

weighs nearly 1800 lbs. He has grand style, superior action, sound legs and feet of the best quality, well sprung ribs, and is one of the smoothest and most attractive horses we have seen for some time. He was sired by the noted horse Old Times (579). Old Times has perhaps ranked next to Prince of Wales (673) in doing good work for Clydesdale breeders. He is now nineteen years old and is still sound, active and vigorous. These qualities have been in a great measure imparted to his offspring, and Torchlight has surely fallen heir to his portion of them. Torchlight's dam, Maggie of Balgerran (vol. x) is a very noted mare and is promising well for her owner as a breeder as well as being a successful prizewinner.

Wildrake (5442), rising three years old, is a dark bay horse of great substance, style, action and quality; very slight white markings; good bone and muscle, with plenty of soft hair, and will make a valuable addition to any breeders stud. His sire was Topgallant (1850), one of the most noted sons of the great Darnley (222). Topgallant has proved himself a successful show horse, and his breeding career bids fair to excel that of the show yard. He is a horse of great size, combined with quality. Wildrake's dam was Bess (5702), sired by Prince of Renfrew (664), a Highland Society winner, and certainly one of the best horses and one of the best sires that Scotland has produced. There are many more valuable horses to be seen at "Thistle Ha'." Amongst them might be mentioned the imported Cleveland Bay stallion Statesman (663), rising four years, of great size, large bone and muscle, good action and color. He must prove a valuable horse for those wishing to breed horses to bring the top price as coach horses in the large cities. Also several young Clydesdale stallions and mares in foal. There is only one filly rising two years old and one rising one year that are for sale. They are both good, and bred from the noted prize winning mare Bonnie Bird (4891). All those in search of a first-class Clydesdale stallion, would find the time well spent if Mr. Miller were given a call.

THE SHORTHORNS.

We will add a few supplementary notes to those already given on page 71.

The herd has now been fifty-two years established, and comprises about 70 head. At the head stands the wonderful bull Vice-Consul, bred by Amos Cruikshank, of Sittyton, and selected by Mr. Miller in 1885 as the choice of all his calves, before any of them were sold. He is of the Victoria family, a rich red in color, and is one of the grandest, if not the best, specimen of Scotch Shorthorns that we have seen. He is a very heavy, thick-fleshed, short-legged animal, and has the best top from one end to the other that one can well imagine. His calves promise fair to do him honor. We noticed a roan by him and from a Strathallan cow, that is already a good bull. He was calved in November last, and is covered with thick mossy hair that never fails to be accompanied with lots of flesh of the best quality. This bull will win prizes for somebody. There is to be found in the herd ten young bulls, mostly red, but some are roan, and nearly all sired by Vice-Consul, and from imported cows. We saw an imported bull, bred by Sylvester Campbell, Kinnellar, of very good quality, a thick-fleshed animal like the rest of the bulls in the market. Prominent amongst the females is the Strathallan cow that produced the Messrs. Snider's Rose of Strathallan 2d, the great show cow. Her dam was Rose of Strathallan, the gold medal winner at the Highland Society's show at Dumfries. She produced a great many show animals and many of the females are still retained in the herd. Red

Rose of Strathallan, that produced the unbeaten bull and heifer, Strathearn and Lady Strathearn, last year described as being phenomenal at the Iowa state fair, is herself a splendid show cow. Miss Rose of Strathallan and Red Rose of Strathallan 3d, are thick fleshed, large and smooth cows, and the family is a deep milking one as well as possessing such wonderful flesh producing qualities. Lydia, Jilt, Young Lydia and several other Scotch cows are justly admired as being good cows and having promising calves at foot. We also saw a splendid stable of young heifers.

For the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Judging Value.

There is nothing better understood among expert breeders and judges of fine stock than the average ignorance of the Ontario farmer respecting that nice distinction and seizure of points that determine the judgment of an educated critic at the first glance. It is this painful ignorance of points which are under their eyes all their lives, and every day of their lives, that causes so many of our farmers to content themselves with a quality of stock that at no great expense, might gradually, and surely will some day, entirely displace the scrubs and screws and crosses that are now hibernating round many a straw stack whose shelter they are not worthy to seek. You hear a man spoken of as having a good eye for a horse, and it is a fact that such an eye must come to a man by nature, but its ability to note details at a glance can only come of practice. Granted education in points and the true image of the nonpareil ever present on the observer's retina, he then has to make a rapid summary of the derivations from perfection in the particular subject under review.

