

ries and a police magistrate. The former are three in number, two clergymen and an agriculturist. They have under instruction forty men, women, and children, but the wandering and capricious habits of these aborigines render it impossible to keep the adults with them. Mr. Watson, the eldest of the missionaries, has now with him fifteen children, whom he does not allow to leave his house, and is endeavouring to teach them the habits of Europeans, and the English language. He considers them as equal to white children in docility and intelligence, and several of them had made as much proficiency in the various branches of education, as could be expected at their age. They could read and write with facility, and solve questions in elementary arithmetic. They had a natural aptitude for music, and they joined with much harmony in singing common English tunes.

Mr. Hale was greatly indebted to the chief missionary, Mr. Watson, for his hospitality and the aid he furnished in his researches into the language, manners, and customs of the natives.

While at Wellington, he passed a few days at the station of W. O. Raymond, Esq., one of the magistrates of the colony, who is owner of a large stock of cattle and sheep. His house is situated on the Macquarie, and here an opportunity presented itself of seeing the operation of washing and shearing the sheep. This took place at the time of their visit, and was, on account of the lateness of the season, about a month later than usual.

The sheep were plunged and held in a tub of hot water, until their fleeces were thoroughly soaked; they were then taken out and made to swim about in one of the deep pools of the Macquarie, for half an hour; after this they were held under the spout of a pump, where they were rubbed, combed, and rinsed, until their wool was considered sufficiently clean.

The sheep are shorn when dry, and the fleeces assorted according to their fineness, in lots, which are afterwards packed in bales of from two to three hundred pounds: these are then compressed by a lever-press.

The average weight of a fleece is about two and a half pounds. Mr. Raymond calculates the cost of transportation to Sydney at about two pence per pound, and the average price of the wool there is eighteen pence per pound. The freight to England is one and a half pence; and there it has to compete with fine wools from other countries. As to the question whether this can be done profitably, there is a considerable difference of opinion between well-informed persons in the colony. According to some, it can be afforded even at a much lower rate, but in this estimate the labour of those who are employed as shepherds is no doubt calculated as being that of convicts, and it