The sale at "Thistle Hall," Mr. John Miller's—included nineteen cows and heifers, which sold for $5,985, an average of $315 each, and five bulls, which sold for $1,125, or an average of $225 each. Among the females at this sale, there were some choice animals, which individually brought high figures.

Concerning Messrs. Birrell & Johnston's sale, we have only the following particulars, for which we are indebted to an exchange :—

At Birrell & Johnston's sale, 24th October, the average on cattle reached $225 each. Sheep, however, brought high prices, ewes and ewe lambs going from $60 up to $200 per pair. They were extra fine, and the whole flock was put up and sold. Two Clydesdale stallions, recently imported, brought $550 and $400 respectively.

The Country Gentleman in reply to the National Live Stock Journal.

It was hardly to be expected that the views embodied in the article from the *National Live Stock Journal*, on the $10,000 cow, part of which we gave in our last issue, would pass unchallenged. Our able contemporary the *Country Gentleman*, than which no journal on the continent is better qualified or more justly entitled to consider itself the organ, and act as the mouth-piece of the most advanced Short-horn breeders on the side of the Atlantic, has a well-argued critique on the subject in its issue of the 23rd inst., headed "Prices and their Influence." After showing that prices in the main are determined by considerations of a practical character, and laying down certain business principles that regulate them, the *Country Gentleman* proceeds to apply those principles to the case in hand as follows :—

"Regarding these views as being definitely settled as any conclusions from human experience can readily be, we have been somewhat surprised at meeting with a contrary one in it seems to us an extremely short-sighted notion, and especially at seeing it set forth with some reputation in the columns of a western contemporary. It is true enough that other Short-horns are unlikely to attain such prices, but how they should command *less than they did previously* because a few Duchesses happened to bring much more, it would puzzle any reasonable man to explain. Formerly $1,000 was an enormous price to pay for a single animal, and that of the rarest pedigree and merit; but if it had not been first paid in such cases, it would never have become, as it since has, quite a common occurrence among breeders. When Thorne paid $5,000 for Grand Duke, could he be fairly regarded as "depreciating the value of well-bred cattle in the hands of the great mass of American breeders?" How did "our Kentucky friends" confess that their success as breeders "amounts to nothing," because they publicly showed at New-York Mills a spirit of enterprise in their pursuit, which in some cases outvied all the wealth and pluck of the English buyers? Why is their stock any the worse, because they are using the best means within their judgment, to make it better? Admitting that the Duchesses "have no superiority over other well bred Short-horns," the fact that they command such prices affords the greater stimulus to every breeder in the country; and if we claim for them merely the merit of being curiosities of their kind from their length of pedigree and the fashion of the moment, surely other cattle are none the less valuable for that. If a unique coin of 1800 sells for fifty times its face to-day, the dollar of this year's coinage is as good as ever and will buy as much. There are not so many Duchesses that breeders of other strains need fear their adoption to the depreciation and exclusion of everything else. And if "the desire to invest fortunes in single animals of the fancy strains," is to become as general, we know of no class of men likely to be able to meet it, to the better satisfaction of their customers and of themselves, than the breeders of Kentucky and Illinois—but how this desire is to depreciate their stock, we cannot say."

"Another article in the same number of the *National Live Stock Journal* explains more fully how 'extravagant prices disparage, and very unjustly, by their comparison, the sterling qualities of thousands of Short-horn cattle which are scattered throughout the country.' It is simply by contrast. 'If one animal sells for $30,000 or $40,000, we must have a very poor opinion of the purity and merit of another which will command only a few hundreds or a few thousands.' We cannot look at it in this light at all. We have known men to crow lustily over the possession of a horse they would gladly sell for $500, with the full knowledge that Mr. Alexander paid $15,000 for Lexington.

"'The difference between a common Short-horn cow and the mongrel cows found in the dairies and the open pastures, is measured by a few dollars—a hundred or two at the utmost. The difference between a common Short-horn cow and a good Short-horn cow, perfect enough in all her parts to compete with a fair prospect of success with the best of all the herds when brought together in a show ring, is measured by a few hundred dollars more. But the difference between the poorest Short-horn and the common cow of the country, and between the best Short-horn and the better class, is much more marked than the difference between the better class of cow and the best Duchess in existence.'

"In other words a common Short-horn is two or three times as valuable as a mongrel, and a pure-blooded Short-horn is two or three times as valuable as an inferior—all of which is true enough and commonly the difference which gives to the Short-horn blood *all the value it possesses* beyond that of other breeds. Short-horns are not valued and valuable here, because of any fashion in Shorthorns or Short-horns, it is what they accomplish in the improvement of the stock of all our grazing districts—the great fact that they produce more beef in less time than the native or unimproved stock of the country. This is the reason that no influence can be of lasting value to practical men; it is more exactly the same, moreover, what prices the Duchesses may command. When beef goes down to less than paying prices, every Short-horn herd in the country *immediately feels the effect*. As meat goes up, it takes but a little while for the effect to reach the breeder, and so the general tendency is to an advance of prices of meat, and of stock for breeding stock. We say that such sales as Campbell's tend to *increase* the value of Short-horns, because they awaken a constantly widening circle of farmers to the improvement of their stock, who never have thought of it before—because they direct the attention of men of wealth to rural pursuits, and modes in which their money may be used for the benefit of our agriculture—because they stimulate our breeders to devote themselves with greater earnestness of purpose to the development and improvement of their stock. That they add nothing to the intrinsic value of Short-horns at large, is just as true as that they detract nothing from it. But they place it in a stronger light before the public, and the general demand would only command 'a few hundreds' in times far much more likely to fetch 'a few thousands' than would be the case if they never had occurred.

