

should be your wish, the subject may be further gone into, taking up such points as the feeding, housing, and general management of sheep, together with some remarks on the bringing to market.

From the earliest ages of the world, the keeping of sheep has been a very interesting and profitable occupation to mankind. Abel was a keeper of sheep, and through succeeding generations the tending of sheep formed the employment of a large portion of the population of the earth. Thus, we find in the days of Abraham and Lot that their flocks and herds became so numerous that the land was not able to bear them; the Patriarchs, those especial favorites of Heaven, were all engaged in this noble and honorable employment, and it was not only the men that were engaged in it, but we find that the women also assisted in tending the flocks. We read in sacred history, that when Jacob went down to Padanaram, he met Rachel at the well, watering her father's sheep, for she kept them. David was taken from the sheep cots and anointed by the prophet to be King of Israel; and if you will read the Psalms you will find that the most sublime and expressive of them have direct reference to pastoral life.

It strikes me that those shepherds in ancient times were in great favor with God, for we find at the commencement of the Christian era, when the greatest event that ever took place in the world was about to happen, that shepherds were the first to be made acquainted with it; while keeping their flocks by night the glory of the Lord shone upon them.

As the world advances in civilization, so the keeping of sheep seems to advance in importance; it is only since the establishment of the Australian Colonies, that any great amount of wool has been imported into Europe—that country sends an immense quantity annually to the British market.

Before the finding of gold in Australia, wool was its most valuable export. The wool for the finer fabrics of cloth used to be obtained from Germany, and other countries of Europe. The Americans send considerable quantities of wool to the English markets. This branch of farming is increasing very much in the south of the American continent, the Western States, and Texas. A person writing from the latter place, gives a glowing account of his success in sheep farming. He says: "I have now about five thousand sheep, and all fine stock. Have realized over seventy-five per cent profit, per annum, on the investment since I have been here, which will do for bad times.—Flocks now in finer and healthier condition than ever. My good luck has lasted three years without intermission. If I can go on for three years more with the same success you'll hear the bells all the way to Boston."

Mr. Caird, speaking of Prairie farming in the West, says: "I drove to the farm of Mr. Connell; he is a practical man, who has all his life been engaged in farming. He left the old country in 1811; farmed in a small way in the State of New York, where he first settled, and moved thence to Illinois, seventeen years ago, took his small flock of merinos with him. They have been remarkably healthy; increased one-third every year, and his flock now numbers 25,000. His fleeces average four to five pounds each, and the wool sells for 1s 6d to 1s 8d per lb. The sheep are sent to the prairies in April; 1,200 are placed in charge of one shepherd, who tends them and supplies them with salt; they need no other food for six months. He brings them to his enclosed ground in winter, and gives them hay when they need it, and a little corn. His flocks have never suffered from any epidemic, but have been free from disease. His original flock increased one-fourth in weight and size after being brought from New York to this better soil. He prefers the Merino to the South Down for this climate and soil, and has found from trial that the Merinos yielded as much mutton, and far better wool. He imports pure Merino Rams from Germany and Spain to improve his flocks."

It will be perceived from those accounts, that Sheep Husbandry is becoming of greater importance, and keeping pace with the other improvements that are going on in the world. It is not many years since in those countries that have been last mentioned not a sheep was to be found.

Sheep are kept in some parts of the world to an extent that some people have but little idea of. When Prince Esterhazy was in England, some years ago, he paid a visit to the late Earl of Leicester, who was one of the largest farmers and stock-breeders in England. The Earl showed him a thousand ewes in one flock, and asked the Prince what he thought of that? The Prince replied, "My shepherds are more numerous than your sheep." Prince Esterhazy is said to possess a flock of 300,000 sheep, fed on his estates chiefly in Hungary. The superintendence and management of the flocks is conducted with the greatest regularity; monthly reports are sent in to a Board of Direc-