

fixed their eye on independence in bread corn, as the main point in which all their measures should concentrate ; and without any material aberration have proceeded towards it with an unwearied ardour of pursuit. Objects of minor importance were either neglected or thrown into the background, and this uniformity of plan has been the chief means of effecting so thorough a change in the provincial husbandry.

And this end has been also brought about by the authority and patronage of the leading men throughout the province. It is not my intention to pass an eulogy on their public spirit—a strain in which posterity much more than the present generation, will take delight in indulging ; but it is worthy of notice, that wherever these men have shown themselves most zealous, there the societies were first founded, and their effects became most visible. Hence all the counties have not partaken equally of the benefits of that new excitement, which wherever felt, passed like electric matter and was accompanied with sensations almost as quick and marvellous. In some the precepts of the new school were warmly received—in others they were listened to with indifference ; and yet, it cannot be said that in any did they meet with a firm and inflexible resistance. This is nothing more than what might have been expected. No sentiment however popular, has ever inspired a whole people with the same degree of fervency ; though, if its foundation be in reason, and no violent opposition obstruct its progress, it will in the end work its way by a silent and imperceptible tendency. There are at present manifest and pleasing indications, that the more improved methods of managing land as well as the manufacture of oats are creeping westward ; and it is more than probable that they will, before the lapse of two, or at most three years, insinuate themselves into every corner and cranny of the province.

But the third and main cause of the universality of that change which has taken place, lies in the mixed nature of our population. In old communities where society has gotten time to settle down into fixed habits, manners and customs, and into which there is little or no migration of strangers to disturb the accustomed course, all things soon come to wear one unvarying aspect. The style of living—the mode of dress—the religious opinions and the agricultural practices partake of a common character ; and by such marks nations are usually distinguished. Nay farther, so powerful is the principle of imi-