

very high repute, and is even considered by some to be the origin of the Durhams. The specimens shown at the Paris Exhibition did not support such a theory.

The Scotch Polled Cattle were exceedingly good, and most creditable to North Britain, and they excited general curiosity. In no breed are the effects of a proper attention to the principles of breeding more apparent than in this; for in the same district there may almost be said to be two distinct breeds, so great is the difference between the improved and the original. As quite opposite to the polled cattle, may be mentioned the Hungarian, which are distinguished by horns two or three feet long, extending straight out from each side of the forehead, coarse, leggy, thin-backed, flat-sided animals. They are the same breed which are so much used in the steppes of Russia and in the Crimea as beasts of burden, and, from their peculiar conformation, are well adapted for getting more quickly over the ground than animals of more perfect form.

The West Highlanders were not good; they were out of condition, and they were just casting their hair. The Race de Salers includes the cattle of Aubrac, Limousin, and Auvergne. This breed occupies the place among the French cattle which our West Highlanders do among the English. Reared in a district similar in geological formation to the Scottish Highlands, composed of granite and gneiss mountains, which rise several thousand feet above the level of the sea, they have all the hardness of the Scotch breed. No race is said to combine in an equal degree hardness, fitness for labour, with good milking qualities, and an aptitude to fatten when they are well fed. In Auvergne the cows are allowed to go for six months of the year in a half-wild state, pasturing on the hills in summer, and folded at night.

"We would not advise any tampering with our improved British breeds by the introduction of foreign blood. Let our Ayrshires retain their elegance, gracefulness, and excellent milking properties; let our Durhams esteem their majestic gait, precocity, and aptitude to fatten; let our Leicesters and Southdowns retain their perfect symmetry; let our Cheviots and Blackfaced lose not their hardness. From everything we saw, they cannot be improved by the amalgamation of foreign blood. The experiment would be dangerous. But it must be admitted that the pure breeds are not, under all circumstances of British farming, the most profitable; the crosses are often the most important and valuable. It is well known that in London a cross with the improved Short-horn and a cow from a breed valued for its milking qualities, is preferred by dairymen to a cow of the pure milking breed, because, when it is of no further use for giving milk, it is more easily fattened off, and attains a greater weight than the latter."

The Swiss cattle were in high repute with many English, and a nobleman purchased fourteen of them for his own country. They might, perhaps, improve the milking properties of the breeds of the south of England. A judicious cross between the Ayrshire and Breton might, under some circumstances, be highly advantageous. The Exhibition was rich, and most instructive in crosses; and the high value of Short-horns might be seen in the numerous crosses which bore their characters. Those between that breed and the Cotertine, the Flanande, the Marceau, the Dutch, and the Charolais, were particularly worthy of notice, and show the immense advantages that would accrue to France by the production of more beef, in raising first crosses with a short-horn bull and their best native cows. The crosses between the Normande and Flanande were the largest of any in the Exhibition. The French appear to be trading too much from crosses. The first crosses are good, but to trade from them