

large farms, removing their occupants to some fresh field of barren moor whereon to commence operations anew; or, oftener still, driving them to seek subsistence into towns and villages, many of them by this time much overcrowded. These latter have been lost entirely, or in a great measure, for the cultivation of the soil; and if their former houses have been allowed to remain, they have come to be occupied by an inferior class of married farm-servants. Now, in passing, we may be allowed to remark, what we have invariably found to be the case, that the thriftiest, the most respectable, the most intelligent, and the *best* of our farm-servants, have always been such as have been brought up on these small holdings. The parents had trained them up from their earliest years to habits of economy and industry, which at a somewhat later period of life will never be acquired, at least not so readily, upon large farms. Is it not manifest that it must have been so? Their training had not only been earlier begun, but longer continued, and more carefully attended to by such crofters, than it otherwise could have been; the parent's own pecuniary interest, and his interest in his child were both guarantees for its right accomplishment. For the sake, then, of the elevation of the class whose condition we have been considering—for the sake of large farmers themselves, and ultimately for their own sakes—we would entreat proprietors to reverse their policy in regard to crofts ere it be too late, and see to it that a sufficient number of these be restored, to prove objects of ambition to the labourer, nurseries of skilled servants to the farmer, and thereby repositories of wealth to the landlord. If this be not speedily done, we be to those who have to do with farm-servants. Under present circumstances, the best of the class (those who have saved enough) are leaving the country in quest of what they cannot procure at home—a piece of land. Only the most *improvident*, and on that account the most *unprofitable*, to their masters, are *obliged* to remain; and if this be allowed to go on unchecked, with increased facilities for emigration, and friends on the other side of the Atlantic aiding and becking those at home to follow them, we shall by-and-by have only the very *dregs* of our labouring population left us. The remedy for such a state of matters, we repeat, is to have a