

and held conversations sufficient to convince me, that the lands of this fine country, have been suffering since the first settlement by an exhausting mode of husbandry, until they have now got reduced to about one hundred and fifty per cent worse than they formerly were.

It is advisable, therefore, to go back to the origin of this mode of husbandry among the farmers or land holders of Normandy, whence it is said to be derived, and if we find that the wants of society were quite different at that period from the case at the present day, it will be difficult to see why this mode should yet continue in this province.

The principal feature in this mode of husbandry, is, the allowing the lands, after a crop to lay in a state resembling a fallow, except being unploughed, called by the Canadian farmers or Habitans "*en friche*," one half of their cultivated lands, excepting their meadows are left in *en friche* every year, and the few cattle they have are turned in upon it for that period.

The ancient practice in Scotland, appears by a late statistical account of agriculture, was nearly the same as this mode of letting the lands lay *en friche*, instead of cultivating green and white crops by rotation. And I make no doubt, were we to trace the rude beginnings of husbandry in most countries, we should find the same practice prevailing.

In those times the habit of consuming animal food was not high so prevalent as at present, when it forms so great a part of our nourishment: The growth and population of towns and cities, caused by trade and manufactures has created so great a demand for that species of food, as seems of itself sufficient to have induced the farmer, to seek some mode of agriculture, by which the greatest possible quantity of food could be produced in a given piece of land, for the supply of cattle and other animals.

In this view no doubt, green crops were begun on lands which were formerly left to fallows, or were continually worn by successive corn crops, and the surprising fact appeared, instead of the lands being any ways exhausted, by these green and root crops, that by their means, and other improvements adopted in cleaning and tilling the lands, the ensuing corn crops were found to be high double.

In the extract given by the Edinburgh Reviewers in Nov. 1814, from the general report of the agricultural state of Scotland, drawn up for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture, by Sir John Sinclair, the following appears.

"The introduction of turnips has in a few years effected a great improvement, in almost every department of husbandry, than will easily be believed, by those who look only to the market value of those crops. They have been the means of rendering productive those inferior soils, which it was impossible to culti-