

The Faithful Shepherd.

The fame of many a flockmaster has depended more than most people are aware upon the watchful care and attention of the shepherd, and the success which has marked the career of the owners of noted flocks has in many instances been largely owing to the advice and counsel of the shepherd in the selection of sires and the mating of the matrons. Only those who have seen them and moved among them in the Old Country, where the calling of a shepherd is, with many, a life profession, and has witnessed their devotion to their flocks and their untiring vigilance in working for the best interests of the sheep and their owners, can fully appreciate their faithfulness. Late and early, day and night if need be, and in the most inclement weather, uncomplainingly, these men are found at the post of duty, the comfort and safety of their charges being their first thought and care.

In America, as a rule, the flockmaster or his son is the shepherd, and in many instances right well performs the duty, his work comparing well with that of the best of Old Country shepherds. There are, too, a considerable number, though fewer than we could wish, of native Canadian shepherds, who, having been entrusted with the care of valuable flocks, have shown most commendable faithfulness as well as skill and judgment in the breeding, development and preparation of stock for the showing, winning a large proportion of prizes with home-bred and fitted sheep, in competition with imported British prizewinners. These men are worthy of the highest consideration and encouragement, and we gladly record our meed of praise for their well-done work.

British-born shepherds as a rule cling to their native heath, many of them spending their whole life on the farm on which they served their apprenticeship. A few have found their way across the sea, and have done excellent service in the care of high-class flocks on this side of the water, their methods of feeding and the preparation of show stock having been seen and copied by others, to their acknowledged advantage. Among these is the subject of this sketch. John Miller, widely and well known as "the old shepherd," first saw the light of day some sixty-five years ago, in the village of Cayton, Yorkshire, England, but as he carries no ear-marks and has no record of dates earlier than those of his recollection, little can be learned of his pedigree, but his fidelity to duty and his life-work as a stock feeder is a happy confirmation of Burns' declaration that "the rank is but the guinea's stamp, the man's the gold for a' that."

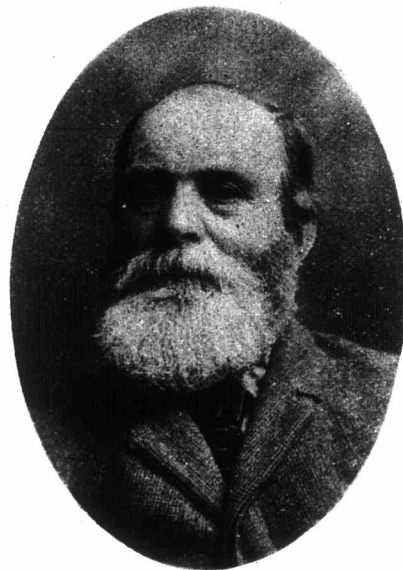
Under the training of experienced men to the manor born, Miller early became an expert, and as a young man served as head shepherd to such well-known Yorkshire breeders of Leicester sheep as Goffton, of Thirtleby, and Ray and Foster, of Luton; Squire Hill, Capt. Boynton; Crowe, and Robinson, of Carnaby. During these years the young shepherd lived near by Sledmere Hall, the estate of Sir Tatton Sykes, and tells many interesting anecdotes of the old Baronet, of his great retinue of servants, horses and hounds, and of gala-day entertainments at the Hall.

