

The Aberdeen-Angus Polls of Kinnoul Park.

We have known men try to construct a building with materials that were defective, and though they labored with the most patient assiduity, they had a very imperfect structure in the end. We also knew a drunken mason once—a good workman when not under the influence of the destroyer of our country, who had been provided with good materials, and yet, owing to the slap-dash way in which he flung together the stones, and threw in the untempered mortar, the job when completed was anything but creditable. That cellar wall is crumbling now, and is to-day banked with a wall of manure to keep out the frost. Although pure-bred herds not a few are grounded in a way not very dissimilar from one or other of those methods, and with results by no means satisfactory, it was far different with the Kinnoul Park herd. In its formative process no bad materials were used, and those that were selected were handled in no slipshod way, hence it is that in the show-rings of Ontario, although pitted against grand good herds of which any country might feel proud, since the commencement of their show-yard career, some four years ago, they have proved invincible.

This herd, a short account of which was given in the December number of the JOURNAL, 1883, and on the first page of which is a sketch by our artist of the prize-winning bull imp. Chivalry (1765), by Challenger (1260), is owned by Messrs. Hay & Paton, of New Lowell, a village on the Northern and North-western railway, in the County of Simcoe, which, along with the railway station, may be said to have been built upon Kinnoul Park, an undulating domain of some 1,200 acres of new lands, which is being rapidly reclaimed from the unsightly traces of the axe of the lumberman, and which, in the strength of its virgin richness amply repays the husbandman for his toils. Being well watered, and, further, owing to the variety of its soils, it is admirably adapted to the purposes of stock-production.

Our visit to New Lowell was made in January, perhaps the coldest month in the year. We had pictured to ourselves stables with stone basements, but found that these are only as yet under way. What was our amazement to find the splendid blackskins that we had so often admired at our exhibitions, and which we had half expected to see covered with blankets, standing in wooden sheds, where we would almost have trembled for the well-being of our Shorthorns; but we should mention that they were all or nearly all loose in box-stalls, singly or in groups. In one of these groups were four beautiful two-year heifers, fed solely on oat-straw, with the exception of a small meal ration once a day to keep the system in tone, and yet they sustained a good covering of flesh, which well preserved the characteristic absence of abrupt angles on the make up of this wonderful breed.

The temptation to say something about each individual of this herd, which is so completely destitute of culls, is strong, but we must deny ourselves, now that the pressure upon our columns is so great. But we cannot pass them all. Here is Mary 2nd of Knockiemill (5877) [2] imp., bred by John Morrison, Knockiemill, Turriff, Scotland, got by Black Prince of Brucklay (943), and now but five years old, although she has produced her third calf. She has an immense body, such as would gladden the heart of the great McCombie if he were alive to-day, supported on fine limbs which one may encircle in the hand, and sustaining a finished head splendidly put on. Her eye is full, her expression mild, her back a table-land, her crops full, her tail nicely set on, her quarters finely

rounded and her breast simply enormous, while we look in vain for any approach to coarseness in this unrivalled cow, whose career in the show rings has been one succession of triumphs, which certainly backs up the claim made in her behalf by her owners, that she is "the most superb animal of the Aberdeen-Angus breed on this side the Atlantic." Her two-year-old daughter Mary 3rd of Knockiemill [5] by Chivalry (1765), like her dam, has been a great prize-winner, carrying first last year at Toronto and Collingwood.

A worthy companion of Mary 2nd of Knockiemill, is Flower of Knockiemill (5875) [1], also imp., five years old, bred, too, at Turriff, out of the dam Florence 2d of Knockiemill (4132), of Montbletton ancestry, and bred by the sire Black Prince of Brucklay (943). She is considered, and we think justly, the most valuable breeding animal in the herd. She is the dam of Black Judge [1], Emma of Kinnoul Park [61], Miss Charcoal [80], and Charlie of Kinnoul Park [46], the winners of no less than ten first prizes and medals in 1885 at our leading exhibitions. Emma of Kinnoul Park [61], by Chivalry [1765] has captured all the reds wherever shown, and is just a marvel of symmetry and beauty. Miss Charcoal [80], grand on the crops, like the true Polls straight up in the shoulder, and with the Roman nose of the Prides—a lovely calf—was also first at Toronto at last exhibition. We have mentioned but a few of the choice females, and must hurry on to the review of the bulls.

