

Stock Department.

Cross-bred Ox.

THE BEST OX OR STEER IN ANY CLASS AT THE SMITH FIELD CLUB SHOW, 1866

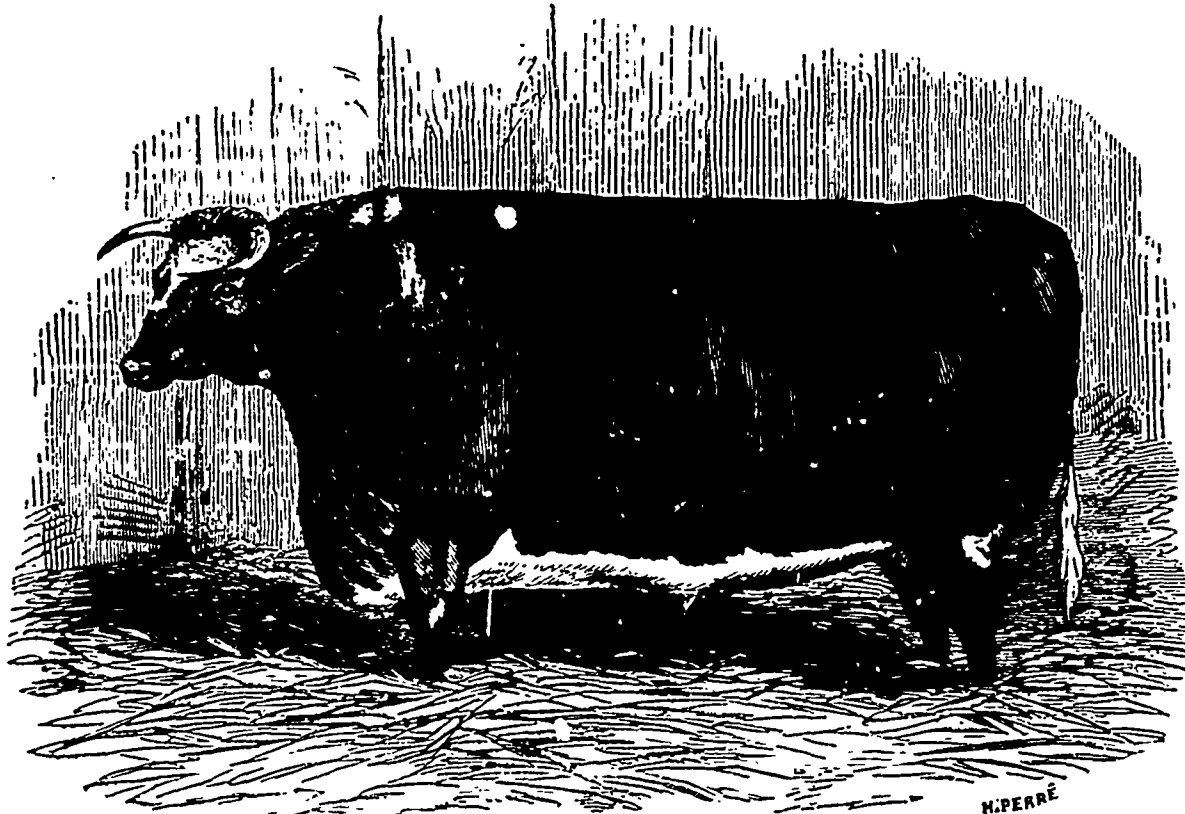
THE accompanying illustration represents a cross-bred ox, the offspring of a pure Short-Horn bull out of a third cross Short-Horn and Scotch polled cow. He was bred by Mr. A. Cowie, of Ellon, Aberdeenshire, who first exhibited him in July, 1863, as a yearling, and obtained for him the first prize at the National Society's Show at Aberdeen. Again in 1864 he obtained the first prize in his class at the Royal Northern Show, at Aberdeen. He then became

