

given by this dearness to abridge the consumption upon farms, and by certain shifts in their management to make out the greatest possible surplus, for the object of sale and supply to the population at large. With a high price, the farmer feels it a more urgent interest, to carry as much of his produce to market as he can; and for this purpose, he will retrench to the uttermost at home. And he has much in his power. More particularly, he can and does retrench considerably upon the feed of his cattle; and in as far as this wont to consist of potatoes or grain, there must an important addition be gained in this way to the supplies of the market. One must often have been struck with the comparative cheapness of animal food in a year of scarcity. This is because of the greater slaughter of cattle which takes place in such a year, to save the heavy expense of maintaining them; and which, besides affording a direct accession to the sustenance of man, lightens still more the farm consumption, and disengages for sale a still greater amount of the necessaries of life. We do not say but that the farm suffers a derangement by this change of regimen, from which it might take years to recover fully. But the evil becomes more tolerable by being spread. The horrors of extreme scarcity are prevented. The extremity is weathered at its farthest point. The country emerges from the visitation, and without, in all probability, the starvation of one