

himself the effulgence which renders him visible across the lapse of ages ; but that effulgence confers visibility on not only himself, but on many an attendant planet besides, that, save for the reflected light, would miss being seen altogether. We see a Cowper surrounded by the Heskeths and Austins, the Unwins and the Johnstones ; and a Henry Kirke White, by brothers Neville and James, the Maddocks, the Charlesworths, and the Swanns. The light which Burns cast revealed the Scottish peasantry to the literati of Britain as men of no inferior grade or stunted proportions ; and the revelation has told upon our literature. Had there been no Burns, it is not very probable that the philosophic hero of the "Excursion" would have been represented as a pedlar ; nay, we know not if a man so tinged with Toryism as Sir Walter Scott would have dared to give, under the previous state of things, a heroine so humble as Jeanie Deans to one of his greater productions, or a hero of such lowly extraction as Halbert Glendinning to another. The surprise elicited in the mind of every intelligent man by the introduction to the Scottish people in their true character which the life and writings of Burns secured, we find well expressed by Lord Jeffrey, in a critique on "Cromek's Reliques," written more than forty years ago. "It is impossible to read the productions of Burns," says this accomplished writer, "without forming a higher idea of the intelligence, taste, and accomplishments of the peasantry than most of those in the higher ranks are disposed to entertain. Without meaning to deny that he himself was endowed with rare and extraordinary gifts of genius and fancy, it is evident, from the whole details of his history, as well as from the letters of his brother, and the testimony of Mr Murdoch and others to the character of his father, that the whole family, and many of their associates who have never emerged from the native obscurity of their condition, possessed talents, and taste, and intelligence,