Judging Horses at Exhibitions.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—For many years past I have been more or less familiar and closely associated with that most noble and useful animal the horse, and have not unfrequently had my attention drawn to the injustice to which he is subject at our exhibitions; for many times the soundest and most perfect horses are discarded, and those of less merit, with blemished limbs, and in many respects inferior animals, are awarded the prizes. This is done in many instances by judges, or those who occupy that position for the time being, who have very little intimate and practical acquaintance with the horse, and whose favorable verdict is regulated by the general appearance of an animal in good order, with a sleek coat of glossy

size, not contracted nor brittle, and altogether presenting the promise of being sufficiently strong to stand our hard stone or plank roads, then let the note to that effect be entered; but if blemished, let a corresponding record be made in the book. After all the judges have thus separately completed the examination of the legs and hoofs of the various horses, let them step together and compare notes. If a majority have found any of the number very deficient in the feet or legs, it would be quite unnecessary to take off the horse's cover for further inspection. It matters little how perfect the animal may be otherwise; with blemished legs and unsound hoofs, the animal should be discarded for breeding purposes. But if the judges find themselves in agreement on any of the number, the legs and feet being all perfect, then proceed to remove the hood, each judge examining for himself alone, and entering



"CROSS-BRED OX."

The property of MR. HARRIS of Forres, Scotland

the property of Mr. Harris, of Forres, who brought him out at the Forres Fat Stock Show, in the Christmas of the same year, when he took the first prize as the best two year old bullock in the yard. In the summer of 1865 he won the first prize in the three year old cross-bred class at the Inverness meeting of the Highland Society; and again the first prize in his class at the Forres Fat Show, with the Highland Society's silver medal as the best ox or steer in the yard. At the Smithfield Club Show, in December, 1866, he took the first prize of £25, as the best cross-bred ox above three years old, and the silver cup of £40, as the best ox or steer in any of the classes. Our chief object in presenting this illustration to our readers, is to encourage Canadian farmers to improve their stock, by showing to what a pitch of excellence it is possible to attain by a few judiciously managed crosses. "Whatever man has done, man can do," and a spirit of emulation in this direction is greatly to be desired, not only among a few stock breeders, but among farmers generally.

LARGE DURHAM.—"C. Brown, of Meadowdale, informs us that he has a Durham bull which was calved on the 10th of November, 1865, and was one year five months and fifteen days old the day he was weighed before several parties, and found to weigh 1,350 lbs.

hair. This state of things has seriously damaged our fairs, and a very large number of the most respectable farmers in Canada have discontinued exhibiting on this very account. Sometimes, too, though it is to be hoped not often, personal considerations of friendship or interest have influenced the decision. Now, it may be asked how is the evil, admitting it to exist, to be remedied? In reply to this enquiry I venture to make the following suggestions. At this season of the year, throughout Canada, there is in nearly every county a show of stallions. Now I would say let every horse come on the ground completely covered. Let the judges also be selected from a distance, and by all means, select horsemen, and no others. Let there be three or five judges, strangers to the horse, and to his owner if possible. Let each judge be handed a little blank book, in which to enter the number of the card on the horse, devoting a page or two if required to each number. Let each judge go alone to a horse and first examine his high fore leg and hoof most carefully; if it be perfect in every respect, let a note to that effect be recorded in his book, if any defect be observed, let it be scrupulously noted. Then let the judge proceed to examine in order, the high hind leg, the off hind leg, then the off fore leg. If all are perfect, with good shaped feet, sound, not flat nor shaky, of proportion-

in his book the good points and the objectionable ones. After the examination of heads and necks, then again let the judges compare notes; and it may be certainly concluded that the horses having perfect feet, legs, head and neck, are the animals which will be entitled to the prizes. Next let the judges order the animals to be entirely undressed, and they will soon all find themselves to agree on their general appearance. They would not be influenced in favour of any horse on account of the large quantity of flesh which he may carry. Too much is more objectionable than not enough. The only thing that now remains to complete the decision is to see the animals move; and it will readily be perceived that the horses with sound feet and legs, small, well-formed head, full and sparkling eye, extended nostril, fox-like ear, and graceful well-set-on neck, are the premium animals, for these good qualities are never accompanied by an ill-shaped body, unless the defect has been caused by some injury of an external nature. In this way the judges will have no difficulty in awarding the prizes to the most perfect animals. They can all be associated together in coming to their last decision on the graceful and easy movement of the animal. This point is very easily decided by judges of horses. I have frequently seen gentlemen of character and respectability acting as