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A LETTER TO THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF TITCHFIELD, PRESIDENT OF THE NEWARK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, ON THE PRACTICABILITY AND IMPORTANCE OF INTRODUCING THE MERINO BREED OF SHEEP, EXTENSIVELY, UPON THE FOREST FARMS, OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

BY BENJAMIN THOMPSON.

Read at a Meeting of the above Society held at Newark, on the Fifth of July, 1808.

NOTTINGHAM:
Printed and Sold by E. B. Robinson, in the Poultry, SOTLD ALSO BY HAGE, NEWARK; COOME, LEICESTER; PRITCHARD, DERBY; ROBINSON, MANSFIELD; AND FORD, CHESTERFIELD; AND IN LONDON, BY B. CROSBY, AND CO.; LONGMAN, HURST, AND CO.; AND HARDING.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.
MY LORD,

I take the liberty of addressing the Meeting, on a subject, which, in a patriotic light, certainly claims the attention of every Agricultural Society in the Kingdom, and which appears to be of no small importance to the forest breeders of this county, if merely viewed as an object of individual profit. This subject is the growth of Merino wool, an article of indispensible necessity to our manufacturers, the importation of which is becoming more and more difficult, while the practicability of producing a large quantity of it in our own island is become more and more evident. Whatever may be the result of the present convulsions in Spain,
It is surely high time that we made ourselves, as far as possible, independent of that nation for an article, which employs so large a portion of our population, and forms so essential a branch of our commerce in its manufactured state. If then, without the removal of one long-woolled sheep (which I consider as the legitimate possessors of richer pasturage) we can by the gradual substitution of the Spanish race for that now called (though in general hardly deserving to be called) fine-woolled sheep, increase the quantity as well as improve the quality of every fleece——if the two millions of sheep, which Mr. Luccock, in his valuable publication, describes as carrying fleeces scarcely to be called wool, can be exchanged for a like number of animals, capable of existing on the same pasturage, and each producing four or five pounds of a very fine article, the advantage of the change will, I think, be hardly disputed by the most determined heir of his great-grandfather's prejudices, which, on many occasions, regularly descend with the flock from one generation to another. Let me, however, bring the subject home to the county of Nottingham. I believe that, on an average, about nine forest sheep yield a tod of wool, which sells for fifty-two shillings to three pounds. Of the mixed Merino-Ryland breed (and I shall presently have occasion to point out that Merino-Foresters
would be almost as good, if the original ewes were properly selected) about seven produce a tod, which brings four guineas. Mine have done more this year. The size of these sheep is not materially dissimilar. Suppose, then, that a certain portion of land will pasture nine foresters, producing twenty-eight pounds of wool, which sells, on an average, for two pounds, sixteen shillings; the nine Merino Foresters on the same pasture will yield thirty-six pounds, selling for five pounds, eight shillings. The carcases of both being equally saleable to, and by the butcher, it follows that a person keeping the two breeds on the very same land, would find no difference in the carcase account, but in the wool account would gain nearly twice as much by the one as by the other.

Having stated thus much, I proceed to meet the principal objections urged against the introduction of Spanish sheep, which may be thus arranged as general charges:

1st. Our climate will not suit their tender constitutions.

2dly. The wool will degenerate.

3dly. The carcase is objectionable both as to form and flesh.
First, then, to the supposition that the Merino race is of too tender a habit for our island. If this conjecture, founded upon a comparison of the climates of Britain and Spain, might have been allowed some weight a century ago, it can now no longer lay claim to any; for though we have been during four-fifths of that period so disgracefully supine as not to try how far the objection was valid, other nations, whose climates are far more rigorous than our own, have been cultivating the growth of Merino wool with decisive success. Sweden, for instance, imported a small number of these sheep eighty-five years ago, and the flocks, derived from this source, are now numerously spread through that kingdom, while no want of hardiness has ever been discernible. Nearly the same may be said of several states in Germany—nay more, of Holland too, a country intersected by dykes, and subject to repeated floods, consequently ill fitted for any kind of sheep; yet we are assured that the Merino race thrives there full as well as any of the native breeds, with which it has been mingled to great advantage. Nor is this success confined to regions colder than Spain; for the same occurs in those that are the reverse. Accounts of a most favourable nature have, at various times, been received in England, with corroborating specimens of excellent Merino-wool, from the
Cape of Good Hope, and also from New South Wales, where the heat is sometimes so intense as to make the grass literally take fire. Thus does it appear that this truly precious race preserves its superior properties in climates most materially differing from each other.

