

A question of necessary importance is, What is to be done with the sons of the middle classes? The Central Farmers' Club have discussed the important topic of emigration, not for the agricultural labourer, the carpenter, the blacksmith, the wheelwright, and artisans generally, but for young fellows of education and capital—say sons of farmers; and the Rev. E. Smythies, of Hathern Rectory, Loughborough, undertook to tell such men what is the best part of the world for them to go to with £500 or £1,000; and what they ought to do when they get there. Undoubtedly, emigration is becoming a subject of vast interest to the middle and upper-middle classes in this kingdom; and especially are there numbers of tenant-farmers, and also gentlemen of independent means, with large families, who will be thankful to know of some plan by which active and educated sons can be established in a useful and honourable position of life, with a prospect of fair income, a reasonable hope of laying something by for old age, yet without descending to menial drudgery. In fact, since Mr. Smythies mooted the subject, he has been overwhelmed with letters of inquiry from persons of the class referred to.

“What should the young emigrant go out to do?” He should invest his capital and energies, replies the reverend gentleman, not in tillage agriculture, not in any trade or commerce, still less in gold digging; but in sheep and cattle farming in those parts of the world where pasturage, on an extensive scale, can be obtained with the least possible employment of labour. The objection to crop farming is the exceeding dearness of labour. Sheep farming is unquestionably the best, and produces the most rapid increase upon the capital originally invested.

“Where should the emigrant stock-farmer go?” Mr. Smythies considers that Australia and New Zealand have seen their best days as outlets for emigrants of the “white-handed” order. In Australia, sheep farming now requires the command of a large amount of capital; and both there, and in New Zealand, as well as in the United States, the prevailing policy is to form a population of small occupiers living by tillage husbandry. The emigrant's paradise, according to Mr. Smythies, is the Argentine Republic, comprising the immense alluvial plains lying south of the great estuary of La Plata, and west of the Uruguay, extending westward to the Cordilleras, or the great range of the Andes, and lying between the 25th and 35th degrees of south latitude. The climate is extremely salubrious; the land level, free from timber, and so good in quality that it is calculated that an acre of it will keep twice as many sheep as an acre in Australia. Buenos Ayres, the most southern province, has the best sheep pasturage; but in the north, on the border of Brazil, the land is cheaper. Mr. Smythies' son, joining with partners, bought three square leagues for £600; and so quickly does the soil improve under grazing management, that £600 worth of land will sell for £900 in a year's time. Sheep vary in price, from 3s. to 10s. a head, the latter figure being the cost of imported or well-bred ones; but a good flock there can be bought for 5s. and 6s. a head. And on an average “run,” a flock of 4,000 ewes, and 1,000 ewe lambs, will, in four years' time (according to actual

experience), increase to 33,000 head. It is clear that the utmost freedom, political and religious, is guaranteed by the constitution of the country, and that there is every security for person and property.

Mr. Parish, her majesty's consul at Buenos Ayres, has sent home some valuable information. He says—"There is no part of the world where the emigrant is better received, and better protected by the laws of the country, or where there is less invidious distinction drawn between him and the native of the country. * * * * In some parts you may travel for fifty or sixty miles continuously over Englishmen's land; and invitations are being sent by emigrants of every class for their relatives to join them. A steady progress is going on, under a liberal government; and the tenure of land is a great attraction, there being no difficulty in buying land under the system of registration, which is far more simple than anything of the kind in Great Britain." On the frontier, where there is some little danger from the Indians, land can be had for almost nothing; but in well-populated districts, the price of the most eligible and favourably situated land is 20s. per acre, and that land will carry three sheep per acre.

Mr. Hall, from the Cape of Good Hope, where he has resided nine years, and has a large area of land, tells us that as much money was to be made there as in any other part of the world. He had purchased a great breadth of good land at 6s. to 20s. per acre; and recently had given £150 for 1,500 acres, which would carry one-and-a-half sheep per acre. The Southdown was there found the worst breed to import; the Ramboulli and long-wooled rams answering best. With a flock numbering about 2,000, the increase, in his case, had been 85 to 90 per cent. for each 100 ewes.

Mr. Smythies thus describes the mode of life of his son and partners in South America. They rose at four o'clock in the morning; turned the sheep out of the corral, where they had been kept during the night; and got their horses lassoed and saddled. They breakfasted at five. They were employed up to eleven in tending the sheep and cattle; which they did—as indeed everything was done there—on horseback. By eleven, it was too hot for the stock to graze, and they were then driven to shade and water. Soon after eleven came dinner. Their living was good, and seemed to "improve with every letter he got from them." They had coffee and biscuits, butter and milk, and sometimes tea, for breakfast. For dinner, they had roast mutton and roast beef, potatoes and boiled pumpkins; supper was of the same character. They had corn beef, prepared by a Scotch servant. Bread they did not obtain. After dinner, in accordance with the universal system of the country, they had a siesta, lasting two or three hours. A little before sunset they put their sheep and cattle in the corrals; after which they unsaddled their horses, and turned them into a paddock, and then prepared for bed. Numbers of persons leading a life of this kind have made fortunes in a few years, beginning at about twenty, and returning at thirty to thirty-five years of age. The Indians are "ugly customers," and on the frontiers are very troublesome; but they have no quarrel with Englishmen, as a general rule; avoid coming in contact with them, and use no fire-arms.

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