

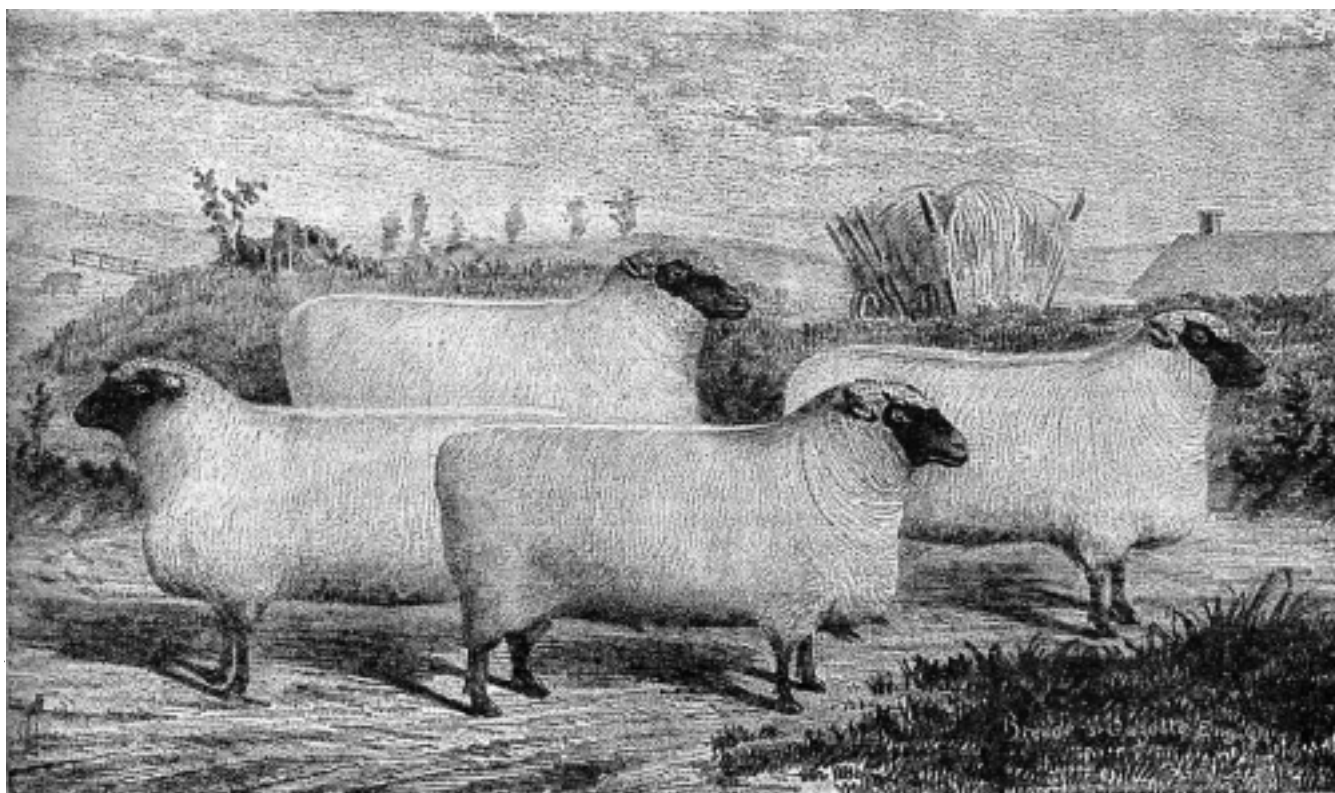
THE BREEDER'S GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL
FOR
THE STOCK BREEDER THE TURFMAN THE DAIRYMAN
AND
THE GENERAL FARMER.

Vol. I.

CHICAGO, ILL., DECEMBER 15, 1881.

No. 3.



SHROPSHIRE DOWN RAM "CHAMPION" AND THREE SHEARLING EWES.

IMPORTED BY JAMES COTTON, CAMARGO, ILL.

SHROPSHIRE DOWN SHEEP.

Of all the sheep exhibited at the last two Fat-Stock Shows in Chicago, none attracted more attention or excited more admiration than the Shropshire Downs. Of this breed comparatively little was known in America, until a few enterprising gentlemen, knowing their merits as combined wool-bearing and mutton sheep, began importing them a few years ago. The engraving on this page is from a sketch by Lou Burke, and represents the Shropshire Down ram Champion, and three shearling ewes, imported by James Cotton, Camargo, Ill., who has the honor of being the only one who has exhibited animals of this breed in the Fat-Stock Shows. It was his sheep to which was awarded the

grand sweepstakes for the best ewe or wether in the show.

Of the sterling worth of these sheep, and of their adaptability to the wants of the general farmer in almost any part of the country, too much can scarcely be said. Their fleece is of that medium quality which is at all times in demand, and is less affected than other qualities by fashion's foibles. When prosperity fills the purses of the people and broadcloth is in fashion, there is a steady inquiry for medium staple, and when hard times come and fashion, making a virtue of necessity, declares that Scotch tweeds and other coarse and durable goods are the correct thing, medium wool is ever sought at fair prices. For producing mutton of super-

rior flavor, and especially that which has an unusually large percentage of lean meat, the Shropshires stand high. They mature early, reach a good weight, and are therefore a profitable breed.

There is cause for the general complaint that Americans are not a mutton-eating people, and that cause is found in the fact that very few Americans have ever eaten mutton of good flavor. Englishmen who have been accustomed to the mutton of England, grumble not a little because the meat sometimes set before them in this country when they order mutton, tastes strongly of the fleece. They declare such stuff unfit to eat, and we are scarcely prepared to deny their assertion. Yet there is scarcely a county in any

of the States where a sheep giving a good fleece and a fairly heavy carcass of mutton of fine flavor would not pay well even now ; and they will be much more profitable when, having learned that good mutton is very palatable meat, Americans will have become liberal consumers.

When competition from the plains country shall, through the improvement of cattle raised upon the free ranges of the West, have driven the farmer of the Middle States to cast about for a way to make his farm more profitable, he will be able to find in the Shropshire Downs a very efficient aid, as indeed he will in any sheep giving at once good meat and good wool. We confidently expect to see the day when, upon thousands of farms where not a sheep can now be found, thrifty flocks will help to fill the purses of the owners. A good flock should be kept upon every farm, and the present is an excellent time to make a beginning, by the purchase of the right kind of breeding stock to begin with.
