

That there is some ground, however, for complaint, does not rest on the authority of the common people alone. In Knox's *Tour through the Highlands*, p. 191. we find the following remark on one of the Hebrides:—
 “The fishery of the island has long been monopolized
 “by the factor, who pays the fishermen thirteen pounds
 “per ton for the ling, and gets, when sold on the spot,
 “eighteen. When to these advantages we add the vari-
 “ous emoluments arising from his office, and his traffic
 “in grain, meal, cattle, &c. his place is better than the
 “rent of many considerable estates in the Highlands.”

It may perhaps be imagined that Mr. Knox, being a stranger, has been misled by exaggerated representations; but this cannot be supposed of the patriotic author of the *Agricultural Survey of the Northern Counties of Scotland*, who, in laying down a plan for the management of a Highland estate, particularly insists on the factors being “restrained from exacting services, accepting presents, or dealing as drovers in the purchase of cattle, under any pretence whatever.” *p.* 166.

Of the prevalence of abuses we have also the testimony of a resident clergyman, Mr. Irvine, in his *Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of Emigration*.

“Were it consistent,” he says, “with my inquiry, I would willingly pass over the conduct of the factors in silence.” *p.* 41.

“If a person is so unfortunate as to give any one of them offence, no matter how, he either privately or publicly uses every artifice to render him odious to his neighbours or his landlord, till in the end he finds it necessary to withdraw.

“It would be tedious and irksome to enumerate the various methods by which a factor may get rid of a