

country, and upon enquiry, found it was the day of the great corn market. Ah! says I to myself, now I shall have an opportunity of judging of the fertility of this beautiful agricultural district, by seeing its accumulated products; but you may easily imagine my surprise when, after having several times perambulated the market, I could not find a single, solitary sack of grain. I speered at the first good-natured, idle-looking fellow I saw, (I like that word, speered, it is so appropriate an expression among the cattle-stealers of a border country, where a stranger was always saluted with a spear, and relieved of the care of his goods and chattels,) I speered at him the question, where have the farmers put their corn? After a long pause, and a broad stare of astonishment at the gross ignorance implied in the query, the fellow replied, where! why, in their pouch, sure. Pouch! the word was new to my American ear, as new as an "almighty, everlastin frizzle of a fiz" would have been to his. Pouch! said I—what the devil is that? Here, said he, and putting his hand into his pocket, he produced a very small parcel of beautiful wheat, and added, we sell by sample, sir. The grower goes to his granary, and thrusting his hand promiscuously into the heap of corn, takes up as much as it can contain, which is called a 'sample;' and this is supposed so well to represent the average quality of the entire mass, that the sale of the whole lot is effected upon the inspection of this sample. Ah! said I, my friend, and stretching out the fingers of my right hand, until they represented the radii of a circle, I applied the thumb to the extremity of my nose, in a horizontal position, (an odd, old-fashioned custom I acquired when a boy, at Slickville, whenever I had caught a valuable hint,) ah! said I, my friend—notch!

Did you ever see the like o' that, said the puzzled Scot, to himself, and wha is he? A wrinkle on the horn, said I, again applying the thumb to its old signal staff, the nose, and I thank you for the hint. A wrin-