

weigh above *two Pounds* one with another. But it may serve more effectually to remove all Apprehensions of the *Colonies* being ever able to prejudice this Nation in the Woollen Manufacture, to observe, that their Sheep are not only liable to various Distempers, but are short-liv'd, and their Wool is of a very coarse Staple; for when the Winters from Year to Year admit of little or no Variation, they are frequently subject to a cutaneous Disorder, which being renewed with every Spring, causes an Itching that seldom leaves them till they wear off their Fleeces by frequently rubbing themselves against every thing that presents itself to View, and when the Weather proves dry, and hotter than common, they tear their Skins as well as Coats, and are soon Fly-blown, rotten, and destroyed; this has often proved so contagious as to end in the Destruction of half the Sheep in the Country; and when the Winter has been longer than usual, 'tis a great Doubt whether their Losses don't exceed their Increase; for it has twice happened within twenty Years, that a third Part of all their Stock has been carried off by the extreme Severity of the Weather.

It is uncommon to eat any Mutton in the Country of more than three Years Growth, from whence it follows, that instead of slaughtering one fifth of their Stock yearly, as is computed to be the Case here, they consume a third Part, and their Fleeces falling short one half in *Weight*, they must necessarily raise four times the Number of Sheep to produce an equal Quantity of Wool; but the Coarseness of its Staple, which exceeds that of *French Wool*, puts it out of their Power to fabricate fine Cloaths; and its Shortness renders it of little Use but to be wrought into Stockings, and an ordinary Cloth which is more expensive, and less durable, than a much finer imported from hence.

It is evident from the preceding Account, that 'tis the Profit of their Mutton, rather than their Fleeces, that induces them to raise any Sheep at all: Whenever their Lands have been enriched by Manuring, they find that the raising of Beef, Pork and Corn, which are Articles of Exportation, as well as Home Consumption, is of greater Advantage; for the