

introduction of Forbes M'Kenzie's Act (which, by-the-by, we believe to have been otherwise of important service to this class), for servants to have bottles of whisky in their chests, with which, in imitation of their masters, to regale their acquaintances on suitable occasions; and some may consider this a great improvement upon the former practice of large numbers of farm-servants congregating every now and then in rural villages, and pledging each other's healths over the shop-counter,—and perhaps so it is. But we think we can point out a more excellent way than this to farm-servants, viz., total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks whatever. And to masters we would say, if you are not prepared to take the initiative here, by showing the example of total abstinence yourselves, you can at least use your influence to get these whisky shops reduced in number to a level with the ascertained necessities of your respective districts; and, farther, to have all low tipping public-houses, which might still prove a snare and a stumbling-block to your servants, utterly abolished. 3d. At feecing markets (for which, however, no good substitute has yet been devised), a good deal of money is half-yearly wasted upon drams, sweetmeats, petty shows, &c.; and we have only to take a look at the provision there made for the physical and intellectual gratification of this class, to understand their real tastes, their true moral and social position. The entertainment furnished for servants at these markets is of so gross and primitive a kind, that the better-informed are themselves ashamed of it. Tobacco and snuff may be included in the same category as these other luxuries. Upon these alone 6d. per week, or 26s. per annum, is often expended. There are other more secret ways which servants have of spending their spare money—not a few of them have illegitimate children to maintain. Suffice it to say that, even with their present high wages, between one thing and another, it is not believed that a greater proportion of farm-servants, but a less, are at the present day laying past *anything* either for sickness or old age, or that these are laying past a greater, but a less proportional amount of their wages, now, than formerly.

Whence, then, the cause of this improvidence, and what its cure? We have already indicated the proximate cause of