

Our Scottish Letter.

A RETROSPECT OF THE ROYAL.

The Royal Show at Darlington, near to the home of the Shorthorn, was another great event of the week. The best sections in the stock department were those for Shorthorn, Aberdeen-Angus and Galloway cattle; Clydesdale horses, and Lincoln, Shropshire and Wensleydale sheep.

Shorthorns.—About the Shorthorns, it is only needful to remark that they may have been equalled at former shows of the Royal, but we question very much if they have ever been surpassed. The best male animals exhibited were Lord Polwarth's champion, the first-prize winner in the aged class, Nonsuch 65069; the reserve, Mr. George Harrison's Champion Cup 55939, and Mr. J. Deane Willis' yearling, Count Victor, a most massive animal for his age. Nonsuch was bred in Fifeshire, by Mr. I. Hill, Langside, Cupar, and was second at the H. & A. S. last year. He is a bull of immense substance and great wealth of flesh. The French syndicate, headed by M. de Clercq, bought him, so that he will leave the country. Champion Cup and Count Victor were both bred by Mr. Deane Willis, who is rapidly taking the very foremost place as a breeder of Shorthorns. At his place, Bapton Manor, Codford, St. Mary's, Wilts, he has the largest herd of Aberdeen Shorthorns in England, and one of the best herds in the world. One of his most successful breeding bulls was Count Lavander, which now does duty in the royal herd at Windsor. Champion Cup, however, was not got by him, but by a bull named Challenge Cup. He is a capital animal, but probably more votes would have been cast by the public in favor of Count Victor as the reserve, if not as the champion himself. He is a son of Count Lavander, and his dam was a Sittytton Gondolier cow. He is one of the grandest yearlings seen for years, and for substance, scale and wealth of cover he can hardly be surpassed. His coat is faultless, and his whole appearance beyond reproach. He, too, leaves the country, having been purchased by Mr. Don. MacLennan for exportation to South America. The champion female was Mr. Deane Willis' three-year-old red and white heifer Miranda, by Count Lavander, a cow of depth, width, substance, and great wealth of flesh, but a little uneven in her cover. Possibly there were other heifers excelling in some points, but Miranda was, taken all in all, about the best. Her stiffest opponent was Her Majesty the Queen's two-year-old red heifer Frederica, which led her own class. She was got by Volunteer, out of Fragrant, an Aberdeen Shorthorn cow descending from the celebrated Sittytton bull, Clear the Way. Frederica was a hot favorite for the championship, and there is a style, quality and levelness about her which, coupled with her immense scale, make her next to impossible to beat. Mr. Deane Willis was again winner of first prize with the yearling heifer Seraph, whose sire was Roan Robin. She, too, is a red heifer, very thick, solid and blocky, and full of quality. The first aged cow was Mr. George Harrison's Warfare, which stood first at the H. & A. S. last year, and at the Bath and West of England Show this year. She was bred by Mr. Silvester Campbell, Kinellar, a gentleman who needs no introduction to Canadian Shorthorn breeders.

Aberdeen-Angus cattle are becoming strong opponents of the Shorthorn in the North of England, where they have secured a very firm footing. The show of these at Darlington was very fine, and the best class all through was that for yearling heifers. Both male and female championships were won by Mr. George Smith Grant, of Anchorachan, Glenlivet, the bull being Equestrian 9953, and the cow, Legend 16578. The reserve for the bull class was Miss Morison Duncan's bull, Edric 9110, like the champion bred at Ballindalloch, and purchased at the Dalmore sale for 275 gs. These are a pair of very fine bulls, and we should say it is a moot point which is the better. Some would prefer Edric for his greater length, and on the whole, finer quality, except about the head. Equestrian is more compact and has finer bone. He is a son of Prince Inear, while Edric is a son of Iliad. Several very good bulls were exhibited by Mr. Arthur J. Owen, Shanvaghey, Abbeyleigh, Queen's County, Ireland, and it is a doubtful point to our mind whether his second prize yearling heifer, Shanvaghey Nan II., was not the best of the heifers exhibited. Another successful exhibitor was the Countess Dowager of Seafeld, who won first prize with the two-year-old bull, Bernadotte. Legend was followed in her class by Her Majesty the Queen's very pretty young cow, Gentian of Ballindalloch, which won last year at the H. & A. S., Aberdeen. The reserve champion female was Mr. William Nimmo's Rose of Benton 19854, bred by Mr. Clement Stephenson, who also bred and owned the first yearling bull, Lighthouse by Cerberus, out of one of the Luxury tribe, and the first yearling heifer, Jipsey of Benton 22371, a daughter of Albion. Lord Huntly, with Waitress of Aboyne, was winner amongst the two-year-olds. She is a beauty, and as her age will admit her to compete with the yearlings at the H. & A. S., Dumfries, she will not be too easily beaten.

