

Her sister, Maggie Manford, by Manford (1758), now in foal to Glenluce, is also brown, without white, excepting small star on forehead, is three years old, and weighs 1,750 lbs. She has a very fine appearance and is a good mover, with unusually good feet and legs.

The next oldest mare in this family is a beautiful filly, now two years old, and, like her relatives, entirely without white, possessing the fine feet and legs of her tribe; but perhaps the nicest beast, all in all, descended from Cumberland Maggie, is a filly foaled on the 17th of June, 1887, got by Dollar Chief (4335), a son of Garnett Cress (1662).

Nancy Broomfield, now eleven years old, got by Young Broomfield (211), is the head of another family. She is now in foal to Glenluce, and is the dam or grand-dam of six head. She is a bright bay, with a star only, is of great substance, with very short and strong back, heavy, finely-turned quarters and very good range of neck. She has a very hardy appearance. Her legs are short, and, like her feet, are faultless. She, too, has been a successful prize taker wherever shown. Her offspring, a number of which are now in foal, enjoy her good qualities.

Another very noticeable mare is Darling, now five years old, got by Prince Imperial (1258), a very attractive dark brown, of good quality, having the appearance at a little distance of an entire horse. She has proved herself an excellent breeder.

Mr. Birrell's Shorthorns comprises four males and 22 females, and are divided, as to families, into Crimson Flowers, a purely Scotch family (of fine flesh developments) with a preponderance of Booth blood. This sort has given their owner from time to time many fine show beasts.

Next come the Fashions, of English origin. They are descended from a noted cow imported by the Hon. A. A. Alexander, of Woodford, Ky., U. S. They have long been noted as milkers and feeders; in the former quality they have few equals even among the milking breeds; in fact, they milk so heavily that it is difficult to keep them in good flesh, when not dry, but they gain in weight very rapidly when not in milk.

The Minnies are another family which Mr. B. has had for a number of years, and which he values very highly, ten of which are now in his yard. All are solid red, finely fleshed, very even, smooth and handsome, with splendid skins and hair, all bearing a strong family resemblance, like peas in a pod. It would be hard to say just which is the best, but perhaps the most attractive just now is Minnie Mayflower 2nd, of which we will give our readers an illustration in a future number.

At the head of this herd is Premium Earl (48454), a Cruikshanks bull, imported in 1883, bred by Amos Cruikshanks, Settyton, Aberdeenshire, Scotland; he is of the celebrated Violet tribe, a red roan in color, weighs about 2,600 lbs., and is very smooth and handsome, with short legs, neat head and horns, great depth and width of body, carrying a vast amount of flesh just in the right place to be of greatest value. He has been the valued stock bull, standing at the head of some of Canada's best herds.

Mr. B. still adheres to the Cotswold sheep, of which he has long been a breeder. His flock at the present time is not large, but is of good

quality, embodying all the qualities for which it has been so noted in past years.

Mr. B. retired from the show ring a few years ago, and since that time has not followed the practice of excessive feeding, but keeps all his stock in good growing condition. His prices are so reasonable as to be within the easy reach of all classes of farmers.

#### Improved Live Stock for the General Farmer.

BY J. W. HIBBARD.

I do not wish to be understood that the general farmer must be a breeder of thoroughbred stock, but in my opinion he must improve the stock he already has, for it is an undisputed fact that the scrub will always bring its breeder and feeder out in debt.

With our high priced land and low prices of produce, we must make the land produce all that is possible, and so dispose of the produce that it will bring the most money, and I know of no better way to accomplish this than to combine the raising of improved stock with our farming. As proof of this, let us look back to our mother country, old England, with her high rents and taxes, and we find that they were obliged to improve their stock, and with this they have brought their soil up to the highest state of cultivation. In Holland, too, we find them improving their stock in certain lines for untold years. We are told that the people of Holland are slow to adopt new methods, but yet we find them with improved stock as a necessity to profitable agriculture.

On the little island of Jersey with her immense population, and small area of land from whence to draw her support, they were obliged to improve their stock so that it should subsist on the least possible food and yet produce a large amount of butter, hence we have the little Jersey, an animal of very small stature, but yet a great butter producer. Our best farmers find it profitable to procure a full complement of the latest improved implements and to invest in suitable buildings to shelter them when not in use, and why will it not pay to apply the same rule to our stock.

