

fruit, &c., and takes crumbs of barley-cake and shreds of fruit-parings, &c., from its master's hand.

To cottagers, small farmers, and, indeed, to all classes having gardens or living near small pieces of waste ground, it would be a most valuable acquisition. The food which would keep millions is wasted in this country. I have no doubt that a small flock could be got to England at a very moderate expense, and I think it probable that, were your society to evince an interest in the matter, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company would afford facilities for effecting the importation. The vessels of the company leave Kurrachee twice monthly, in connection with the transit on the Indus.

The Purik sheep would seem exactly adapted to supply the requirement mentioned by Mr. Wilson, and it would be an object worthy of the efforts of a public-spirited philanthropist to import it. The countries it inhabits are not unlike England in climate—hotter, perhaps in summer, but colder in winter.

Farming in Kincardineshire, Scotland.

SIR,—A copy of the *Irish Farmers' Gazette* is now lying before me. Several interesting questions are referred to in it—such as the partial substitution of oatmeal as an article of diet, in place of potatoes, amongst the agricultural population, the cultivation of turnips, and the providing of sufficient housing of stock during the winter, &c. Perhaps the practice in this far off corner of Scotland may be interesting to some of your readers.

I may, then, premise that the great Grampian range of mountains, which extends in a north easterly direction across the whole of Scotland, terminate in this county, towards the confines of lower Aberdeenshire. Much of the area of the county is occupied by mountains, incapable of cultivation; but in the valleys and hollows, and along the line of sea coast, agriculture is conducted with the *greatest* energy. Great competition exists for the occupancy of land; and whenever an old tenant declines to give what the landlord may ask, the farm is at once advertised in the newspapers, a day is fixed for receiving *written* offers, and the result generally is that the highest offer is accepted. A lease for nineteen years and crops is granted; the landlord erecting all the farm buildings, often at a great cost, and in some cases charging five per cent. on the outlay, while in others there is no charge. Capital is also advanced for draining, at from four to six and a half per cent., as the case may be, the tenant, on his part, undertaking to keep the houses in good repair, and the drains in working condition. The outgoing tenant has the privilege of selling off the whole of the last crop, which he generally does by auction; and the incoming tenant may purchase

what he pleases of it. He has also to pay for manure which may be on the farm, but never pays for clover and grass seeds, sown on, perhaps, one-fifth of the farm, together with any ploughings which may have been given to the land. If he be an energetic farmer, he immediately sets about preparing for green crops, by deep ploughing his stubbles, collecting manure, &c.; as it is by producing heavy crops of turnips that he expects to keep his land in heart, and pay his rent, which is usually done about the 15th of February and 15th of August, for the preceding crop. The fifth shift rotation is the most common—that is, oats, after two-year-old lea; turnips; barley, sown with ray grass and clover, viz., 1 bush. ray-grass, 2 lbs. white clover, 1 lb. red, and 2 lbs. alsike. The whole farm-yard manure is applied to the turnip and potato crop, with an addition of 3 cwt. of guano per acre to the former, and 4 cwt. to the latter. Greater is taken to clean the land previous to sowing the turnips, and afterwards by hoeing and grubbing, and finally, by furring up. One farmer, who acted with me the other day as a judge of the nips for a sweepstakes offered by the corn club, and who farms nearly 500 acres, told me while riding along, that his guano bill this year amounted to £500. The farmer who gained the sweepstakes told us that he bought annually five tons of manure for *each* acre he occupied, mixed with his farm-yard manure, besides having a large guano bill. I occupy 250 imperial acres, and my outlay for manures for the last ten years is above £1,000.

I mention these facts merely to show what can be done with profit under adverse circumstances, such as a generally poor soil and severe climate. In the parish to which I belong the rental in 1839 was about £11,000, and it is now about £17,000. Yours, &c., A SCOTCH FARMER.

LONG LIFE AND FARMING.—What advantage hath the farmer in this respect? Not much, as the results of reliable statistical observations, given in a condensed form in what follows, very satisfactorily demonstrate. Dr. Ward Jarvis of Boston, President of the Statistical Association, has prepared a table from mortality reports of Massachusetts, of men of different occupations. The average length of life of cultivators of the soil is much higher than that of any other large class, being 64 years, while that of professional men of all classes is 62; that of merchants and capitalists, 48; that of mechanics whose business leads them to outdoor activity, 48; that of mechanics confined to shop activity, 47; that of sailors, 46; that of laborers, 45; that of common carriers, 44. Of the particular professions and occupations, the average longevity of clergymen was 56; of lawyers, 54; of physicians, 54; of coopers, 53; of blacksmiths, 52; of carpenters, 50; of masons, 44.