

IMPROVED BREEDS OF HORNED
CATTLE.

The following very sensible remarks have been sent us for publication, which we heartily welcome to our columns. A proper selection of improved stock being a subject of great importance to the Canadian farmer, we shall embrace this opportunity of briefly advancing our views upon the merits of a few of the British breeds of cattle that would be the best adapted to the country.

The *Durham*, or *Short Horns*, are certainly a breed of cattle which possess in an eminent degree a combination of qualities adapted to the peculiar circumstances of many portions of this country, which are rarely met with in any other breeds; their splendid frames and beautifully varied colors have made them objects of general esteem; and their aptitude to fatten, and their good milking qualities, have secured them a character that stands first on the list of the improved breeds. The *Durhams* are essentially good graziers and medium milkers, but bad workers; where the shambles and the dairy are the only object with the breeder, they cannot be excelled; but when these two qualities are required in combination with an adaptation for the yoke, there are other breeds that would combine the three to a much greater degree. The importers of this favorite race of cattle have grossly been in fault in introducing the largest and coarsest animals, whereas the medium-sized would much better suit the long winters and hot summers of Canada. A few specimens, however, have been imported of the desired quality, and it has been fairly proved, that the progeny of the pure breed are more hardy than the native cattle. *Grade Durhams* are now very common in every section of the province,

but those which may be termed pure or well bred are in the hands of a very few. So few fresh importations are made, that the breeder has much difficulty to improve the race—in fact the present stock in the country are rather on the retrograde order. The only apology for this decline is, the want of proper encouragement to the breeder. As the country gets older, and the cultivators of the soil become better informed upon these and other subjects that are equally connected with their true interests, thorough-bred animals of this and other valuable kinds will be much more highly prized and sought after than at present.

The improved *North Devon cattle* are beautiful in the highest degree, and their dairy qualities and aptitude to fatten, are scarcely inferior to the *Durhams*; but their activity at work, and hardiness, are unrivalled. It has ever been a favorite project with us, to breed the *Devons* for the yoke, believing that it would be decidedly more profitable for a large farmer to employ oxen of their quickness of action, docility and good temper, and also stoutness and honesty for the performance of a large share of work on the farm, than horses, as is the practice in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred. Two good *Devonshire oxen* will do as much work in the fields as any two horses, and the saving in keep is no inconsiderable item with a farmer who requires a number of span of horses to work his land.—For the dairy the *North Devon* must be acknowledged to be inferior in many respects to some other breeds. The milk is remarkably good, and the quality remunerating to the dairyman, but not so large as the *Durhams* and *Ayrshires* produce. In our humble opinion, when all things are considered, the *North De-*