

"Neidpath."

"Tween the gloaming and the mirk,
When the kye come hame."

Neidpath Farm, named after a Scottish castle near the birthplace of its widely-known founder, the Hon. Thomas Ballantyne, is represented by a view of the resident portion of it in the accompanying illustration. It is situated near the City of Stratford, in the County of Perth, Ontario, and it is specially devoted to the support and production of the "bonny" class of animals gracing the foreground. Neidpath well represents the better class of Canadian farms, of which it is typical. The two hundred acres of rich clay loam, divided in the center lengthwise by a spring brook running south, to which the even halves of the farm gently slope, affording ideal drainage by a thorough system of tiling, leaves little to be desired as an ideal home of the fashionably bred high-class herd of Ayrshires to be found upon it.

The farm is divided into the convenient sized fields of about twenty acres each, separated formerly by board fences, which are now giving place to the modern wire structures. The system of farming practiced is of a mixed character, and conducted in the following rotation: Two crops of hay, peas, and pasture, fall wheat, roots, and corn, and oats seeded to timothy and clover. The fall wheat is also seeded with red clover, to be plowed down for corn in the fall or following spring. The producing power of

tives of that family, which was dispersed in 1895, along with the herd of some forty individuals, could be found. This dispersion, it will be remembered, was one of the most hopeful indications of a rise in the tide of Shorthorn affairs, it being the first good sale of its character for a number of years. The Shorthorn dispersion was to give place to the present herd of Ayrshires, which breed Mr. Ballantyne had long fancied as being most suited to his taste, and to the general utility of the Canadian farmer. His wisdom also directed him in deciding that the two-hundred-acre farm was not large enough to accommodate more than one breed of cattle to their advantage and his success as a breeder of the highest ideals. In 1893, while in Scotland, he selected five females and a bull from the herd of Robt. Wallace, Auchinbrain, Mauchlin, Ayrshire, noted particularly for the heavy milk-producing capacity of its females. The heifers were all in calf when imported, and fortunately produced female offspring, which very soon developed into a good-sized herd. Three cows were added from the herd of Messrs. David Morton & Sons, of Hamilton, Ont., at the time of their dispersion sale. The only other introduction has been the present typical dairy-formed three-year-old bull, Craigielea of Auchinbrain—1661—(3302). One has to see him in motion and handle him to at all adequately appreciate his superior individuality. The brightness of his eye, depth of forehead and thickness through the heart, fineness of shoulder, sprightly activity, rich,

ment, fitted with silo, root house, passages, forty single stalls, and eleven 12x12 foot box stalls, is modern in every particular. The floors and mangers are of cement concrete, and each stall is furnished with a Woodward iron basin, connected with an automatic watering system, supplied from a spring well operated by a windmill.

Some attention is also given at Neidpath to the rearing of bacon pigs, for which a new piggery, shown to the right in the farm buildings, has been built. It is 40x60 feet, and is modernly fitted with cement floors and troughs, and is well lighted and ventilated. Heretofore the pigs fed have been largely purchased, but now a number of Berkshire sows have been secured to breed from, which will be mated with a Tamworth sire.

Getting at First Causes.

The professor of natural science in a well-known college was recently discussing in a lesson the process of fertilizing plants by means of insects carrying pollen from one blossom to another.

In order to amuse the class, he extended Darwin's ingenious illustration used in the *Origin of Species* about the connection between cats and clover, and said that old maids were really the ultimate cause of it all. The attention of his hearers was more than aroused as he proceeded.



NEIDPATH STOCK FARM, PROPERTY OF MR. W. W. BALLANTYNE, STRATFORD, ONTARIO, CANADA.

the soil is well evidenced in the fact that the 1897 crops of fall wheat averaged well-nigh fifty bushels per acre. Usually from twelve to fourteen acres of corn are grown, as much as possible of which is preserved in the cement concrete silo, of some one hundred and twenty-five tons capacity. Five acres of mangels and one of turnips are also grown for the succulent portion of the winter fodder. It is the intention of Mr. W. W. Ballantyne, the son, now owner of the farm, to build a silo of smaller capacity for summer feeding, as he has found great advantage in feeding silage for two seasons to his milking cows, even when on good pasture.

This property was first taken hold of by the Hon. Mr. Ballantyne in 1880, who found it in a dirty and poor condition after a continued series of short leases. For a number of years it was devoted to the feeding of steers for the British market, which, with thorough cultivation, fencing, drainage, etc., soon built it up to a fertile state.

In 1884 the foundation of the Neidpath herd of Shorthorns was laid by an importation of six heifers and two bulls from the herds of Marr and Duthie, of Scotland. The animals comprised principally those of the Missie family, which has for many years been justly popular; so much so, indeed, that recently letters have been received from prominent American breeders, enquiring where representa-

silky skin, and highly nervous organization are among his strong points. His dam was purchased by his breeder, Mr. Wallace, to breed a bull for his own herd, and is considered one of the best cows in Scotland. It may be remarked by some that he is not of the fashionable almost white color, but Mr. Ballantyne considers good individuality, combined with heavy producing ancestry, of much greater moment. This bull was just once shown in Canada, at Toronto, in 1897, as a two-year-old, when he won first award, at which exhibition the herd made a notable record in winning first on herd of calves under a year, first on bull calf, second on heifer calf under one year, and first on heifer calf under six months, and a number of other important prizes. The herd, now comprising some twenty females, might have been much larger except for the numerous sales that are continually being made to the United States and various parts of Canada. Among the leading matrons in the herd is imported Daisy of Auchinbrain, standing in the group. In her only Canadian showing competition she tied the world-famed Nellie Osborne, to which the first award was finally given.

The housing quarters of the herd have been fitted up with convenience and comfort worthy of their inhabitants. The main barn, 64x100 feet, having a well-lighted and well-ventilated atmosphere

"The bumblebees carry the pollen," he declared: "the field mice destroy the nests of the bumblebees; therefore it is quite evident that the more field mice there are in any neighborhood, the fewer the bumblebees, and the less pollen variation of plants. But cats devour field mice, and old maids protect cats. Therefore, the more old maids, the more cats; the fewer field mice, the more bumblebees."

"Hence," was the professor's triumphant conclusion, "old maids are the cause of variety in plants."

At this point a fashionable young freshman, with a single eyeglass and a general appearance indicating that he was got up regardless of expense, arose and asked:

"I sa-a-y, professah, what is the cause—ah—of old maids—don't you know?"

"Perhaps Miss Brown" (a quick-witted member of the class) "can tell you," suggested the professor.

"Dudes!" said Miss Brown sharply, and without a moment's hesitation.

A Scotch preacher, who found his congregation going to sleep one Sunday before he had fairly begun, suddenly stopped: "Brethren, it's nae fair: gien ye hae a chance. Wait till a' get along, and then I am nae worth listening to gang to sleep, but ye gang before a' get commenced. Gien ye hae a chance."