is valuable from its extreme thickness and toughness; indeed, a common leaden bullet would make little impression on the skin of a Cape buffalo; thus the hunting of the buffalo is a matter of considerable danger.

Finally, it may be observed of the ox tribe, that the usefulness of these animals is seen alike in their wild and in their domestic state. To the Hottentots of Southern Africa, the flesh, the hide, the horns, and sinews of the buffalo, and other varieties of oxen, represent at once food, raiment, implements of war, and objects of domestic use; and the importance of the buffalo of America is strongly portrayed in the words of an intelligent traveller, who, speaking from personal experience, says: "I cannot convey any just impression of the total dependence of the remote western tribes on the buffalo for their very existence, without giving a sketch of the various purposes for which that animal is, by their ingenuity, rendered available. First, its flesh is their principal, sometimes their only, food; eaten fresh on the prairies during their hunt, and dried in their winter villages. Secondly, the skin is put to various uses. It forms the material of their lodges, of their bales for packing the meat, of their beds by night, and their clothing by day. The coarser parts they make into saddles or cut into laryettes or halters; and more than all this, it is now their chief source of trade with the whites, and thus is the source whence they must derive blankets, knives, beads, and every other produce of civilization. Thirdly, they use the sinews as strings to their bows, and the smaller fibres instead of twine or thread. The brains serve to soften and dress the skin; while the hoof at the end of the shank-bone is made to serve the purpose of a mallet. Fourthly, the bones are not less useful; some of them being serviceable as scrapers or close chisels, others are joined and used with the finer fibres as needles and thread, and the ribs, strengthened by some of the stronger fibres, are made to furnish the bow with which other buffaloes are to be destroyed. This last is the triumph of Indian ingenuity. The first bow that I saw constructed in this manner caused me so much surprise and admiration, that I offered nearly the value of a horse for it, but was refused."

Such is the ox genus; a tribe of animals whose adaptability to the various necessities of man forms a striking proof of the bounty of that Providence which gave man "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth."

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THE GOAT AND THE SHEEP.

"Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. "For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation? "The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered. "The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field. "And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens." —Proverbs xxvii. 23—27.

There are many reasons why the goat and the sheep should be considered together, for they have many features in common. Both are social in disposition, dwelling together in flocks, and easily adapting themselves to a life of dependence on man. The hair of the goat, like the wool of the sheep, was in early times considered a valuable article of clothing; and the flesh and milk of the goat, as of the sheep, have been used for ages as articles of food. That the goat was considered at least equally important and serviceable with the sheep, among the ancients, appears in the following lines from a pastoral poem of the Roman poet Virgil: