

will by and by show, it now exceeds twenty millions. For every *two* Britons that existed on their native soil when the century began, there now exist *five*: in fifty years there has taken place in the population an increase of a hundred and fifty per cent. ; and at the close of the nineteenth century, should the same rate of increase continue, the soil of Great Britain will be encumbered by fifty millions of human creatures. How the privileges of proprietors, as now defined, are to be made good in such a state of things,—should such a state of things ever arrive,—against the pressing claims of the crowded masses, it is at present difficult to see ; but in this element of increase alone,—an element which the inadequate expedient of emigration, that, when most active, sends only *one* abroad for every additional *three* born at home, may in vain expect to counterbalance,—we recognise a disturbing agent, suited, even did it stand alone, to give more than employment enough to the philanthropists and statesmen of the future. Since the death of Chalmers it has not been customary to press much on this topic ; but considerably less than half a century will serve to show how entirely he was in the right regarding it.

Fifty years form a large proportion of the period assigned to man ; and those whose powers of observation were active at the beginning of the present century, and their opportunities of exercising them considerable, must now be far advanced in life. We, however, reckon among our readers individuals who can compare from personal observation the Scotland of 1801 with Scotland in the present day, and who can tell how, over wide areas, the face of the country has changed. We ourselves, though born within the half-century, are acquainted with extensive localities in which, within our recollection, the breadth of corn-land has fully doubled. We have seen it slowly advancing over moory, waste, and brown hill-side, till, where only heath, and ling,