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## WOOL-GROWING, &c.

A short dissertation on Sheep Husbandry in the South, submitted in the form of a Report, to the Agricultural Society of Mecklenburg county, at its meeting in April, 1854, by Gen. John A. Young, of Charlotte.

To the Agricultural Society of Mecklenburg County:

Having been appointed by our President to submit a report upon some subject of interest to the Farmers of our county, I have chosen the subject of wool-growing in the South, and offer a few reflections upon the practicability of making it an important branch of our existing system of agriculture; its profit as an article for market; the effect of its production upon the soil of our Farms; the most desirable breeds of sheep for our country, and the manner of their gradual introduction.

After supplying man with food the next necessity, in importance, which the earth produces for him, is a supply of suitable and comfortable raiment. In its productions of articles for this purpose wool must be ranked as of the first importance. And when we consider that one hundred and twenty-five millions of pounds are annually consumed in our own country, worth at a low estimate \$60,000,000, and that the proper wool-growing portion of the earth is confined to a narrow space on each side of the Equator, not exceeding 15° each in width, both of which lie within the Temperate zone, we are driven to the conviction, that in the enjoyment of our own comfort and abundance, we are neglectful of our duty and interests in not improving the advantages we possess, in supplying a surplus which is necessary for the comfort and convenience of the larger part of mankind. I do not, however, propose to persuade men to engage in the culture of wool as a matter of duty, but ask them only to consider the subject as one of profit. It is to be regretted that the history of agriculture in our own State is so barren in practical experiments upon this subject, that we are driven from some search for facts to enable us to give it that examination which will lead to satisfactory conclusions. But we are favored with an extensive treatise upon the subject by Col. Randall, a practical sheep grower of New York, entitled, "Sheep Husbandry in the South," from which I have found it necessary to make copious extracts. His work is regarded by every wool-grower in the United States as the standard authority, and exercises an influence upon every well regulated Farmer. We have another author equal to Col. Randall, who although he has not written as much, offers his information as the result of experience upon his own farm; this author is Mr. Mark B. Cockrell, of Nashville, Tennessee.

It is a prevailing impression, which exists to the prejudice of husbandry, that a colder climate is better adapted to the growth of the Wool than our own. It derives force from the fact that the principal wool-growing portion of our continent is north of us, and that we receive our most furs from the snowy regions of the Rocky mountains. It should be borne in mind that wool is as much the staple of New England as cotton is of the Southern States, and that the fine fleeces are the product of the finest blooded animals, carefully attended by shepherds who devote their entire time and attention to it, as their dependence for living and income; and our observation teaches us that attention to our own coarse wooled sheep will be rewarded by an improved fiber and an increased weight of fleece. And it should not be forgotten that nature, always wise in her laws beyond our comprehension, never fails to provide her creatures with those things that are necessary for their peculiar circumstances. Hence the fine and heavy coats of fur which enable the Beaver and Polar Bear to live and fatten among icebergs and perpetual snows; but we have no evidence that if removed from a rigid to a temperate climate that their winter garments would be discarded and another supplied to suit the latitude. We cannot arrive at proper conclusions by comparing the products and flocks of our sheep with those of a country in which wool is the staple commodity, nor by reasoning from the remote analogy between a fur bearing animal, by nature, still and self-dependent, and the wool bearing sheep, the most delicate and dependent of animals, and from which the fleece is annually stripped to supply the wants of man. The error of this impression, too, is manifest from the observation furnished by our scattered flocks, viz. that they are a tender animal, and even call for our care to provide for their winter wants in this climate; that they are so constituted as to receive better support from succulent than from the richest food of our farms, and that consequently the short winters and early grazing of our climate are better suited to their nature than the severe, protracted, seasons of New England.

