

weave into cloth all the thread thus prepared. The weavers are generally a distinct class from the small farmers, though the labourers chiefly supported by the loom commonly occupy about an acre of land, sometimes more, their labour 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 labour of the field, the management of the cattle, the preparation of manure, the regulating 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