

intertropical nut or date gathered from their several palms under the burning sun of the African or Asiatic desert, or the costly furs of the Arctic hunter, purchased by the adventurous merchant of a civilized country amid the wild wastes of Lapland, or on the icy confines of Baffin's Bay or Mackenzie River. All was property on which the eye rested,—that of individuals or the community ;—houses, churches, public halls, the paved streets, the lamps, the railings, the shrubs and flowers in the squares and gardens, the very stones on the macadamized road,—all was property.

As we cleared the suburbs, with their reticulations of cross walls, their scattered trees, and their straggling houses, there opened upon us a wide extent of country, with its woods and fields, its proprietors' seats, and its farm-steadings. And here was property of another kind,—property in land, emphatically termed by our laws,—in contradistinction to the portable valuables which we had just seen in passing outwards, in the shops, and on the persons of the passengers,—*real* property. And real property the land of the country unquestionably is,—more obscure in its lineage, mayhap, than the furs furnished in barter by the American Indian, or the flowered piece of netting elaborated to order by the incessant toil, prolonged for months, of the poor lace-maker, but obscure merely on the principle through which the early history of an ancient people or long-derived family is obscure,—obscure simply because its beginnings reach far beyond the era of the annalist and the chronicler. It has been property so long, that the metaphysician can but surmise how it became such ; nor can the historian decide which of the philosopher's many guesses on the subject is the best one. We incline to the solution of Locke, though in some respects inadequate, in preference to that of Paley, who holds, most unphilosophically we think, that the real foundation of right in the case is the law of the land. Law of the land ! We could as soon believe that a