

A Bull of the Longhorn Dishley Breed.

Our readers will be pleased to have more information about different breeds of cattle. The *Boston Cultivator* gave a large cut of this bull. Our artist has reduced its size to suit this paper. The following description will be read with interest by many. Perhaps some of our farmers may import a few of these fine animals; these may be the coming cattle, but there are none in America at the present time that we know of:

Pictures of pastoral life are far less common in writing of modern authors than in the work of the most ancient writers. Great generals and distinguished statesmen have never lacked biographers, while the lives and labors of men who lived "remote from cities," silently devoted to the improvement of the live stock of the farm, whether cattle, sheep, horses, pigs or poultry, and whose influence may be felt in every market of the civilized world, have had no adequate records or memoirs. In confirmation of this, we refer the reader to the "Comprehensive Dictionary of Biography," comprising a series of original memoirs of distinguished persons of all countries, published in Glasgow, Scotland," where he will find five and a half octave pages of closely set, double columns, relating the deeds of Napoleon Bonaparte, and nearly as many of the life and deeds of the Duke of Wellington, and turning to the name of Bakewell, nearly synonymous with that of "Dishley Longhorns," and we copy all that is recorded of him, less than one full line, as follows:

"Bakewell Robt., a grazier, died 1795."

The names of Colling and Bates and Booth are not even recorded in this Comprehensive Biographical Dictionary of distinguished persons. The names of such men are not prominent enough to tempt biographical writers, hungering for fame, to write the humble memoirs of the real benefactors of man.

Having heard and read much of the famous "roast beef" of Old England, one can hardly fail of being interested in the inquiry as to how this luxury is produced,—by what breed of cattle, etc. In attempting to answer this question, we can hardly do it better than by giving a brief sketch of the history of the Longhorn breed of cattle of England, so elegantly and picturesquely represented above, by the illustration of the "Longhorn Dishley breed," that which one rarely sees so attractive and picturesque a figure of a farm animal of the bovine family.

The Longhorns, a century ago, were well known to the graziers of the midland districts of England, and deemed second to no other breed, until the introduction of the improved Shorthorns, by the Colling Brothers, when the love of the Longhorns by many grew cold in view of the claimed superiority of the former.

The number of the Longhorns soon after became few and far between; yet there are those who never "dropped or turned aside," never lost faith in the superiority of the Longhorn breed of cattle. The offer of prizes for this breed by the Royal Agricultural Society in England has brought them again prominently into notice among breeders and graziers. It is claimed that they are good for milk, beef, are hardy, being well acclimated to those districts, where they have been so long and so well and favorably known, if not indigenous thereto.

"Where did they come from?" inquired a farmer, when he saw R. H. Chapman's "Marquis of Exeter" at the Royal show at Plymouth in 1850, where he saw this singularly attractive animal—with the carriage of a lion and the temper

of a dove—the one breed, perhaps, in which the feeder, the butcher and the artist may equally delight. Is he a lineal descendant of the great *Bos primigenius*, which wandered for ages since in the great fen districts of our eastern coast, and was still to be found on the continent when the Roman legions set sail for the unknown land beyond the strip of sea and fog which separated Albion from Gaul? or does he trace his armorial bearings to the smaller *Bos longifrons*, which held his own in our island until later times, and is said now to be in his primitive state in Chillingham and a few other English parks? It matters little to inquire; but there is no doubt as to their having been once spread universally over our midland counties, and every reason to suspect that the loin from which the hungry Charles II dined so well, that with a touch of the rollicking humor which afterwards got him the title of "Merry Monarch," he knighted it then and there as "Sir Loin," a title which it holds to this day, cut as it undoubtedly was from a Longhorn loin.

Longhorns originated, it is said, in the district of Craven, in Yorkshire, then a well-known fertile region, as now, where the best type of the Longhorn breed was obtained. Sir Roger Gresley, of Drakelow, who took such delight in keeping a dairy of cows similar in color and shape, at the time (about 1720) that Webster of Canley, and Chapman of Upton, were doing good work for the improvement of the breed, and furnishing the materials which Bakewell of Dishley—who had a wonderfully quick eye to improvements of all sorts

Longhorned pedigrees, as was "Huleback" afterwards in history of the improved Shorthorns, or the "Godolphin, Arabian or Bard," in the pedigrees of thoroughbred horses. The breeding of "Twopenny," as of "Huleback," is a mooted question, involved in mystery, not as to his quality, for this was universally admitted, but as to descent.

From these beginnings Mr. Bakewell, guided by rare judgment and great intelligence, reared beautiful and superior Longhorns; "they were long and fine in horn, with small heads, clean throats, straight, broad backs, wide quarters, light in their belly and offal, gentle and quiet in their temper; fattened with a proportion of food, but gave less milk than some other breeds. No man, perhaps, ever made more comparisons between different breeds of cattle than Mr. Bakewell; and no man who was able to tell so much, has told us so little of what he did, and how he did it—he showing his faith by his works, which everywhere proclaimed his skill as a breeder of farm stock, whether cattle, sheep, horses or pigs. He left one experiment on record: he put three new-milch cows in three separate stables, a Holderness, a Scotch and one of his breed, a Dishley Longhorn; the Holderness eat the most food, and gave much the greatest quantity of milk; the Scotch eat less food and gave less milk, but produced most butter; his Longhorns eat the least food, gave the least milk, made the least butter, but laid on the most flesh; hence it follows that the Dishley cattle are the best adapted for the grazier and the produce of

