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### HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF SHORT HORNED CATTLE.

The following interesting remarks are by Mr. Allen, editor of the *American Agriculturist*. This gentleman went to England a few years since, for the purpose of making selections of stock for importation to America. The information he gained relative to the origin and character of England's celebrated breeds, especially the short horns, is pleasantly, and, we presume, truthfully detailed in this article. To the lover of good stock, such information will be read with avidity; and to all others, we hope it will prove useful, in stirring up attention and giving a new relish to such subjects.

The great show at Hull being over, we accepted the kind invitation of our excellent friend Mr. Bates, to pass a week with him at Kirkcubright; and, on our way thither, made occasional detours in Yorkshire and Durham, stopping to visit the Roman antiquities at York, its old churches, and the glorious minister; Studley Park, with its charming show grounds of lake and dell, and extensive monastic ruins, the solemn grandeur and exquisite beauty of which neither pen or pencil can describe; Ripon Cathedral and Newby Hall, and several other places; and subsequently by our ourselves, the large manufacturing cities of Leeds and Sheffield, and numerous towns and scenes that it would but fatigue our readers to mention. We traversed Durham and Yorkshire with unspeakable interest, for these counties are emphatically the home of the Short Horns. Here they originated, here they have flourished from time almost immemorial, and here they received those improvements that have carried them forward to such a pitch of excellence as to ensure them a pre-eminence throughout the most fertile regions of the world. Very large exportations have been going on from here to America for more than a quarter of a century. The British colonies in Australia and elsewhere for some time have been following our example, and a few of the European Governments are just becoming alive to their marked superiority for milk and grazing in rich pastures, over every other breed of neat stock existing.

Ten years ago we read the Rev. Mr. Berry's pamphlet of the history of Short Horns with eager interest, but have ever regretted that it was not written more fully and completely, for at this time the Messrs. Colling were living, and many others, who unhappily are now dead, that could have furnished particulars of the appearance, characteristics and breeding of the founders of the Herd Book, and their remote ancestors, which would have been of the greatest importance not only to the breeders of our day, but even to their posterity. How eagerly is every minute particular gathered up and detailed, again and again, of the appearance, the powers, the speed, the endurance, and general traits of England's early Arabians and their blood descendants, and will less interest hereafter be attached to Short Horns? We think not, and as a few are yet living who have seen and known the first animals of the Herd Book, we hope that among them some one will yet be induced to give the world, fearlessly and honestly, every thing that can now be gathered up respecting their origin, gradual improvement, and, indeed, their whole minute history. Mr. Berry alludes to "floating traditions," although there was much, doubtless, somewhat apocryphal in them, still they contained grains of truth, which might have been sifted out; and even if this were impossible, we must confess ourselves so enthusiastic in the cause, that we should have copied them down verbatim, allowing the public to estimate them at their own value. We acknowledge that we have a profound respect for this same "tradition;" gleams of light can always be found in its records, and what else is the early promise of man, and every thing connected with him?

The popular belief about Short Horns is, that they were all a large, coarse, though somewhat valuable race of animals, existing on the banks of the Tees, till Messrs. Robert and Charles Colling, of Durham, appeared upon

the stage as breeders, and that we are indebted to these gentlemen for their chief excellence and improvement; nay, that such was their genius and such was their plastic power over the animal creation, that they took up the most common and ordinary animals of the country, and with a sort of enchanter's wand, converted them, in the space of a few years, into the superb, improved Short Horns that now prevail in Great Britain and America. But tradition says, the best tribes have existed in great excellence for more than two centuries, making them in reality, an ancient race of animals, carrying the same pre-eminent qualities from generation to generation, with continued improvements on the part of their indefatigable and scientific breeders, till at length they have reached a state of excellence which may be pronounced almost perfect.

As an evidence of the ancient excellence of this race, let us now turn to the pamphlet of Mr. Berry, who seems to have received and set down most of his particulars with great caution.

As early as 1745, living witnesses informed him that a breed of cattle existed on the banks of the Tees, in colour resembling what is called improved breed of the present day, except that the fashionable roan was not quite so prevalent; possessing a fine mellow touch, good hair, light offal, particularly wide carcasses, and deep fore quarters; they were also justly celebrated for extraordinary proof when slaughtered, resembling thus closely the descendants of the present day. One trifling difference alone is worth recording, the locus of the old Tees-water breed were rather longer, and turned gaily upwards. About this time Sir William St. Quintin, of Scampston, imported cows and bulls from Holland, which were soon crossed on the Tees-water stock, and became distinguished, as "uniting in a wonderful degree, good grazing and dairy qualities."

