

reality to us ; and it connects a resistless attraction, as well as an exquisite delight, with our recollections of "lang syne." A classmate of my own has expressed the same sentiment in the following immortal lines. Speaking of Albion, this celestial bard says :—

"Nor do I of that isle remember aught
Of prospect more sublime and beautiful,
Than Scotia's northern battlement of hills,
Which first I from my father's house beheld,
At dawn of life ; beloved in memory still,
And standard still of rural imagery.
What most resembles them, the fairest seems,
And stirs the eldest sentiments of bliss ;
And pictured on the tablet of my heart
Their distant shapes eternally remain,
And in my dreams their cloudy tops arise."—POLLOCK.

But from the country let us pass to its *inhabitants*, the *people*, in whom of course the chief interest centers. Looking back on the domestic scenes which we once witnessed, the happy meetings, and the fond companionships of former days ; we are sometimes tempted to suppose that the common people of Scotland were kinder, and more hospitable in their disposition ; more ardent in their attachments ; and more simple and unsophisticated in their manners, than those of most other countries. Though the influence of fashionable life has been long felt in the higher classes, the tendency of which seems to be, to destroy all distinctive national character, and produce an artificial, heartless uniformity ; yet that influence has never extended to the people at large. Or, if it has been more felt in the cities, it has not corrupted the simplicity of the rural parishes and villages ; and it is there, more especially, that what is characteristically Scottish is to be sought for. There, there was no class-exclusiveness ; no haughty, ceremonious reserve ; but neighbor lived with neighbor in the interchange of good offices, and the cultivation of mutual confidence and esteem. There—

"Maidens and men, in strath and in glen,
Aye welcomed us in as their ain folk."