It was not, however, till the year 1792 that it was introduced into our country, under the auspices of his Majesty, since which the breeders, who have adopted it, are unanimous in declaring that our climate agrees with it in every respect. Among these the most prominent are Lord Somerville, Mr. Tollet, and Dr. Parry. I am aware that it has been the fashion among farmers to consider such breeders as led away by enthusiastic notions, from which no good would result; but it may be recollected that a similar charge was at first made against Mr. Bakewell, and it may safely be asserted, without a claim to the gift of prophecy, that in twenty years the growers of fine wool will bestow the same encomiums on the above intelligent and patriotic characters as the Leicestershire graziers now heap on the great Dishley improver. Has the authority of Sir Joseph Banks any weight? This gentleman superintended his Majesty's flock from its arrival in England till infirmity obliged him of late to resign the office. The
nature and properties of this breed are, therefore, fully known to him, and he has assured me that he considers it extremely well adapted to the county of Nottingham.

On what ground can our forest breeders defend their repeated position that this race is less hardy than the one generally occupying their farms? The Merino carries a fleece much heavier than that of any other sheep known to us on the same proportion of carcase, and continually exudes a far greater quantity of yolk, by which the dust is attached to the outer surface of the wool, and a kind of crust thereby formed. Surely, then, it must seem probable to any rational mind that these advantages would in a greater proportion secure the animal from the inclemency of the weather; and such is actually the case; for I have frequently observed that while heavy rain was forcing its way through the wool to the very skin of a forest sheep, it has run down the clotted surface of the Merino fleece, and dropped from the animal without being able, during several hours, to penetrate the encrusted oily pile which I have described. I contend, therefore, that no forest farmer is justified in the assertion of his breed being more hardy than the Merino, unless he believes that he can better face the severity of a winter's night when wearing
His common dress, than his neighbour can if closely
trapped in a stout warm water-proof great coat.
Several judicious agriculturists have told us that
the winter, succeeding the one in which the lamb
is dropped, is the most trying of the animal's life;
and I believe it will be generally allowed that the
last winter was neither the mildest nor the shortest
we have known. A few of my Merino Ryland
hogs were at Calverton for several months on tur-
ips, which I bought of Mr. Francis Clay.
No further attention was paid to them than to some
Leicestershire wethers on the same land, and Mr.
Clay was a witness that severe weather affected
them no more than other sheep; nor did I lose one.
When I saw his Majesty's flock at Kew in January
last, I directed some of my questions to this point,
and the shepherd told me that he had never perceiv-
ed the Merino sheep to be less hardy than the
native breeds under his care, nor did they require
any greater portion of attention. In short, every
enquiry, observation, and research, which I have
been able to make (and these are not few) convince
me that the opinion of the Merino race being ill
suited to our climate, and I will add this county
in particular, originates in error, and should be
considered in no other light than that of unfounded
prejudice.
The next objection, which I have undertaken to meet, is the idea that Merino wool will degenerate in Great Britain. I might ask how it happens that no such result has taken place in the various countries already mentioned, to which several others might be added. Lasteyrie, a sensible French writer on this subject, has given to the world abundant proof that superfine wool may be produced wherever industrious men and intelligent breeders exist. And this we are compelled by experience to acknowledge; for we actually import it—we see its superior quality—we acknowledge it as Merino wool, though grown in Saxony or elsewhere; and we pay a high price for it. But were this not the case, we should only have to look at home for conviction, as we have now had an experience of sixteen years. Unfortunately, then, for those, who still maintain the doctrine of degeneracy, the very reverse is the fact; for unexceptionable judges of fine wool have decided that several of the pure Merinos, bred in England, produce more valuable fleeces than the original stock, from which they are derived. I will mention a particular instance of this. A shearing ram, belonging to Mr. Coke of Norfolk, last year yielded twelve pounds fourteen ounces of wool washed in the usual manner on the sheep's back. This animal was got by a ram, which he bought of Mr. Tollet.
