

That the Popes shear their sheep pretty well is a well known fact, but it may interest you to know that the Holy Father is in reality a sheep-breeder, and the prices he gets for his wool would make an Australian stock-breeder green with envy. The Pope keeps a small number of lambs which have been sanctified over the graves of the Apostles, and out of this wool is made the Episcopal "Pallium." The "Pallium" originally was a Roman mantle made of purple stuff, gold embroidered and ornamented, and was given to Patriarchs and Bishops by the Emperors as a token of their esteem—much as nowadays kings and queens give Orders, Ribbons, Garters, etc. Gregory I. was the first Pope who took it upon himself to dispense this favour instead of the Emperor. Gradually, as was always the case with Popes in other things, they claimed it as their sole right, made a monopoly of it, and forced the Bishops to buy the "Pallium" in Rome. The Popes were the sole manufacturers. The article complete—blessing and all—cost 30,000 florins (\$10,000), terms cash, and this was such a nice source of income that John VIII. had the temerity to declare that any Bishop who did not order a "Pallium" in three months would be deposed. The Popes became so greedy that, after a while, the garment was considered too good value for the paltry sum paid for it, and they substituted for it ribbons adorned with a red cross hanging over the front and back, like braces. These ribbons were made by nuns, of the wool shorn from the sacred lambs, and weighed about six ounces. Accordingly, a pound of this wool brought about \$35,000. Bishops are usually old gentlemen, and succeeded each other rather quickly, and when they died their successors had to buy a new "Pallium." One Bishop of Mayence was obliged to sell the left leg of a golden image of Jesus to raise funds to pay for his "Pallium." Sometimes Bishops received two bills for a "Pallium" from two counter-Popes. How they got over that difficulty I do not know.

Pope Boniface VIII. had a truly golden idea. He instituted a Jubille year, like that of the old Romans and Jews. Whoever came to Rome during the Jubilee year, and deposited his mite upon the altar, received absolution for all sins ever