Galloways may to some folks appear to be the same breed as the Aberdeen-Angus, but there are no points of resemblance between the breeds except that both are polled. With greater truth may it be said that there are many points of resemblance between the Galloway and the Highlander, in spite of the fact that the one is polled and the other very much the reverse. The most successful breeder of Galloways in our time is Mr. James Cunningham,

Tarbrooch, Dalbeattie. Whoever might forsake the ancient breed, Mr. Cunningham remained firm in his allegiance, and he has his reward, for many of the best are bred by him, and now that the tide seems turning in their favor a brighter day will dawn for those who clung to the old blackskins of the Province of Galloway. The Duke of Buccleuch, who has always been a steady patron of the breed, was first at the Royal with the fine aged bull, Baron Wedholme of Drumlanrig 5912. His stiffest opponent was Mr. R. F. Durdgeon's Crown Jewel II., a son of the famous Harden. With Glenlivet 6210, a bull bred at Drumlanrig, Mr. C. Graham, Harelawhill, was first in the two-year-old class, and a phenomenal yearling, Nonpareil of Castlemilk, bred by Sir Robert Jardine, Bart., and owned by Mr. W. Parkin-Moore, of Whitehall, Mealsgate, Carlisle, was first in his class. This youngster is just about invincible. He may not be perfect in the formation of his head, but otherwise he is faultless. The cows and heifers were, however, far in advance of the bulls. Mr. James Cunningham exhibited his invincible cow, Madonna II. of Tarbrooch 11056, and won, and his son, Mr. John Cunningham, of Durhamhill, Dalbeattie, was equally successful with a splendid two-year-old heifer, Dora of Durhamhill, which, however, was bred at Tarbrooch. Mr. Pilkington had a capital three-year-old cow in Annie Laurie III. of Cavens, which stood first; and the same gentleman also successfully exhibited other Galloways, all of which were well brought out. Mr. John Cunningham had also the first yearling heifer.

Clydesdales have never been better represented at the Royal. Mr. I. Douglas-Fletcher, of Rosebaugh, was a successful exhibitor, winning first prizes with his very handsome three-year-old horse, The MacEachran 9792, winner at the H. & A. S. last year, and looking very fresh and new, and the splendid three-year-old mare, Lady Patricia, which he purchased at the Edengrove sale a year ago for 250 gs. Lady Patricia was got by the Edengrove stud horse, Patrician, out of the Macgregor mare, Bet of Balig, and was champion at the Royal last year. She has much improved in the interval, and is a filly which it will be hard to beat in her class, having a fine combination of size, substance and quality. Mr. William Graham, of Edengrove, also showed a number of choice animals. He was first with the massive two-year-old colt, Bridgroom 9-86; his splendid four-year-old Macgregor mare, Royal Rose, which was also first at the Royal and many other shows last year, and May Queen, the unbeaten two-year-old filly of last year, also got by Macgregor. She was bred by Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Barcheskie, Kirkcudbright. A beautiful yearling colt named Balmiedie Royal Engineer, bred and owned by Mr. W. H. Lumsden, was first in his class, and is a horse of fine quality, with good action and plenty of size. Mr. Thomas Smith, Blaen Point, Chester, exhibited a number of first-rate animals, and was first with the yearling filly, Jessie Macgregor, which stood first at Ayr. The Marquis of Londonderry exhibited several very good Clydesdales—the yearling filly named Kite, the two-year-old horse, Carthusian, and the three-year-old mare, Lady Helen. All of these were favorably noticed by the judges. Lord Polwarth, Messrs. A. and W. Montgomery and A. B. Matthews were also successful.

The Sheep.—Two of the British breeds of sheep alone can at the present time be said to be in a very flourishing condition. Generally, the breeders and feeders of sheep are better off than they were at one time, and especially during the disastrous year of 1892; but the two breeds which have had a marked degree of success are the Lincoln long-wool breed and the Shropshire short-wool breed. These are in favor for the foreign market—your own Canadians purchasing the Shropshires, and the South American colonists being keen on the Lincolns. Mr. Robert Miller, Brougham, Ont., is at present in this country buying the former, and there are other customers on the outlook for the latter. Wool of all kinds has experienced an advance, but the most remarkable prices are being got for Lincoln wool, which is selling in some cases as high as 30/ or 37.50 for the tod of 28 lb. This is more than 1/ or 25c. per lb., and it is long since any such price was realized for wool in this country. The great characteristic of the Lincoln wool is its wonderful lustre; indeed, until one examines it closely the term lustre as applied to wool is unintelligible. To appreciate it, the dry, hard wool of some of the short-wool breeds, especially that on the more modern of the Down races, has only to be examined alongside of the Lincoln wool and the striking difference between them is at once detected. The mutton of the Lincoln may not be of the finest quality, but the quality of its wool compensates for a good deal of deficiency in other respects. In the Argentine Republic, Lincoln rams are largely used for crossing with Merino ewes, and the wool from the crosses is in great demand in the United States.

