

THE IMPROVED BREEDS OF CATTLE.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Agriculturist*.
May 20th, 1851.

SIR,

Having seen in your columns the other day a letter from Mr. Tye, of Wilmot, the well known breeder of North Devons, I cannot resist the temptation of adding a word or two on the same subject. The Durhams seem to be the fashionable breed of cattle, chiefly on account of their large and showy though rather coarse frame, and early maturity. In the point of early maturity they certainly bear away the palm, as they ripen for the butcher 6 months or a year before the Herefords and Devons, but the following extract from the last *Agricultural Gazette*, of the prices in Smithfield Market, shows the public opinion of the quality of their meat:—

“Best Scots, Herefords, &c., 3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d. per stone (8 lbs.); best short horns, 3s 4d. to 3s. 6d. per stone.”

In addition to which the middle-horned red breeds, especially the North Devons, are proportionally heavier. For milking they do not seem equal either in quantity or quality, proportionally to the food they consume, and their size, to the North Devons, the Herefords seeming inferior to both as milkers. As working cattle, a subject of some importance, they are far surpassed by both the Herefords and Devons, the latter being the quickest, handiest, and most honest workers; and the Herefords, though slower, heavier and quite as true. Another great fault in the Durhams will be found in the report of the Agriculture of Yorkshire, by the *Times* commissioner, “One of the most experienced men in the district, himself an eminent breeder and first-rate judge, informed us that one season 34 of his high-priced and high-bred cows missed having calves, and so great are the risks attending this business, that it is every year narrowing itself into fewer hands.” That well bred cattle are easier kept in proportion to their value, and give greater returns, I believe is a fact no one will be found to deny but; it is also a self-evident fact, that the same cattle will not suit all situations, and I am afraid that the universal use of short horns will in many places lead to great disappointment.

I remain, Sir,
Yours, &c.,
AGUSTIS.

P. S.—As regards mere beauty, which in my opinion, is a thing not to be slighted, nothing can equal the exquisite and graceful symmetry of the North Devon. By the way, I think, Mr. Marks’

suggestion of a Canadian Herd-book, for all improved breeds, a most excellent one, as such a thing would give a great security to a purchaser of cattle.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA.

Blackfriars Mills, London, C. W. }
8th April, 1851. }

To the Editor of the *Canadian Agriculturist*.

DEAR SIR,

Numbers of your subscribers in the London and Western Districts, have, up to this time, been anxiously expecting (through the medium of your useful columns, or some other source,) the report of our Canadian geologist, through this section of the Province, about two years ago. When at London, that gentleman visited one of our best farmers, Mr. Christopher Walker, in the 12th Concession, and also the flats of our beautiful river Thames, and took specimens of the soil, with a promise that we should be furnished with a statement of their several qualities and requisites in the spring following. That time has passed and another at hand, yet nothing has appeared to satisfy the curiosity excited. Do, if you please, in your next publication, as our agricultural instrument, find out something relative to the important question,—What this part of the country requires, especially the river flats, to realize better crops?

I am, Dear Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
ROGER SMITH.

P. S.—Our fall wheat looks admirable in this section of the country and around Goderich.
R. S.

[Anxious to meet the wishes of our subscribers in the London and Western Districts, as referred to by our correspondent, we subjoin from Mr. Logan’s Geological Report for 1849–’50, such portions as bear upon the objects of the enquiry. It is to be regretted that these valuable reports are not better known in the remoter districts of the country. Some of our readers may not be aware of the fact, that T. S. Hunt, Esq., is the chemist and mineralogist to the Geological Survey, and consequently the analysis of soils falls within his department. In the fall of 1849, Mr. Hunt collected forty specimens of soils from different parts of Upper and Lower Canada, the results of such as he had been enabled to analyze are appended to the