

**Mellendean Leicesters.**

We have repeatedly given a short account of the annual sale of rams at Kelso; and in another column will be found a brief notice of the last, which took place on the 9th of September. This sale, from small beginnings, has attained to the most important place of ram sales in Scotland.

Prominent amongst the competitors at this sale for the past thirty years have been the Mellendean Leicesters, being part of a breed of sheep which are somewhat of a distinct type, now called "Border Leicesters," for which the neighbourhood of Kelso and the valley of the Tweed have long been fa-

The average of the Mellendean sheep for the year 1868 was about £7 above 1869, when the total number at sale was also larger than in 1869. At the Kelso sale competition amongst breeders is very keen, and it requires all that science, skill, and a liberal expenditure can do to keep pace with others, or retain the prominence already gained. In these respects the Mellendean sheep are well looked after. Some of their leading features are their lustrous fine curly wool, so much in request by manufacturers of the finest woollen fabrics, their soft and mellow handling, which bespeaks them kindly feeders, pure white heads and sprightly eyes, well-set ears and strong muscular necks, splen-

such matters, that may happen to be in Scotland about the time of the Kelso sale, say about Sept. 10th or 15th of each year, would do well to make a point to be present at it and judge for themselves of the Border Leicesters; and if in the neighbourhood at any other time, we are assured by the liberal proprietor, will be welcome to see the Mellendean flock, the shepherd taking much pride in showing them to strangers. He talks to his pets like children, and has a separate yarn to tell about each, even his dog hob-nobbing with them on friendly terms. The locality, too, has many attractions in natural beauty, and is associated with much that is chivalric in song and story.



MELLENDAN LEICESTER RAMS.

mous, and of which our engraving, from a photograph by Gray, gives two very beautiful specimens. The Mellendean flock was owned by the late Thomas Stark, who had a keen eye for fine shapely animals, and whose flock, from the small foundation of ten good breeding ewes, has gradually progressed through every stage of improvement up to its present state.

At the sale at Kelso, on the 10th September, 1869, the Mellendean sheep, forty in number, brought the highest average of 1751 offered, that average being £16 9s. 4d. sterling, and one sheep bringing £100 sterling.

did breasts, clean short shanks and standing wide on their pins, lengthy bodies and well-sprung ribs, and the whole frame indicating a grand carcass for both mutton and wool. Many of these features are distinguishable from our engraving, though the sheep themselves should be seen to be judged of properly. This flock, indeed, is so highly appreciated that not only the rams are in high request, but the draught ewes of the flock are eagerly purchased by breeders wishing to improve their own stock.

Any of our readers taking an interest in

**Fattening Cattle.**

The unusually short supply, and consequently high price, of beef during the past year, owing mainly to the demands of distant markets, and comparatively cheap means of transportation to them now offered through the competition among lines of railway concentrating towards the great centres of commerce and manufacture, render the feeding of cattle for the purposes of the butcher a much more profitable operation to the farmer than it has hitherto been. He no longer needs to depend on his neighbours, or a small local