

in course of time would re-act powerfully on the whole habits and manners of the labouring community.

We believe, however, that we have reached a turning point in our downward course,—that we have passed the worst,—and that there is, both in the legislature and in society at large, a very general desire to favour the requisite improvements, provided it could be clearly shown what the improvements should consist of, and upon what principle they should be undertaken. When we find men like the Duke of Buccleuch candidly confessing,—to his honour be it spoken,—that he had done wrong in so long neglecting the dwellings of the smaller tenantry, cottars, and bothymen,—when we find Mr Stuart of Oathlaw succeeding in banding together some of the most influential and extensive landed proprietors, for the purpose of improving the dwellings in the country districts,—and when we find the Rev. Mr Mackenzie of North Leith only stopped in his career of practical benevolence by the absurd and antiquated usages of feudal lawyerism,—we are not without ground for hope that a general movement may be made at no very distant period, and that we may see model towns not only projected, but actually erected, inhabited, and in vital operation. Without the integrity of the family and the sufficiency of the dwelling there can be no satisfactory reform, either in a sanitary or a moral aspect; and we propose in a future article to discuss some of the main causes that have led to the present condition of our working population. We propose to inquire whether, and in what circumstances, the labouring agriculturist or artizan might profitably be the proprietor of his dwelling, and how far the acquisition of real property might operate as a check on the habitual improvidence that is proven to exist. Among all the experiments that have been made, at least in this country, it is plainly evident that a vast field, and *that* certainly not the most unpromising, has been left untouched and unexplored. To pro-