

san or shopkeeper of a town, but, at the same time, their notions are sounder, firmer, more precise, as their bodies are more vigorous, healthy, and enduring; and no class of men have I ever met with more capable of arriving at a just opinion upon a plain proposition than those classes which have been called stupid, ignorant, and prejudiced. Learning, perhaps, they do not possess. Scattered thinly over a wide tract of country, instead of gathered into the close communion as towns, they have few opportunities of expressing their sentiments as a body, or of uniting for one common object; but in those cottages—and there are many of them—where such excellent cheap publications as those of Chambers and Knight have penetrated, I have heard reasonings on the subjects submitted, which, though the language might be rude, would not have disgraced, in point of intellect, any society in the world. I am convinced that if plain common sense be, as I believe it, the most excellent quality of the mind, that quality is to be found more frequently than any where else in the yeoman and peasant class of England.

As the two yeomen plodded on toward the home of rest, they were evidently busy