

eight hundred yards broad. It contains about three thousand inhabitants; the houses are neat, and the churches and town-houses handsome; the harbour is a small bason formed out of the solid rock, and protected by a battery; it carries on a coasting trade, and a fishery amongst the Hebrides. Before the war it also carried on a considerable commerce with the ports in the Baltic. The place is celebrated for a chalybeate spring, of the nature of the waters of Tunbridge Wells. This spring is called the Wine Well, from the water sparkling in the glass like champagne. --According to the analysis of its water, published by Dr. Laing, he discovered that twelve pounds weight avoirdupois of water contained the following mineralizers :---

Muriate of iron . . . . .	30½ Grains.
Carbonate of iron . . . . .	3½
Muriate of lime . . . . .	7
Siliceous earth . . . . .	2
Sulphate of lime . . . . .	2
Ditto of Soda . . . . .	13½
Muriate of ditto . . . . .	7½
Carbonic acid gas . . . . .	83½ Cubit Inches

The iron contained in this water renders it a fine tonic. The baths of this place are admirably constructed, and do great credit to the ingenious proprietor, who is the contriver, and a very singular good-humoured character. They consist of open and covered, cold and warm, shower-baths; projecting vapour, warm water, medicated, and warm air-baths. There is also an assembly-room, rather a shabby one, and an

ordinary for the visitors at the principal hotel. Health or amusement, I am told, generally attracts in the summer a considerable number of the fashionables of Scotland : when I was there, although in the season, the company was slender, and the place altogether very dull ; as dull as Brighton would be without the splendour of its society. The presence of the Duchess of Gordon, has, as may be easily imagined by all who have the honour of knowing her Grace, a considerable influence upon the place : her rank, wit, and urbanity, never fail to attract a large circle.

Formerly Peterhead was merely a petty fishing-town ; it now carries on considerable manufactures and some commerce : in 1764 its population was two thousand four hundred and twenty, which increased in 1794 to four thousand one hundred. The sacrament was administering whilst I was there, which brought a great number of persons together ; and the church was uncommonly thronged during all the time of its administration.

Good chaises are to be had from this place to Inverness. The road from Peterhead to Old Deer, eleven miles, and thence to New Bythe, twelve miles more, is very dreary and sterile. My eye hunted for trees as a sportsman would for game, but I do not recollect that one gladdened my sight all

the way. Nature every where seemed to have played the part of a severe stepdame. I again regretted that Johnson should have passed through such a gloomy region, which he has so powerfully described; and which, as he has omitted to mention the many parts of Scotland clothed with wood and verdure, has, by many, been mistaken for the general character of Scottish scenery; a great and an unpleasant error. Some ladies of Aberdeenshire assured me, that, upon their quitting this county, the sight of a stately tree produced an agreeable effect upon their minds, which was perfectly novel.

From New Bythe to Banff I traversed over a country almost as dismal as the preceding stages, and upon a road infinitely worse. The coast from Peterhead to Banff is extremely dangerous, being exposed to the fury of the northeasterly winds, which have washed away the incumbent soil, and left numerous sharp naked rocks. The approach to Banff, over a bridge of seven arches, is singular and picturesque. The town, which is very ancient, is the capital of Banffshire. It is considerable in size, has some handsome streets, and is very pleasantly and romantically situated, on the side of a steep declivity, at the mouth of the river Doveran. The view which most pleased me was from the western part of Banff, looking towards Macduff, a considerable village opposite: a very elegant church is the prin-

principal object amongst the public buildings; there are several excellent seminaries for education; and manufactories of cotton stockings and thread are carried on to a considerable extent. The inhabitants have a very respectable appearance; and an air of great gentility cannot fail to attract the notice of the traveller in various parts of the town, which, in size and consequence, ranks next to Aberdeen amongst the towns in the north of Scotland. Owing to continually-shifting sand-banks at the mouth of the river, the harbour is rendered unsafe. Since Dr. Johnson visited this town it must have been much improved. It was here, the reader may remember, that he so bitterly lamented the incommodiousness of the Scottish windows, which were pushed up and down in grooves unaided by weights and pulleys, and the total ignorance of the value of ventilating human habitations. I met with no such grievances: to be sure, in the hovel of the peasant or very poor mechanic, the windows are stationary, but then the doors are frequently opened. Banff derives not a little of its beauty from its close neighbourhood to the Park of Duff-house, the seat of the Earl of Fife, into which the principal street opens. Upon my arrival at the mansion, with a letter of introduction to the noble owner, I had to regret that his Lordship had just left it for one of his shooting-boxes. The house is a noble quadrangular structure, of five stories, from the design of Mr. Adam; the battlements are richly decorated with urns and statues, but the effect of the whole is sadly injured by



the wings not having been as yet erected. Within are some very handsome apartments, and a great profusion of paintings, amongst which, are some family portraits, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, the colours of which, very fortunately, still look fresh. There is also one, by the same admirable master, of the Duchess of Gordon; there are several by Kneller and Jamieson, and a few by Vandyke, Rubens, Sir Peter Lely, &c. Upon the frame of a portrait of the Duc D'Orleans, the Earl has inscribed the following memorial of his detestation of his character:---

“The most ruthless monster that ever polluted the earth was executed at Paris, by a Decree of the National Convention, November 6, 1793.”

The house stands in a very extensive and beautiful park, through which the Deveron flows. This park and the surrounding plantations measure nearly twenty miles in circumference: it possesses some very fine timber; and the pleasure-grounds, containing walks of great extent and variety, are laid out with a refined taste. Contrasted with the sterile and gloomy scenes which I had left behind, the charms of this place appeared with peculiar attraction; and I wandered through its winding avenues with something of the delight which a man exhibits upon quitting the deck of a ship, after a long voyage, to rove at large upon a verdant lawn.

The present Earl of Fife was educated by Dr. Guthrie,

the well-known and ingenious author of the Geographical Grammar. His Lordship has exhibited a spirit of enterprise in plantations, which it is to be hoped will become exemplary in that part of Scotland. He has planted no less than fourteen thousand acres of wood, some of the trees of which are thirteen feet in circumference, and others one hundred feet high; indeed, although so near to the sea, there are in these plantations some of the finest forest-trees I ever saw. The establishment of his Lordship is very splendid. Besides Duff-house, he is the owner of Delgaty-castle, Rothesnay-house, Innes-house, and Fife-house; the last is his Lordship's residence in London.

Other travellers may perhaps be told, as I was, that there are some capital pictures to be seen at the Castle of Banff, which, by the bye, has neither the resemblance nor the presumed antiquity of such a building, being a plain modern house, belonging to the Earl of Finlater, and principally allotted for the Dowager of the family; but, upon inquiry, I was informed they had been removed to Cullen.

In my way to Cullen, distant about fifteen miles, I passed through a fine corn-country, and had occasional views of the North Sea.

Along the coast of Banff fine marble is found in such

abundance, that it is related that when Louis XIV. was building Versailles, he wished to have used it in that building, but declined, from hearing that it was so abundant. Along the coast are caught considerable quantities of various sorts of fish, and it is sometimes visited by large shoals of herrings. The exports from this country of dried and salted fish, such as cod, ling, haddock, and salmon, are also extensive and lucrative. The manufactures are linen-yarn, white and coloured threads, thread and worsted stockings, and leather shoes.

At Cullen I found, what is always welcome to a traveller, an admirable inn, or rather hotel, where every reasonable comfort and accommodation are to be obtained without exaction, and with civility. The town, in which a considerable manufactory of linen and damask is carried on, is mean and dirty. There is nothing to detain the traveller here but Finlater-house, the hereditary seat of the Earl of Finlater, which is more ancient than stately, and far less worthy of notice than the park and ground in which it stands, which, particularly as viewed from the bridge near the house, afford a grand and romantic prospect. The noble owner has been for many years abroad, principally, as I was informed, at Dresden. With the refined taste which he has, no doubt, imbibed during so long a residence in a capital, which, as well as its environs, is much celebrated for architectural elegance, and with the ample fortune which

he enjoys, his Lordship might erect a building here worthy of his residence, a task to which he is strongly invited by the beauty and capability of situation. In the old mansion, which is very dreary, there are a few paintings, the best, apparently, by French masters. The servant very gravely informed me that one of the show-rooms, in which the only object worth looking at was a blazing fire, was only used by the Lord's men of business, meaning his agents and factors.

