

claim and obtain it. He was fortunate in being connected with a creature that had been the cow and cruse of an inoffensive widow, and had never known what a stick upon the back might be, till the day when driven to market, and plunged for the first time into trouble. I think I can see her, as I have seen other cows in a cattle market, standing on the bare stones, with the tears running down her cheeks, a shouting crew of rough men around, her destination uncertain, her only friend dead, the home of her birth broken up, and herself seized as a heriot. There is no doubt her confidence was shaken. She must have passed through purgatory into our possession, and she entered the future bliss of our back premises timid, excited, marked by stripes on her brindled coat, her fetlock torn, and her tail so twisted by brutal drovers that it did not hang straight for several days after her arrival. Poor Heriot! Previous to the arrival of the mangel I gave her a loaf of bread; we sacrificed some young cabbages with Bavender's consent, and if we had possessed an early cucumber or a bed of forced asparagus, we should have chopped them into a salad for her, feeling responsible in a measure, as marketing creatures, for the cruel conduct of the dealers and their drovers. When she lifted her leg up as I passed behind her—poor persecuted thing! I freely forgave and re-assured. Once only she kicked out and was patted in return, and in a few days she became as gentle as if I had been another widow—all through the magic of a little kindness. In the matter of milk Heriot was hardly equal to our expectations. In fact she gave but little, and it was poor, owing partly, as we concluded, to the immense amount of water in mangel wurzel, and partly to the fright she had sustained. In all else she was everything we could wish—her grievances were forgotten, and her newborn confidence complete. If she saw us bringing hay she would poke her nose anywhere to obtain it. She allowed the cat to sit on her back, and permitted Bounce to wag his tail under her very nose as she stood quiet and untied while being milked. She became tame and familiar to a degree, and on one occasion gave my head-dress a tug and pulled off all one wears, including an artificial wreath of buds and leaves. I took the hint, and we drove some miles round the country to try and find some early tares, or young rye. We were still disappointed in the quantity of milk. The summer came and we turned Heriot into the little pasture behind the house; but as to milk, instead of the quantity increasing with a grass diet, as we had anticipated, it settled down to about 3 quarts a day, which was certainly a small result, and a mystery that puzzled us.

But time revealed the truth as usual, and restored our cow's character as a good milker.

One evening, in July, Bavender came to me and announced his opinion about Heriot, with startling abruptness.

"It looks to me," he said, "as if she might have a calf afore long."

I was quite taken aback, and, remembering the dates given us by the dealer, I replied, "No, not yet; not till early in December."

"Oh!" was Bavender's reply; that's some time to come, ain't it! Do you think, she'd better be milked any longer, Mum, or how?"

"August, September, October, November," said I; "Yes, go on at present."

The next morning a calf was announced. Bavender reserved the information till he saw us in the garden, and then came forward, and observed without preface, "Beg your pardon, Mum, she's calved. Got as fine a cow calf as ever you see; and it runs in my head they are going to do well, too; anyhow they are all right so far."

The dealer had deceived us, of course, in selling us a cow just as she was "going out of profit," and representing her to be coming in. But it was no fault of Heriot's, and she made the most ample amends. We had the calf weaned immediately by a very simple process, of which the leading features were linseed tea and warm skimmed milk; and we were then at liberty to try experiments in dairying, and to sell our butter for 18d. per lb. The milk pans, which we had provided in vain in the spring, were now filled daily with 23 or 24 quarts of milk, which would have given us, as we ascertained, about 13 lb. of butter a week, if we had abstained from pilfering the cream. It was quite late in the following spring before the lacteal fountain ebbed so low as 6 quarts a day, when we allowed it to cease by degrees. Then came a pause, which was thought better on the whole for Heriot, and then came a calf, at the end of May. There was the same rotation every year. I think it unnecessary to go into particulars on the subject of rearing calves and managing cows. I can only say that nothing can be easier, and that I hope this simple narrative may induce others to follow our example in starting a dairy. Milk would be much cheaper and more abundant if the business of the dairy were not left to large farmers, who, in fact, will not be troubled with it. I speak with authority. Some persons suppose that a principle of political economy settles all these things, and that in this country of equal laws people would keep a cow if it paid. Fiddlestick! Let people believe that who don't care for cream and butter.

Things are not what they seem, or say, always. It does pay, and cows would be kept, in many cases, if the land could only be obtained to keep them on. It requires about 4 acres. To justify these assertions, I will mention what we did a few weeks after the arrival of Heriot. We bought Tom Bavender's house and a plot of 4 acres, which we sowed with grass seeds, and now Tom keeps a beautiful cow on his own account, and is making a little fortune, as we tell him, by butter and porkers. The small sum he owes us on account of the cow will most likely be paid soon; meanwhile we are satisfied with the security, and think it would readily be accepted in other cases where a petty loan might aid perhaps a faithful servant. But it is an investment which does not occur to people who do not know how very easy it is to sow a little grass and keep a cow.

All that is required in a cow shed is a warm roof of straw, heath, furze, or chips, to keep the cow dry. Bavender built his shed in a few days and, as we happened to have some fir poles, it cost us nothing.

The old man's son has a large family, and as the eldest boy is our "button," and the whole family eminent for good conduct, we obtained a pastured cottage and a cow for them too. They are their own best customers for the milk at present, having eight children at home; and there is no doubt that a milk diet will be most useful for the children in these dear times. It has already plumped out and painted their cheeks, and we have every reason to be satisfied with our outlay, which included a little hutch of a dairy, on the north side the house, as cool and clean as the Queen's at Windsor. We feel sure of being paid so soon as the children have left off consuming and gone into consumption, that is when they are utilized in situations. All the Bavenders are as sure to prosper as prosperity itself; and the two families will thrive much better in every way for keeping a couple of cows. We sincerely hope these hints may induce others to aid and abet cow-keeping among labourers if they can.—*Martha Dash in Agricultural Gazette.*

The following remarks on judging stock are from Mr. Sydney, Manager of the Islington (London) Horse Show. They are in reference to a previous communication in the *Agricultural Gazette* :—

"*Juste Judicato*," is not more astonished than I am, that he should presume to impute the basest motives to the members of the Council, who consider the responsibility of judging with catalogue in hand, a better security for impartial decisions than the sham secrecy of a book of numbers. I will not insult the gentlemen who advocate judging by catalogue by quoting their names—names, at least, as certain a guarantee for scrupulous integrity as that of "*Juste Judicato*," whoever he may be.