

The Breeder and Breeder.

Short-Horn Breeding and Short-Horn Prices.

The following is an extract from an essay upon cattle-breeding, read at a meeting of the Staindrop Farmers' Club, by Mr. Geo. Holley, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Nothing is so fatal to a herd as a succession of close breeding. Nothing is so difficult to manage as wide crossing; hence my reason for claiming for successful short-horn breeders the genius of an art.

I know a family who have used Booth bulls for upwards of twenty years, and have never made a single mark of any importance, simply because they did not happen to have an eye to beauty of form. I have the acquaintance of a gentleman who is famous for his correct estimation of animal symmetry, and also weight and color, but who missed his way from being at the very head of the short horn kingdom by not having the courage to give his herd a consanguineous cross.

I venture to say that the possession of a herd of fine fashionable short-horns at the present time is not a matter for much congratulation, if taken as a test of ability and sober judgment. As a

proof of wealth, it most assuredly is; but the credit and fame all redound to Bates and Booth, none of the gentlemen who ever followed their footsteps having produced better animals than they did themselves. To originate a good herd from an obscure branch, would be a matter of greater significance than the expenditure of 1,755 guineas for a 15 months heifer, by Sir Curtis Lampton; of 1,700 guineas for a broken-down dam, by Mr. McIntosh. These cattle will die out, and the gentlemen who possess them will probably not be found to have produced anything in size and contour equal to the dams and sires they began with. And hence an extraordinary loss of time and money; for, as Mr. W. H. Sotham says, in the *Mark Lane Express*, the points of an animal must sustain the pedigree, otherwise the pedigree is of no use; and therefore, the man who produces perfection, if from poor ordinary-priced beasts, is much greater and more to be commended than the one who goes to the fancy sales and throws his money, as it were, into the ocean, to be swallowed up and wasted!

It is not difficult, in my opinion, to produce the finest short-horns without a fabulous expenditure of wealth. The economies of animal ordinance are with you. They are always striving with themselves to adopt the purely cylindrical shape, and that is the shape which all the best short-horns wear.