Coming to Canada in 1872, his first engagement in the care of pure-bred stock was with the Russells, of Richmond Hill; afterwards with the late Mr. Stone, of Guelph, and as he himself likes to put it, "for 26 years hon and hoff with the Snells, of Snelgrove," which we believe is literally correct, though he was away for a year or two at a time with such well-known Western breeders as T. L. Miller, of Beecher, Ill., and Geo. Harding & Son, Waukesha, Wis.; but on returning to the Snell farms, "Ise coomed 'ome again," was always among his first greetings. It was back in the '70's that his reputation as a feeder and fitter of show stock in America was made, when at the Dominion Exhibition at Ottawa, with the Snell contingent of Cotswolds, he won the gold medal for the best flock of long-wooled sheep, showing among others a 2-year-old ram of his own feeding, weighing 453 lbs., and a yearling of 345 lbs., and when, at the first Fat Stock Show at Chicago, with a pen of ewes and lambs of the same exhibit, he swept the boards in the long-wool class, showing a Canadian-bred ewe weighing 366 lbs., and others around 350 lbs. each. These sheep created a sensation in the show in the old Exposition building down by the lake, and were a center of admiration and a big advertisement for Canada, but the record was later practically repeated several times at Chicago, St. Louis, and other Western State fairs, as well as at leading Provincial shows in Canada, and the shepherd became a well-known figure at such functions, his quaint sayings in the Yorkshire dialect causing many a hearty laugh among the sheep-men. A good story is told by a well-known Wisconsin breeder and exhibitor, who met him at one of the State fairs in charge of Harding's Cotswolds. Frank Harding and the shepherd failed to agree on the mating of two pairs of ewes, and on the call for inspection there was a little contention as to how they should be paired; but the master, knowing the preferences of the judges, claimed authority, and mated them to his own mind, much to the disgust of the shepherd, who, after the judging was over, with a sorrowful expression, greeted our mutual friend with "Well, did you see that? Ise been wi' Lawds and Dewks and Snells, but I was never used like that afore." On another occasion, the same gentleman jokingly

slapped him on the shoulder and remarked, "Here's a Southdown," to which he indignantly replied, "Ise na Soothdoon, Ise a longwool." The face of the shepherd was a study when asked to give his judgment of a sheep. As he looked him over, with a wise cock of the other eye, he would say: "E's good of 'is ead, and good of 'is scraggy, and good of 'is fiddle brig, but I dis na like the way he stands of 'is pins."

It is a source of real pleasure to the writer to testify to the faithful devotion of the shepherd to his duty in the care of the flock or of other stock, for he made a success of feeding cattle as well, turning out many a stable full of well-finished bullocks for the British market, but it was among the "auld yowes" and the "lattle lammies" that he was most at home, and wedded only to his flock, he literally lived with the sheep during the lambing season, sleeping for weeks in his clothes on a couch, and visiting the fold to welcome the newcomers at all hours of the night, talking to his charges as if they were "humans," and calling them by their pet names. It was truly a case where the sheep knew the voice of the shepherd, and where there was mutual affection.

On his last return to Snelgrove, it was virtually understood that he had come home to stay till the end of the chapter of his life, and he had settled down to what promised to be a serene old age, but owing to the lamentable accident which brought to an untimely end the earthly career of him whom his host of friends familiarly called "Joe Snell," a change came over the scene, and among the many expressions of sorrow by grief-stricken friends and neighbors at the funeral, the wail of the shepherd was the most pathetic as he realized the loss at once of a true friend and a good home. In the half year occupied in the disposal of the estate, he fed to a finish another carload of export steers, that were admired by all who saw them, and at the winding-up sale he was engaged to take charge of the Berkshire herd of Mr. T. A. Cox, of Brantford, where as usual he has done good work, and though it is work probably less congenial to him than the care of sheep, yet the same fidelity to duty that has marked



JOHN MILLER.
(The Shepherd.)

his useful life is still observed, and being blessed with a strong constitution and a good conscience, he finds not a little in life to be thankful for, and maintains a cheerful courage in view of the future, for which he has the best wishes of a long list of friends.

President McKinley as a Farmer.

