

and that the pasture from which the rams come is similar to his own, but not too near at hand. The rogeny that arise from this cross are a renovated breed, in which the evils of the 'in and in' breeding are completely at an end; and these when they come to maturity, give the flock all the tone and energy of a new one; and the moment that they come into full operation as breeders, the process of selection may be again begun, and the flock farther improved.

It has already been stated, that the more highly sheep are bred, that is, the greater the value which has been imparted to them by skilful treatment, the more liable they are to degenerate if they are neglected. All the best breeds of British sheep may now be considered to be in a much improved and valuable condition, at least for the main purposes for which they are intended. Of these, the leading ones every where are, the superiority of the mutton, and the speediness and cheapness with which they can be brought to market. The wool is, no doubt, an important consideration, but still it is very secondary as compared with the others; and, if all the ewes are in high fertility, if all the lambs can be preserved, and if the mature mutton can be brought to market even a year sooner, and the average of the improved sheep may be taken at two years, a great saving of food is effected, a quick return of capital is obtained, and as the number of shearable sheep is the same every year, there is no falling off in the quantity of wool.

There is another point which requires the consideration of the shepherd, in order that he may be able to manage his flock in the best manner; and that is, that all the valuable local breeds of sheep have been so long established on their peculiar pastures, that they are perfectly naturalized to them, and deteriorate if they are placed upon others of a different character. The Leicesters are the only exception of this. They are, so to speak, a kind of universal sheep, and will do well upon any pasture, provided that it is rich enough. But they are modern sheep, and we know their origin, and the means by which they were obtained,

From the British American Cultivator.

Mr. Howitt's South Down Sheep—On the 136th page of the present number, will be seen a correct likeness of one of Mr. Howitt's South Down Ewes,—a breed of sheep we consider in every respect well adapted to this country.

Within our recollection, the Canadian farmers have been sadly in error in their mode of improving their stock of sheep—they have run into two extremes in point of wool and mutton. Not many years since, a full-bred Merino or Saxon Ram would bring from £12 to £15. As the improvement of the wool was almost the sole object of the admirers of these particular breeds, no regard was paid to improve them in points which so much characterize good feeders; the result was obvious. The mutton was found to be ill-flavoured, and the stock not adapted to our cold winters. At a more recent date, the Leicesters and Lincoln breed of sheep have been introduced, and are at present held in high estimation. The principal fault that can be attached to the spirited gentlemen who imported these sheep, and who still continue to do so, is that they have not paid sufficient attention to the improvement of the wool, a point by no means of secondary consideration in a country like this, where every farmer should feel proud in attiring himself in his own domestic manufactured apparel. We speak from experience. Five years ago, the *Mania*, for these particular grades of sheep became so very general, that we were induced to pay an extravagant price for a flock of them, and the particular sheep which we most highly prized, turned out worthless for wool, as the carding machines in use in the country could not manufacture it unless they cut it into pieces with transverse knives fixed for the purpose. The wool in question measured 13 inches in length and was extremely coarse. We wish it to be understood, that we do not mean to condemn either of the breeds in question. They may all be justly prized, under certain restrictions, but the idea we wish to convey is this, that some regard should be paid by breeders to the best interests of the country, and in their crosses should improve their stock in those points which they may be deficient in, and by that means we would have a stock that would not only be suited to our circumstances, but worthy of eulogy.

In our last we mentioned some of the particular features of Mr. Howitt's South Downs, and have endeavoured to bring them into the favourable notice of the Canadian public; in doing so we have been actuated by disinterested motives. To show our subscribers

that we are not alone in our estimation of the South Downs, we beg to give them the following paragraph from a late English paper—

THE BRISTOL MERRINO.—Mr. Jonas Webb's sheep, as our readers saw by our last week's paper, carried off all the first prizes at Bristol; in addition to this he let there in the show-yard, six sheep for the season, at £400 10s., and refused 120 guineas for the hire of another; and it is gratifying to us to add, that he exhibited four out of the five best shearlings present, one of which obtained the second prize of 15 sovereigns, and the other three were all commended by the Judges; thus proving the fact, that four out of the best five sheep were exhibited by this gentleman. The sheep which obtained the first prize of 30 sovereigns against sheep of any age, was let by Mr. Webb at 100 guineas—*Cambridge Independent.*

These prices are higher than is paid for any other description of sheep at present in England. One hundred guineas for the hire of a ram for one season, is a very high price indeed, considering that the stock of sheep in England are so generally improved and of the best quality.

[In England provisions have now for a long time been so dear that the wool has there become a secondary consideration; the sheep that will furnish mutton at the least expence, being accounted the best breed. And as nearly all the fine cloths are manufactured from imported wool of a finer quality than any British wool, the long-woolled breeds are generally most valued, among which, those which thrive best, and give the fattest and heaviest carcasses, have the largest quantity of coarse long wool, the price of which now differs much less from that of the fine British wool, than it did previous to the introduction of such large quantities of fine foreign wool, and to the establishment of so many manufactories of goods made from combed wools. In the year 1836, 64,238,651 pounds of foreign wool were imported into England. In 1840 the quantity imported was 49,393,077 lbs. of which 42,317 lbs. was the wool of the Vicuna, and 2,762,439 lbs. Peruvian wool, supposed to be in a considerable part the wool of the Alpaca.]

From the Farmer's Cabinet.

Mr. Editor—Twelve years since, I resided in a district of country which enjoyed superior agricultural advantages in respect to soil, climate, water, and wood, and a convenience to the best markets; still there was a perceptible want throughout of enterprise and prosperity among the farmers. Of corn, the average crop seldom exceeded twenty bushels per acre, and that of every other kind of grain was in proportion. Wheat, however, they would seldom attempt to raise, unless upon new land, or that which had been favored by a scanty supply of manure which their barn-yard annually afforded. Their farms appeared in a solvent condition, and the several kinds of work were indifferently and unseasonably performed. Their cattle and sheep were entirely destitute of shelter, and left at all seasons exposed to the peltings of the pillars; their houses and out-buildings were in general very ordinary, and many of them old and much dilapidated. The best farms in that neighborhood, had they been exposed to sale at the time, could have been purchased for less than \$40 per acre. But "a change came o'er the spirit of my dream." At this day, the same neighbourhood is widely reputed for its excellent farmers, its productive soil, and abundant crops; of which wheat is the principal, and generally yields from twenty-five to thirty bushels, frequently thirty-five, and sometimes forty bushels per acre. Rye, corn, barley, and oats are also cultivated to a moderate extent, and with like success. Their old shabby buildings have chiefly given place to new ones, which, by their neat and substantial appearance, indicate the good taste and the good judgment of their proprietors. Do you enquire by what cause by what miracle, so great a change, so great a reformation has been effected within so short a time? I answer, all this has been accomplished by the good example of one good farmer. The farm to whom I refer removed into that neighbourhood in the fall of the year 1830, and undertook, in behalf of a widowed relation, the management of her farm, which contained about one hundred and twenty-five acres of arable limestone land. The proceeds of the farm, under its former occupant, had been annually insufficient to pay the expenses of its own cultivation and support his family. But its new overseer turned over a new leaf, and that farm is