

the mischief; for such is the connection which the Creator has in his wisdom established between man and man, that physically, as well as spiritually, "whether one member suffers all the members suffer with it." But enough to show the importance of the subject. Let us proceed at once to enquire into the specific evils which affect agricultural servants—their nature, origin, and cure; and in doing so, we shall divide our subject into four parts, and consider,

- I. Their ignorance.
- II. Their carelessness of their masters' interests.
- III. Their inattention to their own temporal interests; and
- IV. Their heedlessness as to their spiritual and eternal interests.

It may be possible, it is conceived, under these separate heads, to embrace all that was intended by the originators of this Essay.

Let us consider, then,

I. Their ignorance. This assumes the very first importance in the scale of social evils which affect the agricultural population, being not only in itself a crying evil, but a fruitful source of other evils. This ignorance may be defined to consist in ignorance of all useful knowledge, except what is necessarily implied in the mere manual operations of husbandry, which servants are daily required to perform. As a class they are proverbially void of thought and of reflection—mere living agricultural machines; and, but for the immortal part within them, apparently little removed above the level of the brute animals around them. Such language may be considered too strong by those who know little about them; but in our opinion, and speaking generally, it is not beyond the truth; and in proof that this is the case, let us consider for a moment what it is that most engages their leisure hours. If reading is at all practised (and of that there is precious little of any kind), is it not reading such books as "Jack the Giant Killer," or, at best, "Robinson Crusoe"? Or, if storing the memory is attempted, does it not consist in learning some love or comic song?—principally, it