

a less marked degree, we find the same characteristic caution and curiosity. In the sort of commerce of mutual information carried on, the stranger, unless he exercise very great caution

her ; do you want to buy her ? ” — “ Na ! I was nae thinking o’ that : has she had na a foal ? ” — “ Not that I know of. ” — “ I had a gude colt out of ours when I selled her. Ye ’re na ganging to Doune the year ? ” — “ No, I am going to Killin, and want to know how far it is. ” — “ Ay, ye ’ll be gaing to the sacraments there the morn ? ” — “ No, I don’t belong to your kirk. ” — “ Ye ’ll be an Episcopalian, then ? ” — “ Or a Roman Catholic. ” — “ Na, na ; ye ’re nae Roman. ” — “ And so it is twelve miles to Killin ? ” (putting a leading question.) — “ Na ; it ’s nae just that. ” — “ It ’s ten, then, I suppose ? ” — “ Ye ’ll be for cattle, then, for the Falkirk tryst ? ” — “ No ; I know nothing about cattle. ” — “ I thocht ye ’d ha’e been just ane o’ thae English drovers. Ye have nae siccan hills as this in your country ? ” — “ No, not so high. ” — “ But ye ’ll ha’e bonny farms ? ” — “ Yes, yes ; very good lands. ” — “ Ye ’ll nae ha’e better farms than my Lord’s at Dunira ? ” — “ No, no ; Lord Melville has very fine farms. ” — “ Now, there ’s a bonny bit land ; there ’s nae thre days in the year there ’s nae meat for beasts on it ; and it ’s to let. Ye ’ll be for a farm hereawa ? ” — “ No ; I am just looking at the country. ” — “ And ye have nae business ? ” — “ No. ” — “ Weel, that ’s the easiest way. ” — “ And this is the road to Killin ? ” — “ Will ye tak’ some nuts ? ” (producing a handful he had just gathered.) — “ No ; I cannot crack them. ” — “ I suppose your teeth failing. Ha’e ye ony snuff ? ” — “ Yes, yes ; here is a pinch for you. ” — “ Na, na ; I ’m unco heavy on the pipe, ye see ; but I like a hair o’ snuff ; just a hair, ” (touching the snuff with the end of his little finger, apparently to prolong time, and save the answer about the road a little longer, as he seemed to fear there were no more questions to ask. The snuff, however, came just in time to allow him to recall his ideas, which the nuts were near dispersing.) — “ And ye ’ll be from the low country ? ” — “ Yes ; you may know I am an Englishman by my tongue. ” — “ Na ; our ain gentry speaks high English the now. ” — “ Well, well, I am an Englishman, at any rate. ” — “ And ye ’ll be staying in London ? ” — “ Yes, yes. ” — “ I was ance at Smithfield mysel’ wi’ some beasts : it ’s an unco place, London. And what ’s your name ? asking your pardon. ” The name was given. “ There ’s a hantel o’ that name i’ the north. Yere father ’ll maybe be a Highlander ? ” — “ Yes ; that is the reason why I like the Highlanders. ” — “ Well (nearly thrown out), it ’s a bonny country now,