Lord Finlater has long pursued a very wise measure for encouraging a spirit of planting amongst his tenants, which cannot be too strongly recommended ; he gives them, at the termination of their lease, every third tree, or its value in money, which they have planted during the lease's existence. In the mills and distilleries of this county swine are reared in considerable numbers, which are chiefly purchased by the Aberdeen butchers for exportation, owing to the dislike which the peasantry in the Highlands have in general to pork and bacon, which in some parts are held in utter aversion.

In proceeding to Fochabers, distant about eleven miles, I was much pleased to observe the respectable appearance of the peasants' cottages, which were generally built of stone and clay, pointed with lime, neatly thatched, and having

a small window or two. Potatoes are here much cultivated.

For a considerable distance before I reached Fochabers, the vast plantations of the Duke of Gordon spread themselves before the view; and the name of his Grace was mentioned with all the homage due to that of a great Chieftain or a little Prince. The town stands at the western extremity of Banffshire, on the river Spey, and is neat, thriving, and handsome. I was as unfortunate at Gordon-castle as at Duff-house: I had a letter of introduction to his Grace, and he had also just left the castle before my arrival, with a shooting party, for another part of the Highlands. The grand entrance to the park is very near the town. The road to the house winds through a rich green lawn, skirted with shrubs and trees to the castle, which stands on a low flat, and is surrounded with beautiful plantations; it exhibits a prodigious front of five hundred and sixty-eight feet from east to west, and has the appearance of a modern structure. The tower of the ancient castle is still preserved in the southern front, above which it rises. The hall is small, in proportion to the external magnificence of this pile, and contains a few beautiful busts and statues. Angelica Kauffman appears to have been the favourite artist of the family; several copies by her from Dominichino, Titian, and Guerchino, embellish some of the apartments,

which are handsome. There is a beautiful portrait of the Duchess, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. A more frank and lovely face I never beheld. The beautiful conceits of Cowley were present to my mind as I gazed upon it :—

“ Love in her sunny eyes does basking play,  
Love walks the pleasant mazes of her hair ;  
Love does on both her lips for ever stray, •  
And sows and reaps a thousand kisses there.”

There is another portrait of the Duke, by Raeburn, as I was informed. This part of Scotland is eminently indebted to his Grace for the just and spirited attention which he has paid to planting. The view from the leads of the castle is very extensive and beautiful, and the eye is refreshed and gladdened by the appearance of a great park and an interminable forest, in which I was told there were vast numbers of mountain deer, though I saw none.

The road to Elgin, distant about ten miles, is bad and sandy. The soil of Morayshire is for the most part a sandy loam, in some places sandy gravel, and considerable tracts of fertile clay. This town is the capital of Morayshire, and is situated in a plain, on the banks of the small river Lossie ; it is very ancient, and is said to derive its name from a Norwegian Earl of Orkney, who conquered this and some of the adjoining country in 927, and whose name was Helgy. The church and the gaol are old and ugly

buildings, and both encumber and disfigure the principal street, in the middle of which they stand.

There are scarcely any manufactures, and very little trade, in the town, which in consequence displays the appearance both of poverty and idleness. The celebrated ruins of its cathedral, to which I hastened as soon as I had finished a rather late dinner at a dirty inn, are the only attractions to a stranger. In my way to the spot a Ciceroni followed me with great assiduity, and at last begged to shew me the cathedral, the history of which, he observed, he knew better than any one in Elgin: I accordingly asked him when it was erected? Answer—"I cannot exactly say, but it was a long time since."—"To what religious order did it belong?"—"I never heard of any."—"When did it fall into decline?"—"That I do not ken." After such specimens of his knowledge I dismissed the poor creature with a *douceur*, who seemed to be more prompted by the penury that reigned around, than by any passion for antiquity, in thus offering me his services. I should be doing great injustice to the people of this part of Scotland if I were to represent this vagabond as a specimen of the rest of the lower orders. In a field near the town I heard two men, very meanly clad, one of whom held a book in his hand, disputing upon the construction of a passage in *Macbeth*. Here it is with pleasure I mention

the two following anecdotes, to show how generally intellectual the peasantry of Scotland are. A lady of rank said, that, seeing a shepherd of her father's lying upon the side of a hill reading, curiosity led her to ask him what he was reading, when she found it was a volume of the Spectator.

At another time, being desirous to witness the piety of the Scottish peasantry, she went into a peasant's cottage on a Sunday evening, and requested to be permitted to attend their family devotion, upon which the peasant placed a bit of carpet before her to kneel upon ; and, when all the family were knelt, he commenced an extemporaneous prayer, full of sound sense and fervid devotion.

I proceeded to the ruins of the cathedral alone, which are very fine, and highly interesting. The commencement of its fall arose from an order of the Privy Council of Scotland in 1568 for stripping off its lead, an act in which the cathedral I described at Aberdeen was also a participator, for the purpose of being sold in Holland, to raise money for paying the troops. The ship which contained the sacrilegious spoil sunk soon after it had left the port of Aberdeen, not without many a shrewd comment from the superstitious, who distinctly beheld the avenging retribution of Heaven in the event. The architect and the



antiquary may perhaps be gratified by the following description of this beautiful and venerable pile, in its perfect form, by Shaw:—"This church, when entire, was a building of Gothic architecture inferior to few in Europe; it stood due east and west, in the form of a Jerusalem cross, ornamented with five towers, whereof two parallel stood on the west side, one in the middle, and two on the east end. Betwixt the two towers at the west end was the great porch, or entrance. This gate is a concave arch, twenty-four feet broad in base, and twenty-four in height, terminating in a sharp angle. On each side of the doors, in the sweep of the arch, are eight fluted pilasters, six feet and a half high, adorned with a chapiter, from which arose sixteen pilasters, which meet in the key of the arch. There were porticoes on each side of the church eastward, for the traverse, or cross, which were eighteen feet broad without the walls. To yield sufficient light to a building so large, besides the great windows in the porticoes, and a row of attic windows in the walls, each six feet high above the porticoes, there was in the west gable, above the gate, a window, in form of an acute-angled arch, nineteen feet broad in the base, and twenty-seven in height; and in the east gable, between the turrets, a row of fine parallel windows, each two feet broad and ten high. Above these are five more, each seven feet; and over all a circular window, near ten feet in diameter.

In the heart of the wall of the church, and leading to all the upper windows, there is a channel or walk round the whole building.

“ The grand gate, the windows, the pillars, the projecting table, the pedestals, cordons, &c. are adorned with foliage, grapes, and other carvings. Let us, after describing the body of the church, take a view of the chapter-house, commonly called “ the Apprentices’ Aisle,” a curious piece of architecture, standing on the north side of the church, and communicating with the choir by the vaulted vestry. The house is an exact octagon, thirty-four feet high, and the diagonal breadth within the walls thirty-seven feet. It is arched and vaulted at the top, and the whole arched roof supported by one pillar in the centre of the house. Arched pillars from every angle terminate in the grand pillar. This pillar, nine feet in circumference, is crusted over with sixteen pilasters, or small pillars, alternately round and fluted, and twenty-four feet high, adorned with a chapter, from which arise sixteen round pillars, that spread along the roof, and join at the top with the pillars (five in number) rising from every side of the octolateral figure. There is a large window on every side of seven, and the eighth side communicates with the choir. In the north wall of this chapter-house there are five stalls cut, by way of niches, for the bishop (or the dean, in the bishop’s absence) and the dignified

clergy to sit in. The middle stall of the bishop or dean is larger, and is raised a step higher, than the other four. They were all lined with wainscot. The length of this cathedral is two hundred and sixty-four feet, and its breadth thirty-five feet ; the length of the traverse is one hundred and fourteen ; the height of the west tower, not including the spire, is eighty-four feet ; the height of the spire in the centre was one hundred and ninety-eight feet, and the height of the eastern turrets sixty feet. The height of the side-walls is thirty-six feet. The spires of the two west towers are fallen, but the stone-work remains. The great tower is gone. The two eastern turrets, being winding staircases, and vaulted at top, are entire. The walls of the choir and the chapter-house are tolerably entire, but the walls of the nave and traverse are mostly fallen."

The family mausoleum of the noble house of Gordon is within the walls of this cathedral. Although history informs us that the ecclesiastical buildings in the north were not assailed with the ferocity which the reformers directed against similar structures in the south, yet the cause before stated, and the unsparing hand of Time, have rendered the Cathedral of Elgin much less entire than the Abbey of Melrose, and even a greater sufferer than that of Jedburgh.

