The prices which East Indian wools realised, according to the last quotations, were as follows:

Superior white, free from grey hair, soft
and kind: (relatively) 10. to 11. per lb.
Fair quality, and fair in other respects 8. to 9.
Superior, mixed with yellow or grey 6. to 7.
Grey and low 4. to 5.

From the prices paid, with the cost and charges, it is said not to leave a profit, and from the remarks made, it is evident it must be improved in quality before it can assume a firmer place in the home market.

The question then arises, how is the quality to be improved? And, in answering this, it is well to observe, that extreme fineness is not the object most to be coveted by the grower. Upon this point Mr. Smith has the following sensible observations:

The remarkable improvement in the Australian wools is not to be fairly tested by comparing them with those of Germany. In the latter country, wool is grown as an exotic, indoor production, the sheep being carefully housed during a great part of the year; and the rapid decline in the fineness, and every other property in which the excellence of German wool consists, is so great when the least neglect or undue exposure to the weather has been suffered to take place, that by one year's bad management the produce of a flock is often deteriorated to the extent of twenty-five per cent.

Not paying attention to this difference of system, the earlier woolgrowers in Australia attempted to raise wool which should compete with the finer produce of Germany, and failed; and even had they succeeded, would only have had a fleece weighing 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) lb. at 3 S. = 4s. 6d. They now have a less costly, but more marketable staple, averaging 4\(\frac{1}{2}\) lb. at 2 S. = 9 S., and not unfrequently 5 to 6 lb. per fleece; but it took some years to retrieve the error that had been committed at the outset.†

To improve the fleece of the native sheep, crosses have been attempted with imported Merinos and Southdowns, but all with more or less want of success. Mr. Hulse, Veterinary Surgeon at Muttra, thus enumerates the causes which induced the failure of some Merinos which came into his possession:

1st. There is the greatest difficulty, and it is almost next to an impossibility, to get a trustworthy shepherd, and (unlike the shepherds of old) they are excessively stupid and ignorant.

2nd. The sheep must always remain housed; for if the shepherd is allowed to take them out to graze, he will to a certainty allow them to mix with other sheep, and the breed will be ruined.

3rd. The expense is very great in keeping them always housed, and the price realised when fat will not admit of it.

4th. The lambs do not grow to the size of the imported sheep.

5th. The wool of the progeny bred in this country becomes coarser, and is consequently of less value. It is also essential that the wool

† Ibid. p. 13.
should be long, in order to make the best price of it; the sheep should therefore be shorn annually: but it is found in the Upper Provinces that sheep will not fatten with heavy fleeces, and therefore it is necessary to shear them twice during the year, viz. about the beginning of March and middle of September: a thick fleece also retards their growth.

6th. They degenerate not only in size (as spoken of), but in appearance. Instead of the black spots upon the face, and frequently upon the legs—instead of the buck legs, and brown or tan colour of them, many of the young have thick coarse legs, covered with short coarse wool; in fact, in every way they lose the same appearance as was possessed by the imported sheep.

7th. The sun and rain, extreme heat and cold, will kill them.

8th. The size of the mutton is not larger than what is commonly met with in Calcutta; nor would it be so large if proper attention was given to the feeding of Behar or Meywar sheep, for the Calcutta market.

Although the above observations relate to Merino sheep, I think they might with propriety be applied to foreign sheep generally, if imported to this climate. The broad-tailed sheep brought from Cabul, &c., a few of which sometimes reach as far as Agra, are generally purchased as pets or curiosities; but they cannot endure the climate; it is seldom they live to the end of the second year after they arrive in Hindostan.*

To effect the desired improvement, it will be well to obtain for this side of India a supply both of rams and ewes of the Kerman sheep, which are said to produce the improved wool that has enabled the merchants of Bombay profitably to increase so largely their exports of that commodity. Of these sheep I know nothing; but of the sheep of Mysore, mentioned by Dr. Buchanan, and which I have already noticed, I can speak with more confidence, not only from the report of those well acquainted with them, but from having seen specimens of their wool. It is decidedly the wool most resembling that of English growth that I have seen in India. From the sheep being natives of the Tropics, from their compact form, and from the bulk of their fleeces, I believe that more could be done for the improvement of Indian wool, and the consequent increase of its export, by a careful attention to this kind of sheep, than by any other direction of effort.

