

'O, true, Mr. Dunover,' said one of the youngsters, 'you must not remain on the *pavé* here; you must go and have some dinner with us; Halkit and I must have a post-chaise to go on, at all events, and we will set you down wherever suits you best.'

The poor man, for such his dress, as well as his diffidence, bespoke him, made the sort of acknowledging bow by which says a Scotchman, 'It's too much honour for the like of me'; and followed humbly behind his gay patrons, all three besprinkling the dusty road as they walked along with the moisture of their drenched garments, and exhibiting the singular and somewhat ridiculous appearance of three persons suffering from the opposite extreme of humidity, while the summer sun was at its height, and everything else around them had the expression of heat and drought. The ridicule did not escape the young gentlemen themselves, and they had made what might be received as one or two tolerable jests on the subject before they had advanced far on their peregrination.

'We cannot complain, like Cowley,' said one of them, 'that Gideon's fleece remains dry, while all around is moist; this is the reverse of the miracle.'

'We ought to be received with gratitude in this good town; we bring a supply of what they seem to need most,' said Halkit.

'And distribute it with unparalleled generosity,' replied his companion; 'performing the part of three water-carts for the benefit of their dusty roads.'

'We come before them, too,' said Halkit, 'in full professional force — counsel and agent —'

'And client,' said the young advocate, looking behind him. And then added, lowering his voice, 'that looks as if he had kept such dangerous company too long.'

It was, indeed, too true, that the humble follower of the gay young men had the threadbare appearance of a worn-out litigant, and I could not but smile at the conceit, though anxious to conceal my mirth from the object of it.

When we arrived at the Wallace Inn, the elder of the Edinburgh gentlemen, and whom I understood to be a barrister, insisted that I should remain and take part of their dinner; and their inquiries and demands speedily put my Landlord and his whole family in motion to produce the best cheer which the larder and cellar afforded, and proceed to cook it to the best advantage, a science in which our entertainers seemed to be admirably skilled. In other respects they were lively young