The food of the farmers' servants is very simple in this, as well as in all the northern counties in Scotland. On weekdays their ordinary breakfast is porridge made of oatmeal, ate warm with milk or small beer ; their dinner a kind of flummery, called sowens, which I saw for the first time used in the Lunatic Asylum at Aberdeen, made from the bran of oatmeal, and generally eaten with milk ; and for supper greens or cabbages, either cut small or mashed, and afterwards boiled, with an addition of oatmeal and salt ; at each meal they use bread made of oats, bere, and peasmcal. Broth made of pot-barley, with greens and roots, and a little butcher's meat, " solemnize the Lord's."

## CHAP. XVIII.

THE DANES—ROAD TO FORRES—FORRES—THE WEIRD SISTERS—  
SHANKS' NAGGY—PEASANTS' CIVILITY—NAIRN—PEASANTS'  
HUMANITY—FORT ST. GEORGE—CULLODEN—THE BATTLE—  
PRINCE CHARLES—AN HONOURABLE ROGUE—THE THREE ROB-  
BERS—ANECDOTES OF THE PRETENDER—ROYAL MAGNANIMITY  
—FAMILY ANECDOTES OF FLORA MACDONALD—INVERNESS—  
THE PRISON—THE ACADEMY—NATIONAL DELICACY.

IN this county (Murrayshire) are to be seen many monuments of the Danes, who are mentioned by the Scottish historians to have landed in Moray about 1008, when Malcolm the Second marched against them, and was defeated near Forres ; after which the invaders brought over their families, and retained their conquests for some time, until, by several signal victories obtained over them at Luncarty, Barrie, and Mortlich, they were obliged to quit the country. Buchannan mentions, that Moray, from its pleasantness, and the profit arising from its fruit-trees, surpasses all the other counties in Scotland. The best orchards are often found about deserted castles and the mouldering fragments of religious houses. However fruit might be cultivated here in the time of Buchannan, I believe it

to be now much neglected, for in the capital of the county I could procure none.

Upon leaving Elgin I rambled over ground which the Muse of Shakspeare has rendered so celebrated. Just before I quitted the inn, I made my landlord smile, by asking, in the language of *Macbeth*, "How far is't call'd to Forres?" (my next stage, which I found was about twelve miles.) He wanted much to detain me, to hear him explain, with an apparently copious knowledge of dramatic geography, the various places in Morayshire in which all the wonderful events so sublimely described by Shakspeare occurred to *Macbeth*. The road to Forres is extremely dull and uninteresting, and I should have felt little objection to have had its monotony relieved even by some of the weird sisterhood, however *withered and wild in their attire*. The town stands on a gently-rising ground, near the bay of Findhorn; it is very ancient, gloomy, and dirty. Poverty seemed to hang over it as an evil spirit. In the street I saw several squalid figures, who induced me to think that the race of Macbeth's witches was not quite extinguished; and I was glad to take my departure for Nairn, distant about eleven miles; on my way to which I passed very near Dyke, in the parish of which, conjecture has placed the scene which leads to the catastrophe of Shakspeare's tragedy.

It is thought that Hardmoor, on the western side of the park of Brodie-house, 'was the spot where *Macbeth* and *Banquo* were first saluted by the weird sisters—

“ —Each at once her choppy finger laying  
Upon her skinny lip.”

Holinshed says, “ It fortun'd as *Macbeth* and *Banquo* journeyed towards to Forres, where the King (*Duncan*) then lay, they went sporting by the way, without other company, save only themselves, when suddenly, in the midst of a laund, there met them three women, in strange and wild apparel, resembling creatures of the elder world.”

At Forres the only chaise in the place was engaged, and it was with difficulty I procured a horse, and that appeared to be nearly half starved; at first I had every reason to apprehend that I should be obliged to ride what the Scotch call “ Shanks' Naggy,” that is, proceed on foot.

This equipment enabled me to observe the natural kindness and civility of the lower people, which with pleasure I record. A few miles before I reached Nairn I came to a gloomy heath, from which two roads diverged, and I knew not which to take: the night was advancing, I was alone, and all was silent. In this dilemma I rode back to a little *black town*, which I had passed, consisting of some miserable turf hovels, the inhabitants of which had all

retired to rest. After knocking at the door of one of them for some time, a tall athletic peasant, whose slumbers appeared to have been as sound as health and innocence generally unite to render them, addressed me with the usual salutation, "What's u wull?" Upon my telling him my situation, instead of giving me any directions, he came out, and, with no other covering than a shirt, insisted upon walking by the side of my horse for a mile, till he had seen me out of the possibility of mistaking my road, which he did with the most perfect good humour, and at parting refused to accept a *douceur* for such extraordinary attention: indeed he appeared to be hurt that I should have offered it.

As I approached Nairn the country seemed very much to improve in picturesque beauty, as it was displayed under a clear star-light night and brilliant moon, which faintly unfolded the shores of Cromarty, whilst the waves of the Frith of Murray quietly murmured along the sands upon which I moved, and Fancy seemed to hear

"Airy tongues, that syllable men's names,  
On sands and shores."

After crossing a bridge over the river Nairn, I entered the capital of Nairnshire, which is small, but tolerably neat, and agreeably situated on a rising bank; and met with



every comfortable accommodation which an excellent inn could afford me. With the exception of an agreeable and picturesque prospect, there is nothing to detain the traveller at Nairn. Upon the Castle-hill, on the south side of the town, once stood a royal fort, of which the Thanes of Cawdor were hereditary constables.

In the small county of Nairn there are no manufactures ; the people are generally poor : many of them in the summer and harvest visit the southern districts, and maintain themselves at home in the winter with the money which they receive from their summer labours. The Frith of Murray abounds with small herrings, which, with potatoes, constitute the principal food of the lower classes.

Having been informed, but, as it proved, erroneously, that I should see Macbeth's Castle at Inverness, instead of proceeding to Calder-castle, from which the sanguinary usurper derived his second title, and some of the ancient parts of which are still remaining, I went direct to Fort George. Nairn may be considered as the eastern boundary of the Scottish language : upon my quitting it I found the Erse every where spoken. The male children wear phili-begs, and the women and children go without shoes and stockings ; the transition was not a little striking. The day was stormy, and I thought myself fortunate in procuring

a neat chaise and a good pair of horses, and a driver who spoke very intelligible Scotch, and, as I was told, good Gaelic. The views of the sea, the mouth of Cromarty, the shores; and the adjoining mountains, losing their heads in the clouds, were fine and frequent objects. A short distance from Fort George I passed a fine Highland town, the characteristic architecture of which I shall hereafter describe. Curiosity led me to stop the carriage, and enter one of the huts, all of which were very rude and simple, and, at a little distance, resembled so many peat or turf stacks: yet under this lowly shed I saw a spectacle which would have done honour to a palace. In one corner, upon a bed of heath, two girls, about sixteen and seventeen years old, were lying, extremely unwell, attended by a handsome-looking woman, the owner of the hut, who was administering a little broth to one of them. She told my driver, in Erse, that they were sisters, who, in going to Banff on their way from Caithness about a week before, had both been seized with a fever; that they asked for a little food and a night's lodging of her, and that she had done all in her power for them, and was happy to see that they were recovering under her care. As the man translated this artless display of feeling and humanity, I observed the fine eyes of this excellent woman brighten with pleasure. When I offered my mite, she declined it; but, upon my explaining, through my interpreter, that I wished to leave

it for her poor patients, she received it with many thanks, mingled with much courtesy.

The outer works of Fort George, rising from the sandy level in which it stands, almost prevent that celebrated fortification from being very visible until the entrance through its pallisades is passed. This fortress has a high reputation for the admirable skill which has been displayed in its construction, which, as I beheld it with an unmilitary eye, I cannot technically explain. The grand parade is in front, where there is a line of handsome houses forming the residence of the Governor and Fort-Major; and behind is a large square, and some streets, containing the barracks, chapel, magazines, and workshops, constructed to accommodate about two thousand men. It was built in 1746, to support the British authority in the Highlands. It stands on a barren sandy spot, and commands the passage of the Frith against vessels proceeding that way to Inverness. The view from the ramparts is very grand and very melancholy; the German Ocean rolls with violence through the narrow strait, which almost separates the great and lesser Friths, and the eye wanders in gloom amongst the bleak and wild mountains of the upper Highlands, rising in sullen majesty from the opposite shore.

