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IMPROVED BREEDS OF CATTLE.— IMPORTANCE OF THE DAIRY.

In our last number, we mentioned an experiment made by the Messrs. McDonald, of Gananoque, in feeding cattle of the Canadian and improved breeds, the result being in all respects favorable to the latter. The subject has again been brought under our attention, by the opportunity which we had a few days since of going over the farms and seeing the splendid herds of those two eminent breeders, so well known both here and in the States, and we might also add the old country, the Hon. Adam Ferguson, of Woodhill, and John Wetenhall, Esq., M. P., of Nelson. Their stock consists of some very fine specimens of the Durham; and what is of such high importance in these matters, the strictest attention has been paid to preserving the *purity* of the breed. While looking at the stock and heavy crops of these gentlemen, on a spot which but a few years ago was an unbroken forest, we were strongly reminded of certain localities in the old country endeared to our remembrance, and could not help thinking, to what an incalculable extent the agricultural wealth of Canada might be increased by efficient cultivation, a judicious system of rotation, and improved breeds of stock.

In calling the attention of our readers to the subject of cattle, we are fully aware that it is not practicable that our farmers can generally and at once obtain the best and purest breeds. Even if that object were obtained, the difficulties of *retaining* purity of blood and first rate animals are so great, requiring the constant exercise of correct observation and judgment, as well as much expense, that the herds of no inconsiderable number would soon deteriorate. This, however, is no valid reason against a general effort being made to improve our breeds of cattle; for every step taken in that direction would increase the farmer's profits, and render less difficult the way to a yet higher progress.

There can be no doubt that if the farming public were sufficiently awake to the vital importance of this subject, and prepared to spend a few dollars, which in a short time would be converted into as many pounds, a number of intelligent and enterprising breeders would spring up in different parts of the country, that would soon be adequate to the wants of the public. But while men are so penurious and short sighted as to deprive themselves of the advantages of a good bull, of well known pedigree, for the sake of a dollar, we confess our inability to see how the live stock of the country is to be materially improved.

We are not willing to take upon ourselves the responsibility of urging the special claims of any particular breed. Situation, soil, climate, &c., must form essential elements in all such considerations, and the final decision must be determined by practical experience. The short horns possess a great number of valuable qualities, and, taking them upon the whole, may be said, perhaps, to excel any other breed for general purposes. They are good feeders, come early to maturity, and are for size unrivalled, an object of great moment where butcher's meat fetches a remunerating price. Much may be said in favor of the Ayreshire, Hereford and Devon breeds; the first we think particularly adapted to this country, especially for dairy purposes, for which they have the credit of being better suited than the pure Short-horn. At all events, let the farmer get a cross from his best native cows and a good bull of any of the improved breeds, and we venture to affirm that he will find the result profitable; he will possess a race of cattle either for the butcher or the dairy, very superior to any thing he had before, with the important advantage of arriving at maturity in half the time. In making the latter observation, we of course assume that the young stock are kept and treated in a proper manner, particularly during winter, when much injury frequently arises from want of sufficient protection and nourishing food.