But speculation upon this subject is put at rest by actual demonstration, which shows that the latitude of North Carolina is as well adapted to the growth of the wool as any in the world. Col. Randall and Mr. Cockrell both bear testimony upon this point. The former says, "my own convictions are decided, and the facts reported appear to fully sustain them, that warmth of temperature, at least to a point equaling the highest mean temperature of the United States, is not injurious, but actually conducive to the production of wool. The causes of this are involved in no mystery. Warm climates afford green and succulent herbage during a greater portion of the year than cold ones. Sheep plentifully supplied with green herbage keep in higher condition than when confined to that which is dry. High condition promote those secretions which form wool. A half pound's difference per head is really made in the fleece by keeping the sheep in good condition." These are his convictions after having given the subject the closest investigation, and personal observation. Mr. Cockrell gives us the benefit of his experience in a letter to Col. Randall published, in his treatise and says:

"I have about a thousand head of fine sheep, and from 400 to 500 long-wooled or mutton sheep. My Saxons were imported in 1824 or 25. I cannot say which—and I find as yet no falling off in quantity or quality of their fleeces; on the contrary, I believe a little improvement on both points, and a little more yield, when well provided for, which, you know, does not abound much in the Saxons breed. In addition, the fleeces are a little more compact than formerly—hence more weight; and, from our mild climate, the fleeces have become longer. I assert it to be a fact that the cotton region I am now in [Mr. Cockrell dates from Madison county, Missouri], where a pair of his sheep are kept, is about latitude 32° or 33° N. is better than any country north of it to grow wool, as the sheep can be kept all the time grazing, by sowing small grain; for, if grazed off, it quickly grows again in a few days; and the wool of the fine Saxons sheep in the climate is softer and more cotton-like than any I have ever seen, although I have samples from all parts of the world. I have traveled from this very place to Boston, sampling all the sheep of note on the way, and I found nothing on my journey or at Boston as good as the wool I had grown, and so said all the wool staplers whom I met with, and they were not a few. I presumed in reality, that the blood of my sheep was to be better than any I saw, but the superiority of my wool I ascribed to our climate, and the provisions for the sheep of succulent food the year round. The weight of my fleeces is four—say from 3 to 3 1/2 lbs. each. Tennessee is not the true grass climate; about 28° north is the most congenial for grass; notwithstanding this, our State is fair for pasture: blue and orchard grass, white and red clover, Proser is pretty well. There is much country in Tennessee and other Southern States not fit for the plow, and would do admirably well for fine wooled sheep, and can be probably so employed. A small capital thus appropriated here in Mississippi would do better than cotton growing at present prices."

This valuable work is full of evidence, not from theory, but from successful experiment, that the southern climate of the United States can compete with the north in the production of this woolly staple. As a further evidence of the influence of climate upon the growth of wool, I would refer to the history of its culture in Australia, half of which is in the Torrid zone. It shows that within 33 years after its introduction, which was the commencement of the present century, their exports have grown to more than 50,000,000 lbs., and that in quality it ranks in the European markets with the very best classes. The history of our southern localities might be added to show the adaptation of our southern latitude to pastoral pursuits, but I prefer offering the practical testimony of Mr. Cockrell, as it is the result of his tests upon our own parallel, and exhibits precisely the facts we want. It is proper that I should say, that he is the largest wool grower south of the Potomac, and is now conducting a large stock farm near Nashville, Tennessee. Every animal upon it seems to be of the best stock genealogy, and I can myself testify that they exhibit evidence of the guardian care of an owner who appreciates them. He has upon that farm 3,000 head of the best Saxons sheep, and although they do well there, comparison with his Mississippi farm, before referred to, demonstrates the advantage to be in favor of the more southern latitudes. By his letter to Col. Randall, which I have read, we learn that his flock in Mississippi bore comparison with any between that State and Massachusetts; and by a communication of his, published in the Patent Office reports for 1850 and '51, from which I will read an extract or two, we will learn the success of his farm near Nashville:

Nashville, (Tenn.) October 21, 1850.

SIR—Your favor was duly received, and I cheerfully make a communication for your Annual Report, on the subject of wool-culture and sheep husbandry in the low latitudes of the United States. Observation and many years' experience have brought me to different conclusions from all others who have written on this subject, upon the effects and influence of

warm climates on wool-growing, and especially upon the finest Saxony wools.

In a letter addressed to the Commissioner of the Patent Office, and published in the Report for 1848, page 627, I expressed the opinion "that the United States are a better wool-growing country than any portion of Europe; that the low latitudes have an advantage over the high, and will produce finer wool; and also, that as fine wool is now grown in the United States as can be found in the world."

