

A little beyond Courtray along the Lys, towards Menin, is a farm particularly noticed by Mr. Radcliffe in his report of the Husbandry of Flanders. It was then in the occupation of a Mr. Van Bogeart, who afterwards retired with a competent fortune, chiefly acquired by farming. It is now occupied by Mr. De Brabanter, who cultivates it very carefully, with some slight deviations from the practice of his predecessor. This farm is called Voller, and is one of the finest and most compact we have seen. It consists of about one hundred and forty acres, of which about twenty are fine meadows along the river, occasionally flooded in winter, but not irrigated; about ten acres are rich heavy land, adjoining the meadows, in which beans and wheat thrive well; all the remainder, about one hundred and six acres, or rather more, lie in an oblong field bounded by a hedge-row, at one corner of which, nearest the river, stand the farm-buildings. A road or path, six feet wide, runs through the middle of the field, and the road which leads to the farm-yard skirts one end of it. The soil of this field is a rich light loam, which lies over a substratum of clay, but at such a depth as to be perfectly sound and dry. It is not extremely fertile in its own nature, but has been rendered so by many years of an improving husbandry. Every part of the land has been repeatedly trenched and stirred two or three feet deep; and the immense quantity of manure, chiefly liquid, put on year after year, has converted the whole into a very rich mould. The strength and vigour of the crops bear witness to the goodness of the husbandry. As we walked along the middle path, which is just wide enough to admit the wheels of a cart, the whole produce might be seen at once. It was just the time when the flax had been pulled, and remained stacked on the ground. The colza had been beat out, but the stems remained in heaps where they had been cut. There were fifteen acres of most beautiful flax of a bright straw-colour, and the stems a yard long. This, besides the seed, was worth in the stack from 25*l.* to 30*l.* per acre; twelve acres of colza had produced about fifty quarters of seed; eighteen acres of oats looked so promising that they could not be set at less than nine quarters per acre; eighteen acres of wheat, which stood well with short but plump ears, we valued at five quarters per acre; eighteen acres of rye, partly cut, with the straw above six feet high, would probably produce rather more than the wheat. There were six acres of white poppy, of which every plant was strong and upright, and the ground under it as clean as a garden: