

have remarked of the wild dogs of Juan Fernandez, that they hunt in packs. It needs, it would seem, no previous training to make them hunting animals : they are such by nature ; and, placed in the proper circumstances, the nature at once develops itself. Now, it would appear as if man were also a hunting animal : the peculiar occupation which the first circumstances of society in almost every country render imperative upon the species, and for which, in an early age of the world, ere the human family was yet dispersed, Nimrod became so famous, is perhaps, of all others, the most natural to us. What the passion which leads to it is in the aristocracy, the game-laws serve of themselves sufficiently to testify ; and the humbler classes feel the impulse as strongly. It is truly wonderful how soon men brought up in a state of civilization accommodate themselves, when thrown by circumstances among a barbarous people, or into a state of seclusion from their fellows, to the life of the hunter, and learn to love it. And the inherent feeling is, of course, as little blameable in the humble as in the wealthy or titled man. We have seen it greatly indulged in by dwellers along the sea-shore, —farmers, cottars, mechanics,—and almost every more spirited young man in the locality becoming in a lesser or greater degree a marksman. For a certain period, a young fellow of fair character has been shooting east, over the beach, towards the sea, and picking down the scart and the gray goose, the coot and duck, and now and then sending a bullet through the head of an otter or seal. A tempting opportunity occurs, however ; and, instead of shooting east, he shoots west, over the beach, towards the land, and lodges his shot, not in a scart or seal, but in a woodcock or hare. Formerly he was in danger from his gun, or in scrambling among the rocks : he is now in danger of being fined, and, should he frequently repeat the offence, of being imprisoned ; but in his own estimate and that of his neighbours, the one kind