

absolutely necessary that your apology be inserted in the newspaper." The Earl replied that he was not sensible of having insulted him, "therefore I can make no apology," and added: "Had you stated in what manner you considered yourself insulted, I should have answered you." Gourlay thereupon published a letter, already prepared, extending to 63 octavo pages.<sup>(16)</sup> He denies that "he has been guided by petulance and kept in irritation by a spirit of self-importance and vanity" (p. 11), but it is hard to accept this statement in view of the extraordinary contents of the letter—it was "a most daring outrage" (p. 12); the Earl, "hurried by foolish passion . . . had the presumption to adjourn the meeting" (p. 15), "a gross violation of decorum" (p. 16), and does the Earl think his character worthy of being called to the chair? (p. 17), the nobility is doomed (p. 22) and the Earl had better resign. A few pages are devoted to the ostensible subject of the letter, but no one can read the production without recognizing that its main object was an attack on the gentleman who had offended him months before. And thus early appear several characteristics of Gourlay which are noticeable throughout his career, unbounded self-confidence and self-consciousness, inability to understand that anybody could honestly differ from him, never-dying remembrance of anything which he considered to be an insult or other injury, unsparing attack on every offender, lack of judgment in such attack, and withal, thorough conscientiousness throughout.

He lived in respectability in Fifeshire for eight years, having, as he says, "a standing invitation to dine with the Lord Lieutenant"; and his farming is spoken of in the highest terms.

In 1802 the Duke of Somerset invited farmers from Scotland to occupy his estate in England for the purpose of introducing improved methods of farming; in 1803 he expressed a desire that Gourlay should become his tenant, and in 1804 offered him a farm in Wiltshire; but it was not then convenient for Gourlay to accept. In 1809 Gourlay had been advised to remove to England because of his health,<sup>(17)</sup> it is possible that his quarrel with Lord Kellie had made his residence in Scotland less pleasant, and he made an agreement with the Duke. The reasons given for removal are varied, health, a finer scope for his exertions (this, given by Sir John Leslie, Gourlay repudiates "In Scotland I had finer scope, my father having twenty ploughs going on his own property"<sup>(18)</sup>), to study the poor-law system,<sup>(19)</sup> etc.—probably all contributed to the result.

A written agreement was drawn up by the Duke's agent and signed, May 17th, 1809, by the Duke and Gourlay for a lease of the Deptford Farm of 700 acres in Wily Parish, Wiltshire, for 21 years from October 10th, 1809, Gourlay to be allowed for putting the buildings into repair and for certain improvements. Other clauses not now of importance are to be found in the agreement. The tenant went into possession of the land on the day fixed, and afterwards of the buildings, and made improvements. A lease was drawn up according to the agreement and signed by the Duke, October, 1811; Gourlay was asked to sign the counterpart and accept the lease, but he refused "stating that he con-