

substantiate. Another person who took a leading part in introducing the new breed was the late Mr. Robert Thomson, of Lilburn, and afterwards of Chillingham Barns in Northumberland, who in his youth resided for some time with Bakewell as his pupil, and whose flock, long known as one of the best on the Borders, was bred directly from Bakewell's. I cannot, of course, speak of the flocks of the breeders now named from personal observation, as they had all either died or retired from business by the time I began; but I inherited from my father a flock of Leicesters which had been bred chiefly from their flocks, and I have thus been familiar from my earliest years with the style of sheep which they introduced. About thirty-five years ago, and for many subsequent years, there existed a small flock of Leicesters, the property of Mr. Luke Scott, formerly tenant of Easington Grange, near Belford, which I knew well, and which, in several respects, may be said to have been unique. Mr. Scott, although a steady and upright man, had not prospered in business. From ever I knew him he had no farm of his own, and his little flock, numbering some twenty ewes and their produce, to which he clung with fond affection and almost desperate tenacity, was boarded out, sometimes in one place and sometimes in another, often exposed to great straits, and never enjoying anything like fair treatment. He has often told me that the foundation of this flock was laid by the purchase of a few shealing ewes from a Mr. Yellowly, then in good repute as a breeder of pure Leicesters. As long as Mr. Robert Thomson continued a breeder, Mr. Scott had used only rams, or their progeny, of his own breeding; and for the 20 or 25 years which elapsed betwixt Mr. Robert Thomson's retirement from business and the final breaking up of Mr. Scott's little flock, the latter was maintained entirely by the use of his own rams. So jealously did this exclusive old man watch over the purity of his idolised little flock, that I recollect of his telling me how a favourite ewe had made her escape from the enclosure in which she was confined, and had got access to a ram of a neighbouring flock. Most persons would have thought it enough in such circumstances to have sold or destroyed the progeny of this *mesalliance*; but so irremediably did the old man consider his ewe to have been contaminated, that favourite as she was, he caused her instantly to be slaughtered. Mr. Scott let out on hire as many of his rams as he could, but never sold either male or female except to be slaughtered. And what, then, were the characteristics of this interesting little flock, separated from Bakewell's by but one intermediate link? Their faces and legs were invariably white—as much so as any Cheviot's. Their wool formed a close-set, compact fleece, inclining to coarseness in the breech, and often scanty, or altogether wanting, on the belly. The rams carried their heads well up, being

strong and full in the neck-vein, and remarkably wide in the chest. They were particularly clean in the legs, and seldom suffered from foot-lameness. They were vigorous and active, and in token of this were pugnacious to a fault, being more troublesome in this respect than the rams of any breed of sheep I have ever had to do with. Owing to their own purity of breeding they possessed in a remarkable degree the capacity of imparting their own characteristics to every flock into which they were introduced. Mr. Scott never had many of our ram breeders as direct customers, as they objected to the comparative want of size of his sheep; but I have the best means of knowing that most of them freely availed themselves of his blood by hiring rams from those who did deal with him directly. So much was this the case, that there is probably no Leicester flock on the borders, of any considerable reputation, that has not this blood largely in it. The comparative want of size, to which I have just referred, always appeared to me to be less an inherent quality than the inevitable consequence of long continued hardships. I have thus shown that we got the genuine Bakewell blood to begin with, and that, in one instance at least, it was preserved amongst us, until a very recent date, in a degree of purity not equalled anywhere else, unless, perhaps, in Mr. Valentine's flock. Let me not, however, be misunderstood as if I wished to convey the impression that the breeders whom I have named were the only persons on Tweedside who were direct introducers of Bakewell's blood. There were many others whom I cannot enumerate. I may mention, however, as being Berwickshire breeders, the late William Robertson, Esq., of Ludykirk, and his tenant and intimate friend the late James Thomson, Bogend, who both, down to a yet recent date, went annually to Leicestershire and hired rams from the best flocks there. Mr. Robertson's flock of about eight hundred ewes dispersed in consequence of his death about 1830, and is still represented in the district. Mr. Thomson's remains intact in the hands of his grandson at Mungo's walls, and is still used as a ram-breeding flock.

Much as the Leicester sheep of the south and of the Borders now differ from each other, I believe that both can equally claim and prove direct descent from Bakewell's flock. Diversity of climate and general treatment, and diversity of taste in the breeders, have for a prolonged period been at work to produce the change; and these are influences potent enough to account for all the change which has actually taken place, although both started with like materials. Bakewell, we know, had just the common long-woolled sheep of his day to work upon; and he by skill and perseverance, so changed them as to originate what has ever since been recognised as a distinct breed. The materials which proved so plastic in his skilful hands are still as susceptible of modi-