

In the farms of six acres, we found no plow, horse or cart; the only agricultural implement, besides the spade, fork and wheel barrow, which we observed, was a light wooden harrow, which might be dragged by hand. The farmer had no assistance, besides that of his wife and children, excepting sometimes in harvest, when we found he occasionally obtained the aid of a neighbor, or hired a laborer at a franc per day. The whole of the land is dug with the spade, and trenched very deep; but as the soil is light, the labor of digging is not great. The stock on the small farms which we examined, consisted of a couple of cows, a calf or two, one or two pigs, sometimes a goat or two and some poultry. The cows are altogether stall-fed, on straw, turnips, clover, rye, vetches, carrots, potatoes, and a kind of soup made by boiling up potatoes, peas, beans, bran, cut hay, &c., into one mess, and which being given warm is said to be very wholesome, and to promote the secretion of milk. In some districts, the grains of the breweries and distilleries are used for the cattle, and the failure of the Belgian distilleries has been reckoned a calamity to the agriculture of the country, on account of the loss of the supply of manure which was produced by the cattle fed in the stalls of these establishments.

The success of the Belgian farmer depends mainly upon the number of cattle which he can maintain by the produce of his land, the general lightness of the soil rendering the constant application of manure absolutely necessary to the production of a crop. The attention of the cultivator is always therefore especially directed to obtain a supply of manure. Some small farmers with this view, agree with the sheep dealer to find stall room and straw for his sheep, to attend to them, and to furnish fodder at the market price, on condition of retaining the dung. The small farmer collects in his stable, in a tank lined with brick, the dung and urine of his cattle. He buys sufficient lime to mingle with the scouring of his ditches, and with decayed leaves, potato tops, &c., which he is careful to collect, in order to enrich his compost, which is dug over two or three times in the course of the winter. No portion of the ground is allowed to lie fallow, but it is divided into six or seven small plots, on each of which a system of rotation is adopted; and thus, with the aid of manure, the powers of the soil are maintained unexhausted, in a state of constant activity.

The order of succession in the crops is various; but we observed on the six acre farms which we visited, plots appropriated to potatoes, wheat, barley, clover, (which had been sown with the preceding year's barley), flax, rye, carrots, turnips, or parsnips, vetches, and rye, for immediate use as green food for the cattle. The flax grown is heckled and spun by the farmer's wife, chiefly during the winter, and we are told that three weeks' labor at the loom towards the spring, enabled them to weave into cloth all the thread thus prepared. The weavers are generally a distinct class from the small farmers, though the laborers chiefly supported by the loom commonly occupy about an acre of land, sometimes more, their labor upon the land alternating with their work at the loom. In some districts, we were informed, every gradation in the extent of occupancy, from a quarter or half an acre, to the six acre farm, is to be found;

and in such cases more work is done in the loom by the smaller occupiers.

The labor of the field, the management of the cattle, the preparation of manure, the regulation of the crops, and the carrying a portion of the produce to market, call for the constant exercise of industry, skill and foresight among the Belgian peasant farmers; and to these qualities they add economy, sobriety, and a contented spirit, which finds its chief gratification beneath the domestic roof, from which the father of the family rarely wanders in search of excitement abroad. It was most gratifying to observe the comfort displayed in the whole economy of the households of these small cultivators, and the respectability in which they lived. As far as I could learn, there is no tendency to the subdivision of the small holdings. I heard of none under five acres, held by the class of peasant farmers, and six, seven, or eight acres, is the more common size. The provident habits of these small farmers, enable them to maintain a high standard of comfort, and they are therefore necessarily opposed to such subdivision. Their marriages are not contracted so early as in Ireland, and the consequent struggle for subsistence among their offspring does not exist. The proprietors of the soil retain the free and unrestricted disposal of their property, whether divided into smaller or larger holdings; but we were assured, that an industrious tenant was rarely, if ever, dispossessed. The common rent of land is about 20s. sterling, an acre, and the usual rate of wages for a day laborer is a franc (or 10d.) a day.—*M. S. in Ulster Gazette.*

RAPE CAKE FOR FEEDING.

PERHAPS no agricultural subject has excited more attention and discussion than the qualities and value of materials for food. BOUSSINGAULT and other celebrated writers have published tables of the theoretical values of different materials derived solely from their proportion of nitrogen, giving the highest value to such as contain the greatest per centage of this element. Consideration will, however, teach that highly nitrogenous food has a greater value for special or particular than for general purposes. If you examine the composition of milk, taken as dry material, it has the highest proportion, nearly 40 per cent. of nitrogenous compounds; yet as food for building up the frames of young animals, neither experience nor science has been able to devise any substitute of equal efficacy. I have shown, too, that food rich in albumen has a special value for the production of milk; it has likewise a special value in making good the deficiency of materials of food which do not contain a due proportion. We find that Swede turnips which contain about 16 per cent. of albumen in their material fatten satisfactorily; that the rich pasture grasses, which have a very similar proportion, have the like effect. We find that meadow hay, with its 6 or 8 per cent., maintains, but does not fatten, while on straw, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of albuminous matter, cattle exist for a time but do not thrive. The deficiency in these can be supplied only by materials rich in albumen. In addition to my cattle, I maintain about 50 lamming ewes, which I purchase in October, and also yearlings. To the former, which