

[S.], page 138.

See First Report to the Highland Society, on Emigration, p. 5. (N.B. The entire MS. contains 16.)

‘ It may easily be supposed, that of those who make
 ‘ the fatal experiment, the few among the survivors who
 ‘ are capable of relating the fatal tale, find it impossible
 ‘ to warn their friends at home of the discovery they
 ‘ make, while surrounded by none but those whose in-
 ‘ terest it is to keep up the delusion. There is an anecdote
 ‘ for the truth of which the committee cannot
 ‘ pledge themselves, but which is generally believed in
 ‘ that part of the country where it is said to have hap-
 ‘ pened, which is very applicable to this point. It is
 ‘ related of a sagacious Highlander who had emigrated,
 ‘ that being desirous to warn his friends of their danger,
 ‘ and yet aware of the impossibility of doing it in plain
 ‘ language, the consequence of which would only have
 ‘ been the detraction of his letter, he wrote a letter
 ‘ glossing over the hardships of his voyage, and advising
 ‘ his friends to follow him, but with one caution, that
 ‘ they should persuade his *uncle James* to accompany
 ‘ them, without which he would not recommend the
 ‘ measure. His friends who received this letter knew
 ‘ that his uncle James had been dead before he left
 ‘ home, and understood perfectly his hint against un-
 ‘ dertaking such a voyage.’

It may not be amiss to compare this passage with the opinion of a clergyman resident in the centre of the Highlands. “ I am persuaded there is not a family, “ hardly an individual, who has not a father, brother, “ sister, cousin, or kinsman, in America, with whom