

sionally carried on, by a few of the inhabitants of a country, will slowly produce a great effect.

In a well-known passage in the thirtieth chapter of Genesis, rules are given for influencing, as was then thought possible, the colour of sheep; and speckled and dark breeds are spoken of as being kept separate. By the time of David the fleece was likened to snow. Youatt,<sup>31</sup> who has discussed all the passages in relation to breeding in the Old Testament, concludes that at this early period "some of the best principles of breeding must have been steadily and long pursued." It was ordered, according to Moses, that "Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind;" but mules were purchased,<sup>32</sup> so that at this early period other nations must have crossed the horse and ass. It is said<sup>33</sup> that Erichthonius, some generations before the Trojan war, had many broodmares, "which by his care and judgment in the choice of stallions produced a breed of horses superior to any in the surrounding countries." Homer (Book v.) speaks of Æneas' horses as bred from mares which were put to the steeds of Laomedon. Plato, in his 'Republic,' says to Glaucus, "I see that you raise at your house a great many dogs for the chase. Do you take care about breeding and pairing them? Among animals of good blood, are there not always some which are superior to the rest?" To which Glaucus answers in the affirmative.<sup>34</sup> Alexander the Great selected the finest Indian cattle to send to Macedonia to improve the breed.<sup>35</sup> According to Pliny,<sup>36</sup> King Pyrrhus had an especially valuable breed of oxen: and he did not suffer the bulls and cows to come together till four years old, that the breed might not degenerate. Virgil, in his Georgics (lib. iii.), gives as strong advice as any modern agriculturist could do, carefully to select the breeding stock; "to note the tribe, the lineage, and the sire; whom to reserve for husband of the herd;"—to brand the progeny;—to select sheep of the purest white, and to examine if their tongues are swarthy. We have seen that the

<sup>31</sup> On Sheep, p. 18.

<sup>32</sup> Volz, 'Beiträge zur Kulturgeschichte,' 1852, s. 47.

<sup>33</sup> Mitford's 'History of Greece,' vol. i. p. 73.

<sup>34</sup> Dr. Dally, translated in 'Anthropological Review,' May 1864, p. 101.

<sup>35</sup> Volz, 'Beiträge,' &c., 1852, s. 80.

<sup>36</sup> 'History of the World,' ch. 45.