

the ancient Scotch literature — the language of Barbour* and Dunbar got a firm lodgment among the educated classes, which, from the remoteness of the place, the after influence of the English court served but tardily to affect. Obviously, in some other cases, the local peculiarity, when it involves a marked departure from the existing standard, has to be traced, not to literature, but to the want of it. But at least the great secondary cause of all such peculiarities — the invariable, ever-operative cause in its own subordinate place — seems to be that faculty of unconscious imitation universally developed in the species, which the philosophic Hume deemed so actively operative in the formation of national character, and one of whose special vocations it is to transfer personal traits and characteristics from leading, influential individuals, to septs and communities. Next to the degree of surprise that a stranger feels in England that the language should be spoken so variously by the people, is that of wonder that it should in most cases be spoken so ill. Lord Nugent, in remarking, in his "Lands Classical and Sacred," that "the English language is the one which in the present state of the habitable globe — what with America, India, and Australia — is spoken by the greatest number of people," guards his statement by a sly proviso; that is, he adds, if we recognize as English "what usually passes for such in most parts of Scotland and the United States." Really, his lordship might not have been so particular. If the rude dialects of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Northumberland, stand muster as part and parcel of the language written by Swift and Addison, and spoken by Burke and Bolingbroke, that of Old Machar and Kentucky may be well suffered to pass.

I had entered a considerable way into England ere I was

* Barbour was Archdeacon of Aberdeen.