

able ground that game is property. It is, however, the tendency of the poacher, in a country where the game-laws are strictly enforced, to *become* something worse. He goes to the woods, shoots or traps game, and finds himself, in consequence, in the circumstances of the red-haired or six-foot-high men of our illustration. He is apprehended and fined; and as his wages as a labourer are small, he has just to go to the woods again, in order—we quote a remark grown into a proverb among the class—that he may seek his money in the place where he lost it. He is again apprehended, and imprisoned for some six or eight weeks, during which time he is occasionally visited by the chaplain of the prison, who tells him he has done wrong, but always, somehow, forgets to quote the text which proves it, and is, besides, not particularly clear in his argument. He receives, too, visits of a different character,—those of hardened felons; and their lessons impress him much more deeply than the teachings of the chaplain. He is again discharged; but he has now become rather an unsettled sort of person, and fails not unfrequently to procure employment. But the neighbouring preserves prove an unfailing resource: he is time after time surprised and apprehended; but he at length becomes weary of passive submission; the hour is late, the thicket dark and lonely, the gamekeeper alone; they are simply man to man; and in the scuffle which ensues the keeper is baffled and beaten off. Better a brief fray than a heavy fine or a long imprisonment. The poacher's associates, ere he has reached this stage, are chiefly desperate men. "There are notorious poachers," says Mr Bright, in his speech on the game-laws with which he prefaced his motion for a parliamentary committee on the subject, "who have by a long succession of offences and imprisonments been driven out almost from the pale of society,—a kind of savages, living in hovels, or wherever they can find shelter. One of this out-