, might have bewitched even a much more stoical and fastidious judge of these, than I. And, above all, I there heard my favourite, plaintive, Scotch songs sung with a grace, a delicacy, a sweetness which rendered them the most exquisite luxury to a true Scottish ear.

HAVING no strong inclination to put faith in specifics of any sort, I did not drink deeply from the Well. I was, however, diverted to observe, that some worthy folks, willing to do more honour to the water, impatient to be cured of their complaints, and in haste to begone, drank in such abundance, as if it had been literally the *water of life*. One honest gentleman used to cheer his heart by swallowing six Scotch pints, in the morning, before breakfast.

BUT, after halting thus long at the south-end of the Bridge of Erne, it is high time for me to proceed on my journey. Erne, though divided from the Tay by no very wide extent of land, and no lofty ridge of hills, is yet a copious stately stream. The arches of the bridge I do not recollect that I counted. In a situation so favourable as that of this  
bridge,

bridge, I was surpris'd when I first travelled this road to find no town or village. But, the origin of these assemblages of habitations and inhabitants depends on so many trivial contingencies, that they are often formed in situations naturally the most uninviting; while others possessing every advantage, are neglected. I am not sure, whether, in sailing up the Tay, the double prospect of Strath-Tay and Strathern can be enjoyed for any considerable way. If it can, the sail must be delightful.

ADVANCING from the bridge of Erne to Perth, we had on the right hand the hill of Moncrief, and under it, on the south-side, Moncrief-House. At some distance on the left, and on the northern-side of the river appeared Dupplin, the seat of the Earl of Kinnoul. Moncrief-Hill is famous as a station from which a spectator may enjoy some of the richest, most sublime, and most extensive prospects which Scotland affords. Turning east-ward you see from the top of this hill, the Frith of Tay, the rich Carse of Gowry, and the populous, northern coast of Fife. Westward appears upper Strathern and Strath-Tay; the mountains behind which the ancient Celtæ retired, before the invading armies of Rome; wide heaths which suggest the remembrance of the hunting and pastoral condition of our ancestors; a variety of houses and tracts of planted wood  
which

which bespeak the residence of opulent landholders; fields where agriculture appears to have tried every art to subdue the stubbornness, to enrich the barrenness, and to cultivate the fertility of nature;—and scenes where ingenious manufacture has seated *Temples of Industry*, from which as from so many foci all the advantages that can animate human activity, and improve the convenience of life are diffused around. There is a track by which carriages drive round this hill; and hither do the company at Pitcaithly sometimes come on forenoon excursions. The views to the north and south extend over Fife, and Kinross-shire on the one hand, and over Angus-shire, on the other. Where the road leading round Moncrief-Hill divides from the highway, stands a solitary church or meeting-house which has very much of the air of a haunt of witches and sprites. Just in such scenes have these beings been represented as celebrating those festivities at which the Devil is said to preside;—and which if the unwary traveller by night happens to detect, he is furiously pursued by the whole assembly, and torn in pieces, unless he saves himself beyond some stream, or within a hallowed circle.

SOON after passing this scene for witchery, the traveller gains a sight of the stream which when the Romans pushed their conquering arms this length, reminded

reminded them of the Tyber. The darkness of the night permitted not me and my fellow-travellers to enjoy, at this time, the beauty and grandeur of this prospect.—But, to me it was even then, not new : and I have seen it since.

THE highway now turns gently towards the north-west : and Perth is seen to great advantage, seated in a plain, on the southern bank of the Tay. On the south, and on the northern side of the town are two beautiful fields, called *Inches*, or rather, originally, I should suppose, *Innises*,—the Gaelic name for an isle or peninsula, or for any insulated piece of ground. These are surrounded, in part, at least, by lines of trees ; and are as well the favourite walks of the citizens, as *greens* on which the washer-women are permitted to dry their linens. Of these the south Inch forms the fore-ground of the landscape presented to the traveller's eye, when advancing from the south, he first arrives within sight of Perth. On the northern bank of the river, appears Kinnoull-hill, towering, in a situation opposite to the hill of Moncrief, and with a similarity of form and aspect, as if it were its twin brother. The river winds majestically along, between the two. Immediately under the town appear the masts of vessels, numbers of which are commonly, either lying in this station, or moving up or down the river.

But, without detailing more particularly the various objects in this landscape, I shall only observe farther, before entering Perth, that the noble course of the river; the magnified extent which its level situation gives to the appearance of the town; the width of lawn around; the gentle swelling of some of the contiguous hills, and the abrupt elevation of others of them; the wood which clothes their sides, or is irregularly scattered over the lower country; the houses of decent aspect thickly spread through the scene; the division and cultivation of the fields; and, in short, the whole assemblage of objects within this segment of the horizon,—have such an effect upon the spectator who views them, for the first time, and has any taste for the beauties of cultivated nature, that, if he has heard of the Roman exclamation at sight of the Tay, *Ecce Tiberim*, he will naturally reflect, that its banks, and its stream, even then beautiful in the eyes of Romans, as those of their favourite Tyber, must now be richer, more beauteous and more magnificent than the desolated sides of that once splendid and celebrated river.

I STILL recollect, that, when I formerly heard Perth mentioned, as in a northern situation, and, in some manner, the *mouth of the Highlands*; I used to fancy, in my ignorance of the character of the circumjacent country, that all around must be bleak-

acts,

ness, barrenness, and wildness. I supposed, that no language, except the Gaelic, could be spoken in these regions; that the manners could display nothing but Gaelic rudeness, and simplicity; and that a long time was yet to elapse, before cultivation and ingenious industry could establish themselves in this quarter. So ignorant, through a negligence of enquiring after what we can most easily learn,—are often the inhabitants of one part of a narrow country, concerning the circumstances of those who occupy the other! I was very agreeably surprised, therefore, to behold the state of this part of Scotland so very advantageously different from what I had carelessly fancied it to be. It was a mixture of joy, of astonishment, and of shame which I felt, when I first viewed it.

ABOUT ten in the evening, or perhaps somewhat later, we reached Campbell's inn, in Perth. We supped hastily. I took leave of my agreeable, and intelligent fellow-travellers; who were next morning to proceed, in the same *flying* chaise; while I intended spending a few days in Perth. I had found them so much more amiable and obliging than any society I had expected to meet with, upon such an occasion, that I could not help secretly regretting, as we parted, that they were my acquaintances and companions only for a day.



## PERTH.

IN Perth I had intended to spend only eight or ten days ; but was unexpectedly so much pleased with the place, and with the society which it afforded, that I fondly lingered here, till I had almost consumed the whole time which I had appropriated for my little journey.

No circumstance contributed more to detain me here, than my acquaintance with Mr M'Omie of the Academy of Perth, in consequence of an introduction to him, which I had been fortunate enough to obtain, in a visit to this place, on the preceding year. In him I found a *Ciceroni*, so obligingly attentive and communicative, that, upon reflexion, I am rather surpris'd that I could so soon prevail with myself to forego the advantage of his attentions, than vexed that I loitered here, till the season most favourable for travelling, was almost elapsed.

SINCE it happened so, and I had opportunities of learning more concerning this, than concerning many of the other places which I visited ; I shall enter more in detail, into an account of the circumstances of this city, than it would, otherwise have been possible for me to do.

No 7

NOT that the reader of these observations is here to suppose me about to begin a minute investigation of the antiquities of Perth; or a painful statement of particular facts concerning the various circumstances of its present condition. I shall satisfy myself with exhibiting those more general facts, as well in the history of its rise and progress, as concerning its present state, which if they do not so well explain particular parts, yet give a more just idea of the *tout-ensemble*.

THE origin of *Towns* and *Cities* depends, as I have already observed, on a variety of accidental and anomalous circumstances. The ford of a river; the cell of a hermit; the inaccessibility of a mount; the protection of a castle; the fertility of a plain; the plenteous fishery on a sea-coast, or at the mouth of a river; or perhaps the vicinity of a regal court, of the household of some rich and powerful lord, or of some opulent and hospitable abbey,—are among the causes to which the rise of most of the towns and cities of modern Europe is to be referred. Rome was founded on the banks of a river; Constantinople is beautifully and advantageously situated at the mouth of a strait; Paris is watered by the Seine; London by the Thames; Venice was raised on a cluster of islets which promised protection to the poor refugees who fled thither from the rage and rapine

rapine of the Gothic conquerors of Italy. Many of the cities on the Eastern shore of the Arabic Gulph owe their origin to the sanctity of some hermits, around whose cells or tombs the inhabitants of the neighbouring country eagerly assembled to fix their residence. Various towns in England have arisen on the ground occupied by Roman camps. In Scotland, Edinburgh, Stirling, Dunbarton seem to have been founded by people who flocked to enjoy the protection of their respective castles.

MANY of these varied circumstances may have concurred to favour the first founding of the city of Perth. A story has been related by some of our ancient historians, and carelessly copied by some late compilers, of a city which once stood at some distance northward from the situation of the present Perth; but being swept away by a flood, was here rebuilt. For the truth of this story, no evidence appears, in the circumstances of the ground where the ancient city, Bertha, is said to have stood, or in the authentic documents of our history. However, as Perth stands in a situation, by which there was probably an early intercourse between the countries lying on the northern, and those on the southern side of the Tay; as the fertility of the adjoining plains would naturally invite cultivation as soon as even the simplest arts of husbandry were known;

as the abundance of the fishes in the river would afford sustenance to people ignorant of husbandry, or averse from the regular, continued industry which it requires :—I should conclude from all these facts, that some sort of town must have been founded nearly in this situation very soon after the inhabitants of the northern parts of our island first began to accustom themselves to habits of settled life. I do not recollect, that any monument, or record, represents this as a place of any note in the days of the Romans. But, it should seem, that Perth had, at least, been founded, soon after the Romans had in their distress, retired from Britain; and the Picts poured down from the northern, and the north-eastern parts of Scotland, over the fertile tracts between the Tay and the Forth, and between the Forth and the Tweed. When the Pictish princes had forsaken the vicinity of Inverness, and had fixed their residence at Forteviot, and perhaps occasionally at Kinross; there might possibly be a Ferry at Perth, in consequence of which it would be frequented by a considerable concourse of people, and would become a favourable situation for the artisan, and the merchant.

WHEN the advantages of the situation had been once accidentally discovered, enow would be glad to avail themselves of them. The Romish clergy had  
had

had a remarkable sagacity in distinguishing the most advantageous situations in every country in which they established themselves, and a wonderful ingenuity and alertness in appropriating those situations; —and, they appear to have had at least one religious house at Perth, at a very early period in the ecclesiastical history of Scotland. I know not that there was ever a royal palace in Perth. But, the establishment of an abbey and the occasional residence of the court at Scone, would naturally have the effect to increase the population of Perth.

As a sea-port, a strong town, and the residence of clergy, it was natural, that respectable inhabitants should be attracted to it; and that its citizens should by their industry, attain to some degree of opulence. Its natural circumstances were such as to enable the burghers to avail themselves fully of municipal privileges, when these came to be conferred. It came to be frequently visited by our ancient princes; and several of the nobility and other proprietors of lands were induced to build themselves houses here; which, however, mean now, would at the time of their erection appear stately palaces.

WEST, and that but a small distance from the present town stood the famous monastery to which  
James

James I. retired, when, in distrust of his humbled, discontented nobility, he disbanded his army, in order to exclude them from his presence; but, was, notwithstanding, murdered with a ferocity worthy of the turbulent, uncivilized manners of those times. The monastery had been erected long before this event; but, at what particular period I have not learned.—Long before this time, the town of Perth makes a conspicuous figure in the Scottish history, under the name of St John's Town. Perth was, I think, garrisoned by the English, at the time when, under their Edwards, they made such vigorous, but fruitless efforts to subdue Scotland. Several of the martial adventures of the famous Sir William Wallace are understood to have passed here.

ABOUT the æra of the Reformation, I should suppose Perth to have been a considerable burgh: for its citizens discovered an eager abhorrence of the institutions of Popery, and an enthusiasm for reformation, by which they would hardly have distinguished themselves, if they had been only a few poor peasants dependent chiefly on the neighbouring landholders. Municipal privileges alone, without trade and perhaps manufacture to give wealth and personal consequence, could never have inspired that fierce spirit of liberty which they then displayed. It is probable, indeed, that they had previously suf-

ferred much from the haughtiness of the regular clergy among them; while at the same time, they might have occasion to see much in the morals of those ecclesiastical lords, that had no tendency to increase their respect for their authority. Many of the remarkable transactions which attended the establishment of the Reformed Religion in Scotland, passed in this city. Here was the rude eloquence of Knox thundered out with peculiar vehemence and success. Actuated by a rage against superstition which his harrangues had inspired, the inhabitants of Perth, and others whom the zeal of religion had, at the time assembled here, proceeded to acts of violence against the priests, and the ceremonies and the monuments of Romish superstition, which rendered all reconciliation impossible between the contending parties. Here passed some of the most important transactions of the congregation.

HERE still stands the famous house belonging to the Gowrie family, the conspiracy of one of whom against the life of King James VI. is still one of the most mysterious events in the Scottish history. The plot must either have been long before concerted,—or else the result of sudden impulse. Either Gowrie must have been watching for an opportunity to get James into his hands; or else the idea of using violence against his sovereign may have been suggested  
by

by the sudden occurrence of a favourable occasion. But, Gowrie was the favourite of the clergy, and of the English, who then intermeddled much in the management of Scottish affairs. James was obnoxious to Elizabeth, as her neighbour, and heir-apparent; and to his furiously zealous Presbyterian subjects, on account of the lenity which he then exercised towards his Roman Catholic subjects, that he might win the Roman Catholic party in England and their supporters abroad, to favour his accession to the English throne. Gowrie was connected, more or less, with the English, and was the idol of the Presbyterian Clergy. It was therefore natural alike for him to favour the views of the English, and to adopt the prejudices of the clergy, —and for them to quash the evidence of his conspiracy, and to palliate his guilt. I am even inclined to suspect, that there might be a double conspiracy of which Gowrie was the head. Upon the late occasion of the murder of the king of Sweden, there was a double plot. One part of the conspirators were ignorant of the combination and the purposes of the others: only two or three of their leaders had communication with both parties. In the same manner I should suppose, that, in the case of Gowrie's conspiracy, there might be two branches of the plot, both centering in Gowrie, and connected with each other, only through him. By his death



the connection was destroyed. Only a few of the meaner agents were discovered. These having had no intercourse in the matter of the conspiracy with the other and probably the more considerable party, could not betray them. They were wise enough to keep their own counsel. They satisfied themselves with ridiculing the tale as false, and with labouring to persuade James, that he had been mistaken when he fancied, that his life was threatened. It seems probable, that Gowrie's intention was either to convey James to England, or having made himself master of his person, to usurp his authority; which he might have been enabled to maintain himself in, through the aid of the clergy.

A FOOLISH story is related by somebody, as a proof of Gowrie's innocence, that he was engaged to partake of a wedding-dinner with the Dean of Guild, on the day on which James came to Perth; that, upon hearing of the king's approach, he changed colour, and seemed uneasy that he was not prepared to give his Majesty a suitable reception; but, was at length persuaded by the Dean of Guild, to accept *his* entertainment, and have it carried to his own house for the use of the king and his attendants.—But, that I cannot see, that the circumstances of this story tend, in any degree, to exculpate Gowrie. It was natural for him to shew some  
emotion.

emotion at hearing of the king's approach, if he had before intended to seize the first opportunity, that should offer, of murdering, or making him prisoner. It was artful to assume the air of being taken by surprise, in order to prevent all suspicion of his purposes.

It is agreed by all, that Gowrie was a young nobleman of high accomplishments. He had travelled, and prosecuted his studies with great success and applause in foreign Universities.

THE contest which followed between James and his clergy, after this event, is remarkable in the ecclesiastical history of Scotland, and at the same time highly ridiculous. James could not prevail with them to allow that an attempt had been made upon his life, or to thank God for his escape. The famous Mr Robert Bruce, with some others, were, on this account banished to England.

GOWRIE House is one of the most remarkable old buildings in Perth. It is now commonly occupied by some companies of artillery. The staircase on which Gowrie was killed; the window through which James when struggling with an assassin, called to his attendants for assistance; and that through which he made his escape, when he fled from the  
fury

fury of the populace, are assiduously shewn to strangers. Gowrie had great influence among the citizens of Perth.

AFTER James's accession to the English throne, the nobles, the clergy, and the municipal corporations of Scotland lost much of their former influence upon the government. The sovereign was, before, but little exalted above them, and was often dependent, in a great measure on their generosity, for means to supply the expences of his court. But, his rank was now greatly elevated, his hands were strengthened, and more ample resources opened to enable him to support, without their aid, the splendour of royalty. Scotland sank into a dead calm. Its civil turbulence was hushed; and the progress of civility and industry seems to have, for a while, stood still in it. Perth could hardly gain, while the rest of the kingdom was losing: Although it seems probable that even then, Perth was of some consideration, as a trading town.

WHEN, after the Revolution, the Scots began to awake to the improvement of industry, and to put forth, their ancient energy of character; Perth was not behind the rest of the country, in taking advantage of the happy consequences of that great event. I know not whether the citizens of Perth discovered  
any

any remarkable aversion from the Union. But, I suspect, that they, no less than the trading towns, found no reason to rejoice in its immediate effects.

By these, I believe, that, while the Scots were gainers, Scotland lost. Its more ingenious and enterprising youth were attracted to seek their fortune in England. Its nobles and richer proprietors of land repaired to pay their court to their Sovereign, to attend their duty in Parliament, or to join the circles of pleasure and fashion. Its foreign trade was absolutely swallowed up in that of England. And, its rising manufactures, wherever they were of a nature to contend with any similar establishments in England, fell before them. Yet, let it not be supposed, that I mean to censure the wisdom of the Union of the two kingdoms. Several of those events would have taken place, in consequence of their vicinity, and of the superior political importance, and the more advanced civilization of England, although the Union had not been accomplished. And, they have been all richly compensated by advantages which this country has received from the Union. In consequence of this event, the opulence, the civilization, and the industry of the one country have become common to it with the other. While their interests were divided, their mutual emulation was expressed rather in obstructing each other's

other's views, than in any generous contest of improvement. Their union has gradually softened the animosity of national rivalry, and left them disposed to contend only in fair and generous arts. Forming by the union, one compact body, their joint political importance among the nations of Europe, has thus been mightily increased. Formerly, they might have been, with propriety, compared to those monstrous human forms which have sometimes been seen, having two heads, and two pair of shoulders to one set of limbs. Now, they resemble one manly, and well-proportioned figure, in which every part bears a just and natural proportion to the rest, and contributes to its strength and beauty. Instead of contending in branches of industry, for the cultivation of which the country enjoys natural or acquired advantages above the other; each has now its proper part; and a beneficial interchange of manufactures and natural productions is carried on between the two countries. Besides, virtue, wealth, industry, and refinement resemble water, in that they always tend to a level: No sooner have they been raised to a certain height in one country, than they immediately tend to spread themselves out over the countries contiguous to it: This is a certain phenomenon in the history of society: But various obstructions, to oppose, as so many dykes, this diffusion of civility: Now, such precisely was the effect  
of

of the division of this island of Britain into two separate kingdoms: By their subjection to the same monarch, this disadvantage was far from being entirely removed: It continued till the union had made the Scots and the English one people; and even after the union, till all had learned to accustom themselves to this intimacy of political connection. How has Scotland been lately enriched by English manufacturing capitals, brought down to situations in Scotland where they can be employed to greater advantage than in England!—

It is not yet too late to mention, although in my haste to look forward to the union, I neglected to introduce it in its proper place, that in the midst of the confusion and distress which our civil wars in the last century spread over Britain, Perth was considerably benefited by the settlement of a good number of Cromwell's officers and soldiers in it. On the south side of the town, there still appear the remains of some works erected by Cromwell. Those of his army who remained in Perth were the sick and wounded who could not follow the rest back to England. They taught the citizens of Perth to improve their modes of life by the practice of several English arts, and excited among them, a spirit of industry.

THE rebel army, under the Earl of Mar is well known to have remained a considerable time in Perth, in the year 1715. There was consequently a great quantity of money expended here, upon that occasion, as well by that army, as by the concurrence of people whom their residence attracted hither.

FROM that period, Perth and the adjoining country were long regarded as of suspicious loyalty. This made Perth a permanent station, in a manner, for foldiers. The citizens, whatever they might gain by the necessary expenditure of the foldiers and their officers, were far from fond of those guests. A squabble would, now and then, arise. In one instance, a dancing-master, I think, was killed by an officer. The citizens and their magistrates fearing that the murder might be over-looked, or the murderer pardoned by Government, neglected the usual forms, and in great haste, tried, condemned, and executed him by their own authority. This, we may be sure, did not tend to make their loyalty, and submission to the laws, less suspicious. Nor was this an expedient by which they could rid themselves of the soldiery.

HAVING been civilized and instructed in several of the useful arts by Cromwell's foldiers; having been enriched by Mar's army; Perth was to owe  
its

its farther improvement to another æra of rebellion and civil war. Till towards the middle of the present century, a considerable number, I believe of the inhabitants, especially of the northern parts of Scotland, were rather dissatisfied under the sway of the house of Hanover. Government, again, were jealous of their loyalty. Industry, was little diffused through Scotland in general. The feudal manners were, still in some measure preserved. The hereditary jurisdiction of the Highland chiefs had no favourable influence on the police or civil order of the country. Through these means was the progress of civilization retarded. The country remained poor; and its scanty population hardly increased. All these circumstances, together with others related to these, contributed to give hopes to the factious great at home, to the exiled royal family, and to their foreign friends, and our foreign enemies, that a change might yet be effected in our government, and the heirs male of the Stewart line re-established on the British throne. Advantage was therefore taken of a time when we were deeply engaged in foreign war; when our antagonists were powerful; and our success various. The latent sparks of rebellion were kindled up into a flame. The young Pretender was persuaded to try his fortune in Scotland: and the unhappy business of the year 1715, was repeated in 1745. The year 1745 was however fortunate to



Perth. The progress of armies, while ruinous to a country, is often beneficial to certain individuals, and to particular places. I know of more than one respectable private family, who may date the rise of their wealth and consequence from the time when the English pursued the rebellious Highlanders to Culloden. Perth was in the same manner considerably enriched if not by the expences of the rebel, yet by those of the loyal army. The eyes of its inhabitants were opened to see, that they might thrive by trade and industry. A spirit of exertion was roused, which has, ever since, been waxing more vigorous and more active.

THERE are only two ways of reducing a turbulent people to order; either by civilizing, or by exterminating them. The measures which had been hitherto used with the people of Scotland favoured more of the latter than of the former of these expedients. A different plan of conduct was now adopted by government. The heritable jurisdictions were abolished; and the lower orders subjected to a jurisdiction more benign in its aspect, more salutary in its influence. The revenue of the forfeited estates was employed in promoting the improvement of the country: and on those estates, improvements of planting, of inclosure, of live-stock, of crops, and of tillage were attempted, which, by their success,

cess, served as examples to invite the imitation of the farmers and the proprietors of the lands contiguous. It was in this part of the kingdom chiefly, that these happy changes took place. The improvements of the circumjacent country necessarily extended their influence to Perth, as a market, and a sea-port town. Although long in the third rank of the Royal Burghs of Scotland, it had been so small in the beginning of the present century, that its inhabitants, as I have been told, composed only one congregation. But, the linen manufacture being now introduced here; and the circumstances of the country requiring a greater number of the common artificers, and a larger supply of the articles of import; its numbers were now rapidly multiplied, and its buildings extended, and constructed in a style of greater convenience and elegance. Since that period I know not that any unfavourable causes have arisen to arrest or retard its progress. And, I suppose, that it never was in a more thriving condition than at present. While the Highlands of Scotland continue to improve, Perth must unavoidably thrive. And it is easy to see, that its flourishing must be of advantage to the surrounding country.

THE streets and houses of Perth are, for the greater part, disposed in a regularity of plan, which proves them not to be of the most remote antiquity.

It

It is indeed true, that the level situation, being singularly favourable to regularity, might, even from the first, give this an advantage over many of our old burghs. Several parallel streets run in a direction parallel with the river, as far as a right can bear this relation to a curve line, nearly between East and West. These are again intersected by others extending between North and South. It should seem, that anciently particular streets were inhabited, each by a particular class of Artisans. The names, still preserved, indicate as much. The shop-keepers or merchants occupied one street: the weavers another: the hammermen a third: and other crafts occupied, in the same manner, each a separate street.

MANY of the houses in that street called the Water-Gate, seem to be very old buildings. Towards the southern end of the Water-Gate stands the famous palace of the Gowrie family, above mentioned. The buildings in the High-Street have probably been often renewed since the origin of the city. I do not recollect that many of them have a very antique aspect.

HERE are still, or at least lately were, I believe, some houses or parts of houses constructed solely of wood. There was a time when masonry was an art far from common among our ancestors; and they were

were even little skilled in quarrying and hewing stones. They knew no medium between huts of turf or loose stones, and castles of strength to resist an hostile attack, the builders of which were often foreign mafons. When cities came to be formed, and houses of decent structure,—neither huts nor castles,—to be erected in them; wooden stages or whole houses were a contrivance which afforded greater elegance and convenience than mere huts, yet required not the pains and expence of fabrics of stone. In those days, our natural woods had not yet exhausted; timber was therefore easily obtained; wood was employed as a material for many of the most ordinary utensils; and the art of working it was therefore more generally practised than that of working stone. Hence seems to have originated the fashion of those wooden houses, several of which still remain in towns, here and there, as monuments of the state of the arts among our ancestors, and of the modes of life which they followed.—Another circumstance which might contribute to establish this fashion in many places, was the scarcity of lime, and the unskilfulness of the ancient inhabitants of this country, after the Roman arts were lost, in forming mortar.

THE Church in which John Knox harangued, still stands, and is now divided into three, named the cast

east, the middle, and the west kirks. The east kirk has not very many years since, been very handsomely modernized within. There is an old hospital, a considerable building, the founding of which is, if I recollect right, ascribed to King James VI. The Town-House shuts up the eastern end of the High-street. Meeting the high-street at right angles, towards its eastern extremity,—and continuing the Water-Gate northward, is George's Street, consisting of new houses regularly built in a very handsome style. At the northern end of this street, and joining it on the western side, nearly at right angles, is Charlotte's Street, built in a style of equal or greater neatness and elegance. A plan has been proposed by Mr Anderson, proprietor of the ground, for a New Town, to be built at a small distance westward from Charlotte's street, and precisely I believe, where once stood the monastery of the Black Friars in which James I. was murdered.

ADJOINING to the angle formed by the junction of Charlotte's Street with George's Street, stands the bridge not many years since, thrown over the Tay, at Perth. The communication at this place, between the northern and the southern banks of this river was formerly by an wooden bridge. This was very unfuitable to the depth and width of the river, and to the throng of passengers who had continual

tinual occasion to pass it. This stately bridge of stone was therefore projected and reared at the expence of about five and twenty thousand pounds sterling. Government contributed liberally out of the revenue of the forfeited estates for the execution of this useful public work. The magistrates of Perth advanced what the Burgh-Funds could afford. A large sum was raised by a subscription. And, the late Earl of Kinnoul, a man whose name is never to be mentioned without praise, procured a loan, upon the credit of a Toll to be levied, which made up what farther was wanted to defray the expence of the bridge. The debt thus contracted has since been repaid, and the toll abolished. This bridge consists of nine stately arches. The measurements of its length and breadth I have forgotten. It is truly a fine structure; but would have been more so, if the breadth had admitted of a foot-path on the northern, as there is on the southern side.

THE TAY over which this bridge is thrown, and on the southern bank of which the city of Perth stands, is truly a noble river. It rises in Braidalbane, on the frontiers of Lorne. Before it has advanced many miles from its source, its stream is considerably augmented by the accession of several small rills. Soon after, it diffuses its waters into a small

lake, called Loch Dochart; and indeed the river itself there bears rather the name of the Dochart. Continuing its course from Loch Dochart, it soon again expands into another lake. Out of this it proceeds to Killin, still bearing, if I remember right, the name of the Dochart. Here it meets with another river which flows hither by a more north-easterly course. Their waters are diffused into the famous Loch Tay, sixteen miles in length. Issuing from this spacious lake, at Kenmore, the Tay is soon after increased by the accession of the Lyon. It proceeds onward in an eastern direction through Athol, receiving, as it advances, all the waters in the country, till at Logierait it is joined by the large river of Tummel. Here it bends to the south, and advancing about eight miles, reaches Dunkeld; whence taking a more northern direction, it continues its course towards Perth; being as it advances, still augmented by the accession of various tributary streams; the most considerable of which is the Almond. At Perth it turns to the south-east, and receiving, as it proceeds, the waters of the Earne, passes by Abernethy, once the capital of the Pictish kingdom. Soon after this, it expands itself to the breadth of three miles. Contracting its breadth, as it approaches Dundee, it there opens into the German Ocean.

SUCH is the noble river, on the southern bank of which, where it has increased into a vast body of water, and not a great many miles above where it discharges itself into the ocean,—Perth is advantageously situated. A person acquainted with the general character of great rivers, and with their influence in determining the aspect and the fertility of the districts through which they pass,—might readily,—without farther knowledge of the local circumstances, than what is conveyed in this account of the course of the Tay, and of the situation of Perth upon it,—conclude the city to stand amid delightful scenery, and to enjoy most of the advantages which natural circumstances afford, for the promotion of trade and industry.

IF Perth and its surrounding scenery present an assemblage of fine objects to the traveller approaching from the south, as he crosses the northern shoulder of Moncrief-hill; the prospect though less extensive, and less crowded, is, however, little less pleasing, from any station immediately around the town.—It is pleasing to cast the eye upwards from the bridge, upon the course of the river. On the northern bank appears a series of villas, gardens, small parks surrounded, or at least partly surrounded with trees, with here and there a little clump of rising wood, and here and there a cluster of meaner



houses. In the mean time, two or three small boats are perhaps paddling on the river; and, it may be, that the fishermen are busy with their nets. On the southern bank lies the fine level plain, called the North Inch, (in relation to the South Inch), white half-over with linens which the washerwomen are busy in spreading out, or taking up: round the edges of this plain, a few of the citizens are perhaps strolling carelessly: trees of a moderate height, mark the line upon the left, where the level surface gently swells, as it recedes southward from the river: beyond these trees, on the rising ground, are gardens, from which the people of the town are supplied with summer-fruits and pot-herbs: still farther to the south-west are rich corn-fields, and, if I remember right, within the limits of the prospect, the enchantingly situated house of Fewe. Farther up the stream, on the same side, are meadows and corn fields surrounded with rows of trees, and partly within sight, several houses of a decent aspect, and seats of manufacturing industry.

If the spectator, still keeping his station on the Bridge, now turn to mark the course of the stream, as it runs on, east by south, he has, on his right hand, a back view of one of the lines of houses which compose George's-Street; (objects, I grant, not otherwise pleasing than by the associated ideas of the comforts of social,

cial, civilized life which they suggest.) Carrying his eye farther on the same side, he has a glimpse of the south-eastern edge of the South Inch; and the eye rests on the north-eastern side of Moncrief-hill. On the river are numbers of vessels of various sizes, to the burthen of two hundred tons. Perhaps the sailors are busy in discharging or lading a cargo; or the vessels are advancing up, or moving down the river. On the north-eastern bank is the famous hill of Kinnoull, which, although, on other quarters it towers up, with a sudden and precipitous elevation, here declines insensibly to where it bounds the river, on one side, and till it sinks, to the north-west, into the long ridge which advances up the river. That part of this hill which is here within view, is finely clad with wood. Here and there are vacant spaces, bearing rich crops of corn. The church of Kinnoull, with some other houses, and a carriage road leading to the summit of the hill are also seen to diversify the scene. Yet, I must acknowledge that, this station is too near for the spectator to enjoy the prospect of the wood to the best advantage. And, there is no very distant station from which it can be seen. I am not sure that the hue of the pines of which it consists, is not too sombrous for the situation. Along this bank, lower than the grounds, clad with the wood, runs a line of houses, which may in time be extended farther eastward.

THE South Inch is another station from which an agreeable prospect may be had, particularly of a part of Kinnoul-hill. Here is less wood, and a larger extent of cultivated ground on the side of the hill, with an happily enough situated house, the dwelling of a Mr Moncrief. The majestic, winding course of the river is at the same time seen, and on its southern bank, a lower eminence, interposed before Moncrief-hill. The stranger may, with equal pleasure, ramble about and gaze around him, upon the other sides of this city.—Yet, after all, it must be confessed that as Perth is seated, as it were, in the *arena* of an amphitheatre, it does not afford the best stations for seeing these environs to advantage. The best prospects in this tract of country, as may naturally be supposed, are to be seen from the towering peaks, and the swelling ridges scattered through it.

THE late Earl of Kinnoul was at the expence of carrying a carriage-road, from the north-east end of the Bridge, by a gradual, winding ascent to the summit of Kinnoul-hill. The prospect from the summit of this hill, although less extensive on one side, is in other respects perhaps superior to that which the summit of Moncrief-hill affords. The vast plain of Strathmore, the famed Grampian mountains, many miles of the course of the Tay, Perth with all its environs, the coast of Fife and the  
German

German Ocean are all visible from this situation. It were endless to enumerate the particular objects which are hence to be seen, or even to name the little groups of connected objects, each forming a fine landscape, into which the whole scene might be divided. Under the shoulder of the hill appears Lord Grey's House, in a snugly sheltered situation; and if not directly opposite, yet within the same range of prospect, two little isles, formed by the windings of the Tay, which, in their relative proportions, and situation, bear a wonderfully exact resemblance to Great Britain and Ireland. Kinroul hill as well as that of Moncrief, and Dunfinnane at some distance northward,—consists of an assemblage of columnar rocks; from which passionately systematic mineralogists might possibly infer that these have once been vents of volcanic fires. I shall not sport an inference upon the occasion. This country was visited, and the mineralogy of this hill examined by the famous French mineralogist Faujas de St Fond. He found it absolutely a treasury of the fossil riches of nature. I did not particularly examine its mineralogy. Yet, I have seen some finely polished agates from it. And I have been made happy by the promise of a collection of specimens from the same quarry of minerals.

FIRTH.

PERTH, as I have said, contained no more inhabitants in the beginning of the present century, than were sufficient to form one congregation. They might be somewhat enriched by the expences of Mar's army, in 1715. But, I suppose, their numbers did not increase in any considerable proportion, till after the events of 1745. I have already observed that from this last period, they seem to have been awakened, as if from a deep sleep, and have been animated with a better spirit of activity.—Their trade had been hitherto very much confined: And, of manufacturing industry and its advantages they had little idea. They might import from England, and perhaps (for I do not here speak with certainty) from the Mediterranean and the Baltic, a few of the more important articles of necessity and luxury; and they might, in return, export some few articles: but still they possessed nothing but a very inconsiderable trade.

THEY were famous for a smuggling importation of wines; which, through the arts by which they evaded payment of the duties, they were enabled to sell cheaper and more genuine than the same wines could be obtained any where else in Scotland.

ANOTHER mode of industry by which the citizens of Perth gained considerably, in those days, was by carrying

carrying their goods, as pedlars or chapmen, through those parts in the Highlands which were far distant from market towns. This species of traffic was sufficiently gainful; for the chapman was always entertained with the best fare, with free hospitality; and had, besides, the advantage of selling his goods at his own price, without being injured by that rivalry which reduces the profits of neighbouring shopkeepers in the same town. The gains of this travelling trade laid the foundation of some considerable fortunes now in Perth.

AND here,—if I may be allowed to assume, for a moment, the cloak, or hood at least, of a commercial philosopher,—I am induced to observe, that chapmen or pedlars, are the great civilizers of countries and nations. We learn from Cæsar and other Roman writers, that the travelling merchants who frequented Gaul and other barbarous countries, either newly conquered by the Roman arms, or bordering on the Roman conquests, were ever the first to make the inhabitants of those countries familiarly acquainted with the Roman modes of life, and to inspire them with an inclination to follow Roman fashions, and to enjoy Roman conveniencies. In North America, travelling merchants from the settlements have done and continue to do much more towards civilizing the Indian natives, than all the Missionaries,

ries, Papist or Protestant, who have ever been sent among them. There is reason to expect, that much may be equally done for the civilization of the natives of New Holland, by chapmen travelling, with suitable wares from our new formed settlements at Botany-Bay.

NOTHING can be more natural, than that these things should so happen. A rude people will hardly go in search of commodities of which they know not the names, the nature, or the value, and which they have little, if any money to purchase. Yet, when such commodities are brought among them, exposed to their view, and recommended as fashionable or useful; they seldom fail to take a fancy for them, and will often give in exchange any thing of however essential utility, that they already possess. They learn to labour, that they may have means with which to purchase those foreign commodities.—They learn to disdain the use of those coarse clothes, or rude utensils with which they were before content. And with the new conveniencies, they insensibly adopt that improved system of manners to which such conveniencies properly correspond. In the stage of the progress of society in which this change is begun, no such alteration could possibly take place, without the intervention of chapmen or pedlars.

It is farther to be observed, for the credit of this most useful class of men, that they commonly contribute, by their personal manners no less than by the sale of their wares, to the refinement of the people among whom they travel. Their dealings form them to great quickness of wit, and acuteness of judgment. Having constant occasion to recommend themselves and their goods, they acquire habits of the most obliging attention, and the most insinuating address. As, in their peregrinations, they have opportunity of contemplating the manners of various men and various cities; they become eminently skilled in the knowledge of the world. As they wander, each alone, through thinly inhabited districts, they form habits of reflexion, and of sublime contemplation. With all these qualifications, no wonder, that they should often be, in remote parts of the country, the best mirrors of fashion, and censors of manners; and should contribute much to polish the roughness, and soften the rusticity of our peasantry. It is not more than twenty or thirty years, since a young man going from any part of Scotland to England, of purpose to *carry the pack*, was considered, as going to lead the life, and to acquire the fortune of a gentleman. When, after twenty years absence, in that honourable line of employment, he returned, with his acquisitions to his native country, he was regarded as a gentleman to all intents and



purposes. When he had purchased a little estate, he commonly made improvements, and set up in a stile of living, by which the taste of the whole country-side was mightily corrected and refined. I believe in my conscience, that at least a fifth part of our second-rate gentry, whose gentility is not of ancient, military origin, may trace it to the useful industry of this deserved class of citizens.

BUT, to trace somewhat farther, the progress of that refinement which is begun through the ministration of itinerant merchants:—When curiosity, taste, industry, and fancy have, by their endeavours, been roused; the purchasers of their commodities learn next to meet them at fairs. By assembling upon these occasions, they become more social in their tempers, they are taught to vie with one another in their manners and appearance, they gain some knowledge of traffic, and become acquainted with more of the conveniencies of life. The time of the fair becomes a period to which their hopes look forward, and an æra from which every one dates some increase or other of his personal importance. Every one returns home from it, too, with resolutions to earn money or to prepare commodities which may enable him to make greater purchases by the return of next fair.

THE spirit of industry and of social intercourse which is by these means stirred up, continues to operate, till yet more frequent meetings for the purposes of traffic become requisite. Markets are next established. The chapmen become shop-keepers. And the improvement of the country, if not impeded by the operation of opposite causes, goes rapidly on.

THIS is no fanciful or ludicrous deduction. The progress of industry, and of luxury, advances by these very steps. Chapmen are undeniably of all that consequence in society which I have ascribed to them. I know not if the Society for propagating Christian knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, had not better employ chapmen, instead of preaching missionaries,—or unite the two characters of the chapman and the preaching missionary in the same person.

BUT, this digression has been now spun out to a sufficient length. To what was above mentioned concerning the itinerant merchants of Perth, I shall add farther, that they used sometimes to find the Highland lairds more willing to buy than to pay. Of one of these gentlemen it is related, that a chapman who paid him a dunning visit, having been courteously received, and lodged for the night in a comfortable bed-

bed-chamber,—was surpris'd when he aroſe in the morning, and was thinking of demanding his money from the laird,—to ſee oppoſite to his window the dead body of a man, hanging upon a poſt or a growing tree. He enquir'd concerning this appearance from the firſt ſervant who enter'd his chamber. The ſervant told him, that it was the body of a merchant from the low country who had come to dun the laird for a debt he owed him; and that, the laird had, in a paſſion at the fellow's inſolence, order'd him to be hung up. Upon receiving this information, our chapman reſolv'd to take his leave of his hoſt, without mentioning the ſubject of his coming. The laird was pleas'd with the ſucceſs of his trick; for he who hung on the tree was only a man of ſtraw who had been dreſſed and hung up, of purpoſe that his fate might terrify the real creditor from making a troubleſome demand.

MANY of the itinerant merchants who travelled through the Highlands, from Perth and its vicinity, after they had earned a competent ſum by their travelling trade, ſettled as ſhop-keepers, and brought a conſiderable acceſſion of capital to enliven the induſtry of the city. A conſiderable manufacture of linen was inſenſibly eſtabliſhed here. The Truſtees appointed to receive the rents of the forfeited eſtates, and to lay them out in part, for the direct improvement

improvement of the country,—among their other efforts,—were at great pains to encourage the culture of lint, and the spinning of linen-yarn. With the production of the raw materials, they shewed a like disposition, to encourage the working of these up into manufactured goods, fit for immediate use. The linen manufacture was accordingly not a little indebted to their cares for its progress at Perth.

AFTER the raising and dressing of lint, the spinning of yarn, and the weaving of linen cloth; the next object was, to provide for the bleaching of the cloth. A bleachfield, the first I believe, in this neighbourhood, was established by a Mr Christie, at Tulloch, more than fifty years since. The management of it was undoubtedly observed to be sufficiently gainful. For, after some time, when the proprietor of this bleachfield refused some small abatement in his prices which some of the manufacturers required; it was determined to form another bleachfield at Luncarty, two or three miles farther up the river; a scene famous in the martial history of Scotland.

