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The Granite City (5397).

This beautiful two-year-old Clydesdale stallion is one of the most perfect specimens of the breed ever imported into Canada. We have no hesitation in penning this strong strong statement, which is not grounded simply on rumor, but is given as the result of a most careful personal inspection. Although our artist has furnished an excellent picture (see opposite page), the horse is in no way flattered, for it would be difficult indeed to indicate wherein any work of art could improve upon this magnificent animal. He was foaled May, 1885, bred by Mr. David Walker, Mains of Coullie, Udney, Aberdeen, and purchased last summer along with a score of others, by his present owners, the Messrs. R. Beith & Co. Southpark, Bowmanville, Ont. His sire, the famous Lord Erskine, (1744) vol. iv, S. C. S., is owned by Mr. Peter Crawford, Eastfield House, Dumfries, whose venerable father, now 85 years of age, and who has been a breeder of Clydesdale horses all his days, is said to be the oldest in this line in that country, which has long been proverbial for the number of its hale old men. Mr. Crawford is also the owner of Prince Lawrence, which in the aged class was first at the Highland Society's recent show at Perth. His dam, Bee (919), a daughter of a Knockdon mare, is by Old Times (579), first at Glasgow, 1872, and latterly best known as the Knockdon stud horse. His g. d., Beauty (436), is by Prince of Wales (673) who will stand in all time as a prince amongst Clyde horses. Lord Erskine (1744) was the winner when three years old, of the silver cup at Glasgow, and is said by many to be the best sire, like him all in all, in Scotland at the present time. At the Glasgow show of 1887, five two-year-olds of his get were first, and five of the get of the now dead Darnley (222), second. In the yearling class at the same show the order was reversed. Cairnbrogie Stamp (4274), now three years old, another son of Lord Erskine (1744), and half brother to The Granite City, won the jubilee cup for the best horse on the ground at the Highland Society's show, and goes next year to Moray, Nairn and Inverness, where he will remain the season at £10 per mare, and Lord Erskine has been engaged for Aberdeen and Perth, to travel by rail at a similar fee.

The Granite City was first this year at Glasgow in a strong class as a two-year-old, first at the Highland Society's show at Perth, and second at the Royal, Newcastle, England. He is a handsome bay with near fore-foot and hind legs white, and a white strip in the face. Possessing a nice, clean cut medium head and a massive breast and shoulder; his body is nicely coupled with much of heart-girth, strong and clean limbs and well-proportioned quarter. The width of his joints is a marked feature, and his arm is powerful. With a rare combination of both quality and substance, he is a fine, easy stepper, not in the slightest incommoded by his great weight. In commenting upon his appearance at the Highland Society's show, the *North British Agriculturist* has the following: "The colt is so well balanced and so full of quality and character that he bids fair to follow 'Cairnbrogie Stamp.'" A horse possessing so much of concentrated excellence should not be allowed to go out of the country, and we trust that some of our numerous breeders of Clydes will make sure that he will not be lost to Canada.

The Shropshire Downs of Maple Shade.

No breed of sheep in later years has risen so rapidly into prominence and popularity in America as those now designated Shropshire. Their lofty carriage and symmetrical form covered with a close fleece of medium wool gives them an attractive appearance, while their hardiness, prolificacy and foraging tendencies give them such merit as makes them desirable for crossing on the common fine wool class of the west. For a number of years this plan has been pursued with the most gratifying results. The mutton thus produced is eagerly sought for in the United States market, and there is in consequence a growing demand for those that are purely bred. Mr. Mansell, of Shrewsbury, England, who is high authority, describes a model ram of this breed, as follows: "Well developed head (not coarse) well covered, no horns, with clean and striking expression of countenance; a prominent eye; a body deep and symmetrical placed squarely as possible on short legs; good leg of mutton; straight spine, deep, well sprung ribs, massive chest; a muscular neck well set on good shoulders; nice style and carriage; no inclination to pull or drop wool around jaws or belly; nice cherry skin; face and legs a nice soft black, not sooty nor a rusty brown; no white specks; ears thin and blood-like, not heavy and drooping; moderate bone, wool of the finest staple and as close and merino-like as possible, with no admixture of grey." Taking this as the model, we think our sketch on the opposite page represents three as nearly perfect as possible. They are owned by Mr. John Dryden, M. P. P., Brooklin, Ont., whose flock this year won at Toronto, Ottawa, Whitby and Port Perry, 26 first prizes. He captured the pen prize in Toronto, competing against the sweepstakes pen of the week before; also the silver medal at Port Perry for best pen of any breed, and at Ottawa took first place for Prince of Wales prize of \$50. They are among the best representatives of the breed in this country. The magnificent yearling ewes represented in the cut were bred by J. E. Farmer, of Ludlow, England, and won the highest honors before leaving that country, taking first prize at Bath and West of England, also at Wrexham and the great Royal show this year at Newcastle-on-Tyne. They were sired by Mr. Farmer's now famous ram Royal Oak (2794).

