

the completeness and prosperity of the whole. I am most happy of the opportunity thus publicly to express the thanks of the State Agricultural Society to the authorities of this city, for the kind and cordial reception they have given us. They voluntarily tendered us the use of these most beautiful grounds, and have done everything they properly could do, to facilitate us in the management of the Fair. To his Honor the Mayor, and to the Presidents of the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Councilmen, our thanks are especially due.

And here I must be allowed to speak of the disinterested course pursued by the two great Institutions of your city, having at heart kindred objects with our own. The time-honored American Institute, represented here by her venerable Secretary, and the Horticultural Society, many of whose most efficient members are now present, cheerfully came forward, and not only consented to forego their usual exhibitions, but agreed to unite with us on this occasion, that so, by a threefold effort, this Fair might be—what you are all ready to declare it—worthy of the great City and State of New York.

But I will not longer detain you—you are impatient to hear the distinguished gentleman who is to address you—a man known by fame to all—respected by all. I beg leave to introduce to this audience the Honorable John P. Hale, of New Hampshire.

Mr. Hale delivered an Address of great interest and power, before a very large and attentive audience. At its close, on motion of Hon. John A. King, of Queens, the thanks of the Society were tendered to Mr. Hale, for his very instructive and eloquent address; and a copy of the same was requested for publication in the Transactions of the Society.

FARMS IMPROVED BY KEEPING SHEEP.

To some extent, keeping sheep is found to improve a farm, as they consume much feed that is left by other stock and lost, and at the same time enrich the ground, and give it a better and smoother appearance. This is shown by instances quoted in the Transactions of the Norfolk Agricultural Society, which we relate in brief:—

A man, having a small farm, formerly kept forty sheep, four cows and one horse, and had good enough for them the year round. The price of wool falling, he sold his sheep, and for a number of years has kept other stock altogether. He now keeps but three cows and one horse the year round, and pastures two cows extra through the summer, sells very little hay—not half enough to keep another cow; he has the same amount of pasture and mowing as when he kept the forty sheep in addition to his other stock, and yet his farm does not look near so well as then. He used to raise turnips among the corn for his sheep to eat in winter, and gave them besides a few bushels of grain. The lambs, however, were not paid for his extra feed.

Another farmer for a great number of years kept

about sixty sheep, eight or nine cows (or other stock equal), one pair of oxen and one horse. After keeping the sheep for a number of years, he found he could then keep as large a stock on his farm with the sixty sheep, as he could keep without them before; showing that they had improved the farm to furnish their own support. To stock a farm entirely with sheep would not be so profitable as to keep a limited number—yet it would pay as well as other stock. The object is to keep enough to consume that part of the vegetation peculiarly fitted to sheep, and which other stock will not eat, adding at the same time enriching elements to the pastures and yards by their manure. It is the opinion of many farmers, that pastures for other stock may be improved by keeping a small flock of sheep upon them a portion of the time, and the opinion seems fairly supported both by reason and experiment.—*Wool Grower.*

SHEEP IN WINTER.

In the first place, sheep should be provided with ample and warm accommodations for shelter. Therefore, if you have not one already, build a shed of sufficient dimensions to accommodate the number of sheep you have to winter. If the number of sheep be large, have a shed for every fifty or sixty head. Each shed must communicate with a tightly-enclosed yard. Access to each shed must be through an opening at one of the ends; ventilation other than the doorway must be provided. The floor of the shed should be covered in the first instance with three or four inches in depth of clean straw, when from the accumulation of sheep dung and discharge of urine the straw becomes dirty, the surface must be covered with fresh straw. Plaster should be strewn over the floor at least once a week.

For convenience of feeding grain or roots, a trough ranging round the shed should be provided. The sheep should have salt always accessible to them. The best plan to secure this would be to have a trough in which rock-salt should be constantly kept. The sheep should have access to the yard at all times.

Three pounds of hay, or fodder, or its equivalent in meal or roots per day will sustain each head of sheep, which should be given them thrice a day, viz:—early in the morning, at noon, and at an hour before sunset. Occasional feeds of roots, say twice or thrice a week, are conducive to health—potatoes, or rutabaga, or common turnips, will answer. Water should be given to the sheep twice a day, to wit, in the morning and in the evening.

Sheep can be kept housed during the winter, altogether, to advantage—by a little extra care, as above—letting them out in fine weather for airing and exercise.—*American Farmer.*

CLASSIFICATION OF SOILS.

The want of some system of classifying soils has long been felt. The arbitrary terms in common use convey no definite idea of the subject.