

often wasteful prodigality, large revenues extorted from the pockets of grumbling owners of the soil, and bestowed on idle stout-bodied paupers. A system that has inscribed on its front in clear legible characters:—

To stifle the generous sympathies and benevolent feelings of the rich :

To extinguish the grateful sentiments of the poor ;

To discourage industry and enterprise ;

To cherish insolence and vice ;

This receptacle for idleness was erected.

When from such spectacles we turn our eyes to the gratuitous labour of the Ministers and Elders of the parishes of Scotland, backed by the generous exertions of the landowners, and consider the minute inquiries into the real wants and condition of the poor, and the judicious application of relief, according to the necessities of each individual's case, we see in operation a scheme at once Scriptural, economical and efficient. We see a moral power at work, sanctioned by Divine authority, and animated by the warm charities of the Gospel, cherishing the best feelings of the heart, both among the rich and the poor, making the one compassionate, generous and kind, the other nobly independent, respectful and thankful. When we think on these things and contrast the condition and independent spirit of the poor of our own country with the saucy insolence, or crying importunity of the beggars of other lands, we may well be proud of our Church economies, and fervently pray that it may please the Great Disposer of events to avert from our native land, the blighting influences of a secular poor law.

Unhappily we must look back to the days that are gone for the true type of Parochial economies, for from the rapid increase and fluctuating nature of the population, and frequent stagnation of trade, the poor law of necessity has of late been modified, and it is to be feared not without the usual deteriorating effects on the dispositions of the poor, and the social relations of the community. It is long, however, before a national characteristic can be changed, and it is gratifying to the office bearers of your Society to find that, while a few would sorn on their bounty, there are many who with difficulty can be prevailed upon to receive their kindly aid.