It is of no consequence how superior may be the stock of sheep with which the flockmaster commences, if he does not especially attend to breed only from those rams and ewes which are distinguished for their superior carcase and fleece; because here, as in every other description of stock-breeding, "like produces like." At the same time, the utmost attention to this point is comparatively fruitless unless an equal circumstance attends three other points of this branch of husbandry.

1. So long as the pastures are scanty, to give each sheep a small allowance of grain daily.

2. To give them as regularly a supply of salt. Its use for this purpose is not altogether unknown in the East; but in some countries, as in Spain, it is given to their flocks at the rate of 112 lbs. to every 1000

sheep in five months. Mr. Curwen, the late M.P. for Cumberland, gave every sheep of his numerous flock about half an ounce per diem. I have heard more than one great flockmaster say, "that no sheep, either in flesh or fleece, would succeed well without a supply of salt." Mr. Youatt, no mean authority, says, "that it is the basis of every medicine which really has power over the rot; and in the early stage of that disease, it has often completely arrested its fatal progress." Other very decisive evidence may be found in my brother's "Essay on the Uses of Salt in Agriculture."

3. The third and last essential point I shall mention, is providing shelter for the flock. This can be done at a very trifling expense, and the benefit to the general health, and to the superiority of the wool, I am told, is only to be appreciated by those who have compared the fleeces of sheltered sheep with those produced by sheep exposed without any care to the full meridian sun, to the heavy night dews, and to the storms of these tropical latitudes—a few panels made of mat hurdles, supported by stout bamboo stakes, and arranged in the form of a rectangular cross, is all that is required, and may be constructed in the vicinity, or in the middle of the usual pasturage, and moveable at pleasure, for a very few rupees. If constructed in the following form,

```
  o
 /|
/ |
  o
   o
```

let the sun shine or the storm arise from whatever quarter it may, one angle will always be shady and sheltered.

The importance of shelter to sheep was appreciated by Messrs. Simes & Co., the great woolstaplers, and with their observations upon this subject, and the packing of fleeces for transport to England, I shall conclude the subject.

"Though it is highly necessary to the perfection of the fleece that its fibres should be acted upon by the air, it is also strongly recommended that fine wool flocks should be kept under sheds every night, their constitutions being unable to sustain the effects of the cold nights and heavy dews which commonly succeed the hottest day, from which transition they must be carefully guarded: care should therefore be taken to provide a constant succession of clean litter in the sheep-stalls, that the full effect of the perspiration on the fibre may not be interfered with, by the fleece being loaded at the extremities with an accumulation of filth of any sort.

"It is of great importance that the fleece should be well washed, that the wool may be brought to market with as bright a colour as possible: every convenience, and a plentiful supply of pure water, should therefore be provided; a running stream being most desirable.

The preferable mode of washing is that which is performed before
shearing; according to the German manner: some growers have tried the plan of washing after the fleeces have been shorn and sorted, and, as is supposed, have used tepid water, following the French and Spanish method; but this has not been approved of by the buyers generally, and particularly by those who buy for combing purposes. The breaking of the fleece and washing after shearing gives the wool more the appearance of Spanish than of German wool, and consequently reduces it to a lower standard of comparison. It is well-known that the sheep of those German flocks that are best washed, are after that operation driven into some shed strewn with clean litter, or penned up with hurdles on clean grass; that the utmost care is taken to prevent their exposure to dirt, or whatever else might tend to sully their whiteness; and that they are not shorn until a sufficient degree of moisture is deposited in the fleece by perspiration, to impart a soft handle to the wool. It may here be added, that it is very important, if possible, to prevent the sheep from filling their fleeces with grass seeds, broken leaves, and other extraneous substances, which cannot be removed in the operation of washing, and which are productive of labour and expense in every process of manufacturing; in some cases, indeed, rendering the wool almost unsaleable. It may here be observed, that so conscious are the Spaniards of the superiority of the German mode of washing and assorting, that they are making every effort to introduce it.