As a proof how far the wool had degenerated, Mr. Paul, an eminent manufacturer of Norwich, offered Five Shillings per pound for it in the state above described, or above Three Guineas for the wool produced by a single sheep. Here, then, we have an instance of an animal bred in England, which produced a fleece of considerably greater value than its imported ancestors. That a sheep of no great size should carry almost half a tod of wool, worth Seven Pounds per tod, will appear, perhaps, incredible to those unacquainted with this race; but I have quoted the names of the parties, and any person, who thinks the subject worth enquiry, will find my statement correct. Dr. Parry’s flock also affords instances of similar improvement. He has never had any pure Merino ewes; but began his experiment by putting Ryland ewes to Spanish rams, and has continued these crossings till he has at least equalled, if not surpassed the finest piles of Spain, as his late admirable Essay, published by the Board of Agriculture, abundantly shews. This is a point worthy of every attention on the part of our forest breeders, as I am convinced that any of them, having a considerable flock, may select a proportion of ewes almost equal to Rylands—indeed quite equal to some now called by that name; for the pure Ross breed is become very scarce. The Ryland cross having
been found the best by those who had previously made the experiment, and an opportunity being afforded through a friend of obtaining some very fine-wooled ewes, I so far followed the beaten track, and merely crossed a single forest ewe, to shew my neighbours the result. I selected her from only half a score, so that she cannot be supposed the best of her kind. Last year she brought me a lamb unusually late, namely not till the middle of June, consequently the expectation of a hog’s fleece being heavier from its usually carrying a growth of about fifteen months would not, in this case, be justified. In fact, the dam’s fleece and the daughter’s were both just the growth of a year; but let us examine the effect of one cross by the Spaniard. On my shearing-day (13th. June) the forest ewe yielded two pounds, eight ounces of wool; her daughter four pounds. At last year’s valuation, therefore, the forester’s fleece was worth Five Shillings, and her hog’s, according to actual sale, Twelve Shillings. These, and many other observations convince me that the Merino-Forester may, under judicious management, be made one of the most useful sheep in the kingdom. The expence of rams may appear somewhat considerable at first; but every cross will more and more abundantly repay the temporary advance. Let no fears about degeneracy occupy the breeder’s mind another moment. “I have kept
them,” says Mr. Tollet, (Young’s Annals, No. 256) on a sheltered spot in the vale of the Severn; I have kept them upon an elevated situation in the heart of Staffordshire, and I see no signs of the wool degenerating.” I grant the natural supposition, mentioned by Dr. Anderson, “that the mind of the sanguine improver will be apt to magnify every excellent quality which he may think he perceives in his favourite breed”; but Lord Somerville, Mr Tollet, &c. after having for several years received nearly a pound sterling for each fleece of the pure breed, and above half-a-guinea for each of the mixed, may be allowed to speak with what the Doctor terms “the certainty, which results from accurate experiments.” I have received from Mr. Tollet an account of the return made by his flock in wool this year. The peculiar situation of Spain at present might cause any extensive grower of superfine wool to pause before he sold it, for should our determined enemy be successful in his object of reducing that country to a state of perfect vassalage, the holders of Spanish wool in England may have almost any price they chuse to ask. Mr. Tollet, however, always wishing to accommodate those, who have given the experiment a fair trial, has this year sold his clip to the same manufacturers who have before bought it, and at the same price, namely Four Shillings per pound for the wool pro-
duced by the pure breed, and three shillings for that yielded by the different crosses of Merino-Ryland. At this rate 115 pure Merino fleeces have weighed 505 pounds, returning in money £101; and 856 of the mixed breed have weighed 3373 pounds, returning £505 19s. 0d.—total amount £606 19s. 0d.—average of the pure breed seventeen shillings, and six-pence each, and of the mixed eleven shillings and nine-pence each.

