

bulls named and tended more than anything else at that time to establish one type in these herds. While, as stated, in the early seventies it was hard to distinguish at Sittytton the different families, in 1889, when the herd was sold, no stranger could detect any distinguishing characteristics. All had been blended into one uniform type. Both bulls were possessed with undoubted prepotency. The inbreeding served to perpetuate it and gave to succeeding sires a similar power. It must be noticed also that the improvement of the breed in general has also commenced with the use of a superior sire. Numberless females possessing qualities of excellence have existed, but the excellence has gradually weakened unless the breeder has found some prepotent sire to continue it. The fact that the influence of the sire extends over so great a number in the herd, while that

of running to extremes in any particular. An average excellence may thus be maintained from generation to generation.

Again, all

THE GREAT SIRS

have been possessed of a rugged constitution, indicated by breadth and depth of body and good feeding properties, as indicated by the quality shown in skin and hair. There were other excellent qualities, but these are mentioned as being of paramount importance. All the great bulls noted in history, from "Favorite" to "Champion of England," have been of this class.

Possibly there have been some similarly good bulls whose owners did not perceive their excellence until it was too late, or it may be they were in surroundings where the mating necessary to show their own in-

tain. Such breeding requires no skill in selection, nor in proper mating, and only requires to be studied on paper.

When a breeder boasts of the convenience of such a situation, and relates the fact that it is not necessary to travel long distances to examine the individual, but instead the pedigree is sent forward through the mail, you may take it for granted that the end is not far distant. I am of opinion that it was a blessing that the great herd at Sittytton was sold privately rather than by public auction. Had the latter course been taken, some families would have gained unnecessary popularity and notoriety, and in all probability we should have had the world clamoring for these and excluding all others followed by results similar to the Bates tribes. Fortunately this has been avoided, and a more judicious course has been taken. The best blood of that herd,



Bertie's Hero (32 73, first in senior yearling class, Chicago International, 1905; also second in his class, Toronto, 1905. Bred by John Dryden & Son, Brooklyn, Ont. A good type of the Canadian Shorthorn.

of the female is confined merely to herself, makes it plain that any improvement in type must depend on the power of the sire possessed with the necessary prepotency.

A LIMIT TO INBREEDING

Another lesson presented by a study of the past is that when inbreeding is carried too far the constitution is undermined, the scale of the cattle is not retained, and worse than all, the power of procreation is very much weakened. Mr. Cruickshank himself could not have retained the vigor of his herd longer, without resorting to outside blood. No one was more convinced of this than himself, but circumstances at that time, as already stated, prevented him doing so. Inbreeding is the work of an expert, and of him only. The ordinary breeder will consult his own success by avoiding rather than following it. He may, however, remain steadfast in following so far as possible one type instead

herent power did not exist, or the owner was not sufficiently skilful to perceive the excellence when presented. Suppose Mr. Cruickshank had not perceived Champion of England, and reserved him as he did, he might have gone to some farmer without any purebred animals and have become with him merely a steer getter, and in a few years have been sold to the butcher. How great the loss to the Shorthorn world. We need to keep a keen eye for the thrifty, rugged, mossy-coated calf, and give him a chance, for there is an opportunity now for another Champion of England bull to carry forward the best type among Shorthorns.

MORE THAN PEDIGREE REQUIRED

There is still another lesson which must not be omitted. That in the past when Shorthorns have been bred chiefly for pedigree, without a proper regard for what it represents, deterioration is rapid and ruin is cer-

when represented by good individuals, finds a ready sale at high prices, but we have never made a fad of any special pedigree. To-day it cannot be said that the best Shorthorns belong to any particular family or any particular herd. There is diversity, yet a considerable resemblance in type among the best animals. Schools, colleges and classes are studying the choice animals and discussing the principles of breeding. In this way real progress is sure to result. How different to the situation a half century ago. Then the rule was, shut up your knowledge within yourself. Now we are rapidly becoming helpers of each other, all leading to a higher average excellence. We drop the curtain here, with the hope that what has been stated in these sketches may add something to this onward march towards the highest general excellence yet attained in the production of this noble breed of cattle.