Here I was again disappointed. I had a letter of

introduction to the Governor, but he was gone to Inverness ; however, in his absence I experienced every attention and politeness from one of the officers. In this fortification the Irish rebel, O'Connor, and his associates, were confined : they could scarcely be more effectually separated from the power of doing mischief. Fort George may be considered as a town in itself ; there is none in its neighbourhood. The traveller will find a good inn in part of the barracks. Vast quantities of salmon (amongst which the seals make great destruction) are caught near Fort George ; sometimes the salmon have been seen to leap out of the sea upon the shore, to escape their enemy. The seal much resembles a dog with its ears cut close ; it has a thick snout, a wide mouth, and its eyes sunk within its head, which it holds high above the water : it is uncommonly quick-sighted and susceptible of approaching danger, to observe and elude which it is constantly rolling from side to side ; it is of course very difficult to destroy : a seal yields a great quantity of oil, and its skin makes a fine sort of leather.

The road to Inverness winds along the shores of the lesser Murray Frith, which, bounded by mountains in almost every direction, resembles a vast lake. I quitted my chaise, and visited the celebrated Moor of Culloden ; there is nothing ~~worth~~ this trouble, unless it be more forcibly to recollect

the memorable incidents of the 16th of April, 1746, which decided the hopes of the expatriated family of the Stuarts. The battle of that day, so distinguished in the history of the times, would, in the present era of military carnage, be considered as little more than an affair of posts. On the evening preceding the engagement, the young Prince Charles Edward slept at Culloden-house, adjoining the field of battle, the residence of the ancient family of Forbes. Distraction and insubordination had made great inroads in the rebel army. On the day before mentioned, the royal army, commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, commenced their march from Nairn, in five lines, of three battalions each, led by Major-General Huske on the left, Lord Sempell on the right, and Brigadier Mordaunt in the centre, flanked by the cavalry, commanded by Generals Hawley and Bland, who at the same time covered the cannon on the right and left. In this order they marched about eight miles, when a detachment of Kingston's Horse, and of the Highlanders, having advanced before the rest of the army, discovered the van of the rebels, commanded by the young Pretender; both armies formed in order of battle: the royal army amounted to eight thousand eight hundred and eleven men, the rebel to eight thousand three hundred and fifty, so that there was little disparity. About two in the afternoon the rebels began to cannonade the King's army, but their artillery, consisting only of a few four-pounders, being ill-

served, did little execution, whilst the fire from their enemies was very effective, and produced great disorder. Severely annoyed by this fire, the front line of the rebels, amounting to about five hundred of the clans, charged the right of the royal army with their accustomed impetuosity, in order to draw the troops forward. One regiment was disordered by the weight of this column, but two battalions advancing from the second line arrested their career, upon which they turned their whole force upon the left, when they attempted to flank the front line; this movement was however defeated by the advancing of Wolfe's regiment, supported by cannon, which opened upon them with cartridge-shot. General Hawley, with some Highlanders, had opened a passage through some stone walls to the right for the horse, which advanced on that side, whilst the horse on the King's right wheeled off on their right, dispersed their body of reserve, and met in the centre of their front line in their rear, when, being repulsed in the front, and great numbers cut off, the rebels fell into the greatest confusion. A dreadful carnage was made by the cavalry on their backs; however, some part of the foot still preserved their order; but the Kingston Horse from the reserve galloped up briskly, and did terrible execution amongst the fugitives. A total defeat instantly followed, with the loss of two thousand five hundred killed, wounded, and taken prisoners, on the part of the rebels, and of two hundred only on the side of the royal army.

The young Pretender had his horse shot under him during the engagement, and after the battle retired to the house of a factor of Lord Loyat, about ten miles from Inverness, where he rested that night: the scene of desolation which followed was horrible, and can be justified only by the severe policy of every where impressing the disaffected with terror and dismay.

The Highlanders were buried by their friends the next day, who dug holes for them on the moor, where several green elevated spots are still to be seen, which, upon being opened, are found to contain human bones, and the country-people often find small cannon and musket-balls. The Genius of the place seems to whisper—" Grey stones and heaped up earth shall mark me to future times. When the hunter shall sit by the mound, and produce his food at noon, ' Some warrior rests here,' he will say."

All the perilous adventures of Charles II. after the battle of Worcester were renewed in the fugitive history of the young Pretender after the battle of Culloden. For some days he wandered in the country. Sometimes, without food or attendant, he sought refuge in caves and cottages. Sometimes he lay in a forest, with one or two companions of his distress, continually pursued by the troops of the conqueror, who offered a reward of 30,000*l.* for taking

him, dead or alive. In the course of his wanderings he had occasion to trust his life to the fidelity of above fifty individuals, who, to their eternal honour, refused to enrich themselves by a violation of the rights of hospitality.

An extraordinary instance of incorruptible fidelity occurred in the course of his miserable rambles. A poor cottager, of the name of M<sup>r</sup> Jan, who was upon principle hostile to his cause, and who, on account of a severe season, was, with his family, in a state of starvation, received the wretched wanderer, and at the hazard of his life committed depredations to procure him sustenance, when an immense reward lay within his reach, and with powerful temptation invited him to surrender up his guest.

The fate of this generous being was as singular as his conduct to the Prince. In a season of great scarcity, he stole a cow, to save his family from dying of hunger, for which he was tried, convicted, and executed. A little before his execution he took off his bonnet, and thanked God he had never betrayed a trust, never injured the poor, and never refused a share of what he had to the stranger and to the needy. The King, when he heard of the fate of this poor but noble fellow, is said magnanimously to have declared, that, had he known his circumstances in proper



time, he would have raised him above the cruel necessity of stealing a cow for his subsistence.

Another instance of the integrity of the Highland character is related. One day, after the hapless wanderer had walked from morning till night without having tasted food, he ventured to enter a house, the owner of which he knew was, like the last man, hostile to his views. As he entered he addressed the master of the house in the following manner: "The son of your King comes to beg a little bread and a few clothes. I know your present attachment to my adversaries; but I believe you have sufficient honour not to abuse my confidence, or take advantage of my distressed situation. Take these rags, that have for some time been my only covering; you may probably restore them to me one day, when I shall be seated on the throne of my ancestors." This affecting appeal awakened pity in the breast of the owner of the house, who afforded him all the assistance in his power, and never divulged his secret.

A few other anecdotes, connected with the fate of the unhappy adventurer, not generally known, and which reflect unfading honour upon the incorruptible integrity of the parties concerned, may not be uninteresting. After

this battle the gallant young Captain Mackenzie wandered with a few other adherents of the Prince, whom he remarkably resembled in face and person. In every part of this country, parties of royalists were distributed, for the purpose of seizing upon the Pretender: one day the Captain and his little band were discovered and pursued, some of whom fled, and others threw down their arms and implored for mercy; but upon observing that his pursuers seemed very anxious to take him, he concluded that they mistook him for the Prince; he accordingly, to confirm them in their mistake, defended himself with all the fury of desperation; upon which, to secure the enormous reward offered for the head of the Pretender, they shot him; when he exclaimed, as he expired, "Villains, you have shot your Prince!" thinking by this gallant stratagem to abate the ardour of their pursuit after the royal fugitive. His head was immediately severed from his shoulders, and brought into the camp by those who slew him with great exultation, when they were mortified by being informed by a soldier, who knew the gallant Captain, that it was the head of Mackenzie, instead of the Pretender.

The Pretender at this time found an asylum with three robbers, who were brothers, and who felt no disgrace in living by rapine, like a singular person of corresponding character before mentioned, but would have thought it

an indelible stain to have betrayed the being, who, in the hour of misery and desertion, sought shelter under their protection. One of these brothers used to venture every day into the English camp, disguised as a fisherman, where he procured wheaten bread, and had even address to get the newspapers from the officers' servants ; and also abundance of gingerbread, of which the unhappy Prince was very fond. In these perilous visits he used constantly to hear proclaimed at the drum-head, in Erse and English, a reward of 30,000*l.* for the head of the adventurer.

At length the Prince was safely conducted on board of a boat, and endeavoured to make for the Western Isles. When they left the main land they were afraid of steering direct for Sky ; and in consequence of having heard that there was a ship of war at anchor, and that armed boats were stationed at every landing place, they were obliged to keep at sea all that day, during which they were overtaken by a storm. When the rowers became exhausted the Prince relieved them by turns, and, when the storm subsided, sung, and amused them by endeavouring to learn Gaelic songs ; on this, as on all other occasions, displaying a cheerful philosophy, except when he heard an unhappy story of any of his unfortunate adherents. In this melancholy condition their little sea-store was destroyed by the sea-water which they shipped. On the following night

they approached the shores of Rasay ; and it being a fine moon-light evening, they were seen by the Laird or his brother, who warned them from the landing-place to depart, as Rasay, as well as Sky, was occupied by the royal forces, and brought them some bread, wine, and brandy. Compelled to put out again to sea, they were the next morning chased by one of the King's cutters into South Uist, an island belonging to the Clanronald family : in this dire dilemma the Prince escaped by ordering the boatmen to turn a point of projecting rock, upon which he leaped, and concealed himself in a cave amongst the rocks : the boatmen escaped by pretending not to understand the English language, and one of them contrived to inform the lady of the place of the Pretender's landing, who, on account of the absence of her husband, at first felt extremely embarrassed, in a contest between sympathy and duty, what to do.

