

Improved Breed of British Cattle.

The following very pertinent remarks are copied from the *American Herd Book*, edited and published by L. F. Allen, Esq., of Black Rock, New York. Mr. Allen is one of the most successful breeders of Short-horns, and also Improved North Devon Cattle in the Union. A large proportion of Grand Island belongs to Mr. A., and to give our readers some idea of the extent of stock breeding on the Island, it might not be amiss to mention, that last July when on a visit to that quarter, we stood on a small rise of ground, and counted eighty-four cows, grazing on a piece of interval land that did not exceed ten acres. About one-third of these animals were thorough bred and grade Durhams, and the remainder were Devons and native stock.—We invite gentlemen who admire fine cattle, to purchase Mr. Allen's *Herd Book*. They may order through us—price 15s. each:—

To such Agriculturists as regard the great cattle-breeding interests of the country of inferior, or but of ordinary moment, this volume may be of trifling consequence. If their whole course of observation, during the years in which they have been engaged in the indispensable and highly honorable calling of husbandry, has not led them to appreciate the amazing deficiency of the many points of excellence in which our native cattle abound, they have yet to learn, that of which a very moderate amount of investigation will convince them—at least one-fourth of all the vast sum of labor and of forage which is annually expended in the rearing of such a class of animals, is irrecoverably lost in misapplication.—According to the census of the United States, very loosely made, in the year 1840, the number of neat cattle in the whole country, was a fraction less than fifteen millions. The value of these, at a trifle less than seven dollars a head, would be, in round numbers, one hundred millions of dollars. The rapid increase which our country has since made in agricultural wealth, has greatly augmented this number, and we may safely estimate them, in 1846, at eighteen millions; and their value, at least one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. We shall not attempt to argue a question so easy of solution as that of increased value which attaches to the improvement

of any breed of domestic animals. We consider as identical with that of improved grains, vegetables, implements, and of labor saving machinery. If, by the introduction of better breeds of domestic stock of any kind, we add in any degree to their profitable uses, with an equal cost of subsistence, such additional amount as may be so added, is certainly an absolute gain beyond what we before received upon the same capital, and assuredly whatever tends to promote such increase, must be an achievement of immense benefit to the community.

Suppose that the eighteen millions of neat cattle now in the United States, by the infusion of better breeds among them generally, should, in their earlier maturity, and increased product of milk and flesh, with an equal consumption of food, and by a moderately increased amount of care, produce an additional profit of one-fifth, or twenty per cent.—certainly a moderate estimate the annual value of such improvement will be that which is derived from an additional invested capital of thirty millions of dollars!—a vast sum in the aggregate of our agricultural wealth. And this is no fiction. Absolute, well defined, laborious investigation has well settled the question.—Cattle-breeding has assumed the dignity of a science. Acute and investigating minds, for more than two centuries, in England, have unremittently labored to accomplish the splendid and gratifying results which they now triumphantly show to the world in the matchless animals thickly sprinkled over that highly cultivated land; and their example, for the last twenty years, we are happy to remark, has more or less influenced their brethren in America.

According to Youatt, a veterinary Surgeon of London, who published, under the superintendence of "The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge," a valuable work on British cattle, in 1834, the average weight of beef cattle at the Smithfield market in London, in the year 1710, was but 370 pounds each. A select committee of the House of Commons, in a report printed in 1795, stated, that since the year 1732 their neat cattle, on an average, had increased in size and weight one-fourth, or twenty-five per cent. This would make the average at that time (1795) 462 pounds. The average age of the fatted cattle was formerly about five years. At this last period, the peculiar state of the times in Great Britain, and indeed in all Europe, (for the French revolution