

BEEF FOR EXPORT.

The attempt to open a market for Canadian fresh meat in Europe has been a success. The butchers, dealers and graziers of that country throw many obstacles in the way, and endeavored to depreciate its value, and to cause an unfavorable impression in regard to it. Various were the devices used to check the trade, but the prices at which it has been sold have increased, despite the attempt to desecrate it. The great difficulty in obtaining animals large and fat enough, is the only obstacle now in the way of our reaping a rich harvest from our beef. Our aim must be to increase the size of our animals, and feed better. The cost of feeding, shipping, selling and killing a small ox, is about the same as the cost of a large one. To do this, we must breed and feed better. No good farmer can go through the markets of our cities and towns and notice the large quantities of poor, small, thin carcasses to be found in the stalls, the farmers' wagons and sleighs, in the fall and winter, without knowing the loss that must be sustained by producing such a lot of bone and hide for such a small quantity of consumable meat. We must endeavor to change this system as soon as possible. There are but very few farmers who have yet raised an ox that has been fit for export to Europe.

We may improve the stock we now have by better feed. We let our cattle degenerate in the winter. An animal should be gaining from its birth till slaughtered. An animal will make more beef and return more profit, if it is kept thriving for 18 months, than if fed as most of our cattle are and kept for years. Breed has a great deal to do with making stock profitable. The Short-horns are now generally admitted to be the most profitable stock for the grazier on rich pasture lands. There are other breeds (such as the Devons) that have great merits. Short-horns are now to be procured at such prices that any neighborhood can easily command one. We have seen pure bred bull calves sell at \$15 and \$20 each. Should any of our readers in distant localities desire a cheap one, if they were to make their wants known they would probably find a response. Thus, all may improve their stock that desire to do so. Of course, the choicest animals will command higher prices, according to age and merit. There are always some enterprising persons that will aim to have the best. It is a good thing that a strong rivalry exists in the possession of the best Durhams. England, Canada, the United States and Australia may well feel proud of the spirit of emulation that exists in this struggle for supremacy. The enormous prices that

the choicest Short-horns have brought have so completely bewildered and astonished the plain farmer, that he can scarcely believe the prices have been really paid. Twenty, thirty and forty thousand dollars for a single animal. Yet such prices may be paid, and profit result from it, under particular circumstances. There are but very few in Canada that can afford to aim at being owner of the best herd. There always will be a demand for the best. Their descendants tend to improve other stock.

Those that have commenced to improve their stock have found the advantage and profit of so doing, and are desiring further improvement. The farmers in Canada are as progressive as any in the world; there may be some more wealthy. There is a vast part of Canada where a pure bred bull has never yet been introduced; they are only very sparsely introduced into the States; even in many parts of England they are only heard of, not seen, by the peasantry.

When we were in France we were quite as much astonished to see the small, inferior-looking cattle, as anything we noticed. What farmer there could think of improving stock, in that country, where ten acres is a large farm, and the majority under five. We presume the whole world must eventually look to the English herds as a parent stock for their improvement and meat. Probably that improvement will be taken up by the different Governments, as the peasantry are entirely too poor and have too small farms to afford to import animals. You may depend if there were any better bred animals in the world, Englishmen would have found them out and introduced them long ere this. We would not advise our readers to plunge into the breeding of Short-horns too hurriedly, but when you are sure you can afford to keep a Durham cow get one and not before. Or you might join with your neighbors and purchase a young bull. Then keep your cattle growing from November till May, and you will be able to realize more than double the price for your beef that you now receive.

Canadian beef in England brings 12c. to 18c. English beef brings 25c. per pound. Let us make English beef, or beef as good as they can there. We can do it. Our grass, grain and climate are as suitable. Let us improve our stock, and feed better. We can make quite as good beef as they can in England. Upwards of ten thousand quarters have been shipped weekly from Canada and the States. This will be greatly increased. —*Farmer's Advocate.*

At his residence, Ferguson's Lake, near Grand River, Richmond Co., on Sunday the 29th inst., JOHN FERGUSON,

in the 70th year of his age. The deceased leaves a widow, two sons and five daughters to mourn the loss of a kind husband and an affectionate parent. His illness was of long standing, extending over a period of two years. Yet he bore all with Christian resignation to Divine will.

BREEDING TROTTERS.

(From Iowa Free Stock Gazette.)

THE disposition to ride a hobby to death belongs to horsemen and breeders as well as to other classes of men. Common, hard, horse sense, is, I take it, about as scarce among horsemen as anywhere else. There is, to-day, among a certain class of breeders a hobby horse that may be called *Messenger Blood*, and he is ridden well nigh to death. This blood should not be under estimated. Its value is unquestionable; but it is not the only valuable trotting blood, and it might be hard to prove, taking all things into consideration, whether it can be said to-day to be the best blood to profitably breed from. On this naked question I do not know that I am competent to express an opinion and therefore shall express none. Great as the *Messenger* blood undoubtedly is, there may be a serious question as to whether it uniformly bring as many good trotters as other strains. *Messenger* himself as a progenitor of a race of trotters in the United States was undoubtedly above any other one horse; but whether combinations from other sources have not at least produced better strains to breed from to-day for uniform results may be an open question. Certain it is however that all excellence is not in the *Messenger* families — nor indeed is it in any one family, although one might think that it was, to read the articles written by the various champions of the various families of trotters. The bugles of the Bashaws, the Morgans, the Goldusts, the Clays, the Abdallahs, the Hamblentons, the Pilots, the Morrills, the Mambrinos, the Black-hawks and many others have been blown successively, simultaneously, repeatedly, vehemently, and discordantly. When the noise of the storm subsides, as it sometimes does, some droppings of truth may be found, which point to several conclusions. One is, that all the excellence is not confined to any one family. Another is that judicious crossing among all the families is beneficial. And still another is, that as yet, we are a long way from that happy time when the breeding of a trotter from any of the known American families may become as certain as the breeding of the race horse from the thoroughbred. I doubt very much whether the American trotter can to-day be bred with more certainty than in the days from Dutchman to Lady Suffolk.

Improved trainings, showing, tracks and