Now to the carcase. I grant at once that the generality of Merino sheep are deficient in many of the points, to which the fashion of the present times has attached the ideas of beauty. I say fashion, because it must be allowed that the opinions on this subject will continually alter in different ages and nations. We are, nevertheless, bound to admire, now and at all times, what is deemed symmetry, in as much as it can be proved that there is connected with it an aptitude to fatten, or any other consequent profit to the breeder; for profit is the touchstone, upon which every alleged improvement ought to be tried. But many observing men, and among them Dr. Anderson, deny that "a facility in fattening is invariably connected with certain peculiarities of shape." "I have seen animals," says this venerable agriculturist, "that had a powerful tendency to fatten, which are, al-
most in every respect, the reverse of the shape
most highly esteemed at present, and the contrary."
Be this as it may, I am principally recommending
the Spanish breed to forest farmers, who will, I
trust, candidly allow that their sheep are far from
possessing superior pretensions as to form, and will,
therefore, lose the less in this respect by the in-
roduction proposed. Let them not, however,
Imagine that absence of symmetry must continue to
be the inevitable concomitant of Merino blood; for
there are at present sheep of the pure race in En-
gland carrying fleeces of excellent quality on car-
cases unexceptionable as to form. Of these I have
seen several at Mr. Tollet’s, and one belonging
to Lord Somerville is often quoted as a striking
example. Dr. Parry too has lately informed me
that many of his Merino-Ryland lambs of the pre-
sent year are the best he ever had, that he thinks
his flock very much improving as to form, and
that in a short time he hopes to rival the best South
Downs in this respect.

From these circumstances it is evident that every
breeder will be able, as his numbers increase, to
banish those individuals which are least desirable,
and finally to attain perfection in form. Till that
period shall arrive, let him annually put into his
pocket as much for the carcase, with more than
twice as much for the fleece, as his unbelieving neighbour, and comfort himself awhile with the good old adage: "Handsome is that handsome does." I have never perceived any inaptitude to fatten in the Spanish race, but the contrary. The wethers of the mixed breed are easily brought to seventeen or eighteen pounds per quarter at two years old; but pay still better by being allowed another year, when they reach twenty one to twenty five pounds, and generally produce a very heavy fleece at the last clip.* I am told that Lord Somerville has had wethers of this breed weighing seventeen pounds per quarter at one year old, and I have myself some at this age, which are certainly what is termed good meat. Those who continue to rail against the mutton, have probably never tasted it; for many persons, originally prepossessed against it, have acknowledged their opinions to be groundless on trial. At Bath it is thought to approach

* Since I wrote this letter I have learnt that at the late Holkham Meeting a three shear Menno-Ryland wether, bred by Mr. Tolet, was slaughtered, which weighed Thirty-three Pounds per quarter. This and other circumstances have induced that truly patriotic character, Mr. Coke, to determine on giving the Spanish race a comparative trial with the native short-wooled breed, most in esteem. Ten two-shear Merino-Ryland wethers, and a like number of South-Downs have been selected for competition, and the result will be next year known.
the flavour of venison more nearly than any other kind of mutton, and those, who lately tasted the wether slaughtered on my shearing-day, unanimously allowed the quality to be excellent. I happen also to have acquired some information, which will further elucidate this part of the subject.—

