

in proportion to the number of his acres of land, he may have the same results. It would startle a farmer of four hundred acres of arable land if he were told that he should constantly feed one hundred head of cattle; and yet this would not be too great a proportion, if the Flemish system were strictly followed. It is probable that in a large farm, by means of a division of labour, the whole work might be done at a comparatively smaller expense. There might be buildings in different parts of the farm, in which the cattle might be fed, so as to avoid carrying the green food, or the manure, to a great distance. By having several trusty servants to superintend the management of the different departments of the farm, great regularity might be introduced; and a system of checks might be contrived, by which the occupier of an extensive farm might have all his work done as regularly and effectually as if he had only a few acres to manage. A large farm requires a large capital, and unless there be very accurate accounts, not only of money paid and received, but of work done, of fodder consumed, and of the distribution of the labour of men and horses, so as immediately to detect any extravagance or error, and at all times to show the profit or loss, there can be no inducement to apply capital to the cultivation of land. The Flemish farmer is contented to live, and bring up his family. The proprietor is satisfied if he gets some return, either in rent or produce, adequate to the value of his estate: but the speculator who embarks his capital expects to have a fair interest, which will cover his outlay and his risks. Agriculture has not often presented advantages sufficiently tempting to induce mere speculators to embark in it, yet considerable fortunes have at times been made by improving land, and no doubt may be made again. The failures have been owing to want of prudence, as well as to the want of a practical knowledge of agriculture. A man who would embark his capital in farming should have served an apprenticeship: he should have managed a small farm before he attempts a large one. But if he has acquired experience, and expects no miracles, he will find that, by attention, perseverance, and skill, he may not only gain a decent livelihood by cultivating the soil, but that he may invest a capital in agriculture, so as to pay him a very handsome interest without much risk.