

edible parts of the animal, such as the spleen and the pancreas, and at least one other very palatable viscus besides,—but he came knowing also about the *take* and the curing of herrings. All the herring-boats during the fishing season passed our windows on their homeward way to the harbor ; and, from their depth in the water, we became skilful enough to predicate the number of crans aboard of each with wonderful judgment and correctness. In days of good general fishings, too, when the curing-yards proved too small to accommodate the quantities brought ashore, the fish used to be laid in glittering heaps opposite the school-house door ; and an exciting scene, that combined the bustle of the workshop with the confusion of the crowded fair, would straightway spring up within twenty yards of the farms at which we sat, greatly to our enjoyment, and, of course, not a little to our instruction. We could see, simply by peering over book or slate, the curers going about rousing their fish with salt, to counteract the effects of the dog-day sun ; be vies of young women employed as gutters, and horridly incarnadined with blood and viscera, squatting around the heaps, knife in hand, and plying with busy fingers their well-paid labors, at the rate of a sixpence per hour ; relays of heavily-laden fish-wives bringing ever and anon fresh heaps of herrings in their creels ; and outside of all, the coopers hammering as if for life and death,—now tightening hoops, and now slackening them, and anon caulking with bullrush the leaky seems. It is not every grammar school in which such lessons are taught as those, in which all were initiated, and in which all became in some degree accomplished, in the grammar school of Cromarty !

The building in which we met was a low, long, straw-thatched cottage, open from gable to gable, with a mud floor below, and an unlathed roof above ; and stretching along the naked rafters, which, when the master chanced to be absent for a few minutes, gave noble exercise in climbing, there used frequently to lie a helm, or oar, or boathook, or even a foresail, —the spoil of some hapless peat-boat from the opposite side of the Frith. The Highland boatmen of Ross had carried on