

some of the colonics, solaced himself by the way with thoughts of the hearty drubbing with which he was to clear off all his old scores with the dominic.

“Ere his return, however,” continued the gentleman, “Mr. R—— had quitted the parish; and, had it chanced otherwise, it is questionable whether M’Glashan, with all his strength and courage, would have gained anything in an encounter with one of the boldest and most powerful men in the country.”

Such were some of the chance glimpses which I gained at this time of by far the most powerful of the opponents of Burns. He was a good, conscientious man, but unfortunate in a harsh, violent temper, and in sometimes mistaking, as my old townsman remarked, the dictates of that temper for those of duty.

CHAPTER VI.

It’s hardly in a body’s pow’r
 To keep at times frae being sour,
 To see how things are shared;—
 How best ’o chiels are whiles in want,
 While coofs on countless thousands rant,
 And kenna how to wair’t.

EPISTLE TO DAVIE.

I VISITED my friend, a few days after my arrival in Irvine, at the farm-house of Mossiel, to which, on the death of his father, he had removed, with his brother Gilbert and his mother. I could not avoid observing that his manners were considerably changed. My welcome seemed less kind and hearty than I could have anticipated