

for one cow (Bright Empress, 2100 ga., Mr. L. C. Booth), was the highest ever given, in public, in England, for a female,—when all these circumstances were taken into account, an enthusiasm was created certainly not less than that evoked by the great Scotch sale. It is curious, but true, that the Scotch breeders bought little at Dunmore, and the Lincolnshire breeders nothing at Aylesby. Extraordinary as were some of the prices fetched by odd lots, here and there, in the course of the year, no other sale can be bracketed with these two great events of 1875.

And other noteworthy features of the season were the continued good competition and good prices for fine thick fleshed animals of short pedigree; even when these were not yet eligible for the Herd Book. At the late Mr. T. Harrison's and at Mr. W. S. Cragg's (Cawood's Roses) and at other sales in the Lake district, cattle of this class brought a brisk sale at steadily increasing value. Neither English nor foreign buyers, are, at present, at all favourably disposed to anything exceptional. Cattle, which one can see at a glance to be heavy fleshed and of good colour; cattle, which a glimpse at their pedigrees shows to be of fashionable descent, are still even at increasing prices,—readier of sale than ever. The stranger purchasers follow the home fashions. Anything tracing to Messrs. Bates' or Booth's herds, or the late Sir Charles Knightley's, has improved in demand and in price during 1875. Next to these, anything, which—in walking the ring, or in its paper pedigree—at once catches the eye, has made the greatest advance. But all Short-horns are worth more money. Pure breeding is still the remunerative breeding; and a wise disposition for such breeders not to grapple with too many kinds at once—is even more displayed than last year; and so is the odd inclination to go out of one's own neighbourhood when one means to buy."

At a recent meeting of the Nova Scotia Institute of Natural Science, the following Botanical Notices were read by Professor Lawson:—

1. *Calluna vulgaris* ("Scotch Heather").—This plant was found about fourteen years ago in Massachusetts, and a discussion ensued as to whether it was indigenous to America, or had been intentionally planted or accidentally introduced. In an old bundle of dried plants bought by Mr. H. C. Watson at a clearance auction at the Lignean Society's rooms in London, a dried specimen of heather was found that had been collected by Mr. Cormack in Newfoundland many years ago. In August, 1864, whilst travelling through the Island of Cape Breton, Professor Lawson heard of

the existence of Heather on Mr. Robertson's farm at St. Ann's, and, repairing thither, found the plant growing in a wet spot among native spruce trees. Specimens sent to England were found to differ slightly from the European plant, and the late Dr. Seeman gave the new name of *Calluna Atlantica* to distinguish the American form. Professor Asa Gray was satisfied that the *Calluna* was indigenous, and thought that the small patches found were the mere remnants of what had at one time been a more abundant and more widely diffused plant on the American continent,—that in fact the species was diminishing or slowly becoming extinct. Doubts having been expressed respecting Cormack's specimen, Mr. Murray searched for and found the plant growing in Newfoundland. Then a lady in Halifax produced a specimen gathered some years before on the Dartmouth hills, and another lady patiently searched for the spot and brought a fresh specimen with the information that only one plant remained. It became known that there were several patches at a particular spot in Point Pleasant Park. This habitat was carefully examined by Mr. Jack and Professor Lawson, and they found that the place had been originally a camp garden or cultivated plot, so that the heather could not be native there. A new locality, near East Bay, Cape Breton, was made known by the Hon. Mr. Fergusson, the Member for the County, who stated that the traditional history of the Heather there was that the early emigrants from the West Highlands had brought heather beds with them, the debris of which, when scattered around their dwellings, gave a profuse crop of heather in the following year. This seemed to show that the plant was not native at East Bay. Serious doubts were now entertained as to whether the Heather was not, after all, a plant foreign to the American soil. Meeting the Rev. Mr. Harvey as a fellow-passenger on board the "Nova Scotian," Prof. L. asked him to investigate the Newfoundland station, which he has obligingly done. He finds that: "at a place called Caplin Bay, 2 miles from Ferryland, which is about 35 miles south of St. John's, there is a bed of heather of no great extent, but healthy and flourishing. Ferryland is one of the oldest settlements in the Island. There Lord Baltimore built a house, 200 years ago, and made it the seat of Government. The tradition is, that some Scotch settlers, or possibly Irish, brought out beds filled with Heather, and the seeds produced the present growth. At all events it has been growing there for some generations. At Renew's, about 20 miles from Ferryland, there is also a quantity of heather, supposed to have been derived from the Caplin Bay growth, but this is only

conjecture. I am told that the heather is as fine as any on the hills of Scotland and shows no signs of degeneracy."

During the present winter, Prof. L. and Mr. Jack, examined another locality on the Peninsula of Halifax, and found that the heather was growing on land that had never been cultivated and that was covered with alders, kalmias, ledums, cranberries, and other unquestionable natives. The presumption is that the plant is native there. At another place, in the northern part of the Tower Woods, where the original cradle hills have never been disturbed, and where there is no trace of anything but indigenous vegetation, Mr. Robert Hoak, Senior, found the heather 35 years ago.

The conclusions that seem to be warranted by a careful consideration of all the facts are that the *Calluna* is really a native indigenous plant in Nova Scotia, and probably so in Newfoundland, that some of the stations are artificial, but that the plants were probably obtained from native patches, and that the popular local traditions attributing to the heather a foreign origin are mere conjectures, and not sufficiently sustained by historical facts to invalidate its claims to be considered indigenous.

2. *Sarothamnus Scoparius* ("Scotch Broom").—Whilst making enquiries respecting the alleged occurrence of Heather in various places, Prof. Lawson obtained information respecting several other interesting plants. One of these is the English Broom (*Sarothamnus Scoparius*), which Professor Macdonald informed him grew in some abundance on Boularderie Island, Cape Breton, on the property of Mr. Gemmell, at Little Bras d'Or. He subsequently heard from Judge Smith and Mr. Stephens of Halifax, of its occurrence to the westward, either in Queen's County or Shelburne. Judge Smith had seen it growing, and Mr. Stephens had seen bunches of it brought to Halifax on board the "M. A. Starr." Prof. Lawson's latest informant was Mr. Peter Jack, who has visited the place, and has kindly furnished the following particulars:—

"Having heard that Broom was growing rather plentifully in the neighbourhood of Shelburne, I took the opportunity of visiting the place last fall when waiting for the steamer for Halifax. The place is about two miles from Shelburne on the road to Halifax. The property is owned by a colored man who was from home, but his wife, Mrs. Jackman, took me to the spot. She takes a great pride in the broom, and is well pleased to shew it to visitors, of whom there are several each year, for its fame has gone abroad. It grows principally in one place at some distance from the road and in a sheltered position, covering about a quar-