

here, of whom a minority come for the enjoyment of the magnificent scenery of the neighbourhood, and the majority for the famous hot baths. There are ten or twelve springs which burst forth in and around the valley. The supply of hot mineral water is so profuse that nine-tenths of the whole flows away into the Dala unused. The principal spring, that of St Lawrence, comes up in an impetuous torrent, at a temperature of 120° Fahrenheit. On a column is seen a statue of the Saint, bearing the palm of martyrdom, and the gridiron on which he was roasted to death, as shown in the cut on page 526.

The patients, most of whom are suffering from some cutaneous or scrofulous disorder, commence by staying in the bath



ROOM IN A PEASANT'S COTTAGE, IN THE VALLEY OF LEUK.

for an hour at a time. This is gradually increased till the bathers remain immersed in saline tepid water for five or six hours daily. The tedium of spending so many hours alone would be intolerable. Hence the custom has originated of bathing together, and in public. Of course, the strictest decorum is observed, and rules are laid down to regulate the dress and conduct of the bathers. The dresses are made of dark brown cloth. Conversation goes on freely. The baths are navigated by little tables of wood, at which the patients take their meals; ladies have their flowers or needlework, gentlemen their snuff-boxes or dominoes. The day is passed in breakfasting, chatting, reading, knitting, and playing at games of skill or chance; sometimes