

but we can record incidents, which to him who will "observe the work of the Lord and consider the operations of his hand," mark the wonder-working hand of Divine Providence, which connects all events past, present, and future, the smallest as well as the greatest in one scheme; and by the manner in which they combine to work out his purposes manifests his glory, so as to attract to himself the admiration, the esteem, the reverence, and the love of intelligent beings.

Let us then direct the minds of our readers to a period a few years previous to the last rebellion in Scotland, and briefly refer to the social condition of the Northern parts of that country previous to that important event. The outbreak of 1715 had been speedily quelled, but the spirit of rebellion, so far from being extinct, was only gathering strength for the more terrible outbreak of 1745. The majority of the clans were zealous in their adherence to the House of Stuart, and schemes being then on foot for the restoration of the exiled family to the British throne, they were not disposed to render very implicit subjection to the ruling powers. The power of the Highland chiefs still remained unbroken, the ancient feudal, or perhaps more properly, patriarchal institutions were in full vigour, the social changes which were introduced on the suppression of the rebellion, were still unheard of, and chief and vassal alike retained their attachment to their peculiar customs and their ancient superstitions. In particular war was deemed an employment highly honourable, while honest labour was despised, and it was viewed as no disgrace, but on the contrary as an exploit of signal merit, to sweep off the cattle of a neighbouring clan or of Lowlanders, who refused to acknowledge their superiority. In these circumstances life and property were insecure, not only in the Highlands, but in the districts bordering upon them.

Among the Highland raids, or plundering expeditions, characteristic of that period, was one, made as near as we can ascertain between the years 1730 and 1735, upon a hamlet in the Northern part of Perthshire, close by Loch Earne and bordering