with the price of provisions, the rent of land. The High-
land proprietor naturally enough bethought him how his
rental was also to be increased ; and, as a consequence of the
conclusion at which he arrived, the sheep-farm and clearing
system began.   Many thousand Highlanders, ejected from
their snug holdings, employed their little capital in emigrat-
ing to Canada or the States ; and there, in most cases, save
in very inhospitable localities, as in the Cape Breton district,
the little capital increased, and a rude plenty continues to be
enjoyed by their descendants.   Many thousands more, how-
ever, fell down upon the coasts of the country, and, on moss-
covered moors or bare exposed promontories, little suited for
the labours of the agriculturist, commenced a sort of amphi-
bious life as crofters and fishermen ; and there, located on
an ungenial soil, and prosecuting with but indifferent skill a
precarious trade, their little capital dribbled out of their hands,
and they became the poorest of men.   Meanwhile, in some
parts of the Highlands and Islands a busy commerce sprung
up, which employed, much to the profit of the landlord, seve-
ral thousands of the inhabitants.   The manufacture of kelp
rendered tracts of barren shore and inhospitable islets of more
value than the richest land in Scotland ; and, under the
impetus given by full employment, and, if not ample, at least
remunerative pay, population increased.   Suddenly, however,
free trade, in its first approaches, destroyed the trade in kelp ;
and then the reduction of the salt-duties, and the discovery
of a cheap mode of manufacturing soda out of common salt,
secured its ruin beyond the power of legislation to retrieve.
Both people and landlords experienced in these, the kelp dis-
tricts, the evils which a ruined commerce always leaves behind
it.   Old Highland families have disappeared, in consequence,
from among the aristocracy and landowners of the country ;
and the population of extensive islands and sea-boards of the
country, from being no more than adequate to the employ-