

to Col. Freeman, Milford. There are many others, such as Bar None (2382), Enterprise of Cannock (2772), Charter (2740), etc., but want of space bids us desist.

THE SHIRE HORSE IN CANADA.

Although it is only within the last few years that Shire horses have been imported to this country in any numbers, yet at a much earlier date, stallions of this breed have at different periods been introduced. As in England, the want of a distinctive title has in a great measure prevented this breed from being more popular in Canada. The majority of them were travelled under the name of draught or cart horses, and many of them were probably supposed to be Clydes by those not conversant with pedigrees, and were no doubt used by them under that belief. This would account for the mixed system of breeding that has been pursued in many parts of this country, which the revising of the entries for the Canada Clyde Stud Book has brought to light. Few were previously aware how many horses there were that trace to a Shire cross. At Canadian exhibitions Shires have successfully held their own. Many will doubtless remember England's Glory (737) [97], who won first both at the Provincial, Toronto, Hamilton and many other shows, and up to 1872 was said never to have been beaten. Hero (3716), who won first prize twice at Toronto exhibition, and Lord Harry [5], who won the sweepstakes for best draught horse of any age at the Industrial Exhibition.

In the States this breed has quickly taken a firm hold, and many grand stallions and mares have been imported. Our American cousins are no longer content with obtaining medium animals. It is but last year that they secured the famous Enterprise of Cannock (2772), the champion stallion at the London Shire show in 1884, who, unfortunately, however, died on the voyage, and Caractacus (sired by Pompeii (1757), d. Albury Blackbird, by North's Peacock,) who, at the stallion show held in connection with the Fat-Stock Show at Chicago in November last, obtained the sweepstakes for the best draught stallion of any breed, competing against Clydes, Percherons and French draught breeds, and who was said by one of the judges to be one of the three finest draught horses in the world.

The earliest importation to Canada of a draught horse, which is supposed to be a Shire, is Tamworth [92]. All that is known of him is that he was bay in color and was imported in 1836 by the British troops and taken to London, Ont. He is described as a heavy artillery horse. The next importation I have been able to ascertain is King Alfred [72], who was imported to Canada in 1847, but I have no information as to his breeding. The next importation is Brown George [H], imported in 1851, and his is undoubtedly a Shire pedigree. From this date, importations of Shire stallions occur more frequently, but, as yet, comparatively few mares have been imported. It has been extremely difficult to obtain, even approximately, a complete list of imported Shires, and many are doubtless omitted. Horsemen appear to be singularly oblivious to their own interests in not sending particulars of their importations to the stock papers. Rare are the instances in which it is done, although I am sure the STOCK JOURNAL and other papers would willingly allow space for that purpose. Many horses have been imported without having been registered in the English Shire Horse Stud Book, and as a good proportion of horses are sold to American purchasers who often wish to have their purchases recorded in their own stud book, it may not be amiss to remind Shire importers that by rule 6 of the American Shire Horse Stud Book, "imported stallions or mares, sub-

sequently to April 28th, 1885, are admitted only upon the certificate of the secretary of the English Shire Horse Stud Book that they have been recorded in the English Shire Horse Stud Book, or that they are by sire and out of dam both recorded in the English Shire Horse Stud Book."

AGRICOLA.

(To be Continued.)

Our Scotch Letter.

CLYDESDALE BREEDING IN ABERDEENSHIRE.

(From our Aberdeenshire Correspondent.)

The rapid strides that are being made in the improvement of Clydesdales in Aberdeenshire may be pleaded as my excuse for devoting some attention to a subject which in this district is one of ever-growing importance, which may also engage the attention of a not inconsiderable number of your readers. The pre-eminence of the county as one of the most important centres of cattle-breeding in the island has long been recognized, and there are not a few who speak with some authority, who say that before long the "Aberdeenshire" Clydesdale will compel as much attention and admiration as do our famous Shorthorns and "blackskins" of the present day. This much at any rate I can say, that Clydesdale breeding has been taken up in dead earnest by several of our best landlords and shrewdest farmers, who are not the sort of men to put their hand to the plough and look back, so that if genuine enthusiasm, thorough practical interest and sound judgment count for anything, the future history of Clydesdale breeding here will be a record of unqualified successes. A few gleanings on the subject of the earlier improvement of the breed may not inappropriately come first.

There are still those "to the fore," as it is sometimes phrased, who remember and speak with admiration of the stallions named Comet, belonging to Mr. Wilson, late of Durn, which traveled the county. Mention is particularly made of the grey Comet and the black Comet, which were described to me as being splendid, thick-set horses of a really admirable type. Compared with the horses of the present day they would, however, have been accounted deficient in bone and hair. Still there is no doubt they did good to the county and led to further improvements.

