

ted; mines unexplored, and all branches of industry languishing, in the midst of an idle, miserable and haggard population. Fifty years passed and the state of the Lowlands had become completely changed. Roads had been made, canals dug, coal mines opened up, iron-works established; manufactures were extending in all directions; and Scotch agriculture, instead of being the *worst*, was admitted to be the *best* in the island." Smiles again tells us a little further on that between the years 1715 and 1745 the state of agriculture may be inferred from the fact that an instrument called the *cas-chrom*—literally the "crooked feet"—the use of which had been forgotten in every other country in Europe, was almost the only tool employed in tillage in those parts of the Highlands, which were separated by impassable roads from the rest of the United Kingdom. The *cas-chrom* was a rude combination of a lever for the removal rocks, a spade to cut the earth, and a foot-plough to turn it. Further we are told by Mr. Smiles, that after roads had been to a certain extent constructed, the Highlanders, in passing from one place to another, instead of following these roads, continued to travel by the old cattle tracks along the mountain sides.

The so-called roads in the lowlands were rutty, muddy quagmires at many parts, while the wretched bridle or foot-paths that led through the Highland glens, were on many occasions impassable altogether; and woe to the unfortunate traveller who might happen to be caught in a snow storm! In those days the weary traveller was fain to take rest in the first highland sheiling he might happen to meet, to be regaled peradventure (very hospitably but very frugally) with braxy mutton and oatcake, washed down by an ever welcome draft of the real *mountain dew* from a "*sma' still, no unco far awa'.*" Upon all this state of things Macadam made great inroads; the bridle paths became by degrees good substantial roads; the streams and torrents were bridged over; and where the solitary sheiling once stood, a sprinkling of neat cottages stand instead. Such, we may say, was the first great stage in progress, by which, within my own time, the Highlands of Perthshire was brought directly into communication with the high civilization of the south. But what were these changes in comparison with the strides made in the same direction which have been accomplished since? The Stephenson and the steam locomotive have effected another and more perfect revolution over things as established by Macadam, than the latter did over the earlier state of affairs, when the dashing turn-out of coach and four superseded the services of the shaggy shetlander. Where the turf-roofed sheiling and cottages stood, may now be seen a handsomely built shooting lodge or mansion, and the well-cared-for traveller will find all the comforts and conveniences of modern appliances in the gorgeous hotels which can be reached by easy stages. These changes shew the invincible march of progress in all material matters, and fully accord with the general natural law I have attempted to shew, must, by one means or by another, ultimately prevail. If a people is void of the necessary enterprise and energy to accomplish these changes within themselves, others will not be wanting who will readily take advantage of their effete-ness, and who