

his means ; a change had taken place in his circumstances at that eventful period, so very trying to many of similar character, when England, at the close of her long war with France, ceased to be the workshop and general agency-office of Europe ; and he was now an old man, and on the eve of bankruptcy. The appearance of his steadings and fields conformed well at the time with his general circumstances. The stone-fences were ruinous ; the hedges gapped by the half-tended cattle. Harvest was just over, and on his farm at least it had been a miserably scanty one ; but it would have been somewhat better with a little more care. In walking over one of his fields, we counted well-nigh a dozen sheaves scattered about among the stubble, that seemed to have fallen from the carts at leading time, and were now fastened to the earth by the grains having struck their shoots downward and taken root. His steadings, though they wore a neglected look, were of modern substantial masonry, and well designed, — the stables roomy, the cattle-courts and sheds formed on the most approved plan. Very different, however, was the appearance of the building in which his farm-servants found their sort of half-shelter. Some twenty or thirty years before it had been a barn ; for it had formed part of an older stead- ing, of which all the other buildings had been pulled down, to make way for the more modern erection. It was a dingy, low, thatched building, bulged in the side-walls in a dozen different places, and green atop with chickweed and stone-crop. One long apartment, without partition or ceiling, occupied the interior from gable to gable. A row of un- dressed deal-beds ran along the sides. There was a fire at each gable, or rather a place at which fires might be lighted, for there were no chimneys ; the narrow slits in the walls were crammed with turf ; the roof leaked in a dozen differ- ent places ; and along the ridge the sky might be seen from end to end of the apartment. We learned to know what