

THE circumstance of his Royal Highness Prince Albert having become the proprietor of the estate of Balmoral is a matter of much importance to Deeside. It affords at once the best possible evidence that her Majesty's favour for her Highland residence, instead of being lessened as her visits lost their novelty, has increased with the experience of successive years, and a guarantee of the permanence of the connection between Royalty and the Deeside Highlands. The intelligence of the completion of the purchase was received with the greatest delight in the district; and on Friday last the tenantry of the estates of Balmoral, Abergeldie, and Birkhall, celebrated the event with every demonstration of satisfaction. For two or three days previous, large parties had been employed in carrying fuel of every description to the top of Craig Gowan, immediately above the Castle, and a few of the more neat-handed had devoted themselves to the adorning of the iron ball-room with graceful wreaths of the indigenous "birk,"—and both parties proved most successful in the result of their labour. The hall, we may mention, is 60 feet in length, by 24 in breadth, and is composed of fluted iron, and is very tasteful but unpretending in appearance. It seemed from what was stated by Dr Robertson, his Royal Highness' Commissioner, that the use of the ball-room, and every convenience about the Castle, had been at once granted by his Royal Highness, when the intention of the tenantry was made known to him, and certainly this kindness put the party, on Friday, in possession of the appliances of festivity more completely than they are often to be met with beyond the Highland line; and, although that boundary comprehends a region within which the spirit of festivity is such that the appliances may be the more easily dispensed with, there is little doubt that the one is not at all diminished by the presence of the other.

At half-past five a party of about a hundred and forty, consisting of the tenantry and a number of guests—gentlemen connected with the neighbourhood, as well as from other parts of the country—sat down to a very sumptuous dinner, provided by Mr Ross of the Monaltrie Arms, Ballater. Indeed the viands were such as would not have required the aid of a long drive and the keen air of the hills to ensure ample justice being done them, and were sufficient to give the most satisfactory answer, if such were requisite, to the sneering commentary in which we have heard good-natured southerners indulge on the