

FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer.]

THE WORLD'S NOT SHROUDED.

BY J. WESLEY GREENE.

'Tis false!—the world's not shrouded;
The summer flowers are mine;
The calm blue sky's unclouded—
The temple of my shrine.
To me the sunbeam's given;
To me the morning hour,
To turn my heart toward heaven,
The Saint's true promised dower.

There is a song of sorrow—
The death dirge of the gay—
That tells, ere dawn of morrow,
Those charms may melt away;
The sun's bright beam be shaded,
The sky be blue no more,
The summer flowers be faded,
The blissful promise o'er.

Trust it I'll ne'er, though lonely
The evening hours may be,
Though beauty's bark can only
Trim sail on summer sea;
Though Time my years is stealing,
There's still beyond his art,
The wildflower wreath of feeling—
The sunbeam of the heart.

CINCINNATI, December, 1859.

The Paradise of Sheep Farmers.

Australia is unquestionably one of the finest countries in the world for raising sheep.

A gentleman recently from Australia informs the *Genesee Farmer* that the number of sheep in that country, in 1854, exceeded twenty millions. Among them may be found many flocks remarkable for the fineness of fleece and purity of blood. The average yield of clean washed wool is two pounds per head, but some flocks yield more. Their numbers multiply very rapidly, a flock of breeding ewes nearly doubling every year; and at one time they increased so that the supply exceeded the demand, and good sheep were sold, after shearing, at 25 cents per head. Of late years, the scab has made its appearance among them, and destroyed great numbers. The advent of the mining population has also largely increased the consumption of mutton; so that in 1856 sheep fit for the butcher readily brought \$4 per head.

Sheep farming in Australia is quite a pastoral occupation. Grass grows abundantly throughout the year, and the sheep require no shelter during the mild winter. A shepherd, accompanied by three or four well trained dogs, looks after every 5000 sheep, and follows them in their wanderings, folding them at night. He generally, however, leaves his dogs to watch the flock and keep them together while he snores away, fast asleep, under the shade of some tree, the dogs taking care to keep the sheep from wandering too far away from him. Australia may be called the paradise of sheep farmers.

For those who seek a salubrious climate as indispensable to their comfort, Australia, perhaps, offers as many inducements as any other country on the globe. We do not expect that the climate of Utah will soon become more mild than it now is. Indeed, the contrary seems to be the fact. Instead of becoming more mild, our winters appear to be annually increasing in length and severity—thus, calling loudly upon our farmers for more liberal provision and more permanent fixtures for the sustenance and comfort of our animals. With these, we cannot doubt that the persevering farmer who is not wedded to a land of luxury and ease, whose

"Bower is ever green, whose sky is ever clear,"

will find, even in these isolated and once sterile vales, his interest enhanced, as elsewhere, by the extensive raising of sheep.

There is a diversity of opinion as to which breeds of sheep are best—some preferring the pure Leicester, others the Merino, others still, the Cotswold, while others, with perhaps more display of good judgment, choosing a judicious cross-breeding.

There has, from time to time, been no little controversy among farmers as to what breeds of sheep were most profitable—each, naturally enough, seeking to obtain that breed or grade from which he could realize the largest interest on the capital invested, at the most moderate outlay. In too many cases these controversies have been well founded; for, as every experienced farmer knows, all breeds of sheep do not thrive equally well upon the same soil and, it follows, the kind that would be most profitable in one locality might prove the reverse in another.

For example, it is an established axiom among wool-growers of the East, that, with a

mild climate, extensive range and little or no demand for mutton, there are no sheep so profitable as the Merino. The various grades of the Leicester breed are known, from their domestic habits, to thrive best on rich, luxuriant summer pasture, with good care, proper shelter and food in winter. In localities where the land is poor and the grass scanty—as is the case upon the benches, hills and mountains around us—and where there is some attention paid to the quality of mutton, the Cotswold and South Downs are most profitable.

It will be seen, however, that none of these breeds exactly suit this mountainous region, and the necessities of the people inhabiting it, who, though for years partially engaged in home manufacturing, have as yet obtained, in the manufacturing of woollen fabrics, a degree of perfection comparatively infantile and rude; hence, while the fine-wooled sheep are in many respects desirable, their wool would not be found so suitable to our wants and our present facilities for manufacturing, as the coarser woolled breeds.

A writer in an eastern agricultural journal, on this subject, says: "As far as my experience goes, the most profitable sheep are of no breed. Buy poor and inferior ewes (of the native breed, if possible), cross them with the best Leicester or South Down rams, according to their roughness and other qualities, and they will pay from 50 to 100 per cent. per annum or more. This is simply taking advantage of the maxim in breeding, that the first cross is the best. You thus obtain an increase in mutton of from 20 to 30 lbs., and an increase in wool of from 50 to 100 per cent., besides great improvement in the quality of both."

