

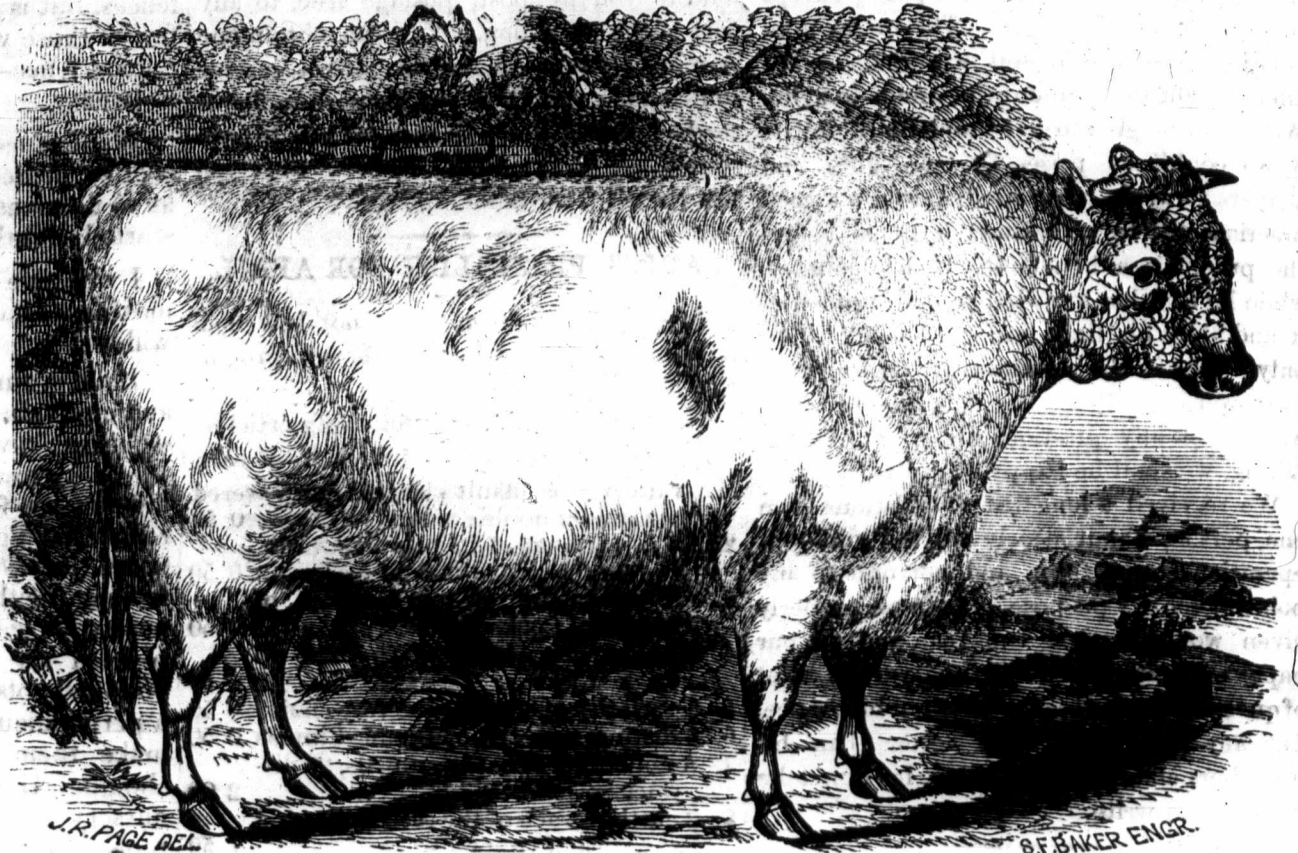
DURHAMS.

