

tions out of count. After this, he married my mother, who was heiress of the small farm of Baltilly, in the parish of Ceres; and soon after, giving up his law business, devoted his whole time to the improvement of his land, and I may freely say, to that of the country. He was the most active of those who struggled hard against ignorance, for the introduction of turnpike roads into Fifeshire, about the year 1788. He lent the chief hand to making the Kennoway turnpike; the Kilmaron turnpike; the Glentarkie turnpike; and the Ceres and St. Andrew's turnpike; all in the county of Fife. He improved the soil of every farm he occupied to the utmost, and adorned every one with plantations of wood. I have traversed the island in every direction, yet never found one, who for such a period of years (upwards of 40), had pursued so liberal, and, to all appearance, so judicious a course of management. He was an adept in business; regular in every way, and indefatigable. In 1813 his land was worth upwards of £120,000, and his floating capital could not be less than £20,000. From what he told me, and from all appearances, I had reason to think him worth, at that time, nearly £80,000; yet, strange to say, before the end of 1815, his affairs were discovered to be embarrassed: he was brought to bankruptcy; and at this time only about 12s. in the pound have been paid to his creditors; a consummation to me altogether mysterious. Unfortunately, he would never communicate with any one as to the real state of his affairs, and both I and my brother, sixteen years younger, grew up to manhood in perfect ignorance of them. The confusion and waste, I believe, must have happened within the last six years of his management, when he was upwards of seventy years of age, become infirm, and liable to be imposed upon. Scripture tells us that threescore and ten years sum up the life of man, not of extraordinary strength; and, then, at farthest, every one should wind up his worldly affairs. My father unfortunately did not attend to this: all had