

Stock Department.

Notes on Canadian Herds.

NO. I.

During a visit to London recently, we took an early morning walk out to the farm of Col. J. B. Taylor, who has lately entered the lists as a breeder of short-horn stock. His property comprises about seventy acres of land, situated on the south bank of the Thames, in Westminster township, about a mile from the G. W. R. station. The soil is clayey, but rich, principally in grass, with a few acres of roots.

We found the Colonel at home, and full of genial enthusiasm on the subject of stock-breeding. He began his herd last fall, with the purchase of three animals at the sale of Mr. J. Snell, of Edmonton namely, cow "Fancy," which was thought to be in calf, but proving otherwise, was sold this spring to the butcher (the recent statements going the rounds of the press about her calves we found to be pure Munchausenisms); cow "Bracelet," out of "Young Countess," by "Butterfly 2nd," [91] expected to drop a calf to a son of "Baron Solway;" heifer "Molesy" out of "Flora,"

by "Butterfly 2nd," now in calf to "Duke of Magdala." Soon afterwards he purchased the two year old bull "Duke of Magdala," out of "Mattie," by "Grand Duke of Moreton," [324]. His colour is dark rich red, with some white, and he partakes largely of the appearance and qualities of his sire.

The Colonel's fancy runs towards the Duchess tribe since he saw "Duchess 97th," and he has now two females and one male of that tribe, "Duchess of Winfield," and her half-sister, "2nd Duchess of Portland," both bred by A. G. Brace, of Herkimer county, N.Y. These animals, when we saw them, showed evident signs of hard usage at the hands of their former owner, for they were so thin we could scarcely imagine that they were specimens of high-bred short-horns. They were in very low condition when they arrived a few weeks ago, but have been carefully fed and nursed since coming into the Colonel's hands, and have just gratified

him by both dropping heifer calves to "Duke of Winfield." It is to be hoped that now they have got into good hands, they will soon regain their former good breeding shape, and be able to grace the show yard with credit at the coming Provincial Exhibition. The Colonel has also a nice cow, "Jessie," by "Royal Duke of Gloster," lately bought from George Robson, of London township, and, lastly, his recent purchase from J. O. Sheldon, of Geneva, N. Y., of the Duchess bull calf, "Proud Duke," whose pedigree we give in another column. This animal, though but four months old, shows every mark of high lineage, and promises to become a noble animal that will succeed in winning laurels for his owner in the exhibition ring.

At Major Greig's, Beachville, we expected to find some extra good stock; but were rather disappointed to find that his short horn



"PRINCE OF WALES,"—The Property of W. WHEELER, Esq., Woburn.

females were but few, and mostly grades, or enough above it to pass muster for the Canadian Herd Book. He has, however, one fine two year old bull, "Lord of the Hills," out of "Sanspareil," by "Grand Duke of Moreton." His recent purchase from Mr. Cochran of "Captain Grahame," an eight months' old bull of nearly pure Booth blood, will prove an acquisition that promises to tell to advantage on his small herd. He is out of "Pink Thorn Leaf," by "Prince of the Realm," (22627) dam by "Baron Booth," (21212). We noticed several fine Ayrshire cows that are kept for the dairy, and to furnish extra rich milk for the family.

The Major farms three hundred acres of as nice land as one can wish for, situated on the banks of the Thames, close to Beachville, with a fine slope towards the south, and his pastures seemed to be thick and strong, and capable of carrying a large amount of stock.

Prize Ayrshire Cattle.

The merits of the Ayrshire breed of cattle are too well established and too well known to require any lengthened notice. They are acknowledged to take the lead as dairy cattle for the quantity of milk they yield, though some of the smaller breeds, more especially the Alderney or Jersey cows, give milk that is richer in cream. The small size of these diminutive breeds renders them unsuitable for the ordinary farmer, and as the Ayrshire, besides her excellent dairy qualities, is of fair size, and when not in milk will readily take on fat, it is in every respect a first-class animal for the dairy farmer. Among the most successful breeders of this variety in Canada, the Messrs. Wheeler, father and son, of Scarborough, have for many years been foremost, and have taken prizes for them at all the recent Provincial shows. The accompanying illustrations were drawn from life by Mr. Page, and faithfully represent prize animals in this class at the last Provincial Exhibition in Hamilton. The bull "Prince of Wales" was bred by James Logan, Esq., of Montreal, dam "Charlotte," by "Sir Colin." Mr. Wheeler purchased him from J. W. Hough, Esq., in 1866. He took the first prizes and diplomas in 1867 and 1868 at the Pro-

vincial fairs. He is eight years old.

The cow, "Sally," was bred by Mr. J. P. Wheeler, sen., out of the imported cow "Lady Ayr," and was got by the imported bull "Carrick Farmer," who was winner of several first prizes at the Provincial fairs, and gained the diploma for the best bull of any age in 1865 and 1866. Sally took the first prize as a yearling, and as a two-year old, and again as a three-year old cow at Kingston in 1867. Last year, at Hamilton, she took the second as an aged cow, two other cows of Mr. Wheeler's taking the first and third. She is a deep milker, and is five years old.

Both bull and cow are good specimens of this valuable breed, and would be creditable in any showyard. Besides premiums for the animals whose portraits are given, Mr. Wheeler took several other prizes last year at Hamilton for Ayrshires, showing the best one year old bull and two-year old heifer.