

silk waistcoat, the lower part of which is concealed by the sash. Large and long trowsers, either of the same material as the jacket, or of white dimity kept remarkably clean, are fastened high above the waist, and cover the boots. The sabre is not worn, except on horseback, on a journey, or in war. In its place is substituted a switch, or a cane with an ivory head. This every Cossack bears in his hand, as an appendage to his dress; being at all times prepared to mount his horse at a moment's notice. Their cap, or helmet, the most beautiful part of their costume, is becoming to every set of features, adds considerably to the height of the wearer, and gives, with the addition of whiskers, a military air to the most insignificant figure.

The Cossack female costume is singular; consisting of a silk tunic, with trowsers fastened by a girdle of solid silver, yellow boots, and, for young females, and Indian kerchief about the head; but married women wear their hair tucked under a cap, somewhat resembling the mitre of a Greek bishop, which is covered with pearls and gold, or adorned with flowers.

Many of the Cossack's apartments contain mahogany bookcases with glass doors, enclosing a small collection of books; and their cupboards are filled with plate and costly porcelain. Their dance somewhat resembles that of the Russian gypsies and our own English hornpipe; but in the

motion of the hands it approaches the dances of the Tartars and Chinese.

## POLAND.

THIS country, once a potent state, is now dismembered; and the portion which is allowed to retain the title of a kingdom, is merely a Russian province. The Roman Catholic is the prevailing religion; but the Greek church has also its bishops and other establishments in Poland; and the people of all ranks are prone to superstition.

The Poles are in general of a middle stature; many of the superior classes are tall and graceful; but the peasants, who constitute more than the usual proportion of the population, are often low and stunted, apparently from their hard treatment and scanty fare. The countenance of the Pole is open and friendly. Men of all ranks wear large whiskers, and shave their heads, leaving only a single lock upon the crown, which gives them an Asiatic appearance. The Polish females of the higher ranks are celebrated for their beauty and graceful demeanour; their figures are generally elegant, complexions fair, and hair fine: in the common intercourse of society, they are lively and animated, but licentious in their morals.

The dress of the gentlemen consists of a waistcoat with sleeves, with an upper robe, of a different colour, which reaches below the knee, and is fastened round the waist



with a sash, or girdle; and a sabre, as a mark of nobility, is a necessary appendage to the dress. The head is covered with a fur cap, and the legs with buskins of yellow leather, plated on the heels with iron. Most of the young men, of late, have laid aside this national costume, and adopted the English dress. The dress of the ladies, also, differs little from the female garb of the English and French; but when they go into the open air, they put on a wadded pelisse, or long robe, called a *Polonaise*, edged with fur. Both sexes of the lower classes go without shoes or stockings. On Sundays, the female peasantry exhibit a great variety of colours in tawdry patchwork, in which red is most predominant.

Polish society comprises two classes: the nobles, and the peasants, or slaves. Many of the former possess vast estates; and their mansions, which are denominated palaces, are so distant from each other, that such as are not more than fifty miles apart, are reckoned near.

The peasants are a most wretched order of beings, the necessary result of slavery. Their diet is very scanty; and they have rarely a taste of animal food. They are subject to the will of their lords, and are not privileged to quit the soil, except in a few rare instances of complete enfranchisement. The conduct of these degraded men is marked by carelessness; and, instead of hoarding the small surplus of their absolute necessities, they expend it in the purchase of

a kind of whiskey, called *schnaps*, of which incredible quantities are swallowed by both men and women.

Between the landowners and the peasants, is the class of farmers, who, from having free access to the tables of their lords, acquire a polish superior to what is found among the same description of persons in other countries.

Jews form a conspicuous part of the Polish population; the privileges they have enjoyed in this country, have raised them above the condition of their brethren in other continental states. They usually keep the inns; and are also the principal distillers of spirituous liquors, which are so copiously used by the peasants.

## PRUSSIA.

THE government of this country is a military despotism; the religion Christianity, of the Protestant form, with freedom of opinion to all other persuasions. The general language is the German; mingled, in the eastern provinces, with the Polish; and in those upon the Rhine the French is generally used. Literature is much neglected.

The Prussians are a brave and industrious people, and fond of military parade. In Berlin, their capital, they have somewhat of gaiety; but in other parts, they have a tinge of gloom in their character.

The capital presents a singular contrast of beauty and



magnificence in the buildings, with the penurious circumstances of the inmates.

In all private houses, a rigid economy prevails in the kitchen, cellar, &c. The only article of expense is dress, and the ladies deny themselves common indulgences for millinery and powder.

