



THE SHORTHORNED COW TENTH DUCHESS OF GENEVA.

We copy from the London *Graphic* a fine portrait of a celebrated shorthorn cow, Tenth Duchess of Geneva, whose personal and family history is somewhat remarkable. Tradition ascribes the origin of the family to a breed of cattle possessed for centuries by the family of the Duke of Northumberland, but the actual records commence in the last century, when an ancestress of this cow passed into the possession of Mr. C. Colling, of Ketton, Durham, who was one of the founders of the short horn as a distinct and highly improved breed. In 1804 Mr. T. Bates, of Kirkclevington, Yorkshire, purchased one of the Duchess cows, and recognizing in her excellence and that of her male offspring the superiority of her family over the shorthorns he had previously owned, he determined to secure more of her sort; and at Mr. Colling's great sale, in 1810, when forty-seven animals of both sexes and all ages, from eleven years downward, made the then unprecedented average of \$332.84, he gave \$929.64 for the two year old young heifer Young Duchess, afterwards called First Duchess, a daughter of Comet (sold on the same occasion for \$5,080), and grand-daughter of the cow he had first purchased. From that heifer, to the female line direct, sprang those Duchesses which have at different periods won the chief honors of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and

for many years past have commanded the highest prices at public and private sales. Mr. Bates, while practicing to a considerable extent the system of in-and-in-breeding, crossed his Duchesses at different times with other approved shorthorn families, notably with those of Mr. Colling's Red Rose and Princess, thus combining what he considered three of the oldest and best shorthorn families in the kingdom. In 1853, at the Totworth sale (after the death of Earl Ducie), Sixty-sixth Duchess was bought by Messrs. Becar and Morris, of New York, for \$3,557.40.

Her descendants, having changed owners in America, were finally disposed of by auction in 1873, when Tenth Duchess of Geneva was bought by Mr. Berwick for the Earl of Bective at \$35,000. She had bred in America the bulls Third Duke of Oneida, Sixth Duke of Oneida, and the heifer Eighth Duchess of Oneida, bought also for Lord Bective, at the same sale, for \$15,000. In this country she has produced the bull Duke of Underley and the heifers Duchess of Underley and Duchess of Lancaster, all of which, with Eighth Duchess of Oneida, are now in the herd at Underley Hall, Westmoreland. The Tenth Duchess of Geneva died in January last, and in the same month the Earl of Bective had the misfortune to lose his old bull Second Duke of Tregunter.