We have always heard that a good judge can sum up the pros and cons in a horse's construction in a minute. He can turn his back on the horse and tell you from the point of his ears to his hind heels, any blemishes, peculiarities or aberration from that nice balance of points which is possessed by the perfect horse. His off-hand decision is nearly always correct. It does not include a warranty that the animal is sound, a conclusion only to be arrived at after a careful and protracted examination by a veterinary surgeon. But superficial defects strike the expert's eye with a rapidity and comprehensiveness quite incredible to the ordinary rider and driver of horses.

It is exactly the same with cows and sheep, but as horses are sold high or low according to the expectation of serviceable utility that is based on the general appearance, it is absolutely essential that every breeder of a colt, desirous of getting the true worth of his animal, should know the indications of value. As a rule the general breeder, or as he generally calls himself, "the common farmer," knows nothing of these indications. He asks the same price for either of the two colts, when the city middleman purchasing from him knows very well that there is perhaps as much as sixty or seventy dollars' difference in their respective values. Three times out of four, the farmer sells his four-year-old colt too low. If it be one possessing those points that will command a price between two and three hundred dollars in Toronto or Montreal, he asks (to take an average figure) one hundred and twenty dollars. Say that it costs thirty dollars a year to raise the colt, the question is whether he could have afforded to sell the animal for thirty dollars when one year old. Having regard to cost of stallion, loss of mare's service, generous feeding the first winter (an absolute necessity), and other incidentals, the answer must be a very decided negative: even if a charge of only thirty dol-

lars per annum be taken as a fair equivalent for three years' hay, oats and attendance. But as the breeder knew the real value of his animal, and the difference between the rich man's carriage horse and a street car slave, he will be able to strike such an average, taking the sales of the good and indifferent lots together, that he will come out ahead. Perhaps in no one way could the farmer be more benefited than by a series of lectures delivered with object lessons: where sheep, horses and cattle of several types might be exhibited and their defects and excellences duly noted. It is safe to say that not one farmer in a score has the slightest idea of what is called all round action in a horse—which of all other qualifications is the one commanding most money. Most of them will tell you the speed of an animal—almost always, and sometimes unconsciously exaggerating it—but mere speed, except in the rare instances when it attains to racing value, is of no consequence in determining the price of city horses. And it is to the cities that high-priced horses eventually gravitate. Whether a horse's shoulder is so placed as to make him a saddle horse or fit him only for harness purposes, is another point on which most farmers are ignorant; but it is an essential one in determining value. The breeder is in fact generally a man acting by haphazard and not coupling his mare with any definite object in view, because he has not educated himself to know the business in which he voluntarily engages. Perhaps, as we have said, winter lectures by competent persons might help this, for as an illustration it may be noted that the writer was thus very recently addressed: "I did not know till I heard Prof. Grenside say so at our institute meeting, that the use of the thoroughbred sire was essential to the production of riding and cavalry horses." Now if this gentleman, famed all over Canada as a breeder and importer of live-stock, didn't know this elementary truth, it goes a long way towards explaining the cause of Col. Ravenhill's complaint, that there should be a hundred thoroughbred stallions serving in Canada for every one now to be found here. It is a truth that has been preached pretty often in these columns, and in those of every live-stock paper in the world. Crystallized it is this: Moneyed men in cities, and their sons, will pay three hundred dollars for a ride-and-drive five-year old that suits them. This can only be procured by the thoroughbred cross. The Americans in the Eastern States having neglected this maxim, come to Canada to buy ride-and-drive horses, finding that the trotting horse sire has at home effectually killed the production of what they are looking for. Their own country is swamped with "light harness" buggy horses. The horse-breeding farmer has the rich men of two countries at his mercy, if he would only learn his business. So much for judging the points of horses. But ask Mr. Ballantyne, M. P. P., if what we say of horses is not too generally true of cows. How many cattle-breeders can tell at a glance beefing or milking qualifications, as shown by infallible signs? Very few young men educate themselves in cattle points, or know the characteristics of the various breeds. They are, as an old breeder remarked to us the other day, too fond of trotting talk, and waste on that a deal of time that might be better employed learning how to make money in their business. The most vitally important factor in doing good business is, in all other branches of trade, thought to be a thorough knowledge of the article a man may be dealing in. Where the staple, quality, fashion, value and peculiarities of the goods vary as they do in live-stock, it is more especially needful for the tradesman to be a good judge of his own wares.