


VISIT TO AN ENGLISH FARM.

 NOWING that all topics relating to agriculture are of interest to those that read your paper, perhaps a visit I made some time ago to a farm in Guildford, near Surrey, England, may possibly be worth sending to you.

One afternoon in July I left London for Guildford, near which place lies the farm I speak of. Arriving there, I took a "fly" to carry me to the house, which was about five miles from the station. I had a delightful ride through roads lined with green hedges, with here and there tall trees with ivy climbing up them; passed through a quaint old English village, and every now and then by queer old fashioned farm houses; finally I reached the farm. The house was a fine, substantial looking building, with a neat carriage road leading to the door, and beautifully arranged flower beds in front. Placed here and there were old stumps of trees with flowers growing in and vines clambering around them—a beautiful and rustic ornament. I think the making of the old stumps, a "thing of beauty." Giving my letter of introduction, I met with a most cordial welcome. After a little rest I was asked if I could walk. I said yes, and soon found out that the English were walkers indeed. It was then about 3 P. M., and we walked almost all the time until nine—on the farm most of the time, through fields of barley, oats and wheat. I stopped in at an old fashioned tenant house belonging to the farm, one or two hundred years old, the floor paved with brick, and there was the old fire-place, with the seat in the corner. I could not help asking the old dame to let me sit in it, so that I might say I had sat in the chimney corner. Everything looked "as neat as a pin."

After reaching the house we had supper, and after supper prayers. All the servants belonging to the house and could come, came in to them. In how many houses in this country do you see the servants attend family worship? There, at that English homestead, morning and evening, I saw them come in and take their seats, and there they learned the lesson of "servants be obedient to them that are your masters."

I spent several days at the farm, and my kind host gave me all the information I could wish with regard to English agriculture, and his mode of carrying on the place. The figures I give will, I think, be approximate ones; he gave me the exact ones, I

believe. The farm was a hired one, it being cheaper to rent than to own. He employs about twenty men—wages about 60 cents a day; charges them for house-rent 24 to 36 cents per week. His farm comprised about 500 acres, for which he paid over \$3,000 a year rent. He uses about \$500 worth of guano, and from \$1,440 to \$1,920 worth of oilcake a year. In using guano he mixes it with an equal quantity of salt, it making it better to spread, owing to the salt becoming moist after being exposed to the air after some little time; being thus damp, the guano, after the mixing, is not liable to fly all over in using. He raises in the neighborhood of 36 bushels of wheat to the acre; 60 of oats, and of barley about 45. He had near 100 acres in ruta bagas, swedes, mangold wurzels and rape: 50 acres in barley; in wheat, 120; oats and beans near 80; grass, 100, and 100 in pasture.

He keeps about 100 head of Devons, besides other cattle. His Devons were beautiful animals; in speaking of them he said, if I remember rightly, that his father said, in buying Devons see that they could drink out of a wine glass. I think that the son had carried out his father's rule pretty well with regard to the ones I saw. He also had some fine full blooded South-Downs.

In laying tiles for drains he finds it of advantage for the main drains to take three of ordinary tiles and place them, two close together, and the third on top, making three passages for the water, thus °°. Tiles cost him about \$3.12 per 100.

He keeps about 100 Sussex pigs; had about 30 horses, and all that I saw, with perhaps one or two exceptions, were as fine looking beasts as one would wish to see, mostly of the Belgian breed. He told me England did not produce horses enough for her own use, but imports from Belgium largely. His sheep were South Downs, with the exception of a few Welch ones for table use. His sales of mutton, beef and pork, amount to about £2,700 (\$12,960) a year, and he expects to make ten per cent. annually on his capital.

His rotation of crops is, first year wheat; after wheat harvest sow green crops, say rye; trefoil, and between first and second year very often peas. Second year, turnips, ruta bagas, swedes, mangold wurzels. Third year, barley, oats and wheat. Fourth year, grass, and sometimes peas and beans. His ruta bagas are grown, say 20 by 16