From this painful situation she was relieved by Miss Flora Macdonald, who happened to be her guest, and undertook the protection of the wanderer. She accordingly, the better to escape the vigilant observation of the soldiers, upon the ebbing of the tide wandered to the beach with her maid, apparently in search of shells ; and as the attention of her maid was engaged at some distance from her, she stole into the cave of the Prince with some wine and

food, and returned without having been observed. She afterwards conveyed a female dress to him, and requested a pass from the commanding officer for herself and an Irish maid, called Betty Bourke, whom she said she had brought over, for her mother. As this great strapping Irish servant, the Prince got off with his fair and youthful protectress to the island of Sky, where they arrived on a Sunday afternoon.

They were met by Flora Macdonald's stepfather, Macdonald of Kingsburgh, a man of great integrity, who, when informed of the secret by his daughter, resolved to render her distinguished charge every assistance in his power. The particulars that followed, till the Prince quitted Sky, are given in Mr. Boswell's very entertaining *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*, page 180, to which I refer my reader. Upon quitting Sky, Prince Charles entered Loch Nevish, to the westward of Loch Ackeig. Whilst he was secreting himself in the glens of this district, four hundred men, under the command of General Campbell, arrived on one side of him, and five hundred more, under Captain Scott, on the other, and began to form a circle round him. In this desperate situation the Prince sent to Donald Cameron, of Glenpean, who, under favour of a dark night, safely conducted him through a pass strongly guarded by soldiers, during which they were obliged to

creep upon their hands and knees, so close to their enemies that they distinctly heard them talk, and saw them walking between them and their fires ; after this their dangers thickened, for they had to pass through a chain of little camps, twenty-seven in number, through which, at night, Donald Cameron, by way of experiment, passed alone, and returned in safety to the Prince, whom he conducted through the line without interruption. Before they set out, Donald said to the young fugitive, “ Oh ! Sir, my nose is yuicking,” that is, itching, “ which is a sign to me that we have great risks and dangers to go through.” When they had accomplished this perilous enterprise, the Prince said to his faithful guide, “ Well, my brave Donald, how does your nose now ?”—“ It is better now,” replied he, “ but it still yuicks a little.”—The share which Flora Macdonald and her father had in the escape of the Prince led to their apprehension, and they were conveyed as prisoners to London. Her heroic and noble conduct during her examination excited the surprise and admiration even of the Sovereign, and led to her own enlargement and that of others. During her stay in London, after her discharge, she became an object of great public attention, and persons of the highest distinction loaded her with kindnesses and civilities, which she received with a very becoming grace and diffidence.

The unfortunate Charles, after the most marvellous escapes, often hemmed round by his pursuers, but still rescued by some providential and marvellous interposition, at last received intelligence that a privateer of St. Maloes, hired by his adherents, was arrived in Lochranach, in which he embarked in the most wretched attire, consisting of a short threadbare coat of black frize, over which was a common Highland plaid, girt round him by a belt, from which hung a pistol and a dagger. He had not changed his linen for many weeks ; his eyes were hollow, his visage wan, and his constitution greatly impaired by famine and fatigue. To the honour of Ireland, two faithful natives of that country, Sullivan and Sheridan, who had participated with him in his calamities, Cameron of Lockiel, his brother, and a few other adherents to his cause, accompanied him on board, when they set sail for France, and reached Roseau, near Morlaix, in Bretagne, after having been chased by two English ships of war. I have been informed from good authority that his present Majesty, with characteristic magnanimity, allows from his private purse a pension of 2,000*l.* per annum to the personage known by the name of the Comtesse D'Albany, widow of the unfortunate Charles Stuart, grandson of King James the Second, who has been dead some years. She is a Princess of the house of Holberg, and lived at Brussels, where she was married.

She is allied to many noble families in this country. This lady had a dower assigned to her out of the old French funds, which were destroyed in the Revolution, and she was entirely supported by her brother-in-law, the Cardinal of York, upon whose death she became absolutely destitute. It is well known that his Majesty also allowed an annuity of 6,000*l.* to the Cardinal, who was left unprovided for by the French Revolution, which annuity he enjoyed to the day of his death.

I know of no Caledonian lady who has obtained more celebrity than Flora Macdonald. She was the daughter of Macdonald of Milton, in Uist, a cadet of the family of Macdonald of Clanronald; she married Major Macdonald, of Kingsburgh. A report has gone abroad that this romantic friend of the young Pretender *is still alive*, and that she enjoys a pension upon the Irish establishment; this report is unfounded, as I am favoured by the assurance of my much-respected friend, Mr. Hector Macdonald Buchannan, who is well acquainted with the family, that she died in the year 1790 in the isle of Sky, and that he inserted her death in the Annual Register, by the desire of her son, Major Macdonald, since also dead. She has another son still living, Major or Colonel John Macdonald, of the Honourable East-India Company's service, who married Miss Chambers, daughter of Sir Robert Chambers, a brave and active officer, and who was Lieutenant-Colonel in the



regiment of volunteers raised and commanded by the late Right Honourable William Pitt. The person mistaken in Ireland for Flora, Macdonald is *Florance Macdonnell*, whose name stands in the pension-list of officers' widows in Ireland, and who resides at Ratagan, in the parish of Glomshiel, in the county of Ross. Boswell describes the celebrated Flora to have been "a little woman, of a genteel appearance, and uncommonly mild and well bred."

After a very agreeable ride, I reached Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, and the seat of Highland elegance and refinement, and soon experienced all the comforts of an hotel which would be respected in the most fashionable parts of London; and there are other good inns. This town is a port, with twenty creeks dependent upon it, part on the Murray Frith, to the east, and part on the north of the town, extending as far as the south border of the county of Caithness. The salmon-fisheries here and at Fort George are let to London fishmongers. The town, which consists of two principal streets, crossing each other, stands upon the eastern side of the beautiful river Ness, having considerable suburbs on the other side, which are united by an ancient bridge of seven arches.

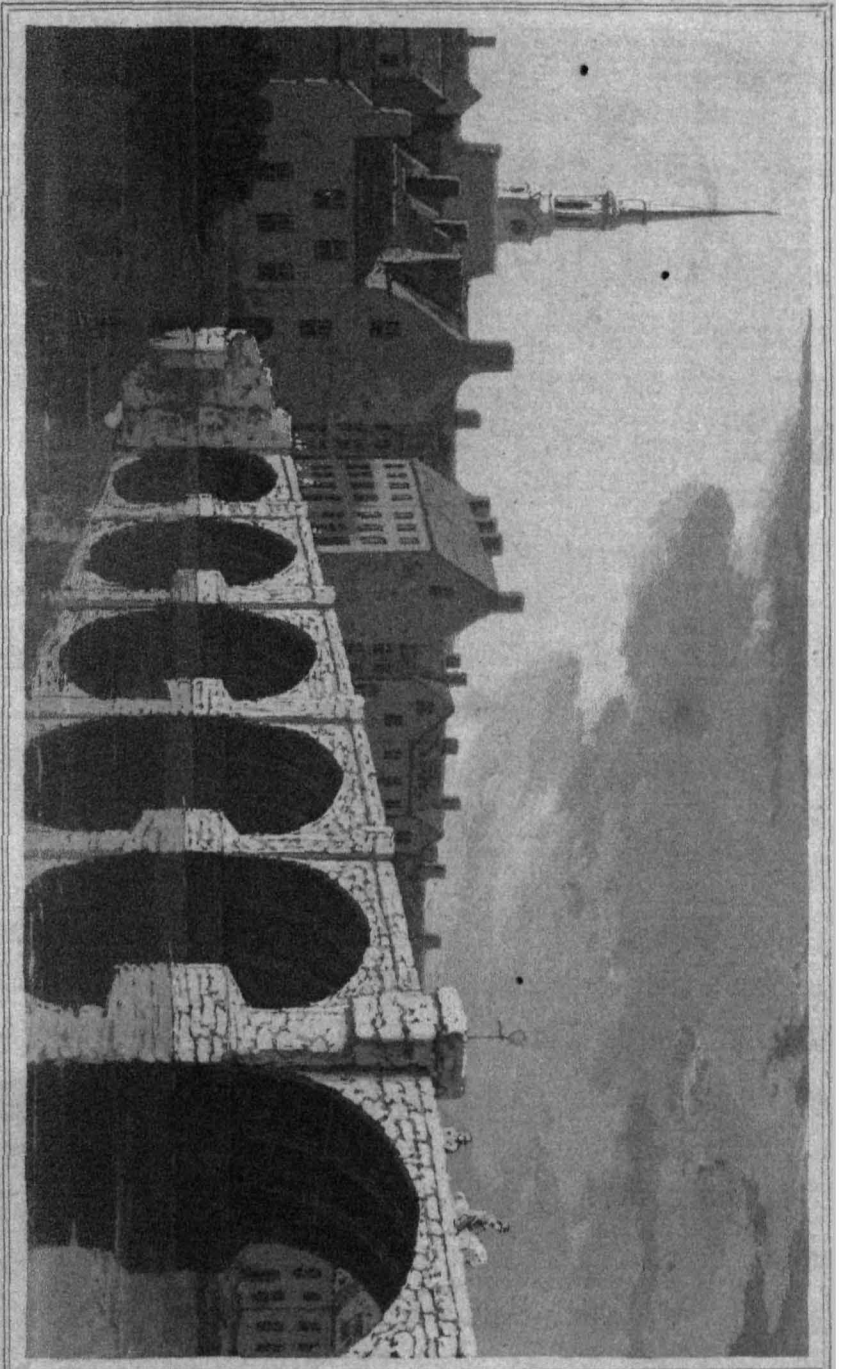
The view of the town from the suburbs over this bridge, looking a little to the northward, is said much to resemble Basle, in Switzerland. Both Gaelic and English are pro-

