

Mr. Lynch Replies to Mr. Elder.

Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

My attention has been called to an article entitled "Dairying in Manitoba," by Jas. Elder, of Virden. Mr. Elder starts out by cautioning us to "give thoroughbred cows a wide berth." He says, "A thoroughbred is more delicate than a grade, and expects to be pampered. Some thoroughbred stockmen attempt to deny this, but to the observant man, it is of no use." Allow me to place beside this dogmatic statement, or text, a much more modest, and I venture to believe, more correct one. Prof. Shaw said, on the Winnipeg Exhibition grounds: "If you are going to give your cattle scrub treatment, by all means get scrub cattle; but if you are going to give them better treatment, the better bred the animal is the more readily will it respond to this more generous treatment." That is more than a text; it is a whole sermon in a few words. I suppose it is possible for a "thoroughbred stockman" to be an "observant man," and in that case would he not be more likely to form correct conclusions regarding his cattle than an equally observant one engaged in some other calling? The fact is, stockmen have got far beyond, way out of sight of, the point at which Mr. Elder expects to find them. They know there are delicate thoroughbreds and robust grades, and *vice versa*, but they also know that their being thoroughbred or grade is not the cause of it. They have "observed" that delicate parents are likely to produce delicate offspring, and that animals of similar tendencies mated together, irrespective of breed, are likely to reproduce and intensify those tendencies, and following up those observations, they have produced, on one hand, a class of cattle that devote the whole of their energies to the production of milk, and, on the other hand, a class whose whole business is to make flesh and fat, and this intensifying process is still going on, and will go, as far as nature will permit. I heard Mr. Gregg, on the Winnipeg Exhibition ground, say: "The cow, as nature designed her, had one more rib than the dairy cow had any use for, and that this rib was in process of elimination from the dairy breeds, and that the dairy cow of the future would have one rib less on each side than nature originally designed her to have." Would it be at all surprising if, with the disappearance of this rib, some good quality in the cow should also disappear. Pathologists tell us that this tendency to lay on an undue amount of flesh and fat is a form of disease, and the tendency to turn everything into milk is another form. And they are probably right, for we know that milkers look delicate, compared with beefers, and we also know that a cow with an inclination to carry an undue amount of flesh and fat, if she breeds at all, is very apt to be disappointing. Now, on the principle of like producing like, this should not be the case, but as it is, there must be some cause for it. But though some of Mr. Elder's observations appear to have been made through a warped glass, and some of his positions not well taken, he seems to have the faculty of falling on his feet. His final conclusions seem to be pretty correct. Why is it that Mr. Elder and so many like him who want a good general purpose grade, look to the Shorthorn as the improving factor in the case? Why do they not take a cross between a Jersey and a Hereford; or an Ayrshire and an Angus; or a Galloway and a Holstein? Because they know the results of such breeding are too uncertain. They know that for a very long time the Shorthorn has held first place as a general purpose animal, and has at the same time successfully disputed, on many occasions, with the champions of both the other classes for supremacy in their own classes. They know the lines on which the Shorthorn has been bred gives their breeders a larger range to choose from, to correct faults either of form or constitution.

But I am not through with Mr. Elder yet. He has got on pretty safe ground in his choice of a cow, but how is he going to stay there. He wants "at least two crosses of Shorthorn blood in them," and I would infer from that expression that one or two more would be better. Now, if it is desirable to have from 75% to 94% of Shorthorn blood in them, why is the other 6% going to be fatal to them? Where is the danger line, and what is he going to do with his cows when he reaches it? Slaughter them, or go back to a scrub bull and work up again to the point at which he fell back? Before he is through with this subject he will have to tell us what kind of churn is best. If he warns us against a particular churn, and then advises us to get one as near like it as possible, we will all of us see the fallacy of his reasoning, and yet it would not be more fallacious than his reasoning about the cows. He will also have to tell us how to feed and treat these cows; what he considers good, plain treatment of grade cows, as distinguished from the pampering of thoroughbreds. Now, without knowing what that treatment will be, I advise you one and all "to give a wide berth to any thoroughbred" (male or female) that will not thrive on the plain treatment he will prescribe for these grade cows. Again, allow me to vary his advice and say: Do not be afraid of getting too much breeding in your cows, if it is of the kind you want; but see to it, first of all, that they have sound, healthy and vigorous constitutions.