The peasants, or *bauers* of Prussia, are a degraded race, so much despised by the other branches of society, that, however industrious, the common mercenary soldiers are esteemed honorable in comparison of them. The wives and daughters of the *bauers* assist in performing all the labours of the field, help to till the small farm, attend to the duties of the house, and make most of the clothing worn by themselves and families. In general, they are covered with rags and dirt; yet on holidays and festivals, they shew the national fondness for dress and ornaments, and put on garments of the most glaring colours.

## HANOVER.

This state, which belongs to the King of Great Britain, has risen by degrees from very small beginnings to the rank and dignity of a kingdom. The government is a constitutional monarchy; and Christianity, according to the Lutheran doctrines, is the established religion, but with complete toleration to all other sects. Education is well provided for by schools of various kinds; and Hanover is considered

as one of the best places for a foreigner to learn the German language.

The Hanoverians have little in their characteristics and manners that is not common to all the people of northern Germany. In their persons, they are tall, fair, and well-made; the women have fine complexions, fair hair, and, in many instances, a delicacy of feature and symmetry of form, that would rival the greatest beauties of other countries. They have a touching voice, and are modest, but less timid than English women, because less accustomed to meet their superiors among the men. Both sexes affect to dress in rich clothes, according to the fashions of England or France.

The character of the Germans, though less brilliant than that of other nations, is not destitute of its peculiar excellencies: rectitude of conduct, frankness, and good-heartedness, frugality, and persevering industry, they possess in an eminent degree. The national pride and patriotism of the Germans are confined to the spot where they were born; to the rest of their country and their countrymen they are as strange as if they were foreigners. Yet are they extremely fond of society, where their intercourse appears easy and familiar; and so loquacious, that the French themselves can scarcely talk faster, or are more communicative.

Throughout the north of Germany, a custom prevails of making reciprocal presents at Christmas, and on birth-days.



The wife economises in her household expenses, that she may purchase a present for her husband; and the husband curtails his pleasures, that he may give something to his wife. The maiden and the youth exchange gifts at these seasons; and it is only those who are so miserably poor at Christmas as to have no friends and nothing to give, who are not then happy.

The amusements of the Germans very much resemble those of the English and French, with the addition of hunting the wild boar, which they prefer to all other sports.

## AUSTRIA.

THE Austrian empire consists of a great number of states, most of which have distinct constitutions; and these give a kind of modification to the absolute monarchy which the emperor otherwise possesses. The established religion is the Roman Catholic; but all sects are tolerated, and they are numerous in some parts of the Austrian dominions. Education is in a very low state; Austrian literature has no claim to celebrity; and the arts and sciences, except music, are inferior to those of many other countries.

The patience and perseverance of the Austrian character are favorable to mechanical inventions; but they have been rather directed to gratify the fancy than to promote the purposes of practical utility.

The Austrians, generally speaking, are a handsome, ath-

letic race, composed, for the most part, of German materials, but mixed with the different characteristics of Hungary, Italy, and Bohemia.

With great physical vigor and ardent love of pleasure, are combined the most astonishing self-command, forbearance, and good nature. Quarrels, even among persons intoxicated with spirituous liquors, scarcely ever attain any height, even in words; blows are not heard of in many towns during a whole year; and maiming or murder, on such occasions, is totally unknown.

The Austrian women, in point of beauty, are excelled by no females in Europe, the British only excepted; in manners they are elegant, and in conversation lively and well-informed. Domestic disquietudes are rare, especially among the lower classes; the care of children, habits of labour, and attendance on divine worship, seem to occupy all their thoughts.

Scarcely any of the Austrian amusements deserve the name of athletic exercises: the most common are shooting at a target, playing at ninepins, billiards, and cards, with dancing and concerts. The pursuit of instrumental music prevails in the most fertile plains, as well as in the mountainous tracts and secluded spots, "forming a curious example of the results attendant upon the continual prosecution of an elegant study by a slow and apparently inanimate people."



## BOHEMIA.

THIS ancient kingdom has long been subject to the Austrian rule. The Roman Catholic is the established religion; and although the Bohemians at one period were the most zealous asserters of civil and religious liberty in Europe, there is no place in which so many instances of superstition are met with as at Prague, their capital.

In Bohemia, as in Eastern Germany, there is no middle class of society; every lord is a sovereign, and every peasant a slave.

The Bohemians are robust and strong made, courageous, active, and sincere; but at present remarkable for neither arts nor arms.

