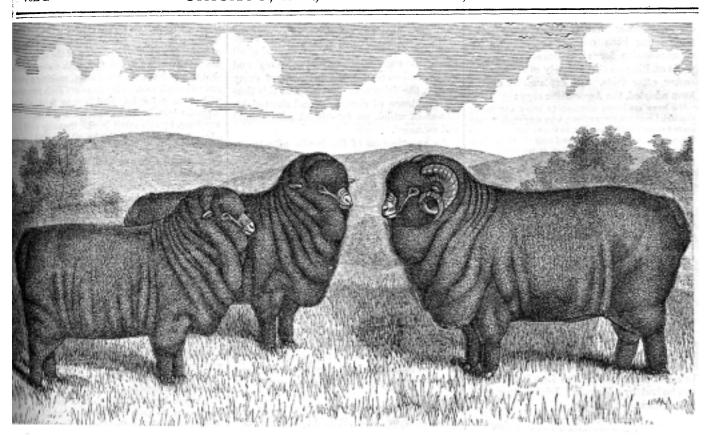


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MERINO SHEEP, LADY HIBBARD, SNOW BALL AND CROOK LEG.

PROPERTY OF G. W. HUNT, GREENWOOD, MCHENRY Co., ILL.

NEEDED INFORMATION ABOUT SHEEP.

To meet the demand for information as to the peculiarities and adaptability of the recognized breeds of sheep and their varieties, the GAZETTE will at an early day publish a series of articles descriptive of the several types of sheep, their breeding, prominent characteristics, adaptability to certain localities—in short, such available facts as may assist the inquirer to a fuller knowledge upon a topic to which public attention is now more than ever before directed. We have already done something in the way of familiarizing the novice with the general appearance of several of the breeds, by means of the illustrations that have, from time to time, ap-

peared on this page of The Gazette. In our issue of December 15th we gave a capital illustration of a group of Shropshire Downs. This was followed January 12th, by a group of Oxford Downs, both of which gave the reader a very fair idea of the external appearance of these two very popular breeds. We now present a group of fairly representative individuals of the old and always popular American Merino. The sheep from which this illustration was made are the property of G. W. Hunt, Esq., of Greenwood, McHenry Co., Ill., a well-known and reputable breeder, and the picture well portrays the characteristic external appearance of this well-known and well-established

breed, certainly the most generally disseminated and most universally popular of all breeds of sheep in the United States. But these pictures, while they help to educate the eye of the novice, fail to give much information touching the peculiarities and characteristics of the various breeds, and this we shall attempt to do in the series of articles to which we alluded in our opening paragraph. These articles will give at length a history of the various breeds, with all other information essential to enable the novice to decide which will probably be best adapted to his circumstances. They will be prepared with care, and absolute unpartiality will be aimed at in presenting the characteristics of rival

breeds. The series cannot fail to be a valuble contribution to the literature of sheep breeding.