It is not generally known that President Wm. McKinley, recently re-elected for a second term as chief officer of the United States, has a large farm near Canton, Ohio. A dispatch from that place to the *Philadelphia Ledger* says that this farm produced 2,800 bushels of potatoes this year. An enterprising commission merchant bought the entire crop at an advance of five cents a bushel over the regular market price. The next day he was offered ten cents a bushel advance for his bargain, but declined. This means that the "McKinley farm" potatoes are to be sold at a gilt-edge price for seed. People out that way have great faith in "McKinley luck," and farmers who want a big potato crop next year will be glad to get McKinley tubers for their supposed luck. A correspondent of the *Cleveland Leader* gives some details of the McKinley farm. It is 20 miles from Canton and one mile from Bayard, and contains 162½ acres, with well-kept barns, wagon sheds, and corn-cribs. The Cleveland & Pittsburg Railroad and Big Sandy Canal cross portions of it. The soil is very productive, yielding large crops of corn, potatoes, oats, and hay. There is a large orchard, which has produced in a good year nearly 3,500 bushels of apples, chiefly Baldwins. There are 25 cattle, 10 horses and 200 sheep kept, with numerous hogs and fowls. Milk is sold and calves are raised. One season 175 sheep were sold. The farm has been managed for 20 years by W. J. Adams, originally from Pennsylvania.

FARM.

A Request Regarding Renewals.

We have a request to make to the reader. Our past relations with our subscribers assure us that it will be promptly complied with. During the year soon to close we have aimed to give an agricultural paper not only of the highest class as regards quality, but the most helpful in a practical way, and it has been by far the largest volume we have ever issued, containing over 750 pages of matter prepared by specialists who have made a success in their different branches of agriculture. In no other periodical do the farmers of Canada or the adjoining States obtain anything like the amount of valuable reading matter for so modest an outlay, and never in our 35 years' experience have the assurances of satisfaction on the part of our readers been so many and so encouraging as at the present time. The first year of the new century will see a further advance on our part. The Christmas number, to be issued this month, will be an assurance of this. Few have any idea of the vast amount of extra labor, on the part of both business and editorial departments, involved in such an undertaking. To facilitate the office work especially, we therefore make the simple request that every subscriber will at once examine his label on this paper, which shows the date up to which the subscription is paid, and then promptly remit amount to cover subscription up to end of 1901, by express or postal order, postal note or registered letter. Each individual's subscription is really a very small matter, particularly when the large return received is considered, but in the aggregate, and in facilitating our work in an extremely busy season, is of very great importance to us. Prompt renewals will therefore be a very great favor. When remitting your own subscription, can you not favor us with the names of one or more new subscribers, each of whom will be entitled to our beautiful Christmas number? By the way, what better Christmas present could you give a friend who is not already a reader of the paper than a year's subscription to the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*? Two new subscriptions entitles you to have your own advanced gratis to the end of 1901. Or on new subscriptions you may select some premium to which you may be entitled, as per our lists announced elsewhere. But give the matter of renewal your very earliest attention.

Liquid Air Refrigeration.

The Standard Butter Co. of Oswego, N. Y., has bought of Prof. Trippler the right to use liquid air for refrigerating purposes in connection with the dairy business. The right embraces the United States and its dependencies. Within recent months this product has been made in such manner that it can be transported in packages that need withstand only 10 pounds pressure, instead of 350 pounds, as heretofore, and brought within a price that makes it a commercial possibility. The Standard Butter Co. owns and operates about 30 creameries, and utilizes the skim milk in making paper sizing. It has for years used the ammonia refrigerating process in its cold-storage department; now to be displaced by liquid air, of which 25 pounds are said to equal one ton of ice, at about the same cost. It can be carried in common milk cans if enveloped in some non-conducting substance.

Prof. John Craig, formerly Horticulturist at the Ottawa Central Experimental Farm, and subsequently Professor of Horticulture at the Iowa Agricultural College, has now entered upon his duties as head of the newly-created Agricultural Extension Bureau in connection with Cornell University, at Ithaca, N. Y. The *Country Gentleman*, referring to this appointment, says:—"The change which recently occurred at Cornell, in the addition of Prof. John Craig to the working force, is of more than incidental interest. Prof. Craig is a man of unusual experience, as well as of conspicuous ability, and will put a lot of ginger into the horticultural and agricultural extension work. Prof. Craig is a Canadian by birth, having come from Lakefield, P. Q., where he began his horticultural studies under the late Charles Gibbs, through whose influence he went to the Iowa Agricultural College to study with Prof. Budd."