

possess a quality of flabby flesh, which is considered very soft to the touch, and which is always connected with a thin skin. It is the union of these three qualities which often characterizes the first class Short Horns, and which is considered by the best judges to be only second rate, under the term called good handling. It is the union of the two latter, that establishes the constitution,—and it is from this reason, only, that they require nursing and extra care. It is not so with the Herefords—they have maintained a higher standard of excellence, for which the best of the breed has always been esteemed. A moderately thick mellow hide, with a well apportioned combination of softness, with elasticity. I prefer the touch to be moderately firm and elastic. They generally stand on short legs, over which is a straight compact paunch, wide hips, level back and crops, round ribs, meaty chine, possessing weight with compactness, their udders generally of medium size with very little flesh, and will stand the test for rich milk and butter, for the food they consume, against any other breed. This is the character of my herd, which I am always ready to maintain.

The following extract, from the *Mark Lane Express*, Sept'r 15, 1850, is proof of what I have said, as some of mine are descended precisely from the same herd: "The prize Hereford Bull, shown at Windsor by the Right Hon. Lord Berwick, Cronk Hill, near Shrewsbury, aged four and a-half years, was unquestionably the best bull in the yard. He has a 'large' square frame of great depth, well covered with flesh of good quality. He has a good skin, short legs, girths nine feet, and is six feet in length;—altogether, he is a large, compact animal. The second prize Hereford Bull, belonging to Mr. Price, was also a remarkable animal, but not to be compared with Lord Berwick's bull. Although but three years and twenty days old, he girthed eight feet seven inches; whilst the prize Short Horn Bull, a much higher and apparently a much larger animal, girthed two inches less, although three months older. The other classes of Herefords contained some admirable specimens, and, although not so numerously exhibited as the Short Horns, yet we think as a class they stood unequalled." There seems to be something in this account of the Herefords that contains "proof." Since writing the above, my *Mark Lane Express* has come to hand, containing the account of the Smithfield Show, in which it seems the Herefords nearly carry every thing in classes of Steers and Oxen—10 prizes; to Devons, 3; to Short Horns, 1; and the Hereford Ox winning the cup as the best in all classes;—in Cows and Heifers—Herefords, 1; Short Horns, 6. In Cows, there were but very few Herefords shown; the Short Horns were "great in number." In the report, the Herefords and Devons were all sold, the names of the purchasers given. Of the Short Horns, two only were sold—the report says "not sold"—opposite each animal, which is a proof of the demand for best quality. The report further says that Mr. Phillips' two years and ten months old Hereford, was remark-

able for its form and early maturity, and that the Short Horns were apparently too large and coarse for prize animals or for sale.

Yours, &c.,

W. H. SOTHAM.

IMPROVEMENT OF PASTURE LAND, &c.

WALPOLE, 26th Feb., 1852.

SIR:—Observing by the newspapers that there is to be an Agricultural Minister in the Cabinet, and an Agricultural Professor in the University, I, along with many of my neighbours, begin to think about what is most likely to benefit the farmers of this Province. And here I will just state that I am only a plain home-spun farmer, with neither a classical nor scientific education. But having been brought up to farming in England till thirty years of age, and having spent the last ten years in Canada, I have had some practical experience.

The principal disadvantage the farmer in this section of country labours under, is, that the only paying crop is wheat. Now, there is no need of my trying to prove to you that the English farmers make more money out of their stock, than of their wheat;—nay, many of them make more from their stock than by all the grain they grow of every kind. This I have no doubt you will admit. Now, Sir, I have no doubt you are ready to say, but we cannot grow turnips to the extent they do, at least, not profitably,—and here I would agree with you, for we certainly cannot. But may we not improve our pastures? Go into one of the Western counties of Old England, in the middle of May; take a morning's walk into a meadow, observe the variety and luxuriance of the herbage, to say nothing of the beauty of the scene (and surely no artificial flower garden ever could be compared with it!) and no one would wonder at the amount of stock the farmer raises on such pastures. Timothy, though an excellent grass for hay, gives scarcely any after grass, or fog, as some call it.

It is reported that you, Sir, are to have an example farm under your direction, in connexion with the professorship of Agriculture. If it be so, I believe one of the best experiments you could make, would be to seed down a piece of land with as extensive a collection of grass seeds as you could obtain, not forgetting the rib grass, or long plantain, from Britain. I believe the best possible mixture are the grass seeds found in the farmers' hay-lofts in England. I have often collected bushels after the winter was over, in my father's hay-lofts, to sow in the spring, and we always found that they filled the ground well with every needful variety. Seeds ought to be new, for after they become more than a year old, they do not half grow.

It will be but of little use to improve stock, except we improve pastures. Every farmer will acknowledge *Short Horns* to be the most splendid cattle in the world, but they are the aristocracy of the farm yard, and must have splendid accommodations and food, or they will quickly degenerate. If we cannot have improved pastures,