

proper houses or sheds for them? In the absence of great general improvement in this respect, the outlay of money in the purchase of the higher priced stock may be regarded as little better than so much waste. In summer, with good pasture and water, cattle need little attention. In winter, labour is cheaper; we are thus rendered more inexcusable for not bestowing proper attention on them.

Whilst thus adverting to this subject, it may not be deemed inappropriate to notice a statement which appears in the "Prize Essay on Agriculture," to which was awarded the Gold Medal given by the Directors of the Johnstown County Agricultural Society. The author of the Essay, after much valuable information on ploughing, sowing, Draining and Manuring, thus writes:

"It appears to me to be one of the greatest inconsistencies, and indeed absurdities, with which we farmers can be charged, that we have individually and collectively, as Societies, taken much pains, and incurred much expense, to improve our breed of cattle without making a simultaneous movement to procure the succulent food and increased shelter, the extra supply of clover hay, without which the so-called improved breeds certainly produce no improvement to the farmer."

From this, few will be disposed to dissent.

But of a subsequent and more important statement on stock and sheep, no farmer in this neighbourhood, with whom I have conversed, seems to approve. Respecting the Durhams, Devons, and Herefords, he says,—

"Of these three, I think the Herefords are the best for us, and the Devons the next best. The Durhams are evidently and deservedly going out of favour." Now, were the author writing in reference to the particular locality in which he himself resides, his views might possibly be correct; but when, taking a wider range, he asserts, without qualification or limitation of any kind, that "the Durhams are evidently and deservedly going out of favour," it is fair to suppose that he includes, in this sweeping assertion, not only Canada in its widest extent, but the Mother Country likewise.

Of such a declaration, it will, I think, be deemed a sufficient refutation to remind you that the Durham Bull, Cow and Heifer, have for many years, as well individually as in herds, commanded higher prices than any other description of cattle, both on this continent and at home; and when brought into competition with others, still continue to carry off the highest premiums.

The famous short-horned Bull 'Belleville,'

took all the first premiums in England, Ireland and Scotland, in 1850.

The short-horned Bull 'Bamboo,' the property of the Hon. A. F. Nugent, was in 1851, at the Smithfield Cattle Show, awarded the first prize of thirty sovereigns, as the best Bull in his class; a first class Medal, as the best in his section; the Gold Medal, as best of all Bulls; and the Purcell Challenge Cup, *as the best in the Show Yard!* He was a Calf of 1847.

At the same Show, the short-horned Heifer 'Buttercup,' the property of Charles Townly, Esq., was awarded the first prize of ten sovereigns, as the best in her class, and the Gold Medal, *as the best of all Cows or Heifers exhibited at the Show.* The owner of her was likewise presented with a Medal, as the breeder of the best Cow or Heifer.

Again, when Short Horns have been sold in large herds, they have brought higher prices than any other description of cattle in England, Ireland, Scotland, the United States and Canada. Let me instance the sale of the stock of Mr. Vail, of Troy, in June 1851, at which calves of the Durham breed sold for over fifty pounds; even throughout Upper Canada, those that have Short Horns value them so highly that they demand and obtain prices beyond belief for them; as high as fifty pounds has been refused by Wm. Ferguson, Esq., who lives within two miles of the City of Kingston, for a Durham Heifer Calf when it was only nine months old. Thirty-seven pounds were paid last year by the Agricultural Society of the Township of Kingston for a Durham Bull Calf 12 months old; and as for the high prices for which Durham cattle sell in the Mother Country, it were but waste of time to quote what every reader of Agricultural works must be well aware of. Now, if there be any truth in the saying, that "the value of any thing is the price it brings in the market," then it cannot be proved that "the Durhams are evidently and deservedly going out of favour."

SHEEP.

The author of the Prize Essay writes as follows—

"As for sheep, there are none better than are to be found all over the Upper Province. We are not surpassed in any part of England, nor can there be a better sheep for our purposes than the Leicester and Southdown crossed, if only the cross could be kept pure and not too long intermingled. At the late Shows of this Association, there have been sheep submitted to inspection capable of competing with the sheep of any country in the world, whether in weight