

we are no judges of this crop, but we were informed that the expected produce would be about seven or eight hectolitres (twenty to twenty-three bushels)* per acre: six acres were in potatoes, expected to produce eight hundred hectolitres (two thousand two hundred and seventy bushels:—three hundred and seventy-eight bushels per acre.) A small patch, about an acre, was in carrots, which looked fine and large; twelve acres were in clover, nearly the whole of which was cut green to give to the cows and horses: it produces three good cuts in the year where it is not allowed to go to seed. The ten acres of heavy land were partly in beans and partly in wheat.

Thus we have one hundred and sixteen acres all profitably cropped, leaving four acres for the roads and farm-buildings. Although this farm is within two miles and a-half of Courtray, the greatest part of the manure is collected on the farm. Rape-cake is used most profusely, and to this, as well as to the depth of the soil, the beauty of the flax is ascribed. Mr. De Brabanter usually sows his flax after oats, which, on this account, have been very highly manured. His urine-tank is very capacious, like a large cellar under his cow-house. The farm-buildings are arranged nearly as those of the last-described farm; he has a large dry vault to store his roots in winter. His stock consists of twenty-seven cows in milk, five or six heifers, nine horses, and three colts. The rent of this farm, including land-tax and other imposts paid by the tenant, amounts to 4880 francs, 18*l.* 15*s.*, which is fully equal to 270*l.* in England, taking the value of agricultural produce in the two countries as a measure.

There is nothing very peculiar in the practice of Mr. De Brabanter. He ploughs the land well, lays it in narrow stitches with deep intervals dug out by the spade, puts manure with every crop, more or less, keeps the land clean by weeding, and adopts a long and varied rotation.

The beauty of this farm consists in the equality of the soil of the great field, and its depth. This is not so much owing to natural advantages as to a long course of stirring and manuring, by which there is such an accumulation of humus as to render a sandy loam, naturally of moderate fertility, equal to old garden-ground, absorbent and retentive of moisture, without being wet. The labourers on this farm were mostly lodged and boarded in the house, and they had all the appearance of being healthy and well

* A hectolitre is 2·837 Winchester bushels.