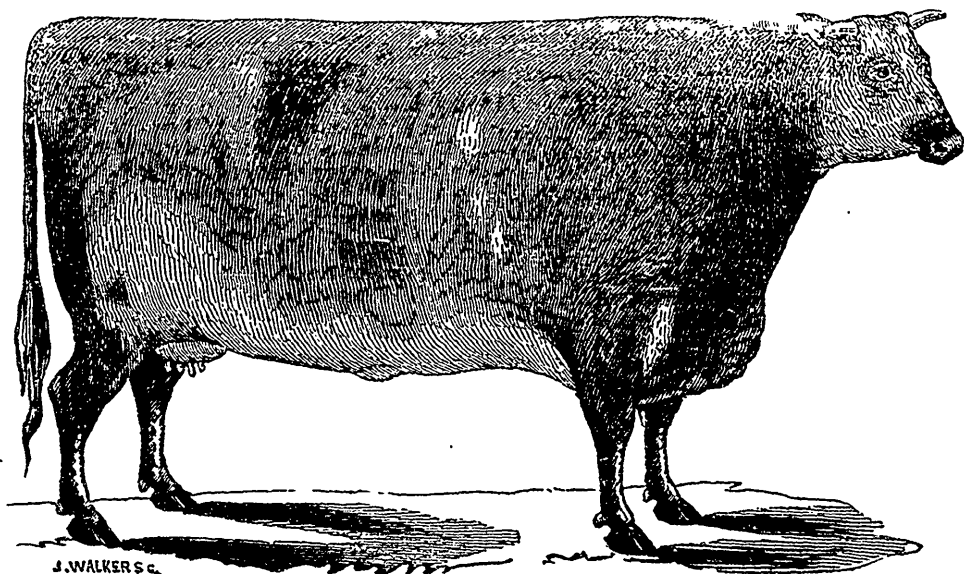


to what an extent the breeding of crosses between Leicester rams and Cheviot ewes has increased during that period, and also how superior the quality of this kind of stock is now to what it was formerly. Now, let us mark the history of this improvement. I well recollect when, as the autumn fairs drew near, our Border jobbers used to provide for them by retaining such rams as they happened to pick up in their weekly purchases of fat sheep. From these miscellaneous collections very many hill farmers were accustomed to make their purchases, caring little about quality, so that the price was low enough. By-and-by, however, they began to discover that there was an awkward connection between low-priced rams and a low price for their produce; and the consequence is, that they now supply themselves from ram breeders of established reputation, at prices which induce the latter to breed first-class animals for this express purpose. I would fain hope that breeders of cattle will also find out the economy of paying more attention to the quality of their stock. Landlords might so easily further this improvement, and have such a manifest interest to do it, that I cannot refrain from directing attention to what has been going on for several years on the estate of Cavers. With the view of improving the cattle bred on his estates, Mr. Douglas had for some years given a handsome sum of money for prizes to be competed for by his tenantry; but having been led to think that this end might be obtained in a more direct way, he intimated through his factor that he would give £80 for the purchase of a first-rate short-horned bull, which should be so stationed as to be available to all his tenantry. The

tenants, about twenty five in number, were requested to appoint a committee from among themselves, to whom was intrusted the purchase of a bull, and the framing of regulations for carrying out their landlord's intentions in an equitable manner. The plan which they have adopted is, to allow £20 a year to the tenant who keeps the bull, restricting the number of cows to be sent to him to seventy, at a charge of 6s. each, and apportioning this number to the different farms, according to their sizes. Two bulls, both from Yorkshire, have now been purchased in pursuance of this plan, and an improvement is already apparent in the stock. Here, then, is an example which might everywhere be followed with very great advantage to all concerned. In its details the plan is certainly susceptible of improvement; and from the good sense already displayed in the matter, I have no doubt that by-and-by this will take place. On the present plan each tenant can only have a few calves from the high-bred bull, and the bulk of his lot must still be of inferior descent. Now, were they to club together, and raise such a sum as, when added to their landlord's gift, would suffice for the purchase of four or five bulls, the quality of the whole cattle bred on the estate would be raised at once, and present a uniform character. By selecting the bulls from different herds, and shifting them as occasion required, from one district to another, the same lot might suffice for a good many years. Were such a plan as this to be generally adopted over the country, it would, in a very few years, produce a greater improvement in our breeds of cattle than any system of premiums is likely to do, in the course of a generation.



PRIZE SHORT-HORNED HEIFER, BUTTERCUP

THE PROPERTY OF CHARLES TOWNELEY, BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE,

Was awarded the First prize of Ten Sovereigns, as the best in her Class; and the GOLD MEDAL, as the best of all Prize Cows or Heifers exhibited at the Show. The owner also received the Medal, as the breeder of the best cow or heifer. Calved May 1, 1849; bred by Exhibitor; got by Jeweller; dam, Buttercup, by Garrick; g. d. Barmpton Rose, by Expectation.