miscuously spoken here, but the ear of a stranger is almost immediately sensible of the pleasing softness with which the English language is here pronounced: it has neither the accent of the Highland nor the Lowland English language, but possesses a sweetness and purity peculiarly its own. It has been well compared to very pure English spoken with a soft foreign tone. The reasons assigned for the purity with which English is here spoken, both with respect to pronunciation and grammar, are, that not being the mother tongue it is learnt more by book, as Greek and Latin are learnt, than by conversation, that there have been garrisons of English soldiers in the neighbourhood ever since the time of Cromwell, and that, in consequence of there being little comparative communication between these counties and the Lowlands, the corrupt phrases and pronunciation of the latter are but little heard. It is very whimsical to find, in this as well as other Highland towns on the western coast, that frequently the inhabitants speak Gaelic on one side of the street and English on the other. There is a great appearance of industry and opulence, urbanity and refinement, amongst the inhabitants. The females are remarked for their beauty. There is an elegant suite of assembly-rooms; and in the winter, I am informed, the town is extremely gay.

The houses are lofty, and the streets are tolerably clean. One of the principal buildings is the court-house; and the

tolbooth, which is a very handsome modern building, surmounted by an elegant spire. The prison, which I inspected, is airy and strong, but destitute of a court-yard. I was surprised to see one prisoner, and only one, whose legs were fastened close together with irons, such as are used to bolt the hands of a deserter, so that he could not move without great difficulty: upon inquiring of the gaoler if he had attempted to escape, I was answered in the negative; and there was another prisoner, (but he was a rich rogue,) committed for more serious charges, who was not fettered at all. The gaoler informed me that the former had been thus severely ironed for some months. This was the only prisoner I saw in irons in Scotland. The room for the debtors is airy, and the prison allowance liberal. The court-room, to which there is a passage from the grated gallery of the prison, is spacious and handsome.

I ascended the hill where the Castle of Macbeth stood, the walls of which were standing when Dr. Johnson visited Inverness, but of which, to my disappointment, there were now no traces; I was rewarded, however, for my trouble, by a beautiful prospect of the town, rich corn-fields, the Frith, and many a cloud-capp'd mountain. In this castle it is believed that Macbeth murdered Duncan: the bed on which this foul deed was perpetrated is, I was informed, to be seen at Calder-castle.



*Swings.*

*Drawn by Sir John Linn.*

*Published by Mathews & Leigh, Strand 1839.*

The academy established here in 1790 may be considered as partaking very much of the character and consequence of an university, and is much and justly celebrated. The building containing the schools is more extensive than ornamental. Latin, Greek, French, mathematics, writing, arithmetic, drawing, and geography, are taught here with great success, under the tuition of nine masters, who have small salaries, and chiefly depend on the fees of their different classes, by which, as before, upon a somewhat similar occasion, has been observed, their interest is placed on the side of their duty. The number of youths at this academy was two hundred. The academy spring sessions or terms commence the 2d of January, and close the 28th of May. The autumnal sessions commence the 15th of July, and close the 20th of December. Besides this school for boys, there is a seminary, as I was informed, for young ladies, who are sent to it from remote parts of the Highlands.

Misfortune has always strong claims upon the feelings of a Highlander, and I could not help being highly gratified by a little rebuke which I received in this town from one whose loyalty and devotion to the august family now upon the throne are exemplary: upon designating the royal exile by the usual name of the *Pretender*—"Do not call him the Pretender," said he, "he was the Prince Charles.

## CHAP. XIX.

POLICY OF EDUCATION — ITS EFFECTS IN THE HIGHLANDS — ITS GENERAL IMPORTANCE—SINGULAR EFFECTS OF ITS ADVANTAGES—SCOTTISH MISSIONARIES ON THE MOUNTAINS OF CAUCASUS—A COMPARISON—SCOTTISH AND IRISH PEASANTS CONTRASTED—THE MINERS' LIBRARY—SCHOOLS FOR EDUCATION—THE PARISH SCHOOLS—THE HIGHLAND SCHOOLS—THE CHARITY SCHOOLS—PRIVATE SCHOOLS—REMARKS—ANECDOTE.

POLITICIANS have widely differed with regard to the wisdom of enlightening the poor of a country by education. Upon such a subject men of plain understandings would naturally wonder that any variance of opinion could arise. They would conceive that he who prefers darkness to light, who thinks that the common people are most likely to advance the ends of their creation, that they would be more loyal, more brave, and more virtuous, by continuing in a state of ignorance and stupidity, would, by a parity of reasoning, insist that the blind were the most likely to move with certainty, and the crippled with vigour. But a distempered prejudice still maintains that to illumine the head is to

extinguish the heart ; that if the humble are taught reading, writing, and a little useful arithmetic, they will soon fancy themselves under the influence of inspiration, and feel as if they had been intended for some high destiny ; that they will desert or disgrace the station of life allotted to them by Providence, and perish upon the dunghill as vagabonds, or by the gallows as forgers. The poor of Scotland seem to have decided this important question : they can read, and yet are loyal ; they can write, and yet are honest ; they can calculate, and yet are virtuous. By the wise and salutary diffusion of education, particularly in parts which appear to be impenetrable to civilization, upon the sides of frightful mountains, or in dismal glens seldom visited by the rays of Heaven, the astonished and admiring traveller beholds a spectacle at once gratifying and affecting. In a hut of branches and sods, when the hour of labour is over, the young, enlightened by those institutions which do honour to human nature, are seen instructing those who are younger, or consoling the last hours of venerable and sightless age by reading aloud the Scriptures, or some pious book, printed in their own language ; yet in this sorry dwelling the benighted traveller may rest in safety amid the howling storm ; not a hand will be extended to him but in kindness, not a voice will be raised but to charm his ear with the song of other times, or, if he understands the



language, to store his mind with the wild, romantic, and beautiful effusions of the Gaelic Muse.

It is equally singular and true that one can scarcely meet with a poor man in any part of Scotland who is not possessed of the knowledge particularized in the commencement of this chapter, and to this he frequently adds a little acquaintance with Latin. The results of this system of education, which I shall briefly explain, are of the most beneficent nature. If the poor remain at home, their deportment is sedate, upright, and orderly; if they attempt their fortunes in other countries, they bear with them a superior understanding, and a knowledge sharpened by poverty, which enables them to do honour to any situation, and frequently to improve those arts, studies, and pursuits, by which the power, prosperity, and character of a country, are at once extended and secured.

The emigration of the humbler classes of the Scotch is a subject of frequent remark. Poor, but cultivated, they quit their native country in the pursuit of fortune in other climes, not more congenial to merit, but more in want of talent, and better capable of rewarding it. How happy is it that we live in an age and under a constitution which are propitious to genius, under which humility of origin



presents no insurmountable barrier to the advancement of any one, who, to intellect, unites integrity, industry, and prudence.

