

ENGLISH FARMING.

A farmer writing in the *Cumberland Parquet* thus describes Mr. Hudson's farm at Castleacre:—"I went some time since to Castleacre, to visit my friend Mr. Hudson, whose name and writings are well known in the agricultural world; and I need not say I met with a most kind, liberal, and unostentatious reception. It is 23 years since Mr. Hudson took the Castleacre farm, under Lord Leicester, (then Mr. Coke), after having cancelled five years of the old lease, by which he lost £500. His rent was then £1,500 per annum for 1,400 acres. Seven years ago the lease was renewed for 21 years, at £1,600 per annum—a fair rent at that time; but when we consider that the saleable value of the estate has been increased by Mr. Hudson's industry and outlay to the extent of not less than £10,000, it is to be presumed that he would get a renewal of his lease on liberal terms; or otherwise that he may, during the next seven years, endeavour to withdraw from the land some reasonable portion of the capital he has invested in it. Mr. Hudson referred to his books to show that during his tenancy he has laid out in oil-cake and artificial manures £55,000. The oil-cake is laid on the land after passing through his cattle in the act of feeding them, but still it is money laid out in manure. This year his outlay is for 200 tons of linseed cake, at £60 10s. per ton, £1,250; 56 tons of Peruvian guano, £560; nitrate of soda, sulphuretted bones, &c., £400 more; besides Egyptian lentils, Indian corn, &c., for feeding purposes. He is now feeding cattle as the quack advertisers would feed us, namely, on *Revalenta arabica*, which is said to be ground Egyptian lentils, to the number 160 beasts, besides 100 of lean stock and cows, all of which will be turned into cash by May-day. They are lodged in eleven straw-yards, with sheds all round the quadrangle, and all abundantly supplied with food and water. With the cattle associate a good many growing pigs, which are quick enough to pick up a living amongst their betters. Mr. Hudson is preparing three beautiful Devon oxen for the Smithfield show. They appear small animals, but of excellent form and quality, and the fattest one is estimated to weigh 90 score, which at 6d. per lb. is £45; and if he obtained a £20 prize the ox will pay well. The mangers these animals feed from have slate bottoms, which are both clean and very durable. Mr. Hudson has 2700 sheep, 2500 of which, after their fleeces are off, will be sold in Smithfield before Midsummer, the breeding ewes being retained. The wool will be sold before Christmas, 1851, Mr. Hudson making it a point to adopt the commercial maxim of selling all he makes, whether it be beef, mutton, pork, corn, or wool, before his annual stock-taking. From about the end of November he sends about 150 quarters of grain to market weekly, until all is sold. His land sown and sowing with wheat this year is 500 acres, in the fields 35, 40, and 50 acres each, and in each field the crop is stacked on circular bottoms and iron posts two feet high and three feet apart. His circular stacks are 27

feet in diameter at the bottom; of symmetrical form, and beautifully trimmed. His barley stacks are oblong, 60 feet long by 20 feet wide, and not on raised bottoms; so that the rats, poor things! are kept on barley instead of wheat. Mr. Hudson paid £2950 in wages in 1849, and £2700 in 1840, and usually receives from £3,000 to £10,000 per annum from Smithfield market, according to the price of meat, now considerably less, the price of meat being too low to pay. He has put on his turnip land this year 3,000 tons of yard manure, and on his wheat land 2,000 tons; besides guano, bones, and other things. When I visited them, they were ploughing a little field of 35 acres with four pairs of oxen; and as they finished a ridge, six or eight feet wide, and while the mould was fresh and moist, the seed-drill followed; and after the drill came the harrow to finish with—the three operations going on together. I asked "what crop had you on this last?" "Turnips." "When did they come off?" "Yesterday. We hauled off half, and feed off the other half with sheep, and they finished their feed yesterday. We never let the land lie—we plough and sow directly we get the turnips away." "Well but where are the weeds?" "There are none, the turnips are kept perfectly clean. The same principle is adopted in turnip sowing, we put in the seed instantly the plough has passed over it." Mr. Hudson uses Howard's (of Bedford) patent plough. He bought a dozen of them four years ago at £4 15s. each. His dibbling machines cost £60 each. He has six road waggons, 18 Gloucester harvest waggons, 12 two-horse tumbrils with iron bottoms; 4 light Gloucester waggons for hay and light work, and a few one-horse carts—all made on the premises. His saddlery and harness are all repaired on the premises. And one of his steam-engines was made at home. This is all so different from the extent and routine of an ordinary Cumberland farm, that you may think I am romancing, but you must come and see, and then you will believe. Mr. Hudson has two stationary steam engines, of 12 horse power each, on different parts of the farm; and he finds they are not sufficient for his work, and is building a third. The castings are made in the village; and his engincer and blacksmith, with their forges and lathes, put them together. One of the engines was at work threshing barley, two men were in the stacks two loading the waggons, and two pitching from the waggons to the engine, another receiving the grain in swills, from which he returned it into another whirligig to have the beards broken off. The straw came out at another place, and was pitched away; and a cloud of chaff and dust showed where the winnowing was going to. The same engine was, at the same time, pumping water, grinding *Revalenta arabica*, and breaking oil-cake. The same machine also presses linseed for extracting the oil, which is put into large wine pipes and sent to America for sale, and the cake goes to feed the cattle. There is also attached a flour mill, as well as a barley-flour mill, for grinding the refuse corn, beans, &c., for feeding purposes; a saw mill and other conve-