OF the ancient glories of this now busy, smiling scene of peaceful industry, I would willingly say something, if I could, with certainty. The story is, that in the end of the tenth century, a bloody battle

battle was here fought between the Scots and the Danes who had invaded their country, and had advanced thus far from the eastern coast. The invaders were defeated with great slaughter. The Scots are said to have been greatly indebted for their victory to peasants of the name of Hay, a father and two sons; who with the yokes of their oxen from the plough, stayed the flight of their countrymen, led them back to charge the enemy, and urged on to conquest. The reality of this event is confirmed by the circumstances of the scene. Artificial hillocks or barrows are scattered here and there over it. Some of these having been occasionally opened, bones, or entire skeletons have been found within them, sometimes protected by rude stone coffins, and sometimes simply deposited in the earth. An upright stone in one place is supposed—but only supposed—to mark the grave of the Danish leader. A particular spot still retains the name of *Danemark*. Another is distinguished by the appellation of *Turn-again-Hillock*: The noble families of the surname of *Hay*, said to be the descendants of the brave peasants who turned the fortune of the day, in this battle, bear in their armorial ensigns, the instruments of the victory, with the motto; *Sub Jugo*.—Such are the circumstances of this story. I must confess, that I am not inclined to receive the whole tale, with implicit credit. Thus much I think certain

certain, that a battle was here fought,—most probably between the Scots and the Danes; and that the armorial bearings of the Hays allude to some achievements, real or supposititious, in which their ancestors advantageously availed themselves of such weapons as the apparatus of the plough afforded.

AT the time when the formation of a bleachfield upon this scene was first projected, the surface was in a very rough uncultivated state. The late Mr William Sandeman having obtained a lease from Mr Graham of Balgowan, of a suitable extent of ground, immediately began to form fields for the reception of cloth, and to lead out the requisite streams of water in a convenient direction; built the necessary houses, and furnished himself with the proper apparatus for bleaching. The Trustees for Improvements &c. pleased with his exertions, and with the judicious manner in which he conducted them, assisted him at different times, with pecuniary aid from their funds: The linen manufacture was then advancing, no less through Scotland in general, than at Perth. His fields were soon clad with as much cloth as they could receive. His profits were considerable. He extended his fields, and employed additional hands. As this branch of his business became more and more lucrative, the scene where it was conducted became more and more agreeable.

He cleared, and inclosed his fields, scattered over them, as the variations of the surface suggested, little knots and belts of wood, and prosecuted his improvements, till he at length rendered this place one of the finest instances I have seen, of the tendency of virtuous industry of any kind, to beautify the face of nature, and to call forth her best bounties.

AFTER some time, other bleaching companies arose, and established their works at Huntingtower and Ruthven. These also have been very successful.

WHILE the manufacture of linen continued to be almost every year extended in these environs, a Mr Macalpine, who had been manager for a printing-company, on the banks of the Leven, in the neighbourhood of Dumbarton,—came to establish himself here. He was a man of a bold, projecting genius: but I have not understood, that his capital was considerable. He obtained leases of convenient grounds at Stormontfield and at Cromwell-Park, formed the necessary works on a great scale, and actually gave a new animation to the industry of Perth and its neighbourhood, and by his own efforts, and by the influence of his example, was changing the aspect of the country. He entered, at the same time while he established his bleaching-works, into very extensive dealings in the purchase and sale of linen-goods.

goods. But his views were too wild and magnificent, and his capital too small. To carry on his business, he was sometimes obliged, I believe, to dispose of goods to disadvantage. And still as his business seemed to proceed, in any particular branch of it, with success, his views were enlarged, and he conceived and attempted new projects. The result of the whole, was, his failure after he had been only about three or four years in business; and that for an incredibly large sum.

BUT, his exertions had already contributed greatly to animate, to extend, and to give a more beneficial direction to—the manufacturing industry of Perth and its environs. Although unsuccessful for himself, he had been eminently successful for the country. A few might suffer by his bankruptcy. But, his greatest debts were due to creditors in England. And I believe that no inconsiderable part of that value which he consumed, had been laid out here, either about the works which he established, or in purchases from the dealers about Perth. He seems to have benefited this place chiefly by expending upon it property drawn from England, for which, in consequence of his failure, no return was made.



His leases and the works which he had formed fell into the hands of other gentlemen ; who, by conducting the business with more sober caution, upon better capitals, and with equal intelligence, make them alike gainful to themselves, and beneficial to the country.

WHILE these several establishments for bleaching were formed, the manufacture of linen continued to be annually improved and extended in its several subdivisions. Greater crops of flax were raised. The seeds were more skilfully preserved. The flax was better dressed. Larger quantities were imported, to make up the deficiency of that raised at home. The practice of spinning was extensively diffused among the inhabitants of the Highlands. The spinners of some districts, as of Atholl, for instance, became more skilful in their art. The looms were multiplied. New markets were successively tried. Cloths of a greater diversity of fabric were prepared.

IN the mean time other branches of trade and industry, connected with these, partook in their prosperity. The preparation of lintseed oil had for a considerable time been practised here : the first mill for that purpose having been erected by John, Duke of Atholl, about the beginning of the present century. Lintseed oil was then esteemed highly medicinal ;

final; and a glass of whisky mixed with half a glass of this oil was a favourite dram. The mills for the preparation of this oil were at length multiplied to four; and the quantity of about three hundred tons, giving a return of about nine thousand pounds, is annually exported.

THE fishings of the river had long been valuable. They became more so, when expedients were adopted for preserving the fishes fresh, till they could be exposed to sale in the markets of London and Edinburgh. The tacksmen of the fisheries pay a rent of about three thousand pounds a-year. There is a considerable exportation to different ports on the Mediterranean.—Three thousand fishes, weighing all together eight and forty thousand pounds, have been here caught in one morning. The fishery begins at St Andrew's day, and ends on the 26th of August, Old Style.

As the agricultural improvements of the country, at least in the near neighbourhood of Perth, kept pace with the progress of its manufactures; another branch of its trade has, for a long while, been the exportation of wheat, barley, and other kinds of grain, to a considerable amount. Tallow, beeswax, dressed sheep-skins, dressed and raw calf-skins, and raw goat-skins are also shipped from this place.

Beside

Beside these, of the staple articles of Perth, white and brown linens, to a great value, are annually sent to London and Glasgow; as well as thread and yarn of various kinds. Considerable quantities of shoes and boots are made here, and exported to London.\*

BUT, even within these very few years, and since the trade and industry of Perth were in the thriving condition now mentioned, these have greatly improved. This has happened, in consequence of the introduction of the Cotton manufacture into Scotland.

COTTON stuffs of various fabrics, were long a very capital article of import from the East Indies. The raw material is there produced in great abundance; and the Gentoo artisans are among the first in the world, for peaceful, painful industry, and for *artificial*, although not for *scientific* ingenuity. Their modes of life, too, are singularly favourable to the progress of the arts. The circumstances of the climate recommend the utmost simplicity of dress. The same circumstances, aided by religious principles and prejudices, and by a system of customs and manners which have been wonderfully permanent in that part of the world,—have formed them to a degree

\* See the Table of the Exports and Imports of Perth, at the end of this volume.

degree of sobriety in life, and of simplicity in food, which enable them to afford their industry much cheaper, than the artificans of any other manufacturing countries can. It must indeed be allowed, that the superior fertility of Indostan co-operates to promote the same ends. Let us consider, how much more labour our own artificans would be able to perform, and how much less they would require for their sustenance,—if they should never intoxicate themselves with strong liquors, should use no animal food, and should consume no part of their time in the idleness of debauchery?—These are precisely the advantages which the manners, and the local circumstances of Indostan have long contributed, to favour its manufacturing industry. And, if, in addition to these, the inhabitants of that country could have the benefit of the application of science to abridge the complex processes, and to improve the instruments of art; it should seem to be a matter impossible for the manufacturers of any other nation to contend with them in the market.

At the time, when the cotton stuffs of the East Indies first began to be plentifully imported into Europe, we knew little of the use of cotton, or of the manufacture of cotton cloth. None of our useful arts had been improved to a state of very high perfection. Those stuffs were eagerly purchased at  
any

any price the importers chose to set upon them; and a considerable time passed before we thought of importing the raw material, and imitating the fabrics, at home. However, as cotton-stuffs came in to more general request, and the raw material came to be obtained in great abundance from the British and French West India islands, and as I believe, also from North America; our manufactureres ventured at length to try whether they could not imitate the beautiful cotton stuffs of the East. Only the coarser sorts of these, however, did they at first attempt. The finer seemed inimitable. Although the fabrics were woven; yet how should they be painted with that elegant diversity of figures and colours with which the stuffs of India were adorned? Or in a country so luxurious and opulent as Great Britain, could labour be afforded half so cheap as in India? —And, had there been none of these disadvantages to discourage the progress of the cotton manufacture in this island: yet, the advantages of vast capital, of the prepossessions of the purchasers, and of the dexterity which workmen, even without superior skill, acquired by long practice, were all against us.

YET, with these against us, was this manufacture insensibly introduced. When it had once obtained a footing, it continued to make its way. Fortunately

hately the same causes which contributed to raise the price of labour, served at the same time to improve the dexterity of our artificers, and to favour the application of science to the improvement of art. Our labouring mechanics have been often alarmed and enraged when by any happy application of science to the improvement of art, or perhaps by the accidental observation of some artist, inventions have been made which served to abridge the processes of manufacture, and to enable a few hands to perform what before required a multitude. But, never was prejudice more unjust; never was passion more unreasonably excited. The chief advantage of these improvements redounds to them. By means of these are our manufactures produced at a smaller cost. They are offered to sale in the market at cheaper prices. We undersell our rivals. The trade falls entirely into our hands. Much greater quantities of the same goods must be wrought up. The same number of hands are therefore employed, although by the improvements, they are enabled to perform a much greater quantity of labour than formerly. And, within a short time, the increased demand for goods which can be afforded so cheap, requires the employment of a greater number of hands, than even when no abridgement of the processes of their art had rendered their labour extraordinarily productive.

NAY, I will venture to go farther, and to assert, that the improvement of the mechanic arts, and the abridgement of the processes of manufacture tend, more than any other events that can happen, to improve the condition of the poor, and are more beneficial to the labourers than to the masters who employ them. When manufactures thrive in any country, without producing any remarkable improvement in the dexterity of the workmen, or any inventions to abbreviate the labour; the consequence is, that the numbers of the labouring poor are, in that country, augmented, but their situation is not rendered much more comfortable. More are maintained in the same state of moderate accommodation and enjoyment in which the labouring poor were before placed; but every individual, and every family are left in the same narrow circumstances as formerly. Nay, if they live, as it is likely that they will, in large cities and villages, the habits of life which they will form, in consequence of being thus crowded together, will have a tendency to keep them poorer and less easy in their circumstances, than the same class, in places where manufactures are unknown. And, the quickness and regularity with which their wages must necessarily be paid to them, will also tend to make them more extravagant, and to keep them always needy.

Now,

Now, the benefit which they naturally derive from the abbreviation of labour by the simplification of the processes of manufacture, and the use of machinery instead of hands,—is this,—that the manufacturing merchants who employ them, can now afford to pay them higher wages, although the necessaries of life rise not in price, in proportion to the augmentation of their wages. When the circumstances of the trade admit of this augmentation of wages, it soon takes place, through the emulation of the masters, the obstinacy of the workmen, and the urgency of the demand for labour. In this way does it seem to me, that the workmen are truly the chief gainers by any invention which abridges the labour of any particular manufacture. I am pleased to see that prejudice fast losing ground, which used formerly to render every inventor in the mechanic arts obnoxious to the hatred and abuse of the artificers whose labour he had abridged.

It was this abbreviation of labour by machinery which first contributed to the success of the cotton manufactures of Great Britain. Wanting the advantages of the manufacturers in the east, and of the importers of their goods, we formed other advantages for ourselves which soon enabled us to rival, and finally to excel them. The fortunate invention by which mill-machinery has been applied



the spinning as well as to the carding of cotton-*wool*, gave us at once, an equivalent to the unremitting industry, the simple manners, the sober temperance of the labourers in the east, to the monopoly of the East India Company, and to the prepossessions of the purchasers in favour of their goods. When, through the use of machinery, labour came to cost so little, the goods produced could be afforded at a very trifling price. Their cheapness increased the demand for them. Finer fabrics were sooner tried, and greater dexterity attained. And, in this order, has been the progress. The princely fortune accumulated by the late Sir Richard Arkwright, the thriving condition of Manchester, of all Lancashire, and of other places in England where the cotton manufacture has been introduced,—prove well, how rapid and fortunate this progress has been.

As it continued, and as our manufactures of cotton were annually extended and improved, the East India Company found their sales of India cotton stuffs every year less and less profitable. They had been accustomed to take many of the advantages of fraud and oppression. Scott, the poetical Quaker of Amwell, has left among his works a fine Eclogue on the distresses which the native inhabitants of our territories in the East, suffered under the tyranny of their British masters, in which he introduces it as a  
striking

striking and undeniable fact, that the Gentoo weavers were accustomed to cut off their thumbs, that they might be incapacitated for labour, and might escape the employment of their British masters. Such tyranny defeated its own purpose, and co-operated with the improvement of our manufactures at home, to render the East India Company, losers by their trade in cotton stuffs. Yet, one consideration has induced them still to continue this importation; uniting in themselves the two characters of merchants and territorial sovereigns; they receive in goods, the taxes which they levy as sovereigns: Thus are they enabled to accept the cottons manufactured by their subjects at a cheaper rate, than they could afford to purchase them at, if they were simply merchants. What is thus lost can be made up by additional taxes. Even with this circumstance in their favour; they have found this branch of their trade so little gainful, that, I believe, they have for these some years, imported every succeeding year, a smaller quantity of wrought cottons, than on the preceding.—When their charter shall expire, it will become our Government to use means that the manufactures of the east may be brought, with no undue advantages, to vie with our own in the market.

Thus successful in the competition with the importers of the cottons of the east: Our manufacturers

turers gained new advantages by our Commercial Treaty with France. Some too hasty and too bold speculations upon that event ended, indeed, in disappointment and bankruptcy. It was natural, that so much should happen, in the eagerness of hope which was excited, and in the ignorance of the parties concerned, as to the practical force of the new regulations of the trade. But, no sooner was the novelty over, and the requisite knowledge of circumstances fully obtained, than our cotton manufacturers began to find, that the commercial treaty had opened up to them a very advantageous channel for the disposal of their goods. New capitals were thrown into this department of business. New cotton works were erected through all quarters of the country. New ingenuity was turned to the improvement of every branch of art connected with this lucrative manufacture. Every degree of fineness of yarn, every different fabric of cloth, and every refinement in bleaching, and in printing were assiduously tried.

I MUST not omit the notice of one circumstance which contributed eminently to turn us, in so considerable a degree, to the cotton manufacture. By the American war, and by its issue, a large share of the capital of the merchants of Britain was thrown out of the channels of trade in which it had been formerly employed. At Glasgow, this is well known

to have been particularly felt. The persons who had found employment and fortune in the management of that capital, were now at a loss what to do. They looked around them. They saw the cotton trade rapidly gaining ground. They joined its promoters, shared the advantages, and urged it forward.

WHILE events and considerations of this nature were producing their effects, the disturbances of France arose, and extended their influence over the Continent. At Rouen the manufacture of cotton stuffs had been tried, and not without success. It might have advanced fast; for the French were never inferior to us in mechanical ingenuity; and the price of labour was lower in most places of France, than in England. But, amidst civil confusion, trade or manufacture can never flourish. The only traders who thrive, while war and commotion prevail in the country to which they belong, are those who import from abroad what commodities of foreign growth or manufacture, the necessities of their country demand. Even they are often ruined by the same events which waste their country: and foreigners supply every thing, as long as unwrought materials or money remain to be given them for their imports. The spirit of political change which, from France, is spreading rapidly through Europe, is indeed peculiarly unfriendly to manufacturing industry. While  
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the labourers swell with high notions, each of his own importance, they cannot submit to labour with that patient, assiduous industry which is necessary to the success of the works in which they are engaged. Frequent meetings for the purpose of political deliberation consume no inconsiderable share of their time. The reading of political books, and conversation about their political opinions take up more. Habits of talkative idleness are thus formed. Tumultuous violations of public order follow. Fear, suspicion, and hatred suspend all labour, and trade. The poor, being, in consequence of their idleness, without the means of subsistence, begin to plunder the rich, to demand what necessaries they want, at their own price, and to seek pretences of crime against all who have property to be confiscated.

HUMANITY moves us to deplore, that this has been the late train of events in France; and that a like series was likely to follow, through the rest of the continent of Europe. But, self-interest suggests different emotions. We have continued to labour quietly, while our continental neighbours have been busy in vindicating and abusing their political rights. And now are they obliged to intreat us, as the inhabitants of Canaan were obliged to intreat the Egyptians,—not merely for bread to eat,—but for raiment also, with which they may be clothed. It

is that has, of late advanced the manufacture of cotton-stuffs, so astonishingly, no less in Scotland, than in England. Scotland having been, till very lately, a much poorer and less improved country than England; the price of labour was, in consequence, cheaper in the former than in the latter of these countries. This invited the English manufacturers to establish their works among us, and suggested to many of ourselves, the idea of trying the same branch of business. The falls of water, likewise, which are requisite to the movement of the mill-machinery of cotton-works, are oftener to be met with in a country distinguished by so much irregularity of surface, as Scotland, than in the level counties of England. Thus has the cotton-manufacture travelled northward, and become more considerable than that of linen in Scotland, as it seems to make a greater figure than their staple woollen manufacture in England.

THIS manufacture, concerning which I have indulged myself in so long, and so dull a digression, has obtained footing at Perth, and has contributed greatly to its advancement, within these few years. Several mills have been erected in its vicinity for spinning cotton-yarn; the manufacturers of cloth have found it more profitable to manufacture cotton-stuffs, than linens: the bleachers who have

long found it advantageous to purchase quantities of green cloth which they sell bleached,—just as millers find it for their interest to purchase corn which they may sell in meal.—Those bleachers find it equally for their benefit, to purchase cotton-stuffs instead of green linens; and several of them have been induced to unite the manufacture of cotton-yarn, with the management of their bleachfields. Raw cotton is imported into Perth, and lately into Dundee,—either directly from the West Indies, or from those ports in England and elsewhere to which it has been directly imported. The merchants of Glasgow, too, if I am not mistaken, furnish the cotton-spinners of Perth with some of their raw cotton. There is, however, more cotton-cloth woven, than yarn spun in Perth: and the cotton-spinners of Glasgow find here a market for some of their yarn. But the manufacturers of Perth are eagerly forming establishments for providing yarn for themselves: and may soon perhaps export, instead of importing this article.—Another branch of the cotton-manufacture which is prosecuted here with increasing spirit, is the printing of cotton cloths. This being connected with bleaching is carried on almost at every bleachfield. The apparatus for the printing of cloths, is, like that of almost every other manufacture not a little expensive. The colours, the wooden blocks, the copper-plates, the tables, the presses,

presses, the drying-houses require a considerable capital. But, the profits are also considerable. I was pleased to see, at different printfields in this neighbourhood, a variety of the most beautiful patterns for handkerchiefs, gowns, and room-furniture. It is probable, that as this branch is prosecuted in greater extent,—and new printfields are forming, and the old extending,—the printing of cloth will be performed in greater perfection, and a more numerous diversity of patterns used, and those more beautiful. A printfield on a very extensive foundation, has lately been established by Messrs. Young, Ross, Richardson and Caw, which promises soon to be among the first in Scotland. Had I not found the different processes of bleaching and printing (which were kindly explained to me by several gentlemen, the proprietors or managers of the works in which they are carried on,) too complex for my comprehension, or at least for my distinct recollection; I should have wished to detail them here. But, this I find it more prudent to decline. Enquiring from the bleachers, whether they had yet tried the use of the oxygenated, muriatic acid, the application of which to the purposes of bleaching, has done so high honour to M. Berthelot; I was informed by some, that they had tried it with sufficient success in the small way, but feared that it might not answer equally in the great; and by others, that they had obtained some small quantities



of the acid, but without directions concerning the most proper mode of applying it.—I was tempted to think that they did not regard with fondness a scheme of bleaching which threatened to render all their present apparatus unnecessary. I am not informed in what extent it may have been tried elsewhere. But, I hope warmly and earnestly that it will succeed. If it does, it will produce a wonderful abbreviation of the process of bleaching, and will thus tend to give us a new advantage in the market, to improve the profits of the bleachers, to raise the wages of all the different classes of labourers employed in preparing cloth for the market, and to counteract the increasing tendency of our growing luxury and opulence, to ruin our manufactures.

I HAVE already mentioned the exportation of shoes from Perth. To this let me add, that Perth has long been famous for its gloves. The vicinity of those parts of the Highlands, in which deer are plentiful, might probably be the circumstance which first contributed to the establishment of this manufacture, as dressed deer-skins are the best material to be made use of in it. The opulence and consequence of the corporation of glovers is a proof that this manufacture is not an establishment of yesterday.

HERE

HERE are also two or three paper-mills. This manufacture has not been very long established at Perth. However, as the manufacture of paper is sufficiently lucrative: and Britain,—especially North-Britain, does not, I believe, manufacture nearly the whole quantities of paper which it consumes; I would willingly hope, that it may be soon greatly extended, as well here as in other parts through these kingdoms. I have great confidence in the activity of Messrs. Lindsay and Morison, the proprietors of two paper-mills, near Perth. They are obliged at present to import rags from the continent. But, as there are wonderful quantities of cloth of all sorts worn to rags here, as well as on the continent; I am inclined to suppose, that the importation of foreign rags may soon become unnecessary. The same preparation of oxygenated, muriatic acid, which has been usefully applied to the bleaching of cloth, is also applicable to the clearing of the dirty and discoloured rags. My respectable friend, Mr Creech did me the favour of shewing me, within these few days, paper, at six shillings a ream, which being prepared from rags in the cleansing and whitening of which the oxygenated, muriatic acid had been used,—appeared to be scarcely, if at all inferior to paper, in the preparation of which this acid not being employed, it must be sold at sixteen shillings a ream. Mr Clement Taylor of London,

has

has obtained a patent for the exclusive benefit of this improvement in the manufacture of paper during the usual time. But, the invention is not originally his. Whatever praise or thanks the Public may think it entitled to, is certainly due, in the first place, to M. Berthelot, and after him, to the ingenious Mr Kerr of Edinburgh, who has taken much pains to communicate these discoveries of Berthelot's to the manufacturers of Great Britain. Let me add, before taking farewell of these subjects, that I have lately had the pleasure of conversing upon them with the Reverend Mr Wilson of Mid Calder; a gentleman, who, being eminently skilled in chemistry, and having, for a considerable time resided in one of the manufacturing countries in England, has taken much pains in the application of his favourite science to the improvement of the mechanic arts. I know not if he has not been more successful than M. Berthelot in the application of the oxygenated, muriatic acid, to the purposes of bleaching. His ideas have been adopted by some very considerable manufacturers in England: and I believe, he would willingly give his instructions to any bleachers in Scotland who might apply to him, in a proper manner.

To these facts and observations concerning the manufactures of Perth, thus loosely and cursorily thrown out; it may be proper to add, that it is furnished

furnished with Banks, the natural attendants of increasing trade. Here is a *Perth Banking Company*, the proprietors of the Stock of which are gentlemen of Perth and its environs. A branch of the *Bank of Scotland* is likewise established here.—I shall take a future opportunity of introducing what reflections have occurred to me on the nature of paper-money, and on the influence of Banks on the industry, the trade, and the manners of a country.

IN order that my good reader may form a proper judgement of the Trade of Perth, I have annexed to this volume, a Table of the chief Articles of Export and Import of this commercial city.

OF the Religion of Perth I was led to form very favourable ideas. Perth has indeed been long famous for religious strictness and religious zeal. I have had occasion to observe, that it was anciently the seat of a considerable number of Regular Clergy of the Church of Rome. Those clergy had great power and extensive property in Perth and in the circumjacent country. Whoever possesses power and property naturally becomes more or less obnoxious to those who want them. When the Reformation began, none were more zealous than the citizens of Perth. This was the scene of several of the events which contributed chiefly to its complete accom-

accomplishment. Succeeding generations of the inhabitants of Perth continued to cherish carefully the zeal of their ancestors. In the days of Charles II. when, in consequence of the Presbyterians being understood to be of a turbulent, rebellious spirit; they were subjected to hardships which they considered as a *persecution for conscience sake*; at that time, I believe, the citizens of this place discovered as much Presbyterian energy as their neighbours. After the Revolution their strictness did not relax, nor their zeal subside. Here originated the famous schism which first divided the Seceders, Burghers and Antiburghers from the established Church of Scotland. If the sect of the Glasites—or Sandemanians as they have been denominated in England, did not arise here; yet they have here, one of their most considerable congregations. A serious controversy having arisen among the Antiburghers concerning the propriety of blessing the bread, in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, before or after it has been broken by the hands of the officiating minister; this has ended in producing a schism among that sect: and the schismatics have here established a congregation. I could not but laugh when informed of the name of this congregation, and of its origin. It seems, that before they had actually separated themselves from their brethren, and while they were concerting their measures,

tures, some of the leading members of the new congregation found it necessary to hold frequent meetings in a favourite ale-house. Like the Germans of old, and like many of the good people of Great Britain, at present, they found it necessary to animate their counsels by quaffing a chearful cup. The ale proved so good an inspirer, and was so agreeable to the taste of every one among those good Christians, that the first comers commonly finished what was set before them; leaving no share to those who were more dilatory in their attendance:—and each emptied the cup to the bottom as it went round. Hence did some scoffers take occasion to denominate those zealous and jovial Christians,—CUP, or rather CAP-OUTS; And the name seems likely to stick to them.

WHEN I first heard this mentioned as the name of a religious sect, I was puzzled how to account for its origin and composition. The monosyllables of which it is compounded, were run together, in the pronunciation, with a degree of nimbleness which rendered it impossible for me to recognize them. I was ashamed to enquire about what seemed so simple and familiar to those who used it. At last, after having, for a while, vainly racked my brain in attempting to trace it to some Latin, or Greek, or Hebrew root, I ventured, with some diffidence to ask

its import, and how it had come into use. My enquiries were satisfied with the above history of its origin.

I BELIEVE, that the whole phœnomena of social life afford no more entertaining fund for speculation, than the origin of proper names, in general. The circumstances which have given rise to them are as various, as the qualities of objects, the accidents to which they are liable, and the aspects and relations in which they may be viewed. Men and families, for instance, have derived their names from a brave, or from a base action, from a piece of good or of ill fortune, from beauty or deformity of person, the son from his father and the father from his son, from a place of residence, or from a place lost or forsaken—Nay, the diversities are innumerable. The names of nations have been, for the most part, imposed in a like capricious and accidental manner. Those of places are inconceivably diversified. But, above all others, those of sects and parties have arisen in the manner the most unaccountable, and from circumstances the most trivial. Whig, and Tory; Hats and Caps, Fronde, Jacobins, and Feuillants are so many instances of this. A person who were one-third *Antiquarian*, one-third *Philosopher*, and one-third *Wit*, might compose a most erudite, philosophical, humorous, and witty work upon this subject. It would be found a mine inconceivably rich in precious anecdote.

I KNOW

I know not whether Perth may not have been the scene of other religious schisms, beside those which I have enumerated. Here are three congregations of presbyterians of the established church; beside one before whom the service is performed in Gaelic: a congregation of Burgher, and another of Antiburgher Seceders, each so numerous and opulent as to maintain two ministers to the charge: an Episcopal congregation of the Scotch, and another of the English communion: a congregation of Glassites or Sandemanians. There may be persons of no religion whatever: But, I know not that there are any other congregations of Christians in Perth. The missionaries of Unitarianism have not yet had any great success in propagating their doctrines here.

ALL these sects are strict and virtuous in their morals. And I am inclined to believe, that in the emulation which naturally and unavoidably subsists among them, they must mutually act the part of vigilant spies and censors over one another. Although none of them be without a good share of liberality of sentiment; yet methought I could observe somewhat of the *Odium Theologicum* to prevail among them. Seceders delight to associate with Seceders; Glassites with Glassites. And, I have really some suspicions, that every one holds the moral qualities of a brother of the same sect in a higher estimation,



than the same moral qualities, in the same degree, in a person of a different sect. It is diverting to observe, too, that each sect usually holds every other sect in greater contempt and detestation than the established church: and, it always happens, that, the slighter the difference, so much the stronger the mutual odium. It is with no small pain, and with sincere pity, that I have found so very respectable a sect as then Atiburghers entertaining the illiberal, uncharitable opinion, that, involuntary renour of belief, with whatever piety of sentiment, and virtue of conduct it may be accompanied, is inevitably damnable. Let it not be supposed that I mention this with any intention of throwing discredit upon the sect. They deserve high praise for having so signally contributed to the instruction and the religious and moral improvement of the lower orders, through all Scotland. Many of their clergy are men eminently learned, and eminently pious. I have the happiness of calling one among them, my old and intimate friend; Mr Black, junior minister of the Antiburgher congregation in Perth; a man of whose worth I will not presume to speak particularly; for I feel myself unable to do justice in words, to the fond respect with which I regard it. For all these reasons, I hope, that the above remark will be considered not as the sneer of an enemy, but as the unwilling censure of a friend.

I MUST

I MUST farther observe, that I have heard from some worthy men of the same sect, opinions unfriendly to Religious Establishments, which I cannot think well-founded, and which I wish were not theirs. There now occur to me three arguments in favour of Religious Establishments which I think irrefragable. I shall mention them; although I cannot with propriety detail them here at full length.

1. Religion pervading thoroughly, as it does, the whole of our sentiments and conduct, has necessarily a most powerful influence on our civil character and condition, and hence demands the attention of that Sovereign authority which is constituted to watch over the welfare of the whole state, and no less over that of every private individual within the state.

2. We see men indifferent enough about religion, as it is, and sufficiently careless of religious instruction; and is there not reason to fear, that, if the state had not taken upon itself, to provide instructors, men, not having always the same incentives to be religious, as to go to law, or to call in a physician, might, in general, absolutely neglect this concern, and spare themselves the expence of religious instruction? 3. It is impossible to bring forward too great a quantity of piety and virtue into society: one means for cultivating these successfully, is to connect the cultivation of them with the direct temporal interests of some class of men; and this can-

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not be wisely or easily managed otherwise than upon some general plan. It is not my intention to write a book of controversy ; otherwise I might add numberless, weighty arguments to these which I have stated.

The Glassite worship has the air of being conducted in a family-way. The loyalty and enlightened industry of this sect incline one to prepossession in their favour. Their religious service is very decent and agreeable, less uniform and monotonous than that of the Established Church of Scotland, yet not so subdivided into minute parts, as that of the Church of England. Their sacred music is good ; I wish, I could extend the same praise to the hymns and psalms to which they sing it. These are indeed rational and pious ; but, they are not dashed with any thing of the spirit of poetry. Their literal scheme of interpreting the Scriptures is certainly not the way to get at their true meaning ; but, it is pleasing to mark the devotion with which they read them. I am afraid, too, that their extemporary harangues do not always contribute in the highest degree possible, to the edification of the hearers.

If I should ever in my life happen to hear the service of the Church of England read in one of the principal churches in London ; I shall not be ill-pleas'd,

pleas'd, if it be with the same happy propriety of emphasis with which I heard it read in the English Episcopal, Meeting-house, Perth.

THE Scotch Episcopal Meeting-house I did not visit. The Congregation, I am told, consists chiefly of worthy, old ladies. The minister is a very amiable, young man, of soft, gentle manners.

OF Presbyterians of the Established Church, I have already observed, that there are three congregations which assemble in a venerable, old cathedral, divided into as many places of worship. Here is no collegiate charge. But, the three ministers pass in continual rotation, through the several churches: so that all the three congregations are alike well served; and every minister may have the advantage of using the same set of discourses, for three successive sabbaths. I had the pleasure of hearing from one of them, one of the best lectures I have ever listened to; although upon a subject so unpromising as the sin against the Holy Ghost.

If the partiality of friendship misleads not my judgment; I was instructed by an excellent discourse in the Meeting-house of the Antiburghers.

I WENT

I WENT also to hear the pulpit eloquence of the Burghers; but have actually forgotten, whether I was pleased or not:

THE character of the Theology of this city is, upon the whole, that of pure and high Calvinism: The ministers are serious, diligent, and exemplary: The people are in general, far from being licentious in their sentiments, or disorderly in their practice. As an instance of the highly praise-worthy assiduity of the Clergy, I am induced to mention, that the first minister of the Established Church, although advanced in years, and tender in health, and for these reasons, accommodated with a helper, by the attention of his people; and although eminent as a scholar, an antiquarian, and a man of taste—an eminence from which it is sometimes painful to descend to the level of the weak, the vulgar, and the ignorant;—is, yet accustomed to appropriate some hours on every Sunday evening, and occasionally on other evenings through the course of the week, to the private, religious instruction of such young persons, tradesmen and others, as can be persuaded to wait upon him.

I MUST confess, that I feel myself much less inimicably disposed to the existence of sects, than many of them seem to be towards the permanent establishment

ment of a national church. Their differences in opinion and manners, and contradictory interests may, indeed, keep up what has been called the *Odium Theologicum*. But, this is simply a proof, that religion is in their estimation a matter of some importance: For it is, unfortunately perhaps, a principle of our nature, that every thing, however pure and beneficial in its native aspect and influence, which has any power at all to interest the human heart, that it unavoidably operates, more or less upon its selfish and inordinate passions, at the same time while it affects its more virtuous and generous principles. Although I am sorry to say so; yet true it is, that the character which has in it nothing of religious pride, or religious prejudice, will seldom have any thing of unfeigned piety, or of regard to the moral duties, founded upon pious principles.

THIS, however, is not the chief observation which I here intended to introduce. I was about to say, that I know not, if it has yet been remarked, in what particular manner the rise of Sects, divided from a national church, comes to be peculiarly beneficial to the religion and the morals of that country in which they arise. In the progress of civilization and refinement, *our Parochial Clergy* are among those who share it most considerably, as to the *refinement of ideas*. In this species of refinement, however, the *labouring classes* never share more than a very

little, if at all. Hence the clergy are raised much more above the level of those who chiefly need their instruction, in enlightened and polished, than in rude and dark ages. In the latter, they are not less superstitious, enthusiastic, and full of prejudice, than the people; they differ only in being more cunning. Enthusiasm, superstition, and religious prejudice, the people must ever have in a certain degree; otherwise they can have no piety. These form a medium through which pure religion must necessarily impress their minds, if it impress them at all. The clergy having, however, in times of light and liberality, rid themselves of all sentiments of this cast, no longer cherish the same in the minds of those whom they are appointed to instruct; but even scorn to address themselves to them.—The people are thus left fairly behind. It is only religious instruction, or religious exhortation of a certain complexion, that they can receive with advantage: and this, in the progress of knowledge and of manners, their instructors have become too wise to give them. Hence, in the first place, the distinction between *popular* and *sensible* preachers in our Established Church: and, in the second, the origin of Sects, whose ministers adopting, or pretending to adopt, all the religious prejudices which stick to those who partake little in the progressive illumination of society, are thus reduced to their level, enabled to  
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command their admiration, and to inform their minds with religious instruction accommodated to their character and capacity. The peculiar principles maintained by such sects may indeed be laughably absurd: But, if they be not directly injurious and inimical to purity of heart and rectitude of conduct; let them be so: Still is the existence of the sect, upon the whole, beneficial: So many more are instructed in religion, by whom it would otherwise have been neglected. The Sectarian Clergy are thus a class who rise up for the religious instruction of the ignorant, the weak, and the fanciful, after these have been left behind, in the progress of knowledge and manners, by the Regular Clergy of the National Church. Their absurdities of enthusiasm and superstition are the incantations, the talismans by which they collect their followers, and retain them about them. Their rivalry of one another and of the Established Church serves to keep up their vigilance and activity. They are censors and checks on the regular clergy, and on one another. While they connect no seditious, political principles, with their peculiar tenets and practices in religion, they well deserve encouragement and protection.—If they shall ever, any of them, be foolish enough to adopt a contrary system of conduct; they must then be checked and restrained.—Let me add one other remark, before I take leave of this subject: It is not



for the interest of Sectaries, to enlarge whatever may be narrow in their peculiar sentiments: This they will be liable insensibly to do: But, as they do so, they imperceptibly desert their proper ground: Their error is instantly perceived: New Sects arise, to occupy their field: They are driven off, and soon melt away. For this reason I think it not bad policy in the Antiburghers to maintain that selfish, damning principle, which I lately censured on the score of its illiberality.

THE extent of this town, and the number of its inhabitants naturally require considerable establishments for Education. I know not how many schools, public and private, there are in Perth, for the instruction of children in reading, writing, and arithmetic; but these are, I believe, sufficiently numerous. Here are likewise several boarding-schools for young ladies. The *Grammar, or Latin School* of Perth has long been eminent among the other similar schools in Scotland; for its masters, and for the scholars formed in it. *Martin*, under whom the venerable Lord Mansfield received the first part of his education, was famous as the *Buſby* of Scotland: rigid in discipline, indefatigable in application; himself a classical scholar almost unequalled; and invariably successful in communicating his classical knowledge to every youth to whom nature had not denied

nied capacity to receive it. *Cornfute*, one of his successors, was equally assiduous and skilful as a teacher, and of milder manners. *Mr Watson* the present Rector-Emeritus, is a very agreeable old man: and the magistrates have been so satisfied with his services, that they have permitted him to retire with a liberal salary. I learned nothing from which I could infer, that this seminary of classical education is not ably and successfully managed by *Mr Dick*, the present worthy rector, *Mr Watson's* successor.

SINCE I am upon this subject, which has always been, with me a favourite theme, I cannot help adding a few cursory observations on the state of classical literature, and classical education through Scotland in general. In most country-schools, Latin and Greek are taught, in common with the other more ordinary parts of literary instruction. But, the emoluments of such schools are, for the most part, too scanty, to invite men of accurate learning, to take the charge of them. The master is, besides, confounded amidst the multiplicity of things which he is usually required to teach. They are more than any one man can be reasonably expected to know very accurately: and although he should happen to be master of them all; yet it cannot be possible for him to pay due attention to the learners in each of them. This circumstance is not greatly injurious

to

to those who, being to be employed in the various labours of husbandry, or in the mechanic arts, want no more perfect education than that which is adequate to acquaint them with the ordinary duties of life, and to fit them for the simple business of their situation. To those, however, who may be intended for learned professions, this œconomy of country schools must be extremely unfavourable. They are taught the learned languages, often by masters who themselves know little of them, in circumstances in which it is impossible to teach or learn any thing very accurately, and within a period of time, by much too limited, for the purpose. The first elements are never thoroughly learned nor understood; the rules are never compared with sufficient pains, with the particular examples from which they are deduced, nor with these in a sufficient number; exercises are never soon enough, or frequently enough required, nor long enough persisted in: the exercises are hardly ever of a nature fitted to call forth the powers of the understanding, or to form them to dexterity in the discharge of their respective functions: notwithstanding all these disadvantages, something might yet be done and gained, were it not that the pupil hardly ever performs of himself those tasks which he seems to perform, but either passes on, without being urged to any thing more, than barely to attempt them, or has them performed for him,

by

by the indulgence of his master, or the kindness of some school-fellow, without himself attempting them at all. In this way, do boys commonly pass their career of Latinity in country-schools; and since it is so, no one can be surpris'd that they should carry away no heavy burthens of this commodity to the Univerfity.

In a courfe of private, domeftic education, numerous circumftances concur to make the matter ftill worfe. The inftances are truly few, in which an education conducted folety in this mode has not left the pupil weak, froward, and ignorant.

BUT, at thofe feminaries for claffical education which are, in Scotland, called Grammar-Schools, much more might furely be done; and to fay the truth, much more commonly is done. It is, however, only comparatively, not abfolutely much. The period during which boys are fubjected to the difcipline of the Grammar-School, being never more than five or fix years, is greatly too fhort. The exercifes are as injudiciously and difadvantageoufly regulated as at country-schools. The principles of the languages are fometimes as inaccurately taught. Thofe Latin Exercifes in verfe are never required, without which it is impoffible for any fcholar to acquire a fuitably familiar knowledge of Latin quantity,

tity, versification, and phraseology, or to form that delicacy of taste which might enable him to relish the nicer beauties of Roman Poesy.—The only advantages of Grammar-Schools are, that, here, the master's attention is more undivided; If himself a classical scholar, and an enthusiast for classical literature, he may teach its principles with greater accuracy; if sensible how much the hardy exercise of the faculties tends to sharpen and to strengthen them, he may, by cherishing emulation, and by maintaining strict discipline, excite his pupils to a wonderful degree of independent exertion in the performance of their tasks: whenever the period of time allotted him, and the established practice of such schools, allow, this he may do carefully and properly.

BUT, so eager are parents to urge their children into the broad current of life and business; and so easy, or so unimportant do they fancy the acquisition of classical literature to be; that they would almost universally regard it as an absurd waste of time, to leave their sons so long at school, as that they might learn to read and write Latin with tolerable facility. Many, too, are the jokes, and sarcasms, and impertinent arguments which have, from time to time, been thrown out against the practice prevalent at the Free Schools in England of requiring exercises in verse. And if one should presume to tell

tell the masters of our principal schools, that they might easily prescribe a series of more improving exercises to their pupils; they would hear the proposition with the most sovereign, indignant contempt.

SUCH being the state of our schools, our youth are, for the greater part, dismissed from them with wonderfully weak, and wonderfully empty heads. They go to the university or to business, with their memory, judgment, and attention very little more formed for their several tasks, than when they became first capable of thought. Of Latin and Greek they have just enough to entitle them to trifle away a small portion more of their time in fruitless and careless attendance on the university professors of these languages. Of the principles of morality and religion they have nothing at all; for religion is no longer taught, nor are prayers said at Grammar-Schools. And of common sense, or ordinary knowledge of life and manners, they have only as much as qualifies them for mischievous pranks, and for dissipation.

LET it not be supposed, however, that I wish these observations to be received without many exceptions; many in favour of the abilities and docility of youth; and many, too, in respect to the wiser and happier economy of particular schools,—and to the superi-

or literature, assiduity, and judgment of different masters,—as well as the better sense of certain parents.

BUT, through the general operation of the circumstances above-stated, and of others connected with the peculiar character of our trade and manners; classical knowledge is undeniably upon the decline among us: and to say the truth, I am afraid, that we are, upon the whole, rather losing than gaining as to the quality and the quantity of *mind* in the nation, at least in proportion to the number of thinking beings.