Shropshires are the most popular of all the Down breeds. It is next to impossible to believe that the whole of these are not in one form or other and by some process of modification derived from the Southdowns. Oxford-Downs, for example, are admitted to be the result of crossing Hampshire-Down ewes with Cotswold rams, and persistently breeding with the best of the crosses. These are the largest and heaviest of the Down breeds, and Oxford wethers at 18 months old are often of almost incredible weight. The Shropshire is not at all like the others in this respect, and is well-

adapted for crossing with the mountain breeds—Cheviots and Blackfaces—for the production of nice handy hogs and hoggets—small joints coming rapidly into favor. In Scotland the Shropshire is the only rival to the Border Leicester for producing big, well-grown lambs on good land. They have established themselves chiefly in the midland counties of Perth and Forfar, the oldest breeder in Scotland being the Earl of Strathmore, at Glamis, and the most successful, Mr. Thomas Buttar, at Corston, Coupar-Angus. Mr. Wallace, Dunface, Dunfermline, and Mr. D. J. Thomson Gray, Innerpefferay, Comrie, are also successful breeders of Shropshire sheep. Mr. Buttar is perhaps the only Scottish breeder who has ventured to cross the border and compete in the English show-yards. This he has done with not a little success, and Mr. Thomas Buttar, Jr., is recognized as one of the best judges of the breed in Great Britain. Canadians might do worse than pay these Scottish breeders a visit when in this country purchasing Shropshire rams. Mr. Miller has purchased a number of excellent sheep for exportation, and they will shortly leave for their destination now that the great Shropshire Show at Shrewsbury is over. This breed was so strongly represented at the Royal that two sets of judges were told off to award the prizes in the various classes. A foreign demand is a great incentive to the home-breeding of any class of stock.

When all is said, however, Border Leicesters, Blackfaces and Cheviots remain the great Scottish breeds of sheep. All others are valuable in their own place, but it is these, and these alone, which cover the territory of what is, strictly speaking, the pastoral districts of Scotland. There are two subordinate types or modifications of these three breeds: Half-breds, which are produced by crossing the Cheviot ewe with the Border Leicester ram; and Cross-breds, which are produced by crossing the Blackface ewe with the Border Leicester ram. These five types are by far the most generally diffused throughout Scotland. The habitat of the Blackfaces is, of course, the highest mountain ranges, and especially heath-covered hills. Cheviots can stand quite as much cold as the Blackfaces, and when wool was selling well, in many parts of Scotland Blackface stock had to make way for Cheviots. It was found, however, that especially in the west of Scotland, when there is a heavy rain-fall, the results of this policy in a succession of wet seasons were disastrous, and, wool receding in price, the Cheviot for the past ten or twelve years has been compelled to abandon most of his recently-acquired territory, which has been retaken by the Blackfaces. A Blackface ewe is a much more successful mother than a Cheviot ewe. She is a grand wrestler and fights well for her own band. In Scotland the Blackface occupies a position from which it never can be dislodged. One of the most remarkable chapters in Scottish agriculture is the history of the Cheviot occupation of Sutherland in the extreme North of Scotland. The Sutherland clearances fill many a sad page in the social history of this country, and one of their direct and immediate results was the stocking of these northern hills and valleys with the all-unconscious and beautiful Cheviot.

The Border Leicester fills, in the sheep world, the place occupied with so much credit by the Shorthorn in the bovine world. He is the great crossing agent in the production of commercial sheep, and hence the rams sell for more money than do the males of any other breed of sheep in this country. The great sales of the breed are held at Kelso in August, and the leading flock for many years has been that of Mertoun, owned by Lord Polwarth. As high as £155 have been paid for a Border Leicester shearing ram out of this flock, and for many years the top average at Kelso has been made by the Mertoun rams. There are many famous flocks in the south-eastern Border counties of Scotland, and a notable flock of remarkably healthy, strong sheep is found in the hands of Mr. John Twentymann, at Hawkkrigg House, Wighton, Cumberland. Mr. W. S. Ferguson, Pictstonhill, has an excellent flock at Kinloch, in Forfarshire. The Earl of Dalhousie has another at Panmure in the same county; and in the North of Scotland, Mr. D. Cameron, Killen, Ross-shire, breeds grand, strong, sound sheep. At the recent show of the Royal Agricultural Society, the most successful flocks were those of the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., of Whittinghame, Prestonkirk; Mr. G. Russell Tress, Whittiers, St. Boswells; the Earl of Rosebery, Dalmeny; and Mr. Ridley, Sheldford, Northumberland.

SCOTLAND YET.

It is said that so great has been the increase in the consumption of horse meat for food in Germany that the United States Consul at Brunswick suggests the advisability of having American packers compete for the profits in this new industry. Fresh horse meat sells for seven cents a pound in Germany, and brings twelve cents a pound when smoked. The average price paid by a German butcher for a horse is \$35. After paying freight and other charges, this would not leave a very gilded margin for the United States horse producer, but it would put out of the road a few of the old street car superannuates.

FALL WHEAT.—Secure one or more new subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and get some of the Dawson Golden Chaff or Early White Leader wheat. See our announcement on another page.