The two bulls in service are Black Judge [1], imp., from the dam Flower of Knockiemill (5875), and the sire Jury Twin (1274), and Fairleader [42], bred by Messrs. M. Boyd & Co., Bobcaygeon, from the sire Lord Dundreary of Ambleside (2946), and the dam, Fair Lady of Collithe (4525). Black Judge commenced his wonderful show-yard career at Toronto Industrial, 1883, where he took first prize as a calf. In 1884 he was again first at Toronto and Collingwood, and at Toronto and London, 1885, he took first, medal and diploma, as best bull of any age, and stood "at the head of the invincible five which carried to New Lowell the Grand Dominion premium, and for the fourth time in succession the championship of the Dominion." Fairleader calved 10th September, 1883, was first at Toronto and Collingwood, 1884 and 1885. He is a stylish-looking bull, very taking to the eye.

Of the seven young bulls Baron Kinnoul [43] calved 7th October, 1884, is the prince amongst bulls of any breed. With a wild, roguish looking eye, the plumpness of a stalled Angus, the nimbleness of a deer and the playfulness of a kitten, his red coat covering a mellow hide is simply beautiful. Our mind went back to the green fields of Hillhurst where the head of Mr. Cochrane's red Polls graze, as we gazed at this strong specimen of an Angus bull, which carried the first in his class at the London Exhibition.

A goodly number of grades were at Kinnoul Park, the get of an Angus bull and common cows, which, as usual, were minus the horns and mostly black in color, carrying good, large, bulky bodies, which but confirms us in our opinion that the bulls of this breed may be used for crossing for beef purposes with much success.

In Britain the question has been much discussed of late as to the propriety of debarring breeding animals from showing when carrying a great load of flesh. And in London last autumn, we heard the opinion freely expressed, and by experienced cattlemen, that the prize herd of Messrs. Hay & Paton were dangerously fleshy. We determined on going to New Lowell to investigate the record of the champion herd, as breeders, which we did most carefully,

and with the result that not one animal of the prize-winning group has thus far failed to breed with the utmost regularity, so that we are shut up to one of two conclusions—either that Mr. Davidson, the careful and skilful manager of this herd, possesses a knowledge of his art beyond that of most cattlemen, or that the Aberdeen-Angus cattle can stand that sort of thing better than the other breeds. There may be a complement of truth in both surmises.

Since our visit to Kinnoul Park, Mr. T. C. Patterson, of Eastwood and Toronto, came that way in search of Angus cattle, and although a stiff rate was put on that would have proved prohibitory to many, it did not prevent Mr. P. from taking away four of the females, including Miss Charcoal [80], and Mary of Knockiemill [5], and the Bobcaygeon bull Fairleader [42]. This draft, however, is more than replaced by a contingent of imported animals and their descendants from the herd of Messrs. Hiram Walker & Sons, of the Essex Stock Farm, Walkerville, Ont.

The newly issued catalogue of the Kinnoul Park herd has just been placed in our hands. It is a model of its kind, evidently compiled with the most scrupulous carefulness, and artistically arranged, reflecting much credit on all concerned. It contains the pedigrees of twenty-six females, of which fifteen are imported, and the nine bulls already referred to, and to which further allusion is also made in the advertisement in this issue, and there is a complete list of the prize winnings of the herd.

From the introduction, which is also a short outline of the history of the herd, we clip the following: "For the improvement and selection which has resulted in the present magnificent Aberdeen-Angus breed of cattle, we are indebted mainly to one man, whose bust we must place in the central niche around which all other breeders and importers must be placed. We need not say that we allude to the late Mr. Hugh Watson, of Keillor. It is admitted on all hands that he was to the Aberdeen-Angus breed what the Collings were to the Shorthorns. The late Mr. McCombie, of Tillyfour, placed him in the front rank of those who distinguished themselves as breeders and improvers of the 'doddies.'" Again, in reference to selection, "In 1882, when we imported the foundation of our present herd, we made a point of having the animals themselves along with their pedigrees. It may be remarked by some of our friends, that the pedigrees in the following catalogue of some of our best animals are not conspicuous by their length, and, in explanation, we may say that we looked twice at the animal for once at the pedigree. We are very far, of course, from despising a long pedigree, when the animal carries his pedigree 'on his back,' but when it is difficult to see where the pedigree comes in, then the less we have to do with such, we like them the better." The success which has