

have nothing that you have not, but a greater proportion of money; and you are so truly happy as you are, that any addition would perhaps disconcert the economy of your plan. You are a happy farmer and a natural philosopher, without the use either of large systematic folios, or the toil of a sedentary life. Give me, however, the lease, that I may put it in my pocket; I will tear the lease, and——' 'How, your honour! (said the poor alarmed farmer) Tear my lease instead of *renewing* it! Has then my freedom or my happiness offended you?' 'Yes, Mr. Mendland, (replied Adrastus) I will tear the lease, because you have no farther use for it.—The little spot of ground you have so long enriched by your care, shall henceforth be a patrimony to your inheritance; you are the proprietor of it from this day: call on me to-morrow morning, and the writings

of surrender shall be made out for you: for the time to come, I must be considered not as your landlord but as your friend. Let me often see you at my table, and in my garden; in short, as frequently as the business of your family will permit. Let me get that wisdom and understanding, which surpasseth mere mechanical science, in the society of the Contented Cottager.

The farmer would have dropt upon his knees, but Adrastus prevented him, saying, 'Rise, Mr. Mendland; the obligation is on my side: I have been obliged, in exchange for a few acres for which I have no occasion: you have given me a set of maxims and sentiments that are the purified thrice-refined gold of Ophir, and shall never depart from me.' From this moment Adrastus and the farmer were intimate companions.—Ye landlords and tenants! 'go ye, and do so likewise!'

THE CONTOUR OF PERU.

THE goodness of the Creator is evidently discerned in that plentiful provision which he hath made of creatures beneficial to mankind; nor are the footsteps of his gracious wisdom less manifest in the care which he hath taken, to prevent the overspreading increase of such as are pernicious and destructive.

A more remarkable proof of this we cannot have, than in the wonderful bird before us; which, happily for mankind, is rare, and seldom found; for was the increase of the species large, it would spread universal havoc and devastation.

The contour, or condour, is of the eagle kind, and a native of South America. Capt. Strong shot one of them sitting on a cliff by the sea side, on the coast of Chili, not far from Mocha, an island in the South sea, which measured, from tip to tip of its wings extended, sixteen feet, (See Phil. Tr. No. 208.)—The largest feather of the wing measured two feet four inches—the quill part five and three quarters inches—and the circumference an inch and half—and weighed three drams seventeen grains—of a dark brown colour.

Garcilasso de la Vega thus says:—'Several of these fowls have been killed by the Spaniards, and measured, from end to end of their extended wings, fifteen or sixteen feet. Nature, to temper and allay their fierceness, hath denied them the talons which are given to the eagle; their feet being tipped with claws like a dunghill fowl—however, their beak is strong e-

nough to tear off the hide, and rip up the bowels of an ox! Two of them will attack a cow or a bull, and devour the animal, quickly—and it hath often happened, that a condour hath assaulted and devoured boys of ten or twelve years of age.'

It is said, that the South Americans hold out to it, as a lure, the figure of a child made of very glutinous clay—upon which it descends with amazing rapidity, striking its pounces into it so deep, that it cannot extricate itself; and then they easily destroy it.

In Quito and Peru, they are sometimes seen hovering over a flock of sheep—but are easily frightened away by the whoopings of the shepherds.

Garcilasso further adds, that their colour is greyish or brownish, a mixture of black and white—that they have, in the fore part of their heads, a comb, not pointed or serrated like that of a cock—but exactly in the form of a razor; and that when they come to light from the air, they make such prodigious noise with their wings, as is enough to stun one's ears.

Labat, who often had seen this bird, says, the body is as large as that of a sheep—and the flesh tough and as disagreeable as carrion. It is never seen in forests, on account of the great length of its wings—but it frequents the sea shores, and the banks of rivers, where it is likely to find its prey.

What a blessing is it to mankind, that there are but few (just enough to keep up the