

POET'S CORNER.

SELECTED.

SUMMER EVENING.

HOW sweet the summer gales of night,  
That blow, when all is peaceful round;  
As if some spirit's downy flight,  
Sweet silent through the blue profound.  
How sweet at midnight to recline,  
Where flows the cool and fragrant stream;  
There half repeat some raptur'd line;  
There court each wild and fairy dream.  
Or idle mark the volumed clouds,  
Their broad, deep mafs of darkness throw,  
Where, as the moon her radiance shrouds,  
Their changing fides with silver glow.  
Or see where from that depth of shade,  
The ceaseless lightning faintly bright,  
In silence plays, as if afraid,  
To break the deep repose of night.  
Or gaze on Heaven's unnumber'd fires,  
While dimly-imag'd thoughts arise,  
And fancy, loofed from earth, aspires,  
To search the secrets of the skies.  
What various beings there reside,  
What forms of life to man unknown,  
Drink the rich flow of blifs, whose tide,  
Swells from beneath the eternal throne.  
Or life's uncertain scenes revolve,  
And muling how to act or speak,  
Feel some high wish, some proud resolve,  
Throb in the heart, or flush the cheek.  
Mean-while, may reason's light, whose beam,  
Dimmed by the world's oppreffive gloom,  
Sheds but a dull, unsteady gleam,  
In this still hour its rays resume.  
Then oft in this still hour be mine,  
The light all meaner passions fear,  
The wandering thought, the high design,  
And fairy dreams to virtue dear.

MISCELLANY.

RURAL ECONOMY.

From the Boston Chronicle.

MERINO SHEEP.

THE following observations on the management of Merino sheep, the breeding of which has within a short time occupied the attention of the most distinguished agriculturalists in the U. States, were written by an English gentleman many years resident in Spain. The value of such communication, derived from an authentic source, will be duly appreciated by every practical farmer. There are two sorts of sheep in Spain; some have coarse wool, and are never moved out of the province to which they belong; the others, after spending the summer in the northern mountains, descend in the winter to the milder regions of Estremadura and Andalusia, and are distributed into districts therein. These are the Merino sheep, of which there are computed to be about four or five millions, as stated under.

The Duke of Infantado's flock contains about	40,000
The countess del Campo de A. lonzo Nangrette	30,000
The Pauler convent	30,000
The Escorial convent	30,000
The convent of Gadaloupe	30,000
The marquis Perales	30,000
Ten flocks containing about 20,000 each, belonging to sundry persons	200,000
All the other flocks in the kingdom, taken collectively, about	3,800,000
	4,220,000

The word Merino is Spanish; it signifies governor of a small province, and likewise him who has the care of the pasture of cattle in general. The Merino mayor is always a person of rank, and appointed by the king. The duke of Infantado is the present Merino mayor. The mayors have a supreme jurisdiction over the flocks in Estremadura which is called the mesta, and there the king is the Merino mayor. Each flock generally consists of 10,000 sheep, with a mayoral or head shepherd, who must be an active man well versed in the nature of pasture, as well as in the diseases incident to his flock. Under this person there are 50 inferior shepherds, with 50 dogs, five of each to a tribe. The principal shepherd receives about 55l. sterling, or 333 dollars for his wages, and has a fresh horse every year. The inferior servants are paid small annual wages, with an allowance of two pounds of good bread per day for each dog. The places where these sheep are to be seen in the greatest numbers, are in the Montana and in the Molina de Arragon, in the summer, and in the province of Estremadura in the winter. The Molina is to the east, and the Montana to the north of Estremadura, the most elevated part of Spain. Estremadura abounds with aromatic plants; but the Montana is entirely without them. The first care of the shepherd in coming to the spot where the sheep are to spend the summer, is to give the ewes as much salt as

they will eat; for this purpose they are provided with 25 quintals of salt for every thousand sheep, which is consumed in less than 5 months; but they do not eat any salt while on their journey, or during the winter. The method of giving the salt to them is as follows:—The shepherd places 50 or 60 flat stones, about 5 steps distant from each other; he strews some salt on each stone, then leads his flocks slowly by them, and every sheep eats at pleasure—this practice is frequently repeated, observing not to let them feed on any spot where there is limestone.—When they have eaten up all the salt, then they are led to some argillaceous spots, where from the craving they have acquired by eating the salt, they devour every thing they meet with, and return to the salt with redoubled ardour. At the end of July, each shepherd distributes the rams amongst the ewes, five or six rams being sufficient for one hundred ewes. These rams are taken from the flocks and kept apart, and after a proper time are again separated from the ewes. The rams give a greater quantity of wool though not so fine as the ewes; for the rams will weigh 20 pounds, & it requires four fleeces of the ewes to produce the same. The disproportion of their age is known by their teeth; those of the rams not falling before their eighth year; whilst the ewes, from delicacy of frame or other causes, lose their teeth after five years. About the middle of September they are marked, which is done by rubbing their loins with ochre (these earths are of various colours, red, blue and green.) It is said the earth incorporates with the greafe of the wool and forms a substance which protects the sheep from the inclemency of the weather; others pretend that the pressure of the ochre (which is applied plentifully) has a tendency to keep the wool soft and prevent its being of an ordinary quality—others again imagine that the ochre acts as an absorbent, and sucks up the excess of perspiration, which would render the wool ordinary. Towards the end of September these Merino flocks begin their march to a warmer climate; the whole of their route has been regulated by laws and customs from time immemorial; they have a free passage through pastures and commons belonging to villages; but as they must go through such cultivated lands as lie in their way, the inhabitants are obliged to leave them an opening 90 paces wide through which these flocks must pass rapidly, going sometimes six or seven leagues a day, in order to reach open and less inconvenient places, where they may find good pasture, and easy repose. In such open places they seldom exceed 2 leagues a day, following the shepherd and grazing as they go along. The whole journey, from the Montana to the interior parts of Estremadura, may be about 155 leagues, which they perform in about 40 days, being equal to 11 or 12 English miles per day.