"In order to assimilate the Australian wool as much as possible with the German in preparing it for market, the fleeces should not be broken, but merely divested of the breech and stained locks, and so assorted or arranged that each packet may contain fleeces of the same character as to colour, length of staple, fineness of hair, and general quality.

"If the washing has been performed at the same time and place, and with an equal degree of care, the colour is likely to be uniform, and it will then only be necessary to attend to the casting of the fleeces as to length, fineness, and general quality; but if a large grower has flocks of different breeds, and fed on different soils, care should be taken that the fleeces be separated first as to colour, and then again as to length, fineness, &c.

"The fleeces being assorted, as already suggested, should be spread one upon another; the neck of the second fleece being laid upon the tail of the first, and so alternately to the extent of eight to ten fleeces, according to their size and weight. When so spread, the two sides should be folded towards the middle, then rolled together, beginning at each end and meeting in the centre—and the roll or bundle so formed, held together by a slight packthread.

"The baggage should be of a close, firm, and tough nature. The material hitherto most generally used has been sail-canvas, which very ill resists bad weather on a long voyage, and when received here even in favourable condition, is so dry and crisp that it will tear like paper. A thicker twilled, more flexible, and tough material, would be preferable. The size and form of the package may be in length about nine feet, and width four feet, sewed up on the two long sides, and at one end—the other end being left open, and the sheet so formed being sus-
AN ACCOUNT OF THE LIBERATED AFRICAN ESTABLISHMENT AT ST. HELENA.

BY GEORGE M'HENRY, M.D., C.M.G.,
MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE OF PARIS, LATE SURGEON TO THE LIBERATED AFRICAN ESTABLISHMENT AT ST. HELENA.

(Continued from vol. v. p. 441.)

CHAPTER III.

Arrival of the first Slaves in St. Helena——Circumstances attending the Capture of the Julia——Description of Lemon Valley, the principal Station of the Liberated African Establishment——First Sight of the Inmates of the Establishment——Scene on Shore——Scene on Board the Andorinha, the Hospital Ship——Description of the Negroes in their Native Country——Their Capture by Man-stealers——Their Location in the Portuguese Barracones, and their Treatment on Board the Slave Ships.

The first slaves, captured on the western coast of Africa, and conveyed to the island of St. Helena, were taken there by the brig "Waterwitch," on the 9th of June, 1840, and amounted to only four. On the 6th July following, the slave vessel "Andorinha," captured by the brig "Brisk," arrived with one slave on board; and on the 25th of the same month two more were added to the number, which was further increased by the accession of fifteen on the 24th of October ensuing.

All these Africans, amounting to only 22, having been liberated by the judgment of the Vice-Admiralty Court, were easily disposed of as servants to the people of the island, and were consequently of little expense to the Government.

On the 17th December, the slave vessel "Julia" arrived with 215
negroes on board, among whom smallpox, dysentery, scurvy, and the long catalogue of diseases so common and so fatal to the African race, were committing their usual ravages.

The "Julia" was taken close to the shores of Benguila, under circumstances as creditable to the British captors, as they were disgraceful to the Portuguese officers and crew of the slaver. The armed boats of the cruiser "Waterwitch" having been despatched to board her, when the Portuguese saw the boats approaching, previously to taking to their own boats, and reaching the shore in safety, they told the slaves, whom they left on board, that the English would cut their throats if they fell in their power, and advised them to throw themselves into the sea, and swim ashore to escape from the cruel death they would meet if they remained on board. Believing the accounts of British barbarity related to them, a large number of the slaves threw themselves overboard. Some of them certainly reached the shore, but only to be captured by the Portuguese there, and embarked in another slaver, which actually took place; for they were put on board the "Louiza," and she being taken and brought to St. Helena, the Africans on board were recognised by those who previously had arrived in the "Julia," much to their mutual gratification. Many, however, were not able to swim, and of these the most were drowned; but a few were saved by the exertions of the British officers and seamen, who threw themselves into the water to rescue them from death. One officer, who had been particularly active in his efforts to assist the negroes, nearly lost his life on the occasion, having become so exhausted that he would have been unable to reach the boat but for the timely assistance of a faithful and devoted Kromman. Not only able-bodied men and women among the slaves threw themselves into the sea, but so dreadful was the horror they entertained of the English, that little boys and girls imitated the example shown them by their seniors. A woman attempted to swim away from the ship with her child on her back; the child let go its hold, and though the poor mother arrived safe on shore, yet it was to suffer greater anguish, deprived of her child, as she imagined, and again reduced to bondage, than if she had remained and met the fate which she fled from. With what agreeable surprise, after her arrival at St. Helena, in the "Louiza," she discovered her child, having been brought there before her in the "Julia"! It appears, when the child became detached from its mother, and was struggling in the waves, it was picked up by a kind-hearted British sailor.

