

of the species as rational creatures, he had to look both before and after him. He had to think and act ; to enact by turns the agriculturist and the corn-merchant ; to manage his household, and to provide for term-day. He was alike placed beyond the temptation of apeing his landlord, or of sinking into a mere ploughing and harrowing machine. But, in many instances, into such a machine the farm-servant sunk. Still, however, there remained in his lot circumstances favourable to the development of the better parts of his nature. There is much in having a home ; nor was he placed beyond those ennobling influences of religion which are scarce less necessary for enabling man rightly to perform his part in this world than to prepare him for another. Chiefly, however, from motives of a miserable economy, the unnatural bothy system was introduced, and with the disastrous effects described. It promised to spare some of our landlords the expense of providing cottages ; and some of their tenantry expected to have their farms more cheaply wrought by single than by married men. We have seen more than the mere outsides of bothies, and know from experience, that though they may be fit dwellings for hogs and horses, they are not fit dwellings for immortal creatures, who begin in this world their education for eternity.

Nearly twenty years ago, we lived for a short time in an agricultural district in the north of Scotland, on the farm of one of the first introducers of the bothy system into that part of the country. He has been dead for years, nor do we know that any of his relatives survive. He had been a bold speculator in his time, and had risen, with the rise of the large-farm system, into the enjoyment of a very considerable income ; but instead of regarding it as mere capital in the forming,—the merchant's true estimate of his gains,—he had dealt by it as the landed gentleman does in most cases with his yearly rental. His style of living had more than kept pace with