

We cannot more appropriately conclude our monthly paper, than with the following lines from Bishop Heber:—

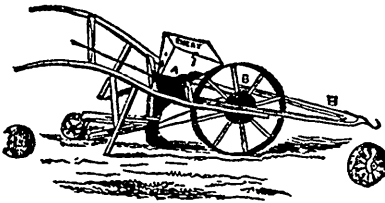
"Queen of fresh flowers,
Whom vernal stars obov,
Bring thy warm showers—
Bring thy genial ray.
In nature's greenest livery drest,
Descend on earth's expectant breast,
To earth and heaven a welcome guest,
Thou merry month of May !

"Mark ! how we meet thee
At dawn of dewy day !
Hark ! how we greet thee
With our roundelay !
While all the goodly things that be
In earth, and air, and ample sea,
Are waking up to welcome thee,
Thou merry month of May !

"Flocks on the mountains,
And birds upon their spray,
Tree, turf, and fountains
All hold holiday ;
And love, the life of living things,
Love waves his torch, and claps his wings,
And loud and long thy praises sings,
Thou merry month of May !"

B.

SEED SOWERS.



Seed Sowers have become very numerous; and it is difficult to decide between them as to merit. Messrs. McIntosh & Walton, of this city, (to whose establishment we can with confidence recommend our readers,) have several kinds for sale. We are putting to the test one of their small hand sowers, mounted on two wheels. It is said to answer for most garden seeds, and for turnips, carrots &c., in the field.

The cut at the head of this article represents a kind much used in the States. We are not aware whether they have yet been patronized to any extent in Canada.

The Seed Sower, of which we gave a cut, in a late number, and which consists of a long, narrow box carried before the man, and suspended from the neck, is highly spoken of by those who have used them. They are also sold by Messrs. McIntosh & Walton.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

NO. 2.

NEW LEICESTER.

We present in this number a brief history of the New Leicester, or Bakewell sheep. This breed has been extensively introduced into Upper Canada, and is more esteemed than any other.

Some writers have contended that the valuable family of long-woolled sheep, now so extensively spread over Great Britain, was of foreign origin; but thorough investigation proves their assertions groundless.

With the short-woolled variety, from time immemorial, each was assigned a locality admirably adapted, from soil, herbage, and climate, to itself; and thus their respective peculiarities both of form and fleece, through many centuries, remained distinct. Both varieties have been essentially improved by the art of man, as has already been shown in reference to the South Down; and, if possible, a still greater improvement has been effected of the long-woolled breeds, especially as to profitableness of carcase, through the indefatigable efforts of Mr. Bakewell, of Dishby, Leicestershire, and Mr. Cully, his able coadjutor.

We offer no apology for introducing to the reader nearly the whole of Mr. Youatt's faithful and interesting history of this renowned breed, valuable to all as showing the means adopted by Mr. Bakewell by which the New Leicester was brought to its present perfection of carcase, and extraordinary early maturity.

THE OLD LEICESTER SHEEP.

"This was a large, heavy, coarse-woolled breed, common to most of the midland counties, and reaching from the south of Yorkshire, and as far as Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. It had a white face, no horns—it was long and thin in the carcase, flat-sided with large bones—thick, rough, and white legs—and weighing, the ewe, from 15 to 20 lbs., and the wether from 20 to 30 lbs. the quarter. It was covered with wool from 10 to 14 inches in length, coarse in quality, and weighing from 8 to 13 lbs. The pelt and offal were thick and coarse; the animal was a slow feeder, and the flesh was coarse-grained, and with little flavor."

NEW LEICESTER SHEEP.

The following description of the New Leicester will show the reader in what respects Mr. Bakewell effected his improvement over the old breed.

"The head should be hornless, long, small, tapering towards the muzzle, and projecting horizontally forwards. The eyes prominent, but with a quiet expression. The ears thin, rather long and directed backwards. The neck full and broad at its base where it proceeds from the chest, but gradually tapering towards the head, and being particularly fine at the junction of the head and neck; the neck seeming to project straight from the chest, so that there is, with the slightest possible deviation, one continued horizontal line from the ramp to the poll. The breast broad and full; the shoulders also broad