I stated further that I had studied this subject with diligence and devotion for 35 years, and thought I had come to correct conclusions; but the Commissioner, Hon. E. Burke, decided that I "was wrong, and most decidedly mistaken in the whole matter," and that Mr. Fleischman's views, who had said that we must go to Germany for sheep, if we hoped to succeed, were no doubt correct. Still confident that my long study and experience had not misled me, when the Commissioner published his Report and remarks, I addressed him a letter, which may be found in the "Plough, Loom, and Anvil," page 300, December No. 1849, offering to exhibit selections from my own flock, in latitude 36°, against any sheep which could be found in all Saxony or any high latitude in Europe, and especially above 50° north latitude. This offer has not been accepted, and I have no fears of the result, if it ever should be.

It is gratifying now to refer to the impartial evidence of science in favor of the position then taken. I was certain the facts existed, but I did not know that the researches and inventions of our countrymen, P. A. Brown, Esq., of Pennsylvania, would so soon present the testimony in so satisfactory and tangible a shape. Mr. Brown practiced law for more than 30 years in the city of Philadelphia, retired from practice, he has devoted years to the study of hair and wool, aided by the lights of others and his own inventions. I consider his examinations, therefore, entitled to full faith and credit.

From two letters addressed to Hon. R. R. Reed, of Pennsylvania, and myself, published in the May No. of the "Plough, Loom, and Anvil," 1850, I beg leave to make a few extracts, which show important results to the United States, because it places her at the head of the list of all countries for fine wools.

Mr. Brown examined 65 samples, or collections of samples, from all parts of the world, and especially the 18 samples brought over by Mr. Fleischman, from the most renowned flocks of Europe, and distributed, through your office, to the several States, as the standards of excellence, and worthy of imitation.

The quality is expressed by the number of fibres which will cover an inch; or, the diameter of one fibre is that fraction of an inch. The low figures indicate the coarser wools, and the high figures the finer.

No.	Common American wool.	To cover an inch.
1	The wool of Leicester, (England)	500
2	Three-quarter American Saxony	1011
3	Wool from the herds of Denmark, improved by back from Prince Liekowsky, by C. L. Liekowsky	1093
4	Wool from Earl's "Napoleon," valued at \$1500, owned by M. Halv, of the city of St. Petersburg, considered the only rival to that of Prince Liekowsky, collected by Mr. Fleischman	1200
5	Ewe of Prince Liekowsky, Kurland	1250
6	Ewe from the Duke of Leuchtenan, Slav of the czar of Russia	1350
7	Another ewe of Prince Liekowsky, by Mr. Fleischman	1462
8	Specimen from a wool-grower, Dresden	2180
9	Ewe of Colonel Randall, New York	2510
10	Specimens from 2 ewes and 5 lambs of Mr. S. Patterson, Pennsylvania	3180
11	Flock of Mr. Robert Allen, Virginia	3575
12	Five specimens from the flock of Mr. Mark B. Cockrell, Tennessee, including—	
1	"1	1572
2	"2	1875
3	"3 This is a beautiful even wool	1875
4	"4 This is a clean even wool of the extreme fineness of	2180
5	"5 Not uniform	2180
6	"6 Some strands in this specimen	2500"

The above is the evidence of scientific instruments in the hands of a gentleman devoted to the investigation of this subject, and fully sustains my position, that the United States are growing at fine wool as Saxony, Sicily or any other part of the world.

Was I mistaken, then, when I said that as fine wool could be purchased in the United States for \$50, as these inferior wools are valued and sold at \$1500? What improvement in quality of wool would such a flock as Napoleon best to the flocks of New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Tennessee, which grow the samples in the above collection, ranging from 1500 to 2500, whilst he wears a coat grown in the snows of Northern Europe, of only 1200 in the inch?

The sample from the flock of Prince Liekowsky, of Hungary, is 1572. This Hungarian fleece, it is said, was a flock of 3000 ewes, and 4,400,000 acres of land. We have a right to suppose that he has done every thing that wealth and leisure could accomplish in that latitude, to improve his flock.

