

fed. The farmer himself is a tall athletic man, with a good-natured, but shrewd countenance: he seemed very ready to give every information respecting his farm. His wife, equally active, superintends the dairy, and took some pride in showing us in a cool vaulted cellar numerous pans set on the brick floor filled with the last milking, and deeper vats in which the milk of the preceding day had been put in its progress towards churning. The milk, even when it is not intended to be skimmed, is always set in shallow pans for the twelve hours before it is poured into the vats, and the different milkings are kept separate.

The next farm which we shall notice is somewhat different from the two preceding, and if the land is not quite so carefully tilled it is made very productive from the quantity of stock kept upon it. It is situated between Furnes and Dixmude, at a place called Stuiveskenkerke. It partakes of the nature of a polder farm, for the land may be considered as an old polder. The extent of the farm is considerable, upwards of four hundred acres, of which two hundred are in rich natural pastures; the remainder is cultivated with the plough. The soil is here a good stiff loam, having the appearance of a clay, but it approaches more nearly to a marly soil, which crumbles when moderately wetted. It contains a considerable proportion of calcareous matter mixed with sand and clay, and it is decidedly of a superior quality to that of the two preceding farms. It requires less manure, but is more difficult to cultivate, both the extremes of wet and dry in the weather rendering the plough useless. In the first case the surface is converted into mud, and in the latter it cannot be ploughed, for if sufficient strength were applied it would rise in large clods which would harden in the sun, and remain so till continued wet or frost crumbled them again. Wheat and beans are principal crops, and the latter are more carefully cultivated than we have seen in any other part of Flanders; they are planted in rows, in imitation of the kitchen-gardeners. A drill is drawn with a hoe, and beans are deposited in it three or four inches apart; the earth out of the next drill serves to cover the seed. The distance between the drills is about ten inches or a foot, which in rich land is too near. When the beans are out of the ground the intervals are hoed. The produce is from three to five quarters per acre, but might be more with wider intervals, and more effective hoeing.

The rotation of crops on this farm is generally—1, fallow; 2, winter barley; 3, beans; 4, barley or wheat; 5, beans, clover,