

children,—a gray-haired generation, drooping earthwards, who have already spent in their sojourn the term so long since fixed by the Psalmist. And thus—as wave succeeds wave, storm-impelled from the ocean, to break upon the shore—pass away and disappear the generations of man. It were well, since our turn must come next, to be distinguishing in time between the solid and the evanescent,—the things which wear out like the old Jacobitism of the past, and become sorry shows and idle mockeries, and the things immortal in their natures, which contumely cannot degrade nor persecution put down.—*September 27, 1845.*

THE HALF-CENTURY.

THE first fifty years of the nineteenth century terminated a few hours ago, and we have now entered upon the second fifty. As last night's clock struck twelve, the most important half-century of modern history came to its close, and a half-century which threatens to be scarce less eventful began its course. The general progress made by Great Britain during the lapsed period has been great beyond all former precedent; but there is one special department in which it is ominously, fearfully great; and should the same ratio of increase continue throughout the succeeding fifty years, there will be problems for our country to solve, compared with which those of the present day, difficult as they may seem, may be regarded as the tasks of children. At the commencement of the half-century just closed, the population of England and Scotland united did not much exceed eight millions of souls; in 1841 it considerably exceeded eighteen millions; and, as the census of the present year