BUT, I am weary of this carping at the times, and at present establishments; especially as it is likely that I may have but too frequent occasion hereafter to resume it. And I am far from meaning to insinuate, that there is not enough of literature in Perth to do high credit to its seminaries for education. Another and a more recent institution is *Perth Academy*, at which young gentlemen are instructed in those branches of education which are more peculiarly necessary to prepare the learner for mercantile business. At this Academy, Arithmetic; Book-keeping; practical and speculative branches of mathematics; Writing; Drawing; and the French language, form the course of instruction which is taught. The courses are divided into two annual Sessions,

Sessions, each of which commonly fits about ten months in the year. Arithmetic, Algebra, Book-keeping, with the inferior and practical branches of Mathematics in its various modifications, form, I believe, one distinct course. The higher parts of mathematics and a course of experimental philosophy are taught in another. The other branches are acquired occasionally together with these. Mr John Mair, well known by his various publications, was the first teacher in this Academy; Dr Robert Hamilton, now of Aberdeen, succeeded him; whose writings on these subjects prove how well he was qualified for the task. I was delighted to hear many of his old pupils speak of him with the warmest fondness and respect. The present teachers are Mr Gibson, who is rector, and teaches the leading branches; my worthy friend, Mr M'Omie who teaches Drawing, &c. &c. but whose chief department is to prepare young gentlemen for the regular courses, with Mr Gibson; as well as instructing others, who may not have it in their power to attend in a regular manner; and Mr Macgregor, an agreeable old man, who having spent a considerable part of his earlier life in France, is peculiarly well qualified to teach the French language.

THE excellence and utility of this institution, no less than the high merit of the teachers, are abundantly



dantly proved by the beneficial effects which it has produced. The citizens of Perth themselves confess, that, before the establishment of the Academy, merchants books were, for the most part, very awkwardly and confusedly kept among them. Of Italian Book-keeping, the terms and forms of which will long remain a monument of the mercantile industry, ingenuity, and prosperity of the Venetians and Genoese, and of the establishment of the Lombard bankers in England;—Of this skilful and commodious mode of recording the transactions of trade, they knew almost nothing, till they were instructed in it by the masters of their Academy. They are now eminently expert in Book-keeping. It is well-known to every man in commercial business, that more merchants have failed through want of that constant knowledge of the state of their gains and losses which accurate book-keeping gives, than through the influence of any other unfortunate circumstance. To the institution of their mercantile academy, therefore, the inhabitants of Perth may reasonably attribute some part, at least, of the present prosperity of their trade and manufactures.

THE country around have equally approved of the institution, and have been considerably gainers by it. Numbers of young men are sent in, to receive their education at the Academy. It is peculiarly

ally advantageous to the inhabitants of those parts of the Highlands which lie more contiguous to Perth, than to any other town accommodated with a similar establishment. I believe, that the numbers of the students at this Academy continue to increase annually; as the prosperity of the town and the adjoining country advances, as the spirit of trade becomes more and more prevalent, as the advantages of this course of mercantile education are more generally and fully understood, and as the well-founded reputation of the masters continues to attract more general notice.

PERTH is likewise distinguished by possessing an *Antiquarian Society*. This was instituted in the year 1784. The Plan was, I believe, framed and suggested by the Reverend Mr Scott, senior clergyman of the city. At a meeting of gentlemen, disposed to these pursuits, on the 16th of December, in the year above named, he communicated his plan for the institution and regulation of such a society. He accompanied this communication with an excellent discourse on the state of the Scottish history; on the original monuments remaining, by an examination and comparison of which it may yet be corrected and elucidated; and on the probability, that skilful and diligent investigation may yet recover many facts in our early history which are, at present, supposed

posed to be irrecoverably lost in oblivion. Those gentlemen accordingly formed themselves into a society for the investigation of the Antiquities of their country. Their numbers have since been occasionally augmented by the accession of ordinary, honorary, and correspondent members. They hold their ordinary meetings on the last Tuesday of every month. They have one annual meeting at which a particularly punctual attendance of all the members is expected. They have since, on the 25th of January 1787 extended their plan to the cultivation of philosophy, polite literature, and the fine arts in general. And, it must be confessed, that they have prosecuted the objects of their association with a degree of diligence and success which is highly honourable to them, and proves them to have been in earnest when they formally commenced Antiquarians. It is hoped, that they may be persuaded to favour the public with occasional volumes of their Memoirs and Transactions. Perth will then rank with Manchester in literature, as in manufactures.

BUT, it is the misfortune of all human things never to merit unmixed praise. I saw some reason to suspect, that this society owes its institution and its first success rather to the personal efforts of a very few individuals, than to the general prevalence of a spirit of research, in these parts. Except the principal,

cipal, annual meeting, which they call *anniversary*; none of the rest is carefully attended. Many remains of antiquity are still scattered through the circumjacent country, which might be collected and arranged by a society in this situation, with better advantage than in any other part of Scotland. But, this society must ever depend chiefly for its support, on the merchants and manufacturers of the city: and the plan of mercantile education here received, —with all the advantages which I have allowed it, —is not yet sufficiently enlarged, to afford the young gentlemen intended for trade, all the literature which they might receive, without being rendered unfit for business; nor is it probable that the merchants and manufacturers of Perth will ever be distinguished by any strong, general predilection for literary amusements, till the plan of education at the Academy shall be enlarged by the addition of a fourth preceptor, who may give some short, plain lectures on the general elements of taste, history, of moral, political, and commercial science. That time will probably come; unless perhaps the malignant operation of some causes which I shall immediately mention, may blast the growing prosperity of Perth and its neighbourhood. Manchester, although simply a seat of manufacturing industry, and of the trade produced by it, possesses a college, with numerous teachers. The manufacturers of Manchester possess, in general, a greater

greater share of taste, of literature, and particularly of philosophical science, than the clergy, the physicians, and the lawyers of most other places. Their knowledge is not found to unfit them for due attention to their business. How, indeed, should it? The round of fashionable dissipation demands both night and day: but, philosophy and literature are modestly content to fill up only those occasional hours or half-hours which without them might be passed in joyless, listless inactivity. I cannot see why traders, who are, if not the first, at least the second class in the community, should not receive every *real* advantage of education which can befit a British gentleman.

UNDER the head of the literature of Perth, I am induced to mention, that several very decent editions of good books have, within these few last years, been printed and published here. Wherever there is a general taste for reading, books will naturally be produced for sale: and wherever books are printed, or imported and sold, in any considerable numbers; there, by consequence, will reading soon become a favourite amusement.

PERTH has been much distinguished within these few years, by the political activity of many of its inhabitants. In thriving cities, this naturally happens.

pens. The property of merchants and manufacturers being more fully at their command, at all times, than that of the proprietors of the land; while, through other circumstances, it confers less of personal consequence, in proportion to its value; the necessary effect of this, is, that those classes of the community should be moved with a feeling of personal importance, and with an impatient sense of their accidental inferiority. In royal burghs, in which the municipal authority is vested in a small number of the citizens; and those are elected into office in a mode which does not afford equally fair advantages in the competition for power, to all the citizens, in due proportion to their respective fortunes and personal respectability;—this impatience of their political magnificence affects with peculiar keenness, that part of the inhabitants of every royal burgh, who see themselves excluded from situations of dignity and power, to which they see some of their neighbours, not better than themselves, exalted. By the *sets* of the burghs in Scotland, the elections are so regulated, as to render the magistracy almost always unanimous; and to place the *opposition*, (for an opposition there must always be) not in the council, but among the extra-official burghesses. In small burghs, where the number of considerable men in the burgh is not more than sufficient to fill up the magistracy; there is either no opposition, or

the opposition is within the council. In larger burghs, the able and opulent men are too many to leave this possible. And hence, in my estimation, the origin of all the late complaints concerning the unequal oeconomy of the municipal authority in the royal burghs of Scotland.

THE opulence and the population of Perth having increased, within these last thirty or forty years with the rapidity above-mentioned: it now has many more men of ability, respectable, at the same time, for fortune and personal character, than can be at once received into the council, or can ever enjoy a probable chance of attaining the dignity and authority of magistracy, in the course of their respective lives. Hence has a numerous and vigorous opposition been formed, without the council. The magistracy have been vigilantly watched: their administration has been occasionally censured, wherever there was the least ground for censure: and when it was found to be conducted with such integrity and prudence that candour could seldom blame it; the constitution of the burgh and of royal burghs in general was attacked. The citizens of Perth were among the first who earnestly busied themselves about the Reform of the Royal Burghs. When the opposition in parliament laid hold of this, as a fit subject on which they might exert their eloquence

to embarrass the national administration ; the society for a burgh-reform in Perth were not backward to accept their patronage.

As the spirit of revolution and equalization arose on the continent, overturned repeatedly the established government of France, and extended its influence through Flanders, and even into Britain ; the Reformers of Perth began to enlarge their sphere of political vision. They now thought that they saw, with others of their countrymen, defects and blemishes in the constitution of the whole British government, which needed reform, no less than those which had offended them in the *sets* of their own, and the other royal burghs in Scotland. A *Society of Friends of the People* was formed here, in the course of last summer. They have adopted principles which favour strongly of republicanism. And it must be confessed, that they have shewn little less ardour to obtain political reform, than that with which their ancestors, some centuries since, prosecuted religious reformation,

To the circumstances already mentioned, as having contributed to excite this political ferment in Perth, I will here add two or three others which seem to have co-operated to the same end. Of all those who earn their subsistence by their daily la-



bour, the workmen in manufactories are the most independent. Receiving their wages weekly, they thus feel themselves, on every Saturday night, rich and free from the controul of their masters. This naturally inspires them with a spirit of freedom, and conscious dignity, extraordinary for persons in their narrow circumstances. They are thus inclined to turbulence and licence. The regular, sedentary labour of weavers in companies together, gives them opportunities of conversation, which the artificans of several other mechanic arts enjoy not. With opportunities of frequent social converse, a turn for enquiry naturally connects itself. The news of the day are the readiest for an inquisitive temper. The news which respect the state of the nation are to most minds more interesting than those which relate to events in private life. The eye is thus earnestly fixed on the course of public affairs: and in this manner, an inquisitive spirit, arising from the peculiar circumstances of social and sedentary labour, combines with the spirit of turbulent independence produced by weekly freedom and opulence, to render even the labouring artificans of Perth ardent and active politicians.—The religious zeal and pride, likewise, which arise from the mutual emulation of different religions, are apt to extend their operation beyond their proper sphere, and to blend themselves with political, no less than with religious prejudices.

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And these have undoubtedly had their share in promoting that desire of reforming the state which seems to be, at present, felt with such violence by great numbers of the citizens of Perth. This place, it should seem, has also retained a mixture of the old *leaven* which rendered it, in the days of the Reformation, the favourite scene of the transactions of the Congregation, and which has since excited occasional ferments among its citizens, and in the neighbourhood.

By the joint influence of all these causes, have the manners of the inhabitants of Perth been formed. Depending upon the success of their trade and manufactures, they are *active* and *industrious*. They encourage few of those amusements which are formed to kill and *while away* the time of the idle: although their two *Innises* afford charming walks; and although the winding walk which leads up the hill of Kinnoul, be one of the most inviting that can be imagined, and the prospect from the summit beyond description, rich and grand; yet are these comparatively little frequented by the good people of Perth. A set of players came last Spring, to try their fortune in this city, and lingered in it for several months, till they were almost starved, through the scanty encouragement given them, which became every day, less and less. Here are dancing and card-  
assemblies

assemblies held in winter, after regular intervals; and to the praise of the ladies and gentlemen of the city, it must be confessed, that every thing about these meetings for gay amusement is conducted with a degree of *religious* gravity and decorum. In their mode of living, however, it must be allowed, that the citizens of Perth are sparing of nothing but their time. Their houses are commodious: their furniture neat and elegant: their dress sufficiently expensive: their meat and wines of the best quality: their dinners are at an early hour, and are not commonly prolonged through the afternoon; but at supper, when the business of the day is ended, they are more disposed to indulge for some length of time, in social converse. I know not whether I ought to hazard the observation; but I have been led to think, that their commendable parsimony of *time*, while they at the same time refuse themselves no reasonable expense in their style of living, has a tendency to make not only the worthy citizens of Perth, but almost all mercantile and manufacturing people,—more addicted to the pleasures of the table, than if they were fonder of those more frivolous amusements which consume time and dissipate the mind without being absolutely animal.—No doubt, the good people of this place must have their vicious indulgences, as well as others. But, vice does not here wear that air of effrontery, which it has assumed in many other  
other

other cities. The regular habits of trade, and the strictness of religion concur to render young and old, in general, careful to maintain remarkable decency of character. A young man who should distinguish himself by extraordinary foppery of dress, by excessive drinking, or by licentious amours, would soon find himself excluded from all respectable society, and avoided in the transactions of business, as a man unfit for the confidence of trade. And yet, here have occasionally arisen some eminent *bloods*. Some remarkable frolics at Dundee and Edinburgh which were esteemed to rise above the spirit of the gay young men even of those cities,—were actually performed by *bucks* from Perth; who taking post-chaises by night, drove furiously to the respective scenes of the exploits, executed their intentions with intrepidity and dexterity, and then returned in the same haste to Perth; which, reaching before the morning, they escaped all detection, and thus left the good people of Edinburgh and Dundee to wonder who had performed such hardy enterprizes, and the *bloods* of those cities to admire, that they themselves were thus outdone upon their own grounds. But, such instances are rare.

THESE are most of the observations which I had occasion to make on this place, and on the employments and manners of its inhabitants. I shall only  
add,

add, that, although Perth being situated at the *mouth* of the Highlands, supplies great numbers of recruits for the army; yet, through various circumstances, the citizens of Perth have been led to conceive an aversion to the soldiery their which renders, residence particularly disagreeable to the officers.

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*PERTH TO DUNKELD:*

AT Perth I lingered week after week, pleased with the place and its inhabitants, and hoping that the almost unintermitted rains which had prevailed through Summer, and through the former part of Harvest, might terminate, at length in a series of fair weather, more favourable for travelling. When only a short while remained for me to prosecute my little jaunt, before the return of winter, I resolved no longer to await a favourable vicissitude of the weather, but proceed through the west Highlands, to whatever storms I might be exposed.

TOWARDS the beginning of October, therefore, I left Perth, on horseback, and unaccompanied by any friend whose social converse might have withdrawn my attention from the scenes I went to view. Dunkeld was the first object in my route. The road lay along the western bank of the Tay; leading

leading through a country for some miles in a high state of cultivation. I had, under my eyes, as I proceeded, those seats of manufacturing industry which I have already mentioned as being numerous in the vicinity of Perth. It occurred to me, as I advanced, that the environs of Perth had not yet assumed that ornamented aspect which distinguishes the country immediately surrounding the greater cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow. The state of towns and villages always extends its influence over the neighbourhood, within a certain sphere. The inhabitants of a village have their kitchen gardens and parks or crofts, with small spots of meadow, to afford winter-fodder to their cattle. Where the town or village is of some considerable size, the sphere through which it spreads cultivation, becomes more extensive: the adjacent farms, as well as the small possessions of the town's folk or villagers, are more carefully cultivated than they otherwise would be; and in a way to furnish articles of living to the town or villages.—Again, when such a place becomes the seat of trade or manufactures, and its wealth and population are rapidly augmented; establishments for industry, connected with those in the town, are naturally formed through the neighbouring country; and it becomes a busy scene of the mingled labours of manufacture and agriculture. About this period in the progress of a city, or per-

haps after it has advanced somewhat farther, its more opulent inhabitants begin to display their wealth, and gratify the taste for rural enjoyment which confinement in a town naturally gives them, by forming villas through the environs. Hence are farm-houses, seats of manufactures, and villas of the richer citizens mingled over the scene in the prettiest confusion imaginable. Thus far nearly, but not farther have the environs of Perth been cultivated and adorned. The houses of some country-gentlemen stand in its near neighbourhood. Some of the citizens have begun to gratify themselves with their villas. But, the bleachfields and cotton-works, with the little hamlets inhabited by the labourers at these, give its chief decorations to this tract of ground.

As I advanced, the scenery became more and more bleak around me. I was proceeding beyond the sphere of cultivation. Towards the river, indeed, where the land was naturally fertile enough to tempt even sloth to labour, the crops were rich; and late as it was in the year, they were not yet all cut down. On the other hand, the fields were mossy, and brown with heath, except here and there, where the improvements of the plough had been tried, that the corn still stood with a green yet withered aspect; or having been cut down, was  
built.

built up in pigmy flocks. On the left was Birnam, which could not now afford to send a very powerful detachment of its trees to Dunfinnane. At a great distance may be perceived a high ridge of hills on which some remains of the famous fortress, which was Macbeth's castle are said yet to exist.

IN a lonely part of the road, at some distance from any habitations, I was surprised to meet a venerable, old man, who, by his looks, might be about the age of eighty. He wore a grey cloak, a large, brown wig, and a blue bonnet on his head. He had a staff in his hand. There was in his countenance a mingled expression of mildness and dignity. His whole aspect recalled to my remembrance, those old Scotchmen of whom Taylor, the water-poet, in the account of his Journey into Scotland, speaks, as men, who, notwithstanding the plainness of their dress, possessed great wealth, and would receive scores of men with the most liberal, plenteous hospitality. While my imagination was thus employed, and at every new stroke of her pencil, was raising my veneration for the old man, I came up to him, for he was approaching to meet me on the road, and was astonished to hear him, with his bonnet in his hand, ask my charity. My respect for his appearance was not diminished by this confession of his poverty: but I was struck with something like rising



horror at the inconsistency between his appearance and his condition. I answered his request with tenderness and respect, and readily gave the very scanty pittance which my circumstances could afford.

At the distance of some miles is an hospital founded by an ancestor of Sir John Stewart of Grandtully, for the maintenance of a certain number of the poor of this neighbourhood. It seems not to be inhabited: and I learned, upon enquiry, that the pensioners of this house did not always chuse to reside in it, but lived with their friends, and there enjoyed more comfortably the benefit of the small pensions which had been assigned them by the same benevolent benefactor who provided this house for their habitation.

NEAR Dunkeld, the hills tower over the traveller, with an awfully precipitous aspect. The road leads through a pass where an handful of men might arrest the progress of a great army. Wood is scattered over the bases of some of the hills. The summits are black and craggy. On the right hand runs the Tay, with a full majestic stream which is sometimes visible to the eye; while at times imagination is left to mark out its course. Close on the opposite side appears the house of Murthly, seemingly hid

hid in a sequestered nook, in an angle formed by the junction of two hills near the river. It was evening when I passed here. The scenery was new to me; for I had never before visited any place of which I could remember the outline and aspect to have borne a near resemblance. Its features being only half seen, and with the gloom of evening hanging over them, impressed my imagination more forcibly than they might otherwise perhaps have done. I began to reflect that I was entering the land of Ossian's heroes; the land which presented those few simple, grand, and gloomy objects which gave a melancholy cast to the imagination of the poet, and supplied that sublime, but undiversified imagery which forms one of the most peculiar characteristics of the ancient Gaelic poetry.

WHILE my imagination was thus connecting the scenery around me with some of the most favourite subjects of my reading, I approached the ferry below Dunkeld. The Tay runs here with a deep and rapid current, after bending from a south-western to a north-eastern direction by a fine *sweep* which it makes immediately above. Near the southern station of the ferry-boat grow two vast elms; the girths and age of which I enquired, but either obtained no distinct information upon this head,—or,  
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if I did, it has escaped me.—A very ancient tree remaining withered, is a truly noble object. It carries the imagination backward from generation to generation of the human race, to the hands that planted it, or the eyes which saw its first verdure. It suggests ideas of strength, not savage, but gentle and beneficent, and of grandeur not terrible but amiably sublime. It is the pride of the vegetable world, as the lion and the elephant among quadrupeds, the eagle and the condor among birds, the the hero and the sage among men. With such an object does the human imagination easily associate all those events, those feelings, and those ideas which the memory is best pleased to recollect. Some of the most amiable of men have expressed a fondness of attachment to trees which they had been accustomed to view, or under whose shade they had been wont to loiter, finely expressive of the gentle sensibility of their hearts. Many trees will live and grow to a wonderful age and size. In the Marquis of Lothian's park, at Newbottle, are an ash or two, among a number of other fine trees, which have grown to the height of an hundred and twenty feet, and a beech measuring, in girth, more than twenty feet. The bark of this beech-tree is inscribed with the initials of the names of many who have visited it, with the addition of the year on which the inscription was carved out. I have observed some of  
these

these inscriptions dated as far back as the year 1732, which were very little deepened, or closed up by the subsequent increase of the girth of the tree, although it is still fresh, and must have continued to increase since that period: From this fact, it is natural to infer, that a tree which grows so slowly, yet is at present so vast, must undoubtedly have grown through a long series of years. Among the wonders of Mount Ætna are some chestnut-trees of astonishing size. But the most remarkable of them all is called the *Chestnut-tree of the hundred horses*. Under its shade an hundred men on horseback are easily sheltered from a storm: its trunk now hollow, through the decay of age, affords a capacious temporary abode for a considerable number of men together.

THE rapidity of the stream at this ferry, renders it impossible for the boatman to carry passengers directly over. In spite of every effort, the strength of the current, where its force is greatest, hurries the boat a small way down, between each successive stroke of the oars; and by the time when the most impetuous part of the stream is passed, it has become necessary to row upwards. It has been proposed to throw a bridge over the Tay at Dunkeld: And I should think that the advantages which must unavoidably result from the measure, would very soon repay

repay the necessary expence. The intercourse between the North Highlands and the Low Country is necessarily great. Even travellers on foot are considerably retarded and exposed by the circumstances of the ferry. Passengers with horses are still more so. But, for cattle and carriages of all kinds the labour and inconvenient delay must be exceedingly troublesome. None would refuse to pay for the passage by a bridge, what is now levied as the dues for the ferry: for every passenger would, after all, be a considerable gainer by the exchange. The intercourse thus facilitated, in this line of communication would soon become much more frequent; and the mutual improvement of the Highlands, and of that part of the low country immediately adjacent, would naturally follow. We have lately seen many noble, public works executed by subscription, where the sum subscribed was a free gift,—not a loan, or the purchase-money of an annuity. But, should a bridge be built over the Tay, at Dunkeld, by subscription; the tolls (which ought for a while to be the same as the dues of the ferries) would, even at first I should suppose, prove adequate to the payment of a reasonable interest of the whole money contributed towards the erection of the bridge: And, as the intercourse, in this way, should become more frequent; the amount of the tolls would, within a few years, become so much more considerable, as to discharge  
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the whole of the principal debt, and leave the passage of the bridge free, except for some small trifle, to be expended upon such occasional repairs as it might require. Independently of these prospects; every landholder through the circumjacent country; and every farmer, merchant, or manufacturer whose business interests them in the intercourse between the Low Country and the Highlands—may reflect, that the erection of such a bridge would contribute to raise the value of the contiguous lands, and to enliven industry and trade in such a manner as might more than compensate for any direct loss or disadvantage which they might sustain (if loss or disadvantage there were) in becoming subscribers to defray the expence.

LET me add, that, if it cannot be otherwise accomplished, this object seems to be not unworthy of the attention of Government. The first care of every Government ought ever to be,—not to suffer the state of the Society, over which it presides, to become worse: the next, to improve it as fast as possible. Where this improvement can be effected by secretly seconding the natural operation of circumstances, it is well; the direct, ostensible intervention of Government will there be unnecessary and improper. But when circumstances are not powerful enough to operate by themselves; then, let Government put forth its

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hand,—if the improvement in view promise to be considerably beneficial to the whole society, or even to any part of it. In this spirit, and upon these principles has the British Government acted in the establishment of colonies, at a great expence to the nation; in the granting of bounties, drawbacks, and præmia upon various branches of trade and manufacture; in the institution of a board of Trustees in Scotland, to watch over the improvement of the country, and to apply appropriated funds to this end. In the same spirit have sums of the public money been granted, at various times, to promote the accomplishment of works partly of a private, partly of a public nature, both in Scotland and in England. Where such attentions of the legislature and the executive Government have produced their full effect; the spirit of improvement and of industry has been there sufficiently roused, to remove the necessity of the farther direct interference of the guardians of the national welfare. Thus relieved from the necessity of applying in all places of the empire that fostering care which has already reared some branches of trade and industry to a great degree of vigour; Government find leisure, not to relax their cares, but to turn them elsewhere. *The Highlands of Scotland* are now perhaps the largest tract of unimproved country, susceptible, in various respects of high improvement,—that the extent

tent of the island of Great Britain affords. They have not within themselves, sufficient energy or opulence to carry on their own improvement. Government have wisely and earnestly seconded the efforts of individuals, and of private companies towards this end. By no other means however, will the improvement of the Highlands be more rapidly promoted than by favouring their increasing intercourse with the Low Country. The bridge of which I have been talking, would, in my estimation at least, contribute essentially to this: and it may surely be hoped, then, that, if the efforts and interests of private persons shall not accomplish a purpose which requires no enormous expence, and promises considerable benefit to the country; an upright and enlightened Government will, in due time, lend its aid.

If I have dwelt too long upon the subjects of trees and of bridges, I must beg leave to plead in apology, that, the difficulty of the passage by this ferry, in the dusk of evening, with horses in the boat,—was such as to dispose the mind to hang as long as possible upon the last agreeable objects that had been presented to it, and to meditate with peculiar seriousness on the means of removing the inconvenience which I here experienced.



## DUNKELD.

THE village of Dunkeld stands close upon the north-east side of the river, at a very small distance above the Ferry. It is of narrow extent, and by the aspect of the houses and the contiguous ground, seems to be rather diminishing, than increasing. Its situation is of that character, which is, with propriety, called *romantic*. But, since all the world have become judges and admirers of beautiful scenery, this term *romantic* has become almost the only one which is used to express admiration of the beauties of the face of rural nature. A wood is *romantic*; a bare plain, equally so; an old ruin hid among trees spreading out their roots and branches in fantastic figures, is exquisitely *romantic*; a modern house seated in an open lawn, when seen in certain points of view, is honoured with the same epithet: a hill is *romantic*; and so also is a wide and bleak heath: Lakes, rivers, rivulets, pools, waterfalls, are all, without exception, *romantic*. Nay there is hardly any mode of beauty or sublimity in landscape that is not occasionally dignified or disgraced with the appellation of *romantic*, by some ignorant pretender to taste. It is not difficult to trace the means by which this word has been advanced into fashion. The time was, when *romances*, filled with a peculiarly refined, lofty, and notwithstanding these qua-

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ities, in some instances simple system of morals, manners, scenery, and incidents, held that place in the estimation of the gay and the idle,—which is now occupied by novels. The scenery particularly, which was described in those works of fiction, was of a character of wild sublimity, or fanciful beauty, such as bore little or no resemblance to either the beauty or the sublimity marking the scenery of cultivated regions. Still, however it was of a nature to move the feelings, and to excite and keep up the play of imagination. The fond readers of romances learned to admire it with an extravagance of delight. Even before that species of *gardening* which alone of all the styles of this art which have ever been prevalent, is the *improving*, not the *marring* of the charms of the face of nature ;—even before this truly elegant art, which is peculiarly our own, was cultivated in any perfection among us ; that scenery which the writers of romance delighted to frame, was generally admired. Beside that particular species of scenery, any scenes which had a tendency to withdraw the mind from the associations of real life, and to carry the imagination to rove through *Fairy-land*, and to call up her own wild creations, were, with little impropriety, ranked in the same class of *romantic* scenery. In the progress of *English Gardening*, the designers in this art (the great principles of which are, to chuse scenes that are naturally the most susceptible  
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of simple decoration; to superinduce upon these, none but ornaments suited to their character; and when scenes little susceptible of decoration, and of no marked character, must, however, be ornamented, to give them such ornaments, as they may be most easily clothed in,—as promise to be most permanent,—and as will, at the same time, best accord with the scenery of the environs) seeking to combine, in their works, every species and every modification of natural or imaginary beauty in landscape,—have frequently tried to ornament or to create the *romantic*. But seldom have the efforts even of the most eminent of these artists, although in places the most advantageous, been, in any reasonable measure, successful in creating this species of beauty, or ornamenting and improving it, without injury to its native character, where it before existed. The familiarly beautiful, the artist may adorn and improve. But, whenever he attempts the sublime, his endeavours will commonly produce a pygmy, the burlesque of that which he intended to exhibit. And, when he tries to bring together a wild and fanciful assemblage of the mingled features of the sublime and the beautiful; his production hardly ever turns out to be any thing better than quaint conceit. Hence appears the absurdity of applying the term *romantic* to almost every fine feature whether of natural, or of ornamented landscape. And,  
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if I were impowered to speak with cenforial authority; I fhould certainly forbid all ladies and gentlemen who do not underftand the meaning of this word, to expofe their ignorance and affectation to ridicule by the frequent ufe of it.

BUT, the fituation and fcenery of Dunkeld muft be confefled to be truly romantic. The buildings in their ftructure, and arrangement wear an antique afpect. The ruins of an ancient cathedral occupy a large fpace towards the north-eaft end of the ftreet. The Tay runs fo immediately under the line of the village upon one fide, that it could not poffibly be there enlarged by the addition of another line of houfes. Beyond the winding of the river appear hills with wood fcattered upon their declivities, and fcantily fkipted with a border of plain, fertile, ground. Hills rife around, in the utmoft irregularity of difpofition, and having their fides or fummits here and there fringed with young wood. All the level ground, befide that on which the village ftands, and that part which is occupied by the Cathedral, is but a very narrow tract. In one divifion of it ftands the Duke of Atholl's houfe, with a very narrow lawn around it. The other is a park filled chiefly with aged and tall pines, and with other trees of a correspondent character. All in thefe fcenes that bears any obvious impreffion of human art is of a grand,

grand, venerable, and antique cast: All those features which have been left nearly as nature formed them, are of nature's boldest, rudest, most fantastic workmanship. Even where art has, more lately tried to soften the harshnesses of the natural features; their stubborn, awful grandeur has been so invincible, that the labours of art have not here ended, as they often unintentionally do, in reducing Greatness to Littleness.

ARRIVING late in the evening, at Dunkeld, I did not go out, till the next forenoon, to view the surrounding scenery. A heavy rain had fallen through the whole morning, and was even then continuing to fall. It was so late in the season, too, that the woods had begun to assume a more melancholy aspect: their shades were now lighter and thinner: the withering leaves exhibited a much greater diversity of colour, than in the green luxuriance of spring and early summer. It was sabbath; and I had been hearing, before I went out, an eloquent and affecting sermon "on our prospects of a future state of retribution." The combination of all these circumstances wrought my mind into a calm, solemn, and pensive frame, suitable to the character of the scenery through which I went out to stray. Entering the park which I have mentioned as filled with a fine assemblage of lofty, venerable trees, I was conducted

ted upon the northern bank of the river to a ferry, which is within the compass of the Duke of Atholl's ornamented grounds, here, and at some distance above the ferry by which I had passed, on the preceding evening, in entering Dunkeld. We were ferried over, and passed, by walks artificially formed, sometimes leading on in a line near the river, and sometimes diverging from it, through wood, corn-fields, and shrubbery, disposed over ground of extreme irregularity of surface. Thus was I conducted to the banks of the *Bran*, whose torrent pours down with furious impetuosity, which is still irritated and increased by the opposition of the huge stones, which rise here and there in its channel, and impede its course. This river, the gloomy aspect which the season and the inclemency of the weather communicated even to the most cultivated parts of the landscape, and the appearance of frowning crags above, wherever the eye was raised,—frowning even where they were thinly shaded with young wood,—joined all together in producing the full effect that could be wrought upon the imagination and the feelings by scenery the most gloomily *romantic*. When I understood therefore that we had approached near to a noble cataract, over which, in a situation, alarming, though secure, hung a building known by the name of *Offian's Hall*; I was charmed with the hope of seeing the cataract in all its majes-

ty, and with the idea of the propriety with which a rude building corresponding to our notions of the character of the ancient Celtic bard, and of the accommodations of his time, had been erected in such a situation. When we came nearer, somebody whispered to me, that I was going to be alarmed and deceived by what would be immediately exhibited. We reached the edifice. The door was unlocked and thrown open; and immediately after, by the shifting of an intervening cover, the figure of Ossian was suddenly exposed to view. So far all was well: For the painting is a noble one, and does honour to the Artist who drew it: He was said, I think, to have been a Mr Stewart. But, by Ossian we were now admitted to an interior apartment, spacious, light, airy, and elegant, set round with mirrors, and more like a *boudoir* than a hermitage. This apartment hangs over the water-fall. On that side, the whole room is illuminated. The river was full: and an unusually large volume of water poured over the precipitous rocks in the channel. By the pressure, and the impetuosity with which it fell, a great part of it was whitened, or broken into foam. A mist hung over it; and by communicating a small degree of gloom, greatly enhanced the grandeur of the scene. The surrounding rocks, the character of the trees that shaded them, the stunning din with which the water was precipitated from the height

of the cataract,—all co-operated finely to elevate the imagination, and to impress the feelings with a pleasing and solemn awe.—It was that wild sublimity which calls home the powers of the mind from lighter excursions, and suggests some of the loftiest sentiments that can be associated with material imagery. But, while the mind was thus moved, it was impossible to turn the eye, for a moment from this impressive scenery, without having the fine train of thought with which it had been swelled, most disagreeably broken. The glaring gaiety of the room was of a character inconsistent with that of the objects around it. It dispelled the solemn awe, and pleasing melancholy with which those impressed the mind; yet not so entirely as to introduce in their room, its own airy cheerfulness; and the consequent effect was, that the imagination and the feelings were harassed and disgusted between the two. To add to this, the mirrors which are inlaid round the walls, and in the ceiling of this apartment, are, by a fantastic contrivance, so disposed, as to afford various reflections of the whitened volume of water, as it pours down the cataract; like smoke, like flame, like boiling oil. This is a Conceit of which the contriver was probably very proud; and I doubt not but it may have been much admired by *many a visitant of taste*. But, I must confess, that I could not help considering it with other sentiments than



those of admiration. Contrast does indeed produce fine effects in gardening, no less than in the other fine arts: and surprize is on many occasions, not an unpleasing emotion. But, surely, in these scenes, this contrast is very unsuitably displayed, and this surprize very unseasonably excited. I could never adopt Dr South's notion, that a good epigram is the most perfect, and the noblest of human compositions. Except for the expression of solitary thought, or in the light, airy play of elegant conversation, I could never regard epigram as producing happy effects. But, if epigram be not always advantageous in composition in language; epigrammatic *point* and *turn* are undeniably unsuitable in all the Fine Arts which employ bulkier and more unwieldy signs than words. In painting, in architecture, in music, epigram is always injurious, unless where burlesque effects are intended: but in gardening it is absolutely detestable. Pity, that the noble character of English gardening, should be any where disgraced by epigrammatic conceit. In this light do I view the airy hall overhanging this cataract, with its quaint decorations: And after having my feelings, coarse as they are, affected by it, as they were, I cannot help entering my protest against it.—And, yet, I may be wrong. I cannot hold myself forth as a connoisseur in Ornamental Gardening. It may have been accidental caprice, or a secret desire to exercise the censorial

forial spirit of criticism, or sheer ignorance perhaps, or some other cause not founded in correct judgment or genuine delicacy of taste, which displeas'd me with this *Hall* consecrated to *Ossian*. It may command the approbation of other visitants, better qualified to judge, than I: and the well-known maxim, *De gustibus non disputandum*, ought always to be remembered, with at least more or less acquiescence in it.

BUT, in these scenes, nature has done so much, and has been so happily seconded by fine Taste and ingenious Art, that a good many blemishes might well be pardoned for the sake of the beauties that appear. Nearly adjoining to the *Hall* is an arch thrown over the river at a place, and in a manner which give it a finely picturesque effect, and having about it various accompaniments, natural or artificial which improve this effect. We returned from contemplating the water-fall by a different path from that by which we had come to it. But, neither my notes, nor my recollection give me any distinct or connected representation of the varied aspect of the rivers, woods, and grounds which I enjoyed, on my return to the inn.

THE remains of the ancient Cathedral, give an air of venerable antiquity to the village of Dunkeld.

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The first church is said to have been built here, by Constantine, King of the Picts, in the year 815. The first ecclesiastical dignity established in this place, was that of Abbot. The Abbot of Dunkeld, and all the other clergy of the country, were at that time, most probably, subject to the Abbot of Hyona. After the Monastic Establishment of Hyona had been ruined by the Danes, as it should seem; or had otherwise lost its supremacy over the Pictish Church, the Abbot of Dunkeld was a while at the head of the Pictish Clergy. At a later period in our history, Dunkeld became a Bishopric. I know not the date of the erection of the Cathedral. It has been a noble Gothic pile. The choir is still preserved, and at present occupied as a church. Here is the Burial place of the Family of Atholl, and some ancient funeral monuments.

I SURVEYED the ruins of the Cathedral with that awe and melancholy retrospection towards the days of our forefathers, which such lofty remains naturally inspire. Among the most agreeable subjects which they suggested to my remembrance, was the character of Gavin Douglas, once Bishop of this See. He was one of those that did the highest honour to the Romish religion, during the period of its establishment in Scotland. He was the son of a noble family; a man of learning; a prelate of pure candid,

candid, dignified manners; and a poet inferior to none in the age in which he lived. The barbarous turbulence of the feudal times, affected indeed the manners and the circumstances of the clergy, less than the other classes in society. But, even the clergy were not untainted by its spirit, or secure from its rage. Gavin Douglas, after being appointed to the Bishopric of Dunkeld, was obliged to take possession of his See, almost *vi et armis*. He was involved in the civil broils which distracted his country in his day, and was, at last, through the success of the party against whom his connections had engaged him, driven into banishment.

AMID the distresses, however, to which he was exposed, and the bustle in which he was engaged, he found time for the researches of erudition, and for the cultivation of the flowers of poetry.

His *Translation of Virgil* does high honour to his memory. At that period, few, even of those who might cultivate poetry and the other elegant arts, had soundness and delicacy of taste, to relish the beauties of the classical writers of Greece and Rome. Legends, Mysteries, and the Phantasies of Allegory were the favourite works of fancy. What was known of the history, and what was relished of the fine arts of the polished nations and ages of antiquity,

ty, was obtained at second-hand, and through media by which they were corrupted and distorted. Unless perhaps in Italy, there were, at that time, if my memory does not greatly fail me, no poets throughout Europe, who could have executed so classical a work as Gavin Douglass's Translation of Virgil. English poetry was no longer what it had been in the days of Chaucer and Gower. Germany and the Netherlands were beginning, indeed, to produce *Eruditissimi* and *Illustrissimi*. In France, the glory of the *Troubadours* had faded; and no poets of a chastened, classical taste had yet arisen. Clement Marot was not to be compared with Gavin Douglas. In Italy, Dante had indeed by this time produced his *Inferno*, that wonderful mixture of the sublime, the vehement, the ludicrous, the mean, and the absurd: and Ariosto had written that enchanting medley of tales of knight-errantry, the bewitching interest of which was so powerful as, notwithstanding its lasciviousness, to gain in its favour, a recommendatory bull from a Pope,—and which still continues to entertain, beyond almost every other work of that age. But, I believe, that, next after Italy, Scotland was then more distinguished by poetical genius, than any other country in Europe. And at the head of the Scottish poets of that age, I am inclined to rank the Bishop of Dunkeld. His original works, although much in the allegorical  
taste

taste of the age, do him little less honour than his translation of Virgil. There is in his descriptions of nature, a correctness, and a picturesque richness, which distinguish him as having possessed the genuine imagination and judgment of a poet.—He had also investigated, with great care, the antiquities of Scottish History. He communicated to Polydore Virgil, that account of the affairs of Scotland, which he inserted in his elaborate work. He died of the plague, while in exile, in England.

DUNKELD serves as a market-town to a considerable part of the circumjacent country. On every Saturday, it is more or less crowded with people who repair hither for the transaction of country business. After the transactions of the day are ended, or, indeed, not seldom in the conducting or terminating them, copious libations of whisky are drunk. These, at first, brighten the wit and warm the affections, and thus promote good fellowship. But, as the judgment is cleared and enlivened, and the affections are warmed, the sense of personal dignity is at the same time increased in every Highlandman's breast; his honour becomes more punctilious; and his valour fiercer. In the play of conversation, some difference of opinion accidentally arises, some unlucky word is unthinkingly dropped: Contention ensues: The jealousy of Highland honour is offend-

ed. Highland courage can no longer restrain itself. A blow is given on one side or another. Uproar follows. And the whole terminates in a desperate fray, producing abundance of blue eyes, bloody noses, loosened teeth, and broken ribs. Hardly ever a market-day passes over at Dunkeld, without occasioning, in this way, more or less work for the surgeon.

GOATS are fed on the hills around this village. And, I have been told, that, Company used formerly to resort hither in the summer-months for the purpose of drinking goat's milk. Goat's milk is now less valued, as a specific, than it formerly was. Watering-places have at the same time become more fashionable: and at these, accommodations have been provided, which are not to be expected in the sequestered abodes of goat-herds.

DUNKELD possesses some small manufactures. Linen-yarn being the great product of the adjoining country, this place naturally becomes an inferior mart for the sale of that commodity. I am not sure that the cotton-manufacture has yet been tried here. But, as the best linen-yarn in the country is spun in the district of Atholl; Dunkeld has been thought an advantageous situation for a Thread-Manufacture. I should suppose, indeed, that the extent and population

Station of this village might easily be enlarged; and various new manufactures, suitable to the situation, established in it; were it not for the narrowness of the level ground about it; and the desire which the family of Atholl very naturally have, rather to diminish than enlarge the limits of the village, for the sake of their pleasure-grounds; upon the extent of which it considerably encroaches. The village is occupied, not by tenants under the Duke of Atholl, but by feuars, holding from him: and I have been informed, that the Duke takes every opportunity of purchasing up the feus and demolishing the houses, in order thus to remove, by degrees, a nuisance which circumstances allow him not to rid himself of, all at once. If a bridge shall ever be thrown over the Tay in this vicinity—the village may then be entirely demolished; and a new town raised with advantage, in its stead, on the other side of the river. It may then increase to great extent, and population; and being in a situation where it will be rather ornamental than otherwise, to the Duke's domain, may be fostered, rather than diminished by the care of him and his successors. Yet still the descendants of the ancient inhabitants, the Antiquarian, and the man of sensibility will view with fond regret the scene to which inhabitants were once attracted by the opulence and the sanctity of a noble establishment of the Romish Church; which has continued



a village of some name for a long while after the fall of that Establishment to which it owed its rise; and which was so happily situated for the convenience of the surrounding country, that, had it not been for the accidental circumstance of its standing in the near neighbourhood of a great man's seat, it might perhaps have increased with the increasing improvement of the country, to a thriving and opulent city.—No wonder, that the study of Antiquities should assume a fascinating power over the minds of those who have once engaged in it: no associations are more directly addressed to all our more tender feelings, than those with which its objects are connected!