There is a traditional belief, entertained by the greater portion of the world, that sheep by nature belong to a cold country, and that when they are removed from a cold to a warm climate, the wool will grow coarser. My observations and reflections on this point have convinced me that, when the latitude is not above 30° N., the reverse of this tradition is true. I believe that the imported Saxony sheep, brought from the snows of Russia to Texas, in the United States, will produce a finer, cleaner, and taller fleece than while in Russia. I think the evidence is pretty conclusive that the Merino breeds are natives of the orange groves, and are fitted by nature for the warm climates generally. I can with confidence say to all husbandmen in the cotton districts of the United States, that, for grazing fine wool, they have nothing to fear from climate. I consider Texas an admirable location for wool-growers.

Our population is rapidly increasing, and must continue to do so; and last year we imported nearly 2,000,000 pounds of raw wool, besides the woaden goods which we annually take from foreign countries. These are strong facts in favor of a continued demand for wool.

The wool crop may be grown in the cotton district, without diminishing the latter, and thus add to the resources of the South. All the cotton region is adapted to wool and sheep.

I am very respectfully, yours,

MARK B. COCKRELL.

Hon. THOMAS EAVANS, Commissioner of Patents.

Thus, in the report of an officer of the Government of the United States the samples from the Nashville flock are shown to exceed ranking that could be produced in Europe, and by the northern wool-raising portion of our own continent. But Mr. Cockrell has since enjoyed a peculiar triumph in his intercourse with the World's Fair in London in '52 and the same in New York in 1853, affording him the opportunity of meeting the wool-growers, not only of Saxony but of the world, and by the jury awarded premiums, but by each prepared the finest wools grown who had samples on exhibition.

Although Tennessee stands third pre-eminence for the production of fine wool, Georgia furnishes more to the manufacturers than any State south of Virginia. Here is not the fruit of cultivation, but the spontaneous growth of the country, upon and adjacent to the coast. As a general thing the sheep there experience the tender care of an owner but once a year, which is when required to surrender their fleeces for his use. Their pasturage is in the pine lands, which, although less than for farming purposes, produce a species of wire grass which, from the mildness of the climate, affords an abundance of winter food. Their wool is sent to market without the slightest preparation, and always commands a good price; and is the best native or common wool grown in the United States. Its superior quality has induced dealers in the Northern Cities to denominate the lower grades of their stock "Georgia Wool." In order to give them popularity with manufacturers. If the business records of Savannah were collected they would show an amount of transactions in that article which would give it rank among the staple productions of that enterprising State. Its importance as a wool-growing country is well known to Northern manufacturers, and their agents are now traveling in and contracting for the fleeces which are to be clipped two months hence.

This much of the history of wool-growing in our Southern latitude, and the experience of those engaged in it, should be sufficient to remove every doubt as to its practicability. If it should not be so entirely satisfactory, trusting that it may lead to investigation by our intelligent farmers, when every remaining difficulty will be found to be imaginary, I will proceed to consider the subject as a matter of profit, and, as it is a true and intimate connection, the influence of stock upon the soil of our farms.

Our medium latitude prevents our competing with the planting States proper in the production of the great Southern staple; but our farmers possess a commendable advantage in being able to gather from their lands a paying yield of almost every important staple of our extensive country. Therefore a mixed system of Agriculture is adopted as our true policy, and it is not supposed that sheep husbandry will be adopted by any as an

exclusive business. Consequently it should be considered as a branch of our existing system.

The first matter, then, to be determined is, what proportion of increase our present flocks will admit without interfering to the injury of any existing branch of our farming interest. This every farmer must determine for himself, as no general rule would suit every one; and, in determining it, our flocks should be considered an interest of value, and be awarded a due share of attention. At present they are regarded as of uncertain value, and when turned into the wide range, after being stripped of their fleeces, where each has to run the gauntlet for the season, the owner looks upon bidding them adieu, that if half their number find their way back to his fold, his expectations will be satisfied.

It should be borne in mind that fine wool can be grown for a little cost as coarse, and in the following calculations we will be able, not only to determine the profits of each description, but to contrast them. We will then calculate the profits of one hundred head of our common sheep at 50 per head, kept upon the allowance of land as fixed by regular wool growers, viz. 3 1/2 acres, being three sheep to the acre, and the land we estimate at \$20 per acre. This will make an investment of

For 100 sheep, at \$1.50,	\$150.00
3 1/2 acres land, at \$20,	70.00
Total,	\$120.00

Say, for convenience, \$500.

