

Notice.

Having so much to attend to, we have placed our List of Lands in the hands of Mr. J. Nattrass, a gentleman who we have not the least doubt will give each of our patrons great satisfaction, as he has good business qualities, has a good connection, and will be able to devote more time to it than we can spare at present. We feel confident that you will approve of this step and that your business will be better attended to. This is a good way for farmers and others to dispose of their lands, if they have any to dispose of, as it will cost them nothing unless sales are actually effected. If you have any land to dispose of, send us the particulars. There are some who will apply for lands in particular localities. Send in particulars.

"Farmers' Politics."

SIR,—It is undoubtedly more congenial to the mind of an editor to have complimentary testimonials in his favour rather than severe criticism or denunciation in regard to the advocacy of particular measures or principles: were it otherwise, he would be scarcely human. At the same time, a publisher who wishes to support himself by the issue of a journal will, from prudential motives, endeavor to advocate the interests of his patrons, and point out means and measures which, if carried out, will result in their mutual prosperity. Permit me to say that in my opinion there is more good, substantial common sense in the article in your February number on "Farmers' Politics" than I have seen in any publication in the interest of the farmers of Canada. It has the right ring, and in the main is true, and I heartily rejoice that there is one advocate of the farming class who can speak freely of the disadvantages of our position without the fear of King Street before his eyes.

It has been stated, and with a show of reason, that Canadian farmers were indifferent and tardy in their support of an agricultural paper. The cause of this indifference has arisen in a great measure from the fact that our "Canadas" and "Ontarios" were facetiously endeavoring to impress upon our minds the fact that we were designed for hewers of wood and drawers of water for the few professionals of our Province, that we had no rights which our masters were bound to respect; in fact, we were not represented in the press or the legislative halls,—and when every other interest was attended to, and nothing else turning up, there might be a possibility of an "opening up" of our cause in the mist and fog of an indefinite future. The farmers have made Canadian interests by their muscle, energy and perseverance; they have taken the tree from the stump and made the land to bring forth; have contributed more than any other class, or all of them put together, to make the country prosperous, and what we want is fair play, equal rights, and we shall be satisfied with nothing less. We want a paper to support our interests boldly, fearlessly, with Canadian prosperity and progress as the basis, centre and circumference. Do not be afraid of that puerile and hackneyed cry of "disloyalty," but stand square up for the Canadian farmers' welfare, and I predict for you a warm and generous support. It is said of a certain man who would not provide for his own household, that he had denied the faith and was worse than an infidel. Is it surprising that with no press, no representation, with studied and persistent deception and misrepresentation of our position, that we, as a class, are not "posted" and indifferent. We have the power; let us wield it! M. W. BROWN. Paris, Feb. 22, 1872.

FARMERS' CLUBS are springing up throughout the northern counties. Fullerton has taken the lead, and meetings of the Society are regularly held, and matters in regard to agriculture fully and profitably discussed. In the A. C. bank settlement of Downie, a club is established, and also one in Hibbert.

Breeders' Column.

WE ARE pleased to notice that Col. Taylor, of this city has purchased from Wallcott & Campbell, of New York Mills, for the sum of \$2000, "Earl of Oxford," 9985, got by "Duke of Geneva;" dam, "10th Lady of Oxford," by "10th Duke of Thorndale." Some of this stock has been in such demand that they have been taken from the States to Europe. The Col. is laying the foundation of a fine herd.

WE HEAR that Mr. Carr, of Stackhouse, England, a celebrated breeder of Short Horns, is now staying with Hon. David Christie on a visit to observe the agricultural interests of Canada.

MESSES. Birrell & Johnston, Pickering, have sold their 1st prize bull calf "Bell Duke 2nd" (got by "Bell Duke of Oxford," out of "Mara," by "the Priest,") to Mr. Jeffrey, of Whitby, for \$245.

MANY breeders are much troubled at this season of the year with lice on their cattle. As a remedy, dust them all over with wood-ashes, and then note that this information is worth to you far more than your yearly subscription to our paper.