ONE institution founded at Dunkeld by the amiable charity of the late Dukes of Atholl, deserves high praise. I wish, that the example were generally imitated. Her piety and humanity induced her to establish for the benefit of the children of the inhabitants of Dunkeld, a Sunday School, in imitation of the schools of the same species which were established first in various manufacturing towns in England, and since in some few other places in Scotland. I was much pleased to see the cleanliness and neatness of dress, and the decency of behaviour with which those children appeared together at divine service, on benches exclusively appropriated to them,

them, in the church. No great lady can leave a finer memorial than this of her virtues, or erect a nobler monument to preserve her memory. In this age, when politicians and lawgivers have wholly withdrawn their regard from the virtue of mankind, and turned it entirely to the making of provision for their security and their enjoyments;—I know not that any thing has been done towards the improvement of the Lower Orders in society, that can be compared, for wisdom and benevolence of design, or for the felicity of its effect, with this institution of Sunday Schools. If Dunkeld, either in its present situation, or on the other side of the Tay, shall ever make any considerable advancements in manufacturing industry; the Sunday School instituted by the late Dukes of Atholl will then probably become still more beneficial to the children of its poorer inhabitants than at present.

To that little which I have said concerning Dunkeld, I cannot conclude without adding that a Naturalist might very advantageously chuse this for his station, for a few weeks, or perhaps months in a summer. I am persuaded, that the neighbouring dells and heaths must afford a great variety of indigenous plants. The strata of the rocks might well detain the attention of the mineralogist; and on the sands of the river he might pick up specimens of the  
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various materials of which those strata are composed. And if he were not a mere mechanic in Natural History, he might farther amuse himself by collecting many nice and curious particulars in the natural history of the human species, through an attention to the simple modes of life which in these regions have not yet ceased to prevail.

DUNKELD has among its inhabitants a small congregation of Glaffites.

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*From DUNKELD to BLAIR-ATHOLL.*

ALTHOUGH rain had continued, since the morning, to fall so heavily as to hinder me from viewing the Duke of Atholl's pleasure-grounds around Dunkeld so comfortably, so leisurely, or so completely as I should otherwise have done; and although it abated not towards the afternoon; Yet, as there appeared small probability of such a change as might assure me of a fair day for travelling, by the next morning; I resolved to proceed to Blair-Atholl, after dinner, at the risque of being drenched with rain, to the skin. I had, in this journey, taken an occasional servant. And the servant with whom I had happened to provide myself, not having the same motives

motives which I had, to urge him on, seemed less willing than I, to expose himself to the storm. But, my resolution was taken: and we set out.

OUR way lay along the northern bank of the Tay. For some length, the road was closely confined within the Duke of Atholl's plantations. At about a mile's distance from Dunkeld, we travelled along a *Rumbling Bridge*, which is one of the particulars in this neighbourhood, usually recommended to the notice of strangers.

ADVANCING, the vale opened somewhat more fully to my view. The Tay was here broad and deep, and appeared to flow with a beautiful, yet majestic course through the narrow vale which it intersects. The sides of the hills were clothed, on both hands, with wood. Corn-fields, having the corn in some places still uncut, and only of a yellowish hue, but in other places in the shock, were intermingled among the woods. With these were also interspersed spots of pasturage and meadow-ground. These scenes of cultivation were not seen to advantage at so late a period in the season, and in so dreary an afternoon. And yet, I know not, if the melancholy aspect of the woods in the end of Autumn, and even in the gloomiest days in this part of the season, be not apt to awake in the heart a train of more pleasing

pleasing emotions, although of a pensive, sombrous cast perhaps, than when they appear in the gaudy verdure of Spring and early Summer. The green has given place to a brown which is diversified by a much greater variety of shades. The luxuriance of vigorous growth no longer obtrudes itself on the observation. All has assumed that cast of sickliness and languor which often renders a delicate female form more interesting and attractive, than beauty in the full flush of vigorous health. Around all, there is diffused an air of loneliness and desolation, of firmness bearing up with fortitude against those shocks which it cannot altogether withstand, and of pensive regret for faded glories—which calms the lighter and more frivolous emotions of the mind, rouses the elastic energy of its nobler feelings, and awakes Imagination to a train of exercise, in which she frames some of her finest creations. The ease with which the mind, when such objects have thus awakened it to a particular train of exercise, reviews the past progress of the seasons, naturally leads it by no painful transition, to trace with a retrospective view the progress and the changes of the fortunes and the sentiments of human life: From the life of the individual, the range of reflection is insensibly extended to the progress and fluctuations of society, and of all human things: And with this series of reflection,

reflection, the noblest images that material nature can be conceived to present, and the most exalted sentiments of which the human mind can be supposed susceptible, are unavoidably connected.

AMONG the trees in the woods through which the road still continued to lead, and which are scattered to a vast extent, in clumps, in belts, and in larger bodies of no determinate figure, as well as, at times, in a still more straggling order, through the vale;—Among those trees, the most beautifully remarkable, that struck my eye, was the weeping birch. Till it has attained a certain age, this elegant tree, in which indeed the grandeur of the tree seems united with the beauty of the shrub, spreads its branches in the ordinary direction between vertical and horizontal. In time, however, the bushy top of each branch, especially when loaded with leaves, becomes too heavy for the slender, flexible stalk by which it is sustained: The branch yielding, drops the bunches on its top downwards: And these multiply and hang in thick clusters, all around every branch of every tree, as so many of the most beautiful festoons, composed of fibrous branches and delicate leaves. The weeping willow which hangs its branches and leaves in the same manner, is also extremely beautiful, but in my estimation, not equal to the beauty of the weeping birch. Happily birches,

of all kinds, are the trees of wild scenes and cold climates. In this part of Strath-Tay, the weeping birch thrives in the happiest manner: And it is one of the trees which have been most liberally planted through these woods.

As I proceeded, it was curious to observe, the contrast between wildness and cultivation, on the sides of the hills. From the western bank of the river especially, corn-fields, seemingly upon a soil sufficiently rich and deep, and neatly inclosed within stone-fences, rose, to a considerable height, upon the declivities of the mountains. The higher they rose, so much the greener and the more backward did the crop still appear. And, immediately beyond the line where cultivation terminated, appeared the wildest heath, in all the bleakness of unconquerable sterility. It seemed as if, in the contest between human industry and the local fullness of nature in these scenes, the latter had been reluctantly compelled to yield to the former, and slowly receded before its attacks, with a scowling front.— It renewed to my remembrance the conquests of the ancient Romans in Britain, and the energy with which their victorious arms were opposed by our Caledonian ancestors. With the same indefatigable valour did the Romans penetrate into the wild regions of the Scottish Highlands: And with  
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the same indignant fortitude did the hunters of the ancient Caledonia make their last stand on the Grampian Mountains, and there fully withstand every effort of the valour and the discipline of the conquerors of the rest of Europe.

THE strata of the rocks through this tract of country appeared to be, for the most part, either schistous or calcareous. On the banks of the river, the soil seemed wonderfully rich. Indeed, wherever it is not sandy or marly, it is natural, that the soil along the banks of all rivers should be the richest which the particular regions afford, through which they respectively run. The bottom of the vegetable mould is, in such situations naturally formed of fragments broken off from the strata of rocks which the river divides, and comminuted into earthy sand. These fragments are never thus broken down, without carrying with them more or less mould formed by the decay of vegetables which have grown and withered on their surface. When a stratum of comminuted stone of whatever character, intermixed with vegetable matter, has been thus once formed, the seeds of vegetables are by the benign care of Providence soon strewed upon it. Being sheltered by the relative lowness of the situation, and watered by the vicinity of the stream; while they are, by the same circumstance freed from any excess of water



which might waste vegetation;—these places soon come to produce those vegetables, which have been either accidentally or intentionally sown upon them, in rich abundance. Every new crop of vegetables contributes, by its decay to fertilize and enrich, more or less, the ground on which it is produced. And thus, without the intervention of man, are the narrow plains on the banks of rivers, raised by the natural operation of circumstances to high fertility. When, in the subsequent improvement of men in the arts of life, these tracts are subjected to cultivation; hardly can the most injudicious agriculture reduce them to barrenness; and as little, for the most part, can complex labour, or singular agricultural sagacity improve them to that height of superinduced fertility to which spots less fertile, have sometimes been artificially raised.

THE whole day had been wet and gloomy. I was, by this time, sufficiently drenched with rain. Nothing but the novelty of the scenes, the elevating grandeur of the hills, and the mournful, fading beauty of the woods and the vale, could have so interested my mind as to engage me to proceed on my journey, with any degree of spirit, on such a day. The afternoon was now far spent. In so low a situation, and under the weight of clouds which darkened the sky, and the thick rain which obscured

obscured the air, the darkness of evening came on unusually soon. I saw the shades of night closing fast around me, before I had advanced more than half-way to Blair-Atholl. As it darkened, every thing around me put on a still more gloomy and affecting aspect. Thick mist settled on the tops of the mountains. The woods assumed still a deeper and a deeper hue of dusky brown; till they at last exhibited nothing but so many masses of darkness. Just as it darkened, I reached *Moulin-Yarn*, a small inn, situated nearly so as to divide into two equal parts, the road from Dunkeld to Blair-Atholl. Here I dried my clothes before a comfortable fire, refreshed myself with some whisky and oat-cakes; and as soon as the horses had fed, remounted, and continued my journey, in the darkness, to the inn at Blair.

*BLAIR-ATHOLL and the adjoining country.*

A SNUG room, a blazing fire, a warm supper, some well-mixed rum-punch, and the kind attentions of the landlord and landlady of the inn at Blair, soon cheered and refreshed me, after the wetness and fatigue of my journey from Dunkeld. That I might the sooner enjoy the benefit of the fire, I was invited into the family parlour. I supped with the landlord and landlady, and a Captain R—— a gentleman of agreeable manners and entertaining conversation  
who

who happened to be with them.—The conversation turned chiefly upon the subject of the general scarcity of fuel, at this time, through the Highlands; and the uncomfortable winter they were likely to experience, through want of this necessary article. Peat is the only species of fuel that can be easily obtained here in any considerable quantities, even in the most favourable seasons. But as rain had continued to fall almost incessantly through the whole of the last Spring and Summer, and through all that part of the Harvest which was already past; they had hardly found a fair day to cut their peats. After they had surmounted this inconvenience, and cut them; there remained no possible means by which they could have them dried. When they spread them out upon the heath; the rains washed them away: When, without waiting for their drying in this situation, they gathered them together into small heaps; the same continuance of rain soon broke down the heap into a confused mass of mud. And, if at length they were urged by want of fuel, to bring them home in this ill-prepared state; the roads to the mosses were then found so deep and impassable; and the mosses so wrought by the rains into quagmires and morasses; that it was impossible almost to lead horses without any burthen into the situation where the peats were prepared; still more so, to lead them out again with loads on their backs:

And

And as for carts; these could not at all be used. In this inland part of the country, coals are not to be imported, unless at an enormous expence. Of wood there is little except what has been planted by different noblemen and gentlemen, to decorate and shelter their grounds: and this is not to be cut down for fuel. Mr Stewart, the landlord of the inn at Blair, had obtained five or six pounds worth of birch in the neighbourhood, for fuel. But, such was, even then, the general distress, that his poorer neighbours, whose honesty was confessedly, upon other occasions, superior to all temptation, could not resist the temptation of the birch-wood, but pilfered it upon every opportunity, so as to deprive him of most of the advantages of his bargain.

FUEL being, in cold countries, one of the first necessities of life; where this is difficult to be obtained in such climates, human life can never be very comfortable, nor human industry very active. Intense, or even continued gentle heat does indeed relax the powers of the human frame, and with it, perhaps even the faculties of the mind. In colder regions, the character of man has been generally observed to display its greatest energy and activity. But, it is rather the absence of necessity than the influence of any direct physical cause, which enfeebles the human character in the former situation:

And

And it is the existence of that necessity, and the possibility of obeying its impulse and subduing its severity, which, in the more temperate cold climates rouse man to his noblest exertions of mental and bodily vigour. Where this necessity, however, cannot be obeyed, and the difficulties which it creates, overcome; the heart sinks into despondency; the faculties, and the nerves are unbraced; and more helpless stupidity, and more squalid misery are produced, than in those regions where the powers are relaxed by torrid heat, and exertion is checked by abundance.

UPON these principles, one of the first objects for consideration when the improvement of a barren and cold tract of country is intended,—is its state in the respect of fuel. Is it ill supplied with this necessary article? How may this disadvantage be remedied?—a country of muirs and mosses will not, at a first view, be thought ill supplied with fuel; nor indeed will it be so in reality; unless it be at the same time much exposed to rains, or so marshy that access cannot be readily obtained at all times to the situations in which peats may be dug. Yet, even such a country, with every advantage of a dry climate which it can be supposed to possess, will not be well supplied with fuel, if its population shall come to be numerous: For peats are an article of fuel, of very inconvenient use. Even  
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where wood may be plentifully obtained, it is not to be greatly preferred for general use. For the use of those manufactures which require the greatest abundance, it can never answer very well, in its natural form.

*PIT-COAL* is therefore the fuel which will naturally and wisely be preferred to every other species, wherever it can be readily obtained. It seems to be wood prepared for fuel in the great laboratory of nature. It has various qualities which render it fitter for this purpose, than any other material that can be obtained so readily, and in such quantities. No wonder, that the inhabitants of the Highlands of Scotland, especially on the sea coast, should feel themselves disposed to complain of the duty on coals carried coastwise, to the northern parts of this kingdom. It prohibits them, at all times, from such a supply of this article of fuel as might serve to give considerable encouragement to the increase of population, or the institution of establishments for manufacture: And in such seasons as the present, it conspires with the austerity of the climate and the inclemency of the season, to reduce the few inhabitants who are scattered over these districts, to the extremity of wretchedness. This injudicious impost is now, however, about to be removed by the

attention of a vigilant and virtuous Administration, and of an enlightened Legislature.

THE general aspect of this country it would not be easy to describe with impressive, picturesque force: It is an assemblage of lofty hills, the summits of which have no covering but moss, upon a bed of stones and gravel: and where this has been washed away by storms, the bare rocks shoot up. The sides of these mountains are commonly clad with heath, and other hardy, northern plants: Towards their bases, is still heath, with a mixture of coarse grass: And under these are narrow vales sometimes divided by rapid streams, affording kindly pasture: although commonly embrowned with heath, and having, here and there, a few green spots, sprinkled over them. In some places, the declivities of the mountains are so extensive, and so gentle, as to form wide tracts of ground almost level, and affording excellent pasture for sheep and black cattle.

ALMOST every natural division of the hills, whether greater or smaller, is marked by the course of some torrent. The river *Tummel* intersects the vale from Logierait, where the Tay turns away in a western direction. Rains frequently swell this river so as to occasion it to overspread the plain; when it carries off hay happening to be in the cock,

or corn in sheaf, and scatters sand over every vegetable before it. The other streams, in these environs, the Garry, the Erochty, the Tilt, and the Bruir are more closely confined among the hills: But when swelled by rains, they pour down with amazing impetuosity, tearing their banks and presenting awful instances of physical force.—In many places, waters are naturally collected at the bases of the hills; the equality of the level, or the peculiar manner in which those hills part and meet again, leaves no ready outlet for the waters thus collected. Lakes are formed; and after the stagnation has extended as far as the equality of the level continues, a certain proportion of the water forces an outlet for itself; and many of the rivers, whether smaller or larger, in this neighbourhood have no other origin. The mountains often tower up to an astonishing height, and have their tops almost constantly crowned with snow or mist. Beinn-deirg rises 3550 feet above the level of the sea; and Carn-nan-gour the highest pinnacle of Beinn-glo, to the height of 3724 feet above the same level.

Trouts abound in the rivers; and salmon ascend for a certain length, up some of them. The forests are stocked with stags and roes: Hares are plenteous through the country: And on the heights of the mountains is found the Alpine hare, white



in winter, but having its snowy coat speckled in summer, with blueish spots. Foxes, wild-cats, and weasels infest the hills and woods. The banks of the rivers are frequented by otters. The goats, which once formed a considerable part of the stock of the farmers in these districts, have gradually given place to the increasing flocks of sheep, and herds of black cattle.—The farmers are learning, by degrees, to manage their sheep and black cattle with improving skill, and to dispose of them to greater advantage,

THE nature of the soil, and the inequalities of the surface unavoidably render the agriculture of these parts inconsiderable. Only in the vales where are some depth of soil and sheltered situations, can tillage be tried with success; and those are narrow in proportion to the general extent of the country. Barley, oats, potatoes, and flax, with pease, rye, turnips, and some foreign grasses are, however cultivated; yet not in such abundance as render the importation of grain and meal unnecessary, or to render the fattening of cattle a considerable object with the farmers. Lime, marl, and dung are the manures usually employed.

THE inhabitants of this tract of country are generally a simple, poor, and virtuous race. The Gaelic

Gaelic is their common language. The landlords receive for the lands, rents which would be counted wonderfully low in more populous and opulent districts: Yet, even these rents are paid by the tenants, with difficulty. How, indeed, can it be otherwise? These regions are still too much shut up from intercourse with the seats of opulence, trade, and industry. They form only nurseries for men and cattle; and only in a country extremely poor can such nurseries exist. The people are here sequestered from the view of those modes of life which might awake the desire of more varied enjoyment, and with it that emulation and ambition which can alone give a spring to human exertion. Their advantages of natural situation are also comparatively speaking, few; and to overcome the disadvantages with which they have to struggle, extraordinary force of motives, uncommonly vigorous and unwearied exertion, and great powers of sufferance and self-denial would be requisite. The latter I doubt not, that the inhabitants of these regions may indeed possess: But the former are undeniably wanting to them.

THE pastoral life prevails here, in many places, if not in all the innocence, and happy plenty, at least in all the simplicity ascribed to the Golden Age. The shepherds repair in summer to *sheals*, built of fods,

on remote situations among the hills; and there continue to tend their flocks in almost solitary indolence, meeting but occasionally, and repairing only at times to visit more frequented haunts of men;— till the severity of winter, coming on, drives them back to the fireside and the smoaky kitchen. The country is indeed wilder, and the rustics are poorer: otherwise the aspect of pastoral life which here meets the traveller's eye, might well remind him of the manners of those goat-herds to whom Cervantes introduces his knight and squire, in the course of their rambling adventures, and whose circumstances and modes of life he paints with enchanting art.

It has been observed with some degree of chagrin and despondency by some of the more enlightened and reflecting inhabitants of these parts, that their population and industry have been for some time declining. The smiths have left the land since the people ceased to wear armour. The taxes upon leather, and manner in which they are levied have destroyed the resources of the country-shoemaker. The extension of sheep-farms has diminished the number of the labourers and the families maintained and employed upon them. The abolition of the heritable jurisdictions, taking away that dignity and authority which attached every landholder to the rural seat of his family; and the complex and re-

fined

sited luxury of great towns conspiring, at the same time, to seduce them thither; the Great have left the country, carrying with them that income which it affords them, to be laid out where its expenditure can contribute nothing to the benefit of these poor people by whose labours it is raised. The prohibition of the use of the ancient Highland dress has; at the same time contributed to destroy that union, and that high spirit of national honour which served to maintain the Highland character, and to prompt the Highlander to vigorous exertions, instead of those more selfish and meaner motives which are necessary to urge the activity of baser minds.

THESE facts have, in general, more or less truth in them. Yet, if viewed in their true light, they cannot well excite the discontent of the Highlanders, or impress a belief, that the general prosperity of the country is declining. The population of these districts has been diminished; not because their circumstances have become *absolutely* less advantageous than they formerly were; but because the prosperity of other parts of the country has rapidly advanced.—Those who once loitered indolently and unambitiously here, have been enticed away to scenes of more active industry, and more varied and refined enjoyment. They have augmented the population of other parts in a greater degree, than that of  
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the scenes of their nativity has been diminished by their desertion of them. They have added more to the stock of wealth and industry, elsewhere, than has been withdrawn from it here, by their removal. —Formerly the Highlands were almost exclusively the seat for life, of all the human beings produced in them: Now they are become merely a nursery or breeding country, by which the waste of population in busier scenes, is supplied. They are thus much more useful to the whole community than they formerly were, when, if viewed independently, they might make a more distinguished figure than at present. I believe, that the artificers of all the mechanic arts have become less numerous through the country, since the establishment of such a diversity of manufactures has assembled them together into towns and villages. But, this circumstance has happened merely in consequence of the improvement of commercial intercourse, and is a proof not of declining, but of rising prosperity. I cannot be persuaded, that the diminution of the number of the smiths is a fact that bespeaks the decline of the Highlands. That country can never be in a thriving condition in which the forgers of armour are among the most numerous and the most considerable classes in the society. This is a circumstance implying a state of manners under which there can be little peaceful industry, or little social enjoyment.

To me it appears, that every nation, to be truly great and happy, must possess in certain proportions, members in every different stage in the progress of refinement, and in almost all possible diversities of local circumstances. Upon this idea, it may seem *advantageous* to Britain, that the Highlands of Scotland are so little susceptible of cultivation, and that the inhabitants of these parts continue to retain the simple manners of the shepherd life. Something of that energy is thus preserved alive among us, by which rude tribes are rendered superior to nations who have sunk into the luxury and effeminacy of excessive refinement.—But, if no unhappy concurrence of circumstances shall arise to check the prosperity of North Britain, those who are interested in the progressive improvement of the Highlands may assure themselves, that the widening sphere of industry and opulence will, by degrees, extend itself, with stronger and stronger undulations, so as to include them. The pasturage of their hills will yet be managed so as to produce more numerous and more valuable flocks and herds: Their plains and vales will, in time, come to be cultivated with more skilful agriculture: Their fisheries will be pursued with growing spirit and success; and populous towns, the seats of manufacture and of trade, must naturally arise on their shores, on the borders of

of their lakes, and on suitable situations by the banks of their rivers.

THESE reflections suggested by the conversation of the company in the Landlord's parlour, occupied my mind, as I retired to rest in my own apartment, and till I fell asleep. When I awoke next morning, I had a proof of the value they put on their fuel, by the backwardness of the servants to accommodate me with a fire. They had so long delayed putting it on, that it hardly began to burn before I was gone.

I WAS here, as at Dunkeld, in the midst of the Duke of Atholl's grounds. The house and grounds of Blair-Atholl are an object of curiosity to every traveller who visits these parts. Here is a wider extent of low, if not of absolutely level ground, than at Dunkeld. Beside the inn are a few huts. But the whole assemblage, seems rather to animate than to deform the ornamented grounds within which they are placed. I walked first backwards in a direction between North and North-East, from the inn. A fine green hill, the sides of which were partly cultivated, rose before me, towards the North. I was pleased to see the luxuriancy of the oats which grew upon it; but could not help regretting, at sight of their greenness, that the austerity of the climate; and  
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the backwardness of the season should so frustrate the fertility of the soil. On the other hand was wood: and at some distance, on the backward ground, the country assumed the usual dark-brown colour of these parts. I returned, and directed my walk into a park on the front of the inn. On the south-side of the gate by which I entered it, was a gently swelling eminence; and on its top a sort of summer-house which, as a point, attracted my steps thither. From this height appeared the river Tummel, and the mountains rising on its opposite bank; a green, but not wide plain on the hither side; lines, and clumps of trees, with spots of open lawn interspersed; the Duke of Atholl's gardens; the house of Blair-Atholl; and no small quantity of full-grown wood embowering the more contiguous parts of the scene.

I DESCENDED from this eminence, returned to the inn, and after breakfast, sallied out with a waiter conducting me, to stray through the gardens, and to see the house of Blair-Atholl. The house has a stately appearance amidst scenery of such a character as that with which it is surrounded. In the Lobby, or Loggie, which is grand and spacious, are various specimens of subjects in Natural History; some of them trophies of the successful huntings of the Dukes of Atholl and their friends; others such as



seemed to have been placed here, without any particular relation to the rest, and only as ornaments becoming the lobby of a nobleman's house in such a situation. Among these are the stuffed skin of a Greenland Bear; the horns of an elk; the horns also of an *Aurochs*—the ancient wild cattle of North-Britain.—This race of cattle have been exterminated in Scotland; but in the woods of Poland and in some forests in Germany they still remain. Their horns are often found in our mosses, at a considerable depth under ground; a circumstance proving that they must have been among the most ancient of all the inhabitants of the island.—We had another breed of wild cattle in Britain which are not yet entirely extinct. These are the white cattle with brown ears, and having also some spots of brown or black upon their faces, and perhaps too about their feet. The learned Dr Walker, professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, (than whom I know no man more correctly or extensively informed concerning all subjects relative either to science, or to common life; or who more readily starts valuable, original ideas upon every subject falling under his discussion) is of opinion, that the white cattle with brown ears are not indigenous to this island. But, I remember reading in Leland's history of Ireland, that Matilda, wife to William de Braosa, an Irish lord, in the year

year 1204, presented to Matilda, wife to King John, a drove of 400 cows, having all red ears, and their bodies of a milk-white colour. Those cattle, although their ears are said to have been red, I suppose to have been of the same race as the white cattle of Scotland,—perhaps their progenitors. And the inference I would draw, is, that, if most of the same animals are common to the two islands, these cattle must have been known in Britain, no less than in Ireland;—or, that, as the intercourse between Scotland and Ireland was, before the conquest of the latter country, by Henry II. more frequent, than that between Ireland and England, these cattle might be common among the Scots and the Irish, before they were known to the English;—or that, if they are a foreign race, they are most probably natives of Ireland, and were first introduced into Britain, in the beginning of the thirteenth century.—I fear, I have suffered these milk-white cows to lead me too far out of my way; especially, as I was surveying the lobby of so noble a house as that of Blair-Atholl. From the lobby I was conducted into a spacious dining-room and drawing room, with the proportions of which I was exceedingly pleased. The furniture is such as suits the rooms; rather elegant, however, than gorgeously rich. Some smaller rooms, adjoining to these, were shewn, at the same time. On a staircase are various paintings of ancestors of the fami-

ly of Atholl, or of persons connected with it. They seem to have felt the brush more than once, since they were first painted. Their faces are much of the present cast; but the hair is dressed in antique guise; the necks of some are stiffened with ruffs; and the other parts of dress which appear upon them are in the tip-top fashion of some former day.—This house rose formerly some stories above its present height: but about the time of the rebellion in the year 1745, a part of its height was demolished, and it was dismantled of all that seemed to give it the air rather of an old fortified castle than of a modern house,—that it might be no longer liable to be either garrisoned or besieged. Before that period, that is, before the Highland Chieftains were divested of their heritable jurisdictions,—I should suppose that a Nobleman's family could not have been very safe in these parts,—unless secured in a strong house.

From the house I proceeded to wander through the immediately surrounding grounds, with the gardener for my guide. Black cattle, and I think, roes, or rather fallow-deer were feeding on the lawn. At some small distance from the house, I saw an eagle, in confinement; and having never before had so near a survey of a living eagle, I was struck and pleased with his air of mingled dig-  
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nity and ferocity.—The garden, properly so called, is large and well laid out, although perhaps not so very well kept, as might be wished: In the middle is an artificial piece of water which has no disagreeable effect. I thought it rather disfigured however, by some figures of hay-makers and other rustics which have been awkwardly set up in it. The surrounding wood is chiefly full-grown. Among other trees, it contains many larches and other pines.—The larch is one of the most beautiful trees which grow in northern climates. Its form is among the most elegant of the tall and slender. It springs up with a rapid growth. There is something pleasing to the eye and the fancy in the multiplicity, the slenderness, the arrangement of its branches, and in the attitudes in which they hang. When it flowers in Spring, it puts forth a most charming flush. Its odour perfumes the woods. To the dignity and graceful strength of the tree, it joins the beauty of the shrub. Its timber possesses still more perfectly than the willow, the quality of resisting the force of fire. It grew in great profusion in Gaul in the days of Cæsar. I have forgotten at the siege of what town it was, that his soldiers were astonished to find the gates, which were made of the timber of the larch-tree, obstinately resist the impression of the fire with which they attempted to burn them down. For every purpose of the joiner or carpenter, too, this timber serves

erves as well as that of any other pine. And I know hardly of any degree of rudeness or severity of climate that will check its growth.—Another fine sight in these grounds was presented by an avenue of *rowan*-trees, or mountain-ashes. The leaves were withering, or withered: but the berries hung thick over them, in fine, red clusters. I can scarce conceive any scene of natural plenty, in the warmer, richer climates of the South, to be more adorned by its more luscious fruits, than was this avenue by the clusters of *rowan*-berries which crowned its trees.—I was carried by my conductor, by paths, the line of which I recollect not, to a grotto, in front of which poured a cataract. Within this grotto was a mossy seat: and the situation on the river, is one to which a heathen poet might well suppose the river nymphs likely at times to retire from the waters;—or it is a scene where a hermit might forget the world, and indulge an undisturbed meditation on the wonders of nature, or on the vanity of earthly things. Spars, several varieties of quartz, pyrites, with some ores are disposed through the rude walls; from the roof hang stalactites: And yet I must confess, that I could have wished to find it furnished with a greater variety of fossils. Mineralogical curiosity could have had little difficulty in finding such, in these parts. And were it otherwise, why should taste neglect to bring even from a distance

suitable

uitable ornaments to this romantic seat of meditation and solitude?—Leaving the grotto, I was next conducted to where a number of avenues of stately pines met in one common centre. And nearly about this scene, my conductor surprised me with a tale and an object, the latter of which I was sorry to see in such a situation. He began with telling me, as we walked on, that he and other men at work in the gardens had been, that morning, frightened from their work by the sudden appearance of some madman who had levelled a gun at them, and without provocation, threatened to shoot them; but that, by this time, the mad gunner was, most probably gone; so that he and I were now in no danger from him. After this information, he walked on, and I followed, fauntering slowly, and gazing about me, as I advanced. We went on, till upon turning the corner of a walk, he suddenly started back, and seemingly in the utmost terror and astonishment, fled with precipitation. As he retreated, he called to me with the indistinct articulation of fear, “There he is!” I turned my eye to where he directed, and might, indeed, have been surprised, had I not recognized a brother of those stucco figures which I have already mentioned, as having very impertinently intruded themselves into the garden. It was the figure of a fowler, in the act of levelling his gun so as to point against whoever

should approach in the direction in which we had come up. When my guide saw that I was not absolutely overpowered with terror and surprise, he dismissed his pretended fear, and returned laughing. The trick was with him a subject of exultation, and he boasted to me, that, he had seldom failed to surprise and terrify strangers by means of it. Among other anecdotes which it introduced, he related, with great satisfaction, that two Englishmen who had been lately here, had, in their terror, stumbled, and fallen, the one over the other: their first emotion, upon discovering the vanity of their fear, was to pursue and beat him; but he kept out of their clutches, till they had ceased to think of the mortification of their fall, and had begun to laugh over the incident.—I must confess, that I cannot see either good taste or œconomy in the Duke of Atholl's thus maintaining a stucco fowler in his gardens. Such figures do not, indeed, disgrace these scenes so much, as those of the Sicilian nobleman who is related to have filled the walks and groves round his house with all imaginable varieties of monstrous figures,—as if he had been an enchanter, and these figures so many monuments of his wrath and necromantic power. But they are not such ornaments as taste would naturally suggest; the trick and the tales are extremely childish.—After wandering some time longer among these enchanting scenes, I returned.

turned to the inn; and after taking some hasty forenoon refreshment, mounted and set out for Taymouth.—Before leaving Blair-Atholl, however, let me not forget to mention one fact which struck me,—Mr and Mrs S.— the landlord and landlady of the inn; he probably about the age of sixty, and she, about middle life, are two of the stateliest, handsomest forms, I ever saw; tall, well-proportioned, fair, with oval faces, high-noses, and light eyes.

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*From BLAIR-ATHOLL to TAYMOUTH.*

I MIGHT have travelled to Taymouth by a road leading directly across the hills. But, this road was said to be difficult, and such as strangers could not safely travel without a guide. I therefore chose rather to beat over again one half of the way between Blair-Atholl and Dunkeld, and to take the way by the ferry over the Tummel, at Logierait. That part of the road between Blair-Atholl and Dunkeld, over which I was now to travel a second time, was, what I had come along, on the preceding evening, under the darkness of night. It was still new to me, therefore, and I was told that its scenery was more interesting and more beautiful, than that of the road which led to Taymouth; directly across the hills.



THE most remarkable objects which met my eye, as I returned down the vale, were still, rocks, woods of faded verdure, spots of corn, either growing, or in the shock, cottages scattered here and there, by the sides of the high-way, and rustics, of coarse features, squat, sturdy figures, arrayed often in tartan, and having their limbs scantily covered by the fillibeg. Once or twice, we overtook droves of cattle, and had some difficulty in passing, without scattering them. The arable grounds on the sides of the highway are not regularly inclosed. The only mode of inclosure that seemed to be here practised, was, with low stone-fences. The peasants were busy in some fields, plowing or digging up their potatoes: And the mould thus turned over, had the appearance of being rich and deep. I was again struck with the varied shades of brown which the fading, falling leaves of the trees every where exhibited. It was a sight which excited in the mind a mixture of melancholy and cheerful emotions. It was curious to remark how the leaves of the ashes which still retained their verdure, varied in that verdure, with an amazing diversity of shades, according to age, situation, and perhaps other circumstances which I was not botanist enough to distinguish.—At some distance from Blair-Atholl—(the particular distance I neglected to enquire)—a road branches off to the right, which leads, as I was told,

told, to a place called Fincastle. The point where this road branches off, is a narrow pass at which the hills, on both sides, jut forward, to meet each other. On neither side is there left the smallest stripe of level ground between the base of the hill and the brink of the river. Birches and brushwood are scattered to a certain height up their sides. South-west from the pass rise other hills, of a lower elevation, and bounding, in a picturesque manner the sides of the former. Not a cottage appears within sight. Here breaks off the narrow road to Fincastle. It winds down through the wild shrubbery, in a line of very difficult access, till it reaches the river where a single arch is thrown over it in a manner which strikingly impresses the imagination. Along the bridge the road proceeds on the declivity of the western hill, amidst such objects, and in such a direction, that even a single traveller passing upon it, affects the mind of the spectator with the most singular feeling in respect to the solitude and the inaccessibility of these regions.

THE pass of Killicrankie is more famous. It is about five miles south from Blair. Near the northern entrance of this pass was fought the famous battle between Lord Dundee and General Mackay, in which James's army would have triumphed, had not their heroic general fallen in the moment of victory.

victory. The pass is narrow and confined between lofty mountains. Beneath runs the Garry, in a deep, and rocky channel overhung with trees. The event of the battle fought here was fatal to James's affairs in Scotland. There was no hero in his army to succeed Dundee. Many of the brave officers belonging to it, being driven into exile from their native country; and the master for whom they had fought and suffered, being unable to protect or support them, were reduced to circumstances of extreme poverty and distress. They formed themselves into so many companies, and engaged in the French service. They were ungenerously used; but they continued to bear every hardship with the unconquered fortitude, and to face every danger with the daring valour of Scottish gentlemen. The distresses brought upon the clans of the North of Scotland, by the rebellions in which they were engaged through prejudices which must be confessed natural enough, have occasioned the Scottish character to be exhibited in lights and situations in which it has shone with peculiar dignity and lustre.\*

THIS district of Atholl is not without numerous monuments of ancient manners, customs, and events.  
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\* This praise is greatly below the merits of those generous heroic Highlanders.

Here are the ruins of old castles, the seats of ferocious chieftans, the strong walls and innaceffible fituations of which fuggest the remembrance of times when the tranquillity of the country was regulated by no general fyftem of police ; but when every clan and every family were mutually formidable to one another. Of this character, are a variety of round towers which might probably ferve both as forts, and as watch-towers ; Tom-a-vuir, the ancient feat of the M'Intoshes of Tiriny, ftrongly fituate on a fteep bank of the river Tilt ; and in the north-weft corner of Loch Tummel, on a fmall ifland, partly artificial, the remains of a ftrong houfe built by Duncan-Ravar-M'Donald, the chief of the clan of the Robertfons.—Here, too, are cairns, the haftily raifed monuments of the ancient inhabitants of thefe parts when they fell in battle. Till lately, the cuftom remained of heaping up cairns, not merely over the graves of the deceafed ; but wherever any perfon happened to die, although he might be elfewhere burried. Above Blair is *Carn-mhic-fhimi*, or Lovat's cairn, where a chief of the family of Lovat had fallen, in a plundering incurfion into this country.—Many of the remains of antiquity which this diftrict ftill prefents to the obfervation of the curious traveller, are fuch as may be referred to the religion of the ancient Highlanders. I am not fure, whether the information which ancient writers give us concerning  
the

the religion of the Druids whom the Romans found in the south-western parts of this island, is such as to identify their superstition with that of which numerous imperfect monuments remain through other parts of Britain.—Be these things as they may ; I am not at present disposed to enter into the controversy concerning them. I scruple not to assert, however, that nothing can be more absurd than the extravagant notions, with which some writers have laboured to possess, of the extensive knowledge of the Druids, and of the perfection of their superstition. I shall allow that a body of clergy or literati may be somewhat more enlightened, and somewhat more civilized than the rest of the community ; but this superiority will never be very considerable. In the darker ages of the modern history of Europe, the Romish Clergy had indeed almost a monopoly of what little piety, knowledge, and civility remained among our rude ancestors. But, it was so trifling as to raise them, in our estimation very little above the laity.—Now, in the age of Druidism, we know well that our ancestors wanted industry, jurisprudence, dexterity in art, and all the accommodations, of polished life. I hope to be forgiven therefore, if I shall refuse to allow the Druids to have been, in any considerable degree, less savage than the rest of the people whose priests they were, —till their admirers can shew me some unequivocal monuments

monuments of their civility and their knowledge. —The monuments in these parts which are ascribed to Druidism are various: Here is a vale called Strathgray, which is, from its name, supposed to have been a vale peculiarly appropriated to the Druids: Near a place called *Clunemore*, is a cairn, sixty geometrical paces in circumference, and having its top laid with flags, which is conjectured to have been an altar on which the Druids offered their sacrifices: At a place, the name of which, upon enquiry, I learned to be *Knowbead*, I observed, on the side of the highway one of those circles of stones, erected perpendicularly at certain distances, which are usually termed Druidical circles: Here are none of the groves, however, in the gloom of which the Druids are said to have been accustomed to celebrate their most solemn and mysterious rites.

OTHER antiquities of these places relate to the state of the manners. The old groves which are not covered with cairns, have the dead bodies inclosed within stone coffers, consisting of several flags fitted together, the purpose of which is conjectured to have been to preserve the body from the ravening rapacity of the wolves which anciently infested the country. The Gaelic names of the places commonly refer to facts and circumstances in their ancient history. *Rod-na-banrtun* is the Queen's road,

by which some or other of the ancient queens of Scotland are conjectured to have gone with a retinue to hunt in the forest of Atholl. *Dail-an-spideil* is the plain of the inn or hospital, where might anciently stand an house of entertainment for travellers: *Dail-na-cardoch* is the vale or plain of the smith's shop; and *Dail-na-mein*, the plain of the mineral. *Cairn-torcy* and *Cairn-thorey*, are the hill and the hollow of boars.

THE district of RANNOCH, which I should have traversed, if I had preferred the shorter road between Blair-Atholl and Taymouth, is of considerable extent. It is a high-lying tract of country, and is chiefly occupied for pasture. It forms only a part of the parish of Fortingal, and yet contains no fewer than two and thirty villages. In the middle of the district is Loch Rannoch, twelve miles in length. Out of this river issues the Tummel, which passes through the district of Atholl, and meets the Tay at Logierait. The Gaelic is the general language still spoken through all these districts.

BEFORE the year 1745, this district of Rannoch was in an uncivilized state. The inhabitants were thieves and robbers who acknowledged no law, paid no debts, and laid all the neighbouring country from Stirling to Coupar of Angus, under contribu-  
tion;

tion; obliging the inhabitants to pay them what they called *Black Meal*, as the price of their security. In the months of September and October, they would assemble in Rannoch, in companies of several hundreds, build temporary huts, carouse the whisky, and settle their accounts for stolen cattle. As they all bore arms, it was hardly possible to bring to justice a thief who belonged to their number. A body of soldiers were at length sent among them, and some instances of exemplary justice inflicted; in consequence of which they, by degrees, learned to be orderly and honest.

At that period the use of beds was unknown among these people. They slept on bundles of heath or fern, without laying aside their clothes, and covered above only by a single blanket. Their huts had for walls a texture of twigs interwoven among stakes driven perpendicularly into the ground: the doors were so narrow, that one could not enter otherwise than creeping: and the roof of the hut so low, that it was impossible to stand upright within it. The people were miserably dirty and infested with the itch. They lived on the simplest, scantiest fare. The poor had hardly any other articles of food than the blood of their cattle,—which they bled several times in the year,—boiled and eaten as bread,—with a parsimonious supply of meal. The



country, too, was at the same time, without roads or bridges.

BUT since the year 1745, a happy change has taken place. The repression of licentious rapine has introduced industry. Improved ideas of farming have induced the farmers to stock their farms with sheep, in preference to black cattle.—The introduction of potatoes has added another and a most valuable and nourishing one to the articles of living. The culture of lint, too, and the practice of spinning which these people have been gradually taught through the care of the Trustees, have contributed much to give a suitable direction to their industry, and to supply with means for the purchase of a greater variety of the conveniencies of life.—The change has been happy and rapid. These people are now cleanly, and comfortably clothed. They use bedsteads and blankets. They have houses built of stone, and of a commodious size. Their children are taught to read English. Their wool and yarn bring them in large sums. And they who were once thieves, vagabonds, and half-starved for want of comfortable lodging, food and clothing, are now as industrious, pious, and charitable perhaps as any in the kingdom.

I AM not sure that all these observations occurred, or that all these facts were communicated to me, as I travelled between Blair-Atholl and Logierait. But, one is insensibly led from one part of a country, and from one particular class of the circumstances of society in it, to extend one's enquiries and reflections to other parts and other circumstances which are connected by any strength of relation with those people.

THE fine situation of one gentleman's house on the north-eastern bank of the Tummel struck me particularly. Its name I learned to be *Dysart*, and that its proprietor was a Mr Butter. This house stands close upon the bank of the river, in a situation where the windings of the hills leave a small circular plain, beautifully level and verdant. Through this plain the river meanders in a fine waving line; directing its course first close to the bottom of the western hill, so as to leave the whole breadth of the plain unbroken in the eastern side; and then, with an altered direction, pressing against the base of the eastern hill, so as to leave the remainder of the plain unbroken on the western side. Mr B's house stands on the eastern division of this little plain. It is surrounded on all hands with thick wood. Indeed, I could not help thinking, that the pines which concealed it from the highway were too thick,

thick, and seemed to hide this sweet spot with a degree of invidious jealousy from the gaze of the traveller.