We will count the expenses as they are estimated by northern wool-growers, which however, will at once be perceived are far above what they would actually be with us. The problem solved will stand thus:

Dr.	Cr.
Interest on \$500 invested	\$90.00
Cutting, curing and storing hay on 14 of the 3 1/2 acres of land	11.00
Expense of shearing	4.00
Tar, salt and summer care	4.00
Expense of attention during winter	5.00
Loss by death 2 per cent above the value of pulled wool	2.50
Deduct expense	\$161.00
\$50.00 Balance nett profit	103.00

Equal to a little more than 20 per cent upon investment.

In order to make the calculation safe, 3 lbs. is adopted as the average weight of fleeces, when 5 lbs. is due from sheep properly cared for. Like every thing else, sheep reward care and attention with increased profit. The 30 lambs in the above calculation will keep the original number of the flock full and if it is designed that the flock shall not exceed 100 head, will furnish half their number for mutton, and afford as additional items of profit to the calculation, their value as mutton, say \$1 each above the 50 cts. estimate in the calculation \$40.00

And their fleeces when slaughtered 3 lbs. each, 120 lbs. 31 cts. \$7.20

\$77.20

Affording a ample margin for errors in the above, and for casualties which sometimes could not prevent.

The calculation to show the profit of 100 head of full blood Merino sheep contains the same items as the preceding, except the addition in the cost of the stock, and they are put at Col. Randall's price, who of course would sell them at his own figure, and stands thus, viz:

Dr.	Cr.
Interest upon \$200, cost of 100 sheep at \$2 per head	\$120.00
on 3 1/2 acres land at \$10 20.00	20.00
Cutting, curing and storing hay on 14 acres of above land	11.00
Expense of shearing	4.00
Tar, salt and summer care	4.00
Expense of winter care	5.00
Loss by death 2 per cent above the value of pulled wool	2.50
Deduct expense	\$248.00
\$58.50 Balance nett profit	\$189.50

The investment in this case is, \$339.33 cents, say for convenience \$50, and the net income is a little more than 34 per cent. The price fixed for the fine wool is 20 per cent above what it is now worth in market, and the profit in its calculation are entitled to the price of the same number of mutton sheep with their fleeces, as in the foregoing estimate, affording an increased margin for casualties. Either calculation shows a per cent of profit that is not realized by the farmer from any other branch of his vocation, and the growth of fine wool is shown to be 14 per cent better than the common, when both require the very same attention. The expenses of attending the flock, of providing their winter food, and of clipping the fleeces are estimated as tho' the farmer would have to pay hired laborers to do them, when in fact they should scarcely be taken into account, because like all other work on a farm properly regulated, all this is done without paying out an extra dollar, or jostling the uniform system of business. Objections to these calculations may be raised, because the number of acres of land given are not sufficient, under our existing system of farming, to support the flock; but it is more than met by considering the fact, that our farmers generally own twice or three times as much land as they cultivate, which can be appropriated to the maintenance of the flock; and stocked to suit the owner's convenience with one sheep, or even less to the acre; and they will show that if farmers desire to purchase lands for the express purpose of wool-growing, it can be made a paying investment.

By these estimates we learn the result of wool-growing on land costing \$10 per acre. But if we go towards our mountains, where grasses grow in the richest luxuriance, and where vegetables and hay for winter food are produced by the easiest and simplest means of cultivation, where lands, abounding with soil, climate and security that will compare with the valleys of Virginia, Pennsylvania or New York, can be purchased at from one to three dollars per acre, the results in favor of sheep husbandry exhibited by the same calculation will surprise us that their latitudes have not long been familiar with the robes of pastoral songs. By extending the same it will be ascertained that the cost of growing a pound of fine wool upon 3 1/2 acres will be about 37 cts., while upon the cheaper lands of our mountains it will be from 5 to 8 cts.

The superintending care of a shepherd is necessary to all large flocks. Where they are only considered as a part of our farming interest, and it is not designed that their number is to be increased so much as to make them the controlling interest, this care can be supplied by negroes whose wages render them inefficient as field hands upon the farm. To do so, however, it will be necessary to confine their pasturage to their owner's lands, and to leave them folded during the nights within commanding distance of a protector. Like every other animal they are subject to diseases, from which by prompt attention they may be relieved; but the most important consideration for a shepherd's care, is, to protect them from wolves. Why the existing abundance of this enemy this protection can only be afforded by restricting their wanderings by day, and folding them at night.

