he is expenſive while living, in eating up our graſs, &c. it may be anſwered that it is quite the contrary ; for he can feed where every other animal has been be­fore him and grazed all they could find ; and that if he takes a little graſs on our downs or in our fields, he amply repays us for every blade of graſs in the richneſs of the manure which he leaves behind him. He pro­tects the hands from the cold wintry blaſt, by providing them with the ſofteſt leather gloves. Every gentle­man’s library is alſo indebted to him for the neat bind­ing of his books, for the ſheath of his ſword, and for cases for his inſtruments ; in ſhort, not to be tedious in mentioning the various uſes of leather, there is hardly any furniture or utenſil of life but the ſheep contri­butes to render either more uſeful, convenient, or orna­mental.

As the ſheep is ſo valuable an animal, every piece of information concerning the proper method of managing it muſt be of importance. It will not therefore be uſeleſs nor unentertaining to give ſome account of the man­ner of managing ſheep in Spain, a country famous for producing the beſt wool in the world.

In Spain there are two kinds of ſheep : the coarſe- woolled ſheep, which always remain in their native country, and are houſed every night in winter ; and the fine-wooled ſheep, which are always in the open air, and travel every ſummer from the cool mountains of the northern parts of Spain, to feed in winter on the ſouthern warm plains of Andalusia, Mancha, and Eſtramadura. Of theſe latter, it appears from accurate com­putations, that there are about five millions @@( b ) ; and that the wool and fleſh of a flock of 10,000 ſheep pro­duce yearly about 24 reals a head, or about the value of 12 Engliſh ſixpences, one of which belongs to the owner, three to the king, and the other eight are al­lowed for the expences of paſture, tythes, ſhepherds, dogs, ſalt, ſhearing, &c. Ten thouſand ſheep form a flock, which is divided into ten tribes, under the ma­nagement of one perſon, who has abſolute dominion over fifty ſhepherds and fifty dogs.

M. Bourgoanne, a French gentleman, who reſided many years in Spain, and directed his inquiries chiefly to the civil government, trade, and manufactures, of that country, gives the following account of the wan­dering ſheep of Segovia. “ It is (says he) in the neigh­bouring mountains that a part of the wandering ſheep feed during the fine ſeaſon.@@ They leave them in the month of October, paſs over thoſe which ſeparate the two Caſtiles, croſs New Caſtile, and diſperſe themſelves in the plains of Eſtramadura and Andaluſia. For ſome years paſt thoſe of the two Caſtiles, which are within reach of the Sierra-Morena, go thither to paſs the win­

ter ; which, in that part of Spain, is more mild : the length of their day’s journey is in proportion to the paſture they meet with. They travel in flocks from 1000 to 1200 in number, under the conduct of two ſhepherds ; one of whom is called the *Mayoral,* the other the *Zagal.* When arrived at the place of their deſtination, they are diſtributed in the paſtures previouſly aſſigned them. They return in the month of April ; and whether it be habit or natural inſtinct that draws them towards the climate, which at this ſeaſon becomes moſt proper for them, the inquietude which they manifeſt might, in case of need, ſerve as an alma­nac to their conductors.”

Mr Arthur Young, in that patriotic work which he conducted with great induſtry and judgment, the An­nals of Agriculture, gives us a very accurate and intereſting account of the Pyrenean or Catalonian ſheep.

“ On the northern ridge, bearing to the west, are the paſtures of the Spaniſh flocks. This ridge is not, however, the whole ; there are two other mountains, quite in a different ſituation, and the ſheep travel from one to another as the paſturage is ſhort or plentiful. I examined the ſoil of theſe mountain paſtures, and found it in general ſtony ; what in the west of England would be called a st*one brash,* with ſome mixture of loam, and in a few places a little peaty. The plants are many of them untouched by the ſheep ; many ferns, narciſſus, violets, &c. but burnet *(poterium ſanguisorba}* and the narrow-leaved plantain *(plantago lanceοlata)* were eaten, as may be ſuppoſed, cloſe. I looked for trefoils, but found ſcarcely any : it was very apparent that ſoil and peculiarity of herbage had little to do in rendering theſe heights proper for ſheep. In the northern parts of Eu­rope, the tops of mountains half the height of theſe (for we were above ſnow in July) are bogs, all are ſo which I have ſeen in our iſlands, or at leaſt the pro­portion of dry land is very trifling to that which is extremely wet : Here they are in general very dry. Now a great range of dry land, let the plants be what they may, will in every country suit ſheep. The flock is brought every night to one ſpot, which is ſituated at the end of the valley on the river I have mentioned, and near the port or paſſage of Picada : it is a level ſpot ſheltered from all winds. The ſoil is 8 or 9 inches deep of old dung, not at all incloſed : from the freedom from wood all around, it ſeems to be choſen partly for ſafety againſt wolves and bears. Near it is a very large ſtone, or rather rock, fallen from the mountain. This the ſhepherds have taken for a ſhelter, and have built a hut againſt it ; their beds are ſheep-ſkins, and their door ſa ſmall that they crawl in. I faw no place for fire ; but they have it, ſince they dress here the fleſh of their ſheep,

@@@[mu] Bourgoanne's Travels, vol. i. p. 53.

bones into a brown fluid, from whence hartſhorn is made ; 6. Furnaces for making parts thereof into Glauber's ſalts ; 7. A sand heat containing twelve jars, for collecting; a cryſtallizing vapour into ſal-ammoniac.

@@@(b) In the 16th century the travelling ſheep were eſtimated at ſeven millions : under Philip III. the number was diminiſhed to two millions and a half. Uſtariz, who wrote at the beginning of this century, made it amount to four millions. .The general opinion is, that at preſent it does not exceed five millions. If to this number the eight millions of ſtationary ſheep be added, it will make nearly thirteen millions of animals, all managed contrary to the true intereſts of Spain, for the advantage of a few individuals. For the proprietors of ſtationary flocks alſo have privileges which greatly reſemble thoſe of the members of the Meſta. According to Arriquebar, Spain contains eight millions of fine-wooled ſheep, ten millions of coarſe-wooled, and five hundred thouſand bulls, oxen, and cows.