

A Successful Breeder.

In a late run to our western frontier, where many of our subscribers reside, we found standing guard for the fine army of Shorthorn breeders of Ontario, a sentinel well worthy of such an army. And so it should be; for why should visitors have to travel right into the middle of the camp before finding a specimen of the noble Shorthorn that will command their attention? And to find a thoroughly practical, "pride-in-his-work" farmer, full of enthusiasm, doing all his own work with intelligence, that oils the wheels of labor, is also pleasing. Such we found in the person of Mr. Donald Alexander, of Brigiden. The foundation of the herd, like the owner, was imported. It is well known that many imported animals drop in value year after year, and never produce their equal. Not so with this herd; for thick, smooth and stylish as Lady Violet Lustre is, she has several daughters bred here that will take no back seat to their dam. This fine cow was bred by the Duke of Gordon and Richmond; her sire is the pure Booth bull, Royal Hope (32392), which is well known to many of our importers. Her dam is Lustre 19th, tracing to Lustres right through. In a previous issue we gave our readers an illustration of the great Sir Arthur Ingram (32490), and it is pleasing to us to come across his offspring doing duty, carrying the grand breeding he had right along, generation after generation, until we see right before us animals with the same, almost fac-simile, features cropping out in every part. Especially is this noticeable in the handsome, saucily set on, aristocratic heads, carried by the animals of this herd; almost all of them being sired by Sir T. C. Booth, bred by Mr. Wm. Linton, of Aurora, and a grandson of Sir Arthur Ingram. One of the finest, and possibly the finest, Shorthorn's head and horns we ever saw, is Buxom Beauty's; she is a very thick-fleshed cow, red, with a very little white, and had calved three weeks before we saw her; we really thought her too fleshy for breeding, which Mr. Alexander would not admit, saying she calved very easily. This is her third calf, she being four years old last August. There are two of the Beauty family breeding here. Their dam was imported Beauty 15th, bred by W. Marr. There are seven breeding Lustres, all thick, heavy cattle, and handle excellently. A two-year-old bull, Lord Linton, bred by Mr. Alexander, is at the head of the herd this season, as far as practicable; and a splendid specimen of a Scotch bull, bred by Mr. Campbell, of Kinnellar, Scotland, will be used to a few of the females. Lord Linton, red and a little white, has two crosses of Sir Arthur Ingram blood in his veins, through his sire and his dam's sire. He shows his breeding unmistakably; we call him a capital bull. He has sired two heifer calves to please his owner (which is saying a great deal). All the young bulls were sold at the time of our visit (April 16th), but others of equally good make-up are coming along for next season; also, several nice yearling heifers, thick and thrifty, which the owner wishes to dispose of.

We were very much pleased with Mr. Alexander's herd, and his system of feeding and farming. He raises his own feed, principally, and "spring poor" has no place here; the herd being, like the politician, "loaded up the other way." Each cow raises her own calf—no nurses; and twins are not unusual, a very nice pair being on hand at present.

Chatty Letter from the States.

(From Our Chicago Correspondent.)

Cattle are selling 50c. to 60c. lower than last year, and sheep show a decline of \$1. Hogs are \$1.10 to \$1.25 lower than last year.

Eastern shippers of cattle are taking nearly one-half of the cattle that arrive at Chicago.

The American Meat Company seems to be getting on its legs again. Warner Miller, of New York, has been elected President instead of Flagler. The moral effect of the preliminary collapse, however, will be hard to overcome.

Three States and one Territory have adopted state or local inspection for cattle, preventing the sale of cattle dressed outside of the State. They are Colorado, Minnesota, Indiana and New Mexico.

Receipts of hogs have been increasing of late, and there are evidences of a pretty good crop for summer markets. Young hogs seem to be rather plentiful; and as there have not been very heavy losses by disease of late, many men seem encouraged to go into the hog business quite extensively.

There are a good many people who are predicting an over-production of horses. The writer recently asked the opinion of one of the largest dealers in the country, who said: "I do not think there is any danger of over-production of horses, unless range horse raising proves a success, which I do not expect. In my opinion they will find that catching, breaking and bringing to market will cost all those horses will bring; and a good many men will bankrupt themselves finding it out." The fact remains, however, that more people than ever before are raising horses. Many cattlemen, who found the business overdone, have gone into horses. There is certainly no over-production of good horses at present; but, from the way money is going into improved horses, there will be a tremendous increase in production within the next few years.