When the late Marquis of Exeter died, his farming-stock was sold at Burghley House, a part of which consisted of above three hundred sheep, possessing various degrees of Merino blood. The breeders, who attended the auction, being principally from Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, looked at the unfortunate Spaniards with contempt, and hardly a purchaser could be found. It happened, however, that Mr. Pollard, a butcher of Stamford, had some reason to think more favourably of this race than the graziers did, in consequence of which he bought nearly a hundred sheep and lambs at very low prices. Ewes sold for fourteen to fifteen shillings; lambs for seven and eight shillings each. The work of slaughter now began; and no sooner had the epicures of Stamford tasted this mutton and lamb, than the destruction of every animal with Merino blood in its veins, to be found in the neighbourhood, was resolved upon. Pollard said they proved remarkably well, adding, to use his own emphatic words, that "the kidney
was all fat." Lambs, for which he gave seven or eight shillings as above, returned, by his own acknowledgment, twenty to twenty-three shillings at his stall. A Mr. Johnson of Whittlesea too purchased nearly a hundred, all of which soon after found their way to Smithfield. I am not sure whether it was this farmer, or another buyer at the same sale, who, knowing nothing about the quality of Spanish wool, and finding his ewes fat at shearing-time, consigned them to the butcher, soon after which an honest wool-stapler passed that way, who offered him about the same price for his clip as he had originally given for all the animals that produced it. To a reflecting mind this is a painful subject. Abridged as our resources are for superfine wool, this havock among the Marquis of Exeter's flock may be considered a national loss. I became by a lucky accident possessed of a score ewes from this source, and their stock is of the most promising kind. I have principally introduced the subject, however, because it substantiates my arguments as to the facility in fattening, and the excellence of the mutton. I hope no forest farmer will think that by this I mean to depreciate forest-mutton, which I acknowledge to be unexceptionable, while I assert that it does not surpass the Spanish. I wish only to point out the natural inference that Merino-Foresters will be as
useful on the table as the common Sherwood sheep now are, yielding by their fleece much greater profit to their owner, and much greater advantage to the public.

The following is an exact account of the return made by the three-shear Merino-Ryland wether of the first cross, already mentioned to have been slaughtered on my shearing-day.

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<td>Third fleece, 13th. June, 1808, 7 lbs. 2 oz. at ditto</td>
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<td>Carcase</td>
<td>- - 87 lbs. at 7d.</td>
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All, who were present, bore testimony to the high proof of this animal, and the quantity of rough fat excited considerable surprise; but I know no breed which produces so much as this. Mr. Tol-let had a wether slaughtered at his shearing last year, which weighed twenty-six pounds per quarter, and produced twenty pounds of rough fat.

My ram Don Felix yielded nine pounds of superfine wool in the yolk—all the rest of my little flock were washed. My Merino ewes averaged
four pounds of wool each, for which I have been offered Four shillings and Six-pence per pound. The mixed breed, taking rams, wethers, and ewes together, (of which the last formed a large proportion) averaged four pounds, ten ounces, which at Three shillings per pound, the price of the last six years, will make a return of thirteen shillings and ten-pence per fleece. Many of these sheep were of the first cross from Ryland ewes, which, on the same day, averaged only two pounds, nine ounces, worth hardly Seven Shillings per fleece. Of the carcase the Meeting will have an opportunity of forming some judgment by an examination of the two rams and three ewes which I shall send to Newark.

Will our forest farmers still hesitate? Have not their neighbours the Leicestershire graziers gradually abandoned an old breed for the Dishley, and do we hear that they repent it? To the growers of fine wool the Merino secures advantages commensurate with those which have been derived by the occupiers of more fertile soils from the improvements of Mr. Bakewell. Is it because the animal recommended is a native of a foreign country? So are two thirds of our garden products, and field crops. Let me instance that exotic the potatoe. I remember to have read
in an old medical book that "this vegetable is a very useful drug in the hands of a skilful apothecary.” It belongs to a poisonous tribe of plants, and therefore on its introduction caution was praiseworthy. But had it continued to be merely viewed in the light of a medicinal plant—had its great nutritious properties not been investigated; or when these were discovered, had it been cried down by prejudice, the farmer of the present day would have been deprived of an excellent resource for his stock, and the cottager for his family.