THE whole of this part of Strath-Tummel was of the same character: hills rising here and there, within the lofty ranges of mountains inclosing it; huts, and round them, larger or smaller fields of cultivated land; spots of meadow here and there decorating the banks of the river: Wood profusely scattered over the whole scenes; now and then a house appearing which bespoke the residence of some superior family; the river now moving with a smooth and gentle course through the mead and over a pebbled channel, and then foaming and pouring impetuously among rocks which obstructed its current, or confined its bed; cattle feeding in the vale and on the lower declivities of the hills; rustics of all ages busily employed in the labours of the season, or tending the cattle; and over all, that soft colouring of melancholy diffused, which gives its pensive pleasures to ending Autumn.

At Logierait, the Tummel joins the Tay. Immediately above the point of junction is a ferry-boat, by which the traveller passes towards Taymouth. At Logierait, the Tummel runs with great strength of stream. The boatmen are obliged

to row in a standing direction, up and down the river, in passing between the opposite banks; and on the western side, the bank rises so precipitously over the stream, that it is extremely difficult to land the passengers, or moor the boat.

LANDING on the western bank of the Tummel; I was desirous to refresh myself and my horses. I had been told that some tolerable accommodation might be obtained for a few minutes, at the boatman's house. I entered the house. It exhibited a scene of nastiness and simplicity which convinced me that the primitive manners of my country were not every where lost. It was a low, smoky hut, the door of which could hardly be entered without creeping. The thatched roof was not rain-proof; and all the rafters were dropping an inky fluid. On each side of the door, a partition ran through the house: It was formed of stakes driven into the ground, interwoven with twigs, or willow-branches, and the whole plastered, on both sides, with clay. This simple partition had like the roof, suffered by the injuries of time; the clay was here and there broken off; and the wooden part of the partition seemed to have decayed through rottenness. One end of the house was appropriated to the purposes of a bed-room, store-room, cellar, pantry, and apartment for the accommodation of strangers. It were  
hard

hard to say whether dampness, dirt, or disorder seemed to predominate most in it. The other was the kitchen; and into it I entered. Here was a smoking fire in the middle of the floor. I am not sure whether or not there might be a hole in the roof for the discharge of smoke. If there were, it was certainly inadequate to the purpose; for the smoke was diffused through the kitchen, so as to obscure it with almost palpable darkness. Immediately around the fire was a small sphere within which the darkness was visible. Here sat the mistress of the family, with several of her children beside her. The good woman was dirty, black, and overgrown, and seemed just Sir John Falstaff in petticoats. The children were half naked; and dirty, but with health and cheerfulness in their looks. They conversed together in Gaelic. I addressed the mother. She could speak a little, and but a very little broken English; the children neither spoke nor understood a syllable of English. In compliance with my request for refreshment, the good woman soon produced her whisky bottle, with bread and cheese. To measure out the whisky, she brought a tin *stoup* which by frequent use, by the impression of the smoke, and by the religious reverence with which it had been kept sacred from any thing like rinsing or washing, had assumed a hue something between a dirty brown and a jet black. It was, at the same time  
marked

marked with many a dimple; and was deprived of its lid, to shew, that it was to be always—either filling or emptying. With this vessel was produced a glass which through long and faithful service had lost its only leg and foot; but to guard it against future accidents, what remained was thickly coated over with a mixture of soot and dust, wrought with whisky into a cément. It were tedious to describe at length, the cheese, the cakes, the plate, and the—but there was no table: The good woman gave all but the bottle into my hands; and the bottle she retained in her lap. But, even this fare was agreeable; for it had rained heavily at times, as we rode between Blair, and the ferry; and the exercise of riding, with the keen air of Atholl had sharpened my appetite. I cut down the cheese, therefore; the good woman poured out her whisky; the children shared of the bread and cheese; and the mother partook of the whisky so liberally as to convince me that her predilection for this cordial must have contributed considerably to the enlargement of her bulk. Every thing was new and striking. The scene was simple as the hut of a savage; there was the same squalid nastiness, the same aspect of vigorous health, and the same cheerful, kind hospitality, as society is said to present in its simplest and rudest forms. I was, in consequence, more gratified than I should have been in a more commodious inn, and with bet-

ter entertainment. And before I had time to be disgusted, my servant having also obtained refreshment for the horses and himself, called me to proceed on my journey.

WE proceeded; passing, at about a short mile's distance forward, through a village, in which many snug new houses were rising. The name of the village I have forgotten. The church and one or two other buildings had an ancient, venerable aspect. I should suppose that the thriving condition of this village may be owing either to the cotton or the linen manufacture. I was now again in Strath-Tay. Even here, where the Tay has not yet been augmented by the accession of the waters of the Tummel and the Almond, it is a noble, majestic stream. The strath is here a rich tract of cultivated ground. Even by the appearance, on the sides of the road, where the ground was cut, it was easy to see, that the soil was rich and deep. The fields were divided by good stone fences. The corn which was here chiefly in the shock, seemed to be a plentiful crop, and indeed extremely abundant in proportion to the extent of ground which it had covered. Here and there were fields of turnips; the appearance of which proved to me that the farmers in this district, had carried their attention to the management of black cattle farther than to the mere rearing of them. On  
all

all hands appeared crowds busy in digging or ploughing up their potatoes, if not in cutting down corn. This was not the season in which to see cultivated scenes like these, to the best advantage. And yet, I know not if they should have appeared more enlivened, or could have suggested a greater variety, or a more interesting train of reflection concerning the modes and the progress of human industry in the more garish seasons of Spring or Summer.

It was now late in the afternoon. The late venerable looking house which I remember to have noticed was the house of *Ballegbau*, situated in the hollow of a hill, on the northern side of the highway, embowered among trees, and having around it antique-looking walls and hedges, which with the growth of the trees, concurred to convince me, that it had been a place of some consequence, at some distance of time backwards.

HERE, too, Gaelic is the language chiefly spoken. The fillibeg, and the bonnet, if not always the plaid, are commonly worn. Tartans are highly esteemed; and the colours are indeed so well dyed, and intermingled with such taste, that I can hardly conceive any fancy dress more becoming and handsome. The bonnets are not manufactured here. The mistress of every family spins and dyes the yarn of which the tartans



are woven. I should think that if this species of woollen stuff, were, any where, prepared in sufficient quantity, the use of it could not well fail to become more fashionable. And, if the exportation were encouraged, it might bring in a considerable income to this country.

It was dark ere we reached the bridge of Aberfeldy. The bridge has been not long erected. Its arches I did not count. The Tay is here still broad and deep. Pillars are raised at equal distances upon the sides of this bridge. They have been intended, I doubt not, to ornament it; but their form is such as to give them the air rather of lamp-posts than of ornamental pillars. Here is a considerable and increasing village occupied chiefly by labourers in the cotton-manufacture. Such villages one delights to find scattered over a country; for a country is more benefited by the manufactures, when the manufacturers are dispersed over it in hamlets and villages, than when they are assembled together, in great towns.

ALTHOUGH it was night, I was, however, to proceed to Kenmore. The darkness was doubly mortifying to me: There was danger of wandering astray upon an unknown road: and I could not enjoy the prospect

pect of the fine strath, and of the impending hills,  
as I advanced.

I WAS now in the midst of the Grampian mountains. The recollection of ancient Caledonia, and of the contest between the Romans and its Celtic inhabitants was, in these scenes unavoidable. I was at no great distance from *Fortingal*, where is still traced the scene of a battle fought between the Romans and the ancient Caledonians; or rather perhaps the remains of a camp where Roman forces might be for some time stationed. The Grampian mountains formed a natural barrier by which the ancient inhabitants of these regions were inaccessiblely protected against the progress of the Roman invasion. Among those mountains, several are of a stupendous height. Shehallion rises to the height of more than three thousand and five hundred feet above the level of the sea. In these regions the hunter-life seems to have first given place gradually to that of the shepherd and the rude warrior intermixed: and, as the decay of the forests, and the gradual extermination of the wild animals which inhabited them rendered it impossible to procure the means of subsistence in this manner; they turned themselves, by degrees, to the domestication and the tendency and feeding the more gentle and tractable of those animals. And now, since they have  
accustomed

accustomed themselves to settled habits of life, they have found the resources of the shepherd insufficient, by themselves, to furnish the necessaries and conveniences of life. Hence, in time, some share of application to agriculture. Agricultural industry, while it is the most severe, has been found to be, at the same time, the most productive. Hence have the little *gardens* which were at first inclosed in these parts, been extended, insensibly, into *crofts*. The *crofts* came to be included within larger parks. And the plough and the spade still extended their conquests, till the whole arable straths were converted into meadows and corn-fields. Agriculture seems likely to make yet considerable progress in these parts. Limestone every where abounds. The reputation of agriculture, as an useful and honourable mode of industry is fast rising in this country. It will make a more rapid progress, as it is at the same time favourable if not to the breeding, at least to the feeding and fattening of black cattle. If the proprietors of these lands shall be induced to spread plantations of suitable trees, over their more unsheltered grounds; If they shall gradually encourage their tenants to inclose those fields which are susceptible of tillage; If they shall apply themselves to open up the country by adding parish-roads to the excellent highways which run, at present, through the Highlands; and especially, if they shall give the  
tenants

tenants an interest in the improvement of their farms, by favouring them with long leases, upon rents rising at certain periods in the progress of the lease; Agriculture may yet make, in these wild districts, a progress, the extent and perfection of which can hardly be well conceived, at present. I think it highly probable, that this happy change will, in due time, be accomplished, through those means. The spirit of the times is turned to urge on the career of industry in every direction. Science and labour have combined to improve every branch of manufacture, and at the same time, to extract from the earth every useful production, she can be forced to yield. The progress, above related, of civility and industry in Rannoch, since the year 1745, proves how highly susceptible are these regions and their inhabitants of improvement.

Among other disadvantages which I suffered by riding between Logierait and Kenmore, by night, was, the loss of the sight of the seat of the *Heads* of the ancient clan of *Menzies*. Woods rise boldly above Castle Menzies; and the gray rocks which shew themselves between, present a fine contrast to the softer beauties of the vale below. The remains of an hermitage are to be seen, at some distance up the impending hill. The native rock afforded two sides to this building: to which were added two others,

others, of mason-work. Hither, some centuries since, did the Chief of this family retire, in disgust, from the world; after resigning his fortune to a younger brother.

THE road was still excellent. It rained, indeed, at times. Yet, the journey was as little disagreeable, as a journey, by night, and in the end of a rainy autumn can well be supposed. We, at length, entered Lord Breadalbane's domains. Even under the darkness of night, I was agreeably struck with the vast trees, the noble park-walls, the opening lawns, and the dark figures of straying cows and deer, which faintly marked these scenes to the view. The way to Kenmore branched off from the great road, and passed directly through his Lordship's parks. The gates were readily opened. The porters and others directed us on our way with an attention and civility which seemed to bespeak the character of the master whom they served. Our reception at the inn at Kenmore was no less kind and attentive. The accommodations which Lord Breadalbane's care has here provided, exceed what the traveller expects to meet with in a region so sequestered and surrounded with such dreary environs. The landlord, too, or landlady (I have forgotten which) is English. The servants are indeed Highlanders, and the waiters wear fillibegs: but are not less

less cheerfully and actively attentive, than the supercilious and foppish attendants at the inns and taverns in great cities.

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*KENMORE, TAYMOUTH, and to KILLIN.*

AN ornamented and cultivated scene is peculiarly pleasing to the mind, when it occurs in a country of which the general aspect is wild and barren. The grand and the terrible lose their power to elevate or overawe the mind, where they hold an *exclusive* empire, without suffering the beautiful and the gentle to insinuate into competition with them. Where cultivation and ornament have softened *every* feature of a country; the spectator becomes indifferent to their beauties, and longs for the terrible and the sublime; the bleak heath, the frowning rock, the roaring cataract.

ON this principle, is it, as I should suppose, that the tour of the Highlands of Scotland has become fashionable. Here is much of the wilder scenery of nature. But, these wild scenes are interspersed with various spots of ornament and cultivation; which set them off by contrast: and the ornamented grounds of the great proprietors appear here, by the same contrast, to extraordinary advantage; like

the white teeth of a negro, set off by the darkness of his face.

ANOTHER observation which naturally occurs to the traveller through the West Highlands, is, that scenes of wild grandeur and natural magnificence are the best situations for the seats of men of great fortune. There is a sort of analogy by which all the different species of greatness are allied to each other. A wide and copious stream produces a better effect, than a scanty rivulet, at the base of a broad and lofty mountain. A Palace requires a more extensive domain than an ornamented farmhouse. In the same manner, too, a stately palace, and the expence which a vast fortune affords to be laid out in ornamenting the scenes of nature—accord better with places, where nature shews herself in her grander aspects, and where the utmost force of art is requisite, to subdue her obstinacy,—than with those regions where she assumes a milder and more familiar form. Villas, ornamented farms, and gentlemen's houses of no extraordinary magnificence produce the best effect on level downs, in verdant vales, and on the sides of slowly-sloping, green hills. In such situations as Dunkeld, Blair-Atholl, Taymouth, or Inverary, they would be like the eyes of a pygmy in the sockets of a Colossus.

SUCH

SUCH reflections arose in my mind, as I walk-  
ed out, in the morning, after breakfast, to view  
Lord Breadalbane's ornamented grounds, round his  
seat of *Taymouth*. One of the first objects which drew  
my notice, was Loch-Tay, close upon the eastern  
extremity of which the village of Kenmore stands.  
This lake is full sixteen miles in length. Its breadth  
varies; but is commonly estimated at one mile. It is  
said to be, in many places, an hundred fathoms deep.  
In its length it winds so as to take a form not unlike  
the letter S. It is surrounded by vast hills, whose de-  
clivities bound it sometimes by a gentler, and some-  
times by a more abrupt slope. Its borders are here  
and there fringed with young wood which rises, in  
some places to a considerable extent up the hills.  
Cornfields, in many places, diversify, in an agree-  
able manner, the aspect of these scenes. In other  
places, nothing meets the eye but an extensive wild,  
clad with short, stunted heath. Loch-Tay is among  
the largest lakes of fresh water in Britain. A great  
multitude of streams increase its waters with their  
tribute. Although it has no known communica-  
tion with the sea, its waters have sometimes been  
remarkably agitated with motions not unlike the  
ebbing and flowing of the tide. Philosophers have  
been curiously eager to record this phænomenon  
and investigate its cause. But, it has been, too sel-  
dom, as yet, observed, and the natural history of



the lake is too imperfectly known in all its circumstances, to admit, at present, of any satisfactory solution. How many of the phenomena of the earth and ocean must remain, in our view, anomalous and unaccountable, so long as we cannot penetrate through the bowels of the former, or explore the depths of the latter?—This lake abounds with fishes; pike, perch, salmon, char, trout, samlets, minnows, lampries, and eels; of the trouts some have been caught, which weighed thirty pounds. Different species of fishes are peculiar to the different ends of the lake. The most valuable are taken at the north-western end. The inn-keeper at Killin informed me, that he was obliged by the conditions of his *tack*, to supply Lord Breadalbane's table, with some fishes which abound there, but are not to be met with in the neighbourhood of Kenmore.

CLOSE on the verge of the lake stands the church of Kenmore; a neat building, decently fitted up, within. Between the church and the outlet where the Tay issues from the lake, is, a small boat-house, which has somewhat of the air of a rustic chapel. Just as the Tay leaves the lake, it is covered with a handsome bridge which affords a passage to the northern side of the Loch. At some small distance above the bridge, as you advance to the north-west, along the northern shore, is an isle, which was once  
the

the site of a priory, and inhabited by monks. The ruins of the priory remain; and are shaded by some venerable trees; among which is a *Guine* or black cherry tree, the circumferential measurement of which is, at the height of four feet from the ground, not less than ten feet, three inches. Within this isle the Campbells of Breadalbane defended themselves against the gallant Marquis of Montrose, in the civil wars of the last century. A shot from the besieged had nearly wounded or slain the royalist commander. In his rage, he wasted their territories with fire and the sword. Their recess, too, was taken and garrisoned. But, in 1654, it was retaken by General Monk.

SUCH is the prospect from that end of the village where it is bounded by the lake: the waters of the lake for a great extent; on either side, rising hills, clad, on the fore-ground, at least, with wood; on one hand, this isle, on which the remains of antiquity still command to it a degree of solemn veneration; on the other, some corn-fields, and one or two decent farm-houses: perhaps a boat or two may accidentally animate the still scene of the lake.

I HAD, by the advice of the people of the inn, sent to Lord Breadalbane's game-keeper, who is permitted by his Lordship, to *guide* strangers through  
his

his grounds, and to the different curiosities in the environs. As I was gazing on the lake, he arrived. I followed him through a gate to which he had a key, and soon found myself in Lord Breadalbane's park, on the bank of the Tay. These grounds are finely diversified by natural or artificial inequalities of the surface; and by the varied disposition of noble avenues and clumps of trees. The mass of water which fills the channel of the river, and the narrow extent of unbroken level ground on the bank require its effect to be softened by intervening trees. Noble rows of trees, in some places so thick and dark as almost to hide the stream—are accordingly planted all along the edge of the water. Where the plain swells into gentle eminences, the summit of each is so marked, as to be rendered a suitable point for the termination, and the renewal of a walk. Where the lawn opens, Virginian, and fallow-deer, with some few roes are seen sporting or grazing upon it. Here is a wider and more ornamented lawn than at either Dunkeld or Blair-Atholl: And, that,—overhung as it is on two sides by lofty mountains, and screened with wood,—it may not have too blank and faint an effect, in proportion to the other parts in the scene; *single trees* are scattered here and there, over it. Many of these are among the finest I have ever seen: they are, I think, oaks, elms, and chestnuts, and perhaps of some other species,

sies, beside these. The various swells of the surface, the arrangement of the trees, and the directions in which the walks are conducted, present almost every beautiful modification of the waving line.—This was not the season to see these soft, and ornamented scenes in the full flush of coloured beauty. But, even in the sickly hues of declining autumn, I thought them charming.

ONE of the most admired objects is an avenue of venerable limes; extending four hundred and fifty yards in length. The tops of these unite with a spherical angle, like that which marks the roof, doors, and windows of a Gothic palace. Somebody has wisely conjectured, that from such natural, vegetable arches, was the idea of the arch in Gothic Architecture first taken. If such arching walks were common, I might, indeed, be induced to adopt the opinion. But, having never seen such another, and never having heard from men more familiar than myself, with the vegetable world, that these phænomena are frequent in it: I am rather inclined to suspect, that the arch in which the trees of this avenue join their summits, may be artificial, in a good measure, and that the idea of giving them this bent may have been taken from the forms of Gothic architecture. They are of that age in which it was esteemed the perfection of Taste in Gardening to  
prune

prune vegetables into the fantastic figures of Animals, and of all the oddest productions of Art. Had I met with such an avenue in the middle of an extensive, natural forest, I might have supposed what is peculiar in it to have been the untutored work of nature accidentally imitating art. But, in this situation, one cannot, without extreme simplicity, conceive such a fancy of it.

THE house of TAYMOUTH, to which this walk leads, is a noble, although not quite a modern one. It was first built by Sir Colin Campbell of Lochow, who died in the year 1583. Its original name was *Balloch* castle. It was, in original structure, I believe, literally a castle. Subsequent improvements, with the change of manners, and the alteration of the taste in architecture, have divested it of its castellated form, and enlarged it with the addition of two wings. It fronts the south-west. I had not an opportunity of viewing all the apartments; for some part of the family were at this time in the house. Those into which I was admitted, pleased me as spacious and elegant. But, I cannot think them equal to the public rooms at Blair-Atholl.

THE paintings are among the chief ornaments of the house of Tay-mouth. Being unskilled in the technical beauties of painting, I could not enjoy the

the landscapes and history pieces in this collection so much as I could have wished. The portraits are numerous, and preserve the features of not a few of the more eminent characters in the British history. Among these are portraits of John Lesly, Duke of Rothés,—of James, first Marquis, and afterwards Duke of Hamilton,—of William, Earl Marshall,—of Thomas, Lord Binning,—of John, Earl of Mar;—of Sir Robert, and of Sir John Campbell of Glenorchie; all men of distinction in the middle of the last century. Here are also portraits of two illustrious brothers who acted a distinguished part in the unhappy times of Charles I; Henry, Earl of Holland, and Robert, Earl of Warwick; the former said to have been, at one time, a favourite with Henrietta, Charles's queen; the latter, an adherent of the Parliament, of Cromwell, and of the Puritans; who with the worst principles and the most profligate conduct, contrived, however, to acquire, and to maintain the character of a *Godly Man*. Here is also a portrait of John, the first Earl of Breadalbane, whose unsuccessful policy, and resentment, produced the massacre at Glencoe, the disgrace of King William's reign.

ONE of the last pieces added to this collection, is a painting by the celebrated Gavin Hamilton, on the subject of Scipio restoring the fair Spanish captive

tive to her parents and betrothed husband. The forms, the attitudes, the colours, the expression in this piece are all admirable. It is the most exquisite of enjoyments even to a person destitute of taste in painting, to gaze on such a piece. Hamilton's ideas of female beauty seem not quite the same with those of our admired Reynolds. His female faces are not so round or plump. Reynolds's beauties have something more sensual and luxurious in their aspect: Hamilton's have somewhat more of feminine delicacy and of tender sentiment in the form and air of their features. I remember meeting two children, a boy and a girl, near Logierait, whose faces seemed to have been cast in the very same mould as Reynolds's Venus: I shall hereafter have occasion to mention, that at Hamilton, near Glasgow, are faces, just such as might serve for patterns to G. Hamilton; his female forms seem only so many portraits of the lasses of Hamilton.

An *Album* is kept at the house of Taymouth, in which travellers admitted to see it, are required to insert their names. Looking over the list of the names of those whose visits to Taymouth were here recorded, I saw here and there a sentence added, expressive of the high delight with which the subscriber had viewed the house, and surveyed the surrounding grounds. I observed, however, no ver-

ses.

les, nor any Latin or Greek inscriptions. I had seen enough to charm me; but not feeling upon me the spirit of panegyric, I contented myself with barely subscribing my name, as the greater number of the prior subscribers appeared to have done. I found Lord Breadalbane's servants more obstinately resolved against receiving any pecuniary gratification for their attentions, than those about any other great house which I have had occasion to visit in the same manner.

LEAVING the house, I was led across the lawn, and up an opposite hill, divided from it by the highway. The declivity of this hill is covered with fine trees, chiefly pines. Upon the edge of the highway are some noble chestnut trees, which, if unviolated by the axe, may perhaps grow to rival in size the chestnut trees of Mount Etna. A good way up the hill appears the root of a tree of vast circumference, which was, I know not how many years since, deracinated by the fury of the winds: The space which its roots had occupied, appears a cavern of no inconsiderable depth and wideness. Farther up the hill, is, what is called a *fort*, mounted with some small cannons which are fired upon occasions of rejoicing. From this station, the beholder enjoys a charming prospect of the lawn below, the lake, the



river, the opposite hills, and the loftiest peaks of the Grampian mountains rising in distant perspective,

DESCENDING the declivity of the hill, by paths, winding among the wood with which it is covered, we again crossed the road, traversed the lawn, and passed by a beautiful Chinese bridge to the North-East of the river. Here is a charming walk, immediately over the bank; *it* is steep, but clad with fine and thriving trees which prevent it from giving any thing of a rugged appearance to the scene,

FROM this walk, we proceeded through the fields to the neck of the loch, where the bridge is thrown over the river; and by it returned to the inn. I must confess, that, if any circumstance could have made me lament the late period in the season, at which I travelled, it was the sight of these beautiful scenes, and the reflection; how much more beautiful they must undoubtedly appear in Spring, Summer, and early Autumn. The situation is naturally a happy one for a nobleman's seat, and ornamented grounds. And I cannot conceive how taste could well do more than has here been done, to improve the advantages of nature. Since the distant mountains are bleak and bare, the nearest hills are with great judgment clad with wood. The trees are of the tallest, stateliest character, suiting the vicinity of the seat  
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of an ancient, noble, and opulent family. The extent of the level ground gives an advantage which neither the scenes about Dunkeld, nor those round Blair-Atholl afford. The single trees scattered over the plain are necessary to give it strength of effect proportionate to that of the adjacent scenery. The air of the building bespeaks the antiquity of the family, and suits, at the same time, the character of the country in which it stands. The arched, or *Berceau* walk, is a noble monument of the taste of former times in these matters. Every suitable advantage is taken of the river; and the whole scenes are accommodated as they well can be, to the mixed character of grandeur and beauty which distinguishes the lake,

I AM inclined to fancy that the village of Kenmore may hereafter become the seat of some flourishing manufacture. It may prove a cotton-manufacture; I should rather wish, that it were of some sort of woollen stuff. I believe, that our most enlightened medical men are inclined to think that we use woollens as an article of dress less than we might with advantage, do. How many of the diseases with which we are chiefly infested, are such as originate in colds? Woollens, in our climate would be a better preservation against these than any other sort of dress. I should wish, therefore, that the conductors of our woollen manufactures, and the leaders of the

the fashion, would unite their influence to turn the national taste in dress and the bent of its industry, more than they are at present, to the making and the wearing of woollen stuffs. I should imagine that the fabrics of woollens, might be as much diversified as those of linens, of cottons, and of silks; and the caprices of fashion might thus be sufficiently gratified. No manufactures are so natural to a country as those for which it produces the raw materials. The encouragement of the woollen manufacture becomes a matter of the greater consequence to the Highlands, since sheep have been adopted as a more profitable species of live-stock than black-cattle. Much greater numbers of sheep are already fed through the Highlands; their numbers are annually augmented. Now, if the wool could be wrought up at home; it might be exported, with much greater advantage to the country, in a manufactured, than in a raw state. A manufacture of coarse carpeting, of frize, of coarse broad-cloth, of tartans, of stockings, of flannels, or of worsted stuffs might, in this case, be established with great advantage, at Kenmore.

BLACK cattle form still perhaps too considerable a part of the live-stock kept by the farmers in this neighbourhood. They are sold off, at certain ages, to drovers from the Low Country of Scotland  
and

and from England; or perhaps driven to the cattle-markets in Scotland and England by dealers from the country where they are bred. The prices vary with age, size, shape, season, and various other circumstances.

MANAGERS of sheep from Clydesdale, and other southern countries, have, within these last ten or twelve years, begun to resort eagerly to the Highlands. They have obtained, in many places, long leases from the proprietors of the lands, in these parts---at rents much higher than were before paid for the same farms,---such as no Highlandman could pay, by the old practice of farming,---yet, such as these alien shepherds have, by their modes of managing live-stock, been enabled to pay, and at the same time, to enrich themselves. Stocking their farms with sheep, instead of black cattle, smearing, feeding, and changing their flocks of sheep, in a manner peculiar to themselves, and unknown to the old Highland farmers; and selling them off at the best markets: They have thus been enabled to make seemingly unimproveable heaths and hills, afford a much greater proportion of subsistence for human life, than was before obtained from them.

THESE improvers, however, and the landlords whose grounds they have rented, have become on  
this

this score unpopular in the Highlands. The prejudices of clanship have almost died away : Yet the Highlanders think it hard that a Highland Gentleman should let his lands to a stranger, in preference to one of themselves, even when tempted by the offer of higher rent. When excluded too from this, the only species of industry of which he is capable, a Highlandman has no other shift to follow, but to leave the country. He cannot prevail with himself to imitate in the management of his farm the practice of strangers. He cannot live upon it, if he manages it no better than formerly. There is no trade or manufacture to which the old farmer can turn himself. He leaves the place. And his friends who remain, complain, that the country is depopulated by the avarice of the landholders, and the intrusion of strangers.

By insensible degrees, however, the Highland farmers learn to imitate the practices of those strangers whom they see acquire opulence where they themselves can barely subsist. They find the same management which enriches strangers, succeed with themselves. The proprietors of the lands retain still so much of the old clanish spirit, that when a Highlander will pay the same rent for a farm as a Lowlander, the Highlander is always preferred. Nay at the expiration of a Lowlander's lease, if the landlord can possibly

possibly find a Highlander to manage the farm upon the same principles, and pay nearly the same rent; the Lowlander is sure to be dismissed. So that, the lower Highlanders have little reason to complain of any unreasonable partiality in their landlords for stranger tenants. Nay, a farmer from the Low Country is apt, not without cause, to think himself extremely ill used, when, after having taught the Highlanders the art of enriching themselves, he is immediately dismissed with contempt.

ONE ground of complaint, however, still remains. It is asserted that many fewer families are maintained upon those farms in the Highlands which have been turned into sheep-walks, than they afforded subsistence to, in their former more cultivated state. This idea has gone out through the whole kingdom: and I have met with many otherwise intelligent and enlightened men who were, in this view, unfriendly to such a mode of improving the Highlands.

YET none surely, but superficial thinkers, can fit down in the belief, that any species of management which renders a country more productive, can be, in the whole, injurious to it.

It may have been hastily alledged, but has never been proved, or even coolly asserted, that the population of the whole island is diminished with the population of the Highlands of Scotland. The contrary is the true fact. Our population has increased in other parts of the kingdom, in a much larger proportion than that in which it may be pretended to have here declined. The nation has been, as it were, contracting its relaxed forces, with an energetic effort, into the centre; from which it will soon expand them with new vigour. In places peculiarly favourable to trade, to manufactures and agriculture, and enjoying, at the same time perhaps some accidental advantages, not reaching to these regions,—population has rapidly increased within the present century. The prosperity of those places, will, by degrees, raise the price of labour and of provisions, and diminish their industry, and impair their healthiness,—so as to give such parts of the kingdom which are now, in some sort, deserted and neglected, comparative advantages that will attract to them no scanty share of the population and opulence which they must till then want.—Thus have population, wealth, and industry been always spread, gradually over every country. Berwickshire was the first seat of improved agriculture in Scotland: Had not the tillage and crops of Berwickshire been eagerly adopted in several of the other more improveable

proveable counties in Scotland, it might have by degrees attracted as great a crowd of the husbandmen of Scotland, as it could well contain. The silk-manufacture originally established in Spittalfields, came at length to be tried also at Paisley, Halifax, and other places through Britain. The cotton-manufacture came from England to Scotland; and from those manufacturing towns in Scotland, in which it was first tried, is fast finding its way over the whole country. Only introduce trade and industry into a country: cherish them where they have first fixed themselves, without adding to the natural disadvantages of other places: They will, by degrees, diffuse themselves, more or less, over the country. Nor will their progress leave them less energy in their primary seats. The richest districts of a kingdom will ever attract population, to the disadvantage of the rest: But the heaped up fluid soon returns to its level.

MEANWHILE, it is unreasonable to complain of the present depopulation of the Highlands of Scotland. It is much more inconsiderable than has been said. Those who are induced to leave the Highlands, find employment elsewhere, without being obliged to forsake their country. By those modes of managing the lands, which are complained of as depopulating, maintenance is obtained from them



for a much greater number of mankind, than they could before maintain, And, all this maintenance is either consumed within the kingdom, or at least exchanged for commodities equally necessary, which are consumed within it. The natural course of human affairs, and the exertions of individuals, and of associated bodies, directed to this particular purpose will shortly be seen to restore to the Highlands, that population which they may seem to have lost.

THE beauties of Lord Braidalbane's ornamented grounds, and the curiosities round this place are numerous above what I have mentioned. A hermitage is one of the most admired curiosities in these environs. I was not so happy as to have time to visit it. Some fine water-falls I saw, in all their grandeur. But, in this country, and at this time in the season, water-falls are so numerous, as to lose, to the imagination, much of the grandeur of their appearance, and of the force of their effect.

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*From KENMORE to KILLIN.*

I WAS, at length to leave scenes with which I had been enchanted; although I had seen them to nearly the same disadvantage, as if one should see a Beauty in her morning-dishabille, while she were hardly yet  
refreshed

refreshed by sleep, after the watching and fatigue of a ball. My original hope had been to reach Inverary, on this night. But, a considerable part of the forenoon was, by this time, consumed. It again rained. The prospect was dreary. The road by which I was to travel, not the most level imaginable. I now therefore contented myself with the idea of proceeding at least to Tyndrom, or Dalmally, in the course of the afternoon.

WE mounted, and set out. The road was not bad. But, I cannot praise the prospect. Even in the fairest season of the year, I should suppose, that it must seem bleak. The wood bears too small a proportion, as well in quantity, as in growth, to the expanse of the lake. The hills rise not over it with that awful abruptness, which impresses the mind with sentiments of sublimity and wonder. The country, on either side, spreads out into a bleak heath,—of that level on which the eye naturally expects cultivation. When this level happens to want cultivation, or to exhibit none but scanty, meagre products of husbandry, it never fails to communicate ideas of barrenness and poverty.—The aspect of the farm-houses adds to this effect. They are, externally at least, almost inconceivably poor and mean. The woods consist not of such stately trees as those in the parks at Taymouth. Birches  
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and dwarfish pines are the most numerous.—A deep forest might correspond to the wildness of these scenes, and invest it with grandeur. But these trees cannot.

THE corn appeared every where green, and unfit for the sickle. The lateness of the season had, however, obliged the poor peasants to begin cutting it down; as, after October was considerably advanced, they could have small hopes of seeing it ripen. So scanty a crop cannot supply, as I should think, nearly enough of grain for the sustenance of the inhabitants. I know not well whether they supply themselves with what additional corn or meal they may need, from the south-east, or from the north-west. I believe, the corn-merchants and meal-mongers in Glasgow and Greenock import considerable quantities of corn and meal annually into the West Highlands.

BLEAK and bare as was the country; yet in some of the landscapes which opened successively to the eye in travelling along the side of Loch-Tay, there was somewhat to strike, and to amuse a pensive mind. The bleak heath was commonly bounded by hills, either nearer, or more distant. Those hills were crowned with mist. The scenery of Ossian was suggested to the mind. Similar was the face of the

the country, marked in his allusions and descriptions. The barrenness and wildness of that country, is still almost the same. The inhabitants are but little better provided with the conveniences of life. Ossian, too, speaks oftener of the bare heath and the stunted single tree, than of the deep forest.—With the remembrance of Ossian thus suggested, the mind naturally recalled the kindred ideas of the maids and the heroes whose feats, whose loves, and whose misfortunes he celebrates; and of that strange peculiarity in their circumstances and manners, by which simplicity and refinement, rudeness and delicacy were wonderfully united in them.

THERE was something animating, as well as soothing in this train of thought. Who could think a country dreary, which had produced such heroes? Who could allow his spirits to sink under present inconveniences, in a land in which perhaps every moor, every stream, and every hill had been distinguished by the residence, or by the deeds of a race of men, in whom savage life seemed to triumph over all the refinements of civility? What native of Scotland could avoid feeling his heart swell, when led to recollect the ancient glories of his country.

THERE was somewhat of painful painful intermingled with these reflections. If the state of manners represented

presented in the poems of Ossian ever actually existed; and if the people among whom it existed were in circumstances of poverty, and helpless artlessness, as he also represents: Ah! why have the improvements and refinements of civilized life, produced nothing more amiable or exalted in sentiment among men?

As I proceeded, I met some reapers whom the rain had driven from their work. Bedrenched as I was with rain, I am sure that my appearance was not calculated to excite either respect or terror. But, in this wild country so little are the inhabitants accustomed to the sight of strangers, that they face them with little less timidity, than the goats or roes which inhabit the same hills. They left the road as I approached, and skulked among a clump of stunted firs, till I had passed.

As we continued to advance nearer to Killin, the country assumed somewhat of a richer and more cultivated aspect. The road lay farther down upon the border of the lake. In the fields were hillocks of pease on the straw; and the corn was chiefly in shocks. The soil seemed deep; and the grass was of a dark-green colour. Some ancient trees added dignity, here and there, to the scene. In one place the soil had been cut to a considerable depth, by the frequent action of those torrents, which, in storms  
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of rain are precipitated from the adjacent hills. Large masses of rock here and there obstructed the channel. A bridge was thrown over it: and ashes of a lively green, grew on the brink, above and below the bridge. On the farther side stood a snug, commodious *stead* of a farm-house with offices. At some small distance, nearer to the edge of the lake stand the remains of an ancient castle seemingly of great antiquity. I enquired and was informed concerning the family who had been the ancient proprietors of this castle and the adjoining lands; but the information escaped from my memory, before I could find time to note it down. Such ruins are among the objects which a traveller naturally expects to find somewhere on the borders of an extensive lake. For, the sea-coast, the banks of rivers, the borders of lakes are always the seats on which mankind first settle, in any country. Consequently, in such places are the oldest vestiges of human industry, and human habitation to be looked for. It was in this mind as to these matters, that I found the ruinous castle I have just mentioned, not a little interesting.

NORTH-EAST from Loch-Tay extends Glen-Lyon, a long narrow vale, divided by the Lyon; which joins the Tay, at a small distance below Kenmore. On each side of the vale towers up a ridge of lofty hills.

The vale is cultivated for the extent of twenty-eight miles in length. Hamlets are scattered here and there, through it. In many places, these hamlets are so confined among the hills, as to be hidden for three or four months in the year, from the sight of the sun. Of these hamlets no fewer than twenty eight are scattered along the length of the vale. The soil is not unfit for agriculture. But, the climate is backward. And the crops are seldom ripe at the time in the season, when it becomes necessary to cut them down.—The hills are green half-way to their summits. The shepherds reside upon them in *sheals* in summer, and sometimes through winter. The river Lyon affords salmon. In Glen-Lyon is a vein of lead ore which was opened, and wrought for a short time, about sixty years since.

ROES are considerably numerous in Glen-Lyon: Eoxes still more so. The *Capercaillie* is one of the birds in these regions. On its way to join the Tay, the river Lyon passed through the district of Fortingal, already mentioned. In the church-yard of Fortingal stand the remains of a famous yew-tree, fifty two feet in circumference.—The yew was very much a favourite in this island, in the days of archery. I know not whether this tree came to be planted round church-yards, in consequence of its wood being found particularly useful for bows; or whether

whether it was not perhaps employed for this use, in consequence of having been previously planted commonly in such situations. But both the one and other are facts in its history.

THROUGHOUT all this tract of country are many circular forts, from thirty to fifty feet in diameter, and about five feet high. The stones of which they are built, are very large. Of the height of all of them some part seems to have fallen. Two are larger than the rest, and appear to have had outworks. They extend between Dunkeld and Glenorchy.

TOWARDS Killin rise the wild summits of *Lowers*, and the rugged heights of *Finlarig*. The sides of these mountains, facing the lake, are clothed with wood. At the foot of *Finlarig* stand the ruins of the castle of the same name, an ancient seat of the the Campbells, knights of *Glenurchie*. In this neighbourhood was once fought a bloody contest between *Campbells*, and the *Macdonalds* of *Keppoch* who had made a plundering incursion into the country. The Campbells were assembled at a christening entertainment, in the great hall of *Finlarig*. News was brought that the Macdonalds were returning, in triumph, with their booty, over the adjacent hill of *Strone-Clachan*. The Campbells rose, with one accord, from the festive table, ascended the hill and



affailed the plunderers. They were, however, overpowered, and twenty gentlemen of the name of Campbell, left dead on the spot. News of their disaster was sent to *Balloch* or *Taymouth*, the seat of their chief. He sent aid. The ravagers were pursued, overtaken at the *braes* of *Glenorchie*, defeated, and deprived of their booty.

THE river *Lochy* runs gently down upon the northern side of the hill of *Strone-Clachan*; and afterwards winds round, through the plain, on the front of this hill, in a south-western direction, till it meets the *Tay* pouring down with a more rapid course upon the opposite side of *Strone-Clachan*; and both rivers discharge their waters, nearly at the point of union, into *Loch-Tay*. On the northern bank of the *Lochy*, and near the high-way stand several cottages; and above these a decent gentleman's seat, named *Borland*. Approaching *Killin*, the traveller crosses, by a bridge, over the *Lochy*. The river was swollen by the rains. The lake displayed here, as through its whole length, a full and wide expanse of water. The opposite bank presented an ornamented, cultivated aspect. The meandering of the river divided the plain with a beautiful waving line. It was still covered with green grass, nor was it altogether bare of corn. The inn, the manse, and some other houses, all within the same land-

landscape, contributed greatly to enliven the scene. The north-east end of the village, lay, at the same time, within sight. Twilight was just falling. Strone-Clachan above, the more majestic hills towering at a distance on either side, and the expanse of the lake to the south-east, immeasurable by the eye,—all aided its effects. The scene was one of those mixed exhibitions of grandeur with melancholy beauty, which falling darkness renders more solemn, and not less pleasing.

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*KILLIN; and to TAYNDROM.*

THE inn at Killin into which I now entered, is not uncomfortable. It is large, and is accommodated with good stables, and with other suitable offices-houses. This as well as the inn at Kenmore is on Lord Breadalbane's estate. And the anxiety with which the late and the present Lord Breadalbane appear to have attended to the establishment of good inns on that part of their estates which lies upon the highways—does them the highest honour. They well merit the gratitude of the traveller to whom commodious accommodation, and civil entertainment in a place where he can command, as at home,—must, after the fatigue of a journey—especially if it happens to be through a dreary country, and in stormy

stormy weather,—afford more agreeable enjoyment, than all the gratifications of luxury, in scenes of ease and indulgence. A matter of as great consequence as the providing of comfortable inns, is, the placing of inn-keepers in them, from whose good sense and attention,—a due care of the house, servants, and guests, may be expected. Mr Macdougall, the landlord of the inn at Killin, is from Cupar in Angus; his civility and attention, with the conveniencies of his house, rendered this evening sufficiently agreeable to me.

