

It is in fact far too unwieldy a subject for a literary correspondence ; and besides, I am impressed with the feeling of a great elementary difference betwixt us in our views of population, pauperism, the rights of the labouring classes, &c., and I am pretty sure that the result of our launching together on the sea of so wide a speculation, would just be a controversy that we should find to be interminable.

Will you forgive my haste, as at present I am very much occupied, and believe me, my dear sir, yours very truly,

THOMAS CHALMERS.

Robert Gourlay, Esq.

GLASGOW WEAVERS.

No. 1.

2, Bridge Street, Leith, 30th April 1829.

SIR—I have this day read your affecting letter to Sir John Maxwell, dated 24th instant, and printed in the Glasgow Chronicle, wherein you say, “We want no public pity—no pecuniary relief—we are willing and able to labour.”

May I beg the favour of a few lines, saying if you think the weavers would listen to advice from me. Write after inquiry and reflection ; but say nothing of this letter, which keep private.—Yours, &c.

ROBT. GOURLAY.

Mr. Charles M'Kay, Secretary to the
Operative Weavers, Glasgow.

No. 2.

Glasgow, May 6, 1829.

SIR—I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of date 30th April, in which you signify a wish that it should be kept private. In answer to this suggestion I have to say, that every letter addressed to me as an official person is laid before a general body of delegates, chosen from the operatives connected with the union, amounting to a population of about 15,000 ; these delegates are again bound to lay the substance of the contents of said letters before their respective constituents ; consequently your letter has not been kept in a corner. You ask me if you think the operatives of this quarter would listen to your advice. They will listen to every reasonable opinion ; however, I would beg you never to mention the possibility of paying the national debt in fifty years by the sale of colonial lands, for I am confident it would only excite their risible faculties ; for we are convinced that although the lands of Britain, which are much more valuable, were sold, with houses, mines, and canals, the proceeds arising therefrom would fall far short of paying off the *national debt*. I, however, return you my sincere thanks in name of my constituents for the interest you have taken in their condition.—Yours respectfully,

CHARLES M'KAY.

Robt. Gourlay, Esq.