

of carcass, equality of wool suited to the wants of the country, or excellence of mutton."

The writer appears to me to be greatly mistaken about the weight and quality of our mutton in Upper Canada generally, as compared with what is to be found in the Mother Country.

The best sheep exhibited at our Provincial competition in 1851, were that year's importation from the Mother Country; and the next best were either imported, or the progeny of such as had been imported a few years previously. These were very good sheep unquestionably, but then the number of such in the Province is very small. It is doubtful, however, if there are to be found at this present time on the whole of the North American Continent, two sheep, the weight of whose united carcasses would equal that of some single sheep occasionally to be found in England; such an animal of the Cotswold breed, was that exhibited by Mr. William Cother at the Smithfield Cattle Show in 1851; it was between three and four years old, and the carcass weighed 336 pounds, and that was not the largest of his flock. And again, as respects the quality of the mutton, those who from experience are qualified to give an opinion on the subject, have pronounced in favour of the little black-faced Highland sheep, when fattened on the rich pastures of England, as preferable not only to the Leicester and Cotswold, but to all others.

To suffer ourselves to be misled by random assertions or hasty generalizations, or to flatter ourselves with the belief that we are already, in particular branches of husbandry, quite on a level with the most skilful and advanced in any country, may be gratifying to our vanity, but possibly not equally serviceable to the cause of Agriculture, nor accordant with truth; and it must be confessed that little benefit can be derived from either "Essays" or "Reports," where mere prejudices and opinions are made to supply the place of well ascertained facts.

It will be satisfactory for this meeting to know that the Provincial Association have directed their Secretary to open a Herd and Stud Book; this will prevent the admission of Grade Cattle, into competition with the full bred Short Horns, and will prove beneficial to breeders of Horses and Farmers generally. Up to the present, it had devolved on the Judges, not only to decide respecting the merits of the individual animal, but also the purity of its pedigree. This was wrong, inasmuch as it imposed too great a burden on them, and because the grade is found sometimes to look better than even the full bred.

Now, we may hope that the Directors will take the responsibility, accurately to distinguish

the full bred from the grades, and leave the Judges to merely determine, from the particular points and general appearance of the animal, which is the best.

It would be advisable that the Secretary of this Society, also, should keep a County Herd and Stud Book for Durham Cattle and Blood Horses, so that no animal should pass as full bred, that is not so really; and that the Directors of this Society, at Exhibitions, should be considered accountable for the distinctions of breed; not the Judges.

Our County Show in October last, was highly creditable, both as respects the number and quality of the cattle and productions exhibited, and as no complaints have been heard regarding the manner of conducting it, the prospect is so much better that the next will far excel it.

Judges should always be appointed some weeks prior to the Exhibition, so that if unable to attend, sufficient time may be allowed to appoint others to supply their place; but it can never answer the purpose of a County, much less of the Provincial Association, to leave the appointment of Judges undetermined till the very day on which their services are actively required; and here I may be allowed to remark, that any distrust arising out of the manner of appointing the Judges, would prove more really injurious to any Society than even erroneous decisions on the part of the Judges. The former might wear the appearance of or be interpreted into design to favour particular sections of the country, whilst the latter would be attributed to ignorance and mistake.

When Breeders take the trouble and incur the expense of transporting valuable pure blooded cattle, at no small risk of injury from accidents, it cannot be satisfactory to them to see grade stock brought into competition with them—no proof of pedigree insisted on, perhaps not even demanded—Judges, such as in the haste of the moment can be found, appointed on the spot, the Directors knowing no more of their competency than merely that they are nominated by some one, who not, improbably, knows that they have a very high opinion of the cattle of the very party who thus proposes their appointment. Even in the Provincial Association, (well as it has been conducted in general,) this has been felt, and no Exhibition has yet taken place in the Province, at which there have not been glaring instances of Grade cattle taking premiums as full bred Durhams.

The practice of scraping horns, and of shearing sheep, so as to leave a large portion of wool on them, to increase the bulk or improve the shape, is also practised by some breeders in Canada, yet such a course must justly be looked