

heifers, living solely on crushed gorse, were considerably above the point of marketable beef in fatness. We have no doubt they would be very bad milkers. The bulls were loaded with fat; but there was no deficiency of calves; the drafts on account of barrenness were very few. The expression of the owner was, "I have no trouble on that score." Twins were by no means unknown in the herd. Since short-horns have been very generally introduced into the midland counties, barrenness has been a great "trouble" to the cheese-making farmer.

We will endeavour to sum up impartially. Even the improved short-horn is by nature a coarse animal, requiring a good climate and a generous soil, and unprofitable for merely feeding purposes. Sterility is a serious tax on any herd which, by great care and attention, has attained to a respectable quality of flesh and to symmetry of form. The dairy sustains the short-horns. The cast cows soon acquire a rough coating of fat, and form a valuable supply of low-priced beef for the manufacturing and colliery districts—for those appetites which we have described as being active without being critical. But we should be unjust if we did not assign to the short-horns one quality of great value in an agricultural animal. Composure of mind. The males have lost the combativeness of their species. We can hardly conceive a more ludicrous sight than a bull from Althorp or Babworth thrust into the arena at Seville or Ronda. The females yield precedence without contest. If you introduce a little petulant Highland cow into a dairy of short-horns, of which every individual is double her own weight, she at once becomes mistress and leader of the herd. We have been in the habit of attending annually a sale of fat cattle where the stalls are filled with beasts of various descriptions. The short-horn is released from the stake to which he has been tied for four months, and proceeds to the hammer with all the solemnity which befits an animal who is walking to his own funeral. The West Highlander, as soon as he ascertains that he is free, rather in frolic than in fury breaks through the ring of his intending purchasers, blunders over a fence, and celebrates his recovered liberty by most extraordinary antics. The butchers get but a passing view of him. "Now, gentlemen," says the facetious auctioneer, "you must shoot him flying." His sale proceeds without the solemn pinching and punching, and the wise looks which, in the case of a more patient animal, are preliminary to a bid. Some excitement has been produced by the scene, and, if the gin-bottle has done its duty, he generally sells well. But we beg pardon.—We must not altogether pass by the important point of early maturity. Here the short-horns claim a decided pre-eminence. We will not altogether negative the claim, though we do not find it borne out by the declared ages of the animals which are exhibited for prizes at the Strathfield show. We only desire to ask and to receive candid answers to two questions, and, in order that we may dismiss the subject, our questions shall have reference to new Leicester sheep as well as to short-horned cattle. Have or have not these two breeds possession of the most fertile districts which are devoted to breeding? Have they or have they not during their two first years more indulgence than falls to the lot of the young of other breeds?

So many general points have entered incidentally into this review of short-horned merits, that we can be more concise respecting the old races. We will take Devons and Herefords together as having many points in common. They are confessedly prolific; neither are suited to a farmer whose rent is to be made by the produce of his dairy; we reckon little of the services rendered by their bullocks in the team; human labour must be at a low ebb where it can be profitably associated with so slow a

beast as an ox; bullock-teams and railways will not, we think, long co-exist. We must admit that something will be sacrificed, for we are not insensible to the superior quality of meat of mature age. The claims of these two races are founded on good constitution, on the very rare occurrence of animals without merit, on a considerable capacity to bear hardship without suffering, on symmetry sustained with less care than in any artificial breed, and on the high quality of their beef. When their symmetry does fail, it is generally in the fore quarters; where the high-priced beef lies, they seldom fail. They are unrivalled in the deep cut of lean meat well covered with fat along their whole top and sides, which butchers find so acceptable to their best customers. If compelled to give a decision between the two races we should say, with much hesitation, "If you wish to please your eye, take the Devons; if your pocket, the Herefords."—*Stephens' Book of the Farm.*

#### THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST—CORRESPONDENTS' LETTERS—FARMERS NOT INCLINED TO READ ON AGRICULTURE—CONCLUSION.

To the Editors of the *Agriculturist*.

GENTLEMEN,—I have looked over carefully the half dozen numbers of your journal, with which I have been obligingly favoured by Mr. Buckland, and take sincere pleasure in recording my humble opinion that it is calculated to contribute materially to the progress of agriculture in this province. One feature has been wanting in all our Canadian publications, that of short and well-written articles, over the signatures of the writers, from different sections of the country. Knowing that you were desirous of enlisting correspondents for your journal, I examined each successive number, with a view of ascertaining how far you had been successful, and find that your correspondents' letters are not by any means so numerous as is desirable. I regret this, because I look upon these letters as the very best instruments in arresting the attention of farmers and others. One great difficulty appears to be to get agricultural articles read. Canada has long been embroiled in political contests, and the yeomanry have had much more of their attention turned to political than to scientific subjects, and as a consequence they have corresponding tastes. The true friends of agriculture therefore find it difficult to secure sufficient attention to agricultural and scientific investigations, on the part of those who are more immediately interested in them. Political journals are read with avidity, while agricultural papers are frequently with reluctance taken out of the post office.

Within my own experience, active and intelligent members of agricultural societies have exerted themselves fruitlessly, with a view of extending information on farming operations, by the circulation of periodicals. Strange to say, in some instances, farmers of considerable intelligence, and who by honest industry have managed to acquire a reasonable competency, affect to despise this means of improvement! It is now some years since the first regular agricultural paper made its appearance in Canada. We have now at least three of respectable character and appearance; some token, I am happy to say, of a