

—and, we might add, will be best in the end for the community at large. 4th. As an antidote against one of the evil consequences of poor rates, and as a farther encouragement to thrifty habits—along with greatly increased number of crofts—there ought to be a number of simple houses erected on convenient spots by proprietors (for we hold this to be their sole business) for deserving, aged, or infirm agricultural labourers, who have been less fortunate. These are often felt to be a burden on the tenant farmer. He knows not how to get rid of them creditably; and if a benevolent person, he will retain them in his service long after their usefulness is almost gone—even up to the time of their decease—whilst all the time he would fain have their houses occupied by more efficient workmen. He cannot think of sending a man adrift to shift for himself who may, for a long series of years, have faithfully served both himself and even his father before him. Under favourable circumstances few of these simple houses would come to be needed; still we think there should be one or two of them in connexion with every large farm. They should bear a certain proportion to the number of houses on a farm for efficient workmen. We shall suppose that a youth, after being properly trained by his father on a croft, enters farm service—continues unmarried for several years—at length gets the promise of a house from his master, and gets himself married. As his family increases, he gets a cow kept to him—not only for the sake of his own and his family's physical support, but also for the sake of the education of his daughters in common things (a most important point). With economy and industry, he is at length able to enter a croft, where he at once becomes his own master; and now completes the education both of his sons and daughters under his own special superintendence. Some, however, from various causes, with the most unwearied exertion, will never rise above the rank of married farm-servants; and it is on behalf of these that we now plead. Let spare houses then be erected for these *unfortunates*, if we may so call them, where they may eke out a slender livelihood with the assistance of their families, and where they may be ever at hand to give in return to these very families the benefit of their counsel and experience; and let them not be huddled together in poor houses as despised pieces of old lum-