

our best to help them, and they must now help themselves." Such was the remark of a comfortable-looking Englishman whom we encountered a few weeks ago among the wilds of the northern Highlands; and, judging from the indifferent success which has attended the recent efforts to form a second fund in behalf of the suffering Highlander, it seems to represent pretty fairly the average feeling and general determi-

in saying that the proprietor ought to be held legally bound, in such cases, either to provide other home accommodation or the means of emigration. Such scenes ought not to be allowed to disgrace a Christian country. But even where the inhabitants are allowed to remain on their miserable and insufficient crofts, the able-bodied,—that is, the choicest of the population,—are rapidly emigrating. "There is not a lad *worth anything*," said a person the other day, who had just left a very large strath at some twenty miles distance,— "there is not a lad worth anything that is not going away to New Zealand, or some other place."

The people are, indeed, oppressed with a sense of utter poverty, and a total inability to rise above it. In many places their circumstances are made as wretched as possible, on purpose to starve them out. There are a few proprietors,—such as Sir Kenneth M'Kenzie of Gairloch,—who respect the feelings of those who have been for generations located on their properties; but these are *very* few. It is but justice, too, to the present and late noble proprietors of Sutherland to say that, notwithstanding the melancholy clearings,—for which, of course, they individually are not responsible,—such of their small tenantry as remain are not rack-rented. They are, in fact, very leniently dealt with in this respect. But nothing can ever make the Highlander what he was, but that interest in the soil which he has lost. Every Highlander formerly was possessed of all those feelings which constitute much that is valuable in the birthright of true gentlemen,—a long-descended lineage, a sense of status, and property, and an intense attachment to home and country. We fear that we have seen nearly the last of this noble race on the battle-field of the Crimea; and that soon, unless a marvellous revolution takes place, the so-called Highland regiments may be Irish, or what they please, but not *Highlanders*. But if the mountains and moors only were let for deer-shootings, and the soil proper were restored to its children in farms capable of supporting families, this calamity might yet be averted; nor would the proprietors, in the long run, be the losers, in a pecuniary point of view. We are disposed to think the contrary would be the case.

L. M.