"We have discussed the subject at much greater length than we intended, and have only space to observe, in conclusion, how completely the latter part of the article under review, is an unwarranted inference from the remarks of the same writer. He begins by considering the effect of such high prices upon society at large, and the objection to them here, is this :—

"'The payment of $40,000 for a cow by a person who *can afford it*, * * is well enough in that way, all, but the *example* is bad. One man pays these prices and can afford it, which encourages others who cannot afford it, but feel under some necessity to travel in the same company, to pay the same prices, perhaps resulting in a serious embarrassment. Once again, who do not feel under the necessity of being in the same rank, but to take the one below, pay prices nearly approximating, and so *the effect is propagated from one to another, through all ranks of society, to pay prices corresponding, if high, for the cow.*'

"We take the liberty of italicising the last clause, which is utterly at variance with the writer's recent objection, that other stock is *depreciated* by the payment of extravagant prices in particular cases. There is perhaps some apparent ground for the argument in the quotation just made, although it is a somewhat singular position for one who claims to be a spokesman of a class, to urge that the more successful it is pecuniarily, the greater the injury to society! But what little basis there appears to be, will largely disappear on examination. People will undoubtedly be likely to be led to a closer scrutiny of what prices they *can* afford to pay. But as to the example of giving thirty or forty thousand dollars apiece for cows, being generally followed among the breeders and farmers of the country, or leading them to pay prices "nearly approximating," we have our doubts. Indeed the extravagance of the prices that were paid here, is their own antidote. Moreover, we think breeders, so far as our acquaintance with them has extended, are pretty careful judges as to how much they give, and what they give it for. "Long prices" are seldom paid simply for example's sake.

"It is true that we have sometimes thought it a matter of duty to our readers to protest against enormously high prices for improved stock. When we have done so, there was reason to believe that much of the claimed improvement was only nominal—when we have named animals sold under different fantastically names at different dates, and even the ravens anxiously looking for some name likely to delude the people further—it has transpired evident, in a word, that these unprecedented prices was likely to be as much injury to the breed for them appeared to us to result, and when the victims in such an event were not alone the purchasers at large, and not the breeders who had no reference to disposing of stock to them enough to protect and prevent them—in such circumstances we have most earnestly desired to see them think twice before being seduced by the glitter of *future*. We do not regard the sale of the Duke as very kindly [illegible], and probably proved as detective as it should have been designed. When the current of [illegible] is strong, it is difficult to turn it, but [illegible] when [illegible]. We do not [illegible] the case of the Short-horns generally, or of the Bates families in particular, many have been before the world for many a month, and everybody should know by [illegible] what they are. It is not our [illegible] them in terms of compliment—we [illegible] of their lately past and [illegible] present. We tell the light that [illegible] yesterday, on the spot,—withall [illegible] of families [illegible] for the long period [illegible] history,—name willing [illegible] of values for himself, [illegible] under the public [illegible] the sale. As we said, at [illegible], the value of anything [illegible] and it is [illegible] be bought for three [illegible] and prove in the [illegible] Shilmerdale's [illegible] It must be distinctly [illegible] nor [illegible] of such prices, which involve [illegible] should be the last to under-[illegible] to encounter. But [illegible] in open market, and [illegible] voluntarily assumed, we [illegible] there being made an [illegible] of jealousies of [illegible] the success of those who, [illegible] to themselves and benefit to [illegible], have raised herds of smaller selling [illegible] with this, it still of a [illegible] compliment at home or abroad," [illegible] and satisfactorily re-[illegible] of their owners."

[illegible] by the Colonial [illegible] Bates, [illegible] pedigrees.

The English Press on the New York Short-horn Sale.

Our esteemed contemporary the *Country Gentleman* is highly pleased to find that the American method of managing auction sales meets with favor in Britain, and is eulogized by leading agricultural journals there. It says :—

"The *Stock Farm Express* and *Bell's Messenger* of Sept. 6th, are at hand with full reports, from their [illegible] of the great sale in Campbell's herd. The following is the "leader" in the [illegible] to the sale and the way in which it was conducted, which, as will be seen, is [illegible] complimentary to the [illegible] though we were not prepared to expect that our way of managing an affair of the kind would receive such high encomiums from the English spectators :

"It was once our good fortune to hear the late Richard Tattersall open the sale of a very famous [illegible] thus : 'Gentlemen, these horses will be sold without any reserve; as you all know well enough, some of them have proved themselves very good performers, and they are all very well bred. What will [illegible] bid, I cannot tell. [illegible] at the good taste and tact displayed by the auctioneer; and at the [illegible] which, on the whole, not the least striking feature in the proceedings was the [illegible] in which the business was conducted. There "for [illegible] the competent [illegible] with the [illegible] and dispensed with the hammer which has usually been deemed indispensable from the days of Robins downwards.