

be reduced to 250 good ones, with some mares. What makes the ploughs so very numerous, is, that commonly they only plough from the beginning of March to the 20th June.—At least one third of the kelp is made of wrack, cast by storms upon the shores.

The black cattle and horses are mostly in a starving condition. The latter, when their pasture is very bare in winter and spring, tear up the ground with their feet to come at the roots. Many tenants keep two or three cows, which have not a calf for years together. One informed me of his having a cow ten years old, that never had but one calf. Another, that he keeps three or four cows, but had not a calf for six years.

Agriculture, &c.—Inclosures are lately begun. The above facts shew the necessity of continuing them, and subdividing farms to a few tenants that may be able to keep carts. After a little amendment of the roads, with the money that is raised, or the services that may be exacted, there is no country better calculated for them. As yet there are only five in the parish. A small light Scotch plough is mostly used. Great is the necessity of getting timber, and a proper wright. The method of ploughing by one man, two horses, and long reins, is used only by two in the parish; but might very easily be practised by getting a stronger breed of horses. Instead of this, 4 men and 7 horses often attend the same furrow; two men and 5 horses the plough; 2 men and 2 horses the rifle, or sharp iron nearly the shape of a couler, but bent further forward, and like it fixed in a beam, with two handles to cut the tough sward before the plough, which follows in the same line. When in one farm 4 or 13 ploughs are set going, and 30 or perhaps 60 horses with creels sent to carry sea-ware off the shore, besides some idle mares and followers, such a farm

farm takes many hands and horses, and labouring must prove dear. A change of method is indeed required; and fishing with manufactures to employ so many superfluous hands. Though the people be naturally attached to their ancient modes, yet whenever they see new methods pursued to perfection in inclosed farms, and work carried on much more profitably, expeditiously, and cheaply, they will readily comply*.

Character and Customs of the People.—The common people are not very attentive to the ordinances of religion, but are now reforming, as the gentlemen shew them a good example. They still retain some Roman Catholic sayings, prayers, and oaths, as expletives; such as '*Ais Muire*,' swearing by Mary, &c. Mary be with you. '*Ais Muire*,' swearing by Mary, &c. They are free of superstition, and make a considerable progress in knowledge. There is no schism from the established church; and none of any other persuasion, except now and then a few Roman Catholic servants from Barra. It is a great advantage to their morals that there are only three licensed small stills, and four public houses at the ferries and harbours in both isles. For generations back, there has been

no

* About 4 years ago, the yearly wages and gratuities of a labourer amounted only to 2l. 12s. and of a female servant to 1l. but they are now increased near a third, owing mostly to the servants frequenting the low country. Small tenants give them much more. Another cause of the increase of wages is the enlisting of many men for the army, particularly the fencible corps, with promises of possessions to their friends or to themselves at their return. Hence partly so many small divisions of lands and the poverty of the tenants. Workmen with their families are engaged for a fourth or fifth of the whole crop and grails. In some countries they can more easily triple the wages; their possessions, their soil, their markets, and plans of labouring, can better afford it. Tradesmen have from 7d. to 1s. 2d. per day, besides victuals.