

suitable proportion of holdings of small size, for the training of agricultural servants for the large farms, and augmenting their felt deficiency; for encouraging these to rise in the social scale; and for connecting them by closer ties with the land of their nativity. Some will argue thus:—Why pare down large symmetrical farms for the sake of a few *puny* crofts? Would not a sufficient number of good plain houses with yards, erected at the joint expense of landlord and tenant, answer all the purposes of the croft system, and even more? Would it not keep agricultural servants more dependent on their employers? And they have even already turned too independent of them. We answer, this is not the way to keep them dependent, by putting it out of their power to rise in the social scale. All the evils already enumerated will attach to servants so long as this plan is pursued. We have already had *experience* of it in part. In regard to the other objection, we would say—many farmers have more land than they make a good use of. Let such be marked, and let the pruning knife be first applied in their cases. This will prove both a benefit to themselves and a stimulus to others. Let not land for crofts be taken from off farms, simply because they are large. There ought, undoubtedly, to be farms as well as crofts of all sizes, to suit different capitalists; and the largest farmers are generally men of the most skill and enterprise, the pioneers of agriculture. But few even of these would grudge having their possessions partly curtailed for so worthy an object. Far be it from us to insinuate that a country should be wholly occupied by such small holdings as we have been contending for: the cure in this case would prove infinitely worse than the disease. All we argue for, is having a *suitable proportion* of these for purposes mainly subordinate to large farms themselves; and in order that they might not prove nuisances to the occupiers of large farms, we would suggest that proprietors should be extremely careful in their selection of tenants for them.

We have dwelt thus long on this part of our subject because of its seemingly surpassing importance, convinced, as we are, that this is one of the very best ways of supplying, for the large farms, an efficient succession of agricultural labourers—that it is best for these—best for their employers—best for the landlords