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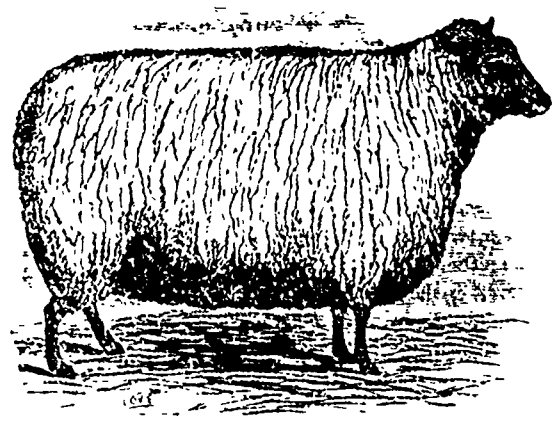

SOUTH DOWN.

The above is a very exact copy (indeed, it is more finished than the original) of a wood-cut likeness, in the *London Illustrated News*, of a thirty-two months' old South Down Wether, which took the first prize (£20, and a silver medal) at the late Smithfield Cattle Show, England. We were much pleased to observe, at the Provincial Exhibition, some good specimens of this excellent breed. The improvement of this useful, we may say noble animal the Sheep, has been sadly neglected in Canada. Thousands of pounds are every year drained from the country, to purchase woollen fabrics, as well as the raw material for the consumption of our people, that might just as well be saved. Our climate is favourable; our agricultural means and circumstances are favourable; and, now that the forests are cleared away, and the wolves driven back, everything is favourable to the breeding and management of Sheep. Diseases, to any extent, are never heard of, and sheep require, at least they receive very little attention; in a word, they are indigenous to Canada. Why is it that so little effort is made by our Farmers to obtain the best breeds? Why is the traveller along our country side-roads in the summer startled, as he passes every old stump or log, and every other fence corner, at the long-legged, sharp-featured, deer- (not *dear*) looking animals that dart out from behind them. Many of them are fit for nothing under heaven but the dogs and wolves, and with far too much bone even for them! Some Farmers have got discouraged, because, after incurring a little expense, they have not succeeded, *at once*, in obtaining animals that were perfect in *all points*. Although they were excellent for mutton, their wool was too coarse, or too fine, or too something; and, if the wool was unexceptionable, then there was some fault in the quality of the mutton.

Now, although it may be, and is difficult to get everything just right, yet it *can* be done, and is done. Whence comes the fine wool that enters into the composition of our imported broad cloths? or from which the beautiful cloths are made (fit for the back of a prince) that are turned out from some of our own manufactories; to wit, McKechanie's (of Cobourg), Gamble's (Vaughan), Gorham's (Whitchurch), or Barber's (Streetsville)? It did not come down from the skies, nor, we very much fear, from off the backs of Canadian sheep. All that is required is a little trouble in the outset. Twenty good sheep would be infinitely more profitable; require less food to keep them; and, from the absence of *jumping* qualities, would stay where they were put, and give less trouble, than the flocks of fifty and sixty that are now seen in many Farmers' fields. We extract the following remarks on the South Down breed of Sheep from a work by Mr. Spooner, of Southampton:—

"The South Down (or, rather, the improved South Down, for there is a great difference between the two) possesses most valuable qualities: with a propensity to fatten inferior only to the Leicester, but with later maturity (often thirty-two months, though considerably shorter than what it once was), this breed are excellent travellers, well adapted for folding, hardy compared with the Leicester, and capable of living on short pasture, and perhaps the best of all breeds for the Down farms of the South of England. The mutton, too, is more esteemed than any other, with the exception of the small mountain sheep. Perhaps there is no ancient pure breed of sheep that has undergone so much improvement as the South Down, and it affords the owners of other breeds a proper example, showing what can be done by care and attention, and the application of proper principles. Nothing can afford a better proof of the sterling qualities of this breed than the fact, that, some twenty or thirty years since, the price of South Down wool rendered the fleece a matter of great importance; and now, although the price is reduced to one-third (and it can never expect to realise much advance), yet, notwithstanding this, the valuable qualities of the animal, and the improvements that have been made, have enabled the breed still to retain a foremost rank in public favour.