Though it may be a digression, I must be permitted to say, that an interest which we have every means of making commanding in importance, demands from our State its fostering care. For the production of fleeces in our Northern States, the number of dogs kept upon every farm, except dog-herd's dogs, is fixed by state statute, and prohibited, under the penalty of death, from wandering beyond their owner's land, unless under their immediate care.

The advantage of flocks upon our soil is in some degree shown by the items of manure considered in the preceding calculations, but I am satisfied it is not fully estimated. A striking evidence of their value in returning and supporting lands is afforded in the reports made to the English Parliament by wool growers who till their lands annually. The quantity is, that upon the poor soil of England it would be impossible to support their flocks without the aid of the manure of their flocks. Randall says on a scientific investigation of this subject, that "in the Southern States, on lands which now yield even a small supply of excellent grasses, the northern system of husbandry is all that is necessary to convert them into good pastures. That these grasses will every year increase, and the lands will be gradually fertilized by the droppings of the sheep without a cents expenditure on it of any kind, and every particle of herbage will be turned to its most profitable account, by being converted into wool, mutton and manure."

If I have offered any thing showing a promise of profit from sheep husbandry in our country, the best consideration to which I ask your attention, viz. what breed of sheep would best suit us, and how they may be gradually and advantageously introduced, will be regarded with interest by the enterprising farmer who designs to test it by practical experiment.

As an introduction to this important part of our subject a few facts showing the nature of wool, and the difference between it and hair, will be in place, and will enable the reader more readily to understand what constitutes the difference in its various qualities.

A fibre of wool is found by microscopic examination to be flat or elliptical

and the surface serrated with innumerable fine pointed scales, which, together with its disposition to curl and entangle, gives it that invaluable felting property, which is peculiar to it and to fur. The curly disposition of the fibres cause them to entwine and embrace each other promiscuously, and enables these saw-tooth like scales to fasten upon the different fibres with which they are thus brought in contact, and by the working and rubbing of the machinery constructed for the purpose, the felling, or felting, is effected. Hair is straight and cylindrical, and has a smooth surface, therefore it will not felt, and in consequence cannot be rendered useful in the manufacture of durable and comfortable material for clothing.

An examination of fleeces from sheep of different blood will show the difference in quality to consist in the relative fineness of the fibres. If a full blood Merino or Saxony, with its soft silken fleece be taken as a standard of excellence, comparison with coarser fleeces will exhibit to the eye, and by handling, a thicker and stiffer fibre, which although it may be felted, can never be manufactured into goods of similar texture. It will also show that as the fibre departs from the soft and silk-like character of fine wool, it is the same proportion loses its primitive nature and partakes of that of hair, and is consequently in the same ratio less valuable for manufacturing purposes. We often find upon our native sheep lots mingled with wool through the eyes of fleeces, and in some portions greasy many inches in length and seems to have exterminated the wool. Such fleeces are always coarser and can only be manufactured into coarse fabrics; and the hair that grows in them is a great nuisance as well as loss to the manufacturer. It is not only a waste itself but it is destructive to machinery, and in sweeping carries the better material with it.

The South Down, Merino and Merino are peculiarly the wool bearing families of this valuable animal. The Leicester, Cotswold, Bakewell and other varieties, which keep a long and coarse wool, are only valuable for Mutton. If therefore the fleece is to be the matter of profit, as we have considered it, our selections must be from one of the first named breeds. Of these the South Down is least valuable; their wool being rated by European manufacturers as about equal to half blood Merino, and is considered deficient in felting qualities. They derive their name from a region of country in England known as the South Down hills where they have existed for several centuries.

The Saxons are a direct descendant from the Merino of Spain, from whence they were imported into Saxony under Government Authority, and by careful cultivation their fleeces were improved over the parent stock, but their size, and very probably their constitution suffered a proportionate deterioration. They are however profitably grown in the best wool producing sections of Europe and America.

