

the calculation, a thorow knowledge of which, our Creator seems to have reserved to beings of a superior order to us mortals. We can take away life, but we cannot even discern the sources whence it arises, and it is only by the accumulation of facts as to its action that we can deal with the principle.

Under these circumstances it may be seen of what great value are societies like the present,—they induce a habit of thinking, a habit of thinking leads to the observation of facts and the circumstances of their relations one to another; relations which though often of the utmost importance are neglected where habits of reflection are not cultivated. By the way a regular memoranda of ordinary occurrences as they happen would be found to be of incalculable advantage to farmers generally, affording them an opportunity of comparing season with season, and the circumstances attending one year's operations might thus be made to bear upon the difficulties of another.

But to return to the subject immediately before us, the management of sheep farming in Canada. The consideration of it seems naturally to fall into two branches: First, the mode of investment of capital in a sheep stock, so as to yield the largest profit to the farmer; next the mode of management of that stock so as to keep it in the most healthy condition; assuming always, that stock kept in the most healthy, thriving condition, will yield the best and safest return to the holder. This position I think we may safely take, notwithstanding the fact, that pampered animals, covered with an extraordinary superabundance of fat, often yield a large profit as show animals, although they cannot be said to be in a naturally healthy state. On the same ground of whom some actual diseases may, perhaps, be made occasionally to yield a profit. I remember a lawyer dining at the table of a friend of mine; when, on his expressing himself much gratified with the excellency of the mutton, his host told him that it was a sturdied wedder. The next day, he went to his butcher and begged to be supplied as often as possible with sturdied mutton, as that was the finest kind of sheep he had ever tasted.

The chief view of the farmer in the investment of capital in stock is to make a profitable market for the various productions of his soil; not in their raw state, immediately available for the use of man. There is however another consideration by no means to be neglected, that is the returning in the shape of manure a full equivalent at least to the crop taken off the land. It is true that in some localities, as near towns, a large amount of stock is kept entirely independent of the farmer, except, in making a market often of a most remunerating character, for his coarser grains, hay, and roots. In such case a large amount of stock would often seem not to be required by the agriculturist; but here he would do well to be particularly on his guard against the disadvantage arising from a short stock, a short supply of manure; and to avoid that evil by the constant use of the large quantities so easily obtained in the vicinity of a dense population. Speaking approximately, there are three modes of manage-

ment of a sheep stock, which, in the extension of that husbandry, now lie open to us. First, the rearing, holding always in the highest condition, and selling off as soon as possible our own stock on a comparatively limited scale; second, the rearing and bringing to a certain point, by one party, whose position may be most fitted to the purpose; and the feeding off by a second party (who may be more favourably situated for that object) after purchasing from the raiser at a remunerating price; third, the rearing, keeping, and feeding off, on a more extended scale; an article usually kept to a greater age than the first class, and hardly until the final stages maintained in such high condition. In the latter mode of management, a larger flock could undoubtedly be maintained with less expense of labour than on the first plan, and, as the wool is one source of profit, it remains a question whether the return on the food consumed might not even be greater, especially as that food during a great part of the period might be of coarser quality. But the farms would require to be of sufficient range to allow to each class of sheep its proper distinct locality. It is however a doubtful matter, whether our present ready money market would be capable of absorbing any great amount of such stock, *en masse*, as it would require to be turned off. Should ever our market become more extended and steady, this would be a course of management well adapted to our back country; much might also be urged in favour of the second mode in back districts, where hay and other coarse fodder is often of little value, or will be so when lumbering becomes worn out. A large amount of sheep might, in such places, be with advantage, reared and sold, to the feeder more immediately on the market to finish off. There would by this arrangement be less loss from deterioration in bringing forward, and the butcher can always afford to give a better price to the man who keeps an article ready for him close at hand, when he may require it; instead of himself seeking it at a great expense of time and labour. At the same time, the front farmer who can sell his heavy fodder to advantage, and whose land is of high value, and consequently minutely subdivided, would not by this arrangement be required to keep a large stock, in its earlier, and to him, least profitable stages. The objection to this mode of management would at present chiefly be the slovenly mode of rearing stock so general through the country, rendering it difficult to procure an article of such quality as would make it desirable as a feeder. Here is a motive to the man living backward, to rear stock of a better description than he at present does; for, assuredly, the time has now arrived when such stock, were it produced in any quantity, would find a ready market. Another difficulty, perhaps, lies in what I have before alluded to, the absence of fairs bringing together stock, so that a purchaser can, with little trouble, select such as is peculiarly adapted to his purpose.

Considering, however, the class of sheep to which I have already given the preference, the heavy Teeswater or Leicester, I should, under the present circumstances of our country, choose the first mode of management. A thorough founda-