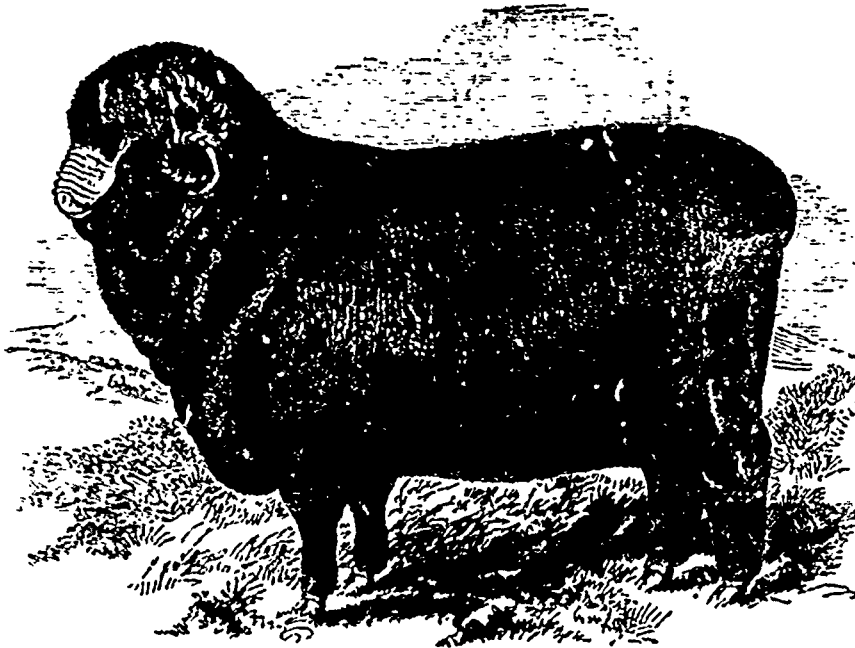


## The Vermont Merinoes.

We are at length enabled to present our readers with the long-promised portrait of the celebrated Merino ram, "Gold Drop," owned by Mr. Edward Hammond, of Middlebury, Vermont. His owner has refused \$10,000 for him. He was dropped in 1841 and was out of Old Queen by California, by Sweepstakes, by Little Wrinkly, by Old Wrinkly, by Old Greasy, &c. &c. Old Queen was out of Old Queen's dam, by Long Wool, by Old Greasy, by Wooster, &c. His pedigree will be found, given at length, on page 111 of the *Practical Shepherd*.

We append a communication on the Vermont Merinoes, for which we are indebted to Mr. J. R. Page, of Seneca, N. Y., the artist who drew the annexed portrait for THE CANADA FARMER and who is himself an intelligent and experienced stock-farmer. "Having recently visited several of the choice flocks of Vermont, I send you a few notes respecting them. All the breeders of the two leading families of Merinoes in Vermont, viz.: Infantado (Hammond), and Paulars (Rich. of Richville, Addison Co.), have the same standard as a whole, varying slightly in some unimportant particulars. I confine my notes for the present, to the flocks of the Hammonds, of Middlebury, Addison Co. Nearly a quarter of a century ago, Mr. Edwin Hammond and brother, bought a small flock of Merinoes of Stephen Atwood, of Connecticut, already closely bred, and to that purchase they have confined themselves to this day. The flock, for many years, was bred and owned jointly. Since the death of the junior brother, the flock has been divided between Edwin Hammond and his brother's son, Henry W. yet in all essentials it remains the same, as both flocks are bred to the same rams, of which

## Sheep Husbandry.



"GOLD DROP."

there are six, all beyond price; viz.: Sweepstakes, Gold Drop, Silvermine, aged; Old Abe, Kearsarge, yearlings; and Green Mountain, a teg of great promise. Annexed to this article is a portrait of Gold Drop thus named at birth, from his promise of usefulness, and well has he fulfilled his mission, having proved a mine of gold to his owner. So much is he valued, that Mr. Hammond felt justified in refusing \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) for this ram, last fall. Indeed from present appearances, his earnings as a stock ram in two seasons, will reach above that amount, enormous though it is.

"The type of the original purchase from Atwood, is not to be found in the flocks at present, but having once seen a very old ewe, bred by the Hammonds, said to resemble the first stock of the Atwood purchase, I describe her, and one of the queens or beauties of to-

day. The old ewe had the following characteristics: long and narrow in head; top and side of the head not covered with wool; long slim neck, entirely smooth; legs long, and without wool; belly, not well covered, otherwise a good thick fleece; of good size and body, though somewhat drooping in loin; body without wrinkles. From the Hammond flocks, of the present style, I describe one, and in a majority of points, it will be a description of the whole. Head short, broad, with wrinkled nose, making a face that artists style a "famous mug," that is, strongly marked; wool of fore top coming below the eyes, and well on to cheek, giving in the side view a narrow face, the fore top and cheek so well connected that it often covers their eye, so as to render it necessary to clip out, or tie the wool, that the sheep may see; short thick neck, heavily wrinkled; straight top; ribs starting out from back bone at right angles, giving a broad, level back

and loin; tail, broad, with a small wrinkle around it, in sheep parlance, a "rose tail"; body short and deep, with usually two wrinkles just behind the arm, and one or two forward of the flank; though what the Merino breeders term the flank, is a loose hanging skin, running from body to inner side of the back, making a quarter circle; short legs, covered with wool to hoofs; straight hind leg; full thigh, with more or less wrinkles, placed horizontally from breech to body. The average weight of fleece of the whole flock is over 12 lbs. each, unwashed. There are many other points of skin, style of wool, yolk, &c., fully to understand which, one must spend days and weeks among the Merinoes. The Vermont sheep-men have wrought wondrous improvements in this breed, and have demonstrated what great things care and attention will achieve, in the matter of stock generally."

