

Castle. As a pageant the thing was nothing : it had the disadvantage, too, which the Queen's passage through the city on Thursday morning had not, of being *artificial*,—a projected piece of parade, with but the *parade* itself for its ostensible object. The Queen rode along the streets just that people might see the Queen. There is sublimity, however, in the appearance of vast multitudes animated by some overpowering feeling ; and we know not that crowds could be better disposed for effect, or in a locality richer in historic recollection, than along the High Street of Edinburgh, with its old Parliament Hall, its venerable High Church, and its double line of tall antique houses, some of which must have cast their shadows over the pageant of Mary, and not a few of them over the pageant of Charles. The morning, though not bright, was pleasant ; the rack flew high over head, showing that a smart breeze blew in the upper regions ; but all was comparatively calm beneath. Now and then an occasional gleam of the sun lighted up the tall gray fronts on the western side, or played among the fantastic tracery and lofty pinnacles of St Giles. But it passed as suddenly as it flashed out, and the general tone was a subdued smoky gray. A dense and ever-increasing crowd occupied the space below ; direct through the middle there ran a narrow passage, that reminded one of a river with steep erect banks, winding its way through a flat alluvial meadow. At one point it expanded into what seemed a small lake,—'twas where the city Magistracy awaited her Majesty, clad in their long scarlet cloaks of office ; and here a few dragoons flitted across the open space, or paced along the winding passage,—the shallops of this lake and river. Every window was crowded, storey on storey, from the windows immediately over the street, to the casements of the attics eighty feet above head. Even the roofs had their clustering groupes. We marked a few ragged boys, perilously grouped round a chimney full ninety