

way, stock, implements, and small seeds could be exchanged; the principle might indeed be carried out with advantage to the most insignificant article exhibited. I, for one, have never returned from the Provincial fair without buying something, (and I have attended all) but I must in justice say that I have once or twice fallen in with wooden nutmegs for my money; but with common caution such things may be avoided. And where can a farmer procure better seed wheat than that exhibited for the *Canada Company's Prize*? A friend of mine bought up three lots for seed, at Niagara, last year, and went on purpose; but this year it will be too late. I will, however, buy a spring or yearling Durham Bull, and a Leicester ram lamb; and I have no doubt that many hundreds will go with similar intentions. So go prepared to supply what your neighbours require and fetch home what you require yourself.

My next neighbour last fall bought a sow pig at 50s. and it cost him 25s. to get it home, and I thought it dear when I saw it. Since then I bought one of her pigs at 40s. and seven more are sold at the same price. She had twelve for the first time, but four she smothered. The pigs amount to sixteen pounds and the sow could not be bought for less money!

Yours &c.,

R. L. DENISON.

Denison Terrace, }
July, 7 1851. }

IMPROVED BREEDS OF CATTLE.

Woodstock, July 21st, 1851.

SIR,

Any one reading Mr. Parson's spirited and able letter, in your last number, must have been pleased at the skill he shows in defending his favourite breed of cattle; but, as he very justly remarks, a series of experiments on the virtues of the different breeds can alone determine the question. Would it not be well if those who raise the different breeds would favour the public through the medium of your paper, with short memoranda stating the *nature of farms and soils*, average quantity and quality of milk, &c. I am afraid we could not obtain the average weight of carcase, and when ripe for the butcher, for they are worth more as yet for breeding than for killing. In my opinion Mr. Parson and Mr.

Tye are both right. You may call it a bull, but as it is said that when two parties fall out they are both in the wrong; surely they must be both partially right. In England, the idea of one breed of cattle being good for every situation has long been cast aside. It was but to day I saw it decided in the *Agricultural Gazette*. Does not the same thing hold good here? On rich level farms near towns where butcher's meat in quantities, and yet of fair quality is required, the *Durhams* are undoubtedly the best; but on rough hilly farms the heavy Durham would not be able to pick up a very good living, whilst the light and active *Devon* would thrive and fatten. Such a farm as my own I would instance, which I took possession of at the beginning of last year, small, rough and hilly, most thoroughly worn out by the last occupant, having about five acres of Indian grass, and the rest bare stubble, bearing nothing but burrs, thistles and raspberries; soil light, in fact, bought merely on account of its presenting a good site for a house. Upon such a farm a heavy Durham would starve, but two or three Devons (purchased from Mr. Tye,) live, grow fat, and milk well. As an experiment I made from one gallon of milk, one-half a pound of butter, the afternoon's milking, two months after calving, which I think shows pretty good quality of milk, and my Devon cows present a wonderful and pleasing superiority in flesh over a native cow that runs with them. Again, if you give a greater price for your Durham cows, you run the greater risk, and a Devon cow at \$50 is more likely to realize her value if thrown out of breeding by an accident than a Durham at \$150, not to mention the fact of the latter being more subject to that very annoying disease. It would, however, be of immense advantage to a man who wishes to invest in improved stock, to be able to choose the proper subjects for purchase in his own particular case, which the plan I have proposed would, I think, assist him in. I am afraid my letter is a long one, but the great interest I take in farming, and especially in live stock must be my excuse.

And remain Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A HAMILTON FARMER.

P. S. Is it not stated in *Youatt's* work on *British Cattle*, that Mr. Bakewell's improved long horns were *inferior* to the stock they sprang from as milkers. I have not the book at hand just now to refer to, but such is my impression.

A. H. F.