Some conception may be formed of the loss of lives sustained during the performance of this shocking tragedy, when it is considered that 215 Africans alone arrived at St. Helena in the "Julia," although the large number of 350 were put on board. Certainly some of them died of disease during the passage, and the whole of those who swam ashore, amounting to about 50, were subsequently put on board the "Louiza"; still an immense deficiency is left to be accounted for.

Although the authorities in St. Helena had received from the officers of the cruisers, when the first of the Africans were taken there, intimation that for the future considerable numbers of them might arrive, yet
no preparations had been made on the part of the former for their reception. When so large a number as 215 of them arrived, and had to be provided for immediately, the confusion that prevailed could scarcely be imagined; and the circumstance of the prevalence of smallpox amongst them, added terror to the apprehensions entertained respecting the possibility of procuring suitable accommodations for them. The officer in charge of the "Julia" was ordered to take the vessel, and drop anchor at Lemon Valley, a narrow rugged ravine on the north-west side of the island, distant about three miles from James'-town, the capital; and the Colonial Secretary, the Collector of Customs, and the Colonial Surgeon, were instructed to repair thither, and examine the locality, if favourable for a depot of the newly-imported Africans. They reported favourably of the place, and it was in consequence selected for the site of the principal station of the Liberated African Establishment.

Lemon Valley is one of those singular ravines that abound in St. Helena, and are there dignified with the name of vales. They are characterised by the wildness and grandeur of the stupendous precipices that form their sides, where no vegetation grows except stunted wire-grass, and by the dreary aspect of the ground below, strewed everywhere with stones and rocks, detached from the hills above: through the centre of the ravines a small stream generally flows, clothed with a sheet of verdure from being filled with the spontaneous growth of watercresses, or vivifying the arid earth around with patches of the Arum esculentum (the St. Helena yam), rock rose, thorn apple, or purple groundsel; amongst the stones the prickly pear and the aloe love to luxuriate; while on some favoured spot, rendered fertile by the existence of a spring, the banana, fig-tree, and Indian lilac, present the most beautiful forms of vegetation, offer the most luscious fruits, and exhale the most exquisite odours. Leaping from ledge to ledge, the wild goat may be seen on the towering cliffs, the resort also of sea-birds and partridges, which, instead of stubble fields, frequent here the wildest and most dreary parts of the island, because safest there from the attacks and incursions of man; on the cliffs also the dove delights to build its nest, and its soft cooings, together with the bleating of a strayed sheep, the whistling of the averdevant, and the chirping of the grasshoppers, are the only sounds that disturb the deathlike silence that reigns in some of these solitudes. From these ravines Lemon Valley is distinguished only by possessing a superior character for fertility. It had, in old times, when labour was cheap, from the existence of slavery on the island, been in a great part cultivated; and fields of yams, beans, and pumpkins then flourished, where nought but stones exist now; or if a few weeds grow, they are stunted and shrivelled, extracting but a precarious nourishment from the moisture around the stones, which, protecting the ground from the effects of a powerful sun, when rain falls, prevents its quick evaporation, so that the earth about the stones is not so parched up as it is in more exposed situations. A number of fine lemon trees, six of which are still remaining, were then planted, and thrrove remarkably well, and gave the name by which the place is designated. Lemon Valley extends about two miles and a half from the
AN ACCOUNT OF THE