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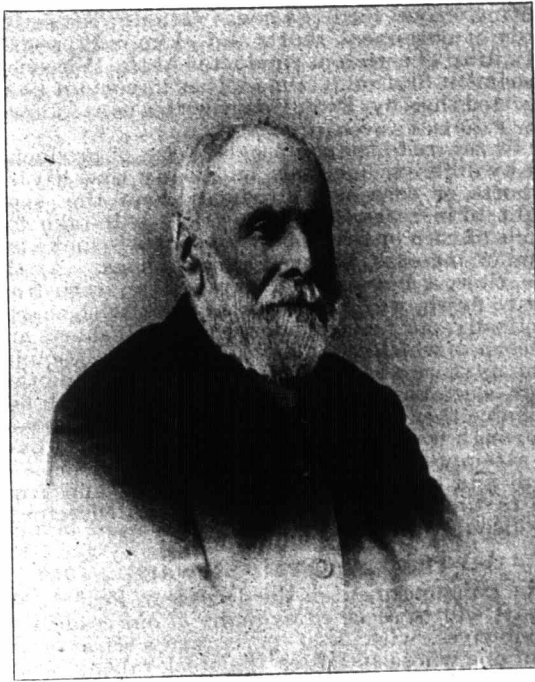
"The Grand Old Man of Sittytton."

"The rank is but the guinea stamp.
The man's the gowd for a' that."

A simple incident in itself, yet a sight worth seeing and never to be forgotten by the on-lookers, was the mutual exchange of courtesies between two men at the last Highland and Agricultural Society's Show at Aberdeen. The one was the youthful President of the Society, His Royal Highness the Duke of York (Prince George), and the other, a venerable, white-haired man of some 90 years—Amos Cruickshank, of Sittytton, whose portrait, from a recent photograph, and whose autograph upon this page, will be contemplated with peculiar pleasure wherever the benefactions of Sittytton stock have extended, but more especially by those who cherish the memory of personal acquaintance with—to quote the words of Mr. Bruce—"this grand old man."

Not long ago a short series of articles ran through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, entitled "The Evolution of the Scotch Shorthorn"—than which nothing of that sort during recent years in current literature seems to have been more favorably received and commented upon by our breeders. To have been the creator—so to speak—of so grand a type of cattle was to render great service to his day and generation, so that the Duke paid him no mere idle compliment on the occasion above referred to.

It was during the parade of prize cattle on the Aberdeen show yard that His Royal Highness was made aware of the presence of Mr. Cruickshank on the grand stand. He immediately expressed a wish



Amos Cruickshank

to be introduced to the famous breeder—a wish which was gratified without parley. As the veteran agriculturist and the Duke stood hand-in-hand, it was not to be wondered at that the sympathetic crowd should burst into a loud demonstration of cheers at witnessing so graceful an act. Mr. Cruickshank was deeply moved by the unexpected tribute, remarking afterwards that had he known what was to have taken place he would have been at home that day.

The term "greatness of character" may truthfully be ascribed to Amos Cruickshank. No one ever heard him boast. No one ever heard him say an unkind word about a fellow mortal. Never speaking in a hurry, he needed not to retract. Writing of him, a friend says:—"His eyes sparkle, and his whole countenance lights up when speaking of absent or long-lost friends, giving one a direct insight into the big heart within his capacious breast."

In the series of articles to which reference has already been made, we gave (from the pen of Mr. Robert Bruce) a very faithful outline of the system of breeding and general management pursued in the up-building of the Scotch Shorthorn; but to recount in detail the rise and progress of the Sittytton herd, from a solitary heifer till it numbered some 300 head, valued, at a moderate estimate as far back as 1864, at about £12,000 sterling, would require a volume of no small dimensions. It was in 1837 that the first purchase was made in Durham by the young Scotch farmer who had only just entered on a large farm on the estate of Mr. Ramsay, of Barra. He had been brought up to agricultural life, being

the son of a farmer in the vicinity of Inverrury. Next season (1838), he made an expedition into Notts, and from various breeders selected about a dozen heifers. Hence forward, the process of purchasing, breeding and weeding out was steadily carried on. The first sale was in 1842, five years after the start, when some six animals were exposed, but the prices realized were not very encouraging, ranging from 10 to 30 guineas, but in 1844 there was a turn in the tide, one bull under a year going for 63 guineas, in those days esteemed an extraordinary price. From an authentic old record of public sales, conducted by the Messrs. Cruickshank, between 1842 and 1864, we notice that the top price was £115 10s., the averages running from £15 10s. in 1843 to £44 8s. in 1861, which look modest indeed alongside the fabulous prices of subsequent years.

