

The Farmer's Journal.

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DE MONTIGNY & Co.

Cattle at the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition. (*)

We closed the study of the fattening breeds, in saying, that on the whole, the animals exhibited at the provincial show, gave but a weak idea of the breeds they represented, and explained to us this fact, in recalling in our mind, what were our climate and culture, compared with the climate and culture of England.

With regard to the milking breeds the difficulties do not exist any more; the importation is possible, even advantageous, and the Ayrshire is of all the english breeds the one which best answers to our wants. Indeed, bred on a loamy soil and unsheltered, already accustomed to a rigorous climate, the Ayrshire succeeds perfectly in his new country, and with some care loses but a few of his valuable qualities.

But because this breed is universally known as excellent milker,

(*) See the number of October.

does it follow that we must import it, and substitute it every where to our canadian breed? we do not believe it. Besides this means of improvement would be much too long, it would be made impossible by the enormous expense to be made, and which is not within the reach of our farmers.

We believe in the possibility of improving our milking breed by the crossing of the Ayrshire blood, by means of thorough bred bulls; but we cannot suggest the adoption of the pure breed generally. In crossing continually with the Ayrshire, at the 10th crossing, the 1,1024th only of the indigenous blood would remain, which is equivalent to the complete substitution of the improving breed to the breed to be improved; and the country would have acquired, with little expense, the best now reputed milking breed.

I have said with little expense and indeed: let some breeders import this breed from Scotland and rear it; under their management it will propagate with all its milking qualities, for the young stock, well sheltered, will have plenty of food composed of mangold wurtzel, and farinaceous matters, and with an alimentation as this one and good reproducers, we will certainly obtain choice bulls. These bulls, produced with little expense, in comparison of what they would have cost in England, would not be then beyond the means of our improving farmers, or at least of our agricultural societies, who will be desirous of either increasing the size of their breed, or give it more fineness, precocity or even aptitude to fatten. This is the way we understand the improvement of our milking breed by the infusion of the Ayrshire blood.

Undoubtedly there is another means of improvement much surer and very often preached up by those of our farmers who admit, for our