

FRENCH AGRICULTURE IN NORMANDY.

An interesting work entitled the *Parson, Pen, and Pencil*, has just appeared. Though not an agricultural work, it contains a number of very valuable hints in connection with it. It is written by a vicar of the English Church. The following facts, which came under his observation, will be read with interest.—The system of cropping adopted in Normandy appears to be founded on the principle of maintaining a proportion "between the extent of culture of plants needful for the feeding of stock, and the breadth of land which requires manuring." Curious and exceedingly minute calculations seem to be hereupon founded; "one experimentalist, whose repute is pre-eminent as the most correct calculator on the subject under notice, M. Morel de Vinde, has laid it down as a maxim that every acre of land should be manured at the rate of 156 bushels yearly; each bushel of dung to contain 66 pounds. He considers that a bullock ought to produce yearly 23 tons weight of such manure; of which quantity would be actual deposit at the rate of half-a cwt. per diem, and 14 composed of litter subjected to the action of such deposit. His theory assigns the number of 12 sheep as an equivalent to 1 bullock. Having premised this, he selects an allotment of five English acres, with a view of demonstrating that this one bullock ought to supply manure for that extent of land:—The straw of wheat of these five acres ought to be calculated as weighing, in an average harvest, 66 bushels of 56 pounds each; the straw of oats 54 bushels; the dry forage and after grass 108 bushels; the roots for feeding 530 bushels. M. Morel computes that the produce consumed annually by each head of large stock (bullocks,) only the 12 sheep above mentioned, should be stated as follows:—They consume of chopped wheat-straw 66 bushels; of oaten-straw, similarly chopped, 54 bushels; of dry forage, or its equivalent in "green meat," 108 bushels. Hence, he affirms, the produce of these is sufficient for the support of one bullock; and consequently the proportions tally to a degree of the nicest exactitude; a close relation being observable between the production of those substances which are required as aliment for the stock and the number of heads of cattle which it is necessary to keep for the production of manure. De Breuil, of whom distinguished mention was made to me while I was in Rouen, as a first-rate authority on these points, did not assent fully to the principles here asserted. He considers that a judicious use of hay would enable the farmer to keep two bullocks; especially if the yield of straw was as copious as the figures above quoted would indicate. Moreover, on many farms the bullocks were housed for a considerable period, and dry earth brought in from time to time and strewed under the animals; which earth was covered in time by straw, so as to form, in a short space of time, a very efficient compost. Morel maintained, nevertheless, that this treatment of the soil would bear the test of

the nicest scrutiny; as being warranted by the most accurate theories of compensation to which farming is reducible. I leave these problems to be solved by such experimentalizing agriculturists as may chance to handle my book."

SEASONABLE DIALOGUE.—The following dialogue was lately overheard between two Yorkshire occupiers of adjoining strongland farms: *Thomas*—Now, Anthony! soft time this, but wi' tewing among it ye manage to keep t' watter off that wheat o' thine better nor one would a'most really expect. *Anthony*—Why, Thomas, as ye say, I'm like to fight it as well as I can; but it a'most caps me at times. I've gotten a bit o' bouny spring wheat, too, to sow i' that Langland close o' ours, it t' wet would no' but let us get it in. I look mony a time at thy soughed fields, an' wish I had mine done t' same way. I reckon, however, that thou hast to pay more rent? *Thomas*—Ye may be very sure, Anthony, they make me pay for it, but it's done a power o' good. I always considered 'em t' worst fields I had; an', when t' season hit, I always reckoned thy crops banged mine; if aught ye may depend on't, Anthony, they're changed now. Last year I'd forty bushels of wheat to t' acre; an' really, i' my conscience, I think, wi' all this blash, t' wheat looks better this fore end nor it did last. An' I's sure, afore it were soughed, I never got about thirty bushels an acre, when t' season suited, like. I don't believe, either, it takes much about half t' power to work it. Those two bits o' Galloways o' mine can plough tightly three roods a day on it now. *Anthony*—This draining's certainly a grand thing; it somehow seems to change t' natur o' t' land, when it's right done, altogether. An' I'll lay, if I reckon up t' time I spend i' gripping an' looking after this wheat o' mine, it would not be far short o' making up thy extra rent. An' thou can go an' look after other things, with the satisfaction of knowing that thy wheat's all right. I tell thee what, Thomas, I've been about a good bit of late, an' I see plain enough, that if I sit down quietly, wi' my land as it is now, I'd best lay up together. *Thomas*—Thou's been a gay bit on this farm, Anthony, an' if I were thee, I'd see t' steward, and ask him to drain it. An, if thou can make no better of it, give him, as I have had to do, 2s. in the pound, as extra rent, on what it cost; an' if they go right to work, thou'll get off with about 8s. an acre increase of rent. An', if thou can grow ten bushels an acre more, with less tewing, an' greater certainty of a crop, thou's not far wrong. *Anthony*—Well, that's what I think too. An' I don't see t' squire can be wrong either; for if he has't brass to borrow, he can get it for 1s. in the pound, and by increasing his rent 2s., I warrant he's t' right side as well as me. I see very glad we've had this talk, Thomas, for it's been on my mind a good bit; an' no' but last night t' wife an' me settled that we'd lived long enough tewing i' wet an' muck an' that if we could not get 't farm soughed like thine, we'd look out for a place as was.—*York. Gazette.*