shore to its upper part, to which you gradually ascend as you mount the valley from the sea, and in the course of the ascent it gradually narrows, so that though its breadth at the water's edge be upwards of 300 yards, yet at its other extremity it is merely a narrow cleft cut out of the rocks on each side. Its form resembles exactly a funnel, and as the trade wind blows always from the upper part down the ravine, it comes sometimes with great violence, as if it were blown through a tube, tearing down trees in its progress. The access to the valley from other parts of the island, by land, is by narrow steep tracks on the sides of the hills, rendered so difficult to climb by being obstructed by loose stones, and by the steepness of the ascent, that they are never used except by the few inhabitants of the valley, and the farmers and peasants that live around it. A more common and less fatiguing communication is established by means of the sea, and boats are often repairing thither from James-town, or the shipping in the harbour, with parties of pleasure, availing themselves of the romantic beauties of the secluded vale to spend a few hours there. The shore is composed of large rocks, being portions of the cliffs above, which have loosened and fallen down; and the landing-place is a rather flat ledge, alongside of which the water is about three fathoms deep; indeed, in some places the water close to the shore is deep enough to float the largest vessels, so that they might come alongside the rocks and be there as at a quay. The landing-place is defended from the heavy swell of the sea by several enormous blocks of rock that extend out into the water, and form a bluff point. One of these, the largest, and it is as big as a house, is called the Frenchman's Rock, and stands at the extreme point, a conspicuous object, opposing its rough breast to the impetuous rush of the billows. This spot is very subject to the falling down of stones and rocks from the cliffs overhead; a usual occurrence on a fine hot day, after heavy falls of rain. The heat swelling the moistened earth in the crevices of the cliff, detaches immense masses, which come booming and rattling down with a tremendous crash. I myself witnessed one of these terrific phenomena—a solid rock, weighing some hundred tons, became loosened from the cliff, about 200 feet above the level of the sea, and fell close to the landing-place, where fortunately not a human being happened to be at the time, though a favourite resort of the negroes, who often collected there for the purpose of fishing. During the months of December, January, February, and March, the high surfs prevail, and the landing from a boat during their prevalence is a matter not only of difficulty, but frequently of danger; the boat being at times upset, and even dashed to pieces on the rocks, by the violence of the waves. An accident of this sort, accompanied with the infliction of severe injuries, happened while I was connected with the Establishment, and will be noticed in its proper place.

Within fifty yards of high-water mark, is the fortification called the Battery, elevated about thirty feet above the level of the shore, to which the ascent is gained by a common wooden ladder. The parapet is pierced with eight embrasures, mounting as many guns, of rather small calibre. A long building faces the parapet, consisting of a large room
Liberated African Establishment at St. Helena.

To the left of the Barracks, and a kitchen; and, contiguous to it, and in the same line with it, is another range of buildings, comprising four rooms, with two out-houses, used as offices or store-rooms. These buildings, previously to the location there of the liberated Africans, were occupied by a party of the Hon. East India Company's Invalids, and a pensioned lieutenant of the Company's late regiment of the island. A little higher up the valley are perched, here and there, scarcely to be distinguished from some of the large rocks contiguous to them, four little houses built of stone and earth, and roofed with gunny bags, rushes, and mud. These huts were the abode of mulatto fishermen, who, with the Invalids, and lieutenant and family, mentioned above, a retired serjeant, and two very aged widows, were the only inhabitants of the valley at the period of the arrival of the slaves.

Still higher up the valley, about half a mile from the sea-shore, is a farmhouse, of a rather more respectable appearance than the huts just described. It had formerly been the dwelling of the industrious planter, who kept in such a fine state of cultivation the grounds around, which have now assumed, through neglect, an appearance but little removed from a desert. Its last occupant was a Mr. Chamberlain, by whose name the house is often called; and it had been for two years previous to the introduction of captured slaves into St. Helena, untenanted. On the present occasion, however, it was converted into a barrack, and occupied by a party of soldiers, who were instructed to prevent the escape of any of the liberated Africans from the limits of the station, which extended about a quarter of a mile up the valley, and were marked by streaks of white paint laid on three opposite rocks. Between the shore and these marks the Africans were allowed to range; but it was severely forbidden to them to pass beyond, on account of the prevalence of smallpox among them, to prevent the diffusion of which among the people of the island this measure was adopted.

