

teen; three went to M. Colombat, Alhier, France; five to Mertens, Schleswig; five to Mr. Brydone, Otago, New Zealand, and two to Mr. Row of the same place. Lastly, ten to Nova Scotia, of which a full account is given in the Circular. We find, for the first time, references to the volumes of the English Herd Book, containing the ancestors of our Nova Scotian cattle, and give them here for the information of the owners: Rose Gwynne and Polly Vaughan, vol. xviii, page 704. Carwood's Rose, vol. xix, page 432. Princess Mary, vol. xvi, page 653. Baron Lightburne, 2nd, vol. xix, page 789. Gwynne of the Forest, vol. xx, page 511. Captain Carwood, vol. xx, p. 483. Kent Gwynne, vol. xix, p. 478. Viscount Oxford, vol. xx, p. 486. Skiddaw, vol. xx, p. 783. We now know what volumes of the Herd Book we require to consult.

Twelve American Short Horns were imported, viz., five from Mr. Cochrane and seven from Mr. Renick; these were for Earl of Dunmore and Earl of Bective.

Leaving 1875, we find that the sales of the present season of 1876 are numerous. At Mr. Outhwaite's sale we notice a reserve price of 5000 guineas (!) placed upon the bull Royal Windsor. One active breeder assigns as a reason for selling out that he is 82 years old. The sales that were deferred last autumn on account of Foot-and-Mouth, are coming off this spring, and are already nearly past.

The array of Short Horn births during the year is very formidable, but more puzzling is the list which follows of "private sales and lettings," in which the names of Rev. P. Graham's Second Mary and her or his cow calf, Mr. Cragg's Lucretia the Second's bull calf, Lady Pigot's Don Diego and her Amy sold to Mrs. Pery, Mr. Morley's Sprightly Maid and his Blissful Bride, and the Duke of Devonshire's favourite Duchess sold to Mr. Foster, are all so delightfully mixed up that, whilst everything is perfectly clear to an expert, yet we fear many people will hardly know which are cattle and which are lords and ladies. Twenty-six deaths of cattle are recorded, and this record is followed by an obituary of seven breeders. This last indicates that Short Horn Breeding and speculation tend not to shorten life, for one old gentleman dies at 81, another at 85, and a third at 98, all in harness or under the yoke.

The condition of the Short Horn market, and the causes that affect it, are very well expounded in the following summary by Mr. Thornton:—

"It will always now be found difficult to ascertain the effect which any season may have had upon the value of Short-horns, so continually do the boundaries enlarge within which customers may be expected, and, hence, so many are

the new forces in operation which help or hinder the ordinary influences of supply and demand. But, this year (1875), such uncommon agencies have been at work at home, that, without considering the foreign elements at all, to form a trustworthy opinion seems well nigh impossible. The number of occasions where a succession of wet days kept away company, and also took off the bloom from the lots to be sold, were enough to disarrange the average for the whole year. And, in other directions too, besides marring a sale by unfavorable weather on the day for auction, the rainy, gusty, summer, acted against a good demand. It produced a short crop of inferior wheat, hard to turn into money, even at a low price, and much of which was used as food for stock; it stained the barley and made this difficult to sell; it entailed bad fodder for cattle, and bad times for all occupiers of the land. And, as there was, in addition, an unsettled labour market, with incessant and apparently inevitable outbreaks of contagious disease—it is no wonder that large classes of farmers were discouraged, who might, otherwise, by the high price of meat, have been tempted to begin to breed. Such a combination of unfavorable circumstances can hardly occur again. The auctions have been held under difficulties from the very outset. Scanty hay and roots in 1874 made the markets, for store stock, sluggish in the spring; and the early sales of bulls in Ireland, which are every year increasing in importance, were seriously hurt in consequence. When the grass had come, business greatly improved; and, for a time, the prospects of a brilliant season were very good, especially for animals of those tribes with whose pedigrees all large buyers have been willing to acquaint themselves, and whose reputation has got itself generally accepted. For such, nearly up to mid-summer, the extraordinary standard of recent years was readily exceeded. Then, the other unfavourable causes were seen to be at work; and, with three or four exceptions, all the autumn appointments turned out to be lotteries, where the chances were greatly against the vendor. If, before the day fixed, his own cattle did not get the epidemic, those of some intending purchaser did. Often both would-be-seller, and would-be-buyer had, on briefest notice, to alter their plans, and repeated alterations impaired the readiness to attend. The list of sales, moreover, was very heavy. All these things must be taken into account before the total of the average of 1875 is compared with those of previous seasons. The great rise in the average is attributed to the still increasing value of many tribes of Bates blood in fashionable herds, selections from which are now coming

every two or three years into the market, and which includes some of the most excellent specimens from these herds. The late Mr. Torr's very large herd and enormous average, more than doubling the anticipations of the public, had also a great influence on the sum total and average for the year.

		£ s d.			
In 1873, breeders sold in public, 1022 animals,		at an average of			
In 1874,	2165	68	16	4	
In 1875,	2366	64	10	0	
		63	11	1	

This exceeds, by nearly one-half, that of the previous season, though this was in itself greatly in advance of any predecessor. Yet it should be added that all sales of bulls only, whether at public market (as at Birmingham and Cocker-mouth, Dublin, Cork, or in Scotland), or on private premises (as at Blennerhasset, Duncombe Park, &c.,) have been excluded from the list. The steady upward movement in value of the females—not merely of the tribes tracing to Mr. Bates' own herd, but of those which originated in the herds of the Messrs. Bell—has continued throughout the year. It was very conspicuous, at the beginning, at Col. Kingscote's very successful draft sale; and it was to be seen at Messrs. Tunncliffe's, Robinson's and Meatrin's at the end. I noticed, animals of fashionable descent in well known herds were more than ever in request. An American importing company bought largely at the spring sales, and during the summer; and at the early autumn sales, several Canadians were buyers, of good looking and fashionably bred animals, at high prices. Several good private sales were also made by American purchasers; a number of animals left the country for New Zealand, and a few for the continent; but the Australian ports are still closed against English stock; yet, notwithstanding the serious outbreak of disease last autumn, there are reports that it is in contemplation to allow live stock to be introduced into the Australian Colonies, at the close of 1876, after undergoing a strict and lengthened quarantine. The climax for admirers of the Bates blood was reached on the 25th of August; when the Earl of Dunmore's thirty nine animals made £672.8s. each, the highest average on record—one, Duchess bull fetching the unprecedented price of 4500 guineas (Lord Fitzhardinge), whilst another was bought for 3000 guineas (Mr. J. W. Larking). Great excitement was also caused among breeders generally by the Aylesby sale, one week later. The intimation that it was coming off, had improved the prices of cattle, tracing to Mr. Torr's herd, all the summer; and when eighty four lots sold at an average of £510.19s.; and the number, and the facts that all were home bred, that the names of some of the purchasers were very suggestive, and that the price