

early maturity of muscle and fatness. Great numbers are now disposed of at the age of about twenty-four months, in the highest perfection, and of a weight at which no other cattle in Europe arrive at the same age."—(Low.)

Persons not accustomed to look with a cultivated and critical eye on the various breeds of cattle, will often fail to discover some of the most characteristic points which the experienced breeder knows either to retain or avoid. A correct conception of the true types of any distinctive breed is therefore an acquisition of the greatest practical value. The above description of the modern Shorthorn, from Professor Low, is lucid and comprehensive; and to make this matter, if possible, still more plain, we are tempted to subjoin another description of the Durham type from another distinguished authority.

"When a pure bred Short-horn is looked upon at some little distance, one is struck with the roundness and mouldiness of the whole frame of the animal; there is nothing angular or rugged about it. On approaching nearer, he admires the beautiful, long, silky coat, and the full, prominent, yet mild eye. Unlike every other breed of cattle, they are, in fact, naturally tame and docile; instead of flying from man, or fiercely attacking any one who may go near them, they will remain quietly where they may be, in meadow or yard, waiting to be caressed or made of. It is very rare to see a savage animal among the Short-horned cattle; even the bulls are, generally speaking, uncommonly gentle. When examined by the hand, they feel soft and mellow; they all handle as if they were fat, even when in comparatively low condition; and, when they have been pampered to the highest pitch of obesity, they retain the beauty of form more than any other breed in a similar state, laying on fat equally all over the body, so that, in Yorkshire phrase, they are called "level beasts," that is, not humpy. They will keep in good condition on a wonderfully small quantity of food, provided they be dry; and thus, while other breeds were famishing on bare pastures during the summer of 1826, the Short-horns were in good order. But they are very impatient of wet, and dislike rough weather, so that shelter from rain and wind appears to be absolutely necessary for their prosperity, although cold does not appear to injure them." In point of early maturity, as before stated, they are unrivalled, and they command prices far beyond what was ever before given. The famous bull *Comet*, brought 1,000 guineas; Mr. Mason's *Chilton's Monarch*, 750 guineas; and that most distinguished modern breeder, the late Thos. Bates, Esq., Kirkclevington, refused, it is said, the enormous sum of £2,000, for his bull, *Duke of Northumberland*, to go to America. As superior milkers, many of this breed are well known to the London dairymen, who call them Yorkshire cows, and prefer them to all others. Mr. Bates stated, in the "New Farmer's Journal," that, in June, 1857, his Duchess calved at Halton Castle, in Northumberland, and being fed on grass only, made, for several months, in milk and butter, above two guineas per week! The almost marvellous success, however, which has attended the exertions of many recent improvers, in effecting early maturity and fattening properties in this breed, has no doubt had the tendency of somewhat diminishing the mere dairy value of animals thus strikingly distinguished. This remark should nevertheless be taken with some qualification; for although the quality of milk generally afforded by the modern improved Short-horns is less than was the case with their coarser progenitors, the quality is unquestionably superior, yielding a comparatively greater weight of butter. This result might naturally have been anticipated, as the artificial change in the animal economy which induces an excessive secretion of flesh and fat in a short time, would be likely to produce similar effects on other secretions, particularly enriching the quality of the milk, and consequently the amount of butter. This probably will account, in some degree at least, for the numerous instances in which the most delicately improved Short-horns have produced milk which has proved particularly rich in butter.