

practice of letting rams instead of selling them to farmers, which has since become so common throughout the country, was originated by him. In a compact sheep district it has many advantages, but it is not so well suited to the condition of things existing in America, and has never become general here. After Bakewell's death, the work of improvement was continued by the Dishley Club, an organization which he established, and which was governed by very stringent rules. The breed thus produced is remarkable for its perfection of form, its early maturity, its aptitude to fatten, and its small loss in dressing. They look "thoroughbred" all over. The head is without horns, bare of wool on the poll, finely shaped, and well and horizontally set on the tapering neck. The neck and back form a remarkably straight line, and the underlines are very straight and parallel with the back. The shoulders are perfect and the breast is very prominent, causing the animal to show particularly well forward. Indeed, its fore end is too good to be equalled all the way through. The ribs have a splendid spring from the spine, and the carcass is ribbed well home. The legs are short and well placed. Fat wethers dress from 120 to 150 pounds. They shear seven or eight pounds of long, soft, lustrous wool, not quite so valuable for combing as some of the coarser kinds.

Perfect as the Leicesters are in so many respects, their greatest value is found in crossing them with other breeds. There are many serious objections to keeping a pure-bred flock. Very high breeding is nearly always attended with disadvantages. With Leicesters it has resulted in a want of constitutional vigor, and an inability to withstand exposure to the weather. The ewes are not prolific and the lambs are tender. From these reasons we do not find many pure flocks even in their own district. There is, too, an objection to the breed in their disposition to put on too much solid fat, both inside and outside, instead of placing it in the fibre of the lean meat. A well-fed draft ewe is nearly all fat. Such meat in England finds its market among the colliers, who make a pound of it go a long way when stewed with vegetables.

But for a cross the Leicesters are everywhere in favor. With the Cheviots it has produced an exceedingly valuable sheep, found in great numbers upon the best lands in Northumberland, Berwickshire and Roxburghshire, and called the Border Leicesters. They are very highly esteemed, and it is claimed that they will do more on a given quantity of food in a short time than any other breed. Turnips are extensively grown there, and the lambs being mainly kept upon them after weaning are ready for the butcher at one or two years of age. Leicester crosses of some kind are commonly met with in nearly every part of the country, and it is said they touch no breed that they do not improve (1)

Leicesters were early brought to this country and have placed their mark upon much of our so-called native stock. When well sheltered and cared for, their crosses are everywhere valuable. Pure bred animals are not suited to our climate and general treatment.

It is a matter of interest that Bakewell also made great improvement in horses for agricultural uses, importing breeding animals from Flanders for the purpose.

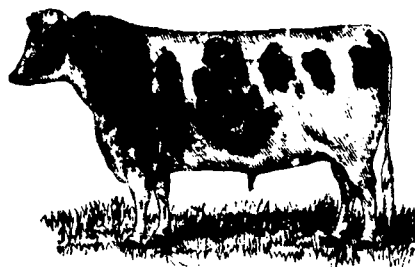
JAMES WOOD.

Mt. Kisco, N. Y.

(1) About the best early lamb is a cross from a Down ewe and a Leicester ram.

A R J F

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"BARRINGTON."

No. 278 N. H. B. No 2103 H. H. B. Out of Hamming, with milk record of 99lbs in single day

We now have in quarantine, at Quebec, an importation of over 60 head of Holsteins, which will be released Dec. 29th. This herd consists of ewes, yearlings, and calves; and has many prize animals from this year's great "International Exhibition," at Amsterdam;—including the cow, that won first prize of \$160 and bronze medal as giving the best quality of milk, for cows giving over 40 lbs. per day. Also the cow with her gold medal, won at Schagen in 1881. The cows of this importation have milk records from 65 lbs. per day,—as three years olds;—and the ancestors of the young stock, have equally good records. Wishing to give our Canadian friends and patrons, the benefit of our personal selections, of first class Holstein stock, without the necessity of a second quarantine, we, with great difficulty, succeeded in obtaining transportation to Quebec,—and feel confident that they will, in return, embrace the present desirable opportunity of securing them before quarantine expires;—as all not then disposed of, will be removed to the Sinclairville Stock Farm. Write for *Illustrated Catalogue*. All correspondence should be addressed:

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The State of Michigan has more than 4,500 miles of railroad and 1,600 miles of Lake transportation, schools and churches in every county, public buildings all paid for, and no debt. Its soil and climate combine to produce large crops, and it is the best fruit State in the Northwest. Several million acres of unoccupied and fertile lands are yet in the market at low prices. The State has issued a PAMPHLET containing a map also descriptions of the soil, crops and general resources which may be had free of charge by writing to the COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION, DETROIT, MICH.

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From the Boston Evening Traveller.

THE KNABE PIANO, which has such a wide popularity, is considered by many experts to be superior in every way to any other Piano in the world. The success of this Piano has only been attained by years of careful study, and the Knabe, with its excellent singing quality, its great power, the elasticity of touch, and superior workmanship, is justly the favorite. Herr Faelten's piano solos at the recent Worcester festival, the Schuman's concerto, in A minor, op. 54, and Liszt's Rhapsodie No. 4, which were so highly praised, were both performed upon a Knabe Piano. Herr Faelten pronouncing it to be the best Piano he had ever seen.

We call the attention of the readers of the *Journal of Agriculture* to the Enterprise Meat Choppers advertised in our present issue. The demand for these Choppers has attained such immense proportions that the manufacturers have been compelled to largely increase their facilities for making them, and we are assured that they are now being turned out at the rate of 2,500 per week, 150 hands being steadily employed on them.

There can be no doubt as to the excellence of the Choppers, as they have been tested by the editors of nearly 100 agricultural papers, who have given them a hearty endorsement. We cordially recommend them to all our subscribers as by far the best machine of the kind ever introduced to public favor.