Here, then, is indicated the true policy for us to pursue: to obtain rams of the Leicester, South-down or Cotswold breeds and with them cross our native breeds. The Cotswolds, perhaps, would be found as good as any other, if not the best for this region, if proved well adapted to our high altitude. It would be advisable, however, to also import rams of the other breeds, viz., Leicester, South-down and, perhaps, French Merino; which being placed under the supervision of competent, practical men, it would soon be ascertained which are best to cross with our native breeds, which will be most profitable and which are most suitable, as to their size, quality and yield of wool, flesh, etc.

Mr. Josiah M. Ware, of Clark county, Virginia, alluding to the superiority of the Cotswolds and instituting a comparison between the relative profits of hog and sheep raising, says:

"Of all sheep, I prefer the Cotswold, from experience. They mature early, are large, hardy, and take on fat easy. During the summer and fall that they are one year old, (not fed on grain) no mutton can be more delicately flavored, juicy, and tender. Over two years old, many muttons are better, as they then tallow too heavily for the appetite; but the butcher will then give almost any price for them; and what prudent man wishes to keep muttons to four years old, when he can sell them at one year old at much better prices than any other sheep at four?"

I have rarely, if ever, sold my muttons of this breed, the fall after one year old, under \$10 each, and have sold older ones much higher; and never sold them, at the same age, under \$8 dollars each without having fed grain at all; and the fleece amply pays the keep. Can any breed of hogs show such clear profit and in so short time? and they have no wool to pay cost of keep.

To meet any objection as to the danger of their loss by dogs, I will say I have had this breed some years in its purity, having always imported the sheep that won the high prizes of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and have never lost a thorough bred by dogs. They are large, heavy, sluggish sheep, with great aptitude to take on fat; they fill themselves and lie down and ruminate like cattle, and do not jump up and run when anything comes into the field. It is to this I ascribe their safety from dogs, as dogs are not apt to seize anything that does not run from them. But I believe that if common sheep were in the same pasture, their running would induce Cotswolds to do so too; and being bad runners, from their weight and sluggishness, the dogs would be most likely to kill the Cotswolds first."

It is high time that the farmers of Utah had turned their careful attention to sheep-raising—to us one of the most profitable and important branches of industry that now presents itself before them.

We are gratified to know that the President and Directors of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society have made a move in this direction. We trust that, under their guidance, there will be something done that shall place within the search of those inspired with the spirit of improvement, the means for effecting what has been long desired.

The Salt Weed.

This plant, or weed, belonging to the *sal solus* tribe, and found in the low, saleratus grounds throughout this and other valleys, is comparatively unknown as an article of fodder for cattle, though possessing properties highly nutritious and, as we believe, also highly promotive of health, especially to animals kept up and fed in yards during winter.

Our San Pete correspondents have informed us of instances, the present winter, in that locality, where cattle, kept up, have become fatally diseased. There may have been a combination of causes for this. It is undeniable that, when animals are restricted to the confines of a corral or barn-yard and allowed but little variety of diet, they are more liable to become diseased than when allowed the free scope of a wide range, where—except in winter, when the accumulated snows frequently become so deep that it is with great difficulty that the stock are able to gain a subsistence—there is almost every variety of food necessary to supply the stimulating and aperient juices, the neutralizing elements, etc., etc., essential to the health of all animals.

Could we turn out our stock to run at large upon the range during winter, with any degree of assurance that the deep snows would not prevent their obtaining sustenance, we would, of course, prefer to do so; but such is not the case; the past and the present winters have fully demonstrated—if never before—that stock turned out upon the range, uncared for is by no means a safe investment of capital.

Especially is this true of cattle who have been worked across the plains. To illustrate the fact we need only to point to Ruby valley, west of this, where nearly three thousand head have perished the present winter; many or most of which might doubtless have survived, had provender been provided for them; but this would have involved some little outlay in the payment for the labor of cutting, curing and stacking hay, which, surely, would reduce the enormous profits anticipated on the sale, next season, in a California market, of that immense herd of fat cattle. Alas! for human calculations. How very short-sighted and ill contrived!

Of the native stock that has been running on the range in this valley, we have heard of comparatively few losses, as yet. What losses may occur hereafter we have no means of determining. We may state, however, that even our native stock are far from being proof against the ravages of starvation.

The winter of 1855-6 will not soon be forgotten, more especially by those who were the greatest sufferers—some of whom, whose wealth consisted chiefly in stock, having lost every hoof they possessed and were left, as it were, bankrupt.

Probably it would not be expedient for all who own cattle in this country, to keep them up and feed them during our long winters. The cost of fodder would be enormous, if indeed, it could be obtained. If circumstances, at any future time, should enforce this, it would have a tendency to greatly diminish the *furor* for speculation in beef cattle, regardless of quality of flesh or superiority of breed, which has prevailed here to an inordinate extent. There are few stock raisers in the East who do not prepare fodder for the winter sustenance of their stock.

