

were beginning to start, in consequence of the damp ; and the clock gave warning, by its frequent stops and irregularities, that it would very soon cease to take further note of time. The old man's wife, still a neat tidy woman, though turned of sixty, was a martyr to rheumatism ; and her one damp and gousty room, with its mere apron-breadth of partition interposed between it and the chinky outer door, was not at all the place for her declining years or her racking complaint. She did her best, however, to keep things in order, and to attend to the comforts of her husband and her two lodgers ; but the bad roof and the single apartment were disqualifying circumstances, and they pressed on her very severely. It was well remarked by his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, that "the keeping of lodgers along with families in cottages where there is scarce room for the family itself, is a great evil." It is even so,—a very great evil. But, my Lord Duke, there are still greater evils which press upon the indigent. These poor old people had very slender means of living, and they found it necessary to eke them out in any honest way. Their lodgers, too,—humble, hard-working men,—could not afford a very sumptuous lodging-place, nor were there any such in the neighbourhood, even if they could. There are stern necessities that press upon the poor in matters of this kind, which we sincerely trust your Grace may never experience, but of which all would be the better of knowing just a very little.

And this was all that civilization, in the midst of a well-nigh perfect agriculture, and amid the exercise of every useful and elegant art, had done for the dwelling of the poor hind. The rude husbandry of the western-coast Highlander had been left more than a thousand years behind ; manufactures had made marvellous advances since the relinquishment of the distaff and spindle ; trade had imported many a luxury since woollen sails and wooden anchors had been abandoned ; every