

There are seventeen horses kept for farm-work : these are mostly of a French breed, much more active and vigorous than the heavy Flemish horses. A good horse costs from 16*l.* to 20*l.* The cows are mostly Dutch, and cost from 8*l.* to 10*l.* each. They are large, and have fine udders. The colour is generally black and white, the horns moderate, and the skin fine. They are not so high as the Holderness cows, but their carcasses are as large. Some of them give an astonishing quantity of milk.

This is one of the largest farms in Flanders, and may be considered as intermediate between the upland farms and the polders. The buildings are scattered and irregular. It was formerly the property of a religious order, but confiscated and sold at the Revolution in 1794. The chapel still remains, but it is converted into a barn. The tenant purchased the land for a small sum compared to its worth, and his son is the present occupier. A small canal winds through the property, acting as a drain for the superfluous water, and at the same time as an easy means of conveying the produce to the farm-yard, and taking manure to the fields bordering upon it. With a little attention it is not difficult to make this farm produce everything that a frugal Flemish family requires, and enable the occupier to lay up a considerable sum every year. In the hand of a skilful and scientific farmer, a fortune might be realized on such a soil in a few years, by keeping up the fertility, instead of reducing it by excessive cropping of the land broken up from pasture : but especially by introducing improved breeds of cattle, and grazing them to advantage.

Not far from Roulers, at Newkerken, there is a small farm of about sixty acres, occupied by a Mr. Verpoort, which is worth noticing. The soil is a good sound grey loam of a moderate quality, the subsoil being retentive ; the fields are divided by ditches four feet wide and three deep. Some trees and underwood are planted along some of the ditches, but not everywhere. There are no raised banks, the earth of the ditches having been spread over the land. The fields are all small, not exceeding three or four acres each, and mostly of an oblong shape. There was no water in the ditches when we saw it, but it is probable that in winter they are necessary to keep the land dry, as the country is so flat that the water must be a long time in running off. The principal produce on this land is wheat, of which there are eighteen or twenty acres every year. The wheat this year (1837) was sown on land which the year before had been cropped as follows : two