

mind. The bothy is a place in which the cogitative faculties fall asleep ; the higher sentiments of our nature fare no better. As for religion, it may be enough to remark, that we have not yet seen a bothy in which the Sabbath *could* be properly kept : the ploughman who entertained a due reverence for the Sabbath would have to walk out into the fields. Cobbett, during his short stay in this country, acquainted himself with the system, and was by much too quick-sighted not to detect its evils. “ Better,” he said, in his own extreme style,—“ better the fire-raising of Kent than the bothy system of Scotland.” We are far from reiterating the remark. We would deem, on the contrary, fire-raising, such as those of Kent, one of the worst consequences that could result from it, though perhaps not one of the most improbable. We may be permitted to ask, however, whether the Scottish Church is much to be blamed for having endeavoured to lay on such a system what Wordsworth well terms the strong hand of her purity ?”—*September 22, 1841.*

THE HIGHLANDS.*

“ It is very sad that the people of this fine wild country have not got enough to eat ; but depend on’t, we will collect no more money for them in England. We have already done

* At this date, 1862, the depopulation of the Highlands is still rapidly going on. Not half a mile from the spot where we write, in the North-West Highlands, many families were ejected from their holdings but a few months ago. *The factor*,—that dreaded middleman of the people,—came with the underlings of the law, with spade and pick-axe, and left literally not one stone upon another of their poor cottages standing. I can see a miserable hovel into which several families have crowded, who had before separate holdings of their own. I have no hesitation