

look not as if they were meant for man to use, but for children to look at. I would venture to make another suggestion, and that is, that all the beasts be tied up in order, according to their class, with a number for each to be recognized by. We would then be able to inspect and contrast at our leisure, instead of having to look in several different places for the same class; there would then be very little trouble for the judges also, as everything would be to their hand at once. None but those who have visited one of the great Exhibitions in England, will appreciate the long rows of cattle tied up side by side, according to classes and numbers, the bulls separated from each other by partitions, the cows tied amicably close together. Besides those two or three little close boxes for a few favoured short horn bulls, proclaiming their supposed value and real tenderness, interrupt the eye very much, and one cannot always get a peep into them. I trust that as regards the cattle at least, that improvement will be made in London, viz.: to tie up every beast in its proper class, and according to a number furnished to its owner at the time of entry. I believe the plan would never be changed again. There might be some difficulty with the calves, but they might be tied too just behind their dams, so as to be ready to suck at any moment. I hope the plan of awarding more prizes to the Durhams than any other breed will have had its day, now that the Devons have come out so well. When there were hardly any other cattle in the Province it might have been very well, but I think now that the awarding more classes, and moreover a fourth prize will be found to be an injustice that breeders will not endure. With all due deference to the columns upon columns that have filled your valuable sheets in the last eighteen months, labouring to assert that the Durhams in every situation and for every purpose are unequalled, I would humbly submit my opinion that that position is untenable, at least it has never been proved in England, where the opportunities for doing so are of the first order, and with respect to the opinions of many gentlemen of science, I would say, that what the united skill and energy of the farmers of Great Britain, forming as they do not an uneducated, but one of the most highly educated classes of society, feel themselves unequal to decide upon, is at least equally beyond the ken of Canadian farmers. Shorthorns have been the most fashionable breed, because they have possessed, from the scarcity it would seem of good ones, the run in the market for high prices, forming as it were a fashionable species of gambling, (though I beg leave to say I do not wish to undervalue that most excellent and valuable breed, but only to claim for others a fair allowance of consideration). The scarcity I say, for why is it that a few herds range at prices from £100 to £500, and the common run at the common price of cattle, £15 to £20 for bulls and cows. We all know there are one or two very bad points Durham's possess that it is very difficult to eradicate. The worst point an animal can have, viz.: a lean girth behind the shoulder being one, and I suppose the absence of those faults causes the rise in price. I think it will be

found too that even in that point of view, viz.: price, Devons have equalled the Durhams at last, for more money was given I believe, for them than for the Durhams at Hamilton, at least I know that Mr. Locke refused £160 for one of his cows, and refused to sell me a heifer at all, and refused to take less than £75 & £50 respectively for two bull calves. £160 was given for one bull, and £75 refused for the first prize yearling, and calves selling at £30. Though I do not advocate high prices, for they prevent stock from spreading as it ought, and think £150 quite enough to pay for any beast, still when the money they will fetch is supposed to be a criterion of their value, this proves they do not stand so badly in the public estimation as some would seem to think. Two bulls stood side by side, one a yearling Devon, weight about say 500lbs., the other an older Durham, weight stated at 2200 lbs., the Devon found an immediate purchaser at £35, the other was offered in vain at £40, a clear proof of the estimate formed of their respective values by the public. It is a great pity some Short Horn breeder did not accept the truly English and high spirited challenge of Mr. Sotham, for now people will say that Durham breeders are always ready to write and talk, but are afraid to come really to actual proof. At the same time I must protest against the abuse of books and public prints shown in the great Hereford and Durham controversy. You must excuse my being a little late in my remarks, but I had been in England last winter, and consequently only read the conclusion of the argument this summer. Mr. Parsons calls the *Mark Lane Express* a "partisan journal," seemingly because it ventures to speak in favor of Herefords. Mr. Sotham blames Mr. Youatt because in writing a description of British cattle, he does not set himself up to be a judge over them. I think both very unfair attacks upon men whose character stands so high, especially that the editor of a British journal is not to be allowed to mention one breed of cattle, because Mr. P. does not favour it. I see Mr. Sotham mentions the fact of cattle and sheep being exported to Cuba, and only the Herefords surviving, I think it but fair to state that Devons have been exported to Jamaica, farther south than Cuba, and found to do well, and impart their good qualities to the native breed in a remarkable degree.

I see also in your valuable paper a drawing of the so called Norwegian Harrows; perhaps your readers may not be aware they are an English invention, despised of course in their own country, taken abroad, and when brought back under a foreign name, creating an immense sensation, following the same course in fact as the reaping machines.

As some of your readers may wish to know the result of putting one breed of cattle against another, for fattening, I enclose you a list of the prizes taken at the Smithfield Club from 1844 to 1851, the last year of which the system of showing them all together prevailed, if you should feel inclined to publish it, or any part of it.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A HAMILTON FARMER.