

Stock.**A Chatty Letter from the States.**

From our Chicago Correspondent.

The receipts of cattle are not quite so heavy now compared with the corresponding time last year as they were two months ago, but are very large; indeed, the market for cattle has been steadily increasing—at least for all good kinds. Several thousand 1,300 to 1,420 lbs. Montana range cattle have lately sold at \$5.00 to \$5.30, and Texas and Indian grass cattle of good quality have sold at \$3.00 to \$4.50 for fair to fancy steers.

There has been an enormous run of native cows and heifers, which have been selling at \$1.50 to \$3.00 per cwt.

The condition of the Western range cattle men is greatly improved over last year, and they are not obliged to sacrifice so much unmarketable stock.

During September the very best 275 to 340 lb. hogs sold at \$6.60 to \$6.75, and the best 1,400 to 1,600 lb. cattle sold at \$6.50 to \$6.70. Considering all the croaking that has been done, about the cattle business especially, these figures must seem very encouraging to the business-like men who have stuck to the business and refused to believe that there was nothing but hard times in store for them.

Sheep have been marketed here from the west in very large numbers and rather poor quality, just as they came from the range, and the market has been overstocked with sheep that were just between butchering and feeding conditions. They have sold mainly at \$3.40 to \$3.55, with some lower, and now and then a choice lot of 115 lb. grass fat wethers at \$4.25.

Cattle and hogs have been selling freely, \$1 higher than a year ago, while sheep have hardly maintained prices of 1887.

Indications are that a large "crop" of sheep will be fed this winter. Farmers are looking for cattle to feed, and indications point to a large volume of business in this direction, though the severe lessons of the past two or three seasons will tend to make feeders more business-like in their methods and less willing to take chances.

Prosperity is again beginning to smile upon the business of the western stock ranchmen.

The writer recently had a talk with a gentleman who succeeded in getting into the Texas cattle business at the very lowest time and getting out of it when the great boom of 1883 was at its height. Mr. Robert Strahorn in 1875 bought a few thousand Texas cattle at Hoperhead, with the calves thrown in. The next year he bought 25,000 head on nearly as low terms. In 1883 he sold out the entire herd at the high figure of \$22.50 per head, counting the calves and all, besides reserving the privilege of a year to make the delivery. Cows that were forward were put aside until they calved so as to swell the number, and in not foreseeing this the purchasers made the first of a series of blunders which soon resulted in their failure, as the collapse of the great boom was at hand almost as soon as they had closed the bargain, which involved nearly two million dollars. The purchasers were New Yorkers, and the corporation was the Franklyn Land & Cattle Co. The herd had been handled at an annual cost of about \$20,000, but under the new and inexperienced management the cost was upwards of \$80,000 per

annum. These particulars are mentioned simply to show that the business management more than the business is usually to blame for failures, especially in this business.

Mr. Strahorn, who has been a close observer of the ups and downs of the cattle business, is of the opinion that the business will pay largely now with intelligent management.

Another man, Mr. D. P. Atwood, of Colorado City, Texas, went into the business just as it was at the top of the great boom, but he has made a success of the business by conducting it on business principles. He said that Texas cattle men when overtaken in their extravagance, which was the outgrowth of the disastrous boom of 1881-3, paid as high as 18 to 24 per cent. interest on loans, and only a few failed at that. He wants to know what other business could do that and live. He is an advocate of the idea of paying heifers that are not needed for breeding, and thinks that the true way to dispose of the surplus. Under the old system of "free grass" ten acres was enough to keep a steer a year, but now since the range in the South is fenced into pastures 15 to 20 acres are needed.

The Sittyton Shorthorns.

For many years the Sittyton herd was the largest collection of Shorthorns in the kingdom, and numbered about 300 head. At present it consists of 120 females and 5 bulls, having been largely reduced by sales. There are no less than 19 different families in the female line, and it may, perhaps, be said through the various sires occurring in the pedigrees, every leading strain of Shorthorn blood has at one time or another found admission.

The catalogue does not show that attention was paid at any time to what is known as "fashion" in breeding. There is not a single Booth tribe at Sittyton, and only one Bates, viz., the Secret, or, as more recently known, the Silence tribe, of which there are ten females. The Violet family of nine females are placed first in the list. They were formerly known as Roses, but those bred at Sittyton received the name of Violet. They inherit some fine old blood, and the name of Wiley's Grazier, 1085, and Whitacre's Wallace, 1560, are amongst those of the earliest sires exhibited in their pedigrees.

