

require. In America, as the forests are cleared away they disappear. Fires, land drainage and ploughing destroy them. This helps to illustrate the winding-up paragraph of Mr. Moir's paper, that most of these plants are amenable to cultivation. He has done excellent service to the Horticultural Society of Dundee, and to horticulturists in general, in calling attention to them in so thoroughly practical a manner, and we have thought that a few comments might not be unwelcome, as serving to throw a sort of side light on the subject.

We had the great pleasure of visiting Mr. Moir's Alpine Garden some years ago. We still cultivate here the *Myosotis alpestris* from seeds which he gathered originally on Ben Lawers. Every season as the *Myosotis* expands its flowers it seems to hold up a mirror to memory, recalling the neatly arranged rock works and flowery banks overhanging the Tay, where Mr. Moir conducts his experiments on the native plants of Scotland.

We copy an interesting account of a herd of Polled Angus Cattle interviewed at Halifax, on their way to the Sandwich Islands, by a Reporter of the *Morning Chronicle*. It is only necessary to correct a slight and very natural mistake that is made in assuming that these are the first of their kind that have ever touched the shores of the Dominion. Mr. Nimmo, of Camden, Ontario, had a very fine herd of Polled Angus more than a quarter of a century ago. At the Provincial Exhibition of Upper Canada, held at Cobourg as long ago as October, 1855, nine prizes, amounting in money value to thirty-six pounds, were awarded for "Galloway Cattle," no distinction being then made between the Galloway, Angus and Aberdeens. We believe the first polled black cattle ever seen in British America, if not on the whole continent, were some introduced very many years ago to Cape Breton; but they were not long kept pure. A stray black doddly may be occasionally seen about Sydney, the hereditary drop of black blood re-asserting itself after the lapse of many years and through many generations. Numerous importations of Angus, Aberdeens and Galloways have been made, especially within the last few years, by Ontario farmers, and large numbers have passed through Canada on their way to the Western States.

"A *Chronicle* Reporter Saturday morning had a pleasant experience which might have been envied by any one interested in live stock or thorough-bred cattle. The Allan steamer *Nestorian*, from Glasgow, G. B., had on board something new to agricultural men in this country, being a valuable lot of pure-bred Polled Angus cattle, which are en route

for the Sandwich Islands, in charge of their owner, Mr. Hugh A. Ferguson, who explained their "points" and peculiar merits.

The animals, eight in number, have very comfortable quarters aboard the steamer and appear in first-rate condition, not having suffered at all from their sea-voyage. They were fed principally on turnips and oil cake, and are under the immediate care of Mr. Brown, a Boston gentleman of great experience in such matters. They are a very handsome lot, standing about medium size, are entirely black, with hair very like that of a pure Newfoundland dog, rather massive heads, but particularly fine, clear and neat bodies, straight-backed, and without any semblance of horns. This latter point is a peculiarity which renders them specially suitable for export, being, on this account, of easy stowage, and handy, so to speak, aboard ship. They are a very profitable animal for raisers, as they arrive early at maturity, are splendid milkers, and much more than ordinarily good beef producers.

The oldest of the herd is a magnificent bull, "His Grace," which saw his second birthday since leaving Glasgow, and weighs 15,000 lbs. The others are all little more than yearlings; they include three bulls and four heifers, all of the best and purest blood obtainable. "His Grace" was purchased from the Earl of Southesk's herd, at Kinaird Castle, and cost 100 guineas. Two of the heifers, "Merry Peal" and "Maidenhair," are from the original Kinnochtry Prizie family, which possesses the largest recorded ancestry in the Polled Herd Book. Two heifers and two yearling bulls were supplied by Mr. Smith, of Powrie, and two heifers and one bull were bought from the noted herd of Mr. Thomas Ferguson, of Kinnochtry, who formed the nucleus of his herd from bulls and cows purchased from Mr. Watson, of Keillor, the first breeder and patron of these cattle. Mr. Hugh A. Ferguson is a grandson of Mr. Watson's, and is now in partnership with Hon. James J. Dowsett, of the Wainai Rancho, Sandwich Islands.

The herd proceeded in the *Nestorian* to Boston, and go from there overland to San Francisco, thence by sailing vessel to Honolulu. The animals are all very valuable, and will doubtless create a big sensation at their new home.

In order to show the esteem in which the "Angus Doddies," as they are called, are held in the old country, it may be stated that they took first prize at the Paris Exhibition of 1878 against all competitors, the Lady Pickard's included. This, we believe, is the first of the breed to see Canadian soil, but Mr. F. B. Redfield, of Batavia, Genesee Co., New York, President of the New York State Agricultural Society, purchased some

time ago a few, which are now doing finely and are very highly appreciated, so that he has recently purchased some twenty others to be sent across next month.

The present purchase of Mr. Ferguson is probably the most extensive enterprise in its line which ever came by way of Halifax, as besides the great cost of the cattle, the undertaking of transportation by sea and land a distance of ten thousand miles or more is something heavy.

Besides the cattle, Mr. F. has on board the *Nestorian* some of the choicest fowls obtainable in the old country, including Andalusians, Dorkings, and other varieties; also several fine game cocks and three very valuable Collie dogs, of the purest breed.

Those who were so fortunate as to inspect Mr. F.'s importation saw what no agricultural exhibition in Canada could ever boast of, and although the specimens are not very numerous, they as yet go ahead of this country. It might be worth the while of our agriculturists, now that an extensive cattle trade is springing up with England, to test the merits of this breed. Speaking in this connection, the *Dundee Advertiser* says:

"Many countries are presently evidently on the outlook for improved breeds of cattle, and it looks as if the Angus, indebted to Forfarshire for its name, and to a Forfarshire tenant farmer (Watson) for its celebrity, is destined to supply a large proportion of the world's roast beef in the future."

A CORRESPONDENT, whose position, knowledge, and experience give weight to his opinion, writes as follows:—"I read with interest the reports of the proceedings of the Board, and quite approve of the action as to next Exhibition, although, even if Halifax fail to obtain a grant from the Dominion, I do not see why you would not be entitled to the Provincial, against Colchester and Kings, both of which have had the grant twice." All difficulty on this point is avoided by Halifax not applying for the Provincial Grant, except in conjunction with the Dominion one. The assumption by some of the Country papers that Halifax would press for the Provincial Grant in any event, had no foundation in anything that was said or done in the city.

YARMOUTH, usually mild, and not seldom misty, has had its nip of clear, cold weather. On 7th February the thermometer went down to zero. It was the coldest night of the winter. There was a break on the 8th, and since thawing constantly, with heavy rain on 10th. Our correspondent's letter is dated 11th February.