

accumulation of defects about them, clearly mark them as being of far inferior value.

In process of time, the English long-horns, although of the improved Bakewell breed, began to lose ground even in their native country; or rather a rival with higher merits appeared in the field. The short-horns began to attract the attention of the breeder; and their propensity to fatten, and earlier maturity, soon became evident. There were not wanting spirited agriculturists in Ireland, who quickly availed themselves of this new mode of improving the Hibernian cattle. Sir Henry Vane Tempest was one of the first who introduced the short-horn bull. The improvement effected by the first cross was immediately evident in the early maturity of the progeny. The pure short-horn, or this cross with the long-horn, weighed as much at three years old as the pure long-horn used to do at five. But the first experiment in a great degree failed.

The reputation of the short-horn, however, becoming more spread in England, other attempts were made to introduce him into Ireland, and the experiments were more systematically conducted. And great improvement has been effected in the Irish cattle of late years, by the importation of the Durham breed. They have displaced a cross of the long-horn Leicester on the Irish cow, and the farmers of the country now prefer a cross of the Durham bull on the Irish cow, to the pure breed, as being less delicate, and giving a richer and greater quantity of milk.

THE LONG-HORNS.

In the district of Craven, a fertile corner of the West Riding of Yorkshire, there has been, from the earliest records of the British agriculture, a peculiar and valuable breed of cattle. They were distinguished from the home breeds of other counties by a disproportionate and frequently unbecoming length of horn. In the old breed this horn frequently projected nearly horizontally on either side, but as the cattle were improved the horn assumed other directions; it hung down so that the animal could scarcely graze, or it curved so as to threaten to meet before the muzzle, and so long as to prevent the beast from grazing; or immediately under the jaw, and so to lock the lower jaw; or the points presented themselves against the bones of the nose and face, threatening to perforate them. In proportion as the breed became improved, the horns lengthened, and they are characteristically distinguished by the name of "the Long-Horns." Cattle of a similar description were found in the district of Lancashire bordering on Craven, and also in the south-eastern parts of Westmoreland; but tradition in both of these districts pointed to Craven as the original habitation of the long-horn breed. If there gradually arose any difference between them, it was that the Craven beasts were the broadest in the chine, the shortest, the handsomest, and the quickest feeders; the Lancashire ones were larger, longer in the quarters, but with a fall behind the shoulders, and not so level on the chine.

Whence these cattle were derived was at still is a disputed point.

The long horns seem to have first appeared in Craven, and gradually to have spread along the western coast, and to have occupied almost exclusively the midland counties.

There are two distinct breeds; the smaller Cravens inhabiting the mountains and moorlands, hardy, useful, valued by the cottager and little farmer on account of the cheapness with which they are kept, the superior quantity and excellent quality of the milk which they yield, and the aptitude with which they fatten when removed to better pasture. The larger Cravens occupying a more level and richer pasture, are fair milkers, although in proportion to their size not equal to the others; but possess a tendency to fatten and acquire extraordinary bulk, scarcely inferior to that of short-horns.

As either of these found their way to other districts, they mingled to a greater or less degree with the native cattle, or they felt the influence of change of climate and soil, and gradually adapted themselves to their new situation; and each assumed a peculiarity of form which characterized it as belonging to a certain district and rendered it valuable and almost perfect there.

It was not until about the year 1720 that an agriculturist possessed sufficient science and spirit to attempt improvement in good earnest. A blacksmith and farrier, of Linton, in Derbyshire, on the very borders of Leicestershire, who rented a little farm, has the honor of standing first on the list. His name was Welby. He had a valuable breed of cows, which came from Drake's house, a seat of Sir Thomas Gresley, on the banks of the Trent, about a mile from Burton. He prided himself much in them, and they deserved the care which he took in improving them and keeping the breed pure; but disease, which defied all remedial measures, carried off the greater part of them, thus ruining Welby, and putting a stop to his speculations.

Soon after this Mr. Webster, of Canley, near Coventry, distinguished himself as a breeder. He too worked upon Sir Thomas Gresley's stock, some of whose cows he brought with him when he first settled at Canley. He procured bulls from Lancashire and Westmoreland, and said to have had the best stock of cattle then known.

The bull, Bloxedge, (the Hubback of the long horns,) indebted to accident for the discovery of his value, was out of a three-year old heifer of Mr. Webster's, by a Lancashire bull, belonging to a neighbor. When a yearling, he was so promising that he was discarded and sold to a person of the name of Bloxedge, (hence the name of the beast,) but turning out a remarkably good stock-getter, Mr. Webster re-purchased him, and used him for several seasons.

Now appeared the chief improver of the long horns, to whom his contemporaries and posterity have adjudged the merit of creating as it were, a new breed of cattle. It is a disgrace to the agriculture of the times that Bakewell should have