If a scrub cow that will make six pounds of butter per week pays for her keep, and, by the use of a thoroughbred sire from some of the dairy breeds, her offspring can be made to produce eight or ten pounds of butter per week, the cross has given us a large margin of profit where before we had no profit. The keeper of a dairy herd should thoroughly test his cows and know whether they are paying him or not, and immediately beef the unprofitable ones.

January 31 good mixed butchers' stock, fat cows, heifers and light steers were quoted at \$3.40 to \$3.75 per cwt., that being the best class marketed from the common stock of our country, and on the same day we found extra grade steers, weighing 1,300 to 1,450 pounds, quoted at \$4.50 to \$5 per cwt. Here we have a difference of about \$1 per hundred in favor of the improved stock, and this is not half the story, for the general average weight of the first class is only eight or nine hundred pounds. At the heaviest weight and the best prices they would bring \$33.75 apiece, while the grade, at 1,300 pounds and \$5.00 per hundred, would bring \$65.00 or almost double the price of the scrub—a good return for the use of a thoroughbred sire.

While the price of cattle per pound may and will fluctuate, yet the difference per pound, be

tween good and poor cattle will remain unchanged; the same may be said of all other kinds of stock. Generous feeding and care will be found very advantageous in dealing with all animals. I find it much more profitable to keep only as much stock as can be fed and cared for well, having this motto always in view, "an honest profit for all feed consumed." To accomplish this, only fine bred males should be used. The breeds of stock kept should be those most suitable for the locality, and the purpose required. These are considerations which have not received the attention they deserve from our farmers.

#### Big Island Stock Farm.

Big Island Stock Farm, of which Messrs. Mossum Boyd & Co. are proprietors, is situated a short distance from the village of Bobcaygeon, in the township of Verulam, Co. Victoria. The Big Island contains 1,200 acres, 600 of which is cleared. All is used for pasture, and is capable of supporting several hundred head. Besides the Big Island the firm cultivate another farm of 325 acres, nearly all of which is used for growing hay and grain. Here the cattle are stabled during the winter, but in the summer season only the working horses required, and a few cows for family use, are kept, all the others being sent away to pasture in the spring. At the time of our visit, early in May, a draft from their herd of Polled Angus cattle was being made to ship to Chicago, where they were sold by public auction May 23 and 24. This consignment consisted of 44 females and 19 males. The first put on board the cars were ten grand cows, the average weight of which was over 1,500 lbs. Then comes the great show cow, Mary 2nd, of Knockiemill, closely followed by Black Judge 1st, a superb bull, the winner of every prize and medal open to him since he first entered the show ring in 1873. Next comes Kenesse, a young bull which will be two years old on the 20th of June. This is one of the best animals in the shipment. The entire lot is something our country, as well as their enterprising owners, may well feel proud of. They were all in fine condition, though not overburdened with fat, but evinced the ability, care and attention which had been bestowed upon them by Mr. J. G. Davidson, Messrs. Hay & Patton's popular manager, who has temporarily had the management of this herd, especially the oversight of their preparations for sale; and well has he accomplished his task. Messrs. Boyd & Co. have retained a breeding herd numbering upwards of thirty head. Individually they are very good. In pedigree they are rich, representing many of the famous Polled Angus families.

The uniformity of appearance, absence of horns, great thickness depth, and smoothness of body, on extremely short, fine legs, cannot but draw forth the admiration of all who see these cattle.

Besides the Polled Angus, this firm have a lot of very fine imported Clydesdales and Percheron horses. At the head of the Clydesdales stands that excellent sire, Abbotsford, imported by Jeffrey Bros., Whitby, Ont. At the head of their Percherons is Clovis, a third-prize horse in France in a class of fifty-two.

The farmers in the vicinity of this farm have the privilege of using the stock bulls, and the result is a very desirable class of grades. Generally speaking, the bovines found in this locality are "natives" of a rather small, scraggy type. The first cross almost invariably gives a black