It is pleasing to reflect upon the history of hospitality, as connected with the progress of manners, and with the local circumstances of countries. Anciently, inns were unknown in the Highlands of Scotland. But, the stranger who was not robbed or murdered, found in every house, the kindest reception and the most honourable entertainment that the family could give. In the patriarchal times, similar was the mode of hospitality which prevailed in Asia. In ancient Persia were *Statbmi*, houses established by the Government for the reception and entertainment of travellers, at equal distances upon the highways. In various places through Turkey, buildings, called *Namas-giabs* have been erected to receive the traveller, and fountains provided to refresh his thirst, and to supply him with water for  
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the ablutions prescribed by the ordinances of the Mahometan religion. Nay, so far has this species of benevolence been carried, that sums of money have been assigned for purchasing snow in summer, for the use of the persons who repair to drink at the fountains. In Asia Minor are inns called *Konacs*, where the traveller is supplied with provisions, and with a mattrafs and a pillow, to sleep upon, but with nothing to cover him, during the night. In the inns of Germany, it appears from some of the entertaining dialogues of Erasmus, that, between two and three hundred years since, travellers were all received in one hall, without respect of persons, where they used to talk and eat and drink together. From Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, and the arrangement of them, we learn, that, for pilgrims at least, the custom was anciently the same in England. In Joanna, one of the Comorra islands, frequented by the English, in their voyages to the East, hotels or houses for entertainment are commonly kept by the principal people in the island. These have somehow acquired from the English sailors, and among themselves, the appellation of *Dukes*: They demand a dollar a day, for the entertainment of a guest: they take certificates from one set of customers, to recommend them to the next who may arrive. Hospitality never appeared more amiable than at the Pelew islands, the simple and virtuous inhabitants of which, shewed  
such

such wonderful humanity to Captain Wilson and his shipwrecked crew. Our English travellers complain miserably of the inns on the continent of Europe,—especially of Italy. They have begun to acknowledge, within these last twelve years, that no where are better inns to be met with than in the Highlands of Scotland.—When I complained to Mr Macdougall, that his rooms were damp, he excused this circumstance by informing me, that so late in the season, he had not occasion to receive many guests; and when I complained that the bells were ill-hung, he replied, that there was no bell-hanger in the neighbourhood to repair them. I had no other complaints to make.

It happened that on the afternoon of the day on which I arrived here, a party of the farmers on Lord Breadalbane's Perthshire estate had dined at the inn. The occasion of their meeting was, as the landlord informed me, to divide among themselves an hundred sheep of the Cheviot breed, which Lord Breadalbane had, by the advice of Sir John Sinclair, purchased, and presented to his farmers, for the improvement of the breed of sheep on his Estates. The landlord (whom, finding him to be an intelligent man, I was glad to detain with me, during some part of the evening, and to lead him into conversation,) proceeded, after mentioning this instance

stance of his noble master's kindness to his tenants, to inform me, that his Lordship was highly and universally beloved by them. On such easy terms, by his account, do they hold their farms, that of a rental of from seventeen to twenty thousand pounds a year, the whole is always cheerfully and readily paid within three days, during which his Lordship's factors hold their courts for the purpose of receiving his rents. His Lordship has not, like various other Highland proprietors, sought to raise the value of his lands, by displacing the old race of tenants. Yet, he neglects no means of improving his fortune, by which the general circumstances of the country can be at the same time improved. Upon some of his estates, as on some of the great estates in England, leases had never yet been let. Yet neither have the rents been arbitrarily raised, nor the tenants capriciously displaced. It was expected, that in the course of the ensuing year, leases would be granted to the occupants of those lands, and increased rents at the same time required. The whole tenantry will cheerfully take leases at whatever increased rent their landlord may chuse to demand: for their confidence in his goodness persuades them, that he will not think of imposing any intolerable burdens.

THE village of Killin is small, but seemingly thriving. The name is referred in its origin, to

Fingal. A tradition is preserved, that the father of Ossian was buried here. The villagers are chiefly mechanics who receive employment from the inhabitants of the circumjacent country,—day-labourers in husbandry,—with perhaps an alehouse-keeper or two. I was pleased with the account I received of one institution which they have contrived to establish among them. Several years since, some mechanics, who had been to work at their trades in Edinburgh or Glasgow, returned to settle at Killin. They suggested to their neighbours the idea of instituting a fund, such as those which the artizans have formed, in most great towns, for their relief in sickness, and for the assistance of their families in the event of the death of the head of any one. The thought seemed a good one. A number of the villagers and the inhabitants of the neighbouring country formed themselves into a Society for the establishment of such a fund. They agreed to begin with advancing, each, some small contribution, the particular sum of which I have forgotten. The fund thus constituted, was to be monthly, quarterly, or annually augmented by some small payment, such as each member might easily afford. Out of it, again, the sick, the superannuated, and the surviving widows and children of deceased *members* were to be assisted with more or less pecuniary relief. The first members of the society, and the managers of the fund

fund conducted its affairs with a degree of prudence which rendered it popular through the whole country. The gentlemen were pleased to see their poor neighbours and dependents adopt this plan of œconomy. Farmers and landholders eagerly joined the association. Lord Breadalbane generously augmented the fund by an handsome donation. Under his patronage, and the patronage of other gentlemen in the neighbourhood, it has thriven wonderfully.

BUT, that I am inclined to believe, this fund has been still more useful to the country, through the uses to which the stock has been applied, in order to render it productive,—than by means of the saving which it has occasioned, and of the relief which it has supplied to the needy.—The inhabitants of this district consume considerably more grain than their tillage produces. Distant as they are from market-towns, and from those parts of the country in which agriculture is the staple article of industry; the poorer inhabitants have had difficulty in obtaining from time to time, such small quantities of meal as their circumstances enable them to purchase. In the winters of those years in which meal has been scarce and dear, the poor of these parts have been near to suffering by famine. These facts suggested to the managers of the above fund, the idea of appropriating part of it to the purpose of annually pur-



chasing a large quantity of meal, to be deposited in a granary in the village, and sold out in such small quantities as the poorest might find it convenient to buy, from time to time. This was soon found to be an advantageous mode of employing the society's money. Scarcity of meal no longer distresses the poor, even in the severest winter. It is probable, too, that the ease thus given to the circumstances of the labourers may contribute to increase the population and the industry of the country.

I SHOULD rejoice to hear, that these wise ideas had been extended yet farther. If the fund shall continue increasing; might not another part of it be advantageously employed for the establishment of some *manufacture*? This will, I hope, in due time, come to pass.

AT *Killin* I tasted the only very good *whisky* which I met with in my little excursion, through the Western Highlands. The landlord informed me, that it was prepared at a distillery, which had been, not many years before, erected in the neighbourhood, by the Laird of Macnab\*. This gentleman had happened to raise larger crops of barley on some part of his lands which he retained in his own management,—than he could find a ready sale for.

It

\* The *Macnabs* are a branch of the *Macgregors*, descended from *Gregor*, Abbot of *Dunkeld*.

It occurred to him, that he might, with less difficulty, dispose of a quantity of whisky. He erected a distillery on a pretty extensive scale; began the manufacture of whisky, prepared only from the best materials, reserved it to a proper age, before offering it for sale; and in consequence, his whisky has come to be deservedly preferred through the whole neighbourhood.

I MUST confess, that if there be any manufacture for which we can furnish the raw materials, that I should wish not to see flourish among us, it is, that of spiritous liquors. Would to God, that all our intoxicating drinks were to be brought from a farther distance, than the South Sea islands, or the Antarctic pole! I should not be ill-pleas'd to hear our labouring classes say of good malt liquor, with Boniface, "that they can eat, as well as drink their ale; and that they find it food, as well as liquor:" but, I cannot, with pleasure, hear them speak with the same fondness of gin or whisky. I should suppose that they can form acquaintance with no greater enemy, either to health or morals. The legislature have certainly not done ill, to discourage the Scotch distilleries. It were well, if they should see the propriety of doing something more, than has yet been done, to encourage Scotch breweries.

YET,

YET, although unfriendly to the manufacture of spiritous liquors in Scotland, I was glad to hear of the above-mentioned distillery in this neighbourhood. Great quantities of Scotch *Spirits* are at present imported into the West Highlands from the vicinity of Stirling. Now, as the Highlanders have nothing, or almost nothing to give in exchange for this article of luxury, except raw materials, and things constituting the primary necessaries of life; they are much impoverished by the trade. It were better if they could be induced to prefer good old ale. But, if they must have whisky; let it, if possible, be of their own distillation. There will be so much more industry in the country, if they themselves distill, rather than import the whisky which they are resolved to drink.—Another consideration which at the same time, weighs, with me, when I am induced to wish well to the Highland distilleries, is, that agriculture ought, by every means, to be encouraged in these regions. If the Highlanders can once be induced to raise grain on all their arable ground, whatever be the purposes for which they may intend it; a new branch of industry will be gained to the country, and another of the first necessaries of life produced in it. Here is abundance of limestone. Let the country only be opened up by roads and canals; and motives presented which may rouse  
listless

little's loch. The Highlands will soon become cultivated and populous.

THE fishery of the loch affords employment to some of the poor people about Killin. Here are fine charr, and perches. These, with the other fishes which the loch breeds, are taken either in nets,—by lines fixed at one end, to a stone or stake, while the other is thrown into the water, armed with a hook and bait,—or in the way of angling with a rod and line. Some valuable species of fishes abound here, which are not to be met with in the lake at Kenmore.

LEAVING the inn at Killin, and proceeding westward, the traveller is conducted by the highway, through the village, and by a corn, and if I remember rightly, also by a lint-mill to the bank of the Tay, or rather the Dochart. He crosses an arm of it, along one bridge: Immediately after, appears a path, turning downwards between this, and another bridge, covering another arm of the same river, at a few paces distance. This path leads between two pillars to a dark grove of pines, situate on a mount rising between the two arms of the river, and at the opposite end of the islet which they here incircle. The pines are so thick planted, that, although the grove be but a few paces distant from the highway,  
yet

yet cannot the eye, from this station, pierce through the gloom. Rough fragments of the rock obstruct the stream on either side. Natural pillars seem rudely to surround the whole mount. But, I cannot in description communicate the impression which the aspect of this little, singular, detached scene made upon my mind. It was, indeed, strongly impressive and picturesque. It seemed a Druidical grove. Nor was the dark shade of the pines, less fitted, than if they had been oaks, to awaken ideas of religious solemnity and horror. The lake below, the dividing stream, the insulated grove, the mountains rising tremendous around, and crowned with snow,—all together suggested the thought, that this must have been anciently the seat either of religion or of defensive war.—I proceeded along the bridge which lay over the western branch of the river. A new village is rising here. I advanced to the first door, at which stood a handsome woman with one of those open countenances which naturally invite the stranger to make any necessary enquiries, because they promise an obliging answer. I pointed to the isle and asked its name. The good woman blushing, answered, in broken English, that she could not tell its English name,—and that its Gaelic name I would not understand. I repeated my wish to know its Gaelic name. She then told me, it was *Innes-vuy*; and another woman who  
stood

stood beside her, added, that it was the burial-place of the family of MacNab of MacNab. It were impossible to imagine a spot more suitable for the burying-place of a family of Highland Chieftains.

I WAS not less pleased with the appearance of the new village. The walls of the little houses are well built with stone and lime, the roofs have the joists laid with fir and birchen rafters, and covered with turf, and *that*, again with an upper covering of straw, heath, or fern. Some quantities of linen-yarn are, I think, spun here. I know not whether some small attempts at the manufacture of cotton or linen cloth may not be meditated, or perhaps already begun. Upon the contiguous part of the southern border of the lake, stands an handsome house, the name of which I either neglected to ask or have forgotten. It is surrounded, and the whole bank clad with a good deal of wood. The adjacent grounds have likewise an air of cultivation.

BUT, I was now to proceed westward, along the bank of the Dochart. The vale, up which the road to Tyndrom leads, is bounded on both sides by hills which rise not to a vast height till the eye has pursued them to a considerable distance backwards. The low ground between is half cultivated. Close upon the banks of the river are tracts of natural meadow.

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Behind

Behind these, on both sides, are corn and potatoe fields inclosed, in a careless, imperfect manner, with in low stone *dykes*. Between, are spots of green pasture, which have been occasionally ploughed. The farm-houses and cottages are scattered, here and there, amongst these fields. Behind are either wide, bleak tracts of low-lying heath, or slowly-rising hills. The road is still good. I am not sure, indeed, that its direction is in the very best or shorest line.

No interesting object met my eye, till I arrived within sight of the house of *Achlean*, the property, of a Mr Campbell. Its situation is on the northern side of the Dochart. Some wood has been planted round it. The hills rise above, in a striking and singular form.

THE day was not exceedingly favourable either to travelling, or to labour. Yet, the people were busy in all the fields, ploughing or digging up their potatoes. The scene was animated, too, by cattle feeding on the fields, around them. Here and there were two or three ash-trees round the little kitchen-gardens belonging to the cottages. Near one cottage, the name of which I enquired not, we crossed a small stream which had worn for itself a deep channel between rocks. There was a narrow strip of low ground on each bank. The course of the  
stream

stream winded finely as it advanced. Above the narrow strip of level bank on each side, the surface rose precipitately to a considerable height. Those banks thus broken and winding had been, by the taste of the proprietor or tenant, irregularly planted with ashes, some oaks, and some wild shrubs. The effect was, in my eyes charming. The ashes still retained their leaves, and were of a vivid green colour. The other trees and underwood had either lost or were fast losing their leaves. The dingle was thus finely parti-coloured. The falling leaves were either brown or yellow; and of these colours they exhibited a great diversity of shades.

AT the distance of about five or six miles from Killin is *Liagarston* or *New Inn*. By the time I had advanced thus far on my way, it rained, and blew violently. I was glad to enter, although the house shewed no very promising appearance. The men were in the fields. The women and the children could hardly converse with me, in English. The landlady was a young women of no mean face or figure. But, in her dress she had much the air of a flattern. An old woman, of an interesting countenance, sat by the fire, who could not utter a syllable of English. I was cold and wet. I threw myself down on a stool, by the kitchen fire. The good woman brought me some whisky with bread and



cheefe. Refreshment was at the same time provided for my servant and horses. The fire blazed pleasantly; and although a pot boiled upon it; and the house was at the same time darkened with smoke, and the rafters dropping liquid soot,—I found nothing of all this uncomfortable; the effects of the storm were to give me high enjoyment of the simplest refreshment, and the most incommodious shelter.

AGAIN we were to proceed. The correspondence was wonderful between the temperature of the weather, and the aspect of the country. I might well boast of having seen the Highland heaths and hills in all their horror. Loch Dochart was, at length, on my right hand. The whole vale, since I had turned to the north-west, from *Innish-vuy*, was *Glen-Dochart*. No farm-houses now appeared. The lake spread out, upon one hand. Precipitous and craggy rocks rose immediately over the road, upon the other. There was something of undecribable strangeness and novelty in the whole scenery around. The storm blew outrageously; sometimes it was rain that lashed my face; sometimes a furious shower of hail; and sometimes thick, and broad flakes of snow darkened all the air. Here and there lay vast fragments detached from the impending rocks, and only thinly covered with layers of mixed moss and sand. Where the lake and the hills seemed to retire before each other,

other, small barrows appeared here and there raised in the intermediate marsh. Fortunately, as the violence of the storm, and as the wildness of the scene increased, my spirits also rose. Every thing combined to remind me of the ancient days of Celtic heroism. And it was not easy to suffer one's mind to shrink before a little occasional exposure; when one reflected that, in these very scenes, in severer seasons, and with fewer of the comfortable accommodations of life than the present inhabitants of this district possess, the heroes of Ossian had performed deeds, and enjoyed a refined, sentimental happiness which raised human nature to as high dignity and felicity as it has ever exhibited.

IN Loch-Dochart is a floating islet; a curiosity which is almost always recommended to the notice of travellers. This islet is fifty-one feet long, and twenty nine in breadth. It may perhaps have been gradually formed by the natural intertexture of the roots and stems of some water-plants. It moves before the wind; and may be pushed about with poles. Cattle going unsuspectingly to feed upon it, are liable to be carried on an unintended voyage round the lake.

IN another, but a stationary island, stand the ruins of a castle, an ancient dwelling of the knights of Lochow.

It is embowered in wood: And I may, without any abuse of the term, call its appearance, *romantic*.

THE *Macgregors* had once considerable possessions in these districts. They were a lawless, rapacious clan, who continued their trade of rapine, after many of their neighbours had begun to acknowledge the laws of order. They once made themselves masters of the above-mentioned castle by a stratagem worthy of the cunning of savages. It was inaccessible in summer. But, in winter when the lake was frozen over, the *Macgregors* forming *fascines* of straw and boughs of trees, and brushwood, pushed these before them, and thus reached the castle, without suffering from the missile weapons of those who occupied it. They then instantly scaled the walls and took possession of the fortress. This bold and prædatory clan were at length exterminated, and their name proscribed.—David Malloch, the friend of Thomson, was by descent, a *Macgregor*; his father or grandfather had assumed the name of Malloch when the common surname of the clan was prohibited.—It was under Craig-Roston, near the northern extremity of Loch Lomond, that they had their principal seat\*. It was for a massacre of the Colquhouns, in 1602, that they were proscribed, and

\* *Glen-Dochart*, *Balquidder*, and some part of *Strath-Tay* were anciently theirs, and *Balloch* the seat of their Chieftain.

and their name suppressed. The most aggravating circumstance which attended this massacre, was the murder of some young men of family who had come from the school of Dumbarton, to *Glenfrone*; to see the contest between the Macgregors and the Colquhouns; the event of which, unfavourable to the latter, enabled the former to gratify their ferocious cruelty in the most savage manner\*.—

As I proceeded amidst the storm, I came to a place where the glittering stones of a new-built, dry stone wall, dividing the highway upon one hand, 1  
 3 curiosity. The stones having been newly broken with 4  
 2 from the adjoining field, attracted my mineralogical  
 the hammer; their internal structure was strikingly discernible; and their composition was distinguishable, as far as it can be distinguished by the mere observation of aspect. They were all calcareous; and it was a large intermixture of mica, and occasionally of pyrites, that gave them the glittering aspect which had attracted my notice.

I COLLECTED a number of specimens. By the time when I wished to put these into my portman-teau, and to proceed, I found, that my servant had, by some accident or other, fallen a good way behind me. I was rather at a loss how to dispose of the

\* For some particulars in the history of the Macgregors, which exhibit them in a more favourable light,—See Appendix, N° II.

the stones which I had picked up. But, looking round me, I saw, at a small distance forward on my right-hand, a hut from which abundance of smoke was issuing; and a noise of boisterous cheerfulness, which I could hear, through the storm, accompanied the smoke. Fifty years since, the natural inference would have been, that the folks within were a party of thieves or plunderers making merry over the division of their booty. But the days of ravage are past; and I had no fears upon this score. I therefore fixed my horse, by the bridle, to a great stone, and advanced on foot to seek shelter in the hut; till my servant should come up. As I entered, I perceived it to be a barn, occupied for the time, by a family of strolling tinkers, with some servants from some neighbouring farm-houses, gathered about them. One went to bring my horse, and the stones which I had piled together. Another took, upon him, the charge of watching for my servant's approach, that he might not pass unobserved. I, in the mean time, dried my wet clothes by the fire, and observed the simple process by which the spoon-maker softened his horns, and moulded and pared them into spoons. Nor was I less interested by the wretched, half-naked condition of the poor man's wife and children. The whole was such a scene of meanness and wretchedness, yet of cheerfulness, in the midst of these, as could not but strongly impress the imagination

gination and feelings of the accidental beholder. Is it a pernicious system of oeconomy to the country, which invites these poor peasants to scenes where their industry may be employed in manufactures,—and in these so lucratively as to supply them with almost every convenience, or even luxury of civilized life? While the wild regions through which they now wander are at the same time rendered much more productive to the community, by that mode of management which requires fewer hinds than were maintained here, when there was less demand for their industry elsewhere?

It was soon convenient for me to proceed. I bestowed on the poor tinker what little I could spare: it was truly little: thanked him for his civilities, and left him. The highway lay under several lofty mountains, sometimes connected into a range, and sometimes insulated. Among the most remarkable was *Ben-more*; at the base of which stands a small, neat house, that in the rich counties of Scotland would seem only the house of a farmer of the second class, but which in the country where it stands, I should rather suppose to be the house of some landholder, or at least of a farmer of the first class.

AT CRIANLARACH is a sort of inn, where we were regaled with some whisky, cheese, and oat-cake, with-

out alighting from our horses. The Landlord is one of the handsomest middle-sized men I have seen. Yet I thought his daughter still handsomer. We alighted not from our horses, but were served by the good people at the door, with what refreshment I asked.

WE, soon after, entered Strath-Fillan: the vale divided by the river of Fillan. In this river is a pool consecrated by the ancient superstition of the inhabitants of this country. The pool is formed by the eddying of the stream round a rock. Its water was many hundred years since, consecrated by Fillan, one of the saints who converted the ancient inhabitants of Caledonia from paganism to the belief of Christianity. It should seem that he had perhaps resided in this vicinity for some time. I believe, that his life may be seen in the *vite Sanctorum Scotia*, which were, not long since, collected and published in one octavo volume, by Mr Pinkerton. Whether he consecrated this pool, in compliance with some superstitious notions of its virtues which he found already prevalent among the neighbouring inhabitants,—I know not. But, it has ever since been distinguished by his name, and esteemed of sovereign virtue in curing madness. About two hundred persons, afflicted in this way, are annually brought to try the benefits of its salutary influence. These  
patients

patients are conducted by their friends; who first perform the ceremony of passing with them, thrice round a neighbouring cairn; on this cairn, they then deposit a simple offering of clothes, or perhaps of a small bunch of heath. More precious offerings used once to be brought. But, these being never long left in the unmolested possession of the saint; it has become customary to make him presents which may afford no temptation to theft. After these, such as they are, have been deposited, the patient is then thrice immersed in the sacred pool. After the immersion, he is bound hand and foot, and left for the night in a chapel which stands near. If the maniac is found loose in the morning, good hopes are conceived of his full recovery. If he is still bound, his cure remains doubtful. It sometimes happens that death relieves him during his confinement from the troubles of life.

SIMPLE and ignorant as these people may be believed to be; they could not have so long persisted in this superstitious practice, if there were not at least a few instances in which it had proved effectual to the cure of the malady for which it is employed. The most intelligent and liberal-minded of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood actually assert, that, by whatever means, cures are oftener than might be imagined, effected by the virtues of the Holy  
In 2 Pool.



Pool. Medicine is indeed well-known to owe more of its beneficial efficacy to the aid of imagination, than to the intrinsic virtue of any of its remedies. In the power of imagination especially, is the intimacy of the connexion between the mind and the body conspicuous. How often has disease been cured,—and how often caught in this way? Madness particularly seems to depend in a great measure upon a peculiar state of the imagination. Surprise and sudden exposure to danger have often relieved the distresses and restored the alienated mind of the maniac. Shipwreck and voyages on a stormy sea seldom fail of effect. I should therefore suppose, that old Fillan chose one of the happiest modes that could be devised, by which to dispense his miraculous beneficence. The surprise with which the immersion is attended, and the terror of the subsequent bonds, and solitary exposure in the loneliness of the chapel, seem to operate, in a natural way, those cures which are piously ascribed to the benediction of St Fillan, and the supernatural interference of divine providence.

FILLAN was anciently one of the favourite Saints of Scotland. Robert Bruce carried with him, an arm of St Fillan into the field of battle, on the important day of Bannockburn. His chaplain had brought only the empty shrine in which the relic had

had been incased. But the arm was found miraculously restored to its shrine, just as the battle was about to begin. The omen was taken for favourable by the whole army. The battle was joined. The English were defeated with great slaughter. Robert Bruce, in gratitude for the saint's assistance, established here, in the year 1324, a priory of canons regular, and consecrated it to him. The house with its revenues and superiorities, was at the dissolution of the Religious Houses in Scotland granted to the ancestor of the Earl of Breadalbane, the present possessor.

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*TAYNDROM; and to DALMALLY.*

THE day became fairer, by the time we reached Tayndrom. This is esteemed the most elevated part of all this tract of country. Hence do streams run in different directions. The waters do not in this immediate neighbourhood stagnate in large lakes. The very name is expressive of the loftiness of the situation. At some small distance below lies the plain of Dalry, which has been conjectured to derive its name from the ancient *Dalriads*, the first Scottish inhabitants of these places.

As we entered the yard at the inn of Tayndrom, we heard the plaintive and simple notes of a Gaelic air sung to Gaelic words. I soon perceived the musicians, two servant-maids who were washing clothes in a small washing house in the yard. I was attracted by the music: For I have long since learned to admire the simple, native music of my country with all the fond enthusiasm of ignorance: And as I have not the happiness to understand Gaelic, it was natural for me to be pleased with the words of a Gaelic song, just as our fashionable Dilettanti have been charmed with the words of Italian operas which they understood no more than I the Gaelic. It is a fact in the history of the manners of the Highlanders, that they are accustomed to sing at the performance of almost every piece of social labour: Rowers in a boat sing as they ply the oars; reapers sing as they cut down handful after handful of the corn; and here were washers singing as they rubbed and rinsed their clothes. This accompaniment of music certainly renders the labour more cheerful; but, I should suppose, that it cannot well fail to retard it, at the same time.—No better proof needs be asked of the slow state of the industry of any people, than that their labour is often interrupted by singing and by conversation.

WHILE

WHILE I was listening to the music of those girls, by the fire over which their boiler hung, we were suddenly alarmed by the noise of a quarrel, proceeding from the kitchen. We ran hastily out to see the cause. Two taylor's, a master and his journeyman, had come, on the foregoing evening to settle some differences in their accounts, over a little whisky-punch. They had continued to drink: And every additional *sloop* of whisky had unfortunately still increased the differences between them, and inflamed their mutual animosity, while it, at the same time, enlivened their courage. At length, when they could in no other manner, decide the dispute, they had hastily challenged each other to single combat. They presented two of the most hideous, small human figures, that I have ever seen. They were two short, squat fellows; their hair stood on end; their beards were rough and black; their eyes glared red and fierce; their carriage was between that of the taylor and that of the ploughman; and in addition to these, they had about them whatever else rage and intoxication can be supposed to add, of hideousness and uncouthness, to forms already as uncouth as nature and habit can well make them. They struggled and struck each other. But, he who was journeyman, although he had less fierceness in his eye, and a frame seemingly less fit for warfare, than his master, was about to obtain the advantage,

advantage, when the interference of those whom their noise had alarmed put a stop to the combat. None of the men-servants of the inn were at home; and the landlord was also absent. I was therefore induced to try, whether I could not assist the women in pacifying those fierce taylor. By persuasion I made them friends; the master paid the journeyman what arrears he owed him; and they returned to drink whisky over their reconciliation, as they had drunk it over their rising quarrel.

It was now late in the afternoon: But, the distribution which I had made of the time appropriated to my present excursion, required me to proceed another stage, before resting for the night. After eating a comfortable dinner at Tayndrom, therefore, and refreshing my horses, I renewed my journey. It led from the inn and village of Tayndrom, westward, towards Dalmally. We passed first nearly under two lofty hills, *Ben-i-chewan* and *Benlaoighe*. Under *Ben-i-chewan* was a small lake. Its top was crowned with snow. On the other hand, at some distance, we had, as we advanced, in the twilight, a faint glimpse of the great hill of *Crouachan*. The highway leads, for some length, through a glen confined between hills, which affords kindly pasture, here and there, for cattle, but little arable ground. By the way side appear many of those

those green hillocks, stiled by the people of the country, *Shian*, as being the scenes of fairy sports. Somewhere in this vicinity are veins of lead ore, which have been opened and wrought. Near the surface, those veins are tolerably rich; but they become poorer, in proportion as they sink deeper.

THE glen, at first narrow, opens, as we advance into a wide vale, wonderfully fertile, considering the disadvantages of climate, under which it lies, the imperfection of the agriculture of these parts, and the wildness of the surrounding heaths and hills. This is the vale of *Glenurrby*: It is watered by the little river of *Urgubie*. It lies within Argyleshire. From it the eldest son of the Earl of Breadalbane receives the name of Lord Glenurquhie: as it is from the adjoining district of Perthshire, that the head of the family has the title of Earl of Breadalbane. Clumps of woods are scattered here and there through the vale. The highway is still excellent. And, were it not for the apparent deficiency of parish roads, a traveller might believe this a country in a very thriving state of improvement. But, I have often thought, that if a traveller were even led blindfold through a country, he might judge of its cultivation and industry, by the state of the bye-roads. Highways will be drawn through a country for purposes unconnected with its general improvement:

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although indeed ultimately tending to promote that. But parish roads leading to every hamlet, mill, or smith's shop, or market-town, will never be formed unless the whole country is one busy scene of varied industry. The highways in the Highlands are indeed excellent. They were necessary to reduce the once turbulent inhabitants of these parts to peaceful subordination. They have been opened up with vast labour. They will long remain a noble monument of the attention of Government to this remote and unpromising corner of the island. But, they were the work of strangers. The people of the country, with all their good qualities, could never have been persuaded, to perform, of themselves, this arduous task. They are content with the most inconvenient and imperfect bye-roads that can possibly be passed. The population of the country must be greatly increased, and a new spirit of industry must pervade it, before conveniencies such as these, necessary only for the accommodation of population and industry, are likely to be provided.

We however passed by several very decent farm-houses; and these are, through this whole vale, seldom, altogether bare of trees. What struck me as particularly remarkable—was to find that the harvest had been earlier in Glenurquhie, than in almost any other part of the Highlands which I had visited.

The

The corn had not been cut down, till after it was fully ripe. Yet, were the fields bare; and the barn-yards every where filled. Upon enquiry, I found, that the inhabitants ascribed the earliness of their harvest, to the lowness of their local situation, and to the shelter which the surrounding hills afforded.

It was late in the evening before we reached Dalmally, another inn, within Lord Breadalbane's estate; and provided by his care as well for the reception and accommodation of travellers, as for the purpose of convening his tenants, on occasions when it may be necessary for them to meet with their Landlord or his factors. So happy were we to find ourselves again under shelter, that we should have been well-pleas'd with much more inconvenient accommodation, and with much less civility of attention, than what this house afforded.

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*DALMALLY, and to INVERARY.*

THE lofty hills in this neighbourhood, afford a variety of curious fossils. I can boast no superior skill in mineralogy; but my fondness for its pursuits induced me to spend a great part of the morning in straying through the fields adjoining to the inn, and examining, in the best manner I could, the fossils



which they afforded. What I chiefly observed, was great abundance, every where, of limestone. The landlord obligingly presented me with some beautiful specimens of rock-crystal.

AT no great distance from the inn, stand the church and manse of the parish of Glenurquhie. The minister, Dr Macintyre, a very respectable clergyman, has, as I have been told, been for some time, in the use of keeping a sort of small Academy in this remote situation. Perhaps the situation may be thought too sequestered; it may be considered as the sending the boys into a sort of exile,—to place them in scenes so solitary. Yet, it were surely much better, if our places for public education were all thus distant from the allurements of the world,—than to have them in the midst of great towns, where the youth are exposed to all the temptations of dissipation and luxury. Here is opportunity and convenience enough for all those sports and exercises which are requisite to give young people, spirits, health, and vigour: Yet, here is not that multitude of amusements which in gayer, busier scenes, entirely withdraws the young mind from all attention to letters, and deprives it of all power of serious thought. I know not that Dr Macintyre has ever undertaken the care of more than a very few boys, the children of his particular friends.

AMONG

AMONG other spots to which the landlord of the inn at Dalmally conducted me in the morning, was a height, called *Barhafsland*, the residence of Mr *M'Nab*, the representative of a family of blacksmiths, who have occupied this station since the middle of the fourteenth century. The progenitor was, at that time, invited hither by Sir Colin Campbell of Lochow,—to fabricate the iron-work necessary in the construction of the neighbouring castle of *Kilchurn*, and to work as smith to the family, and to the tenants upon the estate. A line of his posterity have, ever since, continued to practise his craft on the spot where he was settled. The present representative of this ancient family of blacksmiths is a very decent, intelligent man. He received us kindly, carried us round his little demesne; talked with a degree of modest pride of the antiquity of his family, and of the ancient respectability of the blacksmiths in this country: and at last carried us into his house, where his wife, with true Gaelic hospitality, entertained us with the most delicious milk I have ever drunk. His servants were busily employed in taking up the potatoes from the ground: the crop seemed to be very plentiful.

HE carefully pointed out to my observation, the remains of some rude fortification which had once stood on this height. Much of it has been demolished, and the materials removed. The earth has risen

over

over some other parts. But the line of the walls may still be traced; and the lowest layers of its stones have not been altogether carried away. Those stones are vast masses, worn smooth by the action of the air, and rain, and partly covered over with moss. They seem to have been joined by no cement. The fortress has been round, and of considerable extent. This was indeed a natural enough situation for a fortress,—in the pass between Glenurquhie and Lochow. In the days of civil disorder, when every petty chieftain was a sovereign: and when the multitude of separate interests, and the ferocious manners of the times,—kept up a perpetual warfare in the land,—it was absolutely necessary to bar up such passes as this against hostile invasion.—This old fortress seems to be of earlier foundation, than the settlement of the family of Macnabs here. Mr Macnab and his neighbours wished to persuade me, that it was *Pictish*. But, as it is not probable, that the Picts ever occupied *Argyleshire*, I was not inclined to adopt their idea.

I saw here, also, another monument of ancient manners; a coat of mail, with two head pieces of different fashions, which have been long preserved by this family, as specimens of the workmanship of their ancestors. Where every Highlander was a soldier, and wore arms, a blacksmith was necessarily

cellarity a man of high consequence. In the simple state of all the mechanic arts among this people; that of the blacksmith who could forge armour, was, by far, the most complex, and the most highly improved. The demand for his productions was universal. They were employed, too, for the most honourable of all purposes. When all the most honourable persons in the society were soldiers, he who furnished the soldier with his weapons for war, could not be a mean or despised man. I think it is *Regner Lodbrag*, in his death song, who celebrates a victory which he had obtained over a proud blacksmith, as one of those glorious deeds on which he reflected in his last moments, with the highest pleasure. And, he must have been no despicable character over whom such a hero was not ashamed to triumph. The progress of civility has been unfavourable to the dignity of the blacksmith. From forging armour, his hands have been degraded to the shoeing of horses, the making of plough-irons, and other meaner works. In this country, there is no great demand for the employment of his art, even in these ways. Mr Macnab, therefore, although descended from a family of smiths, has not bred any of his sons to his own trade; so that this ancient line of blacksmiths is not likely to be much longer maintained.

I AT length renewed my journey, and proceeded through *Hamilton's* pass, towards *Inverary*. In a morass near this pass, is a deep, circular hollow; one of those pits, probably, out of which the ancient Highlanders are said to have obtained an unctuous substance, which they used in dyeing black. At the western end of this pass, *Loch-Awe*, with its islands, and varied banks, opens upon the eye.

BESIDE the road to *Inverary*, another highway passes at the eastern end of *Loch-Awe*. This highway conducts the traveller by *Bunawe* to *Oban*, on the western coast. It winds along the woody side of a mountain, round *Loch-Awe*. The bank rises precipitously over the lake; and the road runs along the verge of the bank. There is no parapet on the edge to preserve the unwary traveller who might chance to stumble, from plunging headlong into the water. Around *Bunawe* are extensive woods; a considerable part of these have indeed been already cut down, and chiefly made into charcoal; the remainder is fast converting to the same use. The road between *Bunawe* and *Oban* leads through a tract of country, the surface of which is diversified by hills which appear to have been formerly covered with oaks and birches. Here and there, over those hills are the stumps of trees which have been of a great size.

NEAR

NEAR Oban stands Dunstaffnage castle; and at some small distance from Dunstaffnage, *Dunolly*, said to have been a seat of the ancient sovereigns of the Scots. It was probably while the Scots were confined to the *Hebudæ* and the Western Highlands, that their monarchs resided at Dunolly. The East and North Highlands were then occupied chiefly by the Picts; and even the more southern country as far as the Firth of Forth. The vale of Clyde was the seat of a small principality of Britons. And the Angles of Northumbria extended their sway over the southern counties of Scotland, lying adjacent to England. As the Scots spread their conquests, the seat of government was transferred still farther and farther south: Scone, Stirling, Dunfermline, Linlithgow, Falkland, and Edinburgh became then the seats of so many houses of royal residence. It is in the neighbourhood of Oban, that *Loch-Etive*, an arm of the sea, penetrates for a considerable way into the inland country. From Oban, the traveller who chuses to visit the *Hebudæ*, may pass over into the isle of Mull: and from Mull, he may continue his pilgrimage from isle to isle, till he shall have visited the whole.

BUT circumstances permitted me not to travel by the route which I have thus slightly traced, between Dalmally and Oban. I passed through Lochow, di-

rectly for Inverary. In the lake which gives its name to this district, are several islands. On one of these, a low isle, near the southern border of the lake, appear the ruinous remains of *Kilchurn* castle, built, as a seat for the lords of Lochow, at the period when the first blacksmith of the family of the Macnabs, was settled at *Barbasland*. This was in the middle of the fifteenth century. It is uncertain whether the founder was Sir Colin Campbell of Lochow, or rather his lady, while he himself was absent on an expedition into the Holy Land. It was enlarged by his successors. I believe, that it has not been very long entirely deserted. It still exhibits the remains of apartments which have been handsome.

THE family of the CAMPBELLS, who occupy almost all Argyleshire, and are very extensively diffused through the rest of Britain, and even through Ireland,—are a race who have been opulent and honourable in this country from the remotest times to which the Scottish history ascends. It should seem, that their ancestors must have been persons of note among the first Scottish colony that came hither from Ireland. The old family surname appears from a grant of David II. to Colin Campbell of Lochow, to have been *O'Dwine* or *Macdwine*. A descendent of the family having distinguished himself in the service of the King of France, and having obtained in

marriage

marriage the heirs of *Beauchamp*, or, in the rude Latin of those times, of *Bellus Campus*, in *Normandy*, assumed from this last circumstance, the appellation which has been abbreviated into *Campbell*. His son returning to visit the land of his fathers, married his kinswoman *Evab*, heirs of *Lochawe*, from whom the lake and the district received their name. He retained the appellation which had been assumed by his father, and communicated it to his posterity. In the line of his successors, a Sir Colin Campbell so distinguished himself by fierce deeds of arms, as to obtain from his neighbours and dependents, the surname of *More*: From him, the Irish still give to the head of the family of Campbell, the denomination of *Mac-Collan-More*. Sir *Neil Campbell*, son to Sir Colin, was active in maintaining the independency of Scotland, and in asserting the rights of the *Bruces* to the Scottish throne. Sir *Duncan Campbell*, a subsequent representative of this family, contributed greatly to the release of James I. from his confinement in England, and to his establishment on the Scottish throne. He first assumed the title of Argyle. His third son, Sir Colin Campbell of *Glenurehy*, was the founder of the family of *Breadalbane*, and the same who is said to have built *Kilchurn* castle. His grandson, Colin, was raised, by king James II. to the dignity of Earl of Argyle. He added, by marriage, the estate of *Lorn*, to the estate of his own family.



which he inherited. *Earl Archibald*, one of his successors, was the first head of the family, that embraced the Protestant religion. This Earl's son and successor, Archibald, died in the office of Lord High Chancellor of Scotland. Archibald, a subsequent Earl of Argyle, distinguished himself by the suppression first of the *Macgregors*, and afterwards, of a more formidable insurrection of the *Macdonalds*; and was rewarded for these services, with a grant of the whole county of Kintyre. In the latter part of his life, embracing the Popish religion, he went over into Spain. After residing in that country for a number of years, he obtained permission to return home, and died at London, in 1638.

ARCHIBALD, Earl and Marquis of Argyle, son and successor to the last-mentioned Earl, acted a busy and conspicuous part in the turbulent transactions which took place in Scotland, in the middle of the last century. He stood at the head of the Presbyterian interest; yet acted for a while with the ministers of Charles I. who laboured to supplant Presbytery in Scotland with Episcopacy. But he would not renounce his attachment to the religion of his country; and, they, knowing their views to be hostile to it, could not cordially trust him. Religion, ambition, and a fearful care for his safety appear to have at times combined, and at times to have counter-acted

acted each other in his breast, so as to warp his principles of action, and to give a crooked direction to his conduct. He would not co-operate in the measures suggested by Laud, for the establishment of Episcopacy in Scotland; yet strove to vindicate his conduct as not hostile to the views of the Court. He acted with his countrymen, when they rose in arms against Charles; yet corresponded with the Marquis of Hamilton, in the view of bringing about a pacification. He pretended to support Charles, when his Parliament of England went to war with him; but acted so coldly and so cautiously, that his services seem rather to have injured than benefited that unfortunate prince. He was active in inviting Charles II. to Scotland, and seems to have been faithful to his interests, while he saw any prospect of converting the young prince to presbyterianism, or of enabling him fully to assert his rights. Charles is said to have, for his part, acted no less artfully than Argyle. He gave him hopes, that he would marry one of his daughters, if through his means, he might again be raised to the throne of his ancestors; and pretended a respect for the Earl's counsels which must have been highly grateful to his pride. Even then, however, Argyle was distrusted by Charles' best friends. When the young monarch's affairs became again desperate, the crafty Earl made his peace with Cromwell. At the restoration, he hoped to regain Charles' favour.

But,

But, either Charles could not forgive him the restraint, and compliance with the austerities of Presbyterianism with which he had formerly harassed the young prince at the time of his coronation at Scone;—or perhaps Charles' ministers in Scotland dreading Argyle as the leader of the Presbyterian interest, were willing to rid themselves, by a short process, of a rival with whom they were not well able to contend in abilities and artifice. It is thus in civil dissension, that the men of abilities are for the most part, first cut off. The *blockheads* cannot contend with them in aught but brutal force: and conscious of their inferiority, they have instant recourse to bloodshed, the only art in their power. When the men of abilities again have their dull rivals in their power, they despise them too much to think it necessary to destroy them.

THE next Earl was in like manner, involved in the guilt of rebellion. But, the circumstances of his father's trial and execution, the state of the kingdom at that period, the views and conduct of the administration to whom the affairs of Scotland were entrusted,—seem to have, altogether, so justly provoked him, that where his conduct was rebellious, it can hardly be said to have been criminal: And while he also fell on the scaffold, he surely left behind him a fairer character than his father.

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The next head of this noble family was active in promoting the revolution. His son, the famous John, Duke of Argyle was confessedly one of the greatest men of his age: a warrior, an orator, a statesman, a man of taste, and of the most respectable, domestic character. The subsequent representatives of this family have not disgraced their illustrious race.

ON FRAOCH ELAN, another of the isles in Lochawe, are still to be seen the ruins of an old fortress, shaded by lofty trees. On the little island of *Innisbail* was once a seat of Cistercian monks, dependent on the abbey of Dunkeld. The ruins of the church are still to be seen, and among these, some ancient tombs, of rude workmanship. One island, near the western edge of the lake, the name of which however, I either did not enquire, or neglected to note down, is now used as a warren for rabbits. At another place, close by the way-side, I observed the remains of one of those circles of stones which are commonly considered as monuments of the ancient Druidical worship. Here and there between the edge of the loch and the gently rising declivity of the adjacent hills, I remarked a good many barrows. On the northern side of the lake appears *Hayfield*, a newly built house, it should seem,—and the seat of *Mr Macdougall*. Its situation is a good one; but the environs

environs are too bare of wood. The Gaelic is the common language of this district. And as I was ignorant of this language, I found it not a little difficult to obtain answers to those enquiries which the appearances of the country suggested to me.

