

Special Contributors.

Agricultural Affairs in Scotland.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Since the despatch of my last letter two events of first importance to breeders of Polled cattle have taken place, namely, the dispersion of the Bridgend Polled herd, owned by Mr. R. C. Auld, a nephew of the late Mr. McCombie, of Tillyfour, and the dispersion of the Ilains of Kelly Polled herd, the foundation of which was laid nearly three-quarters of a century ago. The Bridgend herd has been in existence only a few years, having been started by the purchase of a celebrated cow named Pride of Aberdeen IX., which Mr. Auld bought at the Tillyfour dispersion three years ago for 270 guineas—the highest price which up to that time had been paid for a single animal of the Polled breed. The great feature of the herd was the large number of animals which it comprised, tracing to the "Queen" foundation, from which sprang the famous "Prides of Aberdeen." Of these there were no less than twenty-eight, but it was round the five straight-bred "Prides" that the greatest interest centered. Pride of Aberdeen IX. proved a fortunate bargain to her owner, having each year dropped a heifer calf, all of which came under the hammer. The sale, which was held at Aberdeen on the 13th of September, was attended by a large company of breeders from all parts of Scotland. Though the cattle were in rather middling condition, and in some cases not of great merit, they fetched very high prices, the demand being exceptionally keen. For fifty-one head an average of £90 16s. 3d. was obtained. Pride of Aberdeen IX. was purchased at 385 guineas, by Mr. Wilken, Waterside-of-Forbes, who also owns her dam, Pride VII.; her two-year-old daughter, a lengthy but somewhat plain quartered heifer named Pride XXIX., made 220 guineas; her yearling daughter, Pride XXX., 510 guineas, and her calf Pride XXXI., was sold for 250 guineas, the four animals realising a total of £1,433 5s. Mr. Auld's profit on the original purchase being at least £1,000. It was rumored that Pride XXX. and Pride XXXI., as well as several other of the cattle, were bought back for Mr. Auld, and as the sale was advertised to be entirely unreserved there has naturally been a strong expression of opinion against his conduct in this matter. The price at which Pride XXX. was taken out 510 guineas, is the highest that has ever been paid at a public sale for an animal of this breed. Twelve cows made an average of £114 19s. 6d.; eleven two-year-old heifers, £85 10s. 6d.; eight one-year-old heifers, £156 3s. 9d.; seven heifer calves, £90 7s.; two two-year-old bulls, £53 11s., and eleven bull calves, £29 4s. 2d., the total proceeds of sale being £4,631 11s. The Ilains of Kelly herd, which was founded about the year 1809, was the oldest pedigree herd in existence. For many years it has been famous as one of the best male producing herds in this country, Mr. Bowie having bred seven first prize Highland Society bulls in the aged class. The sale was held at Perth on the 3rd of October, and the number offered was 14 females and 7 males. At first sight I was rather disappointed with the quality of the stock, but they showed great similarity of type and were undoubtedly nearer the original form of Polled cattle than most of the herds of more recent date. They lacked the size of the "Improved Aberdeens," but having good blood in their veins, they met a ready sale, the average per head being £66 1s. The highest price, 127 guineas, was paid for a member of the Jennet family, a strain which was brought to Ilains of Kelly from Tillyfour.

September was an unfavorable month for harvest operations, the weather being of a very wet and stormy character. Since the advent of October prospects have improved, but a large portion of the cereal crops in the north has not been secured and it has suffered greatly by long exposure to the weather, and is beginning to sprout in the stock. In the earlier district in southern and midland counties, most of the crop has been stacked in fair order. It is too early to give a probable estimate of this year's crop, but it will most likely be under average in quality. There was a splendid appearance of potatoes generally, but they have suffered a good deal from disease. Turnips, one of the

most extensive crops which Scotch farmers grow, are calculated to be a third below normal years. They have improved very much during the month of September, but are too far behind to make up the deficiency.

Agriculturists in this country are complaining grievously, and not without cause, of the restrictions which have been imposed to check the progress of foot and mouth disease, which is meantime spreading at an alarming rate in England and Ireland. During the last six or seven months the cattle traffic has several times been brought to a standstill, and through the stoppage of business many thousands of pounds have been lost to the country. In England and Ireland the conditions of movement were not so carefully looked after as in Scotland, and the disease is still spreading, apparently baffling the efforts of the local authorities to stop it. In Scotland it has been stamped out, though at a great cost, and meantime her ports are almost entirely blocked against cattle coming from either of the sister countries. The result of this is that store cattle are very scarce and farmers will have difficulty in securing a number sufficient to consume their crops. In the course of the past few months the Government have been pressed to shut all British ports against animals coming from countries that cannot show a clean bill of health. All that they have agreed to do at the present juncture is to carry out existing regulations in such a way as they think will prevent the introduction of disease from abroad. So strongly have the claims of the British farmer been urged, however, to have his flocks and herds protected from disease that it seems likely the Government will next year provide other safeguards than those existing for the stock owners. Many authorities are of opinion that although the importation of live stock from abroad was stopped in all but exceptional cases—the bringing in of breeding animals for instance, the country would gain rather than lose, as the same amount of food could be brought in with greater safety as dead meat. Irish cattle dealers are suffering great loss by the stoppage of all business between that country and Scotland, and they are complaining bitterly that the restrictions here are too rigorous, but let them first set about earnestly to stamp out the disease from within their borders, following the example which Scotchmen have shown, and then they may rest assured that their stock will be readily admitted to our shores.

