

Stock Department.

Hillhurst Farm, Compton, Quebec.

We must confess to a large amount of ignorance in respect to the style of farming in vogue in that part of our Dominion formerly known as Lower Canada, and now designated Quebec. The opportunity of making extended personal observations there has never been within our reach. We hope it may be at some future day. Meantime we are glad to be able to say that we have seen, if not a Quebec farm, — the ground being all covered with snow, — a farm-house, the extensive steading, and a lot of choice animals, such as can hardly be equalled, certainly not surpassed, anywhere in the Dominion of Canada.

By invitation of its proprietor we lately made a flying visit to Hillhurst Farm, near Compton Village, the estate and country seat of M. H. Cochrane, Esq., a prosperous Montreal merchant. This gentleman having made money in the city wisely determined to invest a portion of it in the country, and made choice of his native place, though at some distance from the scene of his business operations, as the spot where he would have a farm. Accordingly he purchased, one after another, a number of small holdings, until he had secured 750 acres, nearly all of which is consolidated in a convenient block, with a public road on three sides, and a private road on the fourth side. To this estate the name of "Hillhurst Farm" has been given. It lies about a mile and a half from Compton, a pretty little village of some 500 inhabitants; and three miles from the railroad station called by the same name, which is 110 miles distant from Montreal on the line of the G.T.R. to Portland. The locality is evidently one of the most lovely and picturesque in the Eastern Townships. Even in winter it is impossible not to admire the widely extended landscape, diversified as it is with hill and dale, belted by wood-crowned and snow-clad heights, and dotted with snug-looking farm-houses. Imagination supplies the river that flows through the valley when the ice and snow have melted, while the railroad that skirts the stream is a

visible reality, that with its thundering trains and shrill engine-whistles rouses the echoes and gives vivacity to the scene, all the year round.

Hillhurst consists of a noble stretch of fine rolling land, the soil a light loam of good depth, with a variety of sub-soils, gravelly, rocky, and blue clay. The several buildings which were on the small holdings of which the farm consists, make convenient dwellings for the men employed on the estate, as

It is Mr. Cochrane's ambition to distinguish himself as a breeder of choice stock, and especially of Short Horns. Already he has attained no small eminence, as the Prize List of our last Provincial Exhibition testifies. The best aged cow, the best three-year old cow, the best two-year old heifer, and the best one-year old heifer among the female Short Horns, were, to say nothing of Hereford cattle, sheep, and hog prizes, surely glory enough for one show, and must

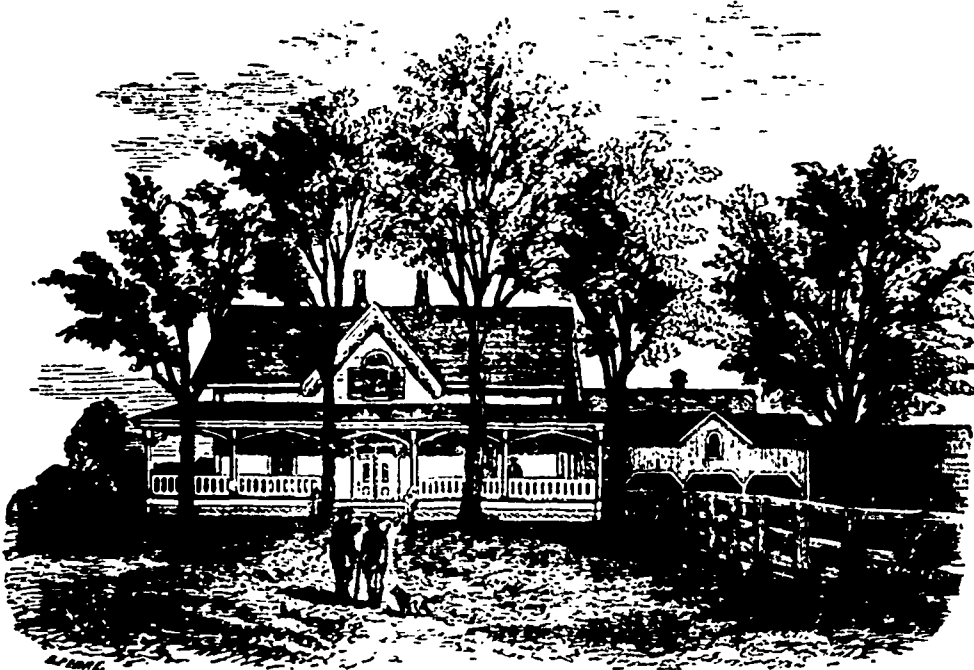
have taken our older stockmen very much by surprise. We candidly own that, notwithstanding the honours won at the exhibition in question, we were not prepared to find so noble a collection of animals as we lately inspected at Hillhurst. The Short Horn herd already collected comprises no fewer than thirty-three pure-bred animals of various ages, and ten high grades. Among the pure Short Horns, are at least from six to eight that will be hard to beat on the continent of America. The aged cow "Rosedale" is of world-wide celebrity, having won all possible distinction in the British show yards, and retired from competition at the early age of two years and a half. "Snowdrop" and "Margaret III." have