THESE people are, I believe, a simple, virtuous race. The clergyman under whose pastoral care they are, is, I am told, an old man of the most amiable simplicity of manners. He is remarkable for the fondness with which he still admires his good old wife. In his discourses in the pulpit he often addresses his hearers with unusual particularity, which from any other than such a venerable, old man, might perhaps have rather a ludicrous effect. He frequently adduces for example perhaps persons who are present hearing him. The favourite example which he seems best pleased to quote, is, that of his own wife. When inculcating industry, he will occasionally call the good women of the parish to remark and imitate his wife's industry. His coat, he will tell them, his vest, his breeches, his shirt, his neck-cloth, his stockings,—every thing he has on, are of her making: And in like manner ought they, in imitation of her, and of the virtuous housewife celebrated by Solomon, who was only a prototype of her, to prepare garments for their husbands and families. Such is the account

count of this good old man's simplicity of manner and conjugal fondness, which I received from a very amiable young lady.

AT *Cladich*, the highway turns from Lochow side, and leads nearly in a south western direction towards Inverary. Soon after I had lost sight of the loch, night began to fall. But, the evening was fair and serene; and the aspect of the sky was beautifully diversified by numberless light, thin, fitting clouds. Their forms were as various as their numbers; and their colours, too, varied with the size, depth, and disposition of each for receiving and reflecting the faint rays of the setting sun. Such a sky is a pleasing, interesting sight. It suggests a thousand, if not gay, yet cheerful and soft subjects of excursion to the fancy. The scene beneath was a bleak, open heath. I was well pleased therefore to gaze on the fitting clouds, to think of all the various modifications of light, by morning or evening, by the changes of the seasons, by the diversified effects of the atmosphere and its meteors;—and to reflect on the various effects which the varied distribution of light produces on the aspect which things present to human vision, and on the emotions which their appearances excite in the heart. The road at length entered upon the north-eastern bank of the river *Airy*, and conducted me down the bank, to Inverary, in

the same direction with the stream. Woods are scattered upon the banks of this small river. Here and there are farm-houses, not exhibiting indeed a very snug or comfortable aspect. Two or three handfomer houses are seated in picturesque situations among the woods. The peasants seemed to be scantily clad; and spoke only Gaelic. As it approaches nearer to the town, the road is more and more sheltered with wood, and leads through more pleasing landscapes. The country opens; the prospect is again shut up with hills; and again it opens as the hills are passed. It was night, however; and I could not enjoy the full grandeur or beauty of these scenes; only the clearness of the evening afforded me a faint glimmer of the outline, and the contours. Near the house of Inverary, the road is parted from the stream, so that the house stands on a triangular space bounded by the highway, the river Airy, and Loch-Fine—at the base of the triangle.

WE at length reached Inverary, and entered the magnificent inn which the Duke of Argyle has erected here, and which is kept by a Mr Marquess.

#### INVERARY.

THE situation of this town is beautiful. Standing close upon the North-East border of Loch-Fine, it has, on the one side, the expanse of this loch, or rather

rather arm of the sea; the opposite bank of which, although not richly crowded with marks of cultivation, yet exhibits rather a cheerful prospect. On the side of the land, the town has first before it a fine plain, of no great breadth, indeed, but finely sprinkled with wood, and divided into fields for cultivation; while wooded hills rise immediately beyond it: Close behind the town, on the edge of this plain is a noble avenue—of elms, I think—the venerable aspect of which bespeaks their great antiquity: and at the north-west termination of this avenue is a large tree, the trunk of which divides, as it rises, into two separate stems which are again united. Towards one end of this plain stands the castle of Inverary; The eye cannot pursue it to the other end, as it winds along the border of the lake.

THE old *town* has been removed, as well as the old castle. Former travellers spoke of it as having been singularly mean. The new town is not regular, or large. But, its houses are remarkably handsome—for the situation. The inn is indeed a noble one, and is accommodated with excellent stables. Here, too, I found reason to complain of the want of bells. The servants seemed to be too few for the extent of the inn, and not to have their proper posts and tasks, assigned them with a distribution sufficiently judicious. They did not always at-



tend when called; but when they appeared, their anxiety to oblige, easily induced me to excuse their delay.

INVERARY is the county town for Argyleshire. Here, consequently, is justice administered by the Sheriff-depute, and his substitute. The residence of the Duke of Argyle in the neighbouring castle naturally makes the town, the residence of some of his servants and dependents. Its maritime situation gives it advantages for fishing and at least for a coasting trade. And it is also a market-town for a wide extent of surrounding country; as well as the seat of the mechanics whose labour is necessary to supply the more necessary and common conveniences of life, to the inhabitants of this district.

INVERARY has now so much the air of a place of entirely modern erection, that even the noble Gothic structure of the castle can hardly impress the stranger with the conviction of its having been a seat of social life since the end of the fourteenth century. It was however inhabited about that period, by a Colin surnamed from his whims and strange exploits, *Fongallach* or the wonderful. This chieftain carried his notions of magnificence in hospitality to such a strange length, that when visited by the O'Neils of Ireland, he burned his house at In-

verary,

venery, in order to have a pretence for entertaining them in his superb field-equipage. The great tower which was not many years since demolished, was built by Sir Colin Campbell of Glenurchy, guardian and uncle to the young earl of Argyle, in the middle of the fifteenth century. In the turbulent times of the last century, Argyleshire, and particularly Inverary was repeatedly ravaged—by the gallant Montrose, the inveterate enemy of the Campbells,—by Irish troops sent hither by the Marquis of Antrim,—and afterwards, so lately indeed as about the year 1685, by a neighbouring clan who were deputed to ravage Argyle, in revenge for the rebellion of the Earl, with Monmouth. In the plain, near the site of the present castle stands a long, rude pillar of a single stone, marking as a monument, the spot on which seventeen gentlemen of the name of Campbell, were on this last occasion, massacred together. In the rebellion of the year 1715, Archibald, earl of *Illy*, maintained the castle of Inverary against the rebels, with a garrison by whom they were deterred from attacking it.

In the forenoon of the next day after my arrival at Inverary, I was desirous to visit the castle. A stranger easily obtains admission to see the house and grounds, upon communicating his name. The  
present

present castle is a modern building, begun by Archibald who having been, first, Earl of Ilay, succeeded, upon the death of his brother, the celebrated John, to the dukedom of Argyle. He lived not to furnish this magnificent edifice. It has been furnished by the present Duke. It is a square building, with round towers at the four corners. It is built of a blue *lapis ollaris* brought from the opposite side of the lake. I must confess that the appearance of this house, as I approached, reminded me too strongly by its form and colour of a *Carron-Grate*, to suffer me to enjoy the magnificence so highly, as I should probably have otherwise done. Its height is seen, at a disadvantage, in consequence of the near vicinity of the towering mount of *Dun-i-queaich*; whose summit almost hangs over it, and thus makes it seem by comparison, less than it might, if no such object were at hand. The Gothic structure was wisely preferred for the principal seat of so ancient and honourable a family, in a wild country, and under a dreary climate. The lobby is grand, and is finely ornamented by fire-arms which belonged to one of the late Fencible regiments. The state-rooms, are most superbly finished and furnished;—rather superbly, however, as I am inclined to think, than elegantly. I observed in some of them specimens of a good, although rather coarse marble from the island of Tir-

see. Here were also various portraits. I looked with reverence on that of the celebrated John, which represents him, such as he was in early youth. In a low room in one of the turrets, appropriated to the purpose of a library, was a fine head which the servant who shewed me the house, said to have been lately brought from Rome by the present Duke.

FROM the castle I went to walk through the gardens. They are spacious, consisting of kitchen-garden, flower-garden, orchard, and nurseries, with a hot-house, and green-house. A number of men are continually employed in dressing them. But, so unfavourable is the climate, or so unskilful the management of the gardeners, that I suspect the gardens, to be seldom in the best order desirable.

THE office-houses are large, and singularly commodious. They form a square, one side of which is occupied by vast barns, constructed and fitted up in a peculiar manner. In the walls are apertures at proper distances, for the free admission of the external air. The doors are widened so as to render them rather sheds, than close houses. Around the interior walls, from the floor to the roof are hung knatches to receive the sheaves of corn even when newly cut. The lofts are airy and open. And through the whole, similar knatches, some fixed to  
the

the roof, the lofts, or the walls, and some on moveable poles, have been equally disposed. It is not necessary for the possessor of such barns, to leave his corn to dry in the fields, after it has been cut down. It may be immediately removed under this cover; and the sheaves dry, as certainly here, as if exposed in fair weather, to the open air. In the climate of Inverary, and particularly in the present season, barns like these are more useful than in other places, and at other times. The corn must here be often cut down, before it can ripen; and it can scarcely ever be well dried by exposure in the open fields. In many other instances, the Duke of Argyle's care has rendered these office-houses remarkably commodious. I observed a new contrivance for penning in the calves, in winter; but examined it not minutely enough to be able to give a distinct description. It was with pleasure I learned that the present Duke of Argyle is peculiarly attentive to every thing that can tend to improve the practice of agriculture or the breed and management of cattle. It becomes a great land proprietor to perform, at his own risk, those experiments without which agriculture or industry of any kind cannot be improved, but which, as their event must be doubtful, cannot safely be ventured upon, by the petty farmer. To such purposes as these, the Duke of Argyle appropriates a liberal, annual sum. I was rather disappointed at finding

finding, upon enquiry, that the Duke had not yet, in his zeal for the improvement of agriculture in all its parts and dependencies, tried the *threshing machine*, the use of which has been adopted by the farmers of Berwickshire, of Stirlingshire, and of other parts through the kingdom;—and which has been found to abridge so happily this part of the labours of husbandry. On an eminence, at about the distance of a mile, or perhaps somewhat more, is the Duke's Dairy, where a number of cattle are reared. The extent of the level ground contiguous to Inverary, is about twelve hundred acres. A larger proportion of it is used as pasture and meadow, than what is cultivated for the production of corn. Woods occupy the fronts of the hills which rise above. They consist of various species of trees; pines, ashes, and oaks. Some noble, single trees are scattered over the plain. And a considerable proportion of the whole wood is venerable by its size and age. The Airy winds with a beautiful course upon the south-east side of the castle. A winding way leads over it, by a bridge, to the summit of Dun-i-queaich. I unfortunately could not spare time to climb this height. The prospect must be interesting from its top. But, I am told that the castle is rather seen to a disadvantage from this station. I apprehend, that a skilful geologist might possibly regard this eminence of Dun-i-queaich, as having been the cra-

ter of a volcano, at some æra or other in the history of the terraqueous globe. Its conic form, the columnar structure of its rocks, and the various mineral bodies which it affords, all concur to countenance this idea. But, if ever these regions were wasted by volcanic fires, it has been at a period more remote than the date of the earliest records of Scottish history. On the summit of Dun-i-queach stands a solitary watch-tower; which, to the spectator from the plain below, considerably improves the picturesque effect of the mount.

*LOCH FINE* is the largest arm of the sea penetrating inland, in Scotland. Its length, between Inverary and the Mull of Cantyre is near to an hundred miles. Near its mouth the sea communicates with many other large openings into the land. It affords abundance of fishes of various species; among which are cods, haddocks, whittings, and in the proper season, great plenty of herrings. In the fishing of the latter, no fewer than five hundred boats are occasionally employed. Their success is generally sufficiently encouraging. Of the fishes thus taken, a part are disposed of, in their fresh state; the rest are cured, and sent to Glasgow for exportation. I was regaled with a delicious dish of haddocks at dinner; and had, in the morning, some delicate, fresh herrings at breakfast. The fishery of this lake

is a source of opulence, and a field of industry to the inhabitants of the adjacent country. It also renders Inverary a place of some trade, and gives occasion to frequent intercourse between this place, and Greenock, Port-Glasgow, and other places on the western coast of the kingdom.

YET the poverty of these districts requiring few imports, and affording but few articles, comparatively speaking, for exportation, renders that commercial intercourse less considerable than might be wished. The difficulties which attend the navigation of these coasts are other additional obstacles to its advancement. The situation of the whole tract of coast, remote from those scenes where opulence, industry, and commerce delight to exert, and to display themselves, is not the least of the disadvantages to which it is subject,—as a seat of social life. Since the seat of our government was transferred to England, the improvement of Scotland in general, has been carried on by slower gradations. England afforded for a long while, encouragements which naturally allured our enterprising countrymen from their native land: and it presented at the same time gratifications to luxury and taste, equally powerful to attract away the gay, the luxurious, and the opulent. Being, by much, the most important part of the British dominions, other parts were va-



lued only as they might be made subservient to its grandeur and improvement. Unfortunately for Scotland, too, its Commons who were just beginning to attain consideration in the political scale, when their monarch succeeded to the English throne, became, by this event, less necessary to aid him against the overgrown power of his nobles, and were degraded for a while into their ancient feudal insignificance. The sovereign needed not their aid against a nobility whom he could now depress by the power of another kingdom, dazzle by the magnificence which it conferred on him, or buy to servility with its wealth. The nobility and gentry of Scotland, had not yet learned, that their truest interests were to be found in the cultivation of their estates, and in promoting the general opulence and civilization of their country. Trade, manufactures, agriculture, all that seemed more immediately to regard the interests of the Lower Orders in Scotland, were therefore neglected, till the civil dissensions of the last century began to arise. These had indeed in England a partial cessation, for some part of the reign of Charles II. In Scotland it was otherwise. Here one continued contention for religion, for life, for liberty prevailed from the first origin of opposition to the government of Charles I. till the struggle was terminated in the Revolution of 1688.

AFTER

AFTER this last period, the Commons of Scotland seem to have risen to higher consideration. Their interests became more an object of national concern. Scotland, and not merely its emigrating natives began now to derive some advantage from its connection with England. Yet was the advantage, at first but inconsiderable. The Union did not by its immediate consequences greatly improve it. But, the Union had, of necessity, a gradual operation. The rebellions in which the Scots were successively engaged by their loyalty to a line of sovereigns descended from among themselves;—made the English and the Scots themselves, by degrees, better acquainted with the importance of North Britain. But, those parts of Scotland which were nearest connected with England, those which were previously the most opulent and most fertile, those which possessed the best advantages of situation—were naturally the first to be benefited by such circumstances as arose to favour Scotland in general. It is long before any part of a country which has but just begun to thrive, can receive its quantum of industry, of wealth, and of population. Until it has received this, however, it will diffuse but few of the advantages which it enjoys over other places less favoured, however nearly they may be connected with it. The seats where manufacturing industry first established itself, in Scotland, the ports which  
were

were first occupied by reviving trade, the scenes which enlightened and laborious agriculture first adorned and enriched—could not immediately communicate over the kingdom, the advantages by which they were first improved. There was something, too, in the peculiar character of the inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, singularly unfavourable to the advancement of any species of industry among them.

SUCH is the general train of events and circumstances which to me appear to have retarded the improvement of the Highlands, and with these, of other parts of Scotland. Let our politicians remember, too, that all parts of every kingdom cannot be at all times, the most flourishing. In the most opulent, populous, and improved districts of Great Britain, there are many places which anciently flourished, but are now in a state of desolation or decay. Yet the districts to which they belong are, in the whole, in a flourishing condition. Other places more advantageous, in some respect or other, have, by transference received the opulence and population which these scenes, now venerable only by ruins and by their ancient glory, once possessed. It is, for various reasons, with industry, and population, as with money. They cannot rise, in any place above a certain level. When the due  
height

height has been attained, the accumulated heap subsides, and spreads over the immediate environs. *Spitalfields* in London was the first seat of the silk manufacture. The increased expence, and by consequence, the rising price of labour rendered it at length eligible for the manufacturers to spread their establishments over other parts of the kingdom. The branches of the linen manufacture did not extend themselves into the Highlands of Scotland, till the manufacturers were induced to look out for places where they might have their labour performed at a cheaper rate than in the more opulent provinces. The cotton-works, although so lately introduced among us, have, through the operation of the same causes, been scattered very generally through the kingdom. The gentlemen in the north-eastern parts of Scotland are eagerly promoting such establishments upon their estates. In the north-west Highlands, similar establishments have been attempted. I was much pleased with a piece of information which I received from a manufacturer of Glasgow. Some weavers from Orkney had come to find employment in Glasgow. After they had wrought there for some short time, it occurred to them, that the same wages which they earned in Glasgow, would make them twice as rich in their native country, as in a situation where every article of living was enormously dear. They  
returned

returned home. And now, they are employed in Orkney by Glasgow-manufacturers, at wages which though not higher than what they earned in Glasgow, make them greatly richer.

It is this natural and necessary fitting of opulence and industry which must chiefly promote the improvement of a country. Otherwise all accidental causes will little avail. To this would I chiefly trust for the future improvement of the Highlands. Yet not so as to discourage any extraordinary efforts which Government, or private individuals, or associate bodies, may chuse to make, in order to hasten the period which the natural progress of improvement in the country is likely to bring about.

NAY, I must add, that when partiality to one part of a country has imposed disadvantages upon any other part to which it was not naturally subject: when accidental misfortunes have depressed it beneath that moderate state of prosperity in which it might otherwise easily have maintained itself; when attention to *force* on its improvement may produce consequences singularly beneficial to the whole community;—in all these cases, it seems incumbent upon an enlightened national government, and upon patriotic individuals, to direct their exertions

tions with peculiar zeal, to the cultivation of the natural advantages of such a district.

A GOOD many such exertions have been already made for the improvement of the Highlands. The calamities of war which they have suffered, have indeed almost always terminated in their civilization, and in the advancement of industry through the whole. Cromwell's soldiers taught the inhabitants of the north and east Highlands among whom they were garrisoned, some of the most useful arts of life to which they had till then been strangers. The later garrisons which it has been found necessary to establish through this same country have, in like manner, contributed to the improvement of their respective neighbourhoods. The rents of the Forfeited Estates were laid out by the Trustees to whose management they were committed, much more to the improvement of the territories from which they were paid, than they had been by the hereditary proprietors. The abolition of the heritable jurisdictions, after the rebellion of 1745, contributed eminently to the suppression of that turbulence which had hitherto prevailed through these regions. Even the prohibition of the ancient Gaelic dress, and the discouragement of the ancient Gaelic manners contributed much to advance the progress of civility among these people. The next great advantage was

the construction of military roads through their country. This opened it up, and rendered it accessible. The labours of the society for the propagation of Christian Knowledge have also done much for the general improvement of the people and of their country. Religious instruction and pious habits are so connected with the virtuous arts of life, and with habits of settled industry, that it will ever be impossible to communicate and to impress the former, without at the same time propagating the latter. Among other benefactors to the Highlands, I am much pleased to name the late Dr Samuel Johnston. A letter written by him contributed greatly to procure the Translation of the Holy Scriptures into the Gaelic language. His account of his Journey to the Western Isles, drew the eyes of the world much more than before upon these parts. His observations upon their state of improvement, and probable progress in civility, suggested much important matter to those patriotically interested in their welfare. Even the unfavourable facts which he has reported with exaggeration, and those of his reflections, which may be supposed to have originated in ignorance or inveterate prejudice, have yet by awakening Gaelic pride to useful exertion, done considerable service to the people who exclaimed against his calumny. He deserves the praise of having contributed more than almost any  
one

One other person, to the progress of the spirit of planting in Scotland.—The emigration of great numbers of the Highlanders to America, immediately before the breaking out of the late American war, taught the great to consider, that the dependence was not wholly on the side of the poor, but was mutual between the two orders,—and thus obliged them to turn their cares to the encouragement of such arts, as might make the poor more comfortable at home; arts which could not be promoted, without promoting the general interests of all, and of this whole country.—The frequent resort of gay company to the North, for the purposes of pursuing game, or of viewing its scenery, has, in like manner, rendered the state of this country better known, and more the object of improving attention.—The dangers of the navigation of these coasts have occasioned them to be examined, and their channels to be sounded. The shoals of fishes with which they abound have also pointed them out as a mine of opulence. The demand which the increasing manufacture of glass, has produced for the *kelp* prepared from their sea-weeds, has been another circumstance fortunate to them.—Let me not neglect to pay the deserved tribute of praise to the late Mr John Knox of London, who travelled repeatedly through these regions, and laboured with wonderful zeal and success, to persuade his countrymen to improve the natu-



ral advantages which he justly enough represented them as possessing: and to Dr James Anderson, who was employed by Government to survey them, and performed the task with that earnestness to promote the improvement of the country which seems to be his ruling passion. The societies of different descriptions, who have made the state and the improvement of the Highlands the great objects of their attention, are entitled to the thanks of their country. This is one of the best modes in which true patriotism can be displayed.

THESE are, I believe, the circumstances and persons who have most signally contributed to advance the progress of industry and social life in these parts of Scotland. No very great progress has yet been made. Compared indeed with what they were before the year 1746, these districts would unquestionably appear to be mightily improved. But, compared with what it seems not impossible to improve them to, their condition is low. I was delighted therefore to learn, at Inverary, that on the two days immediately preceding that on which I arrived there, the inn and town had been thronged by a meeting of the Noblemen and Gentlemen of Argyleshire who had assembled for the purpose of taking into their consideration an estimate of the probable expence of a canal proposed to be cut between Loch Crinan and Loch Gilp,

**Gilp**,—so as to cut off the dangerous navigation of the Mull of Cantire, and greatly to abridge the passage between the Frith of Clyde, and the Streights of Jura. The advantages with which the execution of this plan will be attended, are more than I, in my ignorance of the state of this country can enumerate. It will however greatly improve the navigation of these coasts. It will advance the industry of their inhabitants. It will probably contribute to the extension of their fisheries. By bringing them *virtually nearer* to the great seats of wealth, industry, and trade in Dumbartonshire, Renfrewshire, and Lanarkshire, it will also contribute to extend to them the advantages of those counties. By giving another great road, as it were to the country which it divides, it will promote the intercourse between the inhabitants of its different districts. Above all, it will singularly promote the improvement of the *Hebuda*. A subscription had been opened, at the meeting abovementioned, to raise the sum necessary for the execution of this canal. A very large sum had been eagerly subscribed; for the prospect, if not of the repayment of the principal sum advanced, yet of the payment of large interest upon that principal, was sufficiently inviting; and the formation of a canal, was thus in some measure like the creation of a new tract of land-property. The whole

whole has since been filled up; and the canal is likely to be happily executed.

SOME other projects for the improvement of the Highlands and islands of Scotland have not been attended with all the success desirable. Nature rejoices to be seconded, but will not be forced. And indeed in the improvement of countries, as of the arts, many experiments must commonly be made, before the desired perfection can be attained. Certain it is, if that the lands round the northern coast of Scotland be barren, the seas are peculiarly rich. They abound in most of those fishes which are fittest for human nourishment. What wealth would they not produce in the neighbourhood of a great town? And may not manufacturing villages be scattered around,—the inhabitants of which may consume those provisions which these parts afford, and which cannot be so well conveyed to the seats of population? Fishes are a much more pleasant article of nourishment, fresh than salted. Although the exportation of salted fish may be a lucrative enough branch of traffic, yet the fishing would be much more lucrative, if a considerable part of the fishes taken, could be consumed fresh.

IN these scenes, sea-faring habits ought undoubtedly to be encouraged by every inducement which  
the

the legislature can hold out. Our insular situation, while it in some sort doubles the extent of our territories, invites us to be failors, as much as husbandmen or artizans. Our attention to the objects of navigation must ever be the great guardian of the national safety. It is therefore of consequence for us to encourage every species of trade and every mode of industry which may increase the numbers and improve the hardiness and the skill of our mariners. To these purposes was the famous Navigation Act directed. It is for these ends chiefly, that our West India islands are advantageous possessions. It is because raw cotton is a material imported in British Bottoms, that I think the manufacture of cottons little less beneficial, than if the raw material were of British growth. The same end has, I hope, been kept much in view when encouragements have been held out to induce British subjects to engage in the fisheries. And for this end, above all others would I wish to see the fisheries encouraged and thriving upon these coasts. I know not if the demand for salted fish be now so great throughout Europe, as it once was. The Roman Catholic religion, and the strict observance of Lent are certainly fast declining. And, I fear that in consequence of their decline, there is a diminution in the quantity of salted fish annually consumed in Europe.— I remember hearing of an honest gentleman who fancied

ciated himself a profound politician when he suggested, that the observance of Lent had been originally introduced into the ritual of the Romish Church, for no other purpose, than to encourage the fisheries: I am not sure, that the Romish Clergy were guided, in the establishment of this institution, by so enlightened a policy; but I am well persuaded, that its permanency has had the effect, although it might not be originally intended.—Yet, there may possibly have been an increase in the population of Europe, more than equivalent to the diminution of the numbers who confine themselves to the use of salted fish in Lent. Besides, other stations, less favourable perhaps than those upon these coasts, are frequented for the purpose of taking fishes which may be cured, and brought to market in a salted state. And why then, should not we encourage fisheries here, since the encouragement of them seems so necessary to promote our national strength. There was, I believe, a time when the fisheries of Scotland were in a very thriving state, and were indeed one of the chief sources from which the country derived any wealth that it possessed. In the reigns of the Jameses, when most of our sea-port towns rose to a degree of consideration from which many of them have since declined, the fishes caught and cured by the Scots were in request through all the South of Europe. The establishment of presbyterianism, and the troubles which attended

attended it; the rise of the Dutch commonwealth, with the activity and frugality of its traders; the negligence of government in respect to the welfare of Scotland, after the accession of our sovereigns to the throne of England; the civil dissensions by which industry was interrupted, and the country ravaged during the greater part of the last century; with a variety of other causes which I cannot enumerate—concurrent to frighten or withdraw us from the working of this mine of wealth. We have never since heartily returned to it; although endeavours have been used to restore to us the advantages of these fisheries on our own coasts.

BUT I am truly inclined to believe, that our fisheries on these coasts will never be prosecuted to the most advantageous height, till establishments of manufacture in the immediate neighbourhood, shall bring hither a population to consume the provisions which the sea affords in such abundance. Let our manufacturers spread themselves round these coasts: Let the quarries of marble be opened: Let the mines be wrought: Let the establishments of every species of industry which supplies the least necessary conveniences of life, be encouraged here: Let the country be more and more opened up by the construction of new roads and new canals: Then will these scenes be no longer mere store-houses of provisions

and of the necessaries of life : The provisions will be advantageously consumed on the spot : The gifts of nature will be gathered with such increased care that while greater quantities are consumed at home —perhaps greater quantities may also be exported abroad : Above all, agriculture, which must ever thrive where there is a plentiful population, will be cultivated with earnestness, and with certain success : It is disgraceful to the proprietors and the inhabitants of these districts that agriculture is in so backward a state among them ; disgraceful, that scanty as is the population, they cannot raise grain and vegetables to support themselves. If our oats, or barley, or wheat will not thrive in their climate ; there are other hardier species of grain, which they may advantageously adopt. The black oats formerly common through Scotland, are, I believe, of a character more hardy than the white oats which are now commonly raised in their room. Potatoes too, one of the most nutritious of vegetables, thrive sufficiently in these parts. There is no want of manure. —I wish from my soul, that our botanists would zealously turn to the discovery of plants, useful either for their roots, their stalks, or their seeds, which will best suit unkindly soils and rude climates. Thus might they greatly contribute to the advancement of agriculture, and to the improvement of the conveniencies of human life.—In short, the improvement

ment of these regions must of necessity advance slowly. Our care must be directed not merely to the improving of any one or two of the natural advantages which they possess. We must attend to the whole together. Let them advance hand in hand. Let them aid each other's progress. Canals, roads, the establishment of manufactures, and the scattering of manufactures in proper places must come first. The fisheries will then promote the manufactures; the manufactures will promote the fisheries. Agriculture will advance hand in hand with both. And it will at length appear that human industry can triumph over all the disadvantages of climate and local circumstances, and give comfort and dignity to social life by one expedient or another, in almost every situation over the globe.

I have rambled into too many desultory observations on this subject. But the nature of a subject so interesting as the improvement of these regions, and the advancement of social life in my native country, will, I hope, plead my excuse. Before I set out from Inverary, let me mention, that a woollen manufacture has been attempted either in the town, or somewhere in its neighbourhood, not, I believe, with the very best success.



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*From INVERARY to ARROQUHAR.*

WE left Inverary, at a late hour in the forenoon, and proceeded down the north-east side of Loch Fyne. The way led us along a fine bridge, thrown over the river *Ary*, nearly where it discharges its waters into the lake. As we advanced, we had on one hand the wooded side of *Dun-i-queach*: the lake spread its waters on the other. Where the hills slanted to the lake with a gentler declivity, the inhabitants were busy gathering their potatoes from the ground. In some places they were gathering and carrying home dry furze and brushwood, to cover their crops, or their houses. Their aspect was commonly meagre, and their clothing scanty and ragged.

AT some distance from Inverary, upon a rock jutting out into the lake, and close by the way-side, stands the old castle of *Tunderagh*, which has been once fortified, and of which a part is still inhabited, I think, by a farmer's family.

SOON after passing *Tunderagh*, the traveller reaches the station of a ferry-boat, in which foot passengers may be conveyed straight across the lake, to *Cairn-*  
*dow,*

*do.* It is not, however, fitted for the conveyance of horses. We continued our ride round the southern extremity of the lake. The country became more level before us, as we rode on. The farm-houses, too, seemed to assume somewhat of a more snug and comfortable appearance. At the point of the lake, the adjoining ground was marshy. After passing it, we again turned to the north-west, and rode up the side of the lake, to the inn at Cairndow.

THE country here consists of rude hills, fit only for the pasture of sheep and black-cattle,—skirted, however, towards the lake with tracts—commonly narrow—of level ground; which are partly sown with corn and planted with potatoes,—partly fenced in—for kitchen-gardens,—and in part, where marshy, and liable to be flooded by the waters of the lake, kept as natural meadow. The population of these tracts cannot be very plentiful; for, but few hands, comparatively speaking, can be wanted for the management of the lands: and these are not scenes to invite the residence of people, who have not strong reasons of interest to determine their preference for them. Pity that there should not be more wood scattered over these mountains! When our forests are cut down to make room for cultivation, in the more fertile parts of the kingdom;  
others

others might be taught to arise in these parts whence cultivation seems to be hopelessly excluded.

THE inn at Cairndow is intended as a sort of half-way house, to divide the long stage between Arroquhar and Inverary. It stands at the distance of ten miles from the latter of these places. But, to foot-passengers crossing the lake in the ferry-boat, this length of way is greatly abbreviated. The inn is small, snug, and neat; the landlord whom I had the good-fortune to find in it, is one of the most attentive, obliging men I have seen. The stables are narrow, in proportion to the smallness of the house. I was conducted into a neat low parlour, where every thing was decent and cleanly, and, notwithstanding the scarcity of fuel in this season, a gladsome fire blazed on the hearth. I was soon refreshed with a comfortable dinner; the relish of which was heightened to me, by the landlord's intelligent conversation.

THIS inn stands, I think, on the estate of Ardkinglass, the property of Sir James Campbell. His house is seen at some small distance westward, near to the edge of the lake. The old house of Ardkinglass has become unfit for the accommodation of the family; and I learned that Sir James Campbell had  
lately

lately contracted with a builder, to raise another for the sum of between three and four thousand pounds.

It was late in the afternoon when we left Cairndow; and we had a dreary road to travel, to the next inn at Arroquhar. The way winds up the side of a hill, till the traveller enters a wild glen; two rocky mountains rise in a ridgy form, on each side; a scanty stream running below. Hardly any heath or coarse grass softens the rocky aspect of the hills. The glen is long: towards the southern extremity, it assumes an aspect rather less rugged. But, the segments of the hills which are there seen, are of unusual forms: The day was just declining into twilight. The sky was clouded: And had my mind not been elevated by the grandeur, it must undoubtedly have been oppressed by the horrors of the scene.

At length, we crossed over the stream, by a small bridge, and the road took somewhat of a south-east direction. But, the environs presented no milder aspect. Frowning hills yet rose above, on either hand. The glen below was uncultivated and bare. The road was narrowed almost into a foot-path; and it led up a declivity, which, though not abrupt, was however, extremely difficult of access. As we proceeded, a small lake appeared on our right hand

hand: but no shrubbery, no verdure adorned its banks; it was only a basin worn out among the rocks: And the hills assumed a more rugged aspect where they hung over it. The light shades of twilight were now melting fast away into the darkness of night. The time and the scenes were such as to suggest all the gloomiest and grandest ideas that can be associated with night and wild solitudes. The machinery of Ossian's poetry; the ghosts of departed heroes; riding in the clouds, or passing on the blasts; malignant spirits shedding their influence round; supernatural danger ready to assail, while immediate danger and natural dangers, seemed to beset the traveller,—were all naturally enough here suggested to the imagination.

As we gained upon the ascent, we left *Loch Rest* behind us. At length we found ourselves on the height immediately above the gloomy vale of *Glen-eroe*. It was too dark for us to remark the seat placed here when the road was formed, and to read the inscription REST AND BE THANKFUL. We proceeded, not without some degree of horror upon our spirits, down the winding way. It seemed, in the darkness, as if we were descending into a deep cavern, with an irregular and craggy brink. The crater of a wasted volcano could hardly have been more dreadful. It was not merely the tremendous  
gloom

gloom, and the fearful fancies which such a gloom naturally suggests to the imagination, that impressed our spirits with awe: But, fragments detached from the impending rocks, were scattered over the declivity; the windings of the road, and its occasional ascents and descents were hid from our eyes; and even our horses seeming to be sensible of the danger, became obstinate, and were not without difficulty urged forward. The hollow murmur of a stream heard from a distance increased our horror: No human habitation was nigh; No traveller met us; we knew not the length of the glen; nor whether cross-roads might not meet in it; and the windings and irregularities of the way were from time to time, renewing our fears. At length, we met some travellers returning up the glen to their houses, as they told us. We were close upon them, ere the darkness of the night permitted us to discern them. The sound of their voices alone was pleasing: and they gave us information which made us more easy as to our progress on the road. Soon after, a farm-house appeared on one side of the highway. We next crossed, I think, a stream by the side of which, but at some small distance from it, we had travelled for a considerable part of this dreary road. We passed near by the house of *Ardgartan*, and turning round the point of the eastern arm of *Loch-Loung*, at length reached *Arroquhar*.

SOME travellers have found the journey up *Glencroë* so little disagreeable, that they have supposed the inscription on the feat at the height of the declivity to have been suggested rather by the labour which it cost to form the road, than by the difficulty which the traveller must still find in the ascent. The labour of forming the road, cut as it is through almost the whole length of the vale, in solid rock, must indeed have been immense; and the soldiers by whom it was formed, might well be thankful when they reached the summit. But, no less thankful, in my estimation, will the traveller be, who either walks or rides up it. If he sits in a carriage, he cannot be so sensible of its difficulties. The slow motion of the horses, with the impressive character of the surrounding scenery will, in this case, rather make the ascent pleasing. Before this road was formed, however, no mode of travelling could have rendered it easy to climb up the vale of *Glencroë*.

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*ARROQUHAR; and to LUSS.*

**ARROQUHAR** is seated, in one of the most agreeable situations which these regions afford, on the eastern side of the eastern arm of *Loch-Loung*. On the verge of the loch is some ploughed and some meadow

meadow ground. But, this is of narrow extent. Lofly, peaked hills rife, on all hands, around.

THIS was once the feat of the Chieftain of the Clan of *Macfarlane*. But, in the progress of modern manners, the fortune of the family has been wasted, and the estate fold. The old house is now ruinous. The present inn was built, I believe, for a place of occasional residence, by the last purchaser of the estate of Arroquhar. He has, long since, I believe, given up the idea of residing in it. It was occupied for a while by his factor. After it was left by him, an innkeeper was placed in it. It is large. But, the lower story seemed in no very good condition; the glass in the windows broken; the ceiling and walls of the rooms dirty: tattered carpets disgracing the floor; and chairs, grates, and tables very unsuitable to the aspect of the house, being all the furniture. Here too, was a deficiency of bells; nor did the people of the house shew any extraordinary desire to be attentive to their guests, or skill to attend to them in a proper manner. One thing of which they earnestly complained was a want of fuel. They however, accommodated me with a comfortable fire, both in the parlour and in my bed-room; which I found too agreeable after my dreary ride, to remonstrate, next morning, when I found it charged, at an unusually high rate in my bill.



ON this night, a meeting of farmers from the neighbourhood happened to be assembled,—upon the business, I was told, of settling the division of some bankrupt's effects. They had cheared themselves, in the course of the business with such genial refreshments as the inn afforded. When I retired to rest, they were sitting down to supper. And they prolonged the sitting so long after supper, and that with so much noisy mirth, that I was some hours in bed before I could close my eyes in sleep. I heard them become louder and louder, till, at last, they talked all together, and their articulation became indistinct. I heard them carried or staggering, one by one to bed, as the powers of convivial enjoyment were overpowered. At length all was quiet; and I fell asleep.

LONG ere day, however, the farmers had slept off their debauch, and preparing to return home, made not quite so much noise, as when they went to sleep, yet enough to break my rest. When morning returned, the day was foul; but its dark and stormy complexion served to heighten the effect of the surrounding scenery. On the front of the house, a torrent thundered foaming down the precipitous side of an opposite hill. Its stream was greatly increased by the rains which had fallen in the preceding day, and during the night. In  
one

one part of its course, it formed an awful cataract. Through the whole, it fell with such impetuosity as to be almost every where covered with white foam. The hills rose above with peaked tops. To one of them, the name of the *Cobler* had been given, in the fancy that its summit presented just the figure of a travelling shoemaker. Around the house were some ancient trees, whose ragged, denuded aspect bespoke them to be only remains of the former beauties of the place. Loch Loung was still seen from this situation; and the expanse of the lake seemed to soften somewhat the harsh features of its environs.

THE windows of the lower rooms of this inn, had suffered remarkably from the propensity of travellers to scribble upon glass. I could not help secretly lamenting, at the sight, that fools cannot go on their way without leaving memorials of their dullness and obscenity on every pane of glass that comes under their hands.

WE set out early in the forenoon, although the day was stormy. I had hopes, that it might yet be fair. And although the storm might continue, yet since fair weather was not to be very confidently expected towards the end of October; it was necessary for me to proceed. Loch Loung is here divided from Loch Lomond

Lomond by only a narrow pass, not exceeding, I believe, two miles. This intermediate space is partly sheltered and adorned with wood. The road, too, is excellent. I proceeded, therefore, cheerfully enough onward, to Tarbat.

I ENTERED not the inn at Tarbat. It has a desolate aspect. It stands nearly at the north-western point of Loch Lomond. On the opposite side of the lake, partly within Stirling-shire, rises the famous Ben-Lomond. Its figure is somewhat conical. It towers up to a wonderful elevation. It commands, consequently, a most extensive prospect, stretching over the Firth of Clyde, and over some of the most fertile and cultivated, as well as some of the rudest counties in Scotland. Its side adjacent to the lake is finely fringed with wood. It seems covered on other parts with herbage, such as may form a fine pasture for sheep and black cattle. The season was too far spent to permit me to stop, and climb to its summit; had the day even been so fair, as to promise a full enjoyment of the prospect, after I should have ascended.

AT *Tarbat*, two roads meet; one that leads, in a more south-eastern direction to Tayndrum; the other, that by which I had come from Inverary. I proceeded down the western edge of Loch-Lomond.

Even

Even now, the face and the environs of this lake retained some share of fading beauty. Perhaps, after hearing it often and lavishly praised, I might be disposed to believe it beautiful, whatever its appearance.

THE winding length of this lake is not less than four and twenty miles. Towards the northern extremity it is narrowed. The bases of the hills on the western side are covered with wood. A narrow, and but a very narrow stripe of level ground intervenes between the termination of the hills, and the brink of the lake. Cottages, small fields cultivated for potatoes and corn, and little spots of richer soil reserved for gardens are scattered at irregular distance, along this stripe. Here and there, the land shoots out small points into the lake; which seem commonly to be reserved for meadow and pasture. The highway is carried along the bases of the impending hills. Sometimes, it has been necessary to cut through a point of the declining hill, in forming the road. The rocks are every where schistous; I think, we found some soldiers busy mending this road, at one place; at another, we met a drove of cattle conducted by Highland servants, wearing *filibegs*. As the forenoon had cleared up, we were indeed met by so many travellers, that we began plainly to perceive ourselves to be now upon the border of a cultivated and populous country.

AT

At a place, on the bank of a river, descending from the western hills and discharging itself into the lake, the name of which I learned to be *Inverdig*, I observed two artificial hillocks, of a considerable size, of that kind which are denominated *moats*. Whether this may have been anciently a scene of carnage, and these, the burial-places of the slain;—or perhaps the sacred scene of religious solemnities, and these hillocks, monuments of the piety of our ancestors;—or possibly a place for occasional meetings for the determination of differences, and the distribution of justice,—I could not learn. But, they were, most probably formed for some one or other of these three purposes. The sight of them led me to reflect on the simplicity of the manners of our ancestors. How very different the courts, the temples, the funeral monuments of the present time!

THE lake opened wider before me, as I rode on. The aspect of the surrounding scenery softened. At length those wooded islets which constitute the chief beauties of Loch Lomond appeared within sight. The western hills seemed at the same time to recede, and left between their bases and the edge of the water, a greater extent of arable ground. Older wood also appeared to dignify the scene, as I approached towards Luss. And the whole landscape exhibited a face of cultivation which left nothing  
but

but the Gaelic speech of the people whom I met, and the Gaelic garb which the peasants wore, to remind me, that I was yet within the confines of the Highlands.

THE isles scattered towards the southern extremity of Loch Lomond do indeed present a most charming sight. They are, for the greater part, covered with wood. Some are stocked with deer. I am not sure whether there be not others inhabited by rabbits. On one stand the ruins of an old palace, or rather castle of the family of Lennox; once the proprietors of a great part of *Lennox* or *Dumbar-tonshire*; within which I had now travelled from *Arroquhar*. The trees growing upon several of these isles are yews. They may possibly have been first planted there, in the days when archery was in its full glory. The elasticity and the close texture of the timber of the yew, naturally recommended it as the fittest wood for bows,—of the growth of these climates; and when arrows were the chief missile weapons, and war the chief occupation of our ancestors; it was an object of the utmost importance to them, to have proper materials for their bows.

