

sentiment; yet I must confess that I observed among the herd of cross-bred cows several specimens got by a Hereford bull that appeared in every respect equal to those produced by a Shorthorn. This is a question that can be settled only by careful and sufficient trial; and those who have personal experience in the matter would confer a benefit on agriculture by informing the public of their results. It is true that of late years, in the Christmas fat cattle shows at Smithfield and elsewhere, the Herefords have been closely treading against the heels of the Shorthorns, and in some distinguished instances have actually beaten them; yet it is not less true, that the latter still maintain, in all parts of the world, the ascendancy which they have so long enjoyed, as their vast numbers, wide distribution, and high prices, clearly testify. Mr. Stone's opinion must certainly be regarded as disinterested, as he has for many years occupied a first position among Shorthorn breeders. Till he introduced from England some first-rate specimens of Herefords eight or nine years since, our people had scarcely seen a single really good animal of that improved breed. They have now an opportunity of purchasing at moderate prices young breeding stock, which in point of quality and general excellence, are quite equal to what could be imported from England at much risk and far greater cost. I was much pleased, on the whole, with Mr. Stone's Shorthorns, out of which many young animals of decidedly superior pedigree and merit could be selected, admirably adapted to the purposes of improved breeding. His Southdown sheep are finely bred, and larger than is usual, I think, in the old country; and some of his Cotswolds are magnificent. It is fortunate that we have in Ontario several breeders of improved stock, not confined to any particular variety, from which such of our farmers as are desirous of improving their flocks and herds may readily select animals of both sexes, as may best suit their wants and taste.

I had the pleasure of spending a day with Mr. Parsons, of Culdaff Farm, near Guelph. Mrs. P. has long been known to the Canadian public as a successful maker of *Stilton cheese*, scarcely, if at all, inferior to that of her own native Leicestershire, a county where this rich

kind of cheese was first made, and yet forms the chief staple of the dairyman's produce. This famed delicacy, we are told, acquired its name by being first sold by Cooper Thornhill, who kept the "Bell Inn," at Stilton, on the great north road, and who, by the assistance of his relation, Mrs. Paulet, the first maker, was enabled to gratify the tastes of his customers at the rate of 2s 6d per lb.; where the cheese was made was, of course, as long as possible kept a secret, and hence it obtained the name of Stilton. One occasionally sees on this side the Atlantic cheese palmed off under this name, which really possesses little of the qualities of the genuine Stilton, its principal resemblance being that of mere form. Each maker has, probably, some peculiarity of his own in the manipulation, but new milk and cream in about equal quantities are the essential ingredients of a first-rate article. The *modus operandi* in making good Stilton differs very materially from the methods of making ordinary sorts of cheese, and requires the most scrupulous attention to order, cleanliness, and the proper manner of mixing and managing the materials.

The first week of June I spent in the county of Hastings, chiefly in the North Riding, where serious and protracted difficulties had been experienced in the working of the Electoral Division Agricultural Society. After having considerable personal intercourse with several members individually, I met a large number of them in public meeting convened for the purpose of considering the grounds of difference; and after a long and earnest discussion, a conciliatory disposition was manifested by all parties, and terms mutually agreed to, which, faithfully carried out, will restore unanimity and greatly promote the usefulness of the society. The physical features of this Riding are somewhat of a peculiar character, a broad belt of exceedingly rocky country, north of Madoc cuts off, in great measure, communication between the northern and southern portions of the county. There is good farming land in several parts of Madoc and the townships to the north, but very large areas exist that will never readily admit of settlement. At least, the only practicable way I can see of effecting any settlement at all in much of this region, composed of