

think, four of them also. My brother Samuel, who also resides in the same parish of Babraham, has shown for the shearing ewes' prize for the years 1841, 1842, and 1843, and has obtained the first prize every year from my breed of sheep, he having purchased the ewes of me, and always hires my rams to put to them: he has been equally unsuccessful with those which he has over-fed. You are also aware that I won three out of four of the prizes offered by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, at the meeting at Liverpool, in 1841, for Southdown, or any other short-wooled breed of sheep; and at Bristol, by the same Society in July, 1842, I won two out of four of the rams' prizes; and also at Derby, in 1843 at the meeting of the same society, I won three out of four of the prizes for any kind of short-wooled sheep. But in feeding sheep for that occasion I over-fed two of my best, and killed them before the show took place; they were both two-year-old sheep, and were each highly commended by the judges, as yearlings, at the Bristol meeting. I had refused 180 gs. for the hire of the two sheep for the season. I also quite destroyed the usefulness of two other of my aged sheep, by over-feeding them last year. They never either of them propagated throughout the season, and I have had each of them killed in consequence, which has so completely tired me of over-feeding that I never intend exhibiting another aged ram, unless I greatly alter my mind, or can find out some method of feeding them which will not destroy the animals, and which I have hitherto failed to accomplish. What I intend exhibiting in future will be shearlings only, as I believe they are not so easily injured by extra feeding as aged sheep; partly by being more active, and partly through having more time to put on their extra condition, by which their constitutions are not likely to be so much impaired. I wish particularly to let the public know that in future I do not intend exhibiting aged rams, through the reasons which I have stated. You can, if you please, also notice my repeated success at the Smithfield Club, and that I also obtained the first prize at the Highland Society's Show at Dundee, in 1843, the only time I ever exhibited stock in Scotland, for the best shearing Southdown ram, the only prize I showed for: and contrary to the rules of the Society, the Committee decided to have my sheep's likenesses taken for the Society's Museum at Edinburgh. One of the rules of the Society is that no animal shall be taken as a specimen for that purpose unless it is full grown. My sheep was considered in every respect more finished and complete than any old sheep which had been exhibited. I also won the two first prizes last year, at the Royal Irish Society's Meeting at Belfast, and the Society's medal for the best ram of any breed exhibited at the meeting, never having previously shown my stock in Ireland.

"I do not know what you will be able to make out of these observations, but you are quite at liberty to do as you please with them."

"Mr. Webb adds, in a postscript:—I omitted to state that, at the Saffron Walden Agri-

cultural Society, which is open to any person in the United Kingdom who chooses to subscribe to it, I obtained all the first prizes in all the classes of Southdown sheep, with the exception of two, during the whole period I continued to show in it; and I also won the first prize every year for the best pen of shearing widders of any breed which, I believe brought the Southdown sheep more into repute in this and the adjoining counties than all the other prizes which I obtained, as there was at one time a strong prejudice against them. I believe I obtained 24 silver cups, varying in price from three to five guineas each, independent of about a dozen silver medals."

"Since 1844 the name of Jonas Webb has always been before the public in connection with Southdown sheep—as a successful competitor at shows, by his annual lettings of rams. He exhibited Southdowns at the International Exhibition of 1855, held in the Champ de Mars, Paris; and was also an exhibitor at the Paris International Exhibition of 1856, in the Palais de l'Industrie. At the Exhibition of 1855 Mr. Webb, through the Minister of Agriculture, presented to the Emperor of the French the first prize Southdown shearing ram; and he afterwards sent from Babraham a number of his best ewes, remarking at the time that it was useless to give a good tup without also giving good ewes, to put the Emperor in possession of the best materials to begin with. The Emperor during the summer, presented to Mr. Webb a very handsome piece of silver plate as a remembrance of his liberality in giving his Imperial Majesty a flock of Southdowns. This token was usually on the breakfast-table during the mornings of the ram-lettings. Since 1855 the Emperor's flock of Southdowns has been greatly increased by breeding from the original flock presented by Mr. Webb, and also by the purchase of some of the best Southdown sheep which could be obtained. Latterly the disposal by public sales of the Babraham flock of Southdowns has extended the fame of Jonas Webb as a breeder of sheep. The sales were attended by many of the most distinguished agriculturists of the Continent, and by these sales the Babraham flock is dispersed over the whole of the civilized world. On the 10th of June, 1861, the rams and ewes were sold—the lambs being reserved for the sale announced for 1862. The sale of 1861 realised the sum of £10,926 6s 6d; the sale of June, 1862, the sum of £5720 8s—the total of the two sales being £16,646 14s 6d. The sums realized for the best rams and ewes were almost unprecedented in the history of sheep breeding, and the total sum realized exceeded that of any other previous sale of sheep stock.

"Jonas Webb latterly devoted much attention to the formation of a herd of Shorthorns, selecting several animals of the Spencer and Bates families of this fashionable breed of cattle. The herd has since been increased by the purchase of several valuable animals, while occasionally a heifer and cow have been sold, the prices obtained being generally high. At the Battersea Show three bulls and five