

the first French Revolution, the people of our country generally did not work so hard as they do now. One set of mechanics, such as our weavers, had not to contend with machinery, and earned good wages in comparatively "short hours;" another class, such as masons and carpenters, had not to work, as now, under the competition of the estimate system, but wrought easily on day's pay. The Highlander, whose labours were more prevailingly pastoral than agricultural, wrought still less than either class; but, having less to compete with, the little which he did work served his turn. And as his mode of life was favourable to the development of the military spirit,—a spirit which the traditions of the country served mightily to foster,—great numbers of the young men of the country, of a very different class from those that usually enlist in England and the Lowlands, entered the army, and our Highland regiments were composed of at once the best men and the best soldiers in the service. It was early in this period that the eloquent Chatham could boast, in his place in Parliament, that, indifferent whether a man's cradle had been rocked to the south or north of the Tweed, he had seen high military merit among the Scottish mountains; and that, calling forth from amid their recesses, to the service of the country, a "hardy and dauntless race of men, they had conquered for it in every quarter of the globe."

With the wars of the first French Revolution there was a great change introduced into the country. The wheels of its industry were quickened by the pressure of taxation, and by the introduction of a system of competition with machinery, on the one hand, that lengthened the term of labour by reducing its remuneration, and with the "estimate system" on the other. Nor was it in the nature of things that the Highlands should long remain unaffected by this change. The price of provisions rose in England and the low country; and,