

with a sprinkling of salt, furnished the thrice-a-day meal. Had the materials at their command been more luxuriant, we question much whether they would have taken the trouble to prepare them. It seems natural for men in such circumstances to be careless of themselves, and equally natural for them to avenge on the cause of their general discomfort the irritating effects of their own indifference and lack of care. There was a large amount of rude sarcasm in the bothy ; and, strange as it may seem, a great deal of laughter. It has been remarked by, we think, a French writer, that the people of despotic Governments laugh more than those of free States. We never heard the name of the farmer mentioned among his servants without some accompanying expression of dislike ; we never saw one of them manifest the slightest regard for his interest. They ill-treated his horses, neglected his cattle, left his corn to rot in the fields. Some of them could speak of his approaching ruin with positive glee. What we would fain have said to him then may not be without its use to others now. " You, in your utter selfishness, have spoiled the men whom you employ ; and they, in turn, are spoiling your horses, and cattle, and corn, and glorying in the ruin which is just on the eve of overtaking you. All right. There is no getting above the natural laws. Alkalies neutralize acids ; dense bodies invariably descend when placed in fluids lighter than themselves ; and men, when they are spoiled, spoil all other things."

Scarce any one except Crabbe could have done full justice to the interior of the bothy. We remember there was a poacher,—a desperate, thick-set, black-visaged fellow,—who used to steal in about midnight with his gun, when all was dark and quiet, and draw himself up into one of the beds. He was of the stuff that felons are made of,—beyond comparison more a criminal than any of the inmates of the bothy ; and his occasional presence served to show, by the force of