The marquisate of MORAVIA, which constitutes a part of the Bohemian kingdom, contains a mixture of Germans and Slavonians, who have a great resemblance to the Bohemians. The authorized religion is Roman Catholicism, but there are many Lutherans; and a society, under the title of "United Brethren," have embraced a species of Lutheranism peculiar to themselves, which they have propagated by their zealous missionaries in several parts of the world.

A small tract, near Olmutz, is inhabited by a distinct people, of Slavonic origin, called *Havacks*, from the river Hauna, which flows through their district. They are

low in stature, but strong and muscular. In their manner of life, they have preserved much of their primitive simplicity; and, in consequence of their plain and temperate habits, they live to an advanced age. They are reproached by their neighbours with indolence; but they plead the fertility of their soil in palliation of the charge; and look down on their more industrious censurers as an inferior race of beings, to whom nature has been less bountiful than to themselves.

## SAXONY.

In the kingdom of Saxony, the government is a limited monarchy, and the religion Christianity of the Lutheran form; though the royal family and a few of the inhabitants are Roman Catholics.

The Saxon language is one of the purest of the German dialects. Literature has long been fostered by the reigning family; and the arts and sciences have participated in the same benign influence.

The Saxons bear a general resemblance to the other Germans, but are more lively and animated. The men are robust, and frequently well made; and the women are often handsome, with fair complexions, blue eyes, and a sprightliness of expression in their countenances, which is not very common with German females. Here a likeness to the English is much greater than in most other parts of the



Continent. Dresden, the capital of Saxony, is by far the most magnificent city in Germany: it is built on the Elbe, and the manners and modes of living of the inhabitants are very different from what are to be seen in other parts of Germany.

The royal palace is a very magnificent structure; and the gallery of pictures, which contains about 1200 performances of the best painters, has been aptly designated "a complete mine of art."

## BAVARIA.

THE government of this country is little short of an unlimited monarchy; and the established religion is the Roman Catholic. Literature and science have made no progress here; and travellers agree in representing the Bavarians as among the most phlegmatic and sensual of the German nations.

The men are a stout and vigorous race, well adapted to bear the fatigues of war, and in general are good soldiers. Many of the women are handsome, lively, and graceful; but their charms are merely personal: mental cultivation being at a very low ebb among them.

Indolence is one of the most marked characteristics of the Bavarians: it pervades all classes, from the throne to the meanest cottage. This great indolence is united with, or rather transcended by, an extraordinary degree of bigot-

ry; which among the lower orders, is upheld with a ferocity that frequently gives rise to scenes of blood: and herein the Bavarians are a complete contrast to their Austrian neighbors.

The country people are extremely dirty; and their hovels have scarcely the resemblance of dwellings for human beings. The Bavarian peasant is nevertheless brave and patriotic; and so faithful to his word, that his promise is always kept with sacred punctuality.

## KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

THIS kingdom, sometimes called HOLLAND, derives its name of Netherlands, or Low Countries, from its flat surface and low situation; many of the towns and villages being below the level of the neighbouring sea, but preserved from inundation, by the persevering industry of the inhabitants. The government is a constitutional monarchy, with a considerable degree of resemblance to that of Great Britain. The established form of religion is Calvinistic.

The Dutch language (for so is the dialect of the Hollanders called) is a kindred tongue to the German; copious, though uncouth, and in need of improvement. Education is greatly promoted in this kingdom; and it has produced painters of the first celebrity.

The Dutch are generally below the middle stature, inclined to corpulency, and remarkable for a heavy awkward



mien. The females are by no means celebrated for elegance of figure, or expression of countenance. Their complexion is usually sallow; their manners are inanimate; and, what is not common in other countries, they are generally taller than the men.

The characteristics of the Dutch are patience, ingenuity, and perseverance. Their natural temperament is phlegmatic, and their labor consists rather in slow and continued application, than in arduous exertion. The love of money is their ruling passion, and the spring of all their actions. Smoking tobacco is practised by both sexes, old and young, at all hours; and as they are ever plodding upon ways and means to get money, no people are more unsociable. Yet a stranger, on entering Holland, is struck with the extreme cleanliness and decorum of the town and villages, as well as of the private abodes.

