

WOOL, *n. s.*
 WOOL'FEL, } Sax. pul ; Bel. wol ;
 WOOL'LEN, *adj. & n. s.* } Teut. wolle ; Gothic
 WOOL'LY, *adj.* } and Swedish ull. The
 WOOL'PACK, *n. s.* } fleece of sheep ; that
 WOOL'SACK, } which is woven into
 WOOL'WARD, *adv.* } cloth ; any short, thick
 hair : woolfel is skin
 not stripped of the wool : woollen, made of wool ;
 the cloth so made : woolly, clothed with, or con-
 sisting of wool : woolpack, or woolsack, a bag con-
 taining wool ; the seat of the judges in the house of
 lords ; any thing bulky but light : woolward is in
 wool : obsolete.

What signifies

My fleece of woolly hair, that now uncurls ? *Shaksp.*
 In the cauldron boil and bake ;
 Wool of bat and tongue of dog. *Id.*
 I was wont
 To call them woollen vassals, things created
 To buy and sell with groats. *Id.*
 I have no shirt ; I go woolward for penance. *Id.*
 Woollen cloth will tenter, linen scarcely. *Bacon.*
 Wool and woolfels were ever of little value in this
 kingdom. *Davies.*
 Chaos of presbyt'ry, where laymen guide
 With the tame woolpack clergy by their side. *Cleavel.*
 His breeches were of rugged woollen,
 And had been at the siege of Bullen. *Hudibras.*
 At bar abusive, on the bench unable,
 Knave on the woolsack, fop at council table. *Dryden.*
 Gently they lay 'em down, as evening sheep
 On their own woolly fleeces softly sleep. *Id.*
 At dawn of day our general cleft his pate,
 Spite of his woollen night-cap. *Id.*
 Nothing profits more
 Than frequent snows ; Oh mayst thou often see
 Thy furrows whitened by the woolly rain
 Nutritious ! *Philips.*
 Odious ! in woollen ! twould a saint provoke :
 No, let a charming chintz and Brussels lace
 Wrap my cold limbs, and shade my lifeless face. *Pope.*
 He is a bel-esprit, and a woollen-drapeer. *Swift.*

WOOL is the covering of sheep. See OVIS, and SHEEP. Wool resembles hair in a great many particulars ; but besides its fineness, which constitutes an obvious difference, there are other particulars which may serve also to distinguish them from one another. Wool, like the hair of horses, cattle, and most other animals, completes its growth in a year and then falls off as hair does, and is succeeded by

a fresh crop. It differs from hair, however, in the uniformity of its growth, and the regularity of its shedding. Every filament of wool seems to keep exact pace with another in the same part of the body of the animal ; the whole crop springs up at once ; the whole advances uniformly together ; the whole loosens from the skin nearly at the same period, and thus falls off if not previously shorn, leaving the animal covered with a short coat of young wool. Hairs are commonly of the same thickness in every part ; but wool constantly varies in thickness in different parts, being generally thicker at the points than at the roots. That part of the fleece of sheep which grows in winter is finer than what grows in summer. While the wool remains in the state it was first shorn off the sheep's back, and not sorted into its different kinds, it is called fleece. Each fleece consists of wool of divers qualities and degrees of fineness, which the dealers therein take care to separate. The French and English usually separate each fleece into three sorts, viz. 1. Mother wool, which is that of the back and neck. 2. The wool of the tails and legs. 3. That of the breast and under the belly. The Spaniards make the like division into three sorts, which they call prime, second, and third ; and, for the greater ease, denote each bale or pack with a capital letter denoting the sort. Among the ancients, the wools of Attica, Megara, Laodicea, Apulia, and especially those of Tarentum, Parina, and Altino, were the most valued. Varro assures us that the people there used to clothe their sheep with skins, to secure the wool from being damaged.