

*calves*, were it not for the great expence and inconvenience of keeping them in condition through the winter. Their small crops of corn, and what bog or meadow hay they have in patches of ground here and there, and on the bank of the Dee, is quite insufficient for this purpose. In respect to Horses, each keeps 3 or 4 good horses, which indeed is not only necessary for their farms, because they all raise more corn than they consume in their families, but also for riding about buying their cattle. For instance, two sons of Samuel McClelland's of Uloch were six times in Ireland in 1786, buying bullocks for the farm which they mostly drove to the St. Faith's market in England yearly. And in respect to their arable grounds (particularly that used in tillage) it is generally in patches or small fields from 1 to 4 acres, seldom more. This is partly owing to its being interspersed by broken rocky ground, small pieces of moss, swampy or meadow ground, and partly owing to its poverty, being all of a thin soil."

Practically, however, the farmers of Balmaghie were as well off, as comfortable in all essentials as they are to-day. Indeed, it comes to us with a sense of surprise, how little change there has been. They rear cattle and the sons act as dealers in Ireland and even as far as England. Sheep are not so largely reared, but mutton-ham tastes as toothsome to the Ayrshire laird "sliced upon a plate" as it is to-day at some hill-farm under the lee of the Merrick. The butter and eggs are the well-deserved perquisite of the farmer's wife, as we hope they are unto this hour. But it is to his cattle that the farmer looks to pay his rent. The rent-day is arranged with care by Mr. Cuninghame, who recognises the value of a clear understanding on both sides. His farmers are to ride twice a year to Lainshaw to pay their rent to their laird in person, at times when they will have the money in hand, after certain cattle trysts where they can sell their beasts to the best advantage and at the best seasons.

"They live well, having one and all, Beef and Mutton dried ham in their houses, which they sett down sliced in a