

so productive as it ought to be. In the island of South Uist, the extent of good land, though not accurately surveyed, seems to be at least thirty square miles, besides ten or twelve times as much of moorish pasture, partly improvable. Were this land well managed, and let at its fair value, it cannot appear improbable that the rent would exceed considerably the whole price of the eleven hundred tons of kelp which the shores are reckoned to produce: but when the use of all this land is given away for the mere expense of manufacture, at what rate is an acre to be valued, if this be an economical mode of management: or where is the profit the landlord derives from his kelp?

The expenses of making kelp in the western Highlands and isles are in various situations from thirty-five to fifty shillings per ton: in some few instances as high as three pounds. Where local circumstances are similar, I do not apprehend the expenses in the low country of Scotland are much, if at all, higher.—On inquiring of the same man I have mentioned above, at what rate he could undertake to make kelp in those parts of the Hebrides he was acquainted with, on the supposition that he could have no assistance from the inhabitants, and that all his workmen must be hired in other parts of the country, and conveyed there for the season, he formed an estimate of prices not very widely different from those that are at present paid.

Though I am far from supposing that the natural progress of things in the Highlands will ever render such expedients necessary, yet this may be sufficient to show how little foundation there is for the idea, that the manufacture of kelp may be totally annihilated by emigration.