

and the linen I have used since I came from Keswick. I sent up my portmantau from Brownswick. If you will allow me, I will stay half an hour longer here, till I am sure they have gone to dinner, and then ask your boy to show me the way."

"I will go myself, sir," answered Ben Halliday; and while his wife went up to console Jacob's helpmate under the misfortune which had happened to her son, the good man remained to entertain his guest.

The sons and the daughters amused themselves quietly apart, and the conversation between the cottager and the gentleman took a more serious turn than it had previously assumed, running upon the state of the peasantry in that part of the country, their wants and wishes, their notions and their feelings. The stranger questioned with apparent interest, and Ben Halliday answered with frank straightforwardness. His replies were not brilliant enough to admit of transcription, though there was a good deal of plain sense in them; but the stranger found, not a little to his surprise, that without any vehement discontent or political fanaticism, even Ben Halliday himself was a good deal prepossessed in favour of "The