

dred pounds, possessed of life and stay, and with average quality and good looks to recommend her. The thoroughbred stallion will tone down any superabundant coarseness without at all reducing the weight. He will put a head and neck on the colt denoting courage and generosity, and more than all he will give it withers, while all the good points of the mare are sure to be enhanced. It is owing to the ignorance of facts, and to their consequent neglect of the thoroughbred sire, that the wealthy rank and fashion of the New England States have to-day to depend on Canada and Kentucky to supply them with gentlemen's saddle horses. If the truth of the case were better understood here, there would be fifty half-bred colts produced where there is now only one. In England, on the other hand, the thoroughbred stallion has for two centuries been used promiscuously on all sorts of mares, and there is no country in the world where the average horse is so generally possessed of the good looks and blood-like appearance which—sell!

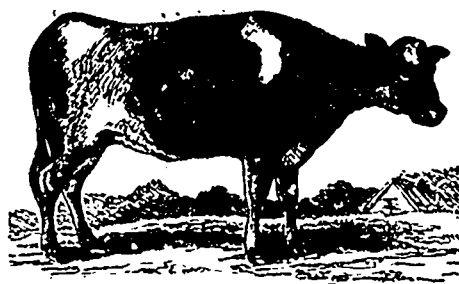
On British Polled Cattle.

BY R. C. AULD
(Late of Tillyfour, Scotland).

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

On one point only might Mr. McCrae and myself possibly agree, viz.: as to his criticism of my article being a little "mixed." I admit I was rather indignant (and the printer not being familiar with my copy) at an attack quite gratuitously made on the Aberdeen-Angus of a kind which representative Galloway men have always deprecated, but which I have never seen them contradict; nor does Mr. McCrae express regret or allude to the particular libel in question. Hence Mr. McCrae must excuse one for "pitching into" the offender. If Galloway men would have themselves kept hands off the Aberdeen, I should not have said anything about the Galloways; as it is, I refrained for long. The evidence that Mr. McCrae offers is *not* evidence at all. It is such as the authors of it had absolutely no right to have given forth without producing their proofs of its correctness, which they have always utterly failed to do. Mr. Gillespie, who is cited as "evidence," in his Prize Essay on Galloway Cattle, in the Highland Society's Transactions several years ago, declared therein that just previous to the close of last century the Galloway was horned—and he indeed took glory in the fact. Since then Mr. Gillespie, evidently inspired from this side, has, in several controversies, revised this date by saying that "he meant," not the 18th, but the 17th century! which nobody believes except himself and those of his "mixed" imagination. Volume after volume of the same Transactions have since appeared yearly; and this year it is Mr. Gillespie who is the author of the first-rate report of the live-stock department of the last year's Centenary Show, and neither in any of the said yearly volumes, nor in this report, has he, it seems, dared to correct his "mistake," one of such vast importance; though in the controversy lately between himself and the writer, in the *London Live-Stock Journal*, he was publicly invited to do so at the earliest period, by "Verax." The editor of the Transactions would readily admit the correction, for I see several such from time to time—but it has not been made. The reason is evident. Mr. McCrae claims the Galloway as "the oldest polled breed in Britain." This is Mr. Gillespie again, and that gentleman, when charged with having made this assertion, indignantly denied ever having said such a thing—though I gave "chapter and book" that clearly showed that Mr. Gillespie, in this further "denial," had made a further "mistake." Yet this denial of ever having said such a thing that the Galloway was the oldest breed is excellent evidence that Mr. Gillespie does not now believe so, yet Mr. McCrae repeats a statement that has been publicly contradicted. Mr. McCrae "believes" further that the Galloway is "the oldest Polled breed in Europe!" He likes proofs: would he oblige us with *his* proof on this point? Alas! such an agonized claim but too clearly exhibits Mr. McCrae's ignorance. In the work on Polled Cattle, which I expect will appear soon, Mr. McCrae will have ample opportunity of learning the A B C of this part of the subject. I

think it would be no difficult task for me to prove that I know much more of the "ancient" history of the "polled" Galloway than Mr. Gillespie does—have consulted more works on the subject than he knows of. Many of these works—and full extracts of many others—I shall be glad to show to any one who cares to test my "authority." I could fill whole issues with matter proving that I have excellent ground for what I have stated. But in this special point of the Horned Galloway breed, I shall only give one—the late Earl of Selkirk—well known, surely, in Canada—who was most conservatively partial in particular to the cattle of his country, the Galloways—and to old customs, old manners and everything of olden times. His family has for centuries bred Galloway cattle, and he has declared that previous to about 1750 the Galloway was a horned breed. Now this gives a greater antiquity to the "polled" Galloway than Mr. Gillespie himself. As to the Galloway not being a "mixed" breed, I would advise Mr. McCrae to avoid provocation too far. I would *not* really like to produce the evidence I have collected on this point, as I want to do no injury to any breed as long as no provocation is given. Mr. McCrae asks, "What were the Galloways like?" I can oblige him. The enclosed block is an exact copy made by Mr. A. M. Williams, author of "Etchings of Famous Shorthorns," an artist to the *Live-Stock Journal*, etc., of a "prize Galloway heifer" at Lord Somerville's show, from a work published in 1805. I make allowances, but there she is.



