

keep during our hot summers, and to my ideas more healthy and fully as cheap as pork. We have also at present a ready sale for wool, whilst on the other hand the high rate of the labour market, joined with the incapacity of the hands generally to be found, makes a laborious species of husbandry, if not profitless, most harassing to the farmer. With these characteristics the country can never become a purely pastoral one, but an opportunity is presented of keeping a considerable number of sheep which following the heavier stock, in a continued change of pasture, would consume much of the food which would otherwise go to waste or tend to produce a coarse herbage. A due attention in this respect, joined with occasional top dressing, would keep our new pastures longer in a productive state and produce on old grass a cleaner, thicker and healthier bite. Again a moderate stock of good breeding ewes would, I am satisfied, pay as well as anything to consume a proportion of turnips, which crop is now admitted on all hands to be one of the best fertilizers of a farm as well as one of the preparatives for spring wheat. In the selection of this country as a place of emigration, farmers are doubtless mainly influenced by the low value of land, affording them the means of producing an article at as low a price as the agriculturist who is situated nearer market, and employing cheaper labour. In this position the great advantage would seem to lie in the application of his own labour to as large an extent of land as the farmer can probably manage. To my mind a moderate extension of our present sheep husbandry, seems to offer the most ready means of accomplishing this object. The substitution of clover in a great measure for bare fallow in the preparation of our lands for wheat would much diminish the amount of manual labour as well as spread it over a longer season and keep our barer soils either of sand or unmixed clay in better heart, whilst instead of glutting the market, with the article of wheat in which our disadvantages are at present very great, we should have a certain proportion at least of our produce of a different character, bringing into the market a considerable supply of wool, on which the labour expenses are not so great, and which from its easy carriage seems quite as secure of a market. In this course of husbandry, I should strongly recommend the covering of all stubbles with clover, and the general occupation of lands not immediately required for crop, with rape, rye or some other green food, it will afford much extra fodder, whilst there is no doubt that all green crops, grown and consumed on the land before they go to seed, instead of impoverishing the soil, tend greatly to enrich it, by the large proportion of their food, which, whilst in a leafy or succulent state, they derive from the atmosphere. When the farmer's capital is small and his means of realising cash by sales limited as it now is here, a considerable proportion of sheep on a farm affords a quicker means of turning our money than cattle, which must usually be kept 4 or 5 years before they are marketable, at the same time the sums being in smaller amounts and more divided as to time the cash is easier to collect.

While on this part of the subject, I would

suggest that our attention be turned as soon as possible to the establishment of regular fairs to facilitate the sale of stock. I know the difficulty arising from our present scarcity of ready money, and that might surely in some degree be overcome. Whilst the advantage to the community generally would be incalculable. What an amount of time and labour is at present spent, in finding any article of stock you may require, whilst it is as difficult to find a customer when you have an article for sale. The farmer near the town who can easily obtain labour for raising root crops, has every facility for feeding stock, and who is conveniently situated for selling it to advantage, must also at present raise his young stock, which could be reared at little more than half the price by the farmer in the back countries, whose hay is often worth only 4 or 5 dollars per ton in the yard, whilst on the other hand the back farmer is compelled to fatten off his stock, in a situation when he has often a great difficulty in effecting sales; or when he can effect them, is at the mercy of the jobber who must make all out of him he can.

As to the class of sheep adapted to our country, under present circumstances, the remarks already made point at once to the heavy Leicester or Teeswater, we want a considerable supply of mutton for home consumption, and who knows but Brother Jonathan's taste may soon incline that way too, particularly when he finds there is something better to be had, than his lean scaramouches called merinos only fit when a dozen years old to walk into the chandler's pot, we want an animal to stand our winter's frost, and I often fancy when I look on some of the aforesaid anatomies what would be their appearance after a night of 30 below zero without their bitters? Why they would be frozen all standing, half the oats in Hamilton would scarce suffice to keep a good sized flock alive, and I opine we should have to teach them how to eat turnips. We want inward heat which can only be kept up by a little fat outside, we want early maturity, and the Leicester or Teeswater is your only sheep to feed off after one winter and two summers, if you add another winter you greatly increase the proportion of labour and cost, while sheep of a variety of ages are hard to be maintained on your contracted pastures. The oldest knows best how to forage for himself, the bell wether is ever the fattest of the flock, again in woods the Teeswater averaging 6-8 lbs. at 7 will produce more than the Merino clipping 3 lbs. at 2s.; the latter I have found, after careful inquiry, to be something like the average of what are called fair flocks in the U. States. The very superior varieties of French Merinos do not seem to have been yet sufficiently tried on this continent, to enable us to express an opinion as to their adaptation to our position. The proportionate value of these may alter, but I should rather incline to think, for the reasons already given, that any change would be in favour of the heavy wools. Countries of a more pastoral character where the mutton is disregarded, can at all times supply the full complement of fine wools, whilst we shall have to fight zero and the winter nights with thick carpets and tallow candles, and who knows but when a change