

to be apprehended ; and with these we found it somewhat difficult to deal. I would have admitted them at once ; but the majority of the Association demurred ;—to do that would be, according to Corporal Trim, to “set one man greatly over the head of another ;” and it was ultimately agreed that, instead of at once admitting them, they would be first brought into a wooden building fitted up for the purpose, and thoroughly fumigated with sulphur and chloride of lime. I know not with whom the expedient first originated : it was said to have been suggested by some medical man who knew a great deal about cholera. And though, for my own part, I could not see how the demon of the disease was to be expelled by the steam of a little sulphur and chloride, as the evil spirit in Tobit was expelled by the smoke of the fish’s liver, it seemed to satisfy the Association wonderfully well ; and a stranger well smoked came to be regarded as safe. There was a day at hand which promised an unusual amount of smoking. The agitation of the Reform Bill had commenced ;—a great court of appeal was on that day to hold at Cromarty ; and it was known that both a Whig and Tory party from Inverness, in which cholera was raging at the time, would to a certainty attend it. What, it was asked, were we to do with the politicians,—the formidable bankers, factors, and lawyers who would form, we knew, the Inverness cavalcade ? Individually, the question seemed to be asked under a sort of foreboding terror that calculated consequences ; but when the Association came to ask it collectively, and to answer it in a body, it was in a bold tone, that set fear at defiance. And so it was resolved *nem. con.* that the Inverness politicians should be smoked like the others. My turn to mount guard had come round on the previous night at twelve o’clock ; but I had calculated on being off the station ere the Inverness people came up. Unluckily, however, instead of being appointed a simple sentry, I was made officer for the night. It was the duty assigned me to walk round the several posts, and see that the various sentinels were keeping a smart lookout, which I did very faithfully ; but when the term of my watch had expired I found no relieving officer coming