

asked whether property was insecure or in jeopardy where such figures could be realized. When next Mr. Martin and Mr. Butt shall tell us that the value of Irish property is declining, it will be sufficient for Mr. Gladstone merely to point to these great sales of cattle in Meath and Donegal, and to enquire whether Fenianism or nationalism can be making much headway in a country which can exhibit such figures as Mr. Thornton secured under the hammer on the 23rd and 25th of August, for Mr. Barnes and Mr. Grove.

Nothing can be more desirable than the widest publicity for two Irish cattle sales, of which the prices have never been surpassed except in England and which have rarely been surpassed even in England itself. Just as our thoroughbred horse-dealers exultingly point to Mr. Blenkiron's or her Majesty's average in 1863, so do men learned in the herd-book quote the historical sales of short-horns at which Mr. Bates' Duchesses, Mr. Booth's Great Commanders, Colonel Townley's Royal Butterflies, have realised fabulous figures. To show how rapid has been the rise in the value of short-horns, it will suffice to state that Mr. Bates died in 1850, and that his stock, sixty-eight in number fetched an average of £67 per head. The principal purchaser at the Kirklevington sale was the late Lord Ducie, who himself died in 1853, when his herd of sixty-two heads brought an average of £151 apiece. This high figure was principally due to the competition of our Transatlantic kinsmen, who have since astonished us by the magnificent sums at which they acquire "Duchess blood." But the two champion sales took place in 1867 the stock of Mr. Betts, at Preston Hall, in Kent, brought an average of £180 for sixty-three head; and, upon the death of Mr. Eastwood, his fifteen head of cattle fetched, in Lancashire, more than £181 apiece. It has, however, been reserved for an English nobleman and a Canadian millionaire to electrify us by the magnitude of the sums which they have not scrupled to give for the blood of Booth or of Bates. In 1870 Mr. Cochrane, of Montreal, gave to Captain Gunter, of Weatherby, no less than 2,500 guineas for a couple of Duchess heifers. The two precious animals were conveyed across the Atlantic waste of waters to Canada, where they gave birth to two heifer calves, which are destined in October next to find their way back again to the home of their parents. During the past winter Lord Dunmore, who within the last three years has become the most spirited of our English stock raisers, sent an emissary to Canada and purchased the two Duchess calves for 2,500 guineas, or in other words, at the same figure which in 1870 Mr. Cochrane had given for their dams. The good wishes of all who admire pluck will accompany these two horned beauties when they traverse the stormy Atlantic in October next. But we have said enough to show that Mr. Blenkiron, Sir Lydston Newman, and other breeders of horses, must look to there averages, unless they wish to be left behind in the race of prices by Booth bulls and Duchess heifers. Australia, the United States and Canada, no less than Great Britain and Ireland, are all entered for the competition race of short-horn acquisitiveness. Nor is it the least hopeful of auguries for our trouble and erratic sister island, that the animal product which of all countries Ireland is best qualified to raise is daily becoming a greater object of attraction in every corner of the civilized globe.—*London Telegraph*.

## TAME CODFISH.

Mr. Buckland, in a recent number of *Land and Water*, gives an interesting account of a visit paid by him to a pond containing tame codfish at Port Logan, Wigtonshire. The property in question belongs to a gentleman by the name of McDougall, and consists of an amphitheatre about one hundred feet in diameter, hollowed out of the solid rock by the sea. All egress from this is prevented by a barrier of loose stones, through which water passes freely. On approaching the shore of the pond, many codfish of great size were seen; and when a servant woman who had charge of the fish approached with some mussels, the surface was perfectly alive with the struggling fish. "They came close to the edge, and after a little while permitted Mr. Buckland to take hold of them, scratch them on the back, and play with them in various ways. Among other experiments tried by him was that of holding a mussel in his hand, and allowing the fish to swallow his hand in the effort to obtain the mussel. These fish furnish to the proprietor ample supply of excellent food, the flavor being considered much superior to that of the cod taken in the open sea.—Whenever needed for the table, a selection can easily be made from the most promising of those at hand, and the fish secured without any difficulty.

A correspondent of *Land and Water*, referring to this account of the codfish at Port Logan, remarks that when he visited the pond, fifty years ago, there was a blind codfish in the pool, which the woman who had the pond in charge used to feed with limpets taken from the rock. When this fish came to the surface with the others, she caught it in her fingers, sat down with it upon a stool, having a pail of the limpets, shelled in her lap, with which she fed it out of an iron spoon, the fish seeming to enjoy it very much. After feeding, she returned it to the pond. The writer avers this to be a fact, although he evidently scarcely expects it to be believed.—*Harper's Magazine*.

## WINTER FEED FOR MILCH COWS.

Hay for the cow in the winter is the main food, and there is nothing so good as early cut hay, or that can or will take its place. A cow will do well on hay if she is dry, and hay plenty and good. But here comes the pinch—plenty and good. A cow that has all the hay she can eat from morning till night, given in three or four feeds, has plenty, and if the hay is green and fine, and will tie in knots without breaking or shaking, we will call it good; if not we call it poor, and the cow needs better feed if she is dry. But for cows in milk, they require something more than this good hay added to their feed.

Now, we believe that feed that will make the most beef in the shortest time, will also make the most and best milk in the shortest time. This is our experience. We would say feed corn meal and roots mixed, and would prefer the potato to any other root. But the weather has a great deal to do with feed. Corn meal being a hot food, or generating heat, and roots cool food, to feed right we should mix more meal in cold weather, and less in warm weather, with the roots.—*Country Gentleman*.