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Breeds of domestic cattle. III.

In our last issue we described the four grand divisions of the British domestic Cattle, to some one of which all the great families, for which that island is now so famous, in an agricultural point of view, and to the cultivation of which we in America have, in late years, paid so much attention, are directly to be referred—the middle-horns, the long-horns, the polled-cattle, and the short-horns. We also added a few brief inquiries into the origin of these divisions, and the nature of the countries to which they appear to have been when first known, and sometimes at very remote periods peculiar, if not indigenous. These investigations are not, as it may at first appear, merely idle speculations, or interesting only to the historian, the antiquary, or the natural philosopher; since it is not to be disputed, that all animals are the best adapted by their nature, and constitution to the climate, soil, and country to which they are indigenous; and that if removed thence and colonized elsewhere, they will thrive and succeed the best in countries of which the climate, the soil, the productions, and even the face of the landscape is the most analogous to their native home. More especially is this the case with regard to animals, which are liable to so great modi-

fications from circumstances of pasture, soil and climate as are neat cattle. Nor is it a surmise, unproved by fact, that they are so modified and so adapted by nature to certain localities, that they cannot be amended or improved, in their native homes, by any admixture of larger, nobler, or more profitable breeds; which have invariably failed in places unsuited to themselves, to engraft any of their own peculiar excellencies on the inferior stock; while they have done so in an eminent degree where the same inferior stock exists in a climate or region more analogous to their own. An instance in point is the Ayrshire breed of cattle, now peculiar to the districts of Kyle and Cunningham, immeasurably superior to any other Scottish breed, which were entirely unknown in the districts of which they are now the boast, within the short space of seventy years. That they are the result of some foreign cross upon the national stock of the Western Highlands, is not to be doubted; and all probability seems to point to the Teeswater short-horns as the origin of that cross. Now the cross of the Teeswater short-horn has been found to be utterly useless in effecting any improvement on the Kyloes, among the bleak and barren mountains, which form their home, in which they are exposed to biting blasts, cold rain and sleet, or snow-storms and long sub-Alpine Winters, and where they glean but a scanty subsistence from the coarse and innutritious grasses which vegetate with difficulty among the rocks and heaths of the highland hills. So soon, however, as the same Kyloes is brought down into the mild, maritime lowlands, rich pastures and soft climate of Ayrshire, the same cross hits to a miracle, and the result is one of the most highly and justly esteemed of modern families of cattle, both for its milking and fattening qualities.

It is not, therefore, useless; but on the contrary highly desirable for the cattle