## Blooded Sheep vs. Native Canadian.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I have fled away with the *Rural New Yorker*, THE CANADA FARMER. The latter I have received from the first number, and derive from its columns a fund of useful information; I have diligently searched for all correspondence and editorials, in anywise relating to the raising of sheep; for, away here in Vermont, blooded sheep have become almost a mania, and to be the possessor of one hundred sheep, out of which you can pick twenty, or thirty, worth from \$100 down to \$25, is a common thing among our farmers. We claim for Vermont, a forward position in the raising of sheep of a superior quality. We do not prize the carcass much, but direct our best efforts in procuring the finest wool. Our State statistics show that the income from sheep alone, exceeds that of all other stock put together. Would it not, Mr. Editor, be far more profitable for farmers, with large or small farms, to keep blooded sheep? You may claim that your Canadian winters would be too much for the tender Merino, or the fine and delicate Saxon, but it is no colder with you than with us, the temperature is relatively the same. The profit derived from native sheep and blooded, is incomparable. Experience has shown an excess of more than 100 per cent in favor of the latter. I find in the Farmer, that a ram was imported in 1841, weighing 334 lbs. and shearing 17 lbs of washed wool, of 11½ months growth. What a frame for so little wool, and think of its quality; nearly as coarse as twine. Take for instance a ram I saw sheared this year, weight 150 lbs. quan-

tity of wool 27 lbs. washed 10 days previous to shearing, of 11 months growth, and wool of the finest Saxon. We freely admit that the meat of your native sheep is far superior to ours; but we do not study to obtain good "mutton," but the largest number of lbs. of the finest wool, and the price we can get for blooded lambs and ewes. It is not an uncommon thing here to get \$1,000 for a fine Saxon lamb—kill him and the meat would not bring \$2.—Large lots of Vermont sheep are being shipped every season into the Western States, thus affording an excellent market for us.

I should like to hear from some of your Canadian farmers concerning blooded sheep. We make a good deal of money here out of horses, but a great deal more from sheep.

GUY STEELE.

Castleton, Vermont, Feb. 24, 1865.

**DOGS PREVENTING THE EXTENSION OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY.**—A friend writes us:—"I have a letter from Hon. B. N. Huntington, (Rome, Oneida Co., N. Y.) in which he says: 'I see that orders have been issued by our Board of Supervisors for damages from dogs to sheep, for the sum of \$3.00.' This is a suggestive fact." He further states, that Mr. Huntington was about to procure a valuable ram, but just before the time for using him, his flock was nearly ruined by dogs—"so that, for the present, dogs have kept him from moving in the direction of wool raising."

We have heretofore published statistics, showing the enormous losses incurred in different States from the destruction of sheep by dogs. But great as these are, they bear no comparison to the losses incurred by inability to keep sheep by reason of the "curse of our own acquaintance." We know hundreds of men, within the circle of our own acquaintance, who would like to stock their farms, wholly, or in part, with sheep—who feel that it would be particularly profitable for them to do so—but they know that they cannot do so safely,

and rather than be kept in a constant state of alarm about their flocks, they prefer to give up sheep husbandry altogether.

We fear our dog-laws are not stringent enough. We would like to see the tax increased. We would like to see adequate provisions made (and they can be made) to render the collection of that tax in all cases compulsory, whether the money is required to pay for damage to sheep or not. If not required for that purpose any particular year, let the avails of the tax go to the support of the poor.—*Rural New Yorker*.

**A FEW WORDS ABOUT SHEEP.**—If a man wishes to buy young sheep, it is an easy matter to tell their age by their teeth. A sheep has 8 front teeth, and when one year old they shed the 2 middle teeth, and within 6 months from the time of shedding, their places are filled with 2 wider than the first; at 2 years, the next 2 are shed, and in 6 months their places are filled with 2 wide teeth; at 3 years, the 2 third teeth from the centre are shed, and their places filled with 2 wide teeth, and at 4 years the corner teeth are shed, and by the time the sheep is 5 years old, the teeth will have grown out even, and it will have a full mouth of teeth; after that the teeth will begin to grow round and long, and at 9 or 10 they begin to shed, and then is the time to fatten for the butcher, and let young sheep take their place.

If a farmer would have a good flock of sheep, he must keep a few of his best ewe lambs to take the place of his old sheep. Poor nurses should not be kept. The same ram should not be kept with a flock more than one year; neither should he be used in the flock that he was raised in.

Sheep, to be healthy, should not be kept in low wet pastures. To have a good flock of sheep, they must be well fed summer and winter. To make sheep peaceable and contented, never allow them out of the pasture intended for them to run; but if they should happen to get out, return them immediately, and make the fence sure. Sheep should be taken to