

exhibition does not appear in itself superior, except, perhaps in number or magnitude, to some of the best of its predecessors. "After Baker St.," one observes, "it takes some time before the eye can do full justice to cattle in their new Christmas home, as the magnitude of the place sadly dwarfs them." The Devons lost strength by the absence of the wonted Holkham entries; the Herefords were not specially strong in oxen and steers, lacked beauty, and a few more good looking females; while eight or nine of the latter rather atoned for the paucity and second-rate stamp of the short-horns. The sheep were numerous and generally excellent, the Southdowns carrying off the palm. The pigs too were quite up to the high standard usually looked for on these occasions. The extensive ranges of galleries were filled to repletion by implements and machines of all descriptions, having an application to agriculture. In looking more minutely into the reports which have only just reached us, if they contain anything novel or that would be particularly interesting to our readers, we shall again refer to this exhibition in the next number.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES CATTLE SHOW.

The Exhibition which came off the beginning of this December, may now be considered as firmly established, and will form no mean rival of the celebrated and long established Metropolitan fat Cattle Show generally known as the Smithfield. The Birmingham show this year, judging from the several reports we have seen, appears to have been superior to most, if not all, of its predecessors.

The sheep were more numerous than on any former occasion, and the quality is stated as superior, particularly the Downs and Shropshires. Cotswolds were also excellent, but the Leicesters, from some cause or other, did not appear to their usual advantage. The *Mark Lane Express* speaks of the two classes of fat wethers of the Shropshire breed, as the finest ever seen together." It further observes; "Great and grand in their appearance, the Shropshires only require more uniformity of expression," to tell more in public; while the individual excellencies of almost every trio were amply sufficient to give them some standard of their own."

The Herefords, as was to be expected, mustered in large numbers, and as a breed were remarkable for their characteristic points, and uniform rate of fatness. The Shorthorns formed an excellent show both as to number and quality. Mr. Eastwood's superb cow, which we had the gratification of seeing two years ago at the Royal English Show at Canterbury has at last been well prepared for the butcher. She is described as being a beautiful, compact, hardy,

and silky touching animal, 8 feet 9 inches in girth, and which before she was tied up in order to fit her for the tender mercies of the butcher, had given birth to three calves." The Devons were not numerous, and as a class, were inferior to others. The best animal in the yard was bred and owned in Scotland, and was a cross. The *Express* remarks:—

"But there is nothing like the force of a good example, and the best beast in Bingley Hall was again declared to be from over the Border. This ox, the property of Mr. James Stewart, of Aberdeen, is not even pure bred, but another illustration of that favourite cross—about the best out—between the Shorthorn and Aberdeen polled. He is a bullock more remarkable for extraordinary size than handsome appearance or completeness of points. At the first glance, indeed, there is nothing very taking about him, but he has fed well, and his great girth of 9 feet 9 inches will afford some index of his immense growth and development. Nevertheless the beast appears to stand rather high on the leg, and is by no means as even as some of those brought out at the last against him. At now nearly five years old, his owner candidly admits that amongst other condiments *treacle* has been an item in his very varied bill of fare. However, although no such special favourite of our own, the Aberdeen cross triumph is a very signal one, as one of the steers brought out against him for the Gold Medal was the Birmingham and Smithfield Club Gold Medal steer of last year, on the occasion the best of the aged Shorthorn Ox Class. This beast, now the property of Mr. Swinnerton, won the All England premium at Rugby, on Thursday, and a few months since was the best of all the fat stock at Leicester, where we spoke of him as terribly gone off. In the interim he has freshened up wonderfully, and showed almost as well as ever again in his old quarters, though doomed to suffer a double or treble defeat on his last year's performance, as he was not even the best Shorthorn.

Our readers will form an idea of the magnitude of this exhibition from the fact that the awards including cups, amounted to £1825. The display of Poultry was very fine and extensive, and the "Dog Show," a separate institution however, but held at the same time, attracted a vast crowd of spectators.

CANADA AT THE GREAT EXHIBITION

From the Canadian News, Jan. 1.

We have been favoured with a sight of the report of the Jurors of the late International Exhibition as it is now passing through the press, and we are pleased to notice the very laudatory terms in which the labours of S. Wm. Logan, Mr. Chamberlin, and Dr. Hurlbut have been mentioned, the Canadian Department being characterized "as one of the most complete illustrations of the resources of a color,