In the fair pursuit of fortune they spread themselves in the most remote regions of the earth. The celebrated Field-Marshal Keith, who, on account of his having joined King James's party in the old rebellion, when he was about eighteen or nineteen years old, at the instigation of his mother, after the battle of Sheriff-muir was obliged to escape to France, and who afterwards had a great share in the revolution which raised Elizabeth, the daughter of Peter the Great, to the throne of all the Russias, and was afterwards the chief counsellor and companion of the King of Prussia, is said to have related the following anecdote, illustrative of the erratic disposition of the Scotch :—Being sent upon an important mission to a Turkish officer of high rank, he was received with all the honours and solemnities usual upon such occasions in the east, and which so much encumber and procrastinate the issue of matters of business. The Turk, to his surprise, seemed to feel, as he did, a wish to terminate their negotiation as speedily as possible; and upon his learning that the Marshal spoke French, a language with which he too was acquainted, he proposed dismissing their respective attendants, and concluding the objects of their interview in privacy, which the Marshal acceded to.

As soon as the retinues of both these personages had retired, the Turk, to the utter astonishment of the Marshal, walked up to him, and in broad Scotch said, "Weel, man, when was ye last at Aberdeen?" On an explanation, which immediately followed this extraordinary interrogatory, it appeared that this eastern chief was no other than the son of a Scottish peasant, who remembered to have seen Marshal Keith in Aberdeenshire, and who, in the pursuit of ameliorating his condition, had wandered into Turkey, where by his good conduct he had raised himself to Asiatic honours.

The same enterprising spirit has led them to colonize where one might naturally suppose only the most powerful inducements of rapid accumulation of riches could have attracted them. A number of Scotchmen have for the last four years been settled on the mountains of Caucasus, to whom his Imperial Majesty of Russia has granted, with that noble liberality which always characterizes his mind\*, a charter

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\* I have thus spoken of the Emperor Alexander, because I think, in justice, I cannot speak otherwise of him. With my countrymen I know that at present he is not a favourite, but they forget his former noble conduct when he was a free agent, and attribute to his inclination the humiliating scenes in which he has recently acted so conspicuous a part, at a period when it is sufficient only to mention that a French General rules at Petersburg, and that French agents have complete dominion in all the Russian ports of the Baltic, to prove that, for want of military strength, he is no longer an independent Sovereign. This is neither just nor liberal towards an unfortunate Prince.

of extraordinary rights and privileges, by which, in order to induce them to extend their trade and manufactures in a district thinly peopled, and bordering on the territories of many uncivilized tribes of Mahometans and Heathens, they are placed on the same footing with the Evangelical Society of Sarepta. His Majesty secures to them the perpetual possession of ample allotments of land, as near as possible to the village which they have founded, and they are exempted from a variety of imposts. The free exercise of their religion is confirmed to them ; and the administration of their internal affairs is for ever vested in a chief magistrate to be chosen amongst themselves, who is authorized to admit as settlers amongst them every description of Mahometans and Heathens, being freemen, and taking the oath of allegiance to his Imperial Majesty.

Why has the Irish peasantry been so frequently rendered the object of an angry policy? a peasantry derived from the same stock as the Scotch, speaking the same language, whose customs and manners were originally the same, and whose natural talents are, to an extraordinary degree, strong and vivacious? why, but for the want of the same benign spirit of instruction? Were any one who had visited Ireland to make their amelioration the subject of his pen, I am persuaded that the conclusion of all his reasoning would be, *education without proselytism.*

Let us compare, by the assistance of a venerable author, the present with the past condition of the Scottish peasantry. In the year 1698, that illustrious Caledonian patriot, Andrew Fletcher, of Saltoun, who so nobly declared that he would readily lose his life to save his country, and would not do a base thing to serve it, tells us, “ There are at this day in Scotland two hundred thousand people begging from door to door ; and though the number of them be perhaps double to what it was formerly, by reason of this present great distress, (a famine then prevailed,) yet in all times there have been about one hundred thousand of these vagabonds, who have lived without any regard or subjection either to the laws of the land or even those of God and Nature ; fathers incestuously accompanying with their own daughters, the son with the mother, and the brother with the sister. No magistrate ever could discover that they had been baptized, or in what way one in a hundred went out of the world. They are frequently guilty of robbery, and sometimes of murder. In years of plenty many thousands of them meet together in the mountains, where they feast and riot for many days ; and at country weddings, markets, burials, and on other public occasions, they are to be seen, both men and women, perpetually drunk, cursing, blaspheming, and fighting together.”

These dreadful evils were not mowed down by the sword,

they were not exterminated by ferocious penal laws ; they were put to the blush by the mild and salutary precepts of mental illumination, the light of which they could not encounter, and withdrew for ever from its presence. This system of education gives to the manner of a low Scotchman an air of sedateness, acuteness, and consideration, which I have never witnessed in the same class in any other country. A low Irishman frequently shapes his answer by a quick and often erroneous anticipation, before the question propounded is half finished. A Scotchman hears you without interruption, and, after a pause of reflection, conveys a firm, modest, and generally a luminous answer. So strong is the thirst for knowledge amongst the lower orders in Scotland, that small farmers and petty tradesmen are known to form themselves into literary societies ; and it is related, upon authority, that the workmen in the lead-mines of the Earl of Hopetoun, at Lead-hills, have a common library, supported by contribution, containing several thousand volumes. These people work only six hours, and therefore have time to gratify this extraordinary passion for literature.

The philanthropic and political reader will, I am sure, be gratified with a brief account of the enlightened system by which these admirable traits in the Scottish character are effected. Parish schools were created by an Act of Parliament of Scotland, passed in 1646, which enacted that a

school should be established in every parish in Scotland, for the express purpose of educating the poor; it obliges the heritors and ministers of each parish to meet and assess the several heritors with the requisite sum for building a school-house, and to elect a schoolmaster, and modify a salary for him in all time to come. The salary is ordered not to be under one hundred nor above two hundred merks, that is, not under 5*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.* nor above 11*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, and the assessment is to be laid on the land in the same proportion as it is rated for the support of the clergy, and as it regulates the payment of the land-tax. But in case the heritors of any parish, or the majority of them, shall fail to discharge this duty, then the persons forming what is called the Committee of Supply of the County (consisting of the principal landholders), or any five of them, are authorized by the statute to impose the assessment instead of them, on the representation of the presbytery in which the parish is situated. To secure the choice of a proper teacher, the right of election on the part of the heritors, by a statute passed in 1693, chap. 22, is made subject to the review and control of the presbytery of the district, who have a right to examine the person proposed as to his qualifications as a teacher, and as to his proper deportment in office, when settled in it. This election on the part of the heritors is therefore only a presentment of a person for the approbation of the presbytery. The statute of 1646 was

repealed on the accession of Charles II. in 1660, on account of its having been passed during the Commonwealth, and lay dormant until after the Revolution, when it was re-enacted by the Scottish parliament in the same form, and remains in force to this hour. All this was excellent; but the income of the schoolmaster, fixed by the provisions of the Act, and arising also from the compensations of his scholars, was by much too small. This has been in part remedied: the teachers have now a salary of 15*l.* per annum, and a portion of land, varying from three to more acres, according to the quality of the land, a small house to reside in, and a school-room built, and kept in repair by the society. These teachers are Presbyterians, and under the superintendence of the general assembly.

The church establishment of Scotland is favourable to its school establishments; the constant residence of the clergy upon their benefices places the conduct of the schoolmaster and the application of his scholars under the fostering protection of his superintendence, and the teacher himself is often appointed to a vacant benefice.

Instruction in these schools is deeply tinged with religion. The Catechism of the Assembly, the Proverbs of Solomon, and the New and Old Testament, either in English or in Gaelic, impart to the mind of the rustic student a knowledge of the sacred writings, conformably to the doctrines of

Calvin. To preserve their flock, and not to enlarge it by proselytism, seems to have been the sound wisdom of the Scottish legislators. I am assured that proselytism is never attempted. In the country, the English language, writing, and arithmetic, are taught at the rate of six shillings, and Latin at the rate of ten or twelve shillings, a year. In the towns the prices are higher, but in some places lower, than the sums mentioned.

The Highland schools are of more recent institution, and arise from the beneficial effects already experienced from the parish schools. By the 4th George I. chap. 6, it is enacted, "That of the moneys arising from the sale of the Scottish estates, forfeited in the rebellion of 1715, 2000*l.* sterling shall be converted into a capital stock, the interest of which shall be laid out in erecting and maintaining schools in the Highlands."

