sheep more than served to clear scores with the landlord, and enabled him to purchase his winter and spring supply of meal in the Lowlands. He was thus a capitalist, and possessed the capitalist's peculiar advantage of not living " from hand to mouth," but on an accumulated fund, which always stood between him and absolute want, though not between him and positive hardship, and enabled him to rest during a year of scarcity on his own resources, instead of throwing himself on the charity of his Lowland neighbours. And in these times he never *did* throw himself on the charity of his Lowland neighbours. Nay, in what were emphatically termed the " dear years" of the beginning of the present and the latter half of the past century, the humbler people of the Lowlands, especially our Lowland mechanics and labourers, suffered more than the crofters of the Highlands, and this mainly from the circumstance that, as the failure of the crops which induced the scarcity was a corn failure, not a failure of grass and pasture, the humbler Highlanders had what the humbler Lowlanders wanted,—sheep and cattle,—which continued to supply them with food and raiment ; while the others, depending on corn almost exclusively, and accustomed to deal with the draper for their articles of clothing, were reduced by the high price of provisions to great straits. In truth, the golden age of the Highlands was comprised in that period which extended from shortly after the suppression of the rebellion of 1745, and the abolition of the hereditary jurisdictions, down till the commencement of the clearance system. It is to this period that Mrs Grant's description of Celtic habits and of Celtic character belong, and which give one the idea of so contented, and, in the main, so comfortable a people, that, save for our own early recollections when we lived among the Highlanders, we would be disposed to suspect that the good lady had drawn on her imagination for the colouring of her pictures. Previous to the long wars of