

how much good the example of one or two men like the brothers Standish may do in a district.

The old wild, hairy Canadian sheep, too, have vanished from the scene, and their place has been occupied by Cotswold and Leicesters. The cows are half-breeds of all kinds, and so, I am sorry to say, are the bulls; but, according to my informant, four times as many milch cows are kept, and the butter made by the *habitants* is, on the whole, of fair quality. As I can testify, by twenty years' experience of Mr. Standish's dairy, that he is a good judge, I suppose we may be satisfied that real progress has been made in this important matter.

I regret to say that the fences on the farms belonging to French-Canadians are not in a state to evoke praise from any one. I suspect, from the tone of my friend in replying to my question, he had suffered, and still suffers, from the encroachment of his neighbours' cattle.

A few pieces of fodder-corn along the road looked fair; generally the pease, though short in the straw, were healthy, but full of thistles, particularly in the neighbourhood of St. Césaire. Very little flax, but what there was looked well. I saw one piece of *Rye* on the sandy side of the mountain; poor enough it was, but what can you expect on such a soil without any preparation?

I don't think from what I saw I should feel much tempted to sow wheat on the upland. It is too hot and shattery for it. I observed almost all the barley was 4- or 6-rowed, the *bere* or *bigg* of Scotland. As an old Brewer, I have my own opinion of this grain, and, in spite of our neighbours of the States, I infinitely prefer, for malting purposes, the Chevalier 2-rowed. Mr. Standish, also an old Brewer, agrees with me in saying that 2½ to 3 gallons of beer more can be made out of a bushel of 2 rowed barley, than out of a bushel of 4 or 6-rowed. All it requires is great care in the malting (24 hours longer in the steep, and sprinkling on the floors) and moderate heats in the mash-tun. The colour of the beer must be paler, as the proportion of husk to flour is much less than in the *bere*.

As I write, a new number of the Agricultural Gazette informs me of a fresh importation of stock of all kinds expected from England by Mr. Whitfield; comprising polled Gallaways, Highlanders, (Kyloes), Ayrshires, and Herefords; besides a very choice selection of Aberdeen, or Angus, *Humties*, drawn chiefly from the celebrated herd of Sir G. Grant, of Ballindalloch. "Judge" (1150), the hero of the Paris exhibition of 1878, is at the head of this lot. Mr. Duckham, M. P., supplies four fine Herefords, and Mr. McGillivray, Docharn, completes the consignment with a small lot of carefully-selected ewes, and two fine rams, of the black-faced breed.

I own I could have wished a few Hampshire-Down ewes and rams from, say, Mr. Morrison's flock, had been added to the importations; and it would not have been amiss to have tried the large and early maturing Sussex race of cattle, as they are most popular with all classes: with breeders, graziers, and butchers.

Mr. Whitfield has now a collection of male animals that must go far to alter entirely, if properly made use of, the whole stock of the province. May I recommend Mr. Wother- spoon, of St. Anne's, to send his best Devon heifer, which I hope to see next week, to visit Mr. Whitfield's younger Devon bull, when the proper time arrives?

I don't think a better time could be chosen for making purchases of thorough-bred stock, in England, than the present. Prices are *very* low; good, useful animals can be picked up for a trifle, as the following list of sales at the Agricultural Hall, London, will show:

Bracelet 11th, 1st prize cow 25 guineas.
Vesper (engraved in this Journal) 2nd prize
cow, and 1st at Kilburn last year.... 25 "
The best bull in the show—Duke of Dar-
lington 4th., (39, 138), red, with very
little white..... 35 "

Lord Oxford 7th, (38, 645), bought as a calf for 300 guineas, by Mr. Loney, and the sire of six 1st. (one of which took a special prize also), and of two 2nd prize animals at the Essex show, June 5th, 1880, only made 75 guineas. Such a felling off has not been heard of for many a long year, and it should be taken advantage of, if we really mean to share in the profits of supplying England with beef.

All through my journey, I observed that great complaints were making of the difficulty of getting grass land to hold out more than 3 years. The question is not easy of solution, but a few thoughts have occurred to me, which I will give in another page of this Journal.

Mr. Gibb had promised me an opportunity of burning a few loads of ashes on a clay soil, but was, unfortunately, unable to get a piece of land (there is of course none at Abbotsford) suited to the purpose. I hope for better luck next year, for I see that in England ashes have not yet grown out of favour, e. g. "Nothing can come up to ashes for clay lands. Rhuddlan Marsh is composed of strong plastic clay, and the effect of ashes, well burned, is something astonishing. Apart from their chemical properties, and power of absorbing ammonia (charcoal, it is said, will absorb 700 times its own volume of ammonia) their effect for an unlimited time, when ploughed in, in giving friability and lightness to the clay, is nothing short of marvellous. Farmers are, as a class, slow in moving, but if they read and observed more, they would find that many things that they disdain as having no manurial value are of infinite benefit to the land; and the chief of these are ashes." Ag. Gazette, June 21st, 1880.

The horse-hoe or scuffler is not used often enough in this district. It destroys weeds, of course, but it does more, it pulverises and refreshes the land, and should be kept going as long as it does not injure the tops. Potatoes are well managed, as to earthing up, not done too high, as in the French country, but broadly and flat-topped. It is only for the sake of keeping the tubers from the light that potatoes are earthed up at all, and as for early sorts, the bulk of which is never great, they are much better without it.

They don't place much confidence in the *Escutcheon* here. Like Mr. Drummond, they seem to think that cows properly treated, calved down early, and milked long during their heifer-hood, get into the habit of holding out their yield almost up to the time of calving; and I believe the opinion to be perfectly correct. What says the correspondent of the Ag. Gazette in his description of the Jerseys at the Bath and West of England show, June 3rd? "One of Mr. Simpson's men, showed us the particular turn of the hair on the thighs above the udder, which some deem essential as denoting milking properties in accordance with the so-called Escutcheon theory. More importance is attached to this theory abroad than in this country. We think it is by no means proved that it is anything but a fancied point of merit. A large experience of dairy cattle does *not* lead us to attach any value to it, though much to the shape of the udder." I read Mr. Guénon's book, while at Abbotsford, and I came to the conclusion that he was a charlatan. The orange tinge of the skin behind the ears and at the points of the hip and shoulder is a certain sign of a cow's milk being rich in cream; but that is a very different thing, and bears a *vrai-semblance* about it, which is wanting to the Escutcheon and the Milk-mirror.