The charity schools established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge are, in the next degree, entitled to our consideration. This association derived its origin from the public spirit of a few private gentlemen in Edinburgh, who, in the beginning of the last century, formed themselves into "A Society for the Reformation of Manners," principally in the Highlands and Hebrides, on account of their remote situation, their total want of schools, the small number of Protestant clergy in the



country, the immense extent of parishes, the little intercourse between them and their ministry (who are separated from them by vast mountainous tracts, mountains, arms of the sea, and rivers often impassable), by their language (a dialect of the ancient Celtic, unintelligible to the inhabitants of the Low Countries of Scotland), the prevalence of popery in many districts, and the influence of clanship. All these circumstances induced them to erect and endow schools, provided with well-qualified teachers, in as many districts of the Highlands as possible, for the instruction of youth in the first principles of religion and literature. Their funds were at first small, but private contributions soon swelled the scanty stream into a noble current; and the subscribers were erected into a body corporate by Queen Ann, in 1709, under the title they now bear; some time afterwards they obtained from the crown an enlargement of their powers, that they might add to their primary objects the cultivation of the most necessary branches of industry: in consequence of which the women in the remote Highlands, who used to be employed, as is frequently the case in uncivilized countries, in the masculine labours of the field, were engaged in sewing, spinning, knitting stockings, and other occupations more appropriate to the sex.

By liberal contributions, and by the great disinterestedness and discretion of all parties concerned, the funds of

this society are in a flourishing condition, though still unequal to the objects of its application, which are continually increasing: the promoters of it have however the happiness of reflecting that they afford every year the elementary branches of education to nearly 16,000 children. The schools of the society are annually visited by two ministers of every 'presbytery within whose bounds they are stationed; and at these visitations a report is written and transmitted to the society of the number of the scholars, the branches they are taught, and of their proficiency; also of the character and conduct of the teacher, and of the nature of the accommodations furnished to him, in compliance with the rules of the society; and until such report is received at the office of the society, the salary of the teacher is not paid. This society has caused to be translated the Scriptures both of the Old and New Testament, as well as a variety of pious and useful treatises, into the Gaelic language, and by means of their schoolmasters have circulated them through the Highlands and islands.

The Highlanders, it is well known, are very proud of literary distinction; and their ambition to teach others, after they have been taught themselves, is very great. Hence the society have upon their lists more candidates than they can appoint. The expenses of this noble institution are conducted with the greatest economy and integrity.

The following abstracts of the society's establishment for the last two years will exhibit its improving condition :—

For the Year ending May 1, 1807.		<i>Salaries.</i>
181	Schools on the first Patent . . . . .	£2,645
22	Superannuated Teachers on ditto . . . . .	200
100	Schools on the second Patent . . . . .	332
4	Superannuated Teachers on ditto . . . . .	20
14	Missionaries and Catechists . . . . .	329
6	Gaelic Bursaries . . . . .	90
<hr/> 327 Amount of the Schemes.		<hr/> £3,816 <hr/>

For the Year up to May 1, 1808.		<i>Salaries.</i>
188	Schools on the first Patent . . . . .	£2,739
23	Superannuated Teachers on ditto . . . . .	212
15	Missionaries and Catechists . . . . .	357
6	Gaelic Bursaries . . . . .	90
101	Schools on the second Patent . . . . .	536
4	Superannuated Teachers on ditto . . . . .	20
<hr/> 337		<hr/> £3,954 <hr/>

Besides these established schools, the lower classes of people in Scotland, where the parishes are large, often combine together, and form private schools of their own. So convinced are the poor people of Scotland of the advantages of education, that they will submit to almost any privation to procure it for their children, in doing which they have to encounter the expense of clothing and feeding them. At the charity-schools no fees are paid. The benefits

derived from these schools to the rural Muse of Scotland are too well known to be enumerated. In opposition to Dr. Johnson's remark, that the schools are deserted in the winter, on account of the scarcity of food, it is a well-known fact that the schools are much more \*frequent<sup>d</sup> in that season than in summer, when the children of those who are fit for, and are required in, domestic services are most wanted. The winter, moreover, is not penurious of food in the Hebrides, as the natives are too careful not to provide for that gloomy season of the year.

I shall close my account of these great intellectual sources with the following singular remark made upon them by a Scotchman :—A lady of rank, who had a Highlander in her service, whom she employed as her hair-dresser, one morning, as he was adjusting her head, asked him how many traditionary poems concerning Fingal still remained amongst his countrymen ; to which he replied, “ When any stranger entered a Highland cottage, the first question always was from the family to the guest, “ Know you any thing of Fingal, or Ossian, or Oscar ? ” If he did, he was called upon to recite what he knew ; if he did not, they recited it to him ; and upon the lady asking how they could treasure up in their memories so many poems, he said, “ Oh, madam ! before we had so *many schools*, we had long memories.”

As another mode of diffusing knowledge in the Highlands, I must not omit to mention, that, a short time before I arrived at Inverness, a weekly newspaper had been established, with every prospect of success, by a very respectable bookseller, Mr. John Young, which, considering the improvements that have been made in the Highlands in agriculture, in external and internal commerce, and the general condition of the people, is likely to be of considerable public advantage, as well as a source of private amusement, by opening new communications of intelligence. It is rather singular that this should have been the first public print in these parts.

## CHAP. XX.

INVERNESS CONTINUED—HERRING-FISHERY—THE CALEDONIAN CANAL—HIGHLAND WORKMEN—NATIONAL BENEFITS OF THE CANAL—REMARKS ON INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT—PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS — VITRIFIED FORTS — THE GAELIC LANGUAGE — ANECDOTES OF ITS EFFECTS IN ASIATIC TURKEY.

TO return to Inverness. The population of the town consists of about six thousand persons. The infirmary, built by subscription, near the town, is a very handsome building, most delightfully situated, and does infinite honour as well to the humanity as the taste of those under whose auspices it has been erected. There are also several other very commendable charitable institutions. Several thriving manufactures, such as woollen, hemp, thread, &c. are carried on, though many of them are young; there is also a foundry. Ships of four hundred tons can ride within a mile of the town; and, at spring tides, vessels of half that burden can come up to the quay, close to the town.

Most of the vessels belonging to Inverness convey to London the produce of the manufactures, the fish caught in the river Ness (which is very considerable), the skins of

hares, foxes, goats, rabbits, otters, roes, &c. and return with hardware, haberdashery, and other articles of use or luxury, which are retailed by the tradesmen to the town and county. A shipload of juniper-berries used also, annually, some time back, to be sent to Holland from this place: the juniper grows in great profusion upon the neighbouring hills. The herring-fishery upon the coast is, of late, rather precarious. The Highlanders are very fond of this fish, and hail its first visit, as the Dutch do, with jubilee joy. I saw very fine wheat growing in the neighbourhood of the town, a very rare circumstance in the west part of the Highlands; and the wheaten bread is very good. The crops are here mostly more forward than on the western coast, owing to the climate and soil being much more favourable than in the western Highlands.

Inverness is likely, in the course of a few years, greatly to augment her commercial character and consequence, from a work of Roman magnificence, which, when completed, will be a glorious monument of the enterprise and labour of modern times. The Caledonian Canal commences very near Inverness, which, when finished, will unite the German to the Atlantic Ocean. To many of my readers the details of this stupendous undertaking, so important to the nation at large, will not be very interesting; but I cannot help entering into them

a little, for the sake of others, who may wish to know some of its particulars. The Act of Parliament for effecting this inland navigation from the eastern to the western sea was passed on the 22d of July, 1803. By a line of lochs and rivers Nature seemed to have invited the skill and enterprise of man to the undertaking, and, upon investigation, every part intended to be occupied by the canal was found, with little abatement, to be very favourable to the purpose. It has been considered as probable, that, in more early ages of the world, the immense chasm (almost two-thirds of the length of which is still occupied by water) has been nearly open from sea to sea ; and that the land which now separates the lochs has been formed from the decay of the adjoining mountains, wasted by time, and brought down by torrents from rain. As the discussion of the Bill completely unfolded all its objects, they were sufficiently understood by the Commissioners, who held their first meeting on the 30th of the same month, and who set to work with a promptitude not in general very conspicuous in the discharge of public duty in England. This canal opens into Loch Beaully, part of the Murray Frith, and, near Clachnacary, ascends by a cluster of four locks. It was found necessary to alter the course of the Ness, by throwing up an embankment of about a thousand yards in length, and twelve feet in height, above the line of ordinary low water in the river.