From the most recent evidence obtained one might come to the conclusion that the Galloway—then of the small Kylee (*Bos longifrons*) species—first began to be polled, from the large infusion of Irish blood into the district at that time—a large number of which were polled Irish—from the old polled breed of that region. But more of this breed in its proper place, when "Polled Cattle" appears.

Does Mr. McCrae know that, from the beginning of history, the Buchan breed was the most famed in Scotland and that the earliest known cases of polled cattle in Scotland refer to the progenitors of Aberdeen-Angus?

As to scurs, Mr. McCrae has again regardlessly got on to the ice. All the authors I have consulted refer in large terms to the loose dangling horns of Galloways, etc., not scurs, but *dangling horns*. And I learn, from a prominent breeder of the West, that he has lost thousands of dollars on account of the frequency of scurs in his registered Galloway stock.

Mr. McCrae will no doubt have the results of Mr. Harvey of Turlington's sale before him by this time; not that I am satisfied with this result; for I imagine, though I have not seen the catalogue, that the animals were not all of the highest breeding.

It is from my article only that Mr. McCrae has found the best qualities of the Galloways. That the Galloways are the cattle to starve—miserable ambition—that will never help them to die and dress 71 per cent. of live weight. It is a motto that should be printed in large letters and hung up over every barn door in this country, "If a beast don't pay meat, he won't pay hunger." Higher authority than mine has pronounced satisfactorily on Aberdeens as "rustlers." And then for early maturity and heavy beefing, of the highest quality, the Aberdeens are unapproached and unapproachable, and the more you can pile on to them for exhibition purposes there is no better test or evidence of the capability and utility of the breed in general—proof that the tallow is well stored inside, and well distributed outside—properly furnished for any and all conditions.

As I said, Mr. McCrae has no call to resent, for the reasons I have stated at the beginning. As far as I have taken part in the Galloway question, I was not the first to give offence. It was, and is, Galloway

men; and however much they dislike attacks on their own cattle, I have never seen them repudiating such gratuitous disparagements as have recently been made. My motto would be for breeders, "Live and let live."

P. S.—To give some insight into the controversial methods of official Galloway men, I would request you to publish in your excellent journal the letter signed "Verax," in a recent issue, June 19, of the *London Live-Stock Journal*, headed "Galloway Cattle."

GALLOWAY CATTLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The London Live Stock Journal*.

SIR—Although I am very reluctant to afford the slightest justification for a revival of the controversy about the antiquity of the various breeds of Polled cattle, which was thrashed out in your columns a few months ago, there is, I am sorry to say, no alternative left me but to again refer to the subject. The Rev. Mr. Gillespie, who was one of the parties to that discussion, is also, I presume, adviser to the Council of the Galloway Cattle Society; and, I observe that in the report presented to the members of the Society last week the following sentences occur:

During the past year the secretary has again been under the necessity of repelling unfair and disparaging attacks made on the Galloway breed of cattle by two different persons—one of these being made by an old offender in an American newspaper and the other in *The Live-Stock Journal* of London by an Aberdeenshire man, who has emigrated to the United States. In the latter case the representations regarding the history and characteristics of Galloways were so unfair and unfounded as to call forth an effective refutation of them by a correspondent who, though writing anonymously, is understood to be a recognized authority on the history of Polled Aberdeen-Angus cattle.

Now it may be flattering to me as a controversialist to have it stated that it was I who "effectively refuted" the statements of your American correspondent regarding Galloway cattle, and not Mr. Gillespie himself, who certainly wrote several long letters with that object. But I must protest against the manner in which my intervention in the controversy is represented in the paragraph I have quoted. My first letter on the subject was written after several communications had appeared in the *Journal*—from Mr. Auld, Mr. Gillespie, Mr. Euren, and Mr. Gilbert Murray. It is quite true that in the letter that is described as an "effective refutation," I first alluded to Mr. Auld's communication because it was he who had originated the discussion, and because in doing so he had put forward claims on behalf of the Aberdeen-Angus breed, which, in my opinion, as a student of the history of our bovine races, could not be sustained by recorded evidence. I expressed regret that he should have thus weakened an otherwise strong case. I further stated that I believed the Galloways could establish a title to existence as a Polled breed from about 1750, and that they were the breed esteemed by English graziers in the end of the last century. But I did not stop there, as might be concluded from the report of the Council of the Galloway Cattle Society. Indeed, if that had been all I meant to say it is very likely that I should not have entered the lists. I further attempted to show that Mr. Gillespie's statements as to the antiquity and influence of the Galloways were equally untenable, and that his disparaging remarks as to the derivation and qualities of the early Northern Polls were contrary to all that was known concerning them. Judging from the tone and substance of Mr. Gillespie's letter in reply to mine, I was as "effective" in this part of the controversy as he admits I was in the other. I must also be allowed to observe that I am not aware of having expressed an opinion as to the characteristics of the modern Galloway cattle as is implied in this report, unless my reference to the appearance of that breed compared with the Aberdeen-Angus at the Smithfield shows and the London Christmas markets can be so described; but how that in any way helps the advocates of the Galloway breed I am unable to perceive.

I object, therefore, to it being made to appear by this partial representation of the circumstances that I took the side of a Galloway advocate against a supporter of the Northern Scotch Polls. I retain my opinion that Mr. Auld claimed more than can easily be established on behalf of the Aberdeen-Angus breed, but I desire to take this opportunity of stating that I believe he was convinced in his own mind that his contentions were well founded. The mistake, which in