

wool in 1862. His ewe, "Lady Grey," weighed 200 lbs., and yielded 16 lbs. of wool in 1862. The wethers are now sometimes killed at 11 months old when they weigh from 15 to 24 lbs. per quarter; at 2 years old they increase to 20 lbs. or 30 lbs. The wool is strong mellow, of good colour, rather coarse, 6 to 8 inches long, and from 7 lbs to 8 lbs. per fleece. R. L. Denison, Esq., and some others, are the champions of the Leicesters. This successful "gentleman farmer" cannot believe that his favourite is not before all others. No doubt, under the circumstances of his farm, he may be right, and guided, as are all the operations of his farm, by common sense and skill and assiduity, the Leicester with him deserves to hold a first place. It is a first-class sheep, and no one can doubt that fact. We only speak of its relative inferiority to others under special circumstances. We cannot hope to see either one or all of these varieties diffused over the country as by magic, but we may very reasonably desire to see these perfect forms lending gradual improvements to our present very inferior stock; and it is with a view to that not only the desirableness of speedy improvement, but also the direction in which improvement should progress that we direct attention to this matter.

South Downs and Sheep-Farming.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Favour me with the opportunity of directing the attention of your readers to the beautiful engraving of South Down sheep that adorns your last number. I do not ask leave to dilate upon it as a work of art. I must forego that pleasure. I will only say that if Canada can continue to produce pictures in wood engraving, and in the kindred arts equal to the South Down sheep, she need not fear humiliation in a universal international exhibition of high art. The drawing is accurate in outline, and bears upon it the impress of that most ethereal gift of genius—the power to snatch a grace beyond the reach of art. The engraving is very fine, and shows the combination of force and delicacy that is only for a moment in wood engraving, and is only appreciable by the initiated.

My object in writing this paper, however, is purely material. I wish to arrest the current of thought that must pass through the mind of every man who shall look upon that picture and reason upon it. Some will say: It is very pretty, but nobody ever saw sheep like these. Here I say, put on the brake. Do not allow prepossession engendered of inexperience to run away with your reason, and prevent you from believing that which I can assure you is a fact. There are such sheep and they are to be found in Old England by hundreds of thousands, aye millions, not all of the Duke of Buckingham's strain, but of cognate orders, and possessing all the valuable qualities of that breed, although not quite equal in symmetry to the sheep of which your engraving holds the portraits. I have had them and bred them. I have travelled many miles to obtain a superior ram, and in all my travels I beheld the gently undulating hills and teeming valleys specked with such sheep as these. The next objection will be: Such sheep are not fit for Canada. Why not? I have not seen the whole of Canada, but I have seen no part of Upper Canada that is not fitted for the South Down. He is as hardy as a Cheviot. I think he is as hardy as a black-faced Highland sheep, but the Down has not had the experience of the Highlander. Highland sheep have been known to lie buried under the snow for six weeks, and after all to furnish, perhaps, the sweetest joints of mutton in the world. But mark you, they were not killed and cooked as soon as they were dug out of the snow. It may be assumed, however, that the South Down is hardy enough to bear a Canadian winter without suffering. It is not cold but wet, that injures sheep. With a moderate supply of food in the depth of winter, the South Down would come out in spring as jolly as Mark Tapley. He is of a similar constitution.

Now here comes a difficulty. It is useless for any purpose of improved farming to keep five ewes, especially such ewes as I have seen in Upper Canada—old and hideous, all paunch and shank, looking, just after they had been clipped, like caricatures of the rot made of India rubber. Every farmer who has

one hundred acres of cleared land, free from stumps and swamp, ought to have a wet flock of one hundred ewes. One hundred ewes! Where are we to get them? It is a pertinent enquiry, and I answer I don't know. I only know that before sandy beads that are now wagging become gray if you do not obtain sheep you may bid good-bye to the profitable cultivation of wheat. You may grow wheat on your clean summer fallows, but your returns will average from twelve to fifteen bushels an acre. There is also a system said to have been proved in England of growing wheat perennially on the same land, without manure; but it is not applicable to Canada. You can't grow wheat to profit without manure. Those portions of land that I have seen contain a greater proportion of improvable land than any other part of the world with which I am acquainted; but it is all of a quality to wear out with continuous crops of wheat. And the only salvation for such land is sheep farming. You may not be able to get a hundred ewes at once. Get all you can, and strive and persevere until you do get a hundred. You may not be able to get a hundred Downs, but you may get a hundred of different kinds; and for manuring purposes, one is as good as another. Nevertheless, keep the South Down in your eye, and choose your sheep for points of resemblance to South Downs. No other sheep has so great a proportion of leg and loin, and so small an amount of offal. Two legs of South Down mutton are better than one of any other kind. To obtain wet flocks must be a work of time, but there is no valid reason why one of our more enterprising farmers should not begin to form one. The advantages that would result would produce followers of the example.

Having got a hundred ewes on a hundred acres of land, you will require twenty-five acres of roots. That, you say, is impossible. Determination ignores impossibilities. It is not only possible, but without it good farming is impossible. Good farming means a system of tilling, cropping and consuming, under which the fertility of the land is maintained and increased. Such a system involves perpetual manuring. In this country—owing, amongst other causes, to the high rate of labour wages—the only profitable means of manuring is by sheep, folded and fed upon the land. Sheep also help to keep land clean. If a farmer have spirit enough to buy oil-cake and other artificial food, and make his lambs lambs, and his sheep sheep, he will derive other advantages of which, until he tries, he cannot conceive. The sweet singer of Israel says, sententiously, "The clouds drop fatness." The droppings of sheep are fatness, of which David could not altogether be ignorant, because he was a shepherd. But he knew nothing of the four-course system, and never planted a mangold or a Swede for his flock. If he had done so, the subject of one, at least, of David's poetic canticles would have been sheep-farming. That canticle would have been appointed to be said or sung in churches, and thus sheep-farming would have been a part of our religion, as with every farmer it ought to be.

