

Australia, some parts of Spain, the finer portions of S. W. Asia, and perhaps some parts of Hungary—such localities may be characterized generally as thinly populated, with a mild winter. Here their flocks roam the year round over extensive pastures; are seldom loused, and never hand fed. The market is considerably distant. The object in such countries is to obtain a fine fleece, which being of higher or even double value per pound as compared with coarser wools will diminish the percentage for carriage and marketing, whilst the small demand for mutton at home, and difficulty of its exportation, makes it a very inferior consideration, the best parts only of the flesh are used, and the rest boiled down or thrown aside. What we call the finer points of the animal are neglected, or rather studiously kept down, as a superfluity of flesh in those parts would only unfit the animal for his position. Travelling frequently in quest of pasture or water, and often exposed to severe drought on arid steppes and under a torrid sun. A large fleshy animal covered with long wool, would here rapidly sink under his own burthens, and disease and death would defy the exertions of the small number of attendants usually afforded in such countries. In such a position, then, a sheep seems required fine and not too heavy in fleece, with considerable length of leg, not too light bone, and so little disposed to obesity that he can carry himself through considerable journeys without perceptible fatigue or exhaustion, as fatigue, exhaustion, or any species of weakness affecting the secretions must be injurious to the texture and growth of the wool.

Advancing into more civilized regions we find certain districts thinly inhabited from the sheer inability of the soil to repay, by its produce, the labours of a more extensive population. Cattle on such lands hardly find sufficient bite and shelter, but here the sheep may often be kept to advantage. In such a position the market is often comparatively near, both for wool and mutton,—the wool need not be so high in quality, to pay for a short transport, while the mutton here becomes an object of consideration. The large heavy sheep cannot be kept on such land, but we require a variety whose bulk can be maintained on a comparatively deficient herbage, whilst his wool requires to be at the same time heavy enough to shelter him from the inclemency of the weather, and light enough not to encumber him in travelling over a considerable range for his food, often over hill and dale, bog and morass, where a heavier carcassed and heavy woolled sheep would sink from sheer weight. This was strongly exemplified in many parts of the North of England and South of Scotland, some forty or fifty years ago. At the first introduction of the Leicesters into these localities—they succeeded admirably on the more level lands. Seeing this, many of the farmers of rougher, barer grounds must follow the fashion, and frequently placed the heavy Leicester sheep on land where he must run over many acres to seek his food, often wading mid-leg deep in bog. The result was what might have been expected, ruin to the farmers; and ignorance gave an evil name to a most valuable class of animals. I know it is

maintained that the fine woolled Merino fleece is more impervious to cold than the heavy Teeswater. It may be so to sheer cold, but a certain degree of depth of wool combined with fineness, seems to afford a greater degree of shelter from the cutting blast and driving sleet; otherwise, why in more northern climates, as Saxony, and North Hungary, is it indispensable that the Merino be sheltered in winter, whilst the houseless Cheviot seeks his only shelter on the barest side of the hill top, where he knows himself best secured from the overwhelming snow drift.

Thus is pointed out the peculiar home of the middle wool. Clean limbed, and compactly formed, with a fine transparent ear, and clear forehead—he carries his mutton high, whilst he displays many of the feeding points, making him eagerly sought after by the grazier and turnip feeder; at the same time that his rougher coat is well adapted to resist the inclemencies of the season with which he has often to contend.

Again, proceed we a step to the rich vales among a teeming population, gathered together by the superior productiveness of the soil, easy means of transporting along the flowing rivers, and abundant employment afforded by increasing wealth and luxury; what farmer would not here be emulous to see the heaviest of our heavy Teeswaters lying around his sheltered pastures, where they need hardly to walk around to satisfy their hunger, while the purveyors for a numerous population have all the fattest stock around bought up, even before it is brought into the market. Here the largest amount possible of mutton is required, and the sheep is able to carry it round with him the short distance he needs to go in search of food; and lying half the time, his constant tendency is to become fatter and fatter. A heavy wool is here also an object; the distance of transportation is nothing, and among such a population it is always required, as a country increases in luxury, the consumption of the heavier wools seems to increase in a greater ratio than of the fine ones—more of the former class seems needed for articles of luxury—as carpets, and all the endless variety of stuffs and merinos, whilst the demand for the fine wools, which are mostly used for body clothing, does not increase in the same ratio. This seems fully proved by the long woolled sheep having extended over almost every part of England where the land is adapted for them, and by a rapidly increasing demand for the same class on this continent.

With these premises let us examine the characteristics of our own country as to its adaptation to a sheep husbandry in any shape, then as to the class of sheep most desirable under our present position to be cultivated. We have, generally speaking, a rich soil affording a fine heavy bite abounding naturally in white clover, small enclosures, affording with the patches of wood great shelter, small farms, on each of which a proportion of horned cattle and horses are kept as well as sheep. A severe winter forces us to house and hand-feed most of our stock, in order to enable them to resist its severity with any degree of condition. We have considerable demand for mutton, the smaller carcass being preferable to