

stated by the one noble speaker, and reiterated by the other, that in order to render cottages immensely better than they are at present, it is not at all necessary that they should be rebuilt. The rebuilding of them, in the greater number of instances, might be impossible, and in all cases it would be at least very inconvenient. But if proprietors had thus little in their power regarding them, much might be done by the humble inmates in the way of dividing their single rooms when their accommodation chanced to be greater, and in imparting to them an air of general comfort. It was held that on this point, therefore, the premiums of the Society ought specially to be directed. The proprietary of the country could not be expected to help their poor labourers on a large scale, by providing them with suitable dwellings (a single cottage might cost fifty pounds); but then they were ready to encourage them in any feasible way of helping themselves. A room twelve feet by sixteen might be regarded as a very pretty sort of problem; and if a man and his wife, with some eight or ten children, could contrive to solve the difficulty by residing in it with comfort and decency, they should be by all means rewarded for their ingenuity by a premium from the Society. Now, we would be very unwilling to indulge on this subject in aught approaching to severity of remark; nor, were it otherwise, would we single out two of the more benevolent noblemen of our country as objects on which to be satirical. Scarce any Scottish nobleman has done so much for his humbler dependents as the Earl of Rosebery: we have been informed that on his own property every cottage has its two comfortable apartments, and that many of them have three. Nor is his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch other, we believe, than a well-meaning man. As we deem the matter one of considerable importance, however, we shall take the liberty of soliciting the attention of the reader to a piece of simple narrative, which bears on it very directly.