

than the Alderney cow. As for the superior productiveness of the breed, they maintain that it does not exist, or that at least it is the result of constant pampering, such as would be quite inconsistent with an extended system of agriculture. Arguing in this way, they conclude the main merit of these cows is that they are beautiful little animals, whose chief attraction consists in their comparative scarceness; and that the high price which they fetch is due rather to a fancy than to any accurate valuation of their intrinsic worth. These opinions must be heretical to patriotic Channel Islanders, and are recorded, not because we agree with them, but because we have heard them upheld by persons who seemed entitled to attention. As for the charge of 'pampering,' one farmer's wife recommends a little cider to be mixed up and baked with sprigged beans as the cow's food. In her opinion, it made them eat more heartily."

We are not aware that any of the Channel Island breed of cattle has been introduced into Canada, and but few, we believe, have found their way, as yet, into the United States. The cut prefixed to this article represents a cow imported from the island of Jersey, by Mr. Rowse Colt, of Patterson, N. J. In England, these cows are principally confined to small dairies, belonging more particularly to amateurs or private gentlemen. One Alderney only among a dairy, or three or four cows, is found to materially improve the quality of the milk and butter. It is this tendency to convert the far greater portion of the food which they consume into the richest milk, that renders them so difficult to fatten. They are well worth a trial in Canada. Private families who feel a special interest in the quality of the milk and butter which they consume; but great attention would be required during the severe weather of our winters with regard to feeding, cleanliness and protection.

Alsike Clover.

(From the *Irish Farmers' Gazette*. The Alsike is generally approved of in Canada, when it has been fairly tried.—Ed.]

Alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), though introduced into the British isles nearly a century ago, and re-introduced several times since, has made but little progress in general cultivation as a forage plant. For many years it was only cultivated as a curiosity in botanical col-

lections, but for some years back it has engaged more attention amongst the more enlightened of our agriculturists: for this purpose it has been cultivated from time to time by several; but from inattention to its *habitat*, so as to develop its excellencies, it has just as frequently almost been thrown aside, as not fulfilling the expectations formed of it.

It enjoys the name hybrid from the intermediate resemblance it has to the common red clover, *Trifolium pratense*, and white clover, *Trifolium repens*, which has given the idea that it is a hybrid or mule produced by a union between those plants, but in reality it is a perfectly distinct species from either, for though *Trifolium repens* and *Trifolium pratense* have been growing in close proximity for ages past in the British isles, there has been no instance on record where this species has been found or discovered in these countries. This fact, in our opinion, amounts to proof positive that the plant in question has not been produced by hybridization, but that it is a perfectly distinct species.

It is reported to grow wild in Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, France, Portugal, and Italy, and was first found growing with great luxuriance in ditches at Alsike in Sweden—hence the name of Alsike clover, given by some late introducers of the plant. Upon a close examination, it has not the most distant resemblance to *Trifolium pratense*: and it resembles *Trifolium repens* in but a partial degree. Its roots are fibrous and perennial, but the stem is not creeping and rooting at the joints like the white or Dutch clover; neither is the stem erect like red clover, but weak and branching; its leaflets are ovate, and slightly serrated; the flower heads are globular, and fixed on long peduncles; the colour of the flowers whitish and pink; and the seed vessels tetragonal. Having less deeply penetrating roots than red clover, it is not calculated for very dry soils or extended droughts. Being a more permanent plant than red clover, though it does not yield so heavy a crop, it is well suited for sowing in land that has become clover-sick, providing the land is deep and not too dry, its favourite soils being deep loamy and peaty soils, rich in vegetable matter, but stagnant wet is destructive to it. In such soils it grows to the greatest perfection, producing hay of the most nutritious description; retains its leaves, smell, and colour in curing; is reported never to become mouldy; and as either a hay or a green soiling crop is eagerly eaten by all descriptions of stock.

On rich, reclaimed moors or slob lands it is a most valuable plant, being much more permanent than red clover, and yielding a heavier crop than the white species. We saw this exemplified on the reclaimed slob land of Lough Foyle when the Royal Agricultural Society held their show at Londonderry, in 1858, very extensive breadths of it having been laid down