

### III.

## THE SALMON-FISHER OF UDOLL.

### CHAPTER I.

And the fishers shall mourn and lament;  
All those that cast the hook on the river,  
And those that spread nets on the face of the waters,  
Shall languish.

LOWTH'S TRANSLATION OF ISA. XIX. 8.

IN the autumn of 1759, the Bay of Udoll, an arm of the sea which intersects the southern shore of the Frith of Cromarty, was occupied by two large salmon-wears, the property of one Allan Thomson, a native of the province of Moray, who had settled in this part of the country a few months before. He was a thin, athletic, raw-boned man, of about five feet ten, well-nigh in his thirtieth year, but apparently younger; erect and clean-limbed, with a set of handsome features, bright, intelligent eyes, and a profusion of light brown hair curling around an ample expanse of forehead. For the first twenty years of his life he had lived about a farm-house, tending cattle when a boy, and guiding the plough when he had grown up. He then travelled into England, where he wrought about seven years as a common laborer. A novelist would scarcely make choice of such a person for the hero of a tale; but men are to be estimated rather by the size and color of