

country are on the eve of being actually vacated by their proprietors ; and as their place of superintendence cannot be entered by others, who have no right of superintendence—the result might be, that whole estates shall be as effectually lost to the wealth and resources of the country, as if buried by an earthquake under water, or as if some blight of nature had gone over them, and bereft them of their powers of vegetation. Now we know not, if the whole history of the world furnishes a more striking demonstration than this, of the mischief that may be done by attempting to carry into practice a theoretical speculation, which, under the guise and even with the real purpose of benevolence, has for its plausible object, to equalise among the children of one common humanity, the blessings and the fruits of one common inheritance. The truth is that we have not been conducted to the present state of our rights and arrangements respecting property, by any artificial process of legislation at all. The state of pro-

circumstances will inevitably compel the occupiers of lands and mines to relinquish them ; and the poor will be without relief, or any known mode of obtaining it, unless some assistance be speedily afforded to them.' And your committee apprehend, from the petition before them, that this is one of many parishes that are fast approaching to a state of dereliction."

The inquiries of the present Poor-law Commission have led to a still more aggravated and confirmed view of the evils of the system.