A Chatty Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

One of the striking features in the markets these days is the extremely wide ranges of prices, showing the difference in the breeding and in the feeding of the stock. For example, Col. John D. Gillett, of Logan county, Ill., who by the way has just forwarded another lot of 165 head of fine Shorthorn beeves to London, Eng., was on the Chicago market recently with a lot of 1,788 lb. high grade Shorthorns, which sold at \$7.25 per cwt., and, at the same time, cattle nearly as heavy, fully as old and quite as expensive, were selling at prices ranging from one to two dollars per hundred less. This of course shows that something was radically wrong with the low priced cattle, and on hastily glancing at the figures, one would naturally take it for granted that the fault all lay with the breeding—that the Gillett cattle were highly bred, and could not help being good, etc.; but the fault was by no means all in the breeding. It was as much, or more, in the feeding. Among the cattle that sold at the comparatively low price were some that in breeding were by no means inferior to the others.

We must not lay too much stress upon blood. Good blood is highly essential to the greatest success in stock raising, but it cannot do the whole business; it cannot regulate the kind and quantity of the food, the comfortable or uncomfortable arrangement of the stalls or feed lots, in fact it cannot be brains for the herdsman; though some of us have known people with more money than brains, who seemed to think that the fortune at stock raising was assured when the lengthy pedigree was secured.

It is very true indeed, as L. B. Arnold says: "If you were to take one of our common cows and one of high breeding, and give them an exchange of places, exchange of feed, shelter and general management, that in a wonderfully short time the high-toned cow on scanty rations, and lack of care, would run down—the condition of the common cow, and the so-called common bossie, with queenly pampering, and every possible attention, would so change that you would not know her." So it is. There cannot be too much stress laid upon feeding and general management. When anyone makes as an excuse for not having good beeves that he cannot afford to purchase pedigreed animals, let him not be discouraged, but bear in mind the fact that Col. Gillett, the renowned Shorthorn feeder and breeder, keeps none on his vast, fine stock farm. He is a feeder and a breeder, and as much the one as the other, hence his success. Give the common cow a chance.

American breeders of black polled cattle are undivided in their opinions as to what name should be given to the Scotch beauties commonly known as Polled-Angus. One man out west, who had a large number of Galloways and a few of the former, tried to dub them together under the nondescript title of "Scotch-Polled," but that did not meet with any favor by those who were breeding Polled-Angus exclusively, and so fell through.

I noticed, at the Illinois State Fair that Messrs. T. W. Harvey, and Anderson & Findlay, prominent breeders of Angus Dobbies, have adopted the title of "Polled Aberdeen-Angus." Presumably they have adopted this unnecessarily long cognomen for the sake of honoring equally the two shires in Scotland whence these cattle originally came. People in this country first became acquainted with that breed by the name of "Polled-Angus," which is not a bad name, and is certainly long enough. Some short, expressive name ought to be uniformly adopted. There is a good deal in a name.

In these times there is being considerable said for and against "early rising" on the farm, and from the general drift of the arguments that are going the rounds, the mass of the testimony is against "getting up in the middle of the night." Everything goes to prove that all nature that is animate, particularly men and horses, sleep the sweetest and best just before the break of day, and that the last hours before the appearance of the gray of dawning day are far more beneficial in performing the work of tired nature's sweet restorer—sleep, than any that precede, hence it is impossible to fully meet the requirements by going to bed at a very early hour in order to get enough hours of sleep. It is argued, and with a good deal of force, too, that the people who make it a rule to go out, disturb the horses by feeding them long before day, and do several hours work before breakfast, that they could accomplish as much, or more, by exhausting the full sweets of early morning's sleep and doing no violent exercise before breakfast. It is argued that by night they would accomplish as much, or more, and would be less fatigued. It is a generally conceded fact that it does not pay to do much work before breakfast. It is injurious to one's health.

Many a promising life has been cut down as a result of wielding cradle and scythe in the heavy dews of morning on an empty stomach.

The Illinois State Fair, held at Chicago, was a big thing, and, as fairs go now-a-days, was pre-eminently one of solid worth, and compared favorably with any exhibit that has been made in the west. An effort will be made to permanently locate the State Fair at the "Garden City." The weather during fair week was perfect. The attendance was large. The net surplus of cash was \$6,000. The live stock departments were better filled in every way than ever before. All of the breeds were liberally represented. Farm machinery was exhibited in great variety and abundance. The great inventions that have been made in labor saving machinery within a few years make one wonder if there will not eventually be machines invented to take the place of everything but brains. All in all, the fair was a big thing and was counted a grand success, but of course the inevitable blooded flyers were there, and, sad to say, trotting exhibitions were the chief features of entertainment outside of the exhibits of solid worth. That is one feature of nearly all fairs, namely, the horse racing, from which no valuable lessons can ever be drawn.

Butter.

ter has been gathered in the inch in size, machine, whose d with a linen e butter. As motion the but- water thrown ut all foreign is washing is way clean, and the last drop e dried in the is then taken imed that the freed from all kneading, has better keeping market in the