

be the work of time. The farmer in doing this has several objects to keep in view—the nature of the climate must be studied; for it is a well established fact that, of all our domesticated animals, none is so much effected by climate as the sheep—none so liable to change under its influence; for we find that those of the best kinds which thrive well enough in one country and preserve all their valuable properties on being taken to another, will degenerate and become of no value, even under the best treatment. This fact has been illustrated to the serious loss of the sheep farmer in the Shetland Islands. Formerly there was in these island a breed of sheep, of a small size but very celebrated for the peculiarly fine quality of their wool. About thirty years ago several of the landed proprietors in that country desirous of improving their sheep in weight of carcase as well as in the fleece, imported from England sheep of a larger size; and endeavoured by crossing the breeds to make the wished for improvement. Unfortunately the rage for this became too general throughout the country. The pure breed which was imported degenerated in size without improving in the quality of the fleece, and the cross between them and the native Shetland sheep fell off both in wool and in carcase. Besides this many distempers to which sheep are subject but which had formerly been unknown there, were introduced with these imported; and spread rapidly making sad havock among them. The crossing became general over the country from the intermixture of the flocks, and with it the deteriorating qualities; so that in less than ten years after the first introduction of these foreign breeds, there was only one small island in which the pure native breed was to be found.

The farmer after having ascertained by trial the suitability of the climate for rearing sheep has next to decide upon the kind which will be the most profitable. In deciding on this point he has to keep two objects in view namely, the fleece and the carcase. With regard to the former he must be regulated by the market he has for his wool; as the fleece with the sheep farmer is always an object of primary consideration to the carcase, although if both weight of fleece and carcase, can be combined so much the better.

In applying these general principles to the case of the Canada Farmer; there is one obstacle, namely the prohibition against the exportation of sheep from England. How far the liberal policy now pursuing towards the colonies may remove this restriction remains to be seen; but should it produce this effect: we hope soon to see a different description of flocks from what we have at present.

It is pretty evident that the wool of the present breed of our sheep who are clad more like goats than any thing else, can never become an object of exportation; it is however ascertained that there is nothing in our climate to prevent the rearing of sheep, and when we reflect on the immense quantities of wool which is every year imported into England from foreign countries we should hope that the mother country will be inclined to permit the exportation of sheep to this colony, and that in time we will become able to furnish her with a part of the wool for her manufactures.

It has been in general remarked that the long winters of this country are against the growth of fine wool; but as coarse wool is always