

So far as dung improves soil, it ought to be allowed for: and this is for all dung applied from winter littering or summer folding: but how far, if at all, it is to be prized when slowly dropt about in pasturing, is a question. Beasts constantly ramming the soil of a pasture into a close compact state, untill it more than is commonly apprehended.—That the foot of the beast does more damage to soil, than his dung, so dispersed and exposed to exhalation, does good, is probable from several instances related by serious good people, of clover fields having been divided, and the one half pastured on, all the summer—the other mown twice, and both sown at the same time, with wheat on one ploughing; when the mown gave considerably the best crops of wheat. Let us suppose a lay of grass has been left unpastured, and even uncut, for three years: another like field at the same time is pastured close; as usual, during the same three years; now let the farmer walk into these, and observe how mellow, light, and lively the one is,—how firm the other. Which of these will he prefer for a crop of grain?—If the former, it then may be suspected, that pasturing doth not improve the soil; that on the whole it even injures it. When, however, pasture ground has been of many years standing, especially if clothed with grass to shield the soil from the midsummer sun, it will have gained advantages from the atmosphere, and the scraps of dung, together, that will be greater than the disadvantage from treading the ground. After two or three years, we may suppose the settling and compacting the ground cannot be much further increased.

Amongst the attentions to sheep, it is particularly recommended to farmers, that they let only a few ewes run at large with a ram, for giving a few early lambs; that the rest of the ewes be kept separate from the rams, till the middle of October, and then be allowed a ram to 20, or at most 25. Their lambs will come from the middle to the end of March. It is also advantageous to keep ewe and ram lambs apart eighteen or twenty months, from January or March till October the ensuing year, before they be suffered to be together. It is best that there be not more than one ram with a division of ewes, at a time, where they can be parcelled off into

different fields, or lots, for two or three weeks.

To observe the ages of sheep is important.—Some age ought to be fixed on by the farmer, beyond which nothing should induce him to keep them. At the shearing time the mouth of every sheep or lamb is to be inspected; and the lambs having blackish gums, or that are not straight, well made and promising, are to be marked for sale; as also the aged rams, ewes, and wethers, whatever be the age fixed on by the farmer for clearing his flock from old sheep, be it four or five years; which seem to be the ages for governing us in this particular, in the climate of America. As many lambs, the best, are to be turned out for breeders and for muttons, proportioned, as there are to be sheep disposed of, as being aged,—and a few more to supply losses, while they are growing up.

The farmer will first determine on the number of grown sheep to be kept by him; then on the age he means to observe for disposing of them: for he is to have none in his flock that are not in full vigour. Dividing the number in the whole flock, by the age at which he means to dispose of them, gives the number of lambs he is to turn out as a supply to the same number of sheep, to be disposed of from the old flock:—and a few more lambs are to be turned out with the stock lambs, for making good any losses. If five years be fixed on, for the full age, and there be one hundred sheep, the fives in a hundred being twenty, direct to the disposing of twenty aged sheep, and to be turning out twenty more four or five, in all twenty-five lambs for a supply to the flock. After six years of age, sheep decline in figure and in wool. Brambles are charged, by common farmers, with taking off all the wool that sheep appear to have lost: but when sheep decline in vigour and good plight, they decline in the quantity of their wool, and look mean, even in pastures clear of brambles.

Your wool is dearer—your meat cheaper than with us:—a strong indication that we indulge more,---you work more: Which the most comfort—temperance with employment—or intemperance and idleness—no serious person can be at a loss to decide.

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PETER PINDAR'S CHARACTER OF AN ANTIQUARIAN.

WHEN I first took the chair of criticism, I own that I trembled;

for I am not ashamed to confess, that so great was my ignorance, that when a correspondent

R. A.