Texas cattle have been coming freely during May, and have been of pretty good quality; sales of corn-fed and mill-fed steers, averaging 850 to 1,200 lbs., \$3.00 to \$3.85; grass-fed steers, 700 to 1,000 lbs., \$2.90 to \$3.40. It is reported that Montana cattle are already fat enough to market, and indications point to a much earlier shipping season than usual. Montana cattle men are stocking up their ranges with Texas and Idaho cattle more freely than at any time since the great boom. During the first half of May, light cattle sold right up with ripe, heavy beefs, and sometimes higher. Since then the tendency has been toward a more natural range of values. Everybody, however, seems to want lighter cattle this year than ever before. Very few buyers care to handle bullocks weighing above 1,400 lbs. This fact, of course, is a spur to early production.

It is now the time of the year when the ranges of the South-west and West begin to furnish an abundance of light and medium-weight cattle, and ripe, heavy corn fed beefs are less plentiful. Exporters have lately been buying beefs at \$3.90 to \$4.25, and bulls at \$3.15 to \$3.30.

Messrs. Gould & Morgan, both well known Canadian exporters, are still operating at Chicago.

Profits to exporters have lately been very moderate, and for a short season recently the balance was on the wrong side.

An Ohio feeder recently bought some 1,033-lb. store cattle at \$3.85, while on the same day 1,400-lb. export cattle sold at the same price. This is one of the very good reasons why farmers and feeders have made so little money lately on cattle. They have good grass, and seem to think they must have the cattle, no matter at what price.

Sylvan Lodge.

The above is the name of the farm and residence of Mr. Robert Nicholson, of Nicholson Bros., Sylvan, Ont., and is beautifully situated on the north side of the 17th concession line of West Williams, in the county of Middlesex. The soil is a fine clay loam and is thoroughly drained; consequently, the crops are almost invariably good. Thirty bushels of wheat per acre is a common yield on this farm, while 50 bushels of oats, 25 of peas, or two tons of hay is by no means uncommon, and from appearances at the time we called there, hungry soil and hungry stock are things unknown. Messrs. Nicholson were awarded a bronze medal on this farm in the competition of 1888. A little to the north and west of the house stands a fine barn, 50 feet square, with stables in the basement capable of accommodating all the stock kept. On the adjoining farm resides Mr. Stephen Nicholson, a younger brother and partner of Robert. He is brim full of enthusiasm on stock matters, especially Shorthorns; and the stables on this farm, although not so large or convenient as at Sylvan Lodge, contain several very fine animals. At the head of the herd stands Warrior (55173), bred by S. Campbell, Kinnellar, Scotland, and imported by Arthur Johnston, Greenwood, Ont. He is four years old and has been used two years in the herd, and took first prize at Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton in 1887. This is a good bull, of the popular red color, large, smooth-fleshed, with great width of back, good in front and rear; his chief defect is perhaps a slight flatness in the fore-ribs, which in an animal of less width of back would not be so noticeable. Leonora 2nd (6800), red and white, is a cow of fine quality and good pedigree; she is now nine years old, and has had a calf every eleven months since she was two years old. She is a magnificent milker, having made in one week in winter, without roots or any extra forcing, 11 pounds 5 ounces butter in seven days, making a pound of butter from 18½ lbs. of milk, and has made on grass alone 14 lbs. per week. She is the dam of three Provincial prize winners. Third Leonora, of Elmdale, and 4th Leonora, of Elmdale, four and three years old, respectively, are also daughters of the above cow, and have been winners at the leading shows of Canada. They are certainly beautiful heifers, great in heart girth, with broad, thick backs and well-filled quarters. The first named is a little lacking in her neck veins, but, taken all in all, they are two grand animals. Both are suckling calves which, if we mistake not, will be heard from at the fall shows. Eleventh Maid of Sylvan, three years old, is among the best, and has taken first prize at some of our best Canadian shows. She has a grand back, excellent heart girth and finely-sprung ribs, a combination seldom equaled in one animal; almost her only deficiency being a slight roughness in the rump. She is now suckling her second calf. Vacuna 11th, two years old, is also a prize winner; but a detailed description is unnecessary—the same characteristics run through the whole herd. Vacuna 12th, one year old, full sister to the above, is a perfect gem, being one of the thickest and most evenly-developed heifers we have ever seen. At the first draft she was an easy first at Kingston last fall, but it being noticed that she was a little lame, she was placed third; but two weeks later, having fully recovered, was an easy first at Hamilton. In the stall beside her stands