

Allan has painted, and Sir Walter described, "the country will willingly let die." We felt, when standing in front of this admirable picture, that the art of the painter, all unfitted as it is for serving devotional purposes, may yet be well employed in giving effect to a moral one.—*March* 11, 1840.

### THIRD ARTICLE.

IN estimating the real strength of a country, one has always to take into account its past history. The statistics of its existing condition are no doubt very important. It is well to know the exact amount of its population, and the extent of its resources. It is a great deal more important, however, to ascertain what its people were doing a century or two ago,—what the nature of their contests, and their success in them, and what the issue of their battles. It is not enough to count heads, or to calculate on the mere physical power of a certain quantum of thews and sinews. If the country's history be that of an enslaved and degraded race, who took their law from every new invader, neither its physical strength nor the greatness of its revenues matters anything: it is utterly weak and powerless. If, on the contrary, its battles were hard fought, and terminated either in signal victory on the part of its people, or in a defeat that led merely to another battle,—if in all its struggles, however protracted, the enemy was eventually borne down, and the object of the struggle secured,—depend upon it, that country, whether it reckon its population by thousands or by millions, is rich in the elements of power. The national history in these cases is more than a test of character;—it is also an ingredient of strength. The past breathes its invigorating influences upon the present; the battles won centuries before become direct guarantees, through the enthusiasm which they awaken, for the issue of