ONE isle, towards the southern extremity of the lake, and near its western edge rises into a beautiful

little hill, and is finely planted with wood. It is the property of Sir James Colquhoun of Lufs. A statue of the guardian faint of the place, St M'Kifsock (who was at least esteemed so, in the Popish times of Scotland) having been accidentally found in the adjacent church-yard, or somewhere in the neighbourhood; the last proprietor of the estate of Lufs was so much pleased with the precious relic, that he resolved to station the faint on the summit of the above-mentioned insulated mount. In that station, it might be supposed, that the faint would watch, with guardian care, over the house of Lufs and its environs; and from it he might conveniently enough have shed, over these premises, his sacred influence. At the time, however, when the inhabitants of Scotland were alarmed; lest a toleration might be extended to the Papists among them, the peasants in this neighbourhood, struck with sudden indignation against St M'Kifsock, broke into the repository where he was peaceably awaiting the period of his exaltation, and outrageously decapitated him, and otherwise mutilated his trunk, without bringing him to any form of trial. The violated, mutilated statue, thus rendered unfit for the purposes for which the Lord of the manor had piously intended it, was then by his orders, solemnly deposited in the burial place of the C\*\*\*\*.

AMONG

Among the wood, upon the estate of Sir James Colquhoun, towards the south-western extremity of the lake, is a good deal of holly. This timber, in consequence of the progress of our manufactures, can now be disposed of, to very great advantage. It is the best timber for shuttles, and all such other small instruments of the arts, as must be made of wood—but of wood of the closest, hardest texture; and susceptible of the finest polish. The timber of the yew answers for the same purposes. In the same neighbourhood, there is likewise a large growth of birches; a species of timber also fit, although in an inferior degree, for the service of the arts which flourish in the adjacent country. Here are likewise oaks; and no Briton travelling through his country, can see an oak, without lamenting that the planting of oak is every where so much neglected; that so few forests of old oak are to be seen; and that every growth of young oaks should be so eagerly cut down for the bark, without care for the useful purposes to which the wood might be applied, if preserved, till the tree should rise to maturity of growth.

I HAVE already observed, that the rocks through this tract appeared to be schistous. They are so much so in the neighbourhood of Luss, that Sir James Colquhoun has, on his estate, some valuable



slate-quarries, which have been opened, and are wrought,—as I should suppose, by their contiguity to a populous country where there is a strong spirit of building,—with great advantage to the proprietor.—Scotland, rocky and mountainous as it is, does not want slate quarries in many places where the cutting of slates has never yet been attempted. The time has not long passed, when the roofs of all but the houses of people of fortune were covered with thatch. In those days the working of slate quarries could not have been extremely profitable. The taste in building is now very different. Our houses are multiplied almost in a tenfold proportion; and every house must now be covered with slates. The slates used in many parts of Scotland are, I believe, imported from Wales. The Hebudian isle of *Esdaile* affords also excellent slates which are used along the contiguous shores.—Now it cannot seem invidious to suggest, that we, in Scotland, would do well to make the most of those fossil treasures which nature has scattered liberally through our country,—and *this* chiefly where she has been least liberal in clothing the surface with useful vegetables. Even although we could not use at home all the slates which might be dug, it were yet proper for us to cut and prepare slates for exportation. But, it is shameful to import slates for our buildings, when we can have abundance at home.

SUCH were the appearances which caught my eye, the information which I gathered from accidental passengers, and the reflections which both concurred to suggest, as I approached the village of Luss. At Luss I had hopes of seeing Mr Stuart, the clergyman of the parish whom I had known slightly in Edinburgh; distinguished by his skill in the indigenous botany of Scotland,—by his labours in the translation of the Bible into Gaelic,—and still more by his amiable manners.

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*LUSS to DUMBARTON.*

I FORTUNATELY found Mr Stuart at home. The day did not admit of my wandering through the environs with him. But, as I reached his house early in the forenoon, I had the pleasure of his conversation, and experienced his hospitality, till late in the afternoon. A neighbouring clergyman was with him; And I esteemed myself fortunate in the opportunity of enjoying and improving by their conversation.

MR STUART'S taste for Botany has induced him to cultivate his garden with unusual care and fondness. It contains a great variety of indigenous plants, and of such curious foreign plants as are fitted to endure the fickleness and the austerity of our climate.

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THE Translation of the Holy Scriptures into Gaelic in which Mr Stuart has taken considerable share, is, a work that does high honour to the charity and the piety of our country and our age. Of the merits of the Translation, as a literary work, I am totally unqualified to speak. But, in other respects, I can estimate its importance. The Gaelic Language is indeed fast losing ground,—as the people to whom it has been peculiar, intermingle more and more with their countrymen who speak a different language. It might have been alleged that since the Gaelic was losing ground so fast, and since most of those by whom it was still spoken, were at pains to give their children more or less of an English education;—There was therefore no occasion for a Gaelic version of the Bible; which by taking away one great necessity that urged these people to learn English, would have a tendency to keep them longer in a state of division from their countrymen. It might be urged farther, that the same principles upon which the Highlanders had been prohibited by the Legislature from wearing their ancient native garb,—con-  
curred to recommend the discouragement of their native language: That, as the Gaelic ceased to be spoken, those who now spoke it, would come to have a freer intercourse with the rest of the nation, would  
faster shake off those prejudices which retarded their  
improvement.

Improvement in industry and civility, and would sooner be indistinguishably incorporated with the rest of the state. From all these reasonings, it might have been inferred with no small confidence, that it were better not to accommodate the Highlanders with a translation of the Bible into their native tongue.

BUT more solid reasons, and views more humane prevailed. It was thought of consequence to form some monuments which might preserve the memory of the language of our fathers, after it should cease to be commonly spoken. It was considered that the purposes of religion were of too high import to be postponed to the concerns of worldly policy; that while the English was gradually acquired, and the Gaelic gradually lost by those people, they must be incapable to receive religious instruction in the former, and therefore if it were not administered to them in the latter must, be absolutely deprived of it. It was remembered, that, since there was a necessity that the ministers of parishes in which the Gaelic was spoken, should preach in Gaelic,—it was therefore equally necessary that the foundation of their preachings should also be found in Gaelic. It was considered, that in an unknown tongue the oracles of religion must speak in vain. Upon these views was the translation of the sacred Scriptures into Gaelic, wisely and piously determined upon.

ALTHOUGH

ALTHOUGH ignorant of Gaelic, I should wish, as a person anxious for the preservation of every valuable monument of antiquity, that a few others of our most classical works were translated into this language, and that encouragement were given to men of letters who understand Gaelic, to produce some valuable compositions in their native tongue. The language would thus be preserved in all its compass and variety of phrase. And it would surely be a monument of antiquity highly valuable to the curious among our posterity. I know not what might be the merits of Dr Shaw's Grammar and Dictionary. His attempts were well-intended and highly laudable. But, he was discountenanced and crushed, I suspect, by those who ought to have been the first to encourage and support him. If his Grammar and Dictionary of the Gaelic Language be ill executed, I should think, that the respectable Highland Societies in London and Edinburgh might employ some eminent Gaelic Scholar to regulate the analogy, and to collect the treasures of their language in a new Grammar and Dictionary.

THE prejudices with which the English refused to believe the authenticity of Ossian's Poems are well known. I know not if any thing has contributed so much to excite their suspicion, as the exorbitant claims which the Translators and admirers of those poems have

have made, in their favour. They have produced them to the world as compositions not only singular in their character, but of peculiar excellence; proofs, at the same time, of genius, imagination, and feeling far superior to what any other modification of savage life has ever yet displayed,—and of a correct and sublime morality in sentiments and manners, such as savages cannot well be supposed capable to conceive.

THESE high pretensions, on behalf of a Celtic bard, an ancestor of the inhabitants of the Scottish Highlands, naturally roused the jealousy of the English, and of the Saxon Scots. They instantly attempted to convict those who offered the Poems to the Public Eye, —of forgery, by those very qualities in the Poems, on which they chiefly prided themselves. The artificial structure, the rich yet delicate imagery, the tender sentiments, the elevated morality of the Poems of Ossian were hastily considered by some of the most eminent Literary characters in England, as unequivocal proofs that they could have been produced only in a polished, enlightened age.

It must be confessed, that beside the high claims which were made in their favour, little artifices had been employed to set off the Poems, which served, in some measure, to justify suspicions of their authenticity. They bear in their texture nothing

which can enable us to refer them with certitude, to any commemorated period in the Scottish History: Yet attempts were made, evidently without any considerable depth or accuracy of historical research, to ascertain the æra of their composition. It was asserted that some of them had been preserved in manuscript; although no manuscripts of any of them could be produced in other than Saxon, or Saxonised Roman characters. It was maintained, that the author of them, and the Heroes, and Beauties whom they celebrate, were undoubtedly Scottish; although there appears nothing on the face of the Poems themselves, from which it may not be as fairly inferred, that they are Irish.—Difficulties, too, attended the collection of these poems which naturally had in a certain degree, the effect of rendering their genuineness suspicious. Of the same poem, one person remembered one part; another person, a different part; the two were either to be considered as distinct poems, —or to be connected into one, while perhaps some lines or sentiments, or circumstances were lost. Translated, too, into the language of a people, far removed in policy, in arts, in manners, in customs from the condition and character of the people among whom they were originally composed; the Translation must unavoidably communicate a character to the Poems, very different from that which they possess in their native garb.

ALL these circumstances considered, it cannot appear surprising that suspicions of the authenticity of the Poems of Ossian, should have occurred to many of those not particularly interested in the support of their character. I, for my part, after perusing a considerable share of what has been written on both sides of this literary question,—Remain satisfied that the Poems of Ossian do indeed exhibit a modification of manners and a refinement of sentiment singular in the history of savage life; That the age of their composition cannot now be ascertained, nor can it be determined whether they are the compositions of Scotland or of Ireland; That they are in many instances mutilated fragments, pruned, or eked out by the Translator; That such of them as exhibit any considerable regularity or complexity of structure owe their form probably to the cares of the Translator; That the Translator has connected their history with a superficial and ill-founded theory of the early part of the history of Scotland; and they have not been given to the Public in a form sufficiently simple.

BUT, after declaring these sentiments, let me add, that, with so many problematical circumstances against them, I however esteem them to be unquestionably genuine. Their structure still possesses that simplicity which marks every work of a rude, un-



enlightened people. The manners are marked by the same simplicity. The positive customs described or alluded to in them, are equally the customs of a simple race. The images are few, and the resemblances of that general cast, which marks always the similitudes used by people unacquainted with all but the most striking qualities. The religious notions are, I think, those most natural to men who have received no foreign instruction in religion, and have not yet learned to make religious opinions the subjects of ratiocination. I believe, that the memorials of the ancient Welch manners, and the remains of the ancient Welch poetry, present parallels to the Poems of Ossian, and the manners exhibited in them. I think the question put by Dr Blair to Dr Johnson, on this subject, a very pertinent one, and unanswerable unless in the way of cavil, or in a manner favourable to the character of these poems: "Do you think, Sir, that any man in the present age could write such poems?"—The ingenious translator is, at this time, as I understand, engaged in the publication of a very splendid edition of the Originals of Ossian's Poems, with a Latin Translation on the opposite page. This must be a very acceptable present to all men of taste, and to all classical scholars.

FROM

FROM an amiable Gaelic scholar, I have insensibly deviated into a digression on Gaelic Literature, on which I have little skill to descant. I shall however, leave the subject to abler discussion; only observing, that delighted as I have been, with the perusal of the Poems of Ossian, interested as I feel myself in the preservation of the ancient honours of my country, and pleased as every benevolent mind must naturally be with the thoughts of whatever may be contribute to spread light and civilization over regions into which they are but beginning to penetrate:—I could not withhold myself from hazarding the loose observations which I have here ventured to throw out.

I DID NOT leave Lufs till a late hour in the afternoon. And had not the weather been extremely unpromising, I might indeed have been induced to linger there a day or two longer, to examine the environs, to visit the principal islets in the lake, and possibly to climb Ben-Lomond. But, hopeless of the return of favourable weather, I was obliged to forego those gratifications.

FOR a part of the way from Lufs to Dumbarton, I enjoyed the company of a very intelligent clergyman whom I had found, on a visit, at Mr Stuart's. The road begins, immediately beyond Lufs, to  
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leave the wild mountains by which it is overhung between Tarbat and Lufs, and to pass through a fertile and cultivated country. Wood is plentifully scattered through all this tract, and highly ornaments it. The fields are divided with stone-fences. The southern extremity of the lake is seen to advantage, as the traveller passes on. Its islets have a charming effect. And the scene is improved and rendered more picturesque by the hills impending on the eastern side.

CONCERNING one place which we passed, my intelligent companion informed me, that Archibald, first, Earl Ilay, and afterwards, upon the death of his elder brother John, Duke of Argyle,—used to thank God, that it made not a part of his estates; adding, that if it had, the situation was so inviting, that he might have been tempted to ruin himself by building a palace upon it.

BUT, night came on, and with the fall of night, a severe storm of wind and rain overtook us. We proceeded along the road, the depth of which bespoke the population and the busy industry of the country. Here and there I could distinguish lofty trees amidst the woods, through which the road occasionally led. But, even here the houses of the poor seemed only hovels, affording very sorry accommodation.

commodation. We had left Loch Lomond behind us, by the time when it became dark; and our way continued to lead us along the banks of the Leven, although not always close upon the river-side.

THE banks of the Leven are the Classic ground of Scotland. Somewhere in the neighbourhood was the feat of the ancient clan of the Buchanans; and here was born the famous George Buchanan, one of the earliest flowers of Scottish Literature. The works and the circumstances of the Life of George Buchanan are very generally known. He was early distinguished by his proficiency in Classic Literature. The freedom and severity of his satire soon rendered him obnoxious to the monks who were, at that time very powerful in Scotland, and whose wealth and looseness of manners naturally subjected them to satire. Fleeing from their persecution, he spent a considerable part of his life in the situation of a school-master in different places in France and Portugal. He had eminently distinguished himself by his Literature, when the fall of his old enemies, the monks, and the unsettled state of his fortune abroad, induced him to revisit Scotland. He became an active partizan of the enemies of Queen Mary, was placed in the situation of Tutor to James VI. had the honour, although a Layman, of being Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church  
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of Scotland, and was even appointed Lord Privy-Seal. He died in a good old age, honoured and lamented by his countrymen, and by all the friends of Classical Learning throughout Europe.

His works are very much varied in their character. In all, his Latinity is wonderfully pure; although in my estimation, less so, in his poetry than in his prose. His history, were not the information which it contains, incorrect in the beginning, through national prejudices, and through the want of careful research, and in the latter part, through the misrepresentations which he seems to have wilfully made, under the influence of party-spirit,—is one of the first historical compositions that any age has produced. His tragedy of Jephtha has very considerable merit; but he has not risen to great sublimity of composition in any of the choral odes. The licentious pieces intermingled among his smaller poems, seem to prove that his youth had not been passed in the most uncorrupted innocence. And yet, this proof is at best, but an equivocal one: Dryden, although licentious in his poetry, was a man of pure morals. I have always thought Buchanan's version of the Psalms too paraphrastic: But it was performed as a task, at the injunction of the Portuguese Clergy; and possibly not *con amore*

ANOTHER

ANOTHER man of great name in literature who was born on the banks of the Leven, was Smollet. He was of a respectable family still seated in this neighbourhood. He was bred to medicine. Either a natural passion for literature, or disappointment in the pursuits of his original profession, or possibly some other circumstances,—engaged him to commence author. His first productions were a tragedy on the subject of the death of our James I. several well-known novels, and some odes. His odes are certainly among the first in the English language. His novels possess uncommon excellence. His history of England is well-written, but with too little accuracy of research. He was, I believe, the original conductor of the Critical Review. His *Humphrey Clinker* is one of the most pleasing of his works. He wrote for some time in defence of Lord Bute's administration; but could not support it; and I suppose that Lord Bute did not very generously reward his unavailing services. A pillar to commemorate his fame and his relation to this vicinity, was erected on the bank of the Leven, near the highway, by the late Commissary Smollet.

LORD NAPIER, the celebrated inventor of the Logarithms, was also born somewhere in the same neighbourhood.

THE banks of the Leven are at present a busy scene of chearful industry. The bleachfields on this river have now for a considerable number of years been famous. These bleachfields are connected with the manufacture of yarn, of linens, and of lawns, for which this country has long been celebrated, and with the manufacture of cottons, which having been introduced here, not very many years since, is prosecuted with astonishing industry and success. A rural scene of manufacturing industry is truly a pleasing sight to every Briton who wishes well to his country. No fewer than four different companies from Glasgow have bleaching-works here; Stirling & Co.—Tod & Co.—Black & Co.—Watson & Co.—The value of the goods annually prepared here is immense. It is not simply bleaching that is here carried on. The printing of white cotton-stuffs chiefly, is a branch of industry carried on by these manufacturers, with no less enterprize than the bleaching. Of these goods, great quantities are exported to the West Indies; and from our settlements in the West Indies, no small share of the exports to that quarter are smuggled into Spanish America. Indigo is one article, among others, received in return.

IT is chiefly since the termination of the American war, that the spirit of manufacture has given a

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new aspect to this country, has augmented its population, quickened its industry, enlarged its opulence, and by promoting the circulation of this opulence through all hands, given even to the poorest the enjoyment of a very great proportion of the conveniences and luxuries of life. Before that period, the merchants of Glasgow employed their capitals principally in the American Trade; purchasing goods for the American market, wherever they might happen to be prepared; and importing, in return, American productions for the British market. The American war, by interrupting this trade, produced no small alarm and distress in a country almost entirely dependent upon it. When the war ceased, the merchants of Glasgow, eager to regain their old market, poured their goods into America, with inconsiderate haste. The consequence was a disadvantageous sale, followed by fraudulent evasions of payment. This was a second evil which Glasgow and its neighbourhood suffered from the American war. About the same time, the cotton-manufacture began to spread itself through England; and to find its way into Scotland. So promising a stranger was warmly received here. The capitals, the industry, the mercantile enterprise of the country, were soon directed into the channel of this manufacture. Every year gave the cotton-stuffs of Britain new advantages to enable them to rival or excel those of India. The Com-



mercial Treaty concluded with France in the year 1786 was farther favourable to it. A small temporary inconvenience did indeed follow, immediately after the conclusion of that Treaty. So sanguine were ideas conceived of its advantages, that several rash speculations in the cotton trade encouraged by these, issued in bankruptcy. But, this unfortunate effect was momentary. The nature of the commercial treaty, with the advantages and the disadvantages attending it, soon came to be so thoroughly known to the Merchants, that they could avail themselves of the former, without risking anything through rash speculation. The disturbances in France, when they first arose, were also favourable to the advancement of our cotton manufactures. They interrupted manufacturing industry on the Continent, and thus freed us from rivalry, which we should otherwise have been obliged to meet in the market. In their continuance and progress, however, the same disturbances seem rather to threaten the prosperity of our manufactures. The extension of them to the French West India islands has already greatly enhanced the price of raw cotton. And the poverty which must ensue on the Continent, in consequence of the ravages of the French, and the cessation of almost all industry, must render our continental customers unable to make suitable returns for the goods which they need from us. But, perhaps the inter-

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position of the British Nation may bring the war to a speedy issue, and restore to the French Nation, and their Continental neighbours embroiled with them, the blessings of tranquillity and civil order.

EASTWARD from the southern extremity of Loch Lomond is a seat of the Duke of Montrose, which I did not see. In the same neighbourhood, but on the opposite side, is *Roseneath*, a seat belonging to the Duke of Argyle. *Bonhill*, the seat of the family of Smollet, stands on the banks of the Leven. *Leven Lodge*, the seat of Lord Stonefield, stands on the eastern bank of the river, at a small distance above *Dumbarton*. These environs are adorned with several other villas which the darkness of the night hid from my view. For some length above *Dumbarton*, the whole scene on both sides of the highway, seems one large, straggling village. Such is the population occasioned by the manufactures! The houses seemed neat; and the light from the windows contributed greatly to cheer and illuminate the darkness around me. The roads, too, were thronged with carts, and with passengers on foot and on horse-back. It might be about eight in the evening when I arrived in *Dumbarton*.

DUM-

## DUMBARTON.

DUMBARTON is one of the most ancient towns in Scotland. It is said to have been once the capital of a kingdom of the Britons established in the vale of Clyde. The particular limits of this kingdom I cannot specify. But, its existence is nowise problematical. It seems to have consisted of a remnant of the Britons, who maintained themselves in this settlement, after the Romans had withdrawn their forces from the island; when the Scots and Picts over-ran the northern parts of what had been occupied by the Romans and the Britons living under their protection, and all the fairer southern districts were usurped by the Saxons.

*Alclud* was then the name of this ancient capital of the *Stratclydenses*. Whether it was seated on the situation of the present town, or not perhaps rather within the precincts of the castle, I know not. Although there were no record to inform us that the rock on which the castle stands, was in ancient times occupied as a strength, we might easily infer so much from its form and aspect.

CONTEMPORARY with the British kingdom of Stratclyde was the kingdom of the East-Angles in Northumberland. Its limits were not confined to the  
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the present Northumberland, but is extended a considerable way through the southern parts of the present Scotland, contained in the Roman province of Valentia. Hence were those Saxons neighbours to the Britons of Stratclyde. In that age, the natural consequence of their being neighbours, was, to make them mutual enemies. Had it even been otherwise, hostility was natural between the expelled or subjugated Britons, and the Saxons who had usurped their ancient territories. The Saxons therefore continued to harass the Britons of Stratclyde, till in the year 756, Alclud, the capital, was surrendered to Egbert, king of Northumberland. The Britons do not seem however, to have been exterminated in consequence of the conquest, or expelled from the territory. Some charters granted by Scottish kings, after all these districts had fallen under the dominion of the Scots, mention the *Stratclydenses*, as a people still, in some sort, distinct from their neighbours.

THE castle, or at least the rock on which it is seated, must have been always an important strength. In the earliest, authentic records of Scottish history, it is mentioned as the seat of a garrison. The tradition of the place is, that connected with it, was a watch-tower on a contiguous rock, called *Drumbuck*, and another on the summit of *Ben-Lomond*.—This  
insulated

insulated rock seems to have been once the crater of a volcano. It consists of columns; and of these, several huge fragments have been broken off, and have fallen to the ground, by the injuries of time. In the contests between the Scots and the English, when the Edwards thought to have added Scotland to England and Wales, Dumbarton-castle was esteemed a strength of the utmost consequence. It was the scene of some of the heroic exploits of our famous Wallace. In the civil dissensions which distracted Scotland in the fifteenth century, Dumbarton castle was occasionally a prison for state-criminals. In 1591 it was taken by a stratagem equal in boldness, and in artifice, to any in history. As the manners of the Scots have softened, and as the operations and instruments of the art of war have been changed, the castle of Dumbarton has become of less consequence as a place of military strength. It is not however deserted; and standing, as it does, towards the mouth of the Frith of Clyde, which it commands, it were folly to desert it.

I visited this ancient fortress. It is garrisoned by a few invalids. I was struck with the venerable air, the erect carriage, and the cheerfulness of the old soldiers. One, who conducted me through the works, pretended to shew me, in an artificial pond, a trout, which he said, had lived here for eighteen years.

years. I looked with eager eyes, but could not discern his trout. We climbed up a great many steps, and through two ancient iron gates, to the summit of the rock. The gates he described to be as ancient an erection as the days of Wallace. And from the consideration of the manner in which the bars appeared to be eaten away by the action of the air and moisture, I am inclined to believe that he told the truth. On the side of the rock by which we ascended, were some patches which had been laid with earth, and sown with seeds, or planted with fruit-bearing shrubs. The exposure was very favourable to vegetation; the mould was rich; and the spots were assiduously watered: no garden could be more fertile. On the summit, we entered first the barracks occupied by the garrison. I was pleased to see that every thing here was wonderfully clean and comfortable. The invalids, too, who occupied it, seemed not unsatisfied with their situation. The gunner's house is likewise the armoury. It is but a small quantity of arms that is here to be seen: but small as it is, I should think, that they might be kept in better order, and deposited in some more suitable situation. The gunner's garret is the only armoury in Dumbarton-castle. I was next led among the ruins of some old fortresses, now neglected, or demolished, that the materials might be ap-

plied to other uses. With some of these was associated the remembrance of the renowned Wallace, and of mighty feats performed. In a more elevated situation are watch-towers, so contrived, that the watchman might in safety survey from them almost every object within the horizon. It was here that I was informed of the corresponding watch-towers which once stood on Drumbuck, and the height of Ben Lomond. Only the south-eastern point of the hill is now occupied; the other, rising, on the north-west, to a loftier elevation, is at present neglected. I was struck with the observation of the amazing strength and thickness of the ancient walls: How very different from those of the shewy, unsubstantial buildings which are, now a-days, *run up* by our speculating masons and architects on one week, that they may fall down on the next? No wonder, however, that these ancient fortifications of Dumbarton-Castle, battered as they have been by besiegers, and by the injuries of time, should be crumbling down, notwithstanding all their massy strength; since even the rock on which they are seated, has suffered by the operation of the same causes. It seems to consist, as I have already mentioned, of an irregular assemblage of irregular columns: Each column, again of so many separate pillars, piled vertically upon each other, and jointed together. Now the irregularity of the structure of

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the columns, the loose assemblage in which they are thrown together, and the looseness of the junctures of the different pillars of which they consist, all together render them little less liable than the walls built upon them to sink under the injuries of time. They *have* suffered greatly. Large fragments lie scattered at the base of the rock: others impend in such threatening attitudes, that a spectator can hardly look up or down upon them, without fear and horror.—It is on the level space between the two heads of the rock, that the present barracks and the gunner's house stand. The gunner has a small garden for pot-herbs, beside his house. But, this is unfavourably situated for the advantages of sun and shelter,—as the patches of garden-ground belonging to the commanding officer, and lying on the south-western declivity of the rock are favourably situated. The plants in the gunner's garden seemed therefore hardly to vegetate. Their appearance was most pitifully stunted and withered. On the higher of the two eminences which crown this rock, my conductor informed me that the Commanding Officer of the garrison had once attempted to plant a colony of rabbits. The cats from the neighbouring town, however, so annoyed them, that he was obliged to abandon all hopes of accomplishing the proposed establishment.



THE prospect from the height of this rock is extensive and delightful. On one side are the town of Dumbarton,—a part of the course of the Leven with its rich and animated banks,—and in distant view the lofty mountains which intervene between Loch-Lomond and Loch Loung, on the one hand,—opposed on the other by the majestic elevation of Ben-Lomond. Turning southward, and looking up the course of the Clyde, the spectator beholds this noble stream, probably crowded with vessels, and having, on either bank, rich, cultivated fields, elegant villas, establishments of manufacturing industry, and assemblages of trees scattered here and there, in every diversity of form; the surface, too, is greatly varied in its level; where the country runs to the north-west, to join Ben-Lomond.—Turning to the north-west you behold the Clyde advancing with increasing majesty to pour itself into the Frith distinguished by its name. And still, as it advances, its progress displays a richer scene of vessels coming and going, of cultivated fields, and of handsome, or snug houses, thickly scattered on either side. In the angle between the Leven and the Clyde rises a fine hill, the front of which was at this time covered with corn in shoeks;—behind was grazing ground overspread, in part, with whins, furze, and broom; beyond which I observed trees: and several neat houses were scattered round. On the quarter

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ter immediately over the town stood a house, the elegance of the appearance of which, induced me to ask who the proprietor might be. I learned, that he was a lawyer. And from this fact alone a traveller might safely venture to conclude that there is as well wealth as business in the circumjacent country. Wherever the lawyers, practising before the the sherriff-courts, are men of fortune or consideration, one may safely infer, that there must be a good deal of commercial business, of one sort or another; done in the neighbourhood, to produce litigations; and that there must be money to pay the expences of litigation,

THE plain between the town of Dumbarton, and the rock on which the castle stands, is divided into small parks; and these are fenced with thorn hedges, sheltered within dry stone walls. The ground possessed by the inhabitants of the town will, no doubt, bring no inconsiderable rent for the acre. But what might be the particular sum, I neglected to enquire.

THE principal street of the town of Dumbarton seemed to me to have an air of decayed grandeur. It might perhaps be, because my imagination was cheated by the veneration which I had been previously taught to entertain for its antiquity. Yet,  
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the time was, when it served, in some sort, as a sea-port to Glasgow. Greenock and Port-Glasgow were not then so considerable as they have since become. Here are three glass-houses, the property of Glasgow merchants. The cotton-manufacture flourishing through the whole neighbourhood, makes the labouring people, if not rich, at least comfortable. It was on a Saturday night I reached Dumbarton. I was too much fatigued to get up early enough, next morning, to attend divine service in the church. It was on the Sunday forenoon therefore, that I wandered round the environs, and visited the castle. As I returned to the inn, I met the congregation just leaving the church. The children, in considerable numbers, were among them, with their bibles under their arms. The whole company whom I had met, wore in their aspect a decent air of devotion, becoming the sanctity of the day, and the solemnity of the service in which they had been engaged. They were clad in comfortable, and, many of them, even in expensive clothes. But the fashion appeared in my eyes exceedingly awkward, and, in some manner peculiar to themselves. The men were stout, but coarse figures. The women I thought singularly homely, not to say ugly. Indeed of all the places I have visited, I should be inclined to distinguish Dumbarton as the seat of female homeliness. But, this is a quality

lity with which female virtue delights to dwell; it may be supposed that the good women of this ancient burgh are chaste as they are homely. The Church being now emptied, I strolled into the Church-yard. It was filled with grave-stones of various forms and ages; but I could perceive no very remarkable monumental curiosity. By the inscriptions on the grave-stones, however, I could learn that *Buchanan* and *Macfarlane* are two of the most common surnames in this place. *Colquhoun* is another which often occurs. The Clans of these names were, in the days of Scottish Clanship, seated in the neighbourhood.

DUMBARTON is the chief town in the county of Lennox or Dumbarton. Its school was once famous. I know not whether it still continues to produce such excellent scholars as in former times. I should suppose, that as the industry and opulence of the circumjacent country continue to increase, and as the West Highlands are peopled and improved, Dumbarton may become more considerable than it is at present. I observed indeed a number of new houses on the west side of the Leven, and others also upon the south-east quarter of the town. The same causes which have begun to enlarge the extent of this place, may probably continue their operation.

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*TO GLASGOW.*

WE at length left Dumbarton, and proceeded up the eastern bank of the Clyde to Glasgow. Near the town which we had left, the plain was divided by hedges and stone-fences into fields which seemed to be carefully cultivated. Wheat, oats, barley, with some flax are the crops chiefly raised in this neighbourhood. The natural sward has in many places, yielded to the culture of foreign grasses. Under the rock of Drumbuck, which I have already mentioned, as fronting Dumbarton Castle, is now a printing and bleachfield. As it was Sunday, I met many people on the road, some travelling, others strolling the adjacent fields, and others again sauntering at the doors of the little hedge-ale-houses. They were all clean, and even well dressed; and as I proceeded, I thought, I could observe that coarseness of features which I had remarked at Dumbarton, to give place to something more of beauty and expression. Late as it was in the season, the scene was finely animated, and even beautiful, in comparison with the wild scenes among which I had lately wandered. On the declivity of the hills which I had upon my left hand, plantations of trees of various ages, were irregularly scattered.

Amidst

Amidst these, I could occasionally discern the front, the gabel, the roof, or the chimnies of an handsome villa. Where the woods opened, corn-fields not yet entirely cleared of their crops, were commonly interspersed. Where nothing but open pasture-ground appeared; yet even there, although crags might rise above, the general colour of the surface was no unpleasing, yellowing shade of green. Towards the river, the prospect was yet more agreeable. The whole way-side was thickly set, sometimes with single houses, and at other times with small clusters together. Wherever the plain stretched to any considerable extent between the heights and the river, it was adorned with ornamented farm-houses—*fermes ornees*—or with villas on a larger scale, each with its little decorated domain lying around it. On the farther bank of the river, the scene was not less naturally beautiful, nor did it appear to possess fewer of these ornaments, which population, wealth, art, and industry spread over the surface of the earth. I particularly recollect the unusual aspect of one very showy, close upon the eastern bank of the river. When I asked its name, I learned, that it was called Frisky-hall. It was illuminated and painted, and *dight* up in that taste which mistakes finery for elegance.

AT no great distance from Dumbarton stands *Dunglass*-castle, a fortress of some note in the Scottish history. How changed the aspect of these scenes?—How altered the manners of their inhabitants from what they were when the castles of *Dunglass* and of *Dumbarton* were the important places in this vicinity; when hunting wild animals, tending domesticated ones, sowing and reaping some very small quantities of grain, taking a few fishes, and plundering their neighbours—were all the arts, and all the modes of industry which the people knew? Castles and fortresses are now places of comparatively small consequence: Instead of war being the common trade, the arts of war are less known to the people in general, than the mechanic or fine arts of the latest invention or improvement were to our forefathers: No modes of attack or defence, but those of litigation are known: Hunting is almost as little practised as the art of war: Sedentary industry is the general employment; And all the envied enjoyments consist in sedentary luxury.

SUCH were the desultory reflections which arose in my mind, whenever the objects which appeared before me, could not entirely engross my attention: Few monuments of antiquity occurred, to attract my notice. These have been either destroyed, for the most part, by the injuries of time; or it may be  
that

that they are now obscured, although perhaps still existing, by the more splendid creations of the taste and opulence of the present time. It is indeed, in a country which has continued to improve in wealth and population, that the monuments of antiquity are least permanent. When the sons rise above the wealth and the ingenuity of their fathers, they despise their arts, their pleasures, and their works. They alter the customs which those established; they pull down the structures which they reared, to raise others more stately where *they* stood; They consecrate their tombs with no superstitious reverence; Nor are they restrained from violating their altars, by any thing of religious awe. But, where succeeding generations have degenerated from the glory, and declined from the splendour of their ancestors; where a country once the seat of art and opulence has been desolated; where posterity, if they have not greatly declined from the dignity of the character of their fathers, have at least advanced but little above it:—There will the works of antiquity be preserved with pride and reverence; Here will every thing be respected, that tends to reflect upon the successors some part of the glory of their predecessors: And if by a decline in taste, in knowledge, and in sentiment, they shall have become too stupid to estimate aright the merits of those monuments which preserve among them the



memory of better times,—yet their own works are all too paltry to obscure those which preserve the remembrance of their progenitors.

As I advanced, I remarked, on my left hand, a ridge of crags, the name of which I learned, upon enquiry, to be Kirkpatrick Heights,—as that of the the gently sloping declivity between those crags and the highway—is—the *Braes* of Kirkpatrick. This Kirkpatrick is a parish, named from the celebrated St Patrick, a British Scot, who passed over from Stratclyde and preached Christianity to the Irish. Patrick is said to have been a native of this neighbourhood. The church of this parish has been anciently dedicated to him. It seems to have been an edifice of some extent and consequence in the times when the parish churches of Scotland had little stateliness or magnificence to recommend them. I observed, too, some funeral monuments in the church yard—which is close by the way-side, more curiously finished, than those which Gray describes in these lines :

“ Yet, even these bones from insult to protect,  
Some frail memorial still erected nigh,  
With uncouth rhimes and artless sculpture deck'd  
Implores the passing tribute of a sigh.

FROM  
A POEM

From *Kirkpatrick* to *Glasgow*, the country is still more and more thickly set with houses; the fields are more and more subdivided, and at the same time, more and more ornamented: the country seems indeed to run, by an insensible gradation into the town, so as to leave it difficult for a stranger to discern exactly where the town ends, and the country begins.

As I proceeded, I saw some instances of the licence of a Glasgow Sunday. The time was, when the inhabitants used to sanctify the Lord's day with peculiar solemnity, nay even with a degree of superstitious reverence. None might neglect due attendance at church: none might saunter carelessly through the streets: convivial enjoyment could be indulged in, only under the mask of religion; the ardour of a man's devotion, and the correctness of his morality were estimated by the zeal with which he listened to long sermons, uttered or joined in long prayers, and maintained what was fancied a religious austerity of aspect and deportment.— Those days are past. In the progress of its population, industry, and refinement, Glasgow has lost much of its ancient piety. All ranks of its inhabitants seem now to consider Sunday, as a day they may lawfully dedicate to amusement. The more worthless and licentious part of the labouring artizans  
spend

spend the evening of Saturday, all Sunday, and the forenoon of Monday, in that dissipation and riot, the means of which, the wages of the foregoing week have enabled them to purchase. Those of this class whose manners are somewhat less profligate, make Sunday excursions into the country, visit their friends and acquaintance, and cheer themselves with a dinner more comfortable than ordinary. There is yet a third division of men in the same situation, who indeed go to church for some part of the day, and perhaps read a page or two of the bible or some other pious book at home, but think it reasonable to give the far greater part of the day to amusement of what they deem an harmless nature. The manufacturers and merchants, if obliged to spend the forenoon in their counting rooms, make a point however, of appropriating the afternoon and evening to convivial enjoyment,—with the abstraction of a short interval, in which rising, in gay spirits, from the table, they repair to the Tontine Coffee-house to talk over the news of the day, and the transactions of the week, and to make up parties for supper, or for some future dinner. If, happily, not detained by business in the forenoon; they make parties to ride out into the country, and to dine at some inn, or perhaps at the villa of some friend, or of the rambler's own. The dinner is a gay one; the conviviality being nowise commonly

2 commonly return, in *tip-top* spirits, to town.—The  
 1 restrained by the sanctity of the day, and the party  
 3 clerks, shop-men, and apprentices make this no less a  
 day of recreation than their masters. On the Sunday,  
 the clerk and the shop-man hire horses, put on boots  
 and spurs, and sally out like so many knights-er-  
 rant, to exhibit themselves as gentlemen, on the  
 highways, and at the inns and country villages.  
 Having but one day in seven, on which to act in  
 this high character, they are willing to make the  
 most of that seventh day. They accordingly ride out  
 in the most furious manner, if they have been learn-  
 ed to sit on horseback, bespatter the foot-passengers,  
 accost and abuse every civil stranger they may hap-  
 pen to meet, get drunk at the inns, swear at the  
 landlord and waiters, and return homewards in all  
 the glory of drunkenness, vulgarity, and insolence.

I HAD occasion to remark, on the highway, as I  
 drew near to the city of Glasgow, appearances  
 enough to justify all that I have here said. I was  
 unlucky enough to fall in with two young men who  
 seemed to be of the last of the descriptions above-  
 mentioned. Not being of a temper to enter eager-  
 ly into conversation with strangers, I passed them ci-  
 vily; slackening my speed as I passed them: and then  
 renewing the round trot at which I had been before  
 riding. I was soon surpris'd, however, to hear the  
 gentlemen

gentlemen whom I had left behind, ride furiously after me. I held in my horse that they might pass. They passed, but immediately halted, so that I could not avoid overtaking them. Still unwilling to join company with them, I again passed, but was soon again overtaken. I then determined to ride on, as before I had first come up with them, careless whether with, before, or behind them. But, they persisted to teize and persecute me, by one little art, or another, till my patience was exhausted, and my fortitude subdued. I addressed them gently and submissively; and by soothing their pride and petulance, was then suffered to ride on quietly in company with them. Such are the incidents which a traveller cannot well avoid meeting with, on a Sunday, in the vicinity of this city.

I HAVE said that, the nearer the city, so much the greater was the profusion of villas and of miniature pleasure-grounds surrounding them: I wish I could add, that so much the more did the taste of the houses and the grounds seem to improve. But, I am, in truth, afraid that the environs of Glasgow exhibit some instances of that false taste which has been sometimes laid to the charge of opulent citizens. The wood was commonly disposed in belts with a regular alternation of unplanted stripes, so as to give the whole, much of the appearance of a piece  
of

of striped cloth. There was something curiously affected about the houses and office-houses. Indeed, I have been not a little diverted to remark, that shop-keepers dealing in parti-coloured stuffs are apt to paint their shop-doors, &c. after the patterns of their stuffs; and to transfer to their dwelling-houses, those decorations which have set off their shops to such advantage. This is but one instance; But the taste of tradesmen whose time has been otherwise employed, than in cultivating the Fine Arts, is generally guided by this analogy. It were invidious to enumerate a multitude of particular instances. But the observation of them in this neighbourhood, afforded me some amusement. I saw, at the same time, a number of truly handsome, sometimes indeed splendid houses, surrounded with grounds laid out in the happiest taste and with the greatest skill. All such fields as were not occupied with plantations, or kept sacred from the plough, that they might afford the ornament of verdant, level lawn,—were covered with plentiful crops of corn, mostly in the shock, but seeming to have been cut down, while it was still unripe.

At the village of *Partick*, the road leads across the *Kelvin*. Here are considerable mills, at which is prepared a great part of the wheat and flour consumed in Glasgow. A dyke has been drawn across

the river to carry off water for the mills. The river was at this time much swollen by the rains which had lately fallen; in consequence of which such a body of water poured over the *dyke* as to form a fine water-fall. The height from which the water fell, was not indeed lofty: but the sheet of water was so considerable, that it formed truly a grand object. The force with which it fell broke a part into small drops and into vapour, which, rising, hovered over it, like a mist. The drops fell upon us in rain, as we rode along the bank.—Near the bridge I observed an old building concerning which I was curious to obtain some information. I learned only, that, it was usually called the *old Castle*.

IMMEDIATELY beyond the bridge, on the way to the town, and opposite to the mills, is a piece of rising ground, which seems to be kept for a grass-park. It has been once, I should suppose, surrounded with trees. Some fine old trees still grow, opposite, on the side of the mills. But, I was singularly struck with the aspect of one old trunk, within the park. All the upper part has long since decayed, or has been cut away. The bark has been peeled off from the remaining part of the trunk, and it has been worn, seemingly, by accident, to the resemblance of one of those rude stone pillars, which are found in some parts in Scotland, and are supposed

supposed to have been set up by our ancestors, as monuments of remarkable military events.

WE soon after entered Glasgow by the way of Anderston. The houses in this suburb appeared to me, to be in general spacious and elegant above the condition of their present inhabitants. I should suppose, that, this may once have been a favourite place of residence for the more opulent inhabitants of Glasgow. In the progress of the city, and in the improvement of the taste, and the advancement of the wealth of its citizens; other streets and other suburbs have become more fashionable places of residence than Anderston. It seems to be now occupied chiefly by weavers and petty shop-keepers. The streets were thronged with decent trades-people, in their Sunday's clothes. The neatness of their dress bespoke the comfortableness, or at least possible comfortableness of their circumstances. All wore such an air of decency and happiness as could not but be pleasing to a benevolent mind. I proceeded to *Hemming's Inn*, where I had formerly been,—and had experienced the most civil and attentive treatment, in a commodious and well-furnished house.



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