

of close relationship like pigs. Some breeders assert in the present day that they have bred their flocks for 50 years without a cross or change of blood: it may be so, but they have not convinced me, nor do I think they will the public, that they have bred to the best advantage. I have heard it upon very good authority that the late Mr. Bakewell, of Dishley (who may justly be styled the father of the new Leicester breed of sheep) pursued the *in-and-in* system, until he found his flock degenerating fast, and sought advice from a breeder of fowls: and it was his opinion, as regarded fowls, that you might breed them to bear punishment, but would not have energy to retaliate. I have heard a similar opinion expressed by an eminent surgeon in this county, who said his neighbors inter-married till they had become all fools. I have myself twice experienced the ill effects of the *in-and-in* system of breeding in pigs, in the young ones all dying; and a similar circumstance occurred to a friend of mine last week. Let us now review the various breeds of beasts in our own immediate neighborhood. First we will take the long-horns, which are now only in the hands of a few individuals. This breed of beasts thirty years ago was nearly the only kind we saw in the county, and I can very well recollect some of the most celebrated herds. There was the Croxall, the Canley, and the Rollwright blood, and various others who were bred from these herds. Now each respective breeder had his prejudices, and seldom exchanged with each other. The Croxall blood differed from the others in this respect—their horns not being so long, but thicker, coarser hides, more lean flesh, and not quite so complete in form, less inclined to milk, but remarkable for their hardihood and feeding properties, and generally were mixed colors.* The Canley

* Mr. Webster, of Canley, near Coventry, was the first scientific breeder of long-horns, and his stock was founded on some good cows purchased of Sir R. Gresley, of Drakelow, near Burton-on-Trent; a gentleman who took much delight in keeping a dairy of cows of similar shape and color, and in importing bulls from Lancashire and Westmoreland. It has been much disputed what district originally possessed this breed; but general opinion points out Craven in the West Riding of Yorkshire, as the most probable. About the year 1790 very high prices, nearly £300 per head for bulls and cows, were obtained by Messrs. Fowler and Princes, and sixty to eighty guineas for the hire of bulls limited in use. The great length of the back in this breed yields more of the valuable cuts of beef than any other breed, and the flesh is deemed as much superior to the short-horn as the Southdown mutton is to the Leicester or Lincoln. The flesh is more marbled and intermixed with fat; and in the common expression of the butchers, there is more ninepenny than threepenny beef in the carcass: no breed can bear the summer's heat and winter's cold with so much impunity, and no cattle bear the straw-yard keep so well without losing con-

beasts were fine figures, with extreme long horns, great milkers, and consequently lighter of flesh; they were frequently self-colored, inclining to yellow or pale red, which in my opinion indicated want of constitution.* The Rollwright breed were very similar, but less in size; their symmetry, perhaps, more complete than the two former. Now it may seem to you surprising that these very eminent men, who were engaged in the breeding of long-horned cattle, should in the short space of thirty years have allowed this stock so to degenerate; either there must have been a want of foresight and application, or they must have possessed a bigoted prejudice against change or improvement. I am prepared to tell you this was the case, they being over jealous of each other; they considered it a degradation to ask each other for assistance. Why was only a part of the beast to be considered? Is it not as necessary to have milk as beef, and beef as milk? and why not borrow one from the other the properties most wanting? Bakewell said, "You might stick a patch on a sheep anywhere," and why not on a beast? surely this might have been done without making a rend. But I am led to believe that it was the *in-and-in* system that was a great cause of the falling off in the breed of the long-horns; it was the close affinity of blood that caused the loss of constitution and size.

dition. But the short-horn is a powerful rival, and by early maturity and a more liberal system of feeding them, has contributed to beat this once, and deservedly, esteemed breed out of general use; but a doubt still remains whether for the quantity and quality of the cheese or butter made they have ever been equalled. Mr. Bakewell's cow "Old Comely" lived to the age of 26 years; and when killed, the fat on her sirloin was four inches in thickness.

* The Rollwright herd appears to have been descended from the Canley herd. Mr. Fowler began with two cows purchased of Mr. Webster at what was then considered a high price, and to these he hired a bull called "Twopenny," of Mr. Bakewell. We see in the prices made at Mr. Fowler's sale in March, 1791, from the following prices obtained, that even high prices were justified in the great increased value of the offspring—

BULLS.

Garrick, 5 years old, purchased by Mr. Stone of Quorndon, for £215 5s.
 Washington, 2 years, purchased by Mr. Michael Buckley, Normanton, for £215 5s.
 Sultan, 2 years, purchased by Mr. Freeman, Hitchcott, for £220 10s.
 Young Garrick, 2 years, purchased for Mr. Fowler, for £49 7s.

COWS.

	£	s.	d.
Young Brindled Beauty.....	66	3	0
Nell's White Back.....	89	5	0
Long-horned Beauty.....	44	2	0
Nancy.....	52	10	0
Brindled Beauty.....	273	0	0
Garrick's Sister.....	120	15	0
Young Nell.....	126	0	0