A Mr. Elder also introduced some new blood, but of the earlier horses none could be compared with Young Lord Haddie, a horse belonging to Mr. Sim, Faewells, and a most prolific sire, which laid the foundation of many good stocks that were turned to advantage later on. Mr. Duncan Kinkell and other people went to the west of Scotland at various times and brought back with them what their fancy dictated or their pockets permitted, and so it was that the noted Lord Lyon (489) made his way to Aberdeenshire, and his mark upon the local studs. On the larger farms, horses of a superior class were kept as compared with those on the smaller holdings, and the owners had for many years been in the practice of selecting their breeding mares, the best only being retained for brood purposes. Some idea of the character of the better class of mares to be found in the county many years ago may be gathered from the description given me of a mare which was the dam of a horse named Cairnbrogie (116), and owned by the late Mr. Marr, of that ilk. She was a magnificent type of a low-set, thick, active Clydesdale mare, with scarcely so much feather as they had in the south of Scotland, but her head, body and legs were perfection, and she had any amount of action. Such was the mare that may be said to be a typical specimen of the best mares in the county at a comparatively early period of the present century, and such was really the foundation and backbone of the present improved Aberdeenshire Clydesdales, whether they had any affinity to the race of animals that were reared in the southwest, and which have doubtless made the fashion as regards Clydesdales up to the present time, I do not know. Local breeders say they were a distinct strain by themselves, and on this hypothesis they account for the splendid results which have been achieved in combination by the two. I have been informed that thirty years ago some of the work-horses stood over at least 17 hands, which proves indirectly that our farmers had at a comparatively early stage taken in hand the improvement of their horses. They were noted for the toughness of their feet and their thin, hard bone, qualities that no doubt were the means of attracting the large buyers from the south

who find in Aberdeenshire the sort of animal that can best withstand the wear and tear incident to the heavy traffic of the streets of Glasgow. The horses bought for such traffic in this district have for years been acknowledged to have the best wearing qualities, the result, it may be, of our rigorous climate and hard granite soil.

Mr. Marr, Cairnbrogie, told me an incident which shows the active character of these horses. A colt about 17 hands high was being driven into a corner by Mr. Marr's father, when it wheeled round and leaped clean over his head. That was about thirty years ago. The encouragement which the Royal Northern Agricultural Society gave to the breeding of horses in the northeast of Scotland deserves to be acknowledged. Special prizes were offered to horses on condition that their services would be given to certain districts, and this sometimes had the effect of drawing first-class animals from the south. It also became a not uncommon practice for Aberdeenshire farmers to go to the south for mares.

But coming to speak of more recent events, reference will be made to a few of the more typical instances, in which the enterprise shown by individual breeders has been attended with the most abundant good fortune. Mr. John Marr, Cairnbrogie, who will be readily admitted to be one of the principal supporters of this variety of stock in the northeast of Scotland, as he has been one of the most successful breeders in the county, had been at Keir on business, and from what he saw of the famous stud there he was led to invest in a pair of foals at the then long price of 100 gs. His purchases were somewhat of a novelty at that time, being heavier-legged and bigger-boned than the Clydesdales generally seen in this district previous to that time. General (323), which turned out to be a successful prize-taker and a good stock-getter, was one of them, and his companion was Maggie Newstead, also a prize-taker, who was afterwards sold to Col. Holloway at a high price, and the stallion likewise went to America. This, having proved a profitable investment, Mr. Marr was on the alert for new blood, and the dispersion of the Knockdon stud afforded him the opportunity of obtaining as fashionable Clydesdales as could have been found anywhere. He knew at that time that it was a toss up whether the Kier stud or the Knockdon stud had the best material that was to be got. Among the animals offered at the sale was a mare named Young Darling (237) out of the dam of the famous horse Prince of Wales. She had a striking resemblance to her mother, and though other females were put into the sale-ring with a higher show-yard record, Mr. Marr invested his money in Young Darling, and was by some thought to be a rash man for doing so. Events have proved Mr. Marr's judgment to have been unerring, for I do not know that a more fortunate speculation has ever been made in the Clydesdale world. Grand Turk and Merry Mason completed Mr. Marr's purchases at the Knockdon sale, these being two horses that, having traveled Aberdeenshire successfully, were sold at long prices to go to America. Mr. Walker, Coullie, another Aberdeenshire breeder at the same sale, purchased a daughter of the Prince of Wales. She was an animal of great quality, proved a prolific breeder, and left a lot of capital stock, which have brought very remunerative prices. The progeny of such fashionably-bred Clydesdales were soon spotted in the show-yard, where they carried everything before them. Mr. Dunn, Jackstown; Mr. George Bean, Mains of Balquhain; Mr. Lumsden, of Balmedie, and others, also spared no trouble or money to buy the very best material wherever it was to be found, so that Clydesdale breeding is now in the hands of a large number of the very best men in the county, the stocks at the same time being most fashionable and select, while the descendants of the native element to which I referred have of course been maintained and crossed with southern blood, having been an invaluable assistance in the improvement of the breed.

In the course of time the Aberdeenshire Clydesdale breeders found that, although they had an excellent stock of mares, they were rather restricted in their selection of sires to mate with them. A club called the Central Aberdeenshire Horse Club was formed for the purpose of securing a first-class sire, and in 1881 at the Glasgow Show they engaged W. P. Crawford's Lord Erskine (1744), but as he was awarded the Glasgow Society's prize, he could not fulfil his engagement, and Strathleven (1539) took his place for a time. Ultimately, Lord Erskine was secured at a premium of