

CANADIAN STOCK AND FARMING.—A VISITOR'S OPINION.

Owego, Tioga Co., N.Y., Dec. 23, 1856.

WM. McDUGALL, ESQ.

My Dear Sir,—When in Canada last October, I promised to give you a description of the Messrs. Millers' Farming, and Short Horns.

I was highly pleased with the quality of land in the townships of Markham and Pickering, in which they reside. I never saw soil better adapted for turnips. Messrs. Geo., Wm., and John Miller, had as fine a quality of *firm* Swedes as any farmer would wish to grow; notwithstanding the dry season, they were a good medium size. Amongst their numerous varieties, Skervings, in my opinion, was the best both in quantity and in quality.

I am undecided, from my own practice, whether Skervings or a large white firm Swede I have been in the habit of cultivating is the best—the seed of which I obtained from Mr. Wm. Hewer, Northleach, Gloucestershire, England, the well-known Hereford and Cotswold sheep breeder, and whose opinion I value highly. He seldom grows any other kind, and I have no doubt has improved the quality by raising his own seed yearly, with much care. I think the Messrs. Miller excellent farmers, as I felt assured no man can be called a good one who does not cultivate a root-crop, keeping a proper portion of stock to the number of acres he cultivates; this succulent crop adds much to the health of the stock, as well as much *juice* to the *manure heap*.

The Messrs. Miller have a fine herd of Short Horns and grades, having imported from Scotland twelve head of the former, ten of these heifers and a bull are equal to anything I ever put my hand upon—beautiful in symmetry and excellent in quality. I am very happy to meet with such a class of Short Horns, as I have never before met with so many in one herd, uniform in quality; they are truly worthy of just notoriety, and I think very hard to be beaten by any breed. The only reason I have to dislike Short Horns is, that I have found in *all breeders' herds* two, and more generally three qualities, in the same herd, and I do believe that no man can be deemed a *proper breeder*, with such disunion in his herd. But the Agricultural press has been as much to blame as “novice breeders;” it has “puffed” and portrayed second and third class animals, in the most extravagant manner, to the injury of the public. It has advertised third class bulls, to go to cows at twenty dollars per cow, when the animal itself would have been very dear indeed to a breeder to purchase at that price and who had only a few first-class females to be injured by him. Here *novice breeders* and Editors have very much lacked in judgment,—they have employed artists to make their bulls appear on paper enormous in size, and beautiful in symmetry, while the original was of the coarsest bone, and the most miserable quality of flesh, with hollow crops. These same artists being “noted novice breeders,” makes these facts, Mr. Editor, now appear more stubborn.

Now, sir, I contend that the person who bred these Short Horns of the Messrs. Miller, thoroughly understood his business, although I never before heard his name—*his hand* has governed him in the selection of his males, by which he has gained