

# The Agriculturist.

TORONTO, JULY, 1852.

## THE CATTLE CONTROVERSY.

Some of our readers may possibly think that we are giving an undue prominence in our pages to the discussion of this subject. The introduction of Improved Stock is, however, a matter of the greatest importance to any system of advanced husbandry, and every facility should be afforded for a full and impartial exposition of the whole subject, that the people may clearly understand its various bearings, as they affect the interests of agriculture and the welfare of the community. It is now quite evident that Canada has reached a point in its Agricultural development, when Cattle raising and Dairying can be made more profitable, on a more extended and systematic scale than has hitherto obtained. And as the price of grain, particularly of our main staple,—*Wheat*, is likely to rule low for the future, the farmer must depend less upon that single article, for his money returns, than has been his wont, and devote more attention to other, and now happily more promising sources of profit, which have heretofore been comparatively neglected.

Such being our views, we have thought that the discussion of the adaptation of the various breeds of Cattle to the climate, pastures, and markets of this country might prove advantageous, both by eliciting facts and rousing the attention of our numerous readers to the vital importance and wide bearings of the subject. But in order to realize these advantages, it is quite essential that the question be treated, on all sides, in a comprehensive and truth-seeking spirit; and that all offensive personalities should be scrupulously avoided by those who engage in this kind of warfare. This, unhappily, has not been the case, to the extent desirable, in the present instance; and we embrace the present opportunity to inform our correspondents, who have taken, or may hereafter take a part in this controversy, that we cannot allow our pages to be made the vehicle of personal recrimination. Mr. Sotham commenced by setting a bad example, in questioning the motives of such as differ from his views;—and we think that upon a calm reconsideration of what he has written, he will see that his remarks on the character and judgment of Professor Low, of Edinburgh, and the late Mr. Youatt, betray a

recklessness of assertion and a most unwarrantable and offensive assumption, which in any other person than Mr. Sotham, we should say, was characteristic of anything but a candid, well-informed, and truth-seeking mind. We accept Mr. Sotham's laudatory remarks in reference to our "*impartiality*" on this question;—for we are conscious that we deserve them: our sole desire in this matter being the promotion of truth, so far as it can be really ascertained, and the common good of our country. And we cannot but believe, notwithstanding anything Mr. Sotham may assert to the contrary, that a large number of our respectable American contemporaries are actuated by similar motives. Men everywhere possess but imperfect knowledge of questions which do not admit of rigid demonstration, and are liable to be influenced, often unconsciously, by prejudice and self-interest. It is so unquestionably with regard to the relative merits of the different breeds of cattle. *Which* is absolutely *the best*, under the almost endlessly varying conditions of climate, pasturage, markets, &c., is a problem which no really judicious man will pretend to solve. Even when the question is restricted within well defined conditions, and a given locality, the judgment of no man, in the present state of our knowledge, particularly on this continent, is to be received as infallible.

Our pages will continue open both to Mr. Sotham and Mr. Parsons, or any one else, who may wish to contribute his mite to the common stock of knowledge on this subject;—*but on the condition that the articles be brief, and free from all offensive personalities.*

MODEL FARM OF LOWER CANADA.—We are much obliged to Mr. Kirkwood for his interesting communication, but deeply regret to hear that obstacles have arisen to the carrying out of the purposes contemplated by the Lower Canada Society in the establishment of a model and experimental farm. We had indulged the fond hope that such most important and praiseworthy efforts would have been crowned with success. And we hope so yet.

THE WOOL GROWER.—The proprietorship of this useful journal has, we learn, recently changed hands. Mr. Moore, of Rochester, formerly of the *Genesee Farmer*, and proprietor of that excellent weekly paper, "*The Rural New Yorker*," will henceforth publish the *Wool Grower*, which we observe is still to be under the editorial care of Mr. Peters, who is peculiarly well qualified for the task. We wish the new proprietor every success.