

produced little else than heath and ling, furze and gorse, and, in the boggy parts, rushes, horse-tail, ferns, &c., is now clothed with fertility, for the whole surface of the farm, consisting about two hundred acres, has now a covering of green vegetation, not of indigenous weeds, but of a kind that will do, as it has done before, fatten or make fit for the butcher more than one thousand sheep: every vacant stubble has been sown with an edible vegetable, and it was my pleasure to observe that the wheat was saved early and in good condition; the spaces between the rows of shocks was ploughed, harrowed, and sown with turnips, mustard, &c., before the wheat was stacked, the other part being brought forward so soon as possible afterwards, thus most of the stubbles were formed into *linchets*, of cultivation, these, when viewed at a distance, had a varied aspect. In some instances, the stubbles are now clothed with luxuriant broad clover, and thus has the forty acres of wheat furnished the stack-yard with ten well ordered mows. The Swede crop is going on in a luxuriant manner, for, where there is no stint of labour bestowed, or food supplied to the arid sand, success must attend the assiduous exertions of the Bailiff, Mr. Joseph Parry, of Brook farm, who, as an experienced husbandman, having "*Whistled at the Plough*" in many distant counties, on the chalks and on the clays, now expresses a preference for the light working sands, when he is backed by an employer who is desirous of improving the staple and capabilities of his own *terra firma*. Forty-three acres of Swedes are now going on with success.

Mr. Parry has favoured me with the *modus operandi*, by which he has been enabled to fill his master's stack-yard; to have made out eleven hundred sheep last year, and has now a prospect of making fit for the butcher an equal quantity this year, and that wholly from produce grown on the land; the gentleman, owner of the estate, making it a point not to purchase any food for his stock; that being done in the shape of manures from various part of the world. There is a railway station near, which communicates with all quarters of the universe, and there is a canal within a mile, which connects London with Basingstoke; on the side of this canal there is waste earth, clay and chalk, laying useless for the past fifty years, this has been taken advantage of, many parts having had a portion spread thereon.

Lime, in the shape of a powder, an hydrate, has been freely used wherever the crop was likely to require it, and a mud from the excavation of a large pond, (the site of a former bog); this being placed under all the animal manures, taking the soakings from the yards, and the stores, is then a fit article to be placed on the land, as an amendment, for it contains it itself much vegetable matter, with soluble silex, but without lime.

Thus has the peaty moors, and the heretofore

useless sands, been treated on the wild commons of Hants.

To accomplish all these improvements, there must have been great energy displayed by the proprietor, who took care at the first outlay that the superfluous waters were taken silently away.

Many other instances might be named, where these sandy soils have been made available for the purpose of raising food for man. The riches and the enterprize of this country is such that the waste sands must give way to the powers of science, particularly since the facilities of transit to London have been so much opened.—*E. J. Lance.*

*A Cyclopaedia of Agriculture; Practical and Scientific.* Part 17. By JOHN C. MORTON. Blackie and Son, Glasgow, Edingburgh, and London.

We give the following as a sample "*On Leicester Sheep*:"—

It is true that the new Leicesters, as a breed, have never produced a weight of fleece, which either the nature of the soil for which they are specially adapted, or the high feeding they generally receive, would have presupposed. In this respect they rank considerably lower than some of those races they have already displaced, or others with which they are maintaining a strong rivalry.

The *mutton* of the new Leicester, when not over-fed, is of a superior description, the fat and lean being more equally distributed than in most heavy breeds, while the flavour is considered little inferior to any, except, perhaps, by those whose tastes are wedded to some favourite breed, which generally cannot be so readily procured. Still, its best market is to be found in manufacturing, and especially mining districts, where its smallness of bone, and considerable amount of fat, make it prized by those whom hard labour preserves from easily cloyed stomachs, and who cannot afford to spend their money in the mere gratification of the palate, but must look to what will "go furthest." It must be admitted, however, that for some time past it has not commanded so ready a market as formerly. The cause of this is to be traced, in a great measure, to its being so frequently over-fed. The mutton of its crosses, from having less of that luscious and oily property objected to in that of extra-fed Leicesters, and from the fat and lean being more equally mixed and finer-grained, ordinarily brings from 3d. to 1d. per lb. more than that of the pure breed, the wool also of many of these, especially that of the Cheviot ewe, is of finer quality, commanding a higher price and readier market, while in weight it is little inferior.

With regard to the *best kind of Leicester*—for, as already noticed, every district seems to possess a variety peculiar to itself—the breeder must learn by experience, what is best adapted