

cases were given in the case of the fowl. With the common ass, as the legs of the wild progenitor are almost always striped, we may feel assured that the occasional appearance of such stripes in the domestic animal is a case of simple reversion. But I shall be compelled to refer again to these cases, and therefore here pass them over.

The aboriginal species from which our domesticated cattle and sheep are descended, no doubt possessed horns; but several hornless breeds are now well established. Yet in these—for instance, in Southdown sheep—“it is not unusual to find among the male lambs some with small horns.” The horns, which thus occasionally reappear in other polled breeds, either “grow to the full size,” or are curiously attached to the skin alone and hang “loosely down, or drop off.”<sup>1</sup> The Galloways and Suffolk cattle have been hornless for the last 100 or 150 years, but a horned calf, with the horn often loosely attached, is occasionally produced.<sup>2</sup>

There is reason to believe that sheep in their early domesticated condition were “brown or dingy black;” but even in the time of David certain flocks were spoken of as white as snow. During the classical period the sheep of Spain are described by several ancient authors as being black, red, or tawny.<sup>3</sup> At the present day, notwithstanding the great care which is taken to prevent it, particoloured lambs and some entirely black are occasionally, or even frequently, dropped by our most highly improved and valued breeds, such as the Southdowns. Since the time of the famous Bakewell, during the last century, the Leicester sheep have been bred with the most scrupulous care; yet occasionally grey-faced, or black-spotted, or wholly black lambs appear.<sup>4</sup> This occurs still more frequently with the less improved breeds, such as the Norfolks.<sup>5</sup> As bearing on this tendency in sheep to revert to dark colours, I may state (though in doing so I trench on

<sup>1</sup> Youatt on Sheep, pp. 20, 234. The same fact of loose horns occasionally appearing in hornless breeds has been observed in Germany; Bechstein, ‘Naturgesch. Deutschlands,’ b. i. s. 362.

<sup>2</sup> Youatt on Cattle, pp. 155, 174.

<sup>3</sup> Youatt on Sheep, 1838, pp. 17,

145.

<sup>4</sup> I have been informed of this fact through the Rev. W. D. Fox, on the excellent authority of Mr. Wilmot: see, also, remarks on this subject in an article in the ‘Quarterly Review,’ 1849, p. 395.

<sup>5</sup> Youatt, pp. 19, 234.