The Merino is regarded as possessing superior constitutions, and produces wool sufficiently fine for all the manufacturing purposes of the United States and would probably be better suited to endure the hardships consequent upon an introduction to the care of inexperienced shepherds, than either of the others. I can give two facts which have passed under my own observation that are worth something in showing the durability of the Merino stock. One is, that nearly thirty years ago a gentleman of Fredell County prepared a buck which was a descendant from a full blood that was imported into this County by Mr. Wm. Bane Alexander, from New York; and the influence of his cross is yet sufficiently distinct upon the flock to render their wool 20 per cent finer than the common wool of our country; the other is, that in our dealings in wool during the present season the impression of Mr. Alexander's reputation is yet distinctly perceivable through the relation of the Count in which he lived. With the flocks in number of the foregoing instance, has there been that care bestowed which is necessary to keep their blood pure, yet the impression of pure parentage has been indelible to the unrestrained commendations with the flocks of the common range. There having been but few farmers in our State who have given attention to this description of stock, a general demand could not with convenience be supplied. Such a demand however is now anticipated, and the limited wants of our farmers can be supplied with the best blood Merinos by Dr. Holt, of Lexington, in our neighboring county. He has by the merit of attending the stocks in his breeding country. He has by the merit of attending the stocks in his breeding country. He has by the merit of attending the stocks in his breeding country.

It is a matter of great importance to our farmers, that the conditions in which wool is produced in nature, has a material influence upon its price. No machinery has yet been invented which can produce wool from the fibres with which our flocks are more or less infested, without injuring the fibre so much as to render its quality for manufacturing, therefore the fibre rarely against them to let it prevent sheep from feeding upon lands where they exist. All expenses must be the best mode of shearing and preparing wool, by machinery, is to wash the fleeces upon the sheep's back and cut without weighing it, and fold each fleece many into a round bundle and secure it in that shape by wrapping and tying a twine cord around it. The washing can be easily done upon any farm which has a branch or running stream through it, and the sheep after shearing should be turned into a green pasture and remain there for two or three hours before they are shorn, in order that the fleeces may be perfectly dry. For the information of those who may be led to wonder to understand the necessity for this care I will state, that it enables the washer, who fills an important office in every manufacturing establishment, his work much better, and with much greater expedition, than it can be done with wool marked as ours now is. The common of our wool is so saturated with water that it is known as "pulled wool," which is collected from different sources and the sheep which the from whence it is collected, every lock has to be scoured and finished, which by having the fleeces properly prepared up as described, the washer has only to wash and fold the wool from the shoulder to the hip as with a bundle of the sheep, and he has all the best wool they afford in one parcel, and for the recent quality have half way down the side, and level with the fleeces scattered below these qualities usually made in the same way and washed in water as the full blood stock, and it is done in about 1/2 day, whereas it takes two days to do the process.

The introduction of a new staple into any country to which it is adapted, should be attended with some measure of the sort of experience, and though necessarily incomplete, some preparation in the drawing of a new property to every individual within the circumference of its influence.

Changes in established modes of farming are apt to be regarded as chimerical and unproductive, and without proper investigation. Old habits and the best interests of our fathers are so easily followed, that we are prone to consider them right, and to content ourselves with doing as those did whose wisdom we reverence, without considering the changes rendered necessary by time and circumstances. In this progressive age all such views must give way or be used up down by the onward march of enterprise.

From the staple cotton mountains range which form our western border, to the Atlantic coast, North Carolina approximates every degree of climate, and affords almost every variety of soil fitted in the agricultural States of the Union.

Looking from the highest mountain top between the Mississippi and Atlantic, over its base appearing in valleys with their surrounding grandeur, and rich valleys as they gently soften down into our own champagne country;

and the surface serrated with innumerable fine pointed scales, which, together with its disposition to curl and entangle, gives it that invaluable felting property, which is peculiar to it and to fur. The curly disposition of the fibres cause them to entwine and embrace each other promiscuously, and enables these saw-tooth like scales to fasten upon the different fibres with which they are thus brought in contact, and by the working and rubbing of the machinery constructed for the purpose, the felling, or felting, is effected. Hair is straight and cylindrical, and has a smooth surface, therefore it will not felt, and in consequence cannot be rendered useful in the manufacture of durable and comfortable material for clothing.