In 1740, Mr. Milbank, of Barringham, stood pre-eminent as a Short Horn breeder; and it is on record, that a five year old ox of his weighed, dressed the four quarters, 2,100 lbs. beside 224 lbs. of rough tallow; and a cow of the same stock, a daughter of the old Studley bull, weighed upwards of 1,540 lbs. The Studley bull was described to Mr. Berry, by a person who had often seen him, as possessing "wonderful girth and depth of fore quarters, very short legs, a neat frame, and light offal." Had he added mellow handling, which no doubt the animal possessed, nothing more essential could be said of the good Short Horns of the present day, and yet this bull existed long before the Messrs. Colling appeared as breeders, for he was the sire of Dalton Duke, sold at the "then high price of 50 guineas to Messrs. Maynard and Wetherell, in whose possession he served cows at half a guinea each." From the old Studley bull are also descended William and Richard Barker's and Mr. Hill's bulls, all animals of the highest reputation of their day, and the originals of the improved Short Horns. These circumstances forcibly prove that Mr. Milbank must have possessed a very valuable stock of cattle, even at that early period, namely, one century since.

From Sir William St. Quintin, Sir James Pennycuik stocked his estates in the counties of Yorkshire, Durham, and Northumberland, and from these came the celebrated Snowden bull, bred by one of his tenants at Hurworth, which was the sire of Hubback.

As a proof of what the Short Horns did before, and about the time, the Messrs. Colling commenced their career of breeding, Mr. Berry records the following facts of their great weight and early maturity.

Sir Henry Grey, of Howick, bred two oxen, which weighed, at six years old, 1,820 lbs. each.

Miss Allen, of Grange, bred a three year old heifer, fed on hay and grass alone, which weighed 1,260 lbs. The same lady also bred two three year old steers, fed in a similar manner, weighing respectively 1,288 and 1,344 lbs.

Mr. Waistell's four year old steer weighed 1,540 lbs. Another of the same age, bred by Mr. Simpson, fed on hay and turnips alone, weighed 1,690.

A cow, from Mr. Hill's stock, weighed 1,778 lbs. A Northumberland ox, bought by Mr. Waistell, yielded 364 lbs. of tallow.

Mr. Coates slaughtered a heifer, fed on turnips and hay, which, at two years and two months old, weighed 952 lbs., while a seven months heifer of his came up to 476 lbs., and a steer, exactly three years old, 1,330 lbs., and another, two months old, 1,470 lbs.

An ox, bred by Mr. Hill, six years old, weighed 2,122 lbs.

Two Howick oxen, at seven years old, respectively, 2,147 lbs., and 2,136 lbs., of beef, with 231 and 224 lbs. tallow.

Mr. Charge's ox, of same age, 2,362 lbs., with 192 lbs. of tallow.

"Thus much," adds Berry, "for the Tees-water cattle, the originals of the improved Short Horns, ripe in points, possessing fine symmetry, and light offal, their descendants are not a breed of yesterday, liable and likely to degenerate to-morrow; but they possess the important advantage of being descended from a long line of animals, in which existed, in an eminent degree, the good points which are now admired in themselves."

In passing over the classic ground of this famous breed of cattle with Mr. Bates, our interest and enthusiasm in their early history seemed to awaken something of the same feeling in their veteran breeder, our excellent friend and fellow-traveller. His own superb tribe descended, as he claims, from the most ancient of the ancients, had just carried off pretty much all the prizes of value at the Royal Agricultural show at Liverpool, and again at that of Yorkshire, at Hull, where, at a public dinner, he was toasted by an hon. member of parliament, as the "unconquerable Bates." With all these blushing honours, thick upon him, he was, of course, in excellent spirits, and, as we stopped at towns and rambled through beautiful estates, many were the curious details he gave us respecting them; but a small part of which only, we regret to say, we have now the space to relate. His father was a breeder of some eminence before him, and he himself was the cotemporary of the Messrs. Colling, occasionally dined at their hospitable mansion, watching and commenting on their breeding, and now and then purchasing an animal for himself, as he could obtain them, and they suited his purpose.

The family of the Asklabes, the then residents of Studley Park, had very fine cattle in the seventeenth century. Sir William St. Quintin drew some of his best blood from this source, and of course Hubback had it in his veins through the Snowden bull. The ancestors of the present Sir Richard Blackett, of Matter, in Northumberland, then owners of Newby Hall, (now the residence of Earl de Grey, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland,) paid great attention to the short horned cattle at the same time with the Asklabes. Portraits of these animals were occasionally taken and hung up to adorn the entrance of Norfolk Hall; but when the noble residence passed out of their hands, these pictures were sold. We should hope that they existed yet in some "old curiosity shop," and, if so, and can be found, we shall then have a definite idea of what one family of ancient Short Horns were.

