

Natural History.

THE OX.—HISTORY, MANAGEMENT, &c.

THE POLLED CATTLE.

THE GALLOWAYS.

The stewartry of Kirculbright and the shire of Wigton, with a part of Ayrshire and Dumfries, formed the ancient province of Galloway. The two first counties possess much interest with us as the native district of a breed of *polled*, or *dodded*, or *kumble* cattle, highly valued for its grazing properties. So late as the middle of the 18th century, the greater part of the Galloway cattle were horned—they were middle-horns: but some were polled—they were either remnants of the native breed, or the characteristic of the aboriginal cattle would be occasionally displayed, although many a generation had passed.

For more than 150 years the surplus cattle of Galloway had been sent far into England, and principally into the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. The polled beasts were always favorites with the English farmers; they fattened as kindly as the others, they attained a larger size, their flesh lost none of its fineness of grain, and they exhibited no wildness and dangerous ferocity which are sometime serious objections to the Highland breed. Thence it happened that, in process of time, the horned breed decreased, and was at length quite superseded by the polled.

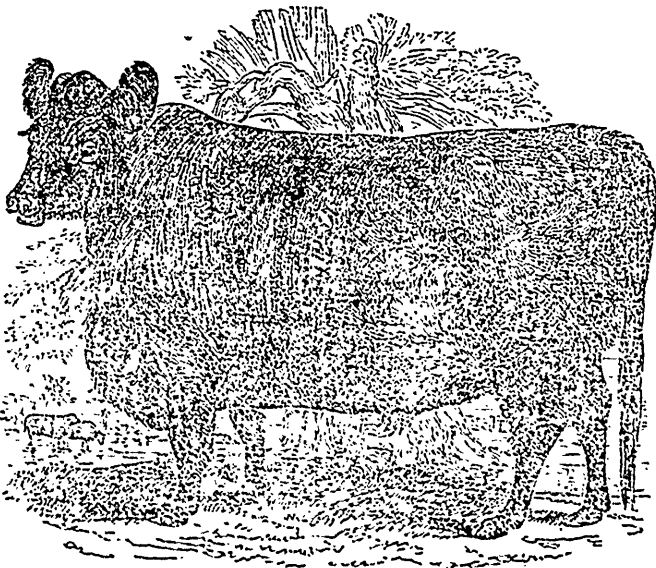
The Galloway cattle are straight and broad in the back, and nearly level from the head of the rump, are round in the ribs, and also between the shoulders and the ribs, and the ribs and the loins, and broad in the loin, without any large projecting hook bones. In roundness of barrel and fullness of ribs they will compare with any breed, and also in the proportion which the loins bear to

the hook bones, or protuberances of the ribs.—When viewed from above, the whole body appears beautifully rounded, like the longitudinal section of a roller. They are long in the quarters and ribs, and deep in the chest, but not broad in the twist. There is less space between the hook or hip bones and the ribs than in most other breeds, a consideration of much importance, for the advantage of length of carcass consists in the animal being well ribbed home, or as little space as possible lost in the flank.

The Galloway is short in the leg, and moderately fine in the shank bones—the happy medium preserved in the leg, which secures hardihood and disposition to fatten. With the same cleanliness and shortness of shank, there is no breed so large and muscular above the knee, while there is more room for the deep, broad, and capacious chest. He is clean, not fine and slender, but well proportioned in the neck and chaps; a thin and delicate neck would not correspond with the broad shoulders, deep chest, and close, compact form of the breed. The neck of the Galloway bull is thick almost to a fault. The head is rather heavy; the eyes are not prominent, and the ears are large, rough, and full of long hairs on the inside.

The Galloway is covered with a loose mellow skin of medium thickness, which is clothed with long, soft, silky hair. The skin is thinner than that of the Leicestershire, but not so fine as the hide of the short-horn but it handles soft and kindly.

The prevailing and fashionable color is black—a few are of a dark brindle brown, and still fewer speckled with white spots, and some of them are of a dun or drab color. Dark colors are uniformly preferred, from the belief that they indicate hardiness of constitution.



GALLOWAY OX IN GOOD CONDITION.