

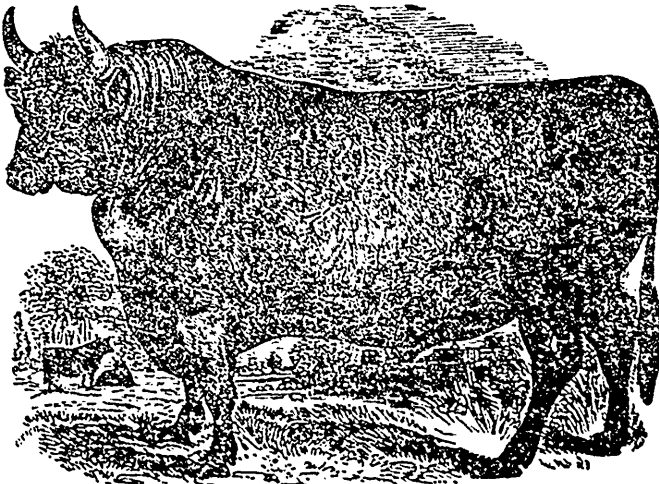
ng and valuable ox or cow. When we have a clear idea of these, we shall be able more easily to form an accurate judgment of the different breeds. If there is one part of the frame, the form of which, more than of any other, renders the animal valuable, it is the chest. There must be room enough for the heart to beat, and the lungs to play, or sufficient blood for the purposes of nutriment and of strength will not be circulated; nor will it thoroughly undergo that vital change which is essential to the proper discharge of every function. We look, therefore, first of all to the wide and deep girth about the heart and lungs. We must have both: the proportion in which the one or the other may preponderate, will depend on the service we require from the animal; we can excuse a slight degree of flatness on the sides, for he will be lighter in the forehand, and more active; but the grazier must have width as well depth. Not only about the heart and lungs, but over the whole of the ribs, must we have both length and roundness; the *hooped* as well as the deep barrel is essential; there must be room for the capacious paunch, room for the materials from which the blood is to be provided. There should be little space between the ribs and the hips. This seems to be indispensable in the ox, as it regards a good healthy constitution, and a propensity to fatten; but a largeness and drooping of the belly is excusable in the cow, or rather, though it diminishes the beauty of the animal, it leaves room for the udder; and if it is also accompanied by swelling milk veins, it generally indicates her value in the dairy.

This roundness and depth of the barrel, is most advantageous in proportion as it is found behind

the point of the elbow, more than between the shoulders and legs, or low down between the legs, rather than upward toward the withers; for it diminishes the heaviness before, and the comparative bulk of the coarser parts of the animal, which is always a very great consideration.

The loins should be wide, for they are the prime parts; they should extend far along the back: and although the belly should not hang down, the flanks should be round and deep. The hips, without being ragged, should be large; round rather than wide, and presenting, when handled, plenty of muscle and fat. The thighs should be full and long, close together when viewed from behind, or have a good twist, and the farther down they continue close the better. The legs short, varying like other parts according to the destination of the animal; but decidedly short, for there is an almost inseparable connection between length of leg and lightness of carcass, and shortness of leg and propensity to fatten. The bones of the legs, and they only, being taken as a sample of the bony structure of the frame, generally, should be small, but not too small—small enough for the well-known accompaniment, a propensity to fatten; but not so small as to indicate delicacy of constitution, and liability to disease.

Last of all, the hide—the most important thing of all—thin, but not so thin as to indicate that the animal can endure no hardship: movable, mellow, but not too loose, and particularly well covered with fine long and soft hair. We shall enter more fully and satisfactorily into this subject in the proper place; but this bird's-eye view may be useful. We return to the Devon cattle.



THE DEVON BULL.

The more perfect specimens of the Devon breed are thus distinguished. The horn of the bull ought to be neither too low nor too high, tapering at the points, not too thick at the root, white below, and of a yellow or waxy colour at the tip. The eye should be clear, bright, and prominent, showing much of the white, and have around it a circle of a dark orange color. The forehead

should be flat, indented, and small, for by the smallness of the forehead the purity of the breed is very much estimated. The cheek should be small, and the muzzle fine: the nose must be of a clear yellow. The nostrils should be high and open: the hair curled about the head. The neck should be thick, and that sometimes almost to a fault.