To accommodate the newly-arrived slaves, it was necessary to deprive the Invalids and fishermen of their habitations; houses in James' town, and other parts of the island, were therefore assigned to them in lieu of their dwellings, which were henceforth occupied by the liberated Africans.

The advantages that Lemon Valley possessed over any other locality in St. Helena, were its distance from, and situation to the leeward of, James' town, so that the trade-wind could not blow the infection of the smallpox to the inhabitants of the town, of which they were in great dread;—and its possessing a small rivulet from which water might be plentifully supplied for the use of the Africans—a great object, in the formation of an establishment such as that of the Liberated Africans.

In addition to the accommodation on shore which I have described, the slave vessel "Andorinha" was sent down from the port of James' town, where she had been lying since the 6th of July, to Lemon Valley, to be converted into an hospital for the reception of such among the slaves as were affected with smallpox. The "Julia" having been emptied of her cargo of slaves, the healthy among whom were, by the order of the three officers who were deputed to inspect Lemon Valley, and devise measures for the location of the Africans there, landed and lodged on shore—
and the sick, comprehending cases of dysentery and scurvy, as well as smallpox, transferred on board the “Andorinha,” was likewise ordered to remain at Lemon Valley, to be employed as a receiving ship for any slaves who might hereafter arrive, when vacated by the officer and crew. These were to remain two weeks in quarantine at Lemon Valley, at the expiration of which time they were to pass three days of purification at Old Woman’s Valley, situated more to the west of the island, previously to being allowed admittance to James’-town.

In the devising of these measures, the three officers in question were guilty of the most egregious folly. By mixing those sick of non-contagious complaints with those labouring under smallpox, they were exposing the former most certainly to contract that disease, and thus add to their already sufficiently large amount of suffering. It was fortunate that every sick negro was not put on board the “Andorinha,” for as there were many of those who were located on shore in that condition, they would have been subjected to the cruel ordeal of one of the most terrible scourges of mankind. As the negroes, however, think it a dishonour to be sick, they conceal their complaints, and thus the greater portion who were labouring under some affection or other escaped being sent on board. Those who were sent on board, of course, caught the smallpox, and some of them died from the effects of it, even after having recovered from their original complaints. If it were not folly, at least it was inconsistency, to permit the Colonial Surgeon not only to visit the Africans on shore, many of whom were sick, and amongst whom the smallpox was daily breaking out, but to go on board the “Andorinha,” which he was commissioned to do until the 19th of December, amongst the people labouring under that disease in all its stages and forms, and return immediately to James’-town, and at the same time to exact the sanitary regulations already described on the part of the officer and crew of the “Julia.” With what peculiar prophylactic qualities was the Colonial Surgeon invested, which the officer and crew did not possess, that it was considered difficult or impossible for the former to convey the infection either on his person or clothing to the inhabitants of James’s-town—a result which it was thought would be sure to take place, if the latter were allowed the same liberty? If it were necessary to require the observance of a quarantine in the one case—and it surely was but prudent to take measures for preventing the spreading of the disease throughout the island—it was quite as much so in the other, where the individual came directly out of a place where the contagious disease was raging, and then mixed with people susceptible to its invasion. Besides, of what avail was the remaining of two weeks in Lemon Valley, where the officer and crew spent the day on shore in the midst of the Africans, who were daily becoming attacked with the smallpox, and passed the night on board the “Julia,” where the disease had been raging during all the voyage from the coast of Africa?—they were as much exposed to infection during the last day of the two weeks, as on the first. The only reasonable part of the quarantine exacted from them was their detention at Old Woman’s Valley. There they were removed from all further sources of infection; hence the period of