

which no amount of even right principle among them will ever form an adequate compensation. There is, we believe, no part of her Majesty's dominions in which there is more right principle than in the Highlands of Scotland ; but, from causes which it might be a mournful, but certainly no un-instructive task to trace, their people possess the working habit and ability in a comparatively small degree ; and so they can do exceedingly little for the propagation of the principles which they hold, and, when disease touches the root of the potato, they find themselves in circumstances in which, save for the charity of their neighbours, they would perish. Principle, even when held truly and in sincerity, as among many of our poor Highlanders, is not enough of itself ; and the mere *teaching* of principle in early life, in lessons which may or may not be received efficiently and in truth, must of itself be still less sufficient. Even if the best Churches in the country had the country's vagabond and pauper children subject to their instruction,—supposing the thing possible, though, of course, if the Churches did not feed them, it is not ; and supposing, further, that they turned them out on society, the course completed, destitute of industrial habits or skill,—what would be the infallible result ? The few converted to God by a vital change of heart,—and in all ages of the Church the numbers of such have been proportionably few,—would no doubt either struggle on blamelessly through life, or, sinking in the hard contest, would resign life rather than sustain it by the fruits of a course of crime ; but the great bulk of the others would live as paupers or criminals : they would be simply better instructed vagabonds than if they had been worse taught. The welfare of a country has two foundations. Right principle is the one ; and the other, and scarce less important foundation, is industrial habit combined with useful skill. And in order to obviate the great danger of permitting juvenile paupers to grow up into