

and unproductive brushwood used to grow, every autumn mottles over the landscape with shocks of corn. In proportion as the population was increasing were the means of their support in these localities increasing also. But it was chiefly in lowland districts, or in districts which merely bordered on the Highlands, that we witnessed this change for the better taking place. Much of the Highlands themselves has been the subject of a reverse process. During the last half-century many a sheltered glen and fertile valley have given their cultivated patches back to the waste; and where human habitations once stood, and happy communities once lived, we find but moss-covered ruins and the solitude of a desert. And it would seem as if this state of management had already produced its crisis. Where the corn-land has more than doubled its area, or, what amounts to the same thing, more than doubled its produce, there is food and employment for the more than doubled population; whereas in the Highlands, on the contrary, famine stares the unhappy inhabitants full in the face, and Lowland Scotland is told, that unless it exert itself greatly in their behalf, thousands of them must perish. It will be a question for the next half-century practically to determine whether, as the population is growing, and seems destined to grow, the Highlands must not be compelled in the general behalf to sustain their own portion of it. There is another question which this continued increase in the numbers of the people will at length render all potent. Men have wondered how, in a country such as China, where the tone of morality is low, and the government is corrupt, education should have such honours and privileges attached to it, that it forms the sole means of rising into place and affluence. The true secret of the matter is to be read in the fact that China, with its three hundred millions of inhabitants, is the most populous country on the face of the earth. Ignorance, therefore, cannot be