The dress of all but the sailors and lower classes resembles that of the English, though generally made of coarser materials. Those who are stamped with the genuine character of their native country, load themselves with enormous incumbrances of clothes. The hats of the women are as large as moderately sized umbrellas, set horizontally upon the head, so as to overshadow both face and body; they are mostly of straw, and gaudily lined within, with a broad ribbon pendent on each side. This hat forms a striking contrast with the remainder of the dress, which

consists of a close white jacket, with long flaps, short, coloured petticoats, in the shape of a bell, scarcely reaching the middle of the leg; yellow slippers, without quarters at the heels; and caps exactly fitting the head and concealing the hair, but ornamented at the temples by gold filagree clasps, twirling like vine-tendrils over the cheeks of the wearer. Both men and women wear at least two waistcoats, with as many coats; and the men cover their limbs with double breeches, that hang loosely upon them.

The diet of the Dutch boors is usually coarse, consisting of roots, herbs, sour milk, and pulse. In towns, the common people fare better. All ranks are fond of butter; and a journey is seldom undertaken without a butter-box in the pocket.

The diversions of the Dutch are mostly of the placid and retired kind, except that of skating, which is practised by both sexes, of all ranks, when the canals and rivers are frozen over. Sledge racing on the ice is also much practised at that season. In other respects, little of the robust is to be found in their amusements.

#### BELGIUM.

THIS kingdom, recently dissevered from that of the Netherlands, has a popular government, with a magistrate at its head, denominated *King of the Belgians*; and his powers are so restricted, that he may be truly said to possess noth-



ing of royalty, except a specious title. The established religion is the Roman Catholic.

The language of the Belgians, called the Flemish, differs in some respects from the Dutch, but not so much as to prevent the natives of the two kingdoms from understanding each other. French is generally spoken; and in the northern provinces it seems to have superseded the national dialect. Literature is rather in a low state: but, in common with the Dutch, the Belgians, or Flemings, have produced great painters.

The general character of the Belgians is much less fixed than that of the Dutch. From their contiguity with France, a considerable portion of the vivacity of that country has been engrafted upon the gravity of the original stock. The most striking feature in the national character is an extravagant fondness for religious ceremonies and processions, with a servile obsequiousness to the commands of the priesthood.

The costume of the Belgians, in the northern provinces, is much like that of the Dutch; in the south, it is more assimilated to that of the French.

## ENGLAND.

ENGLAND, Scotland, and Ireland, constitute the United Kingdom of Great Britain; the government of which is a limited monarchy. The established religion of England is

Christianity, under a peculiar ecclesiastical administration; and all sects are allowed the free exercise of their own rites.

The English language is radically Gothic, enriched with words and phrases from the Greek, Latin, French, Italian, and Spanish, but different in its structure from them all. Education is much attended to; though, it is to be feared, superficial acquirements are too often suffered to usurp the place of solid instruction. Literature, the fine arts, science, and mechanics, are daily receiving fresh accessions to their stores, from the prolific genius of British skill.

The English are generally of the middle stature, well formed, generally robust, with regular features, and florid complexions, yet not so fair as the northern Germans, the Danes, and the Swedes. The females are equally distinguished for their personal and mental charms; their form, features, and complexion, bestow upon them a degree of grace and beauty which rivals the most elegant foreigners; while the peculiar modesty and neatness which pervade all their actions and habits, confer upon them charms, which are in vain sought for among the fair of other nations.

The natural proneness of the English to think before they speak, and their reluctance to enter into familiar converse with strangers, have subjected them to the imputation of being reserved and phlegmatic; but the most recent and candid travellers confess, that their reserve arises from habits of reflection, rather than from mistrust or moroseness.



It has been said of the English, that, of all people in the world, they have the least of a national character; unless this very singularity may pass for one.\* Indeed, there is no nation upon the globe, in which more singular, more eccentric, and more opposite characters are to be met with, than in England, where liberty moulds the manners of the natives, freedom directs their mode of thinking and judging, and every man may, if he will, appear as he really is.

The incessant activity of the English has given occasion to a shrewd observer to remark: "An Englishman, while he eats and drinks no more than another man, labours three times as many hours in the course of the year. His life is three common lives. People of other countries have some leisure hours; an Englishman has none. You may know him from all the rest of the world, by his head going before his feet, and by his pushing along as if going for a wager."

The higher classes of the English observe great simplicity in their dress, except on public occasions, when they display much of elegance and somewhat of magnificence. The same characteristic neatness usually pervades their houses and equipages, which are rarely distinguished for useless pomp or parade. Young people in the metropolis and large towns are fond of showy apparel, which the improved state of the manufactures enables them to indulge in at an easy rate. Hence, on Sundays and holidays, appren-

\* Hume.

tices and servants appear in all the gaiety of persons of rank and fashion: and the lowest tradesman endeavors to make a *respectable* appearance. The dress of the women is, like that of the men, almost uniform; although fashions change in England oftener than in any other country. Cotton and woollen stuffs, of which the texture, fineness, and patterns, are almost infinitely varied, constitute the basis of it.

