

succeed in producing. The rays reach not beyond, but are absorbed in the heath ; and there is truth in this too : one of the most striking effects of the moon when just rising, or the sun when just setting, is, that the light seems to be looking at darkness, and the darkness abiding the look. These, however, are but the minor features of the picture.

The congregation is but a small one : the fierce persecution has been long protracted, and all the chaff has blown off. The battle of Bothwell has been fought and lost : many have laid down their lives on the scaffold, and many on the hill-side. The flower of the country is wasting in dungeons, or toiling in chains in the colonies. There is no hope of deliverance from man ; and we have in the little group before us a mere remnant, tried in the very extremity of suffering, and found faithful and true. There is more than a Sabbath-day sacredness impressed upon the scene ; and the utter poverty in which the solemn feast is celebrated adds powerfully to the effect. A cottage bench, barely large enough to bear the "communion elements," serves for the long low table ; but, in the recollection of other days, they have covered it with a white linen cloth. The flagon is evidently not of silver, nor yet the plate which bears the bread ; but the cups are : they have been carefully secreted from the spoiler, and devoutly reserved in the midst of extreme want, and though the fines of Middleton and Lauderdale have fallen ruinously heavy on the recusants, for the service of the sanctuary. The communicants are ranged on the heath on both sides. Three reverend elders are standing in front of the table,—grave, strong-featured men, well stricken in years, with high thoughtful foreheads, and in both form and countenance so thoroughly Scotch, that the spectator is convinced at a glance they could belong to no other country in the world except our own. Had I met them in the north of Scotland, I would have said they were three of *the men*, and that I was