

Barometz

The Vegetable Lamb

From *The Botanic Garden*, Dr. Erasmus Darwin, 1791

Magda, R. Vaughan Williams, 1925

1. Cra - dled in snow, and fann'd by Arc - tic air, Shines, gen - tle
2. Crops the grey cor - al moss, and hoar - y thyme, Or laps with

7
ba - ro - metz, thy gold - en hair. Root - ed in earth each clo - ven
ros - y tongue the melt - ing rime; Eyes with mute ten - der - ness her

14
foot de - scends, And round and round her flex - ile neck she bends,
dis - tant dam, Or seems to bleat, a Veg - e - ta - ble Lamb.

"When cotton was first introduced to Europeans in medieval times, they were mystified. What was the source of this marvelous material? Theories abounded. For a time, the source was thought to be 'the Vegetable Lamb of Tartary'—a plant with tiny sheep on stems bowing down and grazing the undergrowth. One can only imagine how they thought all those tiny sheep were shorn."

From *The Practical Spinner's Guide: Cotton, Flax, Hemp*, Stephenie Gaustad, 2014

Engraving, Sir John Mandeville, 14th century