The ultimate disposal of the herd to the Messrs. Nelson in 1880, and the important acquisitions of Sittytton blood, by Mr. Duthie and others, are still fresh in the minds of our readers, and do not call for extended reference in this personal reminiscence of a man whose steadfastness of purpose, whose fidelity to a high ideal, whose worth and achievements, will enshrine his memory with imperishable regard.

Canadian-Bred vs. Scotch Steers as Feeders.

The Scottish Farmer records an interesting experiment regarding the feeding qualities of Canadian store cattle as compared with steers raised in Scotland. It was conducted by Mr. George A. Ferguson, Lessendrum, who is spoken of as being no novice in the management of cattle stock. In 1890 twelve Scotch-bred Shorthorn cross bullocks were chosen, and twelve Canadian bullocks, selected out of a lot bought in Aberdeen in the end of October, and whose ages would have been probably about thirty months. The former were well-bred cattle, and had been reared on Mr. Ferguson's farm, but the Canadians looked a little rough, and were larger and more bony than the home-bred animals. They were all weighed on November 1st, and tied up in one stable, and fed alike on turnips and straw until January 18th, when they were again weighed and divided into different lots, each lot, for the purpose of experiment, consisting of three home-bred and three Canadian cattle. In making up the lots, care was taken to place a better doer along with a worse, but so little disparity was shown that it was no easy matter to draw them out. During the first eighty days in which they were on trial it was found that:—

	A.	B.	C.	D.
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
3 Home-bred cattle had put on.....	335	339	350	345
3 Canadian cattle had put on.....	336	333	321	327

It may be mentioned that each lot was fed differently from the others, but Canadians and home-breds fared alike. For the first month the general feeding consisted of 70 lbs. yellow turnips, 38 lbs. Swedes, and 14 lbs. barley straw daily. To this lot A. got nothing in addition, B. got 1½ lbs. linseed cake, C. got 2 lbs. bruised oats, D. got 1 lb. cake and 1 lb. oats.

The total increase at the end of four months was:—

	Home-bred.	Canadian.
Lot A.....	406 lbs.	408 lbs.
" B.....	341 "	600 "
" C.....	536 "	569 "
" D.....	518 "	557 "

The cattle were turned out to grass about the 3rd week in May, and all artificial feeding was withdrawn. The animals were fed throughout the summer on first year's grass, being changed from one field to another once a fortnight. The summer was unfavorable for grazing cattle, but all shared alike. At the end of seven months the gains were on the home-bred cattle, 2,416 lbs., but on the Canadians, 2,967. This shows a gross gain in favor of the Canadians of 551 lbs., or nearly 48 lbs. each, and which, reckoned at fivepence, is a difference in money value of 20 shillings a head.

A SECOND TEST.

In order to verify the foregoing experiment, as regards the progress of the home-bred vs. the Canadian cattle, another experiment was conducted in 1891. This time, however, the animals were specially selected for the purpose. The selection of the home-bred cattle was entrusted to a well-known judge, and one who was himself a very strong advocate for home-bred cattle, both as "doers" and "payers." The animals sent were eight pretty black Polled bullocks, weighing about 840 lbs. each. The Canadians were bought at Aberdeen, and weighed about 806 lbs. each. Both lots were allowed to run out through the day for some time after being bought, and were not closely tied up until the 14th of November. It has been thought better, in giving the comparison, to do so with six in each lot only, as during the winter one of the black cattle had a slight illness and another was a little wild, so that their progress was somewhat retarded. (Owing to rather a small crop of turnips, the same large supply could not be afforded as in the former experiment, and the quantity given was reduced to about 80 lb. each, with straw in addition, *ad lib.* The turnips were not weighed, either, as formerly, but care was taken to allow both lots the same quantity. The animals would have consumed much about the same quantity