

become satisfied of the superior qualities of some cattle he had imported from Holland, determined to import some other animals of the same breed, the best that could be obtained. He transmitted his orders to that effect in Dec. 1858, and four cows were shipped for him at Rotterdam in April, and arrived at Boston on the 23rd May 1859.

We learn from a letter published by Mr. Chenery in the *Boston Cultivator* of March 17th last, that—

“Upon examination the cows were found to be in an extremely bad condition,—very much bruised and emaciated,—one of them, as the mate of the bark stated, not having been on her feet during the twenty days preceding her arrival; another one was totally unable to walk, and these two animals were accordingly carried to the farm in waggons—the remaining two were driven out.

Deeming it impossible for the first mentioned cow to recover, she was on the 31st of May slaughtered, and on the 2d of June following the second cow died. At that time, Mr. Chenery was fully persuaded that the bad condition of these animals was caused merely by neglect on the voyage.

The third cow of this importation seemed to be doing well until about the 20th of June, when she became sick and died in ten days after. The fourth cow, Lady Beemster, had, up to a short time since, shown no indications of sickness, but was, on the contrary, in a thriving condition.

Early in the month of August following, symptoms of disease were observable in the Dutch cow, Lady Louise, (imported in 1852.) She died on the 20th of the same month. About this time several other animals were taken sick in rapid succession, and then it was that the idea was first advanced that the disease was identical with that known in Europe as “Epizootic Pleuro-pneumonia.” From that date every possible precaution was taken to prevent the spread of the supposed distemper, strict orders having been given that no animals should be allowed to leave the farm nor any strange cattle to come upon the premises.

The following extract from Mr. Chenery's letter-book, in answer to an application for stock during the prevalence of the disease, will serve to show his views with regard to it at the time: “I am, at present, obliged to decline any applications for stock, owing

to an epidemic disease in my herd. The disease is that known as ‘Pleuro-pneumonia,’ and I have already lost seventeen head, and have ten more very sick. I am using every precaution to prevent the disease from spreading, and you will of course see the propriety of my refusing to allow any animal to leave the farm until the infection has ceased.”

“It is manifest,” Mr. C. continues, “that the means used to prevent the spread of the distemper have so far proved eminently successful, inasmuch as, notwithstanding I have lost some thirty animals—nearly half of my whole herd—there has not been a single case of the disease elsewhere in the neighborhood of my farm.”

But Mr. Chenery had in July, 1859, sold three calves (two heifers and one bull) half Dutch and half Ayrshire, of his old stock, to a young farmer, named Curtis Stoddard, in North Brookfield, Mass. Stoddard owned a large herd of cattle, and was in the habit of trading largely in them, and from this source the disease spread in all directions. We learn from a statement of the Hon. Amasa Walker, published lately in the *Homestead*, that in August last one of the calves purchased from Mr. Chenery by Young Stoddard was taken sick.

“His father took the calf home to his farm to nurse. It grew worse, and so it was taken back. The herd of the elder Stoddard became sick, and some died. Some of the younger Stoddard's cattle died, but no excitement was caused up to the 11th of February, when it was found that the disease was contagious. Mr. Feedleham, at whose place Stoddard put up, when drawing wood from Braintree, discovered it in his herd. A Mr. Olmstead bought cattle from Stoddard; his cattle died in January. Some other herds were taken sick, and all were traced to some connection with the Stoddard's herds.

“Last November, young Stoddard had an auction of his herd, which were chiefly heifers. They were sold two or three to a place. The disease began to attract serious attention, and to be investigated in February, and on the 23rd, he, (Mr. Walker,) drew up a petition, and his brother took it, after getting numerous signatures, to the legislature. The subject was for five weeks fooled with; a resolution, worse than nothing, proposed, amended, tabled, etc., and up to the 2nd of April, nothing was done. Then the law was passed, under which the