

of calves was Mr. Christie's Oxford of Athelstane, about eleven months old; his sire, Oxford Lad; dam, Pride of Athelstane. He is one of the best bulls of his age I ever saw—his shape, coat, and handling indicating that he may make another Hubback. He came into the ring as a competitor for the prize on the best Short-Horn bull of any age, and notwithstanding the difficulties of comparing such young animals with those of mature age, the judges declared him the winner.

"The Herefords were somewhat more numerous than at the show at London last year, there being 36 head. Most of them were owned by Mr. Stone, of Guelph, and I think the others were derived from his herd. As a class, they were entitled to a high rank—certainly as high as any other breed on the field. In symmetry and quality of flesh, several of Mr. Stone's cows and heifers could scarcely be excelled. In the bulls, too, there was much merit. The Herefords seem to be gaining in favor in Canada, and there is no reason why they should not. Where speculation is thrown out of the question, and cattle are kept for use and profit in the ordinary markets, the Herefords will be esteemed.

"The Devons were most numerous of any breed on exhibition, numbering, I think, 120 head. As a class, they were very good, and many specimens were excellent. Some people who see no merit in any breed of cattle except that to which their own herd belong, and vent their prejudices on what they call "little rats of Devons," would have been likely to open their eyes and shut their mouths, if they had seen some of the stock here exhibited—bulls weighing from 1,800 to upwards of 2,100 pounds, and cows as large according to the sex. The bull, Prince of Wales, bred in England by Lord Portman, which took the first prize, I found to measure at the girth seven feet and eight inches, snug, although in only working condition. Several large bulls were exhibited; but he was regarded as large enough, and the scale was turned in his favor by other points. He is six years old, is of the Quartley family; is owned by John Pincombe, of London, who has several younger bulls, cows and heifers, of similar strain of blood, and carried off various prizes.

"The Galloways were an interesting class, though somewhat less numerous, I think, than at London last year. They are said to be rapidly increasing in Canada, having proved themselves well adapted to the climate. I feel confident that they will also prove to be a very valuable breed for Michigan, and all the northern section of our country. Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa would act wisely by introducing them. There were many good specimens on exhibition at Toronto—short in the leg, long and round in the body—cylinders of beef of the best quality. Their cousins, the polled Angus cattle, were represented by a dozen or fifteen specimens. Several of the cows were very pretty—thinner in the fore-rib, and with more prominent hips than the Galloways, with perhaps more indications of milking properties than they, but with a thinner skin, lighter coat, and a less strong and rugged appearance.

"The Ayrshires were quite numerous, and there were good specimens among them, but the average standard of the class would not be very high. The breed is justly very popular with Canadian dairymen, but judging from the stock on exhibition at Toronto, there is a want of attention to the points and qualities of breeding animals. If such bulls as some of the best that were shown were used in all herds, the improvement would soon be very great.

"Coming to sheep, the long-wools were much the most numerous, and those shown under the name of Leicester were the leading variety. Still the popular tide seems to be setting in favor of the Cotswolds—the heavier fleece of the latter, under the high price which long wool brings, making them more profitable, as is claimed. Mr. Stone of Guelph who has heretofore kept both Leicesters and Cotswolds, has lately sold out the former. His Cotswolds are very fine, and several of the highest prizes were carried by specimens from his flock. Some of his rams weigh upwards of 400 pounds each. Mr. Snell, of Edmonton, showed both Leicesters and Cotswolds—some of the former, eighteen months old, weighing nearly 300 pounds each, and a three year old Cotswold upwards of 400 pounds. Many sheep in the long-wooled classes were ruled out from competition on account of not having been closely shorn, according to the requirements of the Association. Mr. Kirby, of Milton, showed four of the fifteen Lincolnshire rams lately imported by him. They are all large, well shaped sheep. One, a yearling, is said to weigh over 300 pounds, and was sold on the ground for \$300. They have heavy fleeces. Whether they will excel the Cotswolds in profit, can only be determined by actual trial. South-Downs were not very numerous, but the specimens were generally good. Mr. Stone carried off nearly all the first prizes, though other lots were not without merit. Shropshire Downs and Hampshire Downs were represented by a few specimens. George

Miller, of Markham, was the principal exhibitor of the Shropshires, and H. Spencer, of Whitby, of the Hampshire. A few specimens of Merinos were exhibited. It was difficult to find judges for the class among the Canadians; but a Michigan man was finally found, who has done much of that business on this side, and by his aid the prizes were soon awarded. One of the competitors said he thought the prizes would otherwise have been awarded to the fattest sheep, though but very little fat could be found on any of them.

"The show of Swine was very large. The medium sized Berkshires took the lead, and seem to be a very popular stock. There were a few specimens of the Essex breed. Of white hogs, the large Yorkshire were represented; they are as large or larger than the so-called Chester county stock, and much finer in bone, and stronger in the back. The Suffolk, or a variety of similar character, was shown to a large extent—many specimens being very good.

"The Poultry show was very large. Nearly all the most popular varieties of fowls were represented. The show of the Spanish variety was the largest I ever saw, and comprised many excellent specimens. Several lots of Bremen or Embden geese were exhibited, which were equal in size to any that used to whiten the fields or waters of the Ten Hills Farm, near Boston—the late proprietor of which, Col. Jacques, was perhaps the first importer of the breed to this country. The Toulouse and other varieties were also exhibited.