A word or two, before I conclude, to the breeders of Leicestershire sheep. Mr. Hose, a considerable grazier at Melton Mowbray, has crossed several of his Dishley ewes by a Merino ram with decisive success. I lately requested this gentleman to send me a few fleeces of the half-breed, which I put into the hands of my neighbour Mr. Hawksley of Arnold Works, enquiring what was the present value of such wool. His answer, accompanied by the payment of Eighteen Pence per pound for it, is as follows:

“We will give this price for Two Thousand Tods to-morrow, and take a Hundred Tods weekly by contract at the same price for seven years certain.”
Now, Eighteen Pence per pound is, I believe, nearly twice as much as can at present be obtained for pure Dishley wool, and the latter breed of sheep produce little more than Merino-Dishleys; for tho' the Spaniard shortens the staple in a great degree, he materially thickens the pile in return, so that every fleece is nearly double in value. The loss we are to look for, then, is in the carcase, and this is infinitely less than will be at first supposed. It seems, indeed, to be now very generally agreed that in sheep the sire operates principally on the fleece, and the dam on the carcase, which is fully illustrated by Mr. Hose's Merino-Dishley's, they being far superior in form to any that I ever saw with Spanish blood in their veins, and having lost little, if anything, in size. I have thought it right to throw out these hints; because I am assured that many Leicestershire breeders have the clip of one, two, and three years on hand, whereas Mr. Hawksley's note seems clearly to prove that one cross of the Merino would have made their wool immediately saleable at a great advance of price, while no deterioration of consequence would have taken place in the carcase. The subject is, at all events, worthy of further investigation.

Such are the grounds, on which I have taken the liberty of addressing your Lordship, and I ought
to make many apologies for the length of my letter. The importance of the subject in times like these, will, I trust, plead my excuse. The French government is paying close attention to the breed of Merino sheep, and is warmly encouraging superfine manufactures through every department of the vast territory under its control. Even when a peace shall take place, we may reasonably suppose that France and her dependants, now consisting of nearly a hundred million people, will have a preference on the part of Spain, and other continental powers; and why may not this immense population, under the able guidance of a government bent on our humiliation, consume all the superfine produce of the continent? Not a yard of superfine cloth can be made but out of Spanish wool only, or of that produced by crossed breeds, brought to the same perfection by judicious perseverance. Nothing would, therefore, in the case just mentioned, remain for England but to obtain the precious article here and there, by outbidding her rivals in price. The consequence would be that this extra price of the raw material would fall upon the manufactured commodity, and forbid the possibility of British goods finding a profitable market, or being able to cope with those of France and her connexions. No such case could occur if we provided ourselves with Spanish wool by growing it
within our own shores. The period is, therefore, probably at hand, when it will depend upon British farmers whether the British manufactures shall continue to maintain their proud pre-eminence, or shall dwindle into contemptible insignificance, bringing consequent distress upon thousands now employed in them. The individual advantage of the farmer, and the prosperity of the nation at large, are equally involved in the measure; and should this letter be the fortunate cause of introducing one Merino sheep into the district embraced by the Society over which your Lordship presides, I shall feel a conscious satisfaction in having written it.

I beg leave lastly to confirm some of the positions contained in it, by submitting a few articles to the inspection of your Lordship and the Society, as described below, and have the honour to remain,

My Lord,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

BENJ. THOMPSON.

Redhill Lodge, }
20th June, 1808. 

The parcel, marked A, contains specimens of wool from the Merino, and Merino-Ryland flocks of Mr. Tollet.

