

ing housed, or fed with aught else than a few corn blades, when the snow is so deep as to deprive them of their common pasture food, and some green food from tailings of small grain, sown for the purpose. The flocks, however, have a large range; are sheltered by pines at the heads of coves; and find food amongst bushes, and some woods, in points and broken grounds, along the margin of a salt water river and its creeks.

An estimate might be made of a flock of sheep supposed to be improved, when in numbers affording a shepherd constantly to attend them—feed them—and use the best means to preserve them in safety, and in high case: but the following statement is only of one hundred sheep, as they are kept by me. Estimates vary greatly: scarcely two men are found to agree in the articles of charge and discharge. The attentions and the neglects of sheep—the manner of keeping them, are various. Let these apologize for the venturing to expose my estimate, so different from the estimates of others. In this statement no charge is made of interest; it is but ideal, when not really paid: and when, instead of paying interest, I rather receive it from the sheep in the income they give, of not only six per cent. but above six times six. No charge is made for common casualties; because a flock, systematically managed, is not lessened by them, below the designed number, while new sheep are annually raised, at no perceptible expense, and instantly take place of those lost: it is so of the aged sheep fold: their place is filled up by the flock lambs yearly kept over for the purpose: It may be said of sheep, so attended to, as is said of kings—they never die. When, instead of casual losses of sheep, they are sold or used in the family, we receive the value; for which the flock is to have credit in the account kept of them. A lamb costs so little in raising him, that, by the time he ceases to be a lamb, his wool pays the cost. A charge might be made against sheep, for damage in untilling the soil, in their treading it, and thereby eventually injuring the future crop of wheat, on an arable farm, more than their dung, scattered in scraps, improves it: but then, against this difference may be set off the advantage derived from their eating down, and preventing to rise up into seed, many sticky stout weeds, which other live stock suffer to grow up, foul the pastures, and exhaust the soil. I have had notable instances of this benefit from sheep eating down those weeds. I make no charge against my sheep for their saluage, because, in an arable system of husbandry, some fields must necessarily rest

under grass, spontaneous or sown, for the sake of future corn crops: but on a grazing farm it is otherwise: for as there is no corn crop on this, grass is the only tenant that can pay rent: besides it would be nice and difficult to satisfactorily apportion the rent between arable and grazing fields. If upon the whole, between treading the soil, and the destruction of weeds, and the giving some small quantity of dung, whilst pasturing, sheep do no notable damage to the soil of an arable farm, I see not sufficient cause for charging the flock for the pickings they obtain from fields turned out from tillage, at present, for the benefit of future corn crops, or as being necessary in an arable system. The little benefit, which soil receives from sheep pasturing on it, where there is neither summer folding nor winter keeping up on litter, may be about balanced by damage in compacting the soil with their feet, as it seems to me.

An estimate of the income and expenses of one hundred sheep, as kept by J. B. B. at Wye, in Maryland:

	£	s	d.
Corn blades, occasionally, other winter food is, in pasturing,	1	10	0
Winter green food, and roots, to 20 muttons	3	0	0
Some attendance, slight	1	10	0
Taxes, washing, shearing	1	0	0
Expense	£ 7	0	0
Wool, 338lb. at 1s. 6d,	25	7	0
Lambs, 50 out of 78, sold at 9s	22	10	0
Muttons, 20 at 18s	18	0	0
Manure in pasturing, & treading the soil close, opposed to each other	0	0	0
Annual income	£ 65	17	0
Annual expense	7	0	0
Annual profit	58	17	0

This profit on the one hundred sheep, is 11s. 9½d. each. In England, the Duke of Grafton's very accurate account of seven years sheep-business, gave an average of but 4s. 9d. currency profit on each sheep. His charges were on high keeping of sheep, that yielded but about 1½ lb. of wool each, and were on grass, rent, county, poor, and parish rates, rye, rye-pasturages, turneps, hay, barley, washing, shearing, carriage of wool, tithe, interest. The Duke's 4s. 9d. a head is 25 per cent. on his capital. Others in England reckon they make 8s. 4d. to 30s. currency and upwards a head, on their sheep. I reckon 7s. 6d. current money, equal to 4s. 6d. sterl.