

some new system by which the lands should be brought into cultivation. Still, even supposing that the produce after the inclosure was five or ten times greater than before, it was more advantageous to the peasantry, that is, to the great body of the rural population, to have only the fifth or the tenth as their own, than to be deprived of it altogether, and to see ten times the produce passing into the hands of the great landlords and great agriculturists. The lands, however, *were* cultivated, and the produce was obtained ; so that although the English peasant was ousted from his common rights, the land was turned to its proper agricultural use, and grew corn for the service of the nation. The landlords and farmers acquired wealth, the peasants went on the parish, and were supported by the parish rates. In Scotland the effect has been entirely of an opposite character. The lands, instead of being brought *into* cultivation, have been thrown *out* of cultivation. The cottage and the croft have been *herried* to make way for grouse and deer ; and, so far as the production of food is concerned, —food available for the ordinary purposes of life,—hundreds of thousands of acres that once grew and supported soldiers second to none who ever stepped, might as well be sunk in the bottom of the sea. Not only are they not cultivated, but in some cases they are not even to be *seen*.

What, then, is to be the termination of this course, that has been gradually but surely working an entire change in the relations of the British population to the British soil ? The number of proprietors has been constantly diminishing, and the land is passing into fewer and fewer hands. If the process were to continue, a time might come when the very stability of the State itself might be endangered, and a change of system would be imperatively required for the safety of the nation. Already many parts of the country are both materially and martially much weaker than at any former period. They can neither turn out the same amount of food for the support