

realized, at the sale, a comparatively low price. As the amounts sold appeared in all the Agricultural papers, and as such a statement, without some explanation, is calculated seriously to affect Mr. Hopper's interests as a Short-Horn breeder, I shall feel extremely obliged by the insertion in your valuable Journal of a letter received by Mr. Hopper from Mr. Gerrard, one of the gentlemen sent to England to purchase stock.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. JORDISON.

Port Hope, C. W., Dec. 31, 1853.

(Extract from Mr. Gerrard's Letter.)

"Home, near Paris, Ky., Oct. 21, 1853.

"At the time of sending them (the catalogues), I thought that I would write you, as an act of justice, and let you know how 'Belleville' 3rd, came to sell so comparatively low. He met with the misfortune to be crippled in one of his hind legs during a storm at sea, which, together with the long voyage (37 days), reduced him until you would scarcely have known him when he landed, although he had partially recovered before he landed. The long travel by Railroad (some 800 miles), in excessively hot weather in July, caused his legs to swell again, so that when I got him to Kentucky, and on the day of sale, he was quite lame, and looked very badly, which was the reason that he sold for *only near his value*; for you must understand that most of them sold for exorbitant prices by the competition of wealthy and spirited breeders from different counties, who owned large herds of fine cows, and had formed themselves into companies for the purpose of purchasing. The gentleman who purchased 'Belleville' the 3rd is Mr. David Coleman, near Lexington, Kentucky. I hear that he is much pleased with his bargain, that the Bull is improving finely, and will get well, so that his injury, received at sea, is only temporary.

"H. GERRARD.

"To John Mason Hopper, Esq., Newham Grange, Middlesbrough-Tees, Yorkshire, England."

## Natural History.

### THE OX—HISTORY, MANAGEMENT, DISEASES, &c.

(Continued from last number.)

[The Devon being one of the principal breeds, and much controversy having taken place among breeders as to the respective merits of the breeds, we have inserted Mr. Youatt's remarks—able and impartial—without abridgement. We advise all cattle owners to *study* them.]

#### THE MIDDLE HORNS.

##### THE DEVONS.

The north of Devon has been long celebrated for a breed of cattle beautiful in the highest de-

gree, and in activity at work and aptitude to fatten unrivalled. The native country of the Devons, and where they are found in a state of the greatest purity, extends from the river Taw westward, skirting along the Bristol Channel, the breed becoming more mixed, and at length comparatively lost before we arrive at the Parrett. Inland it extends by Barnstaple, South Molton, and Chumleigh, as far as Tiverton, and thence to Wellington, where again the breed becomes undiluted, or is mixed before we reach Taunton. More eastward the Somersets and the Welsh mingle with it, or supersede it. To the south there prevails a larger variety, a cross probably of the Devon with the Somerset; and on the west the Cornish cattle are found, or contaminate the breed. The Devonshire man confines them within a narrower district, and will scarcely allow them to be found with purity beyond his native county. From Portlock to Budeford, and a little to the north and the south, is, in his mind, the peculiar and only residence of the true Devon.

From the earliest records the breed has here remained the same; or it not quite as perfect as at the present moment, yet altered in no essential point until within the last thirty years. This is not a little surprising when it is remembered that a considerable portion of this district is not a breeding country, and that even a proportion, and that not a small one, of Devonshire cattle, are bred out of the county. On the borders of Somerset and Dorset, and partly in both, extending southward from Crewkerne, the county assumes the form of an extensive valley, and principally supplies the Exeter market with calves. Those that are dropped in February and March, are kept until May, and then sold to the drovers, who convey them to Exeter. They are there purchased by the Devonshire farmers, who keep them for two or three years, when they are sold to the Somersetshire graziers, who fatten them for the London market; so that a portion of the Devons, and of the very finest of the breed, come from Somerset and Dorset.

The truth is, that the Devonshire farmers were, until the last century, not conscious that they possessed anything superior to other breeds; but, like agriculturists every where else, they bought and bred without care or selection. It is only within the last one hundred and fifty or sixty years that any systematic efforts have been made to improve the breeds of cattle of the kingdom; and we must acknowledge, that the Devonshire men, with all their advantages, and with such good ground to work upon, were not the first to stir, and, for a time, were not the most zealous when they were roused to exertion. They are indebted to the nature of their soil and climate for the beautiful specimens which they possess of the native breed of our island, and they have retained this breed almost in spite of themselves. A spirit of emulation was at length kindled, and even the Devons have been materially improved, and brought to such a degree of perfection, that, take them all in all, they would suffer from intermixture with any other breed.

Whatever be the breed, there are certain con- formations which are indispensable to the thrive-