

ratively recent period, abounded in the ruder districts of Scotland. It would have been scarce possible to elevate such a man, even had a very generous patronage been the order of the age ; but Taylor had all his days enough to eat and drink, and died the keeper of a thriving public-house, much frequented, during the times of the Commonwealth, by the cavaliers. And no sooner did men of his class arise, to whom a judicious patronage could be extended, than they were admitted to its benefits. Stephen Dick, the "Thresher," was rather a small poet, but he was an amiable and conscientious man ; and, mainly through the exertions of the Rev. Mr Spence, Professor of Poetry in the University of Oxford, he obtained orders in the English Church, and was preferred to a not uncomfortable living. Dodsley, still known by his "King and Miller of Mansfield," was elevated, through the exercise of a genial patronage, from his original place as a table-boy, to be one of the most respectable London booksellers of his day,—a man whose name still imparts a recognisable bibliographical value to the works to which it is attached. The shoemaker Woodhouse, and the tobacco-pipemaker Bryant, were also fortunate in their patrons : Gifford was eminently so : all seems to have been done for Ann Yearsley, the poetical milkwoman, that her own unhappy temper allowed : and in our own times, John Clare was kindly and liberally dealt with ; though not more in his case than in that of his predecessor Duck could the degree of favour with which he was treated ward off the cruel mental malady that darkened his latter years. With, in short, the exception of one of the best, and in every respect most meritorious and deserving of the class,—poor Robert Bloomfield, who was suffered to die in great poverty,—we know not a single untaught English poet who gave evidence of the possession of the true faculty, however narrow its scope, and had at the same time character enough to be capable of being benefited