



THE REV. H. BERRY'S COW.

It would be unfair to omit mention of a veteran breeder, to whom the advocates for the preservation of pedigree are indebted for the "Short-horn Herd Book"—Mr. George Coates. He is now one of the oldest authorities on the subject, and was once the possessor of a very superior race of short-horns, though somewhat coarse. Portraits have been preserved of some very good animals bred by him; and he had the satisfaction to dispose of his bull *Patriot* for 500 guineas.

Mr. Coates fell into an error, but too common, and generally equally fatal: he fancied his own stock the best, and disdained to cross them with Mr. Colling's; which, as others afterwards proved, would have been a most judicious proceeding. The consequence was, Mr. Colling's sale having settled the public judgment and taste, Mr. Coates's stock fell into disrepute. If an apology be requisite for this statement of an undeniable fact, it will be found in the utility of holding up such an example as a caution to those who may be in danger of falling into a similar error.

It is considered that the specimens already appealed to, and the fine animals whose portraits accompany this account, will render superfluous any attempt more particularly to describe the short-horns. Of course they will be found to vary greatly; but sufficient may be collected from what is presented to the reader, to inform him as to the character of this superior breed of cattle. The next object, then, will be to show their capabilities to make a return for food consumed, and the unparalleled early period at which such return may be made. Indeed, *early maturity* is the grand and elevating characteristic of the short-horns, and their capacity to continue growing, and at the same time attaining an unexampled ripeness of condition at an early age, has excited the wonder, and obtained the approbation, of all not blinded by prejudice. [Our author then gives a long list of cases illustrating early maturity and extraordinary fatness.]

A steer, bred by Col. Cook, of Doncaster, fed on potatoes and straw, was slaughtered when two years and twenty-two days old, his four quarters weighed 72 stones, (1008 lbs.)

Mr. John Rennie (of Phantassie,) fed, in 1823, a steer, from eighteen to twenty months old; the four quarters of which weighed 945 lbs.

The same gentleman fed a steer, aged two years four months, whose four quarters weighed 1231 lbs.; also a steer, aged three years six months, whose four quarters weighed 1369 lbs.; tallow, 241 lbs.

Should the foregoing statement be considered extended, it will, at least, be admitted, that its ample detail establishes the credit of the short-horns as an invaluable breed to the grazier.

In the commencement of this account, however, it was stated that they possess a combination of qualities, considered incompatible in other breeds, viz: the disposition to feed rapidly, in union with dairy qualifications.

There is a very general impression that animals disposed to fatten rapidly seldom give much milk. It is true, that every perfection in cattle—whether it be one of form, of quality of flesh, of disposition to fatten, or to yield milk—can be promoted and retained solely by the breeder's devoted attention to his particular object; and if one object be allowed a paramount importance in the breeder's practice, other objects will suffer, in proportion as they are neglected.

The carcass of the short-horns has ever been so surprising, and so justly valued, that many persons have allowed that completely to occupy their attention, and the dairy has been disregarded. In such a state of things, every advance towards one point has been to recede from another; because what tends to enhance a particular quality, will also enhance a defect, provided such defect was of previous existence.

The objections which exist among breeders, for various and some cogent reasons, against