

It would also be very desirable to have some organization, by which the trustworthiness of the milk records published from time to time might be tested. We should be glad to see some of our confrères of the agricultural press take up these various subjects in earnest.—In the mean time, we hope breeders of Ayrshire or of Jersey stock in this Province will keep a careful record of the milk and butter produced by each of their cows. Should such records be sent to this journal we would do our best to ascertain, by personal visits to the farm, or otherwise, that such are thoroughly to be depended upon.

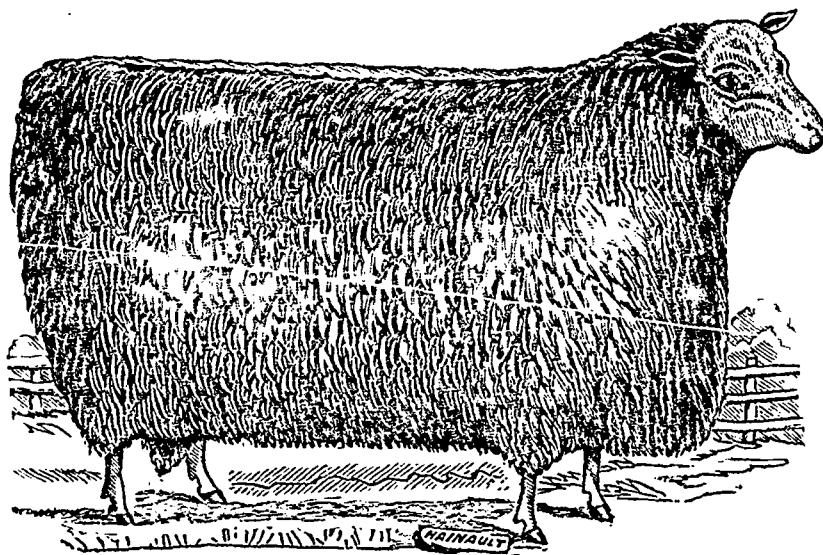
We give this month engravings of the several animals from "The fourth annual report of the Ontario School of Agriculture for 1878;" a review of which we hope to offer to our readers in the August number.

How the French Peasants Live.

Having been born, and bred, a thoroughly prejudiced Englishman, I naturally supposed, for a long time, that our

system of cultivation, and the laws regulating the occupation of the land, were the best in the world. It has taken many years, and many a long journey to make me change my opinion. Much as I reverence the slightest hint that fell from the lips of the illustrious philosopher John Stuart Mill, I could not go with him in his views as to the relative merits of the *grande* and the *petite culture*. It was enough for my shortsighted mind that the average crop of England far exceeded that of France; that the general run of French bullocks rarely weighed more than two thirds of the weight of English bullocks; and, consequently, I came to the conclusion that the cultivation of the one country must be very much better than the cultivation of the other.

Much thought, and much enquiry, however, have caused me to change my mind; tho' it is certain that, fifty years ago, there was great room for improvement in the farming of the peasantry of France, and other European countries. But, of late years the almost entire disappearance of the Feudal Tenures; the additional feeling of security, particularly as regards landed property, which has sprung up since



1. Border Leicester Ram.

the Code Napoleon was established, and the improved systems of education which have opened the gate of knowledge to the working man and his children, all these things have combined to change the lazy, hopeless peasant of the past into the active, self-reliant man of the present, who no longer dreads the extortionate tyranny of his lord, and the worse, because subordinate, tyranny of his lord's agent; but, exempt from anxiety, except as regards the weather; perfectly master of his own time and labour, free, and feeling himself to be free, the Serf of the Bourbons with his downcast look, and his malevolent scowl, his brutish appetite, and his sulky temper, has gradually become what we now see him; and his land, instead of producing briars for wheat, and thistles for barley, as in the days of *Arthur Young* and his *Tours*, may boast, without exaggeration, of being as well cultivated, and as thoroughly made the best of, as even the Lothians, in Scotland, or the eastern counties of England.

Many men, doubtless, had some floating ideas about a coming change before the great revolution broke out; but no one spoke so clearly of it as this plain Suffolk farmer. He drew his deductions from what he saw, not from what he heard. It may be interesting to some of my readers to learn, from a perfectly unprejudiced eye-witness, what kind of people

the modern French peasants are, and what kind of a life they lead; and, in this belief, I beg to lay before them a résumé of an article which appeared in "The Fortnightly Review" for the months of November and December, 1878.

According to his own account, Mr. Barham Zincke, an English gentleman, (prejudiced, of course,) having long entertained the same sort of opinions that I have previously confessed to as being mine, took it into his head to pay a visit to the Limagne of Auvergne for the purpose of seeing for himself if the change in the life and habits of the French peasantry was as great as it was reported to be. Mr. Zincke chose the Limagne for his observations because he had learned from the French statist, Dureau de la Malle, that the peasant proprietorship had been more thoroughly worked out there than in any part of France. It is a vast plain covered with the detritus of the volcanoes which formerly surrounded it, and were ground down by the action of the glacier which, originating in the upper valley of the Allier, was joined by lateral glaciers from the Puy de Dôme range, and, passing over the whole plain, covered it deeply with the remains it had swept along in its slow, but relentless course. The soil, therefore, is various in quality, good, bad, and indifferent.