twice carried off the highest honours at our Provincial Shows. The "11th Duke of Thorndale," recently added to this herd at a cost of \$3,000, has no superior as a two-year old bull of Bates or Duchess blood. "Baron Booth of Lancaster" is

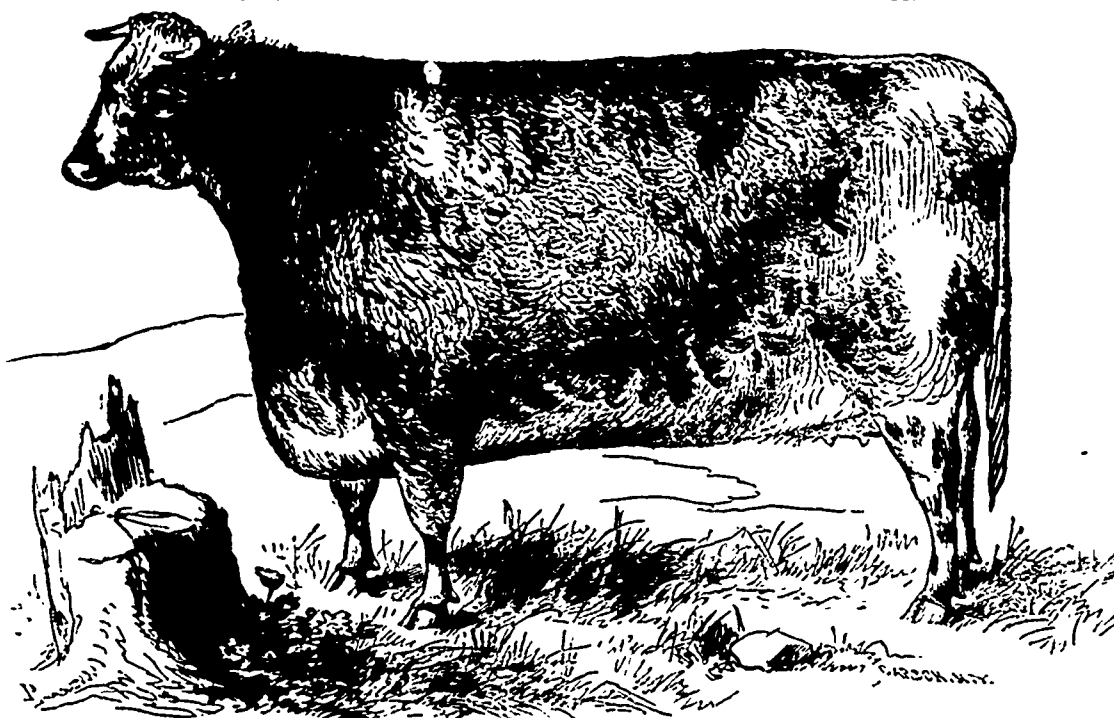
of equal merit as a representative of the strain of Short Horns, that rivals the one just named. "Maid of Athol" is another first-class two-year old, and beside her there are some yearlings of highest excellence.

Not content with thus mounting the highest pinnacle as a Short Horn man, Mr. Cochrane is hardly less distinguished in the Hereford class. He had the best one-year old bull, the best cow, and the best one-year old heifer of this breed at the last Provincial Show. The young bull "Compton Lad" was a close competitor with his father, "Guelph," for the

diploma awarded to the best Hereford bull of any age. From our late inspection of him we predict a career of distinction for him, if no harm befalls him. He not only holds his own, but has improved greatly since the Show. The Hillhurst herd of Herefords, comprising now thirteen animals, are a very choice



BEST SHORT-HORN COW AT THE LAST PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.



"ROSEDALE," THE PROPERTY OF M. H. COCHRANE, ESQ., COMPTON, QUEBEC.

central position on the estate, and is at once adorned and sheltered by some ancestral maples, the like of which we could wish embowered every farm-house in Canada. The accompanying illustration has been drawn and engraved from a photograph of Hillhurst farm house and surroundings.