

mail-coach roads in each county should be placed under the management of one trust.*

There remains to be noticed another very great defect in our legislation on roads, viz : the want of some power to control the trustees of turnpike roads, to prevent neglect and corrupt practices. No other trustees are free to do whatever they please with perfect impunity ; and no reason can be given for not making every one who takes upon himself the office of a road trustee, accountable before a proper tribunal for his conduct in the discharge of the duties of it. Dr. Adam Smith has remarked this great defect in the turnpike laws, of not providing such a control. If a board of trustees suffer the road under their care to get into a bad condition, the only remedy now is to indict the parish through which the road passes ; but nothing can be more contrary to every principle of justice than such a state of law. In all cases where trustees have the management of landed property, applicable to the maintaining of buildings, bridges and roads, proceedings may be taken against them in the Court of King's Bench, if they abuse the trust reposed in them. In the case of roads, the circumstance of the funds for maintaining them being derived from tolls, should make no difference, and they should be equally liable with the trustees of estates to be brought before this court. But this remedy would not be sufficiently easy and efficacious. A more direct and easy course of proceeding would be to allow complaints against trustees to be brought by petition before the judges at assizes. The judges

* Extract from Mr. Telford's first annual report on the Holyhead road, dated May 4th, 1824, p. 25 :—" Perfect management must be guided by rules and regulations ; and these must be carried into effect by the unceasing attention of a judicious and faithful surveyor, who has by actual experience and attention, acquired a thorough knowledge of all that is required and applicable to the general and local state of particular districts, as regards soil, materials, and climate ; likewise the sort of wear to which the surface is liable. A person possessed of all these requisites and otherwise properly qualified to level and set out new lines, &c. where necessary, must receive the remuneration which such a character merits, and may always obtain in this active and industrious country."