

description, for having been instrumental in attaining that end through the encouragement afforded to the breeders of live stock. It matters little which particular breed of animal may obtain the superiority as regards the number of prizes awarded to it at any single show, inasmuch as it will be seen that of the two breeds exhibited in the greatest number on this occasion, namely, the short-horns and Herefords, upon an average of seven or ten years there will be but little variation. A singular circumstance has, however, been pointed out to us by a correspondent, which will be regarded with interest by the respective advocates of the two breeds alluded to. It appears that the Hereford ox belonging to Mr. Heath, to which the gold medal was awarded, is of exactly the same dimensions as the short-horn steer belonging to Class 2; the former being, according to the catalogue, just one year younger than the latter. Thus, then, the Hereford steer of two years and ten months old attained the same bulk which the short-horned reached in three years and ten months. It is true the Hereford ox in question was a most extraordinary animal; but regarding it as such, it shows what the breed is capable of.

The opinion of the leading journal of the London press—*The Times*—of this great Cattle Show, we think worthy of insertion, as it gives useful suggestions to Canadian Agriculturists:—

(From the Times.)

The annual show of the Smithfield Club opens to-day to the public, and will be found, notwithstanding the depressed state of British agriculture, both in the number and the quality of the stock exhibited, very greatly in advance of the displays of former years. The present is one-fourth larger than the last show, and in a still greater ratio exceeds those which preceded it. This increase is not confined to any one department, but extends over the whole; and some idea of it may be formed when we mention that there are fifty additional stands for oxen alone. With reference to the quality of the stock brought forward, the judges are unanimous in their opinion on that subject, and, having been admitted to a private view last night, we can fully corroborate their testimony on the subject. The exhibition has in former years been blemished by a display of enormously fat and overgrown animals. Prizes were awarded, and admiration bestowed, not upon those beasts that at the earliest age, and in the most healthy and regular manner, were clothed with the greatest amount of wholesome food, but upon mountains of tallow, ungainly to look upon, useless for the purposes of subsistence, and valuable only to be manufactured into candles. The Smith-

field Club have in this respect effected a decided reform. They have at length, and unmistakably, surrendered their predilections for the melling-tub; and the danger, if any, against which they now require to be warned, is to prevent their show running so far into the opposite direction, that it may become an exhibition to promote purity of breed rather than one which has reference to the supply of our metropolitan meat markets. The principle on which the prizes are awarded properly recognizes the breeder as well as feeder of each successful animal, and the materials upon which it has been fattened are also specified. These precautions do, to a certain extent, keep the show true to its original design, and this result is still further secured by the arrangement and classification adopted, which place beasts of different breeds side by side, and induce a general comparison of merits between the different varieties of stock. It is quite true that the best bred ox will generally show himself best adapted for the purpose for which nature has destined him; but, on the other hand, the merits of cross-bred animals ought not to be lost sight of, and something is due to the appetites of our citizens, more solicitous about a good sirloin of beef or haunch of mutton than as to whether the beasts that furnished them were Devons or Herefords, Southdowns or Leicesters. If we were to find a fault with the general character of the present exhibition, we would state it thus—that the great breeders, and especially those who breed for amusement, as, for instance, the Duke of Richmond, or, to quote another name without any invidious motive, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, should, with their advantages for maintaining a successful competition, come into the field and carry away so large a proportion of the prizes against the men who the whole year around supply Smithfield Market, and appease the appetites of a population of 2,000,000. The noblemen and gentlemen who keep up fine herds of cattle, partly as a matter of amateur farming, and partly to raise the quality of stock throughout the country, have their legitimate sphere of competition at the great annual shows of the Royal Agricultural Society. The Smithfield Club ought to encourage a less dignified but not less useful class of competitors—the men who supply the best mutton, the best beef, and the best bacon to the inhabitants of London. We are far from saying that these last are altogether excluded: and a glance at the list of prizes will show that many of our best-known feeders have met with the success which they deserve. Still, practical men, looking at the result, would, we suspect, be disposed to think that several great names occur therein somewhat too often. The show is particularly strong in Leicester sheep and in crosses. It has improved greatly also in the display of Devons, in which hi-