

The breeding of cattle has been, from time almost immemorial, the principal object of pursuit with the Galloway farmer. The soil and face of the country are admirably adapted for this.—The soil, although rich, is dry and healthy.—There are many large tracks of old grass land, that have not been ploughed during any one's recollection, and which still maintain their superior fertility; while the finer pastures are thickly covered with natural white clover, and other valuable grasses. The surface of the ground is irregular, sometimes rising into small globular hills, and at other times into abrupt banks, and thus forming small fertile glens, and producing shelter for cattle in the winter and early vegetation in the spring. In the low districts there is little frost and snow, but the climate is mild and rather moist; and thus a languid vegetation is supported during the winter, and pastures constantly retain their verdure.

The young cattle are chiefly bred and reared to a certain age upon the higher districts, or upon the inferior lands in the lower grounds. A few cows are kept in the richer soils to produce milk, butter, and cheese for the families; but it is found more profitable to breed and rear the cattle upon inferior lands, and afterwards to feed them upon the finer ground and the rich old pastures. There would be no objection to this if the Galloway farmers would afford their young stock a little shelter from the driving blasts of winter.

The regular Galloway breeders rarely sell any of their calves for veal; which is obtained only from those who keep cows for supplying the villagers with milk, and from the few dairy farms where cows are kept for making cheese.

The best heifers are retained as breeders, in order to supply the place of those whose progeny is not valuable, or who are turned off on account of their age. The other female calves are spayed during the first year. The spayed heifers are usually smaller than the bullocks, but they arrive sooner at maturity; they fatten readily; their meat is considered more delicate, and, in proportion to their size, they sell at higher prices than the bullocks.

The young cattle are rarely housed after the first winter; they are on their pastures day and night, but in cold weather, they receive hay and straw in the fields, supporting themselves otherwise on the *foggage* left unconsumed after the summer grass. Many of the farmers are beginning to learn their true interest, and the pastures are not so much overstocked in summer as they used to be, and a portion of herbage is left for the cattle in the winter; therefore, although the beasts are not in high condition in the spring, they have materially increased in size, and are in a proper state to be transferred to the rich pastures of the lower district.

The Galloway cows are not good milkers; but although the quantity of the milk is not great, it is rich in quality, and yields a large proportion of butter. A cow that gives from twelve to sixteen quarts per day is considered very superior, and that quantity produces more than a pound and a half of butter. The average, however, of a Galloway ewe cannot be reckoned at more than six

or eight quarts per day, during the five summer months after feeding her calf. During the next four months she does not give more than half that quantity, and for two or three months she is dry.

It has been said that the young Galloway cattle are more exposed than others to *Redwater*, particularly on grass lands wanting lime. *Quarter Evil* is also a frequent and fatal disease among these young cattle. When the Galloways become two years old, they will yield in hardness to none, and are comparatively exempt from every complaint.

It has been remarked in this, as in some other breeding districts, that cows and heifers of good quality are to be met with everywhere, but that it is difficult to find a Galloway bull free from defect. Too many breeders have become careless from this circumstance. They have been contented with a bull of moderate pretensions, and the form and value of their cattle have been depreciated; yet not to the extent that might be feared, for the imperfections of the sire do not always appear in the progeny, but the sterling characteristics of the Galloway cattle break out again, although obscured in one generation.

A bullock well fattened will weigh from 40 to 60 stones at 3 or 3½ years old, and some have been led to more than 100 stones imperial weight, at 5 years old.

It has often and truly been remarked, with regard to the Galloway cattle, that while in most other breeds of Scotland there may be some good beasts, but mingled with others of a different and very inferior kind, there is a uniform character, and that of excellence, here; one bullock selected at haphazard may generally be considered a fair sample of the lot. The breeders know, from long experience, what kind of cattle will please the farmers in Norfolk, by whom they are chiefly prepared for the London market, and to that kind they must carefully adhere. The drover likewise becomes, by his profession, an excellent judge of cattle, which he often purchases in large lots.—He is unable to handle half of them, but long practice has taught him to determine at a glance whether they are of equal value and will prove good feeders.

There is, perhaps, no breed of cattle which can be more truly said to be indigenous to the country, and incapable of improvement by any foreign cross, than the Galloways. The short-horns almost everywhere else have improved the cattle of the districts to which they have travelled; at least in the first cross produced manifest improvement; but even in the first cross, the short-horns have done little good in Galloway, and, as a permanent mixture, the choicest southern bulls have manifestly failed. The intelligent Galloway breeder is now perfectly satisfied that his stock can only be improved by adherence to the pure breed, and by care in the selection.

The Galloway cattle are generally very docile. This is a most valuable point about them in every respect. It is rare to find even a bull furious or troublesome.

During the last fifty years a very great improvement has taken place in the rearing and grazing of cattle in Galloway. Most of the great land-