In a recent number we gave you the representation of one of the late Alexander's celebrated cows. We now give you a representation of one of his bulls. We never saw that gentleman, still we have great respect for him, for the high position he gained, not only as a breeder but as a gentleman of sterling honor. His stock was second to none on this Continent. We have not yet heard whether they will be retained or sold. If any of our subscribers think of investing money in thorough bred stock, get something that is really good. When we first commenced to collect good stock, we heard of some low priced thorough bred animals, and contemplated purchasing because the price asked was low, but consulted with older heads in the business, and they said they were not worth having. We did not purchase, but we will tell you that experience has convinced us that that remark was true. We see

in a paper published in this Province, representations of animals, no doubt brought out to bring such stock before the eyes of the public. Galloway cattle are but in poor demand, either in the States or Canada, and if owned by other persons than those possessing them, they would be described by the very paper that is now making such a fuss about them. If you purchase them, purchase for beef, and you will not be astray. If you expect to realize large prices for breed or for milk you will find yourselves in error. The Durham stands 1st on the list.

CULTURE OF THE POTATO.

As already remarked, it is important for successful and rapid planting that the soil be uniformly mellow, with a smooth surface. It may then be evenly furrowed and fitted for easy covering. A common one-horse plow is usually employed for making the furrows, but is objectionable from the fact of its throwing the earth out on one side, and leaving a flat bottom. A shovel plow, or any implement operating like one, is better, because it throws the earth evenly on both sides, leaves a quantity of mellow earth in the furrow, and has a sharp, narrow trough at the bottom, causing the plants to stand in a perfectly straight row if the furrowing has been skillfully done. The person who drops, may fix the exact place of every set with his foot as he passes by, pressing it into the mellow earth. It is said to be better to place the skin side down and the cut side up, because this enables the roots to descend better, but we have now tested this point by trial. Different modes are adopted for covering the rows. If the furrows are deep enough, and the sets have been pressed into the soil, the cover-



ing is sometimes effected by using an inverted harrow drawn by one horse passing between the rows and covering two rows at once. Any harrow with very short teeth will answer. A slower, but more perfect way, is to use a cultivator, furnished with mould-board teeth, taking out the central one at the place of the row and setting the others so as to throw the earth upon the furrow. Still another way is to cover with a light plow, but unless the work is very carefully done, the seed will be buried two or three times deeper at some places than others, and the rows will be uneven. On a small scale, it will be obviously best to cover by hand. When many acres are to be planted, it would prove a matter of economy to procure a potato-planting machine. This machine cuts the potatoes, drops and buries them at one operation; and if they have been selected of uniform size, whatever that size may be, they are deposited evenly.

The depth to which the covering should be done is obviously a matter of considerable importance. If too deep, the shoots will be long, and reaching the surface and the general growth will be retarded; if too shallow, there will be danger of injury from drouth. Generally, potatoes do best when planted as early as good pulverization will admit, at which time the earth is commonly moist enough to allow depth of covering of not more than two or two and a half inches. How far a deeper or shallower covering would effect the amount of the crop, under varying circumstances and seasons, would be worthy a series of experiments.

A great point is to avoid, as much as possible, the labor of hand-hoeing. Much may be done by previous clean cultivation. The next thing is to harrow the

whole surface with a short-toothed harrow, (or with the teeth of a common harrow driven back,) just before the plants come up. Generally about this time the weeds in the soil will be just making their appearance. A good harrowing, when they are only half an inch high, will be incomparably better and more effective than after they have grown some inches. This practice obviates the necessity of early hoeing, as it kills the weeds in the row. Some cultivators harrow again when the plants are two or three inches high; for, although a few of the plants are injured or broken, they soon recover, and the saving of hand labor is of greater consequence. If done with an old harrow, the teeth of which have become rounded and worn so as to point backwards, there will be less danger of cutting the plants—this second growth of weeds being so small as to be easily destroyed, while the potato plants are scarcely injured. It is important that these operations be done exactly at the right time, as a few days would alter the whole aspect. The subsequent cultivation may be performed by suitable horse cultivators, for throwing the earth towards the rows and rounding the surface slightly.

Any one may become thoroughly satisfied of the great superiority of the routine just described, namely clean soil, deep cultivation, mellow and smooth surface and hoeing by harrowing—over the more common practice of plowing shallow, forming a hard or cloddy surface, planting wholly by hand, and imperfectly at that, forming crooked rows, which cannot be cultivated closely to the plants, and hoeing by hand when the weeds are a foot high—by observing the results side by side, and comparing the heavy cost and meager crop of the last described mode