## TO THE CANADIAN PUBLIC.

We have taken the first step in an almost untrodden field of Canadian periodical literature. The limits which describe our range of action are commensurate with the broad expanse of British North America; and the labour before us is immense. At the very outset of our career, let us survey the great field on which we are entering, and inquire into its actual condition. Little more than half a century ago Canada West was one vast unbroken primeval forest, over which the red man held undisputed sway; and in which innumerable inroads have now been made; a hardy race of industrious farmers have scattered themselves over the country, and thousands are reaping, in the undisturbed enjoyment of active independence, the rewards of their toil. Civilization has spread, like a resistless tide, over the face of the country; whose powers of production are steadily being developed. During the last year, 1,435 vessels were employed in conveying across the bosom of the ocean, the surplus products of the grateful soil, and bringing back the manufactures of the old world. That the progress, in Canada, of Agriculture and Commerce has been rapid is a pleasing reflection; that they might have advanced more rapidly is, at the same time, undeniable. In every branch of human industry the great thing is to *start well*. Habits once formed are not readily abandoned; prejudices once implanted, often require generations to eradicate them. One age pays a sort of superstitious deference to the customs and opinions of that which preceded it; practices, erroneous, inconvenient and absurd, are cherished and retained for no other reason than that we were taught them in boyhood and practised them in early manhood. Every country has its peculiarities, its settled customs, and most have their irresistable prejudices. In France, the very centre of European civilization, many of the rudest practices in Agriculture are still retained. The old-fashioned, clumsy cart, which of itself is almost a load for a horse, is still in use; the plough is heavy and unimproved: it often requires three yoke of oxen and two men to perform the labour which an English plough and pair of horses would perform. In Switzerland the hay crop is still carried from the field to the farm-yard, and from the farm-yard to the market, on the backs of mules, the bodies of which are so completely covered with the load that no part of the animal but its feet can be seen. In the County of Surrey, in England, within ten miles of London, the state of Agriculture was, a few years ago, infinitely and almost hopelessly behind that of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. Improvement is now taking place, but not so much by the removal of native prejudice as by the migration of farmers from the latter to the former counties. Farms that were profitless under the old system, have yielded fortunes under improved modes of culture.

The Agriculture of some parts of France, Switzerland, and of the different Counties of England, strikingly illustrates the power of prejudice and custom over reason; and as forcibly shows the necessity of adopting, in the very infancy of a new country, such practices as are recommended by the tried experience of those who are confessedly more advanced in their knowledge of the art. It is only by collecting descriptions of the different practices of different countries, and by comparing them together, that a correct judgment of the merits of each can be formed, and the best selected and submitted to the test of experiment. There must be a medium through which to convey these important facts, and this information to the public. The *Canada Farmer* has been established for the purpose of supplying that medium to the Farmers of Canada West. The Editors do not come before the public pretending to be "wiser than every body"—to lay down plans and rules of their own superior to those of any one else. Nor do they, on the other hand, feel themselves the less qualified to improve the practices, and advance the interests of Canadian Agriculture because they are young, and are not all engaged in the actual business of farming. Not one in ten of the Agricultural papers published in the United States or in Great Britain, is edited by a practical farmer. In fact, the usefulness of such papers, which every person of intelligence now admits to be very great, would be nearly destroyed by such an arrangement. The business of an Editor is not to experiment himself, but to record and make public the experiments of others. If, as stated by Professor Johnston, there are "two hundred millions of men" engaged in the daily practice of agriculture, their experience will surely afford enough to occupy the attention of an Editor without dipping into the soil himself. The time spent by an Editor in farming (and it would require, to carry it on in such a way as to benefit himself, or enable him to benefit others, the whole of his time) is just so much subtracted from his paper. What an Editor requires, is a sufficient acquaintance with agriculture as an art (i.e. with the practice of it) to enable him to understand the nature of the different subjects that may be discussed or referred to, and to form a good judgment as to what would be useful, and applicable to the nature and wants of the country. He should know something of agriculture as a science, or he will not be able to understand, appreciate or explain the experiments and discoveries of scientific men, whose attention, it is the peculiar advantage of our own times to find, is being zealously directed to its improvement. He will constantly be liable to be misled, and to mislead others. He should have at least a general acquaintance with books, so as to be able, as occasion requires, to make a proper use of their contents. He should be able to write with plainness and perspicuity.

We have examined our own qualifications with reference to the above points, and though, if strictly "weighed in the balance" we might be "found wanting," yet we know that in a little time, and with a little pains, we can increase the weight of our metal.

## RECEIPT FOR CURING HAMS.

Take an ounce of saltpetre for each ham and one pint of molasses to every pound of saltpetre.

Then take a quarter of a pound of common salt to every pint of molasses used.

Heat the mixture till it nearly boils, and smear the *meat* side with it keeping the mixture hot and rubbing it well, especially around the bones and recesses.

Let the hams lie after this from four to seven days, according to the size of the hams.

Then place them in a salt pickle, strong enough to bear an egg, for three weeks. Then soak eight hours in fresh water.

Then hang in the kitchen, or other more convenient place, to dry for a fortnight. Then smoke from three to five days, or till well smoked.

Then wrap them up in strong tar paper, tying it close.

Then tie them tight in bags of coarse unbleached cotton, stuffing in shavings, so that no part of the paper touches the cotton. Hang them near the roof in a garret, and they will never give you any trouble.—[Miss Beecher's Receipt Book.

## SWINEY.

I have a recipe for curing the swiney that I got hold of the other day, accidentally, just in time to cure a horse of mine that was taken very lame. And by the bye, I got it for the trifling sum of six bits. I look upon it as being ahead of any thing of the kind that is going; two or three applications being sufficient for my horse, and he was apparently well in two days.

Take the proportion of one pint of the spirit of turpentine, one ounce of Spanish flies, half a pound of lard, half a pound of rosin. Melt the lard and rosin together; when partly cool, put the other two ingredients in, and shake till thoroughly mixed.

I suppose that it is always well to bleed for the swiney the first thing. To apply the mixture, shake it well, and rub it in well with the hand, so as to get it into the hair thoroughly. Apply it freely to the part affected once in two days. In hot weather let the animal stand in the sun; in cold, heat it with a hot iron. It is perfectly safe and sure, and leaves no mark other than to take the hair off, which comes on again directly.—[Correspondence from the Prairie Farmer.