

els per acre. Corn, generally late, owing to the wet weather of the spring; yet if the frost hold off, a fair crop may be expected.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Agriculturist*.

Blackrock, N. Y., Sept. 28th, 1851.

SIR,—

I shall be much obliged if you will send me your paper containing Mr. Parsons' letter on Short Horns, as I have mislaid the one you sent me.

In the first place I will ask Mr. Parsons if he read the account of the Smithfield Show, last Christmas? If he did I am a *little surprised* at his taking *credit* to the Short Horns for "*early maturity*," when the triumph for Herefords was so *obvious* that the most *obstinate* were obliged to give way. Mr. Heath's two year old steer that took the first prize, in the first class, was exactly the same dimensions, and varied but little in weight to the three year old Short Horn that took the first prize in the second class. I refer you to the *Mark Lane Express* of Dec. 17, 1850. This is "*proof*" not puffing. I also refer you to the same paper the following week, to an account of ten two year old Hereford steers shown at the Birmingham Cattle Show, Dec. 18, 1850, by Sir Francis Lawley, Bart, estimated by the best judges to weigh forty scores in their beef. I ask Mr. P. whether he ever saw ten Short Horns of that age and weight? If so, I shall be obliged if he will *refer you to the place and time of his seeing or hearing of them*. If Mr. Parsons has been so extensive a breeder and feeder as his letter seems to say, the prominent names I shall bring forward in my communications in the defence of the abused Herefords will be very familiar to him. They are men of the highest standing, and will not deviate from the truth; such men whose veracity is without doubt.

The first name I shall introduce to you is Wm. Fisher Hobbs, Esq, of Marks Hall, Essex; a man well known to the agricultural world. The following is an extract from one of his letters to me, which I send you, and please to preserve:—

"I am happy to correspond with you as a breeder of Hereford cattle, and I am pleased to

find that your views respecting them quite coincide with mine. When I commenced farming, I was an ardent admirer of the Short Horns, and was determined to have a first rate herd of them. I bought a number of first rate animals, as good blood as any in England. At the same sale (Lord Huntingfield's) I bought a few Hereford heifers, because they sold cheap. I kept these animals together for twelve months, and to my surprise the Short Horns could not live with the Herefords. The latter kept their condition, and improved, but the former soon began to decline. I therefore, contrary to my own inclination, sold off the Short Horns and kept to Herefords. I have now for several years been a breeder of them, and have at different times gone to great expense in purchasing heifers, and also hiring and purchasing bulls of the best blood."

Such a *trial* and such *proof* as this, is worth all the dicta of Mr. Parsons, and he will find that wherever they have been kept together, in several cases in England, this has been invariably the case, and which I shall prove in another communication. I will defy Mr. P. to *prove* that the Short Horns have been triumphant in any single instance.

I will next refer you to the Rev. J. R. Smythies near Colchester, Essex, who has frequently challenged to show against the Short Horns or Devons, for all purposes, in any way his opponents would meet him; giving them the opportunity to appoint the name of the person to take the animals for trial. All that he proposed, was, that he should be an *honest man*. He cared not whether he was a breeder of Short Horns, Devons or Herefords. These challenges were never accepted. I do not bring this forward as proof, but to show what opportunities breeders of Short Horns have had to show the *proof* of their superiority.

Mr. Wescan, of Creslon, Buckinghamshire, once sold twenty Hereford oxen for two thousand one hundred and fifty odd pounds. "I once stated this fact," says Mr. Smythies, "in a letter in the *Farmer's Journal* and in the *Mark Lane Express*, Feby. 19, 1849, which letter was ridiculed in a letter the following week, written by Mr. Henry Berry, who was a great advocate for the supremacy of short horns, as a perfect impossibility. A few days after this letter appeared, I received one from a gentleman staying at Creslon, containing an extract from Mr. Wescan's books, giving the date of sale, the names of the butchers they were sold to, and the sum paid for them, amounting together to the sum I have mentioned. Six of them were