

Stock Department.

The Moodlaw Flock.

SOME time ago we noticed the sale of Cheviot sheep at Moodlaw, in connection with the retirement of Mr. Brydon from the tenancy of that Farm. A short account of the Cheviot breed, to which he paid so much attention, may not be unacceptable to our readers, many of whom, no doubt, still keep up sufficient interest in the old country to read with pleasure any report of agricultural events transpiring there. The following particulars, as well as the accompanying illustrations, are taken from that most admirable agricultural journal, the *Farmer* (Scottish), to which we are so often indebted for important information, and which is among the most valuable and welcome of our exchanges.

At the beginning of the present century, when Culley wrote his treatise on live stock, the Cheviot breed of sheep were chiefly confined to the "fine green hills on the Scotch and English borders," but since that period it has spread over the northern Highlands, producing an immense addition to the national supplies of meat and wool. In Culley's time the Cheviot breed possessed certain defects, amongst which light fore-quarters and narrow breasts were prominent, but these defects have since been removed, especially in all well-bred sheep of the kind. The carcasses have also become heavier, and altogether the Cheviot is an exceedingly valuable breed, in its pure state, for those mountain ranges for which it is suited; while the females of the breed, when put to the Leicester ram, produce crosses of a very superior description.

That the Moodlaw flock has exercised a considerable influence on the general improvement of the Cheviot breed, will be allowed by all who have given the slightest attention to the subject; and Mr. Brydon eminently deserved the compliment paid him when a large company met him at the Crown Hotel in Edinburgh, to present him with his portrait, on the occasion of his leaving the farm of Moodlaw, of which he has been tenant for the last twenty-seven years.

Old Pallie, of whose head we give an engraving, Fig. 1, may be considered the "Hubback" of Moodlaw, the sire to which most of the pedigrees trace back, and of which Mr. Brydon's best show sheep have been immediate descendants. Old Pallie was descended from Old Stirling, a grand sheep in point of style, and heavy coated as respected fleece, which won eleven prizes, of which the prize at the Highland Society's Show at Stirling in 1832 was one. Old Pallie, which was also very successful as a show sheep, was of average size, but very compact, with a perfect coat, long quarters, round rib, small in the bone, and a very gay sheep to look at. Among others, he was the sire of Captain, sold in 1855, when three shear, to Mr. Borthwich, Hoperig, for 95 guineas; and also of a very grand ram, named The Duke, which was the winner of the first prize at the Berwick Show of the Highland and Agricultural Society, in 1854. The Duke was larger than his sire, and it was from the Wellington cast of his face, as seen in the engraving, Fig. 2, that he got his name. He had a fine "cock lug," or erect ear, a point much looked to by breeders of Cheviots, a bold, firm step, and was altogether a perfect model of a Cheviot ram.

Passing over a number of illustrious descendants, for the enumeration of which our space will not suffice, we may mention that many of them, besides

winning prizes and otherwise proving profitable to their owners, realized high prices by sale, of which 50, 60, 85, 121, and 155 guineas may be taken as examples; and we come next to the subject of the largest of the accompanying engravings.

One of the most celebrated of Old Pallie's descendants was Battersea, the winner of the first prize at the



FIG. 1.

Battersea Royal in 1862, as well as numerous other prizes. He was a very gay sheep, and possessed the same characteristics as Old Pallie and The Duke. He had a particularly good shoulder, breast, and neck, with an excellent rib and quarters, a beautifully set head and ears, and a very perfect coat. A



FIG. 2.

glance at his portrait, Fig. 3, will show how superior he was in the breast and shoulders to the Cheviots described by George Culley. Altogether, he was a very showy sheep, and after leaving some grand stock at Moodlaw, he was purchased by Mr. John Murray, live stock agent, Edinburgh, for a gentle-



FIG. 3.

man in Sutherlandshire. Turning to The Duke's descendants we find that Lord Clyde, one of his sons, gained eight prizes, including those of the Highland Society; and that Hennie, another of The Duke's sons, gained five prizes. Ben, a great-grandson of the Captain by Old Pallie, gained five prizes; and Thirlstane and Ettrick, others of his descendants, were also prize-takers, and fetched large sums.

The foregoing is merely a sketch of a few of the Moodlaw flock, and to enter into all the details which might be given regarding its history would occupy a far greater extent of space than we can afford. We would, however, mention one fact which shows the quality of, and tendency to, early maturity in the Moodlaw Cheviots. At the beginning of last month, a shearling wether, bred by Mr. Brydon, and one of a lot fed by Mr. Curror, Comiston, was killed in Edinburgh, and weighed no less than 133 lbs. of mutton. There were other sheep in the lot quite as good, and even better. From 1854 to 1866, both included, Mr. Brydon gained 225 prizes, his field of competition comprehending not only local shows, but, as we have shown, those of the Highland and Agricultural Society and the Royal Agricultural Society of England. Not satisfied with home victories, he crossed the English Channel in 1856, and brought home substantial marks of honor from the French capital.

Training Cattle to Jump.

We are too apt to underrate the intelligence of the domestic animals under our charge—and yet a moment's reflection should teach every farmer that cows, horses, sheep and pigs are very apt pupils; and most farmers' boys are quite proficient in teaching them to do mischief. Thus we find many persons, when turning stock into or out of pasture, instead of letting down all the bars, leaving two or three of the lower rails in their place; and then, by shouting or beating, perhaps, force the animals to leap over. This is capital training, the results of which are seen in the after disposition of animals to try their powers of jumping where a top rail happens to be off, and this accomplished, to set all fences at defiance, and make a descent upon the corn or grain field, as their inclination, ability or hunger may prompt them. Another good lesson is to open the gate but a little way, and then, as in the case of the bars, force the cattle forward, and by threats and blows compel them to pass through it. The result of this teaching is shown in the determined spirit manifested by some cattle to make a forcible entry into the stable-yards, fields, or, in fact, into almost every place where a gate or door may, by accident, be left slightly open.

A Western farmer says he makes it a rule, whenever cattle are made to pass a fence, whether through bars or "slippap," to leave one rail for them to pass under. This gives them a downward tendency, and lessens their inclination to jump or look upwards, as they are sure to do when a lazy attendant throws down a part of the rails, and makes them vault the rest. Cattle may be taught to go over any fence by the careful training they often get for this end, performed as follows:—"First, starve them or give them poor feed, which will make them light and rest less. As soon as they go over the lowest part of the fence after better provender, make them jump back again, and put on one more rail, saying, "I guess that will keep them out." Next day, (of course they will be in mischief again,) repeat the process, adding

another rail; in a short time they will take care of themselves, and harvest the crops without charge." *American Stock Journal.*

STEAMED HAY.—E. W. Stewart writes to the *American Farmer* that, after an experience of more than ten years, he finds two bushels of steamed hay are worth three bushels of unsteamed, and that one quart of corn meal steamed, with a bushel of straw, is equal to a bushel of hay.