

offered to the Durhams than to other pure breeds, I need not further notice that part of his letter, than remark that, in my opinion it conclusively shews that, as the number of Durhams is far greater than other pure breeds in the country, they must be held generally speaking, in greater estimation, for all purposes, by the agriculturist; or why should their numbers be so much larger! As there has been the same opportunity afforded the farmer to patronise other breeds, why has he not availed himself of it?—for this simple reason that, the *Durhams*, on the whole, if properly selected and bred with skill and care pay better! It is a fact known to all, that the Durhams, from a herd of high character, and in an able breeder's hands, fetch a *far higher* price for breeding purposes than any other pure breed in this country. They are frequently sold, to my own knowledge, from \$150 to \$100—and even beyond that, I might safely go. Does any one ever hear of Herefords, Devons, or Ayrshires fetching that price in this country, or any thing near it? I think this circumstance alone is a pretty cogent reason for the Durhams being in greater numbers and more extensively patronised than other pure breeds. But there are excellencies in the breed, that I will now name, which doubtless induces people to patronise them so extensively.

In the first place there are no better milkers to be found, (this I have little doubt many of your readers will be surprised to hear, but which I am at any time ready to prove,) provided you set about procuring them the *right way*—that is by getting them from a *milking* family, for it is well known to all Durham breeders that, there are, as it were, two distinct families of the Durhams as regards their fattening and milking properties. The latter is kept up only by great care and skill being exercised in breeding. It is a well known fact that many Durham cows, where the breeder has been for years breeding exclusively for the shambles (that is to obtain a large weight at an early age) that the dam will scarcely rear her own calf. But those again like myself, who breed chiefly for milk make a very different selection in choosing an animal. I can produce

at the present time from the farm I am now on, thorough-bred Durhams that will give more and richer milk from the same pasture in a given number of months in the year, than any other breed upon the farm. And the variety consists of Durhams—grade Durhams—grade Devons, nearly thorough-bred (purchased of Mr. Tye) and grade Ayrshires, with two or three natives, so called; all selected with as much skill and care as I could exercise in regard to their milking qualities. The Durhams, and grade Durhams fill the pail the fullest and the longest throughout the season; and of the grade Devons—grade Ayrshires, and natives, I know not which bears the palm, as they are nearly equal. Every one, however, knows very well that the thoroughbred Ayrshires rank very high at home and abroad, and justly so for their milking properties; but for working oxen, or beef purposes the qualification for the one or the other is rarely thought of, or looked for to any extent in that breed. Not that I mean to say they are not occasionally met with, as in all other breeds.

Again, the thriftiness of this breed I have heard spoken of as well as of the Devon as superior to the Durham, or in other words, that they will thrive better upon a less quantity of food. This I stoutly demur to! Let the conformation, or frame of each animal be the same, as near as may be, and with the same weight of food to each for a given time, and I dare hazard any thing in favour of the Durham, if properly selected, coming out the heaviest. I presume that Mr. Tye will not, for a moment, deny that the *Durhams* are universally allowed to come out heavier cattle at an early age than any other breed. This is an admitted fact, and has been proved often and again at the Smithfield shows. The Herefords it is also well known have come close upon the heels of the Durhams in this respect,—and of late years the older cattle have taken equal premiums with the Durhams; and in one or two instances have, I believe, carried the larger number of premiums as beef animals. But they have not all along continued to do so. But who ever heard of any one going into Here-