The first care of the shepherds is to lead them to the same pasture in which they have lived the winter before, and in which the greater part of them were brought forth; this is no difficult task, for if they were not to conduct them they would discover the grounds exactly by the sensibility of their olfactory organs, to be different from the contiguous places, or were the shepherds so inclined, they would find it no easy task to make them go farther.

The next business is to order and regulate the folds, which are made by fixing stakes fastened with ropes (made from grafs) one to the other to prevent their escape and being devoured by the wolves; for which the dogs are likewise stationed without as guards. The shepherds build themselves huts with stakes & boughs; for the raising of which huts, as well as to supply them with fuel, they are allowed to lop or cut off a branch from every tree that grows convenient to them; this law in their favour is the real cause of so many trees being rotten and hollow in the places frequented by these flocks of sheep.

A little before the ewes arrive at their winter quarters, is the time of their yeaning or bringing forth their young, when the shepherd must be particularly careful of them. The barren ewes are separated from breeders, and placed in a less advantageous spot, reserving the best pasture for the most faithful, removing them in proportion to their forwardness; the last lambs are put into the richest pasture, that they may improve the sooner and acquire strength to perform their journey along with the early lambs.

In March the shepherds have four different operations to perform with the lambs that were yeaned in the winter: the first is to cut off their tails five fingers breadth below their rump for cleanliness; the second is, to mark them on the nose with a hot iron; the third is, to saw off the tips of their horns in order that they may not hurt one another in their frolics; fourthly and finally, they castrate such lambs as are doomed for belwethers to walk at the head of the tribe, which operation is not performed by incision, but merely by squeezing the scrotum until the spermatic vessels are twisted and decayed.

In April the time comes for their return to the Montana, which the flock expresses with great eagerness, and show by various movements and restlessness; for which reason the

shepherds must be very watchful, lest they make their escape, whole flocks having sometimes strayed two or three leagues whilst the shepherd was asleep. On these occasions they generally take the straightest road back to the place from whence they came.

In May they begin to shear, unless the weather is unfavourable; for the fleeces being usually piled one above the other would ferment and rot in case of dampness; to avoid which injury the sheep are kept in covered places in order to shear them the more conveniently; for this purpose they have buildings that will hold thousands at one and the same time; which is the more necessary as the ewes are so very delicate, that if immediately after shearing they were exposed to the chilling air of the night they would most certainly perish. One hundred and fifty men are employed to shear one thousand sheep; each man is computed to shear eight per day; but if rams, only five; not merely on account of their bulk, and the greater quantity of wool on them, but from their extreme sickness of temper and the great difficulty to keep them quiet, the ram being so exasperated that he is ready to strangle himself when he finds that he is tied. To prevent his hurting himself they endeavour by fair means and caresses to keep him in temper; and with much soothing, and having ewes near him so that he can plainly see them, they at last engage him to be quiet and voluntarily suffer them to proceed and shear him. On the shearing day, the ewes are shut up in a large court, and from thence conducted into a sudatory, which is a warm place constructed for the purpose, where they are kept as close as possible to make them perspire freely, in order to soften the wool and make it yield with more ease to the shears. This management is peculiarly useful to the ram, whose wool is more stubborn and more difficult to be cut.—The fleece is divided into three sorts and qualities.

The back and belly produce superfine wool.

The neck and sides produce fine wool.

The breasts, shoulders and thighs, produce coarse wool.

The sheep are then brought into another place and marked; those sheep which are without teeth being destined for the slaughter house, and the healthy sheep are led out to feed and graze if the weather permit; if not, they are kept within doors until they are gradually accustomed to the open air. When they are permitted to graze quietly, without being hurried or disturbed, they select and prefer the finest grafs, never touching the aromatic plants, although they may find them in great plenty; and in case the wild thyme is entangled with the grafs, they separate it with great dexterity, moving on eagerly to such spots as they find to be without it. When the shepherd thinks there is a likelihood of rain he makes proper signals to the dogs to collect the flock and lead them to a place of shelter; on these occasions the sheep (not having time given them to collect their pasture) pick up every herb indiscriminately: were they in feeding to give a preference to aromatic plants, it would be a great misfortune to the owners of bee-hives as they would destroy the food of the bees and occasion a decrease and disappointment in the honey and in the crops. The sheep are never suffered to move out of their folds until the beams of the sun have exhale and evaporated the nights dew; nor do the shepherds suffer them to drink out of brooks or out of standing waters wherein hail has fallen; experience having taught them that on such occasions they are in danger of losing them all.

