

for every valuable large horse raised in the country ten have proved almost worthless. For our own use a horse of fifteen hands or smaller is, no doubt, the best, and breeding such will prove most profitable. While the chance that healthy, well-formed mares will, at times, drop a foal, that from some unusual vigor of constitution will far outgrow both sire and dam, is not a small one. A breeding mare should be perfectly healthy, and sound in wind and limb, with a large body, broad hips, and a full udder—these are indispensable points, if she is handsome so much the better. The stud should be equally healthy, without spot or blemish, short, compact and strong, and if of handsome shape and high carriage, with good trotting points, he should be preferred to the one who, with long legs and narrow chest, may run a good race. A first rate English hunter, a small Morgan, or a well bred Canadian, would be of great service in our County—but of all the rest I have a poor opinion. Here is the advice given by one of the most successful of English breeders,—“Gradual improvements will always be followed by ultimate success, but violent attempts to effect a sudden change will always result in disappointment.”

Of neat stock and sheep it is more difficult to speak with precision, for they are kept in subjection by man, not simply to aid him in his labour and contribute to his amusement, but they are expected to furnish him with food. If a farmer then wishes to improve his stock, let us say of horned cattle, his first step must be carefully to consider what particular sub-division of this branch of husbandry it will be most to his advantage to pursue—“what will best suit my means and the capabilities of my farm.” When he has fully made up his mind, let him select the breed that possesses, in the greatest perfection, the qualities he would have in his herd. But these good points are, as I said before, sure to be combined with some bad ones. If a herd could be bred whose cows would milk like Ayrshires, make butter like Alderneys, and keep flesh like Durhams, the males fattening at an early age in poor pasture, the fortunate breeder might demand his own price for such paragons, and perfection in neat stock be at last obtained. This, however, is an impossibility. Having made his selection, let him procure the best specimens of that breed within his reach. He should not be content to purchase an animal because it is called by the name of the vanity he wishes; but he should satisfy himself not only that the animal, but the herd from which he selects, has, in perfection, the points claimed for it.\* He must never forget, both when

purchasing and breeding, that there is a tendency, in all improved stock, to breed back, as it is termed, that is, return to its original or wild state; and nothing but intelligent supervision and selection will counteract it.

I will now consider what it is that our farmers require from their neat stock, as best suited to the mixed plan of husbandry here followed. Firstly, we want a breed good as milkers, and the milk profitable either to the cheese or butter maker. Secondly, good working cattle, strong, quick and docile, that will fatten profitably when full grown; and thirdly, as our pastures are not by any means first rate at any season of the year, and at midsummer always very short, we must have a breed that are not gross feeders. Now, which of the famous English herds shall we select,—not the Durham or Short Horn, they are not good milkers, either in quantity or quality; it is the opinion of an experienced breeder in Maine, that not one in six was worth raising for the dairy. They are not good working cattle, being slow and hard keepers; and they only develop their good qualities of fattening at an early age when they have the best of feed both in summer and winter. We will exclude them then as all unsuited to us, though when so placed that their good qualities can have fair play, they are probably the handsomest and most profitable cattle in the world. I must be careful how I speak of the Alderneys in Bridgetown, but since I hear their champion is absent, I will take heart to speak a few truths about them. I once before, from this place, stated that it was not a breed suited to our wants. Now, hear what is said by Mr. Norton of New York, who imported, and now has one of the finest herds in America, and who would naturally be disposed to regard them in the most favourable light:—

“The pure Alderney cattle come mostly from the Island of Jersey, in the British Channel, where they have been kept free from mixture for a hundred years—no other breeds being allowed on the island. Similar cattle are found on the other Channel Islands, but all more or less mixed with other breeds. About two thousand head of cows and heifers are annually sold from the island, the area of which is not much greater than that of one of our largest New England towns, at an average of £5 sterling each, making £100,000 sterling, or \$500,000, from this source alone.

The Alderney cows are small and thin, with delicate deer-like limbs—generally light yellow or fawn color—always poor in flesh when in milk, but taking fat readily when dry. They are remarkable for gentleness and docility—easily kept, and usually give milk nearly up to the time of calving.

The important question in relation to these cows, is their value compared with other breeds. It will be conceded at that for fattening, for labor, and for furnishing milk for sale, they are inferior to almost all other breeds.

In Great Britain they are kept mostly by the wealthy, to supply their own tables with milk, cream and butter. Colman says: Every nobleman and large land-owner keeps one or more tethered on his lawn, for family use.’ They are also kept by many London dairymen in the proportion of one Alderney to ten other cows, to color the milk for market.

My own experience, after many years, has led me to the conclusion that for butter-making they are superior to any others, yielding more in quality and of better quality.

In all other breeds, and also among grades, superior milkers and butter-makers may be found, equalling in quality of butter, and giving more milk, and producing more butter, than most Alderneys. But there is no other breed known here that can always be relied on. I have never known an Alderney cow whose milk and butter had not the characteristics of the breed. They differ, as do others, in quantity, and somewhat in quality, but the peculiar color and quality are manifest in all.

The daily yield of milk of each cow, during their best milking period, varies from six to twelve quarts. This milk will make about one pound of butter to six quarts of milk. One pound from twelve quarts is not far from the average yield from other breeds.

The average product of butter from my cows in 1859, was a fraction over two hundred pounds each. The average product of the dairies of the State of New York, I think, is about one hundred and twenty pounds to each cow.

The premiums by the New York State Society for the greatest product, have been given to dairies producing about one hundred and eighty pounds each cow.

My cows have had no extra feed. In summer they are kept on grass only. In winter they have one feed daily of cut cornstalks, straw, or coarse hay, with a light sprinkling of bran, or cotton-seed meal, and two feeds of dry hay.

The average price for which my butters sold in 1859 was thirty-five cents. The price now is forty cents. In March and April, it is to be forty-three cents, by contract, in Boston.

In relation to any improvement in the stock, I am of the opinion that none can be made by crossing with any known breed. Increase in size, or an increased disposition to fatten, will be gained only at the expenses of a loss in cream and butter.

An analysis of numerous specimens of milk made in 1858 by Dr. S. R. Percy, under the direction of the New York Academy of Medicine, resulted as follows, viz: The milk from six of my Alderneys, taken indiscriminately, exhibited butter compared with the best other milk, as seventy-two to forty-seven, and compared with mixed country milk, as seventy-two to forty.”

This is exactly what I stated two years ago. They are first rate butter makers, and that is their only good quality.

The Ayrshires particularly, when bred so as to develop their milking qualities, are a good, hardy, profitable breed. But the milk is poor, though larger in quantity. The cows are very valuable to dairy-men when the sale of milk or cheese is his pursuit; but not the best where a mixed system of husbandry and dairy work is carried on. The oxen are small slow, and docile, and their beef is poor

\* It is better to breed from a slightly defective animal chosen from a good herd, than from a perfect animal out of a defective herd.