

perty in the case. The sheep would have an owner equally on both sides the streamlet, in the tenant whose red mark they bore ; and the cattle, whether in the furze-brake or the turnip-field, would be equally the property of the tenant who farmed the brake. Certainly if the game of the country be property, it must be property of a very anomalous kind. Is it personal or real ? We find it conveyed from one nominal owner to another, without these owners knowing aught of the matter : we find that they have no marks by which to distinguish it : we find that, unlike all other live stock, it is fed on food not theirs : we find that they can give no account of its origin or lineage in relation to themselves : it was neither gifted to them nor bought by them : it runs away from them ; and beyond a certain point they dare not follow it : it is brought to them when dead, and, unable to recognise it as theirs, they purchase it on the ordinary terms. It is not personal property ; it is not real property ; it belongs to an entirely different category : it is simply *imaginary* property.

We are acquainted with an extensive district in the north of Scotland in which some thirty years ago there was not a single wild rabbit. Rabbits there had once been in the locality, though at a very early period. The labourer, in running his ditches through a sandy soil, or casting up the foundation of some farm-house or stone-fence, laid open, not unfrequently, underground excavations greatly larger than those of the mole, with here and there a blackened nest-like bunch of decayed grass and leaves, huddled up far from the light, and here and there a few minute bones strewed along the passages ; and he would point out the remains to his employer, and say that the site had been once that of a rabbit-warren. But the rabbits themselves had become as thoroughly extinct in the locality as the wolf or the bear. About a quarter of a century since, however, one of the minor proprietors of the district, a gentleman possessed of some two or three hundred acres, let loose