The wool of Andalusia is coarse because the sheep never change their place, as is practiced by the Merino flocks, whose wool would likewise degenerate if they were kept on the same spot; and the wool of Andalusia it is highly probable would improve in quality, were their sheep accustomed to emigrate as the Merinos do.

Between 60 and 70,000 bags of wool were annually exported out of Spain. A bag generally weighs eight Spanish anobas, of 25 Spanish pounds each anoba, which are equal to 214 English pounds.

Upwards of 30,000 bags of Spanish wool were sent annually to London and to Bristol, so that the English manufactories have consumed about one half the quantity of wool produced in Spain. This wool (since the Spanish revolution) has been worth, when warehoused in England, 26s. sterling the pound, or 5 dollars 75 cents.

The wool of Pauler, which is the largest fleeces though not the best in quality, is reserved for the royal manufactories which belong to the king of Spain.

The common dresses as well as the shooting dresses of the royal family of Spain, and the dresses of their attendants, were made of the cloth of Segovia, an ancient populous city in Spain were all manufactured. The crown of Spain received annually, from all the duties when added together, paid on wool exported, upwards of 60 millions of reales de velon, which are equal to 2,666,666 dollars 66 cents.

The following statement when trade was not materially interrupted, may shew the

wants of England; none but the finer samples were exported to that country.

London; from Sept. 1804 to Sept. 1805,	25,351
Bristol; from Sept. 1804 to Sept. 1805,	12,371
Total number of bags imported in one year,	37,722
London; from Sept. 1805 to Sept. 1806,	36,371
Bristol; from Sept. 1805 to Sept. 1806,	10,227
Total number of bags imported in one year,	46,598
London; from Sept. 1806 to Sept. 1807,	35,634
Bristol; from Sept. 1806 to Sept. 1807,	8,124
Total number of bags imported in out year,	43,758

WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.

An account of the wool purchased from foreign countries for the purpose of manufacturing the fine woollens of England in the years 1802, 1803 and 1804.

Whence imported.

Directly from Spain,	16,986,644 lbs
Portugal,	400,723
Holland,	405,400
Gibraltar,	288,275
France,	252,222
Germany,	122,150
America,	10,657
Prussia,	3,357
Denmark,	381

Of this quantity about 16,307,718 lbs. were imported in neutral vessels, and of this last quantity 165,778 lbs. were lamb wool.

Of Spanish wool the proportions were, of the finest sort, about

12,000,000 at 6s.	sterl.
2,000,000 at 5s.	do.
1,227,020 at 4s. 6d.	do.
14,920 at 3s.	do.
Lamb's wool, 165,778 at 4s. 3d.	do.

Making together 15,307,718 lbs. valued at 4,391,044 pounds sterl. the price at which the clothiers bought it.

The remaining 3,160,000 lbs. imported in British vessels amounted to nine hundred and six thousand four hundred and forty-two pounds sterling, so that the sum paid in three years (including the merchant's profit) was 5,297,493 pounds. Upon the whole, the average sum paid to foreign countries for fine imported wool, by the British merchants, was at that period 1,560,000l. per ann. No wonder the fine clothes of the country are now so dear; nor is it any wonder that Buonaparte looked with suspicious eyes at Spanish hostility against G. Britain. 12 Rep. Arts p. 405.

Does not the preceding statement show the infinite importance of attending to our breed of sheep? Sheep that afford wool worth 10s. a pound currency, even when bought by millions of pounds! in England, within this twelve month, 26s. sterling have been given for a fine lot of Spanish wool; and this too, when common English wool was worth more than 14d. sterling. Some years ago his majesty made Arthur Young, Esq. the secretary of the board of agriculture, a present of a Merino ram; there being then not more than two or three in the kingdom. Since that the Spanish government made Gen. III. a present of 3000 Merino Sheep. Of these 1,522 died within a twelvemonth; the remaining 1,478 were sold by auction; a prudent measure, as those who paid the highest would take the most care of them. I think they brought from 200 to 450 pounds each.

Notice.

DOCTOR SHAAFF is constrained to make a serious call on all those long indebted to him for payment of their accounts, which are placed in the hands of Mr. Robert Welch, of Ben, for collection, with authority, in cases where it may be necessary, to enforce payment.

Annapolis, February 20, 1810.

To Seine-haulers and others.

THIS is to give notice to all persons either Seine-hauling or otherwise trespassing upon my plantations, (Horn Point and Talley's) that they will certainly be prosecuted.

H. M. OGLE.

Annapolis; Feb. 27, 1810.

Rags.

Cash given for clean Linen & Cotton RAGS.

ANNAPOLIS: PRINTED BY FREDERICK & SAMUEL GREEN.

Price—Two Dollars per Annum.