Although, in the county of San Pete, as above stated, there seems to have been considerable loss sustained by those who have corralled and fed their animals, we are not disposed to discard the practice. We would have every man who owns cattle and who wishes to derive from them the most benefit possible, to make some provision for their support during times of extreme difficulty in obtaining sustenance on the range. Nor would we stop there. If he is an inhabitant of the city and owns cows or other stock that to succeed well, requires some attention, his cows and other fine animals should be invariably well sheltered and well fed during the winter months. Indeed, with the best breeds of stock in the world, our let-alone system of stock-raising would soon deteriorate them to the standard of our common scrubs.

According to our best information, there has been more stock wintered and properly cared for in this city, the present, than during any previous winter since our settlement here. Nor have we heard of any disease whatever prevailing among them, from which we infer that their health and comfort has been properly looked after, besides having them securely corralled.

His Excellency ex-Governor Young—besides a large number of working animals, whose remarkably good condition gives evidence of their invariable good treatment—has kept up a large number of cows, feeding them chiefly upon succulent food—principally carrots—and, having been regularly and systematically milked, as well as fed, watered, salted, &c.; their cleanliness, also, being by no means neglected; and, so far from failing in flesh, they are now generally in good condition, their milk improves in quantity as well as quality, and they continue giving milk longer, while other cows, not suitably attended to, become lean, give little milk and frequently dry up from three to six months before calving.

Now, although it may be asserted, we will not admit that people generally, who own cows, cannot or might not adopt a similar practice and reap all the benefits resulting therefrom.

In connection with our allusions to the salt weed above, we had designed to state that, in the corral of Mr. Geo. B. Wallace, 17th Ward, a few days since, we were shown several head of cattle, principally cows, which, we were informed, had been chiefly fed on the salt weed, with occasionally a little of the remains of the beet, after the juice was expressed, and we can say, without exaggeration, we have never seen animals in a more thriving condition. There was one large cow, not now giving milk, which, if butchered, would have made better beef than the best now found in the markets.

This weed, when thrown to them, was devoured with uncommon relish and eagerness; and, from what we learn from Mr. W., as also from others who have used it for fodder, we believe it one of the most healthy as well as nutritive grasses growing in these valleys.—It is juicy, agreeably impregnated with salts and, though not at first so well liked by cattle is soon preferred by them before most of the grasses here cut and denominated hay.

We are the more interested in this "weed," in consideration of the comparative scarcity of grass lands in this region and in view of a necessity which may compel stock-owners to make more liberal provision for fodder than most of them have hitherto done.

An old War Horse.—There is a horse in the regiment of the 11th Hussars of the English army, which has attained the remarkable age of thirty years. By the horse register it is shown that he joined the army as a four year old on the 2d of October, 1833; was sent to the Crimea in 1854, and was present in all the actions, including Balaklava, in which that regiment was engaged, being one of the very few horses who survived the exposure of that winter. He is still, in 1859, in good health, and fit for duty.

Wearing Flannel.

The very best thing that can be worn next the skin, in summer as well as in winter, is common woollen flannel. One color has no advantage over another, except that white is more agreeable to the sight, it is more likely to "full up" in washing; but this may be almost entirely prevented, if done properly. Pour boiling hot strong soapsuds on the garment in a tub, let it alone until the hand can bear the water, then pour off and add clean water, boiling hot, let this stand also as before; pour off and add more boiling clean water, and when cool enough, merely squeeze the garment with the hands—no wringing or rubbing. Stretch it immediately on a line in the hot sun, or before a hot fire, and as the water settles at the most dependent part of the garment, press it out with the hand, and be careful to stretch the fabric as soon as the water is squeezed out, aiming as much as possible to keep the flannel hot until it is dry. If woollen garments are treated literally as above, they will remain pliable and soft until worn out.

Recent scientific experiments, carefully conducted, prove the truth of the popular sentiment that flannel is the best fabric to be worn next the skin, as it absorbs more moisture from the body than any other material, and by so doing, keeps more perfectly dry. Cotton absorbs the least, hence the perspiration remains more on the skin and being damp, the heat of the body is rapidly carried off by evaporation and suddenly cools when exercise ceases, the ill effects of which no intelligent mind needs to be reminded of. Hence it is that the common observation of all nations leads them to give their sailors woollen flannel shirts for all seasons and for all latitudes, as the best equalizers of the heat of the body.—[Hall's Journal of Health.]

GEESSE PICKED BY MACHINERY.—The Scientific American announces a machine for picking geese, the result of a number of years' labor, and one of the most ingenious pieces of mechanism ever seen. It not only plucks the feathers but separates the long ones from the short ones, while passing through the machine. It will pick forty-five geese per hour, and must materially affect the price of feathers.