

ages of human sacrifice. "Cursed be the man before the Lord," said Joshua, "that riseth up and buildeth this city of Jericho : *he shall lay the foundation thereof in his first-born, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.*"

The large-farm system had been already introduced into the part of the country in which I at this time resided, on the richer and more level lands ; but many a Gaelic-speaking cottar and small tenant still lived on the neighboring moors and hill-sides. Though Highland in their surnames and language, they bore a character considerably different from that of the simpler Highlanders of the interior of Sutherland, or of a class I had shortly afterwards an opportunity of studying—the Highlanders of the western coast of Ross-shire. Doors were not left unbarred at night in the neighborhood ; and there were wretched hovels among the moors, very zealously watched and guarded indeed. There was much illicit distillation and smuggling at this time among the Gaelic-speaking people of the district ; and it told upon their character with the usual deteriorating effect. Many of the Highlanders, too, had wrought as laborers at the Caledonian Canal, where they had come in contact with south-country workmen, and had brought back with them a confident, loquacious smartness, that, based on a groundwork of ignorance, which it rendered active and obtrusive, had a bizarre and disagreeable effect, and formed but an indifferent substitute for the diffident and taciturn simplicity which it had supplanted. But I have ever found the people of those border districts of the Highlands which join on to the low country, or that inhabit districts much traversed by tourists, of a comparatively inferior cast : the finer qualities of the Highland character seem easily injured : the hospitality, the simplicity, the unsuspecting honesty disappear ; and we find, instead, a people rapacious, suspicious, and unscrupulous, considerably beneath the Lowland average. In all the unopened districts of the remote Highlands into which I have penetrated, I have found the people strongly engage my sympathies and affections,—much more strongly than in any part of the Lowlands ; whereas, on the contrary, in the deteriorated districts I have