WOOL, n. s.

Wooll', n.

Woollen', adj. & n. s.

Woolly', adj.

Wool'pack, n.

Wool'sack, n.

Wool'warden, n.

WOOL, n. s.

Woolen, adj.

A fresh crop. It differs from hair, however, in the uniformity of its growth, and the regularity of its sheathing. Every filament of wool seems to keep exact pace with another in the same part of the body of the animal; the whole crop springs up at once; the whole advances uniformly together; the whole loosens from the skin nearly at the same period, and thus falls off if not previously shorn, leaving the animal covered with a short coat of young wool. Hairs are commonly of the same thickness in every part; but wool constantly varies in thickness in different parts, being generally thicker at the points than at the roots. That part of the fleece of sheep which grows in winter is finer than what grows in summer. While the wool remains in the state it was first shorn off the sheep’s back, and not sorted into its different kinds, it is called fleece. Each fleece consists of wool of divers qualities and degrees of fineness, which the dealers therein take care to separate. The French and English usually separate each fleece into three sorts, viz. 1. Mother wool, which is that of the back and neck. 2. The wool of the tails and legs. 3. That of the breast and under the belly. The Spaniards make the like division into three sorts, which they call prime, second, and third; and, for the greater ease, denote each bale or pack with a capital letter denoting the sort. Among the ancients, the wools of Attica, Megara, Laodicea, Apulia, and especially those of Tarentum, Parna, and Alino, were the most valued. Varro assures us that the people there used to clothe their sheep with skins, to secure the wool from being damaged.