The one marked B contains specimens of Merino-Ryland wool from Dr. Parry's flock, intended to prove his assertion that by an intermixture of Merino rams with English ewes, and without the aid of a single Merino ewe, he has succeeded in growing finer wool than is imported or produced by the pure race in England. Another of Dr. Parry's objects is to shew that his flock yields a larger proportion of fine wool, for which purpose each shoulder specimen is followed by one from the rump of the same animal, the latter being in the Merino, as in most other breeds, materially coarser than the former, and the relative difference in Dr. P's Merino-Rylands being by no means so great. The Doctor follows the Spanish method of never washing his flock prior to shearing, and his specimens are exhibited in that state.

The parcel, marked C, contains specimens from my own flock, of various qualities, from the Ross-Ryland up to the pure Merino. These will sufficiently shew the effect produced in the different gradations of crossing by the Spaniard. No. 19 on this card is a cross of the Merino on the South-
Down breed; No. 20 is the forest ewe before mentioned; and No. 21 her ewe hog by the Merino.

The parcel D contains a fair sample of Mr. Hose's first cross Merino-Dishley wool. Specimens are at any one's service. That my assertion of the pile being shortened, thickened, and materially improved may be more evident by comparison, I enclose, in the same parcel, specimens of Mr. Hose's Leicestershire flock, from which his Merino-Dishleys are derived.

E. A sample of my Merino-Forest wool, which I hope the forest farmers will share among them, and examine more minutely every day between the present time, and the period, at which they select their rams for the season.

F. Cloth, cassimir, and stuff. No. 1. is a piece of cloth from his Majesty's pure Merino wool;—Nos. 2, 3, and 4, from Lord Somerville's pure Merino;—No. 5 from Mr. Tollet's pure Merino;—No. 6 from the wool of Mr. Tollet's mixed breed;—No. 7 from that of Dr. Parry's Merino-Rylands;—No. 8, Cassimir from the same;—Nos. 9, 10, and 11, Norwich stuffs from Mr. Tollet's wool, the last of which has some silk in it. Most of these cloths are not hot pressed,—they are
made to wear rather than to deceive the eye. Mr. Tollet's specimens will arrest the attention of the observer as being very fine. Dr. Parry's piece of Navy Blue, No. 7, was exhibited to the Board of Agriculture, when the Dr. appealed to any member, or to any manufacturer or draper whom the Board might appoint, whether a better cloth was ever manufactured. The white cassimír was supposed to be the finest ever seen at Bath. It left far behind a piece of imported Spanish wool, intended for competition with it. That which is most curious respecting it is, that it is entirely from the wool of ram-hogs, unshorn when lambs. Twelve pounds of this scoured wool was converted into Three Hundred and Sixty Thousand yards of yarn. In short, the Dr. informs me, that he has never exhibited cloth or cassimír made of his Merino-Ryland wool, against that made of pure Spanish, without beating it.

G. A pair of fine, and a pair of stout woollen stockings from the wool of a Merino ram in my flock, with the yarn of which each is made.

H. Stockings and yarn from Merino-Dishley wool.

I. Two Hats, made entirely from the wool of a Merino-Ryland ewe, which died during the lamb-
ing-season. I do not exhibit these as proving the best purpose to which such wool can be applied, but simply as shewing one among many uses, which may be resorted to for the consumption of casualty fleeces. Each of these hats contains nine ounces of wool; and the manufacturing expenses, with binding, band, and buckle, are three shillings and eight pence. Supposing the hatter, therefore, to pay Five Shillings per pound for this Merino-Ryland wool when scoured (which is a liberal price) the prime cost of each hat, as it appears before the Society, will be six shillings and six-pence.

K. Leathers made from Anglo-Merino sheep skins. It will be at once perceived that these skins take the morocco dye particularly well; and they possess the further advantage that the quantity of yolk exuded by the animal while alive, makes any process to express it afterwards unnecessary, which is not the case, I believe, with any native breed of Britain.