

Natural History.

THE OX—HISTORY, MANAGEMENT, &c.

THE SHORT-HORNS.

Of the breeders contemporaneous with the Collings, the most prominent were Sir Henry Vane Tempest, Col. John Trotter, and Mr. Mason. These gentlemen all derived their animals to commence with from the Ketton and Barmpton herds; Sir Henry's and Col. Trotter's being entirely from Robert Colling. It was the singular fortune of the Colonel, to sell three cows to Col. Melish for 2100 guineas, (£2210) a high evidence of the superiority of his breeding, and the excellence of his cattle. Col. Melish resold one of the three to Major Bower for 800 guineas. This was just twice the price of the highest of the cows in Charles Colling's sale. Col. Trotter bred that very superior bull Baron, (58) sold to Mr. Duncomb at a very high price. He was used with great success by Mr. Duncomb.

Mr. Mason was coeval nearly with the Collings, and continued breeding until 1829, when he sold, and his herd realized great prices. The leading purchaser was Lord Althorp, (afterwards Earl Spencer), who reared a large and valuable stock from this source, which numbered about 150 when he died; they were by his legatee, Mr. Hall, sold for very great prices, one bull reaching 400 and another 370 guineas, and some cows going to 200 guineas.

Sir Henry Vane Tempest of Wynyard, was clearly the leading breeder other than the Collings, during the period of the existence of the Ketton and Barmpton herds; and so far as permanent influence on the present short-horns is concerned, the best breeder. He commenced by the purchase from Robert Colling of a cow of his very extraordinary Princess tribe. From her are descended the famous and unsurpassed tribe of the Princess family, so distinguished in this day; and which is now, in its pure state, in England, solely in the possession of Mr. John Stephenson, of Wolviston, county of Durham.* Sir Henry died in 1813, and his widow, the Countess of Antrim, continued the Wynyard herd till 1818, when she sold off her cattle. At her sale Mr. Stephenson purchased the cow Angelina, of the Princess family, and from her he has reared his present herd of that tribe, of which his cattle wholly consists.

Of the breeders of the present day, Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Bates of Kirklevington, are more distinguished for the high style and quality of their cattle than any others in England. As a bull breeder, Mr. Stephenson has no equal. Mr. Bates commenced his breeding with the Duchess tribe, the last of which, owned by C. Colling, he bought, and until his death in 1849, it remained wholly in his possession. It has now been distributed at very large prices. Mr. Bates resorted to Mr. Stephenson's blood, and through Mr. Ste-

phenson's bull Belvedere, (1706) greatly improved his short-horns. His prominent prize animals were got by Belvedere.

The Yorkshire cow, which now almost exclusively occupies the London dairies, is an answerable proof of the possibility of uniting the two qualities, fattening and milking, perfectly, *but not at the same time*: they succeed to each other, and at the periods when it suits the convenience of the dairyman that they should. Years ago the Yorkshire cow was, compared with other breeds, as great a favorite in the London market as at present. She yielded more milk, in proportion to the quantity of food consumed, than could be obtained from any other breed; but when the dairyman had had her four or five years, she began to fall off, and he dried her and sold her. It took a long time to get much flesh upon her; and when he calculated the expense of getting her into condition, he found that his cheapest way was to sell her for what she would fetch, and that seldom exceeded £5.

By degrees, however, the more intelligent of the breeders began to find that, by cautiously adopting the principle of selection—by finding out a short-horn bull whose progeny were generally milkers, and crossing some of the old Yorkshires with him—but still regarding the milking properties of the dam, and the usual tendency to possess these qualities in the offspring of the sire,—they could at length obtain a breed that had much of the grazing properties of the short-horn in the new breed, and retained, almost undiminished the excellences of the old breed for the pail. Thence it has happened that many of the cows in the London dairies are as fine specimens of the improved short-horns as can possibly be produced. They do not, perhaps, yield *quite* so much milk as the old ones, but what they do yield is of better quality; and whether the dairyman keeps them a twelvemonth or longer—and this is getting more and more the habit of these people—or whether he milks them for three or four years, as soon as he dries them, they fatten as rapidly as the most celebrated of the high bred short-horns.

We give a fair specimen of these cows: the character of the Holderness and the short-horn beautifully mingling. A milch cow good for the pail as long as wanted, and then quickly got into marketable condition, should have a long and rather small head; a large-headed cow will seldom fatten or yield much milk. The eye should be bright, yet peculiarly placid and quiet in expression; the chaps thin and the horns small.—The neck should not be so thin as common opinion has given to the milch cow. It may be thin towards the head; but it must soon begin to thicken, and especially when it approaches the shoulder. The dewlap should be small; the breast, if not so wide as in some that have an unusual disposition to fatten, yet very far from being narrow, and it should project before the legs; the chine, to a certain degree fleshy, and even inclining to fulness; the girth behind the shoulder should be deeper than it is usually found in the short-horn; the ribs should spread cut wide, so as to give as round a form as possible to

* The only other persons possessing females of this blood in its pure state, are Colonel Sherwood and Ambrose Stevens, of New York. They derived theirs from Mr. Stephenson, and in 1849 and '50 imported eight heifers and cows from him.