Toronto, July, 1861.

W. R. CARTER.

SHEEP BENEFICIAL TO A FARM.—The profits of keeping sheep are not all derived from the wool they produce, and their increase in numbers; for their manure is one of the very best fertilizers of the soil that we have. Although sheep will not thrive if kept too long upon the same farm, yet the soil upon which they are kept will rapidly increase in its fertility. A moderate coating of sheep manure will renovate worn soil more than a heavy coating of barn yard manure, and no manure is better adapted to the growing of wheat than this. Sheep may be made a great profit to a farm as fertilizers, if a little attention be paid to this subject, and a little pains taken to save their droppings, or having it dropped where the soil most needs it. This may be done during the winter by feeding the sheep when the weather will admit—in the poorest field there is on the farm; and the sheep shed should be well littered with straw, saw-dust, or something of the kind, so that none of their excrement can be lost.—*Rural American*.

SHELTER FOR SHEEP WHILE AT PASTURE.—Solomon Green, of Townsend, Mass., who says he has kept sheep thirty years, advises to have small buildings erected in sheep-pastures, and that they should be dark, so that the sheep by going into them may avoid the flies. He says the sheep will go in at 8 o'clock in the forenoon, and remain till 4 o'clock in the afternoon. "The house," he says, "should be built on runners, so that it can be moved, and this will enrich the land. A house 12 feet square is sufficient to hold a dozen sheep and their lambs. Move it its length once in two or three weeks." He sends the following, which he says is a "sure cure for grub in the head and belly of sheep."—For six sheep, mix two quarts of oats with a large teaspoonful of yellow snuff, and give to the sheep once a week for a few weeks, and then once a month.—*Boston Cultivator*.

Correspondence.

ECONOMY IN SUMMER FIRING.—On this subject, "A. H.," of H. sieville, writes:—"As firewood is an item of considerable expense, I find that a great saving of wood can be effected in many cooking-stoves when only one side is required, by having a slide at the back of the fire-place, so as to shut up one side and make all the blaze go up the side that is required."

ALTERED READING.—"J. H. Thomas," of Brooklyn, says: "In my last article in No. 11 of THE CANADA FARMER I am made to say, 'obtaining honey from the body of the hive, giving to a colony, or taking from a colony; and nymph queens, as may be desired.' This is quite unintelligible. It should have read thus: 'obtaining honey from the body of the hive; giving to a colony or taking from a colony nymph queens as may be desired.' Our correspondent will oblige us by writing as plainly and carefully as possible."

THE GOOSEBERRY SAW-FLY.—Mr. Thomas has sent us some specimens of the worm that is destroying his gooseberries and currants, which taken in connection with his description, we have no doubt is the veritable "SAW-FLY." He states that the use of hellebore was recommended by the gardener of Dr. J. Foot, and that the remedy is infallible, for he tested it thoroughly before sending his letter to THE CANADA FARMER. It may be necessary to go over the bushes a second time if there should be a second brood deposited.

LARGE MAPLE SUGAR RETURNS.—"C. P. Treadwell," of L'Orignal, sends us for publication the following extract from a communication in reference to his maple sugar operations, by Alfred Cass of that place:

"For the last ten years I have made from two tons to two and a half tons of maple sugar yearly, I have tapped from 800 to 1500 maple trees. The buckets used for saving the sap are 400 of tin and the remainder of wood. The implements used in manufacturing the sugar are of the most modern improvements."

THE SLUG.—Wm. Porte, Esq., of Lucan, sends us some leaves and insects. Judging from the dried remains of the insects and the appearance of the leaves, these insects are known as the slug, (*Selandria cerasi*), they are often very injurious to pear, cherry, and plum trees. Fortunately, if the tree is not large, they are very easily destroyed by dusting them with dry unleached ash. Mr. Porte says he has tried the hellebore recommended in a late number of THE CANADA FARMER, and finds that wherever they "got a dose of it they were killed." He asks "will the hellebore not injure the trees?" We do not believe that it will, but have not seen it tried sufficiently to speak positively. Perhaps some of our readers can answer the inquiry more satisfactorily.

FILBERTS IN THOROLD.—"Geo. Keefer," of Thorold, writes:—"In answer to a Lady at Meaford, who makes enquiry why the 'Canada farmers do not plant filberts in their orchards,' I beg you will give that lady my best respects, and inform her there is no difficulty whatever in their cultivation. I have had the English filbert growing in my garden for a number of years, and they thrive well and yield abundantly. I raised mine from the nut, but they will grow just as well by transplanting. I have often wondered why the filbert is not more generally raised in Canada, particularly when the climate is so favourable—the common filbert or 'hazelnut,' as it is called, grows spontaneously in many parts of Canada, but is very small. I do not know, however, how far it might be improved by cultivation."

Another correspondent, who signs himself "An English Farmer," says:—"I beg to inform you that about thirty years ago I brought upwards of forty young filbert trees of different kinds (from different parts of England,) to this country, they thrive well and produced as fine filberts as I ever saw in England."

RAISING CURRANTS FROM SEED.—In reply to inquiries received upon this subject, we may say if any wishes to experiment in the raising of new varieties, the proper method is to gather the fruit when fully ripe, and after washing out the seed from the pulp, sow it in light soil immediately. In the spring it will vegetate, and the young plants should be carefully kept free from weeds, and the soil stirred often so as