Large scarlet cloaks, with bonnets of straw or black silk, which preserve and heighten the fairness of their complexion, distinguish the country women which come to market. And the working farmer preserves his clothes by a covering, in the shape of a shirt, of white, brown, or blue dowlax.

The favorite diversions of the English consist of hunting, coursing, and horse-racing; rowing and sailing are amusements peculiar to them, and in perfect unison with their insular situation and maritime character. The ringing of bells is also much practised, and has been brought to great perfection in this country. A more refined and intellectual entertainment is sought in the charms of music, which is cultivated with great success. The athletic diversion of cricket is still kept up in the southern and western counties; and is sometimes practiced by persons of the highest rank. Cock-fighting, to the disgrace of the nation, is a favorite pastime among the great, as well as the vulgar;



and pugilistic contests, though sometimes fatal to the combatants, are patronised by what is termed "the sporting world," for the sake of betting upon the dexterity and strength of their brutal competitors. Bull, bear, and badger baiting, are chiefly confined to the lower orders; as are also cudgelling and wrestling.

Although the ancient hospitality of England has been greatly diminished, the humanity of the English is, nevertheless, manifested in large subscriptions for public charities, raised by all degrees, of both sexes, in addition to the immense contributions levied by law for the support and maintenance of the poor. Yet, through mismanagement of the funds, and a want of co-operation among the different societies, few nations are more burdened with poor; nor are there many countries in which the poor are in a worse condition.

The passions of the English are very strong, notwithstanding their habitual coldness of manners. In great things, and even in matters of little interest, which their enthusiasm has magnified to importance, no men are more impetuous; abandoning their customary tranquillity, they give themselves up to extremes of all kinds; run in quest of danger; attempt extraordinary things; and delight in strong emotions.

The thirst for knowledge is insatiable in an Englishman, and he is led by it to traverse inhospitable climes and track-

less regions in every quarter of the globe. If stopped in his progress by obstacles, which for the moment appear insurmountable, he returns, not in despair, but to provide such means as his ingenuity may suggest, to enable him to renew the attempt: and thus he penetrates the burning deserts of Africa, or cuts himself a way through the perennial ice of the polar regions.

## WALES.

THE western side of England is inhabited by the Welsh, descendants of the ancient Britons, who though they have long lived under the English government, still remain an unmixed race, and adhere to the custom of their forefathers. Their language is a dialect of the Celtic; but in towns the English is generally spoken.

In their persons, the Welsh are generally short and stout-limbed. The women, for the most part, have pretty round faces, clear complexions, with dark expressive eyes, and good teeth. The higher classes dress like the English; but in the more humble ranks, the national costume is preserved, which, for both men and women, is composed of home-made woollen cloth. Linen is rarely used; flannel being substituted in its place. Nor are shoes and stockings worn, except sometimes in fine weather; and then they are carried in the hand, if the owner be going any dis-



tance, and put on only at or near the place of destination, the feet being first washed in a brook.

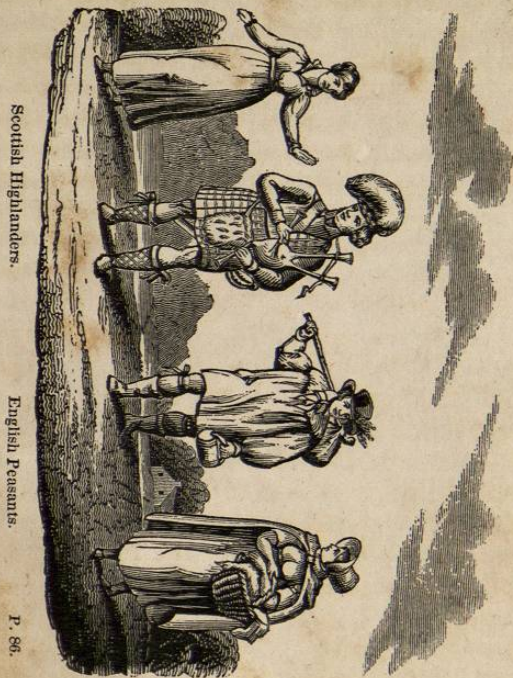
The Welsh are religious observers of the sabbath; and the poorest cottager and his family, however numerous, are always clean and decent on that day. They still retain many of their ancient superstitions, prejudices, and customs; and are extremely credulous on many points, which persons of more enlightened understandings regard as mere illusions.