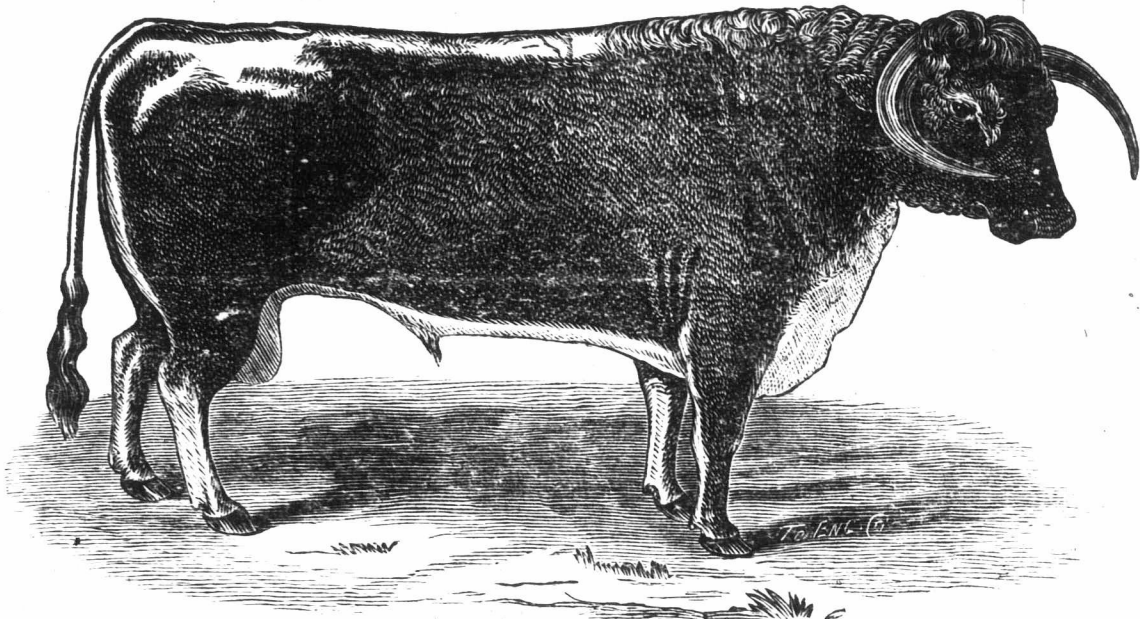
beef. In the course of his life Mr. Bakewell showed many animals of his breeding of extraordinary size and fatness, but no particulars connected therewith.

Mr. Bakewell was chary of selling his stock, but was a great letter of bulls, stallions and rams, differing in the latter respect from the late Thomas Bates, the celebrated Shorthorn breeder, who would not sell, let, nor even suffer one of his choice bulls to serve a cow out of his own herd.

It is not claim-

ed for the Longhorn cows that they are famous milkers, yet it is recorded of the cow "Thistle" that she made 17 pounds of butter a week. But the tendency of this breed is to grow fat. Thomas Prinsep, a noted breeder of Longhorns, had a dairy of cows whose pre-eminence was defined to mean "symmetry, size, and aptness to fatten." He slaughtered a cow seven years old that weighed 1,456 pounds. But it is said of the breeders of more than half a century since they inclined to lose sight of the milking qualities for which the breed had been famous, and thus played into the hands of their Shorthorn rivals, by abjuring the very properties in which they once so much excelled; and as a Druid quaintly said, "When the Durham ox began his six years of caravan life the fate of the Longhorns was sealed." Not so, however, for they held their own with certain herdsmen, as the number showed.

In regard to the milk and the cream of the two breeds, it is a well known axiom that "though you may skim a Shorthorn's milk with a feather, a mouse may run over the cream of a Longhorn without fear of falling through." In fact, they (the Longhorns) are as hardy and profitable a breed as could be found, while as regards appearance, we know of no greater ornament, either to park or pasture, than a herd of these picturesque Longhorn animals. The Druid, quoted above, says: "There is something very quaint and grand in a field of Longhorns; and Mr. Chapman's grand old bull, the Earl of Derby, with thirty-two milch cows around him in the great meadow, was a sight ever



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—was to mould into beeves, with "three-fifths roast and two-fifths boil." There was much interchange of blood between them, and many a ride these by-gone worthies must have taken across Charnwood, sometimes called Charley Forest, ere Hugo Meynell of Quorndon awakened its wild beauty with the echoes of his woodland music, one hundred years ago. It was no easy matter then for a stranger to find his way across this almost pathless district; but what cared they "when a good bull was to be sought?"

Robert Bakewell of Dishley, Leicestershire County, England, was born in 1725, and bred to the business of his father, who was a farmer, as was his grandfather; and his early genius for selecting and improving stock was encouraged by his father, and Robert did more in this line of improvement than any one who had lived before him. Robert came in possession of his father's estate in 1755, and laid the foundation of his Longhorn fame by the purchase of two heifers of Mr. Webster of Canley, near Coventry, in the county of Warwick, and called them Canley breed, as Mr. Bakewell's improvement of the breed was called the "Dishley Longhorns," the former giving place, however, to the latter. Bakewell did not confine his selection to the Webster Canley herd, but selected elsewhere the best animals he could obtain, both male and female. He purchased a fine cow of Sir Wm. Gordon of Garrington, and from her he bred his celebrated bull, called the "Twopenny," so named because some one remarked to him that "the calf was not worth twopence." This bull became famous in the