But Mr. Bates' proudest claim of antiquity rests upon the Duchess tribe, and these, he contends, were good animals, bred by the Smithsons of Stanwix, (now Duke of Northumberland,) two centuries ago.\*

The last Cow of the superior race of Short Horns, being on its way to London, to be sold in 1784, Mr. C. Colling heard of it and purchased her. This was the same year he bought Hubback, to whom she bred. Her produce was put to Favourite, (252), and that to the Dairy bull (180), and thus the blood was preserved, and by Mr. Bates' purchases in 1809 and 1810 of Mr. Colling, has ever since rested in his possession. We saw the portrait of this Stanwix Cow's great granddaughter, the produce of the Dairy bull and dam of Ketton 1. (709), and as the family now down to the 52nd Duchess, bred by Mr. Bates strongly resembles it in general characteristics, we give a description.—This was taken we believe in 1804 when the animal was rather low in flesh, and giving milk; at which time, being deep milking, they show this upon the rump, but when dried off and fatted, Mr. B. assured us, they made as good a point there as elsewhere. Their colours vary, from a deep rich red to a roan, and both horns generally turn slightly up. Colour of the portrait more red than white, the former predominant.

ing over the neck and shoulder, the latter on the flank. Horns fine, short, and of a clear waxy colour, one of them drooping a little, the other slightly turned up—head long and fine, the muzzle extremely so—eyes bright and glowing, and standing well out. Brisket wide, and better forward than any other animal known, we do not even except the living Duchess 31, though a superb model in this respect. Shoulder, barrel and loin good, and rather thin on the rump, in consequence, as before remarked, of being in a milking state. The tail fine, but not quite as perfectly set on us we could have wished, but this is not a family fault in the descendants. Her limbs mellow as to length, and clean and sinewy, and the whole animal, altogether, bearing a fine finished fashionable air.

The beef of this tribe is pronounced superior, and their handling very mellow and elastic. In this respect as well as all others they were favourites with Mr. Colling, and when his stock was in its highest perfection he was in the habit of showing Duchess 1, as a model of superior handling, and has repeatedly said, he never bred so good an animal out of the Stanwix Cow he purchased of the agent of the Duke of Northumberland, as she herself was, though put to his best bulls, Hubback, Favourite, and Dairy.

(Remainder in next number.)

\* About the time that George III. ascended the throne, the title of Duke of Northumberland became extinct by the death of the last male heir of the Percy family. Sir Hugh Smithson had married a daughter of the Duke of Somerset, descended from the Percy family by her mother, and having children by her, George III. raised him to the title of Duke of Northumberland. So fond was he of his Short Horns, that his peers quizzingly dubbed him "the Yorkshire grazer." He was in the habit of weighing his cattle, and the food they eat so as to ascertain the improvement they made for the food consumed. The Earl Percy, who fought at Bunker's Hill, was his son, and it was during his absence to America that the estate at Stanwix was grossly mismanaged, and its fine race of Short Horns all fitted for the butcher, or sold off. The Mr. Smithson, who left the large sum of half a million to the United States, as a fund for the promotion of national science, was a natural son of the Duke of Northumberland. It has been suggested that the Smithson bequest be appropriated for the support of a model farm and high school of agriculture; and, if this praiseworthy object could be carried into effect, it would be a curious coincidence, that a descendant of the greatest improver of Short Horns in Europe, shall be the founder of the greatest improvement of agriculture in America. But we doubt whether anything so good will ever become of the legacy. We fear our politicians will yet spend twice the amount of the bequest in wrangling over its disposition, and then, perhaps, place it in a very different manner than was intended by the testator. Here is another regret, that the benevolent donor had not come over to America while living, and seen himself to the disposition of what he had to give. There would have been then an immediate application of it to some useful and benevolent purpose.

† See Coates' Herd Book, vol. 1st.

‡ See Coates' Herd Book, vol. 1st.

### CLEARING AND BREAKING UP, AND MAKING COMPOST.

(Continued from page 93.)

We have thus gone over, in a very general way, enough of chemistry for any one to understand the chemical nature of manure. You see, reader, that with common attention, bestowed for an evening's reading, one may learn these chemical terms and their meaning. And now, having learned this first lesson, let us review the ground gone over, and fix, once and for all, these first principles in our minds. Let us do this, by a practical application of the knowledge we have gained. Let us analyze a plant. Do not be startled at the word. To analyze, means to separate a compound substance into several substances which form it. This may be done by a very particular and minute, or by a more general division. It may be done for our present purpose, by separating the several substances of a plant into classes of compounds. You are already chemist enough to undertake this mode of analysis.