

I am not aware whether this subject has ever before been brought to your notice; at all events I have seen no allusion made in any of the numbers of your work to the Hereford cattle—a valuable breed, of which I may venture to assert, that more than three-fourths of the native Canadian farmers are wholly ignorant; nay, what is still more strange, a very great majority of the Yorkshire farmers in this country possess but little more acquaintance with either Herefords or Devons than the Canadians themselves. These two circumstances may, I think, be thus accounted for: The Canadian farmer makes the short horn beast his standard of perfection, from the simple fact of no other, or scarcely any other having been introduced into the country. The Yorkshireman knows, or affects to know little of any breed but his favorite Durhams: because the greater portion of the inhabitants of that country, now in Canada,—of the agriculturists I mean,—have probably never left their homes'eads until they embarked for the American continent; and the chief, if not sole importers of short horned stock, having been Yorkshiremen, it follows as a necessary consequence, that the Canadians have been kept in ignorance of other valuable breeds, such as the Herefords, which I certainly rank the first, the Devons, the Sussex, the Aberdeenshire, West Highland and Ayrshire. Now, far be it from me to detract from the value of the Durhams, the most beautiful beasts perhaps in Great Britain, and whose valuable qualities it were needless to enlarge on, or from the obligations this country owes to their spirited and enterprising importers—it would be alike ridiculous and ungenerous to make such an attempt—I merely wish that the farmers of this country possessed an opportunity of testing the relative advantages of the Durhams and Herefords, and I am satisfied, that in a short time we should see the other as much prized and sought after as the former now are. I entertain a partiality for Hereford cattle, as being better adapted to this country than the Durhams on these points, that they are more hardy—that they are more easily kept in condition, and will fatten on less than the Durhams, at the same time that they can compete in weight with them—that as oxen they are more serviceable for draught, though inferior in this respect to the Devons—and that the Hereford cow is little inferior to the Durham in milking properties.

This, sir, is not mere hazardous assertion; any person who has visited the Midland Counties of England, where both breeds are to be met with, can testify to its accuracy; any one who has seen the annual Smithfield cattle shows, may have remarked the general superiority of the Herefordshire cattle.

As bare assertion, however, from an unknown or anonymous correspondent cannot be expected to carry much weight with your readers, I must beg to trespass so long on your pages and their patience, as will suffice for adducing a little documentary evidence in favour of the breed whose cause I am advocating, claiming a moment's discussion to state that I am no breeder—except as all farmers breed—of Hereford or any other stock,

and have therefore no interested views in the matter. At the Smithfield cattle show at Christmas, 1841, (I quote from the *Farmers' Magazine* now before me) the Herefords gained the following premiums: 2d and 3d premiums in class No. 1; 3d premium in class No. 2; both the prizes in class No. 3; in class No. 5 the prizes were gained by beasts of the Durham and Hereford cross; the silver medal for the best "extra stock" was awarded to a Hereford and Durham heifer, and three other Herefords were highly commended by the judges. By the way, this practice of "commendation" by the judges for some of the stock exhibited that do not take prizes, has not, I apprehend, been hitherto adopted at our agricultural meetings, not at least in Canada West.

In 1842, at the same show, the first prize of twenty pounds and the silver medal, were awarded to a Hereford three years and eleven and a half months old ox. In class No. 2, the first prize of thirty pounds and a silver medal were awarded to a four years and ten months old Hereford ox. Touching this animal I find the following note: "His sire, a celebrated bull, named "Gold-finder," and also his dam, were bred by Mr. P. Perry, near Leominster in Herefordshire, and were sold together to the Duke of Bedford for one thousand guineas. The Herefords at this show gained eight of the premiums. Of the exhibition at Smithfield in 1843, I have no detailed report by me; but there is the following notice relating to it in a London paper of December in that year: "The exhibition was said by those who may be considered good judges, to be the best ever seen. Mr. Senior of Broughton, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, exhibited twenty five fine Hereford and Sussex beasts that were the objects of general admiration. These wonderful creatures, five years old, were estimated to weigh on an average 250 stones each." Live weight 3500 lbs., dead weight 2000 lbs.

On looking back over some old numbers of the *Farmers' Magazine*, I met with a correspondence between Mr. Price, the celebrated Hereford breeder, and Mr. Bates of Kirkleavington, in Yorkshire, one of the first, if not the most eminent breeder of short horns in that county. Mr. Price had published a challenge of one hundred pounds, offering to show a Hereford bull and twenty Hereford cows against the same number of any other breed in the United Kingdom. This challenge was replied to by Mr. Bates, who declined the wager, but offered to shew his stock of short horns against Mr. Price's Herefords. Mr. Bates in his reply makes the following remark: "I consider now, and have for 40 years been convinced, that *the very best short horns, which are only a few, are capable of improving all other breeds of cattle in the United Kingdom, as well as of the ordinary short horns which are far from a good breed, and inferior to the Herefords.*"

The facts quoted above are, I trust, "confirmation strong" of the opinion I have advanced as to the valuable qualities of the Hereford cattle; were further substantiated evidence necessary, I could easily furnish it, but I will not trespass longer on your time. Let me only in conclusion add, that though I do not mean to deny that the Durhams may, in individual instances, attain a greater weight than the Herefords, yet that it is an established fact, that taken in the aggregate the latter, when brought into competition with the former, carry off the greater number of prizes, and I am convinced, that being more generally serviceable animals, they are better suited to this country.