

portant questions of morals are on the eve of becoming questions of arithmetic in Scotland; and the wealth of the country, though it may find the exercise a reducing one, will be quite able to sum them up in their new character. Let us just touch on two of them, by way of specimen. We have adverted oftener than once to the evils of the bothy system. They are going to take the form of a weighty assessment; and our proprietary may be induced to inquire into them in consequence. There is another great evil to which we have not referred so directly. All our readers must have heard of vast improvements which have taken place during the present century in the northern Highlands. The old small-farm, semi-pastoral, semi-agricultural system was broken up, the large sheep-farm system introduced in its place, and the inland population of the country shaken down, not without violence, to the skirts of the land, there to commence a new mode of life as labourers and fishermen. And all this was called improvement. It was called great improvement not many years since, in most respectable English, in the pages of the "Quarterly Review." And we heard a voice raised in reply. It was the scranneled voice of meagre famine from the shores of the northern Highlands, prolonged into a yell of suffering and despair. But, write as you may, apologists of the system, you have ruined the country, and the fact is on the eve of being stated in figures. The poor-law assessment will assuredly find you out.—*February 15, 1843.*