

Unless emigration be so enforced as to become a sort of indiscriminate banishment,—and in these days of poor-laws it would not be easy so to enforce it, even in the Highlands,—it will be the more vigorous and energetic portion of the community that will seek for a home in other countries, and the feeble in mind and body that will be left behind. We were much struck by the casual statement in a newspaper paragraph, that of several hundred emigrants from Lewis who arrived in Canada this season, there was scarce one who was not under thirty. It was the *elite* of the island that went, while its pauperism staid behind. The pauperism of the Highlands will not willingly cross the Atlantic: it would be going from home much more emphatically than the vigorous emigrant. There are poor-laws in Scotland, but none in the back-woods. But on a subject at once so extensive and so difficult we can do little more than touch. We regretted to find, during our late visit, that the military spirit is at present so dead in the Highlands, that the recruiting party of one of the most respectable Highland regiments under the Crown succeeded in enlisting, during a stay of several months, only some ten or twelve young men, in a county charged with an unemployed and suffering population. In Popish Ireland as many hundreds would have enrolled in the time; and this disposition on the part of the Irish has crowded the British army with a preponderating proportion of Roman Catholics, who, in the event of such a religious war as may one day break out to convulse Europe, could be but little depended upon on the side of Protestantism and the Queen. We fain wish we saw a revival of the old military spirit of the Highlands, both on their own account and on that of the country. The condition of the British army is at the present time one of comfort and plenty, compared with that of the general population of the north-western parts of Scotland; the prospect of retirement with a snug pension some