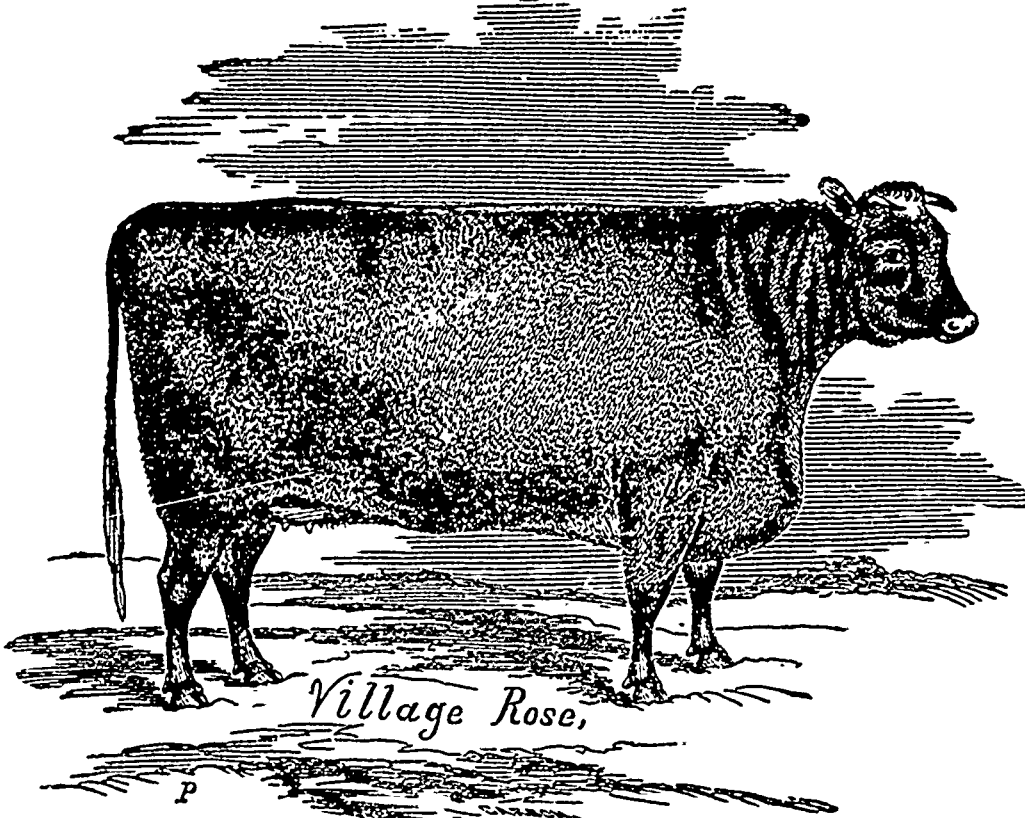
Indeed I have no doubt but there are more within a very short distance at the present moment, who, with leisure on hand and suitable pasturage, could produce in seven crosses, from most Highland Kyloes or the polled Galloway dams, as good a herd as could be found in Great Britain. I will go further than that, and say that with two short-horn bulls at £100 each, and twenty short-horn cows at £40 each—their own choosing—they would be able to distance, in three crosses, two-thirds of the men who are plunging into such marvellously high-priced beasts, always recollecting that form, weight, and quality would have to be the deciding points. In crossing the short-horn male with the Highland or Gallowayshire dams, the change is not so rapid as with the country cows, the cardinal color, black, being more potent and enduring than the transitory reds and mixed shades of short-horn. It therefore does not go out at once, and the horn in the produce (from the Kyloe) is a little elongated, as we see it in many of the Bates tribes now, simply because an essentially long-horned breed and a short-horned breed were introduced together. This, I think, is detrimental to the pure Bates, in our historical point of view, as the appella-

tion "short-horn" does not literally apply. However, as he is justly credited with having produced the originals of the highest-priced animals in the world, perhaps we ought to look back at this juncture and see where he procured his first stocks, and also note a few of the wonderful gradations they have gone through up to the present time.

Mr. Bates was contemporary with Charles Colling, in 1810, but he was not in the ascendant as a breeder of short-horns; and his most memorable purchase was that of *Young Duchess*, for 183 gs., at Mr. Colling's sale in that year. It is said she was a descendant of a Kyloe, but the pedigree we have of her at this time is this: That she, a daughter of Comet, sold at the same time to four gentlemen for 1,000 gs.; that her dam was from the famous bull Favorite, and that she was in calf to a son of Comet. Here was the beginning of close in-and-in or consanguineous breeding at once.

Since that time the breed has run through many generations, with varied success, until last year, at New York Mills, the fame of the *Duchesses* culminated in \$40,000 and \$35,000 respectively being given for 5th and 12th *Duchess of Geneva*. They were bought to come to England; and at the same sale, nine other *Duchess* cows were sold at such high prices that the whole eleven came to £49,750, or an average of £4,522 14s.

The present mania for high-priced cattle can only be called a species of gambling of the most dangerous class. That of the turf does not seem to bear any comparison with it; for, although you may lose eight of a couple of thousand guineas in buying a *Stockwell* or *Newminster*



Short-Horn Heifer "VILLAGE ROSE," the Property of Hon. M. H. COCHRANE, Compton, Quebec.

colt, yet it is quite possible he may win the whole of it back for you in the first race.

I have, I trust, made out pretty clearly that the faculties of the mind required to conduct a famous herd of short-horns through several generations with commercial success, are of a much higher order than what they have generally gained credit for; that it takes a fine man to manage a fine herd well—a man steady and industrious in his habits, with the organs of perception and reflection well developed in his head; in reality, an artist and physiologist, fond of his art and calling, and ardent in his designs to carry them out to a successful issue.

