

ling wild or half wild cattle should be adopted in different countries, and that one method should not long ago have been found the best. The bolas is used in the Argentine Republic and the Falklands, but not, I believe, in Chile. The lasso is always used with it. In California the lasso only is used, as also in the Sandwich Islands, the inhabitants of which derive their methods of cattle herding from the former country.

In Brazil the cattle, as I have described,\* are brought into subjection by being tailed; the lasso is used, but not the bolas. In Australia and New Zealand neither of these appliances is used, but only the stock-whip. An experienced owner of large herds of cattle in Australia tells me that he considers that these various appliances are not really wanted, and that the great art in driving cattle is to get them to move quite slowly, and never to excite or terrify them, and that he can tell a good manager at once by observing whether his cattle are quietly and easily driven. There seem to be no differences in the condition of the country in the various regions which should render the lasso or bolas more necessary in some than in the others.

The bolas,† as is well known, is an apparatus consisting of heavy balls of stone, metal, or wood fastened at the ends of long thongs of raw hide. In the Patagonian Ostrich bolas, only two balls are used; for cattle and horses, three, one ball being smaller than the others. The three thongs are brought together at one knot. The bolas is held by the smaller ball, and whirled round the head, and then thrown so as to entangle the legs of the animal aimed at.

The boys at the Falkland Islands have invented a small bolas in which the large knuckle-bones of cattle are used as the larger balls, and a smaller bone from the foreleg as the small ball for the hand. They use the bone bolas for catching wild geese, creeping up to a flock and throwing the bolas at the birds on the wing as they rise. They generally succeed in thus entangling them, and bringing them to the ground, and their mothers always send out their boys when they want a goose, so that the birds are seldom shot at around Darwin Harbour.

Flocks of the geese were to be seen there feeding on the

\* See pp. 85-88.

† Mr. Darwin's "Journal of Researches," pp. 44 and 111, in his accounts of the bolas, calls it by this name, as also other authors, Musters included. A hunter, however, from whom I bought one at Sandy Point, and also the Falkland Islanders, said the name was not bolas, but "boleaderos," or some word closely similar, and they considered the word bolas incorrect. Possibly the name has changed.