AT THE sale last year of part of the herd of Mr. McIntosh, Havering Park, England, he mentioned that he had that day been offered 2000 guineas for the American bull "3rd Duke of Geneva," bred by Mr. Sheldon, of Geneva, N.Y. Mr. McIntosh refused the tempting offer! and as this is the highest price ever offered for a bull, we place it on record as an encouragement to Canadian breeders to persevere. There is no reason why our breeders should not raise very valuable tribes of Short Horns, but to do this they must use bulls of fashionable pedigrees as well as animals that please the eye.

BIG HEIFER.

Mr. Wm. Humphries of the township of Percy has a Durham heifer that weighed 999 pounds when 13 months and 2 days old. Who can beat that?

LIVE STOCK.—Messrs. McKenzie & Fisher, Hyde Park, London, bought last week from Mr. T. Baxter, Hamilton, a short-horn Durham bull, eighteen months old, and weighing nearly 1600 pounds.

Notice.

On Jan'y 24th, we received a letter from Jas. Gardener, with no post office mark inside or out. The writer will please let us know where it came from. It is a source of very great loss to us, that postmasters do not stamp letters clearly; sometimes they are not stamped at all. Papers are sent in without notices or even the post mark. We have not as yet been able to move the Postal authorities to act, but still hope to do so. The mere naming of a township is no guide to us, and we particularly request parties to name their post office.

Another envelope came to us on the 1st of February containing \$1 in four quarters—scrip. It had no name or address. The post office stamp seems to be Summerston. We will be obliged if the party will let us know who they are by Postal Card.

SITTING HENS.

By allowing the hens to sit in the nest in which other hens have been in the habit of laying, they will be crowded by hens that resort to the nest for the purpose of depositing their eggs; and in a majority of cases, eggs will be broken and their place supplied by others laid a week or ten days after the hen commenced sitting; so that when the eggs begin to be hatched, there will remain eggs which need several days' more heat; and the result is, a small brood of chickens, and a lot of worthless eggs.

Put the sitting hen into a separate apartment, which may be a separate building, or an old harness-room, or a stall boarded up.

ANCIENT SHORTHORNS.

A reprint of the Sale Catalogue of Mr Charles Colling's Shorthorns, which took place at Ketton, Co. of Durham, England, in the year 1810, appeared some time ago. The "rise and progress" of the breed may be said to date from this event; it was the first sale of any Shorthorn or Teeswater stock that realized prices considerably beyond the ordinary market value, which at that time was about £20 for a good common or dairy cow, while beef was quoted at Smithfield market the day after the sale at from five to six shillings per stone of 8 lbs., exclusive of offal.

The lapse of time tells strongly against a very accurate description being given of the stock; as few persons then present are now living, recourse must be had to written accounts, which will be submitted to eye-witnesses of the sale, and added to, or corrected before publication. Much of the information given is entirely new to the public, and every endeavor has been made to render it trustworthy. A few observations concerning the cattle of the north, previous to the present century, may not be uninteresting. One of the earliest works published on live stock is called "Leonard Mascall's Government of Cattle," printed in black letters, 1633. It was the text book of several subsequent works, and many of its precepts and practices still hold good. The author, after mentioning that there are many diversities of cattle, "both white and red, mighty of body, and of great courage," gives, as the best descriptions, quotations from Mago of Carthage, Columella, and Stephanus, all of whom wrote most minute particulars of cattle, prior to the Christian era. Mago says, "Bulls ought to be gentle, and of a meane age, with a quick looke; his horns to be more shorte, like wise his neck more fleshie than an ox." "his forehead velvet, eyes great and large, mouzell blacke, nostrils open and wide, dewlappe great in hanging almost down to his knees, his breast round and big, shoulders large and deep, belly big, ribs wide and open, reins large, back straight and flat, with a little bending towards the rumpe, thighe round, legs straight and well trust, rather somewhat short than long, his tail long and well haired, and to be briefe, his body to be thicke and short. Columella saith, 'a cow of estimation ought to be large and long bodied, gentle, having a large and deep belly, broad forehead and black open eyes, legges short and thick, and her breast deepe;' and Stephanus mentions, 'that, the browne color mixt with white spots is good; great cleane horns, hayre somewhat crumpled, thighe thick and round, her udderen large and deepe, and her neck long and thick.'

