

The Short-horns which have now so long distinguished Yorkshire and other northern counties are chiefly indebted for most of their excellencies to a judicious system of crossing, especially with the improved breeds sustained in the beautiful valley of the Tees. It must not, however, be inferred that the old breed has been universally improved in a superior degree; there yet remain many differences, and some farmers, from prejudice, or otherwise, continue to prefer the common animals for dairy purposes to those more highly bred, whose chief characteristics are early maturity and strong fattening propensity. Mr. Youatt, in reference to this matter, observes: "Experience has gradually established the fact, that it is prudent to sacrifice a *small* portion of the milk to assist in feeding, when the cow is too old to continue in the dairy, or when, as in the neighborhood of large towns, her services as a dairy cow are dispensed with at an early age. This cross being judiciously managed, the diminution of milk is so small, and the tendency to fatten so great, that the opinion of Mr. Sale is correct,—'I have always found in my stock, that the best milkers, when dried for feeding, make the most fat in the least time.' This is a doctrine which will be better understood and universally acknowledged by and by, for many of the improvers of the Short-horns have but half done justice to their excellent stock. He would deserve well of his country who, with skill and means sufficient, would devote himself to the illustration of this point."

The same authority informs us that the Short-horn cow improves both in the quantity and quality of her milk as she grows older; that is, a cow of six years of age is superior, as a milker, to one of three or four years of age; and her milk will yield more butter in proportion. The milk of a single cow, on which the experiment was made, returned 373 lbs. of butter, in the space of thirty-two weeks; the lowest weekly amount being seven lbs., the highest sixteen. Her milk, during the time, averaged nearly twenty quarts per day; her food was grass and cut clover, until the turnip season; but the pasture was not of first rate quality. With abundant proofs of the value of the Short-horns as milkers, it is the breeder's interest not to neglect this point, which is compatible with every property he can desire.

It is not correct to consider the Durham breed as the only short-horned kind, but as a particular variety of a race, of which there have long been other varieties, particularly in the eastern districts of England. Of these, the more remarkable are the Holderness Cattle, the common Yorkshire to which reference has already been made. It may here be remarked that all our varieties of cattle are but slight modifications of one type, even those which are, by breeders, esteemed most opposite to each other, not merely with respect to a gradation of horns, but also to points of more importance. Thus even one of the chiefs of the Long-horned breed—the celebrated bull, Shakspeare—is represented by Mr. Marshall as having "had every point of a Holderness or a Teeswater Bull. Could his horns have been changed, he would have passed in Yorkshire as an ordinary bull of either of those breeds." There is nothing very strange, therefore, in finding the Aberdeenshire and larger West Highland breeds, which possess many points in common with the Durham breed, crossing favorably with it.

Youatt's description of the appearance and character of a milch cow may be stated in substance as follows, and the reader will not fail to perceive that the Short-horns bear, in most important respects, a close resemblance to the description. A milch cow, good for the pail as long as she is wanted, and then quickly got into marketable condition, should have a long and rather small head; a large headed cow seldom fattens or yields much milk. The eye should be bright, yet with a peculiar placidness and quietness of expression; the chops thin and the horns small. The neck should be somewhat thin and gradu-