

the farm on which they are intended to be placed, followed up by a careful attention in always selecting the best of either kind from which to increase the breed, would in a few years satisfy the most obstinate advocate for the *old ways* that he might gain much by following this (in this Province at least,) new path of husbandry. But few years have elapsed since the attention of the people of this Province was called to the improvement of the different breeds of animals, particularly sheep, and a great alteration in their appearance was early manifested in the appearance of those brought to market; but for the last year or two there seems to be a gradual falling away; for if any person will enter our market, instead of the fine formed, fat-disposed animal one would expect from the Dishley or South Down, he will see a long-legged, scraggy-looking carcass. True it is, that here and there a fine form is observable, but it only makes the others more unsightly. To what then is it owing, that in so short a time, the fine breeds which were exhibited at the old Agricultural Cattle Shows, and which were so highly praised by every farmer who saw them, are in a measure extinct? Are they found to be unsuited to the climate, or is the quality of the wool disapproved of? Or is it, as I much fear, the fault of our farmers, in not selecting the best of their flocks from which to breed? Perhaps, Sir, you can explain this matter, and lead our agriculturists to apply the right remedy for this *murrain* in our flocks. G.

We believe a ready answer may be given to the question respecting the deterioration in our sheep. We know that many of our Farmers very injudiciously allow the Butchers to pick the best lambs and sheep from their flocks—consequently the worst in size, shape, and constitution, are kept for breeding, and deterioration must follow. Others again, anxious for an early market, take the finest of their lambs for the shambles. In England

the case is different: the Farmer in the first place selects his breeders, and gives the butcher the second pick. If all our Farmers in these Provinces would adopt a similar precaution, they would soon find that the profits of an improving flock of sheep would amply compensate them for the trouble of attending to their own interest in this particular.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following communication upon "Furrow Draining;" and in compliance with his suggestion, we have reprinted two letters on the same subject, which he published last Fall in the *Courier*, under the signature of "*Colonus Northumbriensis*."

HINTS UPON FURROW DRAINING.

This plan of draining consists simply in opening drains parallel to each other, down the declivity of the land, at distances of from 10 to 40 feet or more apart, according to the nature of the ground.

These drains are made very narrow, being about 15 inches wide at the surface, from 3 to 5 inches wide at the bottom, and from 2½ to 3 feet deep. The bottom of the drain being well cleaned out, and as even as possible, it is filled half its depth with broken stones, similar to those used in repairing macadamized roads; or if they can be obtained, small stones gathered off the surface of the land; but in no case larger than will pass in all directions through a riag 2½ inches in diameter—it being found that stones of a larger diameter do not afford regular support to the sides of the drain; and indeed most farmers are aware that the old rumbling drain is apt to become choked.

These drains, which, from being generally made in the furrows of well managed fields, the ridges of which are in general at least 15 feet apart, are called furrow drains—empty themselves into main drains formed in the lower part of the field; or if the field consists of a series of hollows, main