An examination of fleeces from sheep of different blood will show the difference in quality to consist in the relative fineness of the fibres. If a full blood Merino or Saxony, with its soft silken fleece be taken as a standard of excellence, comparison with coarser fleeces will exhibit to the eye, and by handling, a thicker and stiffer fibre, which although it may be felted, can never be manufactured into goods of similar texture. It will also show that as the fibre departs from the soft and silk-like character of fine wool, it is the same proportion loses its primitive nature and partakes of that of hair, and is consequently in the same ratio less valuable for manufacturing purposes. We often find upon our native sheep lots mingled with wool through the eyes of fleeces, and in some portions greasy many inches in length and seems to have exterminated the wool. Such fleeces are always coarser and can only be manufactured into coarse fabrics; and the hair that grows in them is a great nuisance as well as loss to the manufacturer. It is not only a waste itself but it is destructive to machinery, and in sweeping carries the better material with it.

The South Down, Merino and Merino are peculiarly the wool bearing families of this valuable animal. The Leicester, Cotswold, Bakewell and other varieties, which keep a long and coarse wool, are only valuable for Mutton. If therefore the fleece is to be the matter of profit, as we have considered it, our selections must be from one of the first named breeds. Of these the South Down is least valuable; their wool being rated by European manufacturers as about equal to half blood Merino, and is considered deficient in felting qualities. They derive their name from a region of country in England known as the South Down hills where they have existed for several centuries.

The Saxons are a direct descendant from the Merino of Spain, from whence they were imported into Saxony under Government Authority, and by careful cultivation their fleeces were improved over the parent stock, but their size, and very probably their constitution suffered a proportionate deterioration. They are however profitably grown in the best wool producing sections of Europe and America.

The Merino is regarded as possessing superior constitutions, and produces wool sufficiently fine for all the manufacturing purposes of the United States and would probably be better suited to endure the hardships consequent upon an introduction to the care of inexperienced shepherds, than either of the others. I can give two facts which have passed under my own observation that are worth something in showing the durability of the Merino stock. One is, that nearly thirty years ago a gentleman of Fredell County prepared a buck which was a descendant from a full blood that was imported into this County by Mr. Wm. Bane Alexander, from New York; and the influence of his cross is yet sufficiently distinct upon the flock to render their wool 20 per cent finer than the common wool of our country; the other is, that in our dealings in wool during the present season the impression of Mr. Alexander's reputation is yet distinctly perceivable through the relation of the Count in which he lived. With the flocks in number of the foregoing instance, has there been that care bestowed which is necessary to keep their blood pure, yet the impression of pure parentage has been indelible to the unrestrained commendations with the flocks of the common range. There having been but few farmers in our State who have given attention to this description of stock, a general demand could not with convenience be supplied. Such a demand however is now anticipated, and the limited wants of our farmers can be supplied with the best blood Merinos by Dr. Holt, of Lexington, in our neighboring county. He has by the merit of attending the stocks in his breeding country. He has by the merit of attending the stocks in his breeding country. He has by the merit of attending the stocks in his breeding country.

It is a matter of great importance to our farmers, that the conditions in which wool is produced in nature, has a material influence upon its price. No machinery has yet been invented which can produce wool from the fibres with which our flocks are more or less infested, without injuring the fibre so much as to render its quality for manufacturing, therefore the fibre rarely against them to let it prevent sheep from feeding upon lands where they exist. All expenses must be the best mode of shearing and preparing wool, by machinery, is to wash the fleeces upon the sheep's back and cut without weighing it, and fold each fleece many into a round bundle and secure it in that shape by wrapping and tying a twine cord around it. The washing can be easily done upon any farm which has a branch or running stream through it, and the sheep after shearing should be turned into a green pasture and remain there for two or three hours before they are shorn, in order that the fleeces may be perfectly dry. For the information of those who may be led to wonder to understand the necessity for this care I will state, that it enables the washer, who fills an important office in every manufacturing establishment, his work much better, and with much greater expedition, than it can be done with wool marked as ours now is. The common of our wool is so saturated with water that it is known as "pulled wool," which is collected from different sources and the sheep which the from whence it is collected, every lock has to be scoured and finished, which by having the fleeces properly prepared up as described, the washer has only to wash and fold the wool from the shoulder to the hip as with a bundle of the sheep, and he has all the best wool they afford in one parcel, and for the recent quality have half way down the side, and level with the fleeces scattered below these qualities usually