

extensive breeder, contribute the principal share of those exhibited. This hardy breed of animals would seem to be specially adapted to Canada—they yield the very finest of beef, and are pretty good milkers; they thrive on moderate food, and would fatten where another animal might almost starve—but, nevertheless, the “black cattle” do not appear to find the favour they deserve with our farmers; it is true they are not quite as “handsome as paint,” but their many good qualities ought to make up for their plain appearance. In Herefords, Mr. Stone, of Guelph, was, we believe, the sole exhibitor; and we cannot help wondering how it is this fine breed is not more largely encouraged by our agriculturists, as they possess nearly all the best qualities of the other breeds, while they are more hardy and fatten readily on a less allowance of food; and those owned by Mr. Stone are a credit to his judgment in cattle. Of the grade or half-bred cattle, the specimens shown were many and good; while as regards fat cattle, some were exhibited of very superior character; and one in particular, bred and fed, we believe, by Mr. Vine, of St. Catharines, would have done credit by its proportions and handling to a Smithfield show *just about Christmas time*.

It would be impossible, within our limits, to do anything like justice to the exhibition of Sheep, which, both as to number and quality, may be safely pronounced as among the best, if not actually the very best, which Canada has witnessed; and whether considered as to wool for the coarser and finer fabrics made for home use by home manufacturers, or as to mutton, it would be difficult to find anywhere a collection of sheep better than what was on view during the Exhibition week. Much as Canada has advanced in the breed of horses and cattle, and greatly so in the breed of pigs, it is doubtful whether we have not made still greater progress in our breed of sheep. For example, in Leicesters, which continue to hold their ground as prime favorites, Messrs. Miller, Scarboro'; Smith, York; Ackrow, Etobicoke; Weatherstone, Bronte; and Blanchard, Nelson, produced animals that would command praise from the most critical judge in the old country. The same may be said of the Cotswold sheep exhibited by Messrs. Miller and Smith, quite worthy of a place side by side with their Leicesters, and by Mr. Stone, of Guelph. The Shropshire and Hampshire Downs, shown by Messrs. Spencer, Whitby, and Miller, Markham, were all first-class animals, and their owners literally “skinned the lamb” as regards a monopoly of prizes in this useful breed of sheep, second only, though some say equal, to

the far-famed Southdowns in the excellence of the mutton they supply. But in the popular and admired Southdowns, Mr. Stone, of Guelph, as heretofore, heads the prize list in every section but one, where he gets third place for his ewe lambs; and Mr. Paxton, Whitby, with Mr. Forfar, Scarboro', take next honors; and assuredly this class (XV.) was as greatly admired as anything on four legs exhibited among the live stock. Fine wool is a necessity, and our looms must have it, or fail to make a cloth that will sell and pay the manufacturer; and therefore the Spanish and other varieties of Merino sheep have to be tolerated—as a necessary evil, we were about to say, for really the ungainly figure and uncompromising countenance of your high-bred Merino is almost an evil, and leads to the wish that fine wool could be produced through a less ugly medium. But, as Merinos go, those exhibited were very fine animals; but it is of no use to argue down the personal dislike we feel to the whole family. No doubt it is quite wrong to yield to prejudice; but, “I do not love thee, Dr. Fell,” is a sufficiently good argument all the same. The fat sheep were also fine specimens of mere carcase. The writer pleads guilty to a weakness for well fed mutton, but it must be a Hampshire Down, or, better still, a Southdown; but what are termed, and prizes given to as, “fat sheep,” he at once hands over to the chandler. There was, it appears, a good deal of feeling in this department, occasioned by alleged unfair shearing of certain sheep of undoubted merit, to which prizes would have been adjudged but for this circumstance.

Nothing is more significant of the great strides made in the breeds of animals, than the wonderful improvement achieved in the way of Pigs. In our remarks on this subject last year, we drew a comparison between the “aboriginal” pig of Canada, say twenty years syne, with his present representative; and if ever comparisons were “odious,” they are as applied to our pigs, “past and present;” for certainly the “porkers,” large breed and small, which met the eye at the recent Exhibition, were models of what a pig ought to be, and can be brought to be, by attention in breeding and a liberal care for his food. An extensive pork-packer enunciated the axiom, that “good breed and good feed” was sure to result in good pork; and if one may judge from the pigs exhibited here the other day, this axiom is likely to make its way through the length and breadth of the country; for let every farmer in Canada learn, understand and practise what we affirm, that not only in pigs, but in sheep, cattle, and especially horses, *the best bred animal will always be the most remunerative!* It would be difficult to say which were the best pigs