"The implement show, though good, was not as large as that at London last year. The ploughs were nearly all of the Scotch style—long, low, rakish-looking, without wheels—the Scotch contending that "a wheel is better on a cart than on a plough." Harrows, as usual, were better than we generally see on this side. In fact, in the class of implements used for cleaning the land and producing a perfect seed-bed, the Canadians excel us. It is a pity that some of their grubbers and horse-hoes should not be introduced among our farmers. In root-cutters, too, I know of nothing equal to Gardener's, which turned one way, cuts in strips half an inch thick and three-quarters of an inch wide, and turned the other way cuts in slices. I saw no root-pulpers, and could not learn that any are made in the Province, though some farmers have imported them. They should be made by our implement manufacturers. There were several reaping and mowing machines, but this class was not as well filled as we usually find it at our large shows.

"The show of fruit surprised all the visitors from this side by its extent and excellence. The show of roots was the largest that I have seen on this side of the Atlantic. The seed department was also well filled. Indeed, I did not expect to see such good samples of wheat and barley, after such a season of heavy and continuous rains. There was a large show of cheese, including the monstrosity of several tons weight, which was shown at the late New York State Exhibition. A fine article of Stilton cheese is made in Canada, specimens of which were shown from several dairies. Numerous samples of butter were on exhibition, which appeared well. The mechanical and manufacturing departments of the exhibition appeared to be well and creditably filled, and in that of fine arts there was no lack. The arrangement of all the in-door classes was highly creditable to the judgment and taste of the managers. The entire Exhibition was of a decidedly practical character, not degraded by private clap-trap shows, "trials of speed," or "female equestrianism." Yet the people attended in large numbers. It is no compliment to our people to say that exhibitions of utilitarian character would not be attended by them. Permit me to say, in conclusion, that a more frequent interchange of visits with our Canadian neighbours at agricultural exhibitions, would be productive of much good. In a practical view, we might, with advantage, resort to their herds and flocks for stock to improve our own; but the duty of 20 per cent. now levied amounts nearly to a prohibition. I cannot see why the same rule should not prevail in regard to the introduction of stock from Canada for the improvement of breeds, that has been observed in reference to European countries; that is, it should be admitted free of duty. Will not our leading agriculturists see that this matter is set right at the next session of Congress?"

What Women Can Do.

Among the strangers in Philadelphia at this moment are two ladies from Martinsburg, West Virginia. Yesterday they were purchasing a seed drill, a mowing machine, and other agricultural implements, whose cost in the aggregate was about 800 dols. Their home was very close to the theatre of the late war. Between the two contending armies their houses and barns were burned, their horses and cattle driven off, their only brother conscripted into the rebel army, and themselves left utterly destitute and homeless. Any one

who, seeing a young lady such as we saw yesterday, had been told that she had personally ploughed and planted many acres of land, would have laughed to scorn the party so informing him. Such, however, is literally the case. We learned the facts from a gentleman residing in the vicinity. The smoking ruins of the farm upon which these young people resided had scarcely cooled when the neighbours clubbed together, built them a log house, and extemporized a sort of barn. Horses were loaned to them, and the girls with their own hands ploughed the ground and seeded it with corn. The crop grew apace, and with their own hands they harvested it. They sold it to good advantage. They had owned forty-seven negro slaves. Some of these went into the Union army, others deserted the locality. The girls were left alone to battle with the vicissitudes of the war. Our informant, whose respectability is beyond a question, says that these girls produced by their works in the field more decided and productive results than were accomplished by the entire gang of slaves. They toiled for three years, and now have a comfortable house and most substantial barns upon their property, while improvements have been made upon it to an extent that makes it of considerable more value than before the torch of conflicting armies reduced its buildings to ashes. One of the young ladies has since married, but the others still do duty as their own "overseers," and they themselves purchased yesterday, and directed the shipment of the agricultural implements to which have above referred. The wonder to the dealer, was that a lady, delicately-gloved and attired as though she had never overstepped the bounds of the boudoir, should descend experimentally and intelligently upon the respective merits of the different reaping machines, and upon the comparative values of the different patents for threshing out the cereals. These young ladies were educated in Philadelphia, and are well known to many of our best people.—*Philadelphia North American.*

The Poetry of Farming.

Agriculture has a field of poetry as well as practical culture. The "pastoral landscape" is here—all that the ancients have said about it—the harvest field sung about and beloved by everybody; the "tanned haycock," the scent of new-made hay at evening; the fields with their garniture of green, embracing the whole practical world of nature, the great source of the poet's inspiration. There are the fruits: ripe, golden apples, blushing and fragrant; peaches, pears, plums; the strawberry; and the seedy glistening blackberry, with their fields of poetry! And then the maize—in the field, in the barn, yellow and glistening on mild October days, when the sun also is yellow, and earth is teeming like a wine press with plenty and good cheer. What hope! what prospect in store for the bright winter evenings! The vineyard itself is one of the greatest of poems. How the ancients doated upon it, and sang its praise! and now it is flowing in streams, and hanging its purple clusters in bursting profusion.

THE ANT TRAP.—As the season is at hand for those pests, the ants, housewives and others who are troubled with them may probably use the following trap to advantage: Procure a large sponge, wash it well and press it dry, which will leave the cells quite open; then sprinkle over it some fine white sugar, and place it near where the ants are most troublesome. They will soon collect upon the sponge, and take up their abode in the cells. It is then only necessary to dip the sponge in scalding water, which will wash them dead out by tens of thousands. Put on more sugar and set the trap for a new haul. This process will soon rid the house of every ant, uncle and progeny.

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