The yearling ram Prince of Wales, represented in the foreground, stood first in his class at Ottawa and headed the winning pen. He was bred by J. Bowen Jones, president of the Shropshire Breeders' Association, whose flock is among the oldest established of this breed of sheep; and was selected by Mr. Dryden expressly for use on his own flock. His sire is P. R. C. (2249), which, as the letters denote, contains the blood of Patriot Lord (1199)—winner of first prize at the Royal show held at York, and sold for 105 gs. (\$525)—Royal Reserve (159), winner of second prize at the Royal show held at Derby, and first at Manchester, Oswestry, Shropshire and Leicester shows—and Claudius (103), twice winner of first place at the great Royal show, and let in 1873 for 120 guineas (\$600).

Prince of Wales' g. sire K. C. B. (693), has for sire Marquis of Bath (822) bred by Mr. Mansell, and hired in 1877 for 80 gs., and bought the following year by Mr. Minton for 80 gs. Marquis of Bath won

first at Bath and West of England shows in 1877, besides numerous other prizes afterwards.

It will be seen that Prince of Wales is, as his name indicates, full of royal blood. If Mr. Mansell's description is a correct one, then this ram is as near the model as any we have seen. He would score nearly every point. Mr. Dryden has enjoyed the reputation of having for some years past one of the best flocks in Canada. By his last importation he has done credit to his judgment and given our people an opportunity of looking at some of the finest specimens of this breed produced in England, and in due time of profiting by the results of the venture in the grand class of sheep that such stock cannot fail to breed.

Encouraging.

There is nothing that so nerves one to greater effort as the consciousness that his labors are not in vain. The kind encouraging words we receive from time to time, some of which we find room for in the JOURNAL, are like the rays of sunlight gathered by a lens to a focus. Thus concentrated they are so powerful as to completely melt away any tendency to indifference as to the material well-being of our patrons. We would that we could find room for more of them in our columns.

A farmer of Russelltown, P. Q., who has been pleased to forward a line of commendation, shows much wisdom in the conclusion at which he has arrived in reference to the keeping of good stock. It would be a great thing for Canada if thousands of farmers would follow his example. He says in a recent note: "Mr. Ness, of Howick, P. Q., importer and breeder of Clydesdale horses, advised me to take your JOURNAL some time ago. It would have been a good thing for me if some friend had given me this advice years ago. I have bid adieu to raising any more scrub cattle or horses, and will in future keep pure breeds or none, as I am satisfied that there is no money in what I have been keeping in the past."

The Fat Stock Shows.

We hope the stock men of Canada will duly bear in mind the season of the fat stock shows, which will be held in the month of December. That of the Fifth Ontario Provincial will be held this year in Toronto, at Grand's Repository, on Adelaide street, on the 13th and 15th December next. In the past, the Shorthorns and their grades have had things pretty much their own way, but we hope this year that the Aberdeen-Angus Polls and the Herefords may meet them on their own ground, and resolutely dispatch their claim to retain the vantage ground of the past.

Prices of meat are lower than usual, and, as a consequence, farmers are likely to pay less attention to the production of beef, and more to that of dairy products. The latter course is the right one, but it should not be adopted to the neglect of beef production, for the world wants meat as well as butter and cheese, and in the rush from the one to the other, there is danger that the one market will be neglected, and the other over-filled.

It is unwise to keep animals to any considerable age in beef production, but good young, well finished beef will always bring an encouraging price. We shall hope, then, to see a strong exhibit in all the classes at this and the other fat stock shows.