



A Summer Hailstorm in 1795

The intense cold which set in on Thursday night, the 18th [June 1795], there is great reason to apprehend will materially check the progress of vegetation; and from information already come to hand very much mischief has been done among the flocks, just shorn of their wool, and deprived of that warm clothing which, from the unseasonable severity of the weather, was then so peculiarly necessary. At Broadchalk, nearly 200 sheep perished, about half of which were the property of one farmer; and 120 at Downton. 123 were killed at Steeple Langford, the greater part suffered from the hailstorm. Mr. Russel, near Shaftesbury, lost no less than 300; sixty were lost in Coombe and its neighbourhood; 100 at Place Farm, Swallow Clift, and a great many at Codford, and on almost all the farms around Salisbury Plain. In short, it is computed that one-fourth of the flocks in Wiltshire are destroyed by this sudden and unexpected calamity

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