## SCOTLAND.

THIS country occupies the northern portion of the island of Great Britain, and was formerly an independent kingdom.

Two distinct languages are used in Scotland: that of the *Lowlands*, or parts nearest England, consists of the ancient Scandinavian, intermixed with the Anglo-Saxon, and bearing a great analogy to the English. In the *Highlands*, a dialect of the Celtic, called *Gaelic*, is spoken, which has a great affinity to the Irish. Education has long been an object of primary attention in Scotland; and there are few departments of literature in which the Scots have not risen to eminence. In the arts they are deficient; but in the sciences they have displayed their native perseverance.

A spare habit of body and high cheek-bones characterise the inhabitants of Scotland, who are brave, patient of labor, and capable of enduring great fatigue.



Scottish Highlanders.

English Peasants.



The better sort of the *Lowlanders* differ little from the same orders among the English, either in dress, habits, or manner of life. Their dwellings are built in the same style; but their furniture is generally less expensive.

Animal food is seldom eaten by the lower orders; and wheaten bread is scarcely ever tasted by them. Oatmeal, made into bread, or prepared in a variety of other ways, constitutes the chief of their subsistence.

The *Highlanders* are a brave and hardy people, ardently attached to the manners, customs, and language of their ancestors. Their ancient costume has fallen greatly into disuse; and a Highland chief, in the full dress of his country, is only seen on extraordinary occasions. It is, however, still retained by many of the peasantry, and is composed of a checkered woollen stuff, called *tartan*, woven in stripes of various colors, crossing each other at right angles. Above the shirt, the Highlander wears a waistcoat with sleeves of this stuff; and over his shoulders he throws his plaid, which is also of tartan, and commonly about twelve yards in width. This is sometimes fastened round the middle with a leathern belt, and, hanging down before and behind, supplies the place of breeches. This dress the Highlanders call a *phelig*, but the Lowlanders call it a *kilt*. A kind of short petticoat, of the same variegated stuff, is also frequently worn, and is denominated a *phelibeg*: this reaches nearly to the knee, and, with short tartan stockings, tied below the knee with



garters formed into tassels, completes the dress. The lower classes cover their feet with brogues of untanned leather, and their heads with a flat blue cap, or *bonnet*, as they call it, made of a particular kind of thick woollen stuff.

The dress of the Highland women consists of a petticoat and jerkin with close sleeves, over which they wear a plaid, fastened under the chin, and falling in graceful folds to the feet. Round the head they fold a kerchief, or piece of fine linen, in various forms; though the young women have rarely more than a ribband for this purpose. Shoes and stockings are little worn by the Highland females, except among the higher classes.

The habitations of the Highlanders are generally built in glens, or valleys, by the side of a lake, or near a river or stream, with a little arable land adjoining. The walls are of turf or stones, raised about six feet high, on the top of which is a roof, constructed with the branches of trees, and covered with turf, on which grass grows; so that a traveller, at a little distance, distinguishes with difficulty a hut from a green hillock. The interior is divided into three compartments, namely, the *butt*, or kitchen, the *benn*, or inner room, and the *byar*, or cattle-stall. The partition between these apartments is frequently no more than an old blanket, or a piece of sailcloth. In the kitchen, and sometimes in the inner room, are cupboard beds for the family; but more frequently, when the fire on the ground is extinguished, they

lay their bed of heath and blankets on the spot, on account of the earth being dry.

Dancing is a favorite amusement in this country; but little regard is paid to art or gracefulness; the whole consists in agility, and keeping time to their own tunes.

Those inhabitants of Scotland who live chiefly by pasturing sheep and cattle, have a natural vein for poetry and music. The beautiful simplicity of the Scottish tunes is relished by all true judges of the science, or admirers of nature. The favorite national instrument is the bagpipe, which was introduced into the country by the Norwegians at a very remote period.

## IRELAND.

THIS island, situated to the west of Great Britain, and separated from it only by a strait, constitutes a portion of the British empire. The government is consequently the same, and so is the authorized religion; but the majority of the people are Roman Catholics.

The Irish language is a dialect of the ancient Celtic, and nearly the same with that of the Scottish Highlanders. The use of it occasions among the common people a peculiar tone, or *brogue*, which has become so general, as to prevail even in the higher classes, though they do not understand Irish. The literature of Ireland has a claim to antiquity: