

cluded where they ought to have admitted ; and the experience of our men of literature and of science, save in those singularly rare instances in which they come in contact with men of the peculiar mental cast of the Duke of Atholl, has been invariably that of Cowper's in the park of the Throckmortons :—

“The folded gates would bar my progress now,  
 But that the lord of this enclosed demesne,  
 Communicative of the good he owns,  
 Admits me to a share : the guiltless eye  
 Commits no wrong, nor wastes what it enjoys.”

We will not instance the case of Sir Walter Scott, nor say how, in his kindness of heart, he flung open the grounds of Abbotsford to his humbler neighbours, without ever finding occasion to repent his liberality ; for Sir Walter was no ordinary proprietor, nor, perhaps, was he dealt with in this matter according to the ordinary experience of the class. The passage, however, in which, in his “ Letters of Malachi Malagrowth,” he sums up some of the balancing advantages which make up to the poor Highlander for the general hardness of his lot, seems so entirely to our purpose, that we cannot forbear reference at least to it. Taken in connection with the shutting up of Glen Tilt and the Grampians, it forms a piece of peculiarly exquisite irony :—

“The inhabitants of the wilder districts in Scotland,” says Sir Walter, “ have actually some enjoyments, both moral and physical, which compensate for the want of better subsistence and more comfortable lodging. In a word, they have more liberty than the inhabitants of the richer soil. Englishmen will start at this as a paradox ; but it is very true, notwithstanding, that if one great privilege of liberty be the power of going where a man pleases, the Scottish peasant enjoys it much more than the English. The pleasure of viewing ‘ fair nature's face,’ and a great many other primitive enjoyments, for which a better diet and lodging are but indifferent substitutes, are more within the power of the poor man in Scotland than in the sister country. A Scottish gentleman in the wilder districts is seldom severe in excluding his poor neighbours