

Mr. Marshall thus describes the improved Leicesters in his own time, which was that of Bakewell, Princep, and Fowler.

"The *forend* long; but light to a degree of elegance. The neck thin, the chap clean, the head fine, but long and tapering.

"The *eye* large, bright and prominent.

"The *horns* vary with the sex, &c. Those of bulls are comparatively short, from fifteen inches to two feet; those of the few oxen that have been reared of this breed are extremely large, being from two and a half to three and a half feet long; those of the cows nearly as long, but much finer, tapering to delicately fine points. Most of them hang downward by the side of the cheeks, and then, if well turned, as many of the cows are, shoot forward at the points.

"The *shoulders* remarkably fine and thin, in bone; but thickly covered with flesh—not the smallest protuberance of bone.

"The *girth* small, compared with the short-horn and middle-horn breeds.

The *chine* remarkably full when fat, but hollow when low in condition."

This is considered by accurate judges to be a criterion of good mellow flesh. The large hard ligament, (the continuation of the ligaments of the neck, united with those of the vertebrae of the spine itself,) which in some individuals, when in low condition, stretch tightly along the chine, from the setting on of the neck to the fore part of the loins, is said to be a mark of the flesh being of a bad quality. They are only proofs of great strength in the spine, and probably, in the animal generally; and indicating that the meat will be sinewy and tough.

"The *loin* broad, and the *hip* remarkably wide and protuberant."

A wide loin, with projections of fat on the hips, may be desirable; but there can be neither beauty or use in the protuberance of the tuberosities of the bone. A full hip may be of advantage, but scarcely a protuberant one.

"The *quarters* long and level; the *nache* of a middle width, and the *tail* set on variously, even in individuals of the highest repute.

"The *round-bones* small, but the *thighs* in general fleshy; tapering, however, when in the best form toward the gambrels.

"The *legs* small and clean, but comparatively long. The *feet* in general neat, and of the middle size.

"The *carcass* as nearly a cylinder as the natural form will allow. The *ribs* standing out full from the spine. The *belly* small.

"The *flesh* seldom falls of being of the first quality.

"The *hide* of a middle thickness.

"The *color* various; the *bundle*, the *finch-back*, and the *pye*, are common. The *lighter*, the better they are esteemed.

"The *fattening* quality of this improved breed, in a state of maturity, is indisputably good.

"As *grazier's stock*, they undoubtedly rank high. The principle of the *utility of form* has been strictly attended to. The bone and offal are small, and the forend light; while the chine,

the loin, the rump and the ribs are heavily loaded, and with flesh of the finest quality. In point of early maturity, they have also materially gained. In general, they have gained a year in preparation for the butcher; and although perhaps not weighing so heavy as they did before, the little diminution of weight is abundantly compensated, by the superior excellence of the meat, its earlier readiness and the smaller quantity of food consumed.

"As *dairy-stock*, it does not admit of doubt that their milking qualities have been very much impaired.

"As *beasts of draught*, their general form renders them unfit; yet many of them are sufficiently powerful, and they are more active than some other breeds used for the plough, or on the road; but the horns generally form an insuperable objection to this use of them."

THE LONG-HORN FEEDING OX.

But what is become of Bakewell's improved long-horn breed? A veil of mystery was thrown over most of his proceedings, which not even his friend Mr. Marshall was disposed to raise. The principle on which he seemed to act, breeding so completely "in and in" was a novel, a bold, and a successful one. Some of the cattle to which we have referred were very extraordinary illustrations, not only of the harmlessness, but the manifest advantage of such a system; but he had a large stock on which to work; and no one knew his occasional deviations from this rule, nor his skillful interposition of remote affinities, when he saw or apprehended danger.

The truth of the matter is, that the master spirits of that day had no sooner disappeared, than the character of this breed began imperceptibly to change. It had acquired a delicacy of constitution, inconsistent with common management and keep; and it began slowly, but undeniably, to deteriorate. Many of them had been bred to that degree of refinement, that the propagation of the species was not always certain.

In addition to this, a powerful rival appeared in the field, the short-horns of the Tees. They presented equal aptitude to fatten, and greater bulk and earlier maturity.

Westmoreland was the native land of the long-horns. Webster brought thence the father of the Canley stock; and Bakewell sought the father of his breed there: but even in Westmoreland the short-horns appeared; they spread; they established themselves; in a manner superseded the long-horns. They found their way to southern districts; they mingled with the native breeds; a cross from them generally bestowed increase of milk, aptitude to fatten, and early maturity. It is true, that a frequent recourse to the short-horn was generally necessary in order to retain these advantages, but these advantages were bestowed, and might be retained, except in a few districts, and for some particular purposes. Thus they gradually established themselves everywhere; they were the grazing cattle of the large farmer and the gentleman, and another variety of them occupied the dairy. The