

national temperament, though less obvious, is probably not less real than some of the more conspicuous relations to which I have referred. Some years ago I pointed out what seems to me to be an instance of this influence, in the contrast between the Irishman and the Scottish Highlander. So far as they have retained any purity of stock they are both Gaels, originally possessing, doubtless, the same share of the characteristics of their race. But they have been planted amid strikingly different surroundings. The Irishman with the advantages of a mild climate, a good soil, and a tolerably level country, has been able to live with comparatively little labour. He remains in the holdings where his fathers have dwelt; and so long as he is allowed to stay there, he has no great ambition to push his fortune elsewhere. He has thus retained the natural buoyancy, good humour, and wit of the Celtic nature, with its impulsiveness and excitability, and its want of a keen perception of the claims of duty. In the Highlander, on the other hand, these characteristics have been replaced by a reserved, self-restrained, even somewhat sullen and morose disposition. He is neither merry nor witty, like his cousin across the Irish Channel. Yet is he courteous, dutiful, persevering; a courageous foe, an unwavering ally, whether serving in the ranks or leading his comrades where dangers are thickest. I am disposed to regard this difference in temperament as traceable in great measure to the peculiar condition of the Highlander's environment. Placed in a glen, often narrow and rocky, and separated from his neighbours in the next glens by high ranges of rugged hills, he has had to contend with a scant and stony soil, and a wet, cold, and uncertain climate. He has to wage with the elements a never-ending battle, wherein he is often the loser. The dark mountains, that frown above him, gather around their summits the