

manufactures. Situated on the eastern shore of the Ægean Sea, south of the bay in which the river Latmus emptied, and having the advantage of four bays, either of which could accommodate a fleet, she possessed facilities of which she availed herself, to carry on a most extensive commerce with the Greek cities on the other side of the Ægean, as well as with those on the Euxine, the principal ports of the Mediterranean, Italy, and even the distant coast of Spain. Through the medium of her industrial and commercial enterprise, she succeeded in forming seventy-five or eighty colonies. The Greeks esteemed the "Milesian fleeces" above all others; and there is little doubt but their celebrated sheep found their way into Greece, Italy and perhaps Spain, at a much earlier date than is generally supposed. At any rate, it is almost universally believed that these are the sheep which afterwards became known in Italy as the Tarentine breed, to which the present Merinos owe their origin. It is supposed that the Milesian sheep were introduced into Greece about 490 years before Christ; and it is said that about the commencement of the Christian era, very great improvements were effected in this breed in Spain, the fleece being previously spotted and often dark-colored, now becoming white; and that this regenerated race became known as the Merino sheep, from which have descended the present stock.

It would appear that in the first century before the Christian era, Greece and Rome excelled in woollen manufacture; but Strabo, who lived in the first century of our era, says the fine cloths worn by the Romans were made of wool from Spain; and Pliny, a governor of Spain, describes several varieties of fine woolled sheep as having long been reared in that country. By some the breed is sought to be accounted for in other ways—first, that Columella, a Roman residing near Cadiz, and just before the time of Pliny, coupled fine woolled Tarrentian (Italian) ewes with wild rams brought from Barbary, and this cross is said to have been repeated thirteen, and again fifteen centuries later, first by Pedro the Fourth of Castile and Cardinal Ximenes, so that the Merino would have acquired its perfect character in the seventeenth century when it began to attract the attention of foreign nations. Others who discredit this explanation, say the cross was with the Chuna, a long woolled sheep of Spain, altogether distinct from the Merino. The other account, which receives support from several Spanish writers, is that the famous Merino flocks of Spain owe their origin to the English sheep exported thither, about the thirteenth or fourteenth century: the date assigned by Savila is 1393. However this may be, they were found spread all

over the country in the seventeenth century, owned principally by the king, nobles and clergy, and cared for and attended in such a way as to deserve all the success which has resulted therefrom. About 1765 the Merino sheep were introduced into Saxony, where, in a few years, the fleece became superior to that of Spain. Near the commencement of this century the Merinos were introduced into Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, the Cape of Good Hope, and other countries, where the most sanguine expectations of those concerned have been realized. M. Du Pré St. Maur has grown excellent wool from the Merino in Algeria, and from a cross with the native Berber he has produced some very fine samples. This was in the province of Oran.

After the destruction of all that was valuable by the barbarians in Rome, we hear but little of woollen manufactures in Europe until the tenth century; and they can scarcely be said to have received their great impulse until the time of Arkwright. Since that time the progress has been wonderful indeed.

Wool differs from hair chiefly by its felting property, which it owes to the imbricated serratures upon its surface varying from 2,700 in the finest to about 1,850 to the inch. We are now speaking of short wool, of which cloth is made; the long wool is used in the manufacture of worsted goods. The profile line of a filament of wool presents somewhat the appearance of a fine saw, the teeth inclining from the root towards the point; hence it is said to be serrated from the Latin *serra*, a saw, and when these filaments are pressed together (after cleaning), the serratures lay hold of each other and interlock, forming a compact mass. The reason of their not doing so on the sheep's back, and thus rendering the wool useless for manufacturing purposes, is that the skin secretes a kind of natural soap called the yolk, with which these annular and imbricated serratures are covered, and prevented from having a good hold-fast. There is a legend which ascribes the honour of discovering the felting properties of wool to *Clement*, fourth bishop of Rome. Being obliged to fly from persecution, the good man became foot-sore, and put wool between his foot and sandal for ease, and at the end of his journey discovered that the wool had become a kind of cloth. Had the bishop read history by the lights of archæology such as we enjoy now, he would have discovered it covering the tents of antiquity and protecting the bodies of warriors from the arrows of their enemies. The yolk of the wool is all that is required with soft water for washing the sheep, which should always be done before shearing.

The step to be taken with the wool on its arrival