Mr. Bates' Secret tribe, named above, is placed second in the catalogue, and the pedigrees now show in many cases some four or five crosses of bulls bred by Mr. Cruickshank. It would be interesting to observe how far the Bates tribe still asserts itself in the appearance of these animals.

The next tribe is the "G" or Golden, not the well known Aylesby G, but a family which is descended from Pure Gold (bred at Eden), whose great grand dam was Mr. B. Wilson's Brawith Bud, by Mr. Crofton's Sir Walter, 2639, from a cow by Mr. Booth's Jerry, 4097. Further back there are five bulls in this pedigree in succession which were all bred by Major Rudd.

The celebrated Victorias (of Mason descent) have seven representatives, which all spring from Victoria 4th, bred by Mr. Robert Holmes, in Ireland, whose herd occupied so high a place. The late Mr. Barnes used to say that Robert Holmes had at one time the best lot of Mason cows he had ever seen together.

The Duchesses of Gloster, which run back to Lord Ducie's Chaff, by Duke of Cornwall, 5947, number only four. They are very well bred, and such noted bulls as the 650 guineas Duke of Gloster, 11382, and Usurer, 9763, figure in their coat of arms.

A numerous family of twenty-four come from

Kitty, by Lord Ducie's Somerset, 10858, and further back the blood of Messrs. Crofton and Chrisp. It may be presumed that this is a favorite sort of Sittyton, since it constitutes so large a portion of the herd.

From Mr. Mason's Old Lady there are twelve descendants, whose names all have the initial letter C. Mr. Cruickshank seems, indeed, at all times to have held Mason blood in high estimation.

The Lavender tribe comes next. It consists of fourteen females, all inheriting a lendid blood. Beyond the recent sires in the pedigrees, which are home-bred, there are Col. Kingscote's Count Bickerstaffe 2nd, 25838, of Bates blood, the late Mr. Barnes' Brian Boru, 17440, of the Booth sort, while further back the blood of Wilkinson, Mason, and Colling are strongly shown, and the earliest recorded sire is the 1,000 guinea Comet, 155.

The noted cow Spicy, by Mr. Tanqueray's Marmaduke, 14897, and full of first-rate blood from the herds of Lord Ducie, Mr. Crofton, Mr. Booth, and Lord Carlisle, has four female descendants in the catalogue, which are pretty sure to do credit to their lineage. Some other tribes are represented, but only by one or two animals of each.

Barmpton Lily is of the Barmpton Rose sort, so well known, as that from which the successful Butterflies sprang. Lady of the Forest represents Lord Spencer's herd, as she is descended from Jenny Lind by Jew's Harp, 8180, bred at Wiseton.

The bulls number only five, which shows the great demand for young sires from Sittyton. Several of them are for use at home. Cumberland, 46144, is in his 8th year, and descended from Mason's Old Lady. Feudal Chief, 51251, is over four years old, and belongs to the Lavers. Gondolier, 52956, is three years old, and comes from Brawith Bud, as also does Gondomar, a yearling. Commodore, 54118, like Cumberland, is descended from Mason's Old Lady. All, save one, are red.

The herd at Sittyton is in many ways a remarkable one. There the tyranny of fashion never exerted its sway. The Messrs. Cruickshank, Amos and Anthony, bred according to their own lights. Startling prices were never paid for females and never received. No extraordinary risks were run; and if animals, either purchased or bred, should turn out unsatisfactory, they could be parted with at little loss. As to pedigree, there were no hard and fast lines laid down; so long as the blood was sound there was no objection to any name by which it may be distinguished.

The Messrs. Cruickshank were, therefore entirely unfettered in the matter of selection, and went on in their own even and safe course, quite regardless of the tumult among the wild partisans of the rival houses of Bates and Booth. Bulls bred at home from the best strains were chiefly used, and occasionally a sire of first-rate shape was purchased for the herd.

For many years the work patiently carried on at Sittyton did not meet with its due reward. The Shorthorns, no doubt, satisfactorily paid their way, but there was neither that great demand nor were there those high prices which the merits of the cattle would have warranted. In later years, however, a great change occurred. The sales to America especially have been very large and very remunerative. Mr. Cruickshank is wholly unable to satisfy the demand, and his brother breeders are now, too, reaping the reward of the good name which the Sittyton Shorthorns have gained for themselves and for Scotch Shorthorns generally in the new world and elsewhere.—[The English Farmer's Gazette.