Short-Horn Heifer, "Village Rose."

"Village Rose," the subject of our illustration, is a red heifer, calved November, 1876, belonging to Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Compton, Q. She was bred by Mr. Stratton, of Burderop, near Swindon, England, and was imported in 1872. She was sired by James 1st (24262); dam April Rose, by Warwick (19120); grandam March Rose, by Young Windsor (17241); g. grandam Christmas Rose, by His Highness (14708); Salthrop Rose 4th, by Lord of the Manor (14836); Salthrop Rose 1st, by Waterloo (11025); Young Moss Rose, by Lottery (4250); Moss Rose, by Phoenix (6290).

She won the first prize at the Yorkshire Society's Meet-

ing in 1871, and first at the Gloucestershire Show at Cheltenham in the same year. In 1872, she was first as a yearling at the Bath and West of England Show at Dorchester, and was second at the Royal Show at Cardiff.

The Management of Swine.

The hog is often the chief dependence of the poor man. If any system of breeding and feeding will largely increase his weight, and improve the quality of his flesh, at a given age, then it follows that such a plan will confer an immense benefit on a large number of farmers in our State—it being taken for granted that many are willing to acknowledge themselves as belonging to the class conventionally called poor.

The question that naturally arises is, how can this great gain be obtained? In reply it may be said, first, by correct breeding; second, by judicious rearing, third, by common sense management. Secure the services of a healthy, thoroughbred boar, select a strong, thrifty sow, let her be regularly fed, but not made too fat. A sow that has been kept on weak dish-water and potato skins all her life, cannot produce large pigs; or such as will be fit for pork at an early age. Some people imagine that by keeping their breeding sows in a half-starved condition, they improve

the suckling characteristics of the animal. This is one of the many rural notions that fall under the general name of "humbug." The facts are, the cause is mistaken for the result. A sow often gets very thin while the pigs are on her, but it is a very grave error to keep her in such a condition, with the idea of thus improving her breeding qualities.

In raising thoroughbred pigs, or even crosses, it is an object of much moment to get such a breed as will grow rapidly and mature early. For length and depth of body, small head, thin skin and small bones, there are several breeds recommended. In this vicinity the Yorkshire and White Chester stand high, in other parts of the State the Essex and Berkshire take the lead. The hog with long snout, and head narrow between the eyes, is almost invariably a poor, restless, voracious, squealing animal. But what shall be said in reference to many, very many, of the hog-pens of this country? The very name is suggestive of all that is re-

pulsive, and has almost become synonymous with all that is filthy, foul, dirty, nauseous, disgusting and sickening. The bare thought of some of these enclosures (often within nose range of the kitchen or dining-room) is enough to turn the stomach of a city scavenger; and yet in many of those very hog-pens is made and kept an article of food, the value of which, raised annually in the United States, is about one hundred and thirty-nine millions of dollars. Especially do we Yankees need scolding on this subject, for a very large portion of our pork goes through from six to twelve months of live saturation (so to speak) in all that is filthy and malarious, causing the animal to be unhealthy and unwholesome, and his flesh unfit for human food.

Pigs should always be supplied with pure water, even though they have large quantities of slops. They also need fresh air and plenty of sunlight, and if in order to obtain these for a part of the season they do eat a few wind-fall apples, no harm will be done, but a positive advantage gained. No one kind of food is suitable for pigs as a continuous diet. Among many other kinds, sweet apples are excellent. Nearly all kinds of food are better cooked than raw, and should be given warm in the winter. The best of roots are the beet and sweet German turnip. Sucking pigs should always be furnished with a trough separate from their mother, in which they should be fed after they are two weeks old. For fattening hogs, potatoes washed clean and cooked, mashed up with meal, makes harder and better pork than clear meal of either corn, rye, peas or barley.—*Cor. Maine Farmer.*