

Mr. Mason had rather gone out of sheep breeding lately, thought he never saw a finer climate than ours for sheep, we had not so many cold rains as they had in Britain, never saw his sheep suffer much from the cold, though they did from the heat; he certainly had a fancy for the Leicester or rather a cross between them and the Teeswater, he found the burs very troublesome, he had what he would call some pretty good Leicester sheep. Last year he sold four sheep and a lamb, got £15 for them, thought that would pay as well as wheat, thought the Butcher did not give us a fair price for our lambs.

Mr. Wade said the question was what breed of sheep would yield us the most money. In England, wherever they have rich fertile land, they keep the Leicester, the Teeswater, the Cottswold, and other heavy sheep, and on high land the Cheviots and other lighter sheep, adapting the sheep to the land; his experience was rather against Bakewell Leicesters—he found they were apt to lose their wool in spring and thought them not hardy enough for us. And though they had on fat very fast in summer, they were apt to lose it in winter and come out bare in spring, he believed that his father was the first to introduce the English breed of sheep to this neighbourhood, he got some Teeswater and Leicester ewes, and he always found it was very difficult to bring the Leicester ewe through winter and save the lamb. He thought it was worth our while to turn our attention a little more to sheep husbandry than we used to do now that wheat was so low. He found that there was quite an inquiry for our sheep on the other side of the Lake. He once had a notion, as fine wool was so much in demand, of trying some Merinoes, but since he saw so much inquiry for Teeswaters, he thought he would keep to the stock he had, thought that though the Cheviot was a very valuable breed, yet as our land was generally fertile, we might as well keep a large sheep.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Hume for his excellent essay, who agreed to the request to read another paper in continuation of the same subject before the Club at its meeting in January.

WALTER RIDDELL, Secretary.

**EXPENSE OF KEEPING SHEEP.**—The *Maine Farmer* restricts the annual expense of keeping a sheep in that State at one dollar; while others make it considerably more. An estimate in the New York State Agricultural Transactions make the amount nearly two dollars. Of course these calculations are all subject to many modifications, such as the varying price of fodder, &c., as influenced by seasons and locality. Some farmers in the Eastern States estimate the cost of growing wool at a quarter of a dollar per lb., and think that at a less price the business of sheep farming is unprofitable. We could like to have the opinions of Canadian farmers on these matters. Wool-growing is evidently an improving business at present; and there can be no doubt among practical men that proper shelter and a liberal supply of nutritious food, whether to sheep or cattle, is the most profitable course a

farmer can pursue, always premising that his animals are of the right kind.

### DURHAM CATTLE: A CHALLENGE.

SIR:—I beg leave to submit, through your Journal, the following proposal for a sweepstakes, to be decided at the General Meeting of the Agricultural Association, which holds at Toronto in September, 1852; and I beg leave, also, to state that in confining the subscription to Durham Cattle, I have no design to depreciate Devons, Ayrshire, or any other breed, which are all valuable animals in their way, and may, perhaps, some day, extinguish the Durhams.

At present, *Improved Short Horns* stand high; I, for one, feel no doubt of their maintaining their distinguished position; always providing that due skill and attention shall be paid by Breeders.

I hold it to be quite indispensable, that animals intended to compete should possess *pedigrees*, either included or connected distinctly with the British or American Herd Books:

#### CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION FOR THE BEST PAIR OF YEARLING HEIFERS.

- 1st. The subscription to be not less than £2 10s. each subscriber, nor to exceed £12 10s.; and to be paid in the hands of the Secretary of the Association, before competition. If subscribers fail to produce Stock, the forfeit shall be half the subscription.
- 2nd. Each subscriber may exhibit any number of pairs, provided they are put together in pairs, before competition; and no extra sum is required, beyond the one subscription.
- 3rd. Correct Pedigrees of both Sire and Dam, traced to the British or American Herd Books, shall be produced, and the Judges shall have power to reject any which are not, in their opinion, satisfactory.
- 4th. The Board of Directors of the Provincial Association shall be requested to select and secure the services of Three competent and unbiassed Judges.
- 5th. The Heifers must not be out of their second year at the time of competition, or in other words, they must be Calves of 1850, and born and bred in Canada.
- 6th. Intending subscribers will communicate with the Secretary, prior to the 1st of May, 1852, at which date the subscription Book will be closed and details arranged.

Yours truly

ADAM FERGUSON.

To Geo. Buckland, Esq., Secretary, &c.  
Woodhill, Dec. 29, 1851.

**DEATH OF S. W. COLE, Esq.**—We learn from a recent number of the *New England Farmer*, that the late Editor of that well conducted journal is now no more. Mr. Cole has for many years been favorably known to the American public, not only from his connexion with the "Farmer," but also for his "American Fruit Book," and a