

lets, as exemplified by Victor Verdier and Baron Lassus de St. Genis; the leathery texture of Verdier and the Baron's leaves enable them to be distinguished from those of the wild stock, which are thin and shiny, like our common wild rose, *Rosa blanda*.

ANOTHER new plant has to be added to the list of the Nova Scotian flora. We have received from Professor Macdonald of Dalhousie College a specimen of *Digitalis purpurea*, picked up by Mr. Poole on a kind of barren cleared two seasons ago, and in which the only seed he knows to have been sown, and that last year, is turnip seed. This plant is the fox glove of Britain, the *Digitalis* of the *Materia Medica*, and is commonly known in some parts of Scotland as Deil's Nightcaps. The botanical name *Digitalis*, as well as the English, and also the German one, *Fingerhut* or *Fingerhut blumen*, refers to the resemblance of the flowers to the fingers of a glove. This plant is the *Ephemeron* of Dioscorides; its connection with the English fox and the Scotch deil remains unexplained. It is not native anywhere on the American continent, and must be regarded as simply a colonist in Nova Scotia, some foxglove seed having probably become mixed accidentally in the seed store with the turnip seed referred to.

WE have to thank Professor How, D. C. L., of King's College, for his pamphlet on "Pyrrhotites," which word, we may explain, is meant "for short," and scientific for magnetic iron pyrites. He finds in a Cape Breton specimen one half of one per cent of nickel and cobalt; in a Nictaux specimen a tenth of a per cent, chiefly of nickel; three samples from Latete, N. B., yielded respectively nearly a tenth of one per cent, nearly four tenths, eight tenths, and four tenths. Specimens from Lowell, Mass., reported to contain 25 or 30 per cent. of nickel, yielded on analysis, nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Mispickel from Montague, Halifax County, yielded nearly a tenth of one per cent cobalt metal and a little manganese; that from Lunenburg gave reactions for both nickel and cobalt. Dr. How finds distinct evidence of these two metals in the slate rock matrix of them in *inert* Pickeringite at Newport, N. S., independent, apparently, of any metallic sulphides. Millerite from Tilt Cove, Newfoundland, of a pure yellow colour, in six-sided crystals and plates, gave the blow-pipe reactions for sulphur and nickel only. The nickel ore at Tilt Cove is chiefly another mineral, *kupfernickel*, occurring in pockets in the copper pyrites so largely raised the last few years. Dr. How's pamphlet concludes with a postscript which is mildly acetose, where some writers would certainly have made it powerfully dynamitish

because of Professor Reynolds' adopting Rammelsberg's erroneous formula for Ulexite in preference to How's, because of How's formula being again and again perversely attributed to Kraut, and called Kraut's, and because Prof. R., by taking the wrong formula for comparison with his new mineral, Franklandite, makes it appear that the substitution of one molecule of sodic oxide for three of water is capable of converting How's Ulexite into Reynolds's Franklandite, as far as comparison is concerned, whereas the latter differs from the former by containing one molecule of sodium metaborate in addition. Why How's mineral is called Ulexite we cannot well tell our readers, unless it be in allusion to the prickly Ulex or furze, on account of the many fine points and sharp discussions which the mineral has raised.

It appears that the sending away of so much first class beef to England, has had a marked influence on the American and Western Canadian markets, where good beef is now becoming scarce. There is plenty of scrub beef, but consumers don't want it. The reason why Canadian beef has hitherto found such a ready market in Halifax and is preferred by patriotic citizens to the home manufacture is that we have still so many old fogey farmers who don't know that there is a difference in texture between beef and shoe strings. There is no country in the world with greater capabilities for beef production in proportion to its size than Nova Scotia, and the introduction of a hundred and sixty thorough-bred bulls is working a rapid change. But our farmers are still unable to take from the public the money they are willing to give because they don't raise enough to sell. In the towns and villages we hear everywhere that money is scarce. A more abundant production on the farm would soon bring plenty of money.

WE are indebted to Robert Morrow Esq., for the following memorandum:—

The following is the passage from Prof. Macoun's report contained in the "Report of Progress, 1875 and 1876, Geological Survey of Canada," page 111:—

"Another small shrub (*Pachystigma myrsinites*), deserves mention on account of its adaptability to our climate. I found it in flower in November, 1872, when the thermometer was below zero, as far north as McLeod's Lake, latitude 55°, and again in May on Vancouver's Island. It is an evergreen, and the flowers of the preceeding autumn remain on all winter and produce fruit the following summer."

I hope you will find something of interest to you in the above extract.

In a recent shipment of 215 Canadian Cattle to Liverpool there were some magnificent specimens of oxen, two of which are figured in the *Agricultural Gazette*, (London). Mr. Sheldon, who went to Liverpool to see them, speaks of five as showing a combination of size and quality "seldom seen in England or any other country;" at all events he never saw five animals together before which possessed this combination in such a striking degree. One ox was a rich red roan, having evidently a great deal of Short Horn blood, he measured: from roots of horns to root of tail, 8 ft. 9 inches; girth behind the shoulder 9 ft. 4 inches; height to tip of shoulder, 5 ft. 8 inches; gross weight, 3600 lbs.; Dead weight of saleable meat, calculated at 57 p. c., 2052 lbs. He was 6 years old, bred by Mr. Snell.

BORN at Middle and Upper Stewiacke on the 20th, Professor Lawson referred in his lectures to the marked beauty and fertility of the *Stewiacke Intervale*, which he had seen for the first time in that morning's sun; to its broad expanse of rich grass land, as flat and smooth and green as the fields of Holland, stretching away for twenty-five or thirty miles and scarcely anywhere less than two miles in breadth, the large square fields, here outlined by giant elms, and there adorned by scattered trees, all stately and graceful, and on either side of this immense carpet of broad and verdent acres, we have a sheltering range of beautiful rounded hills, rich in undeveloped wealth that lies at the surface as a fertile soil, underlaid by plaster and lime, to supply the means of making it still more fertile, and these gently undulating hills are inviting the plough up and over the grassy slopes, for which the healthy white flocks are now preparing the way. The wholescene, he said, presented a picture of pastoral beauty, which reminded him more than anything else he had seen on this continent of some of the richest agricultural districts of England. We want only a steam plough and a dotting of thorough bred short horn Durhams and Devons and Ayrshires, over the meadows to make Stewiacke look very much like the Rothschild farms and other rich tracts in Buckinghamshire, where the fields feed twenty thousand cows, besides all other kinds of cattle, and annually send two thousand tons or more of beautiful butter into the London market, realizing, in the poorest year, from this product alone, a million and a half of dollars. To render the fields of Colchester as productive as those of Buckinghamshire is a very simple problem to the scientific agriculturist. Three things are required—systematic culture; selection of suitable thorough-bred stock; economical, that is intelligent, feeding. But why the people of such a country should