It is generally considered that cattle were imported into the North of England by the Danes, prior to the Norman Conquest. Other importations followed, more especially in the Holderness district; and a similarity of character has frequently been observed between the cattle in northern Europe and in the north of England. So recently as 1838, Mr. Torr, while travelling in Holland, visited Utrecht Fair, and saw a large number of animals "fully resembling ordinary Shorthorns; they were rare milkers, had tolerable formation, a good skin, mellow handle, and nice waxy horns, and with every variety of color."

The rich grazing land along the valley of the Tees would naturally be the home of good cattle. Mr. Bailey, the Durham historian, says, in 1810, "the cattle both sides of the Tees have been known by the appellation of the Teeswater breed." About 1740, their color was red and white, and white with a little red about the neck, or roan. This color being similar to those of the present improved breed of Shorthorns, makes it probable that they are descendants of the same "race." Mr. John Wright, born at Lowfields, near Catterick, in 1784, a well-known judge, and who was originally proposed as

the author of the Herd Book, says, that his earliest recollections of Shorthorns were large, massive, expansive cows, with great width and substance, hardy constitutions, mostly red and white spotted, white bodies, necks spotted with red or roan, ears red and head white, frequently black noses and rather long, waxy horns.

Nature when left alone generally reproduces herself. There is now in existence a herd of pedigree Shorthorns at Walton Hall, Staffordshire, which were originally obtained from Mr. Geo. Cowling of Ricknall Grange, Darlington, who bred from Teeswater cattle far back into the last century, and used in later years bulls of the Colling's, Charge's, and, lastly, of the "Princess" stock. His herd was sold in 1842, and some of the stock eventually found its way to Walton Hall, where it has been bred in and in for the last twenty years. The owner of the herd writes, "Farmers about here think white cows have delicate constitutions, but I am also convinced that they are nearly always good breeders and good milkers. 'The bulls that I have used have nearly all been white; my cattle are now mostly white, and so much alike, that it is difficult to tell one from another. I have a few with light roan and dark roan necks, and a few white with red spots.'

Some of the Teeswater cattle were crossed with a bull that came out of Holland. Cully, in 1785, remarks, "I remember Mr. Michael Dobison, of the Isle, Selgefild, who went in the early part of his life into Holland, in order to buy bulls. Those he brought over, I have been told, did much service in improving the breed; and this Mr. Dobison, and his neighbors, even in my day, were noted for having the best breeds of short-horned cattle, and sold their bulls and heifers for great prices." Sir William St. Quintin and Sir James Pennymann had stock with this Dutch blood. Coates, in the fifth volume of the Herd Book, gives the final cross of Bates' Wild Eyes tribe thus:—Descended from Mr. Michael Dobison's stock, which he purchased in Holland above a century ago. Other breeders afterwards imported livery (bad colored, coarse) fleshed animals, with huge buttocks and hips; these did much harm; and most of the old Teeswater breeders endeavored to avoid this evil.

Culley says in 1803, "The great obstacle to improvement was that no bull should be used to the same stock more than three years; if kept longer, the breed would be too near akin and produce tender diminutive stock liable to disorders." Blakewell (born 1726, died 1795) was "one of the earliest to upset these notions. For more than twenty years he had no cross, and the best stock was bred from the closest affinities, neither were they less hardy or liable to disorders." Both the brothers Colling bred Leicester Sheep or "Blakewell's improved Dishleys," and in all probability, the success of his principles induced others in the North to try them. Culley goes on to say, "It has been the misfortune of Shorthorn breeders to pursue the largest and biggest-boned ones for best. Their ideas are now enlarged, and I am glad to see my hopes well founded. In a few years rapid improvement has taken place in the breeding of Shorthorn cattle, and I have reason to think they will surpass their rivals the Longhorns, which excel in hide, hair, and quality of beef, as Shorthorns do in quantity of beef, tallow, and milk." Mr. Bailey, in his account of the Durham cattle, writes, "The visitants of Blakewell having seen what he had done with the Longhorns by selection, and at how much earlier ages they got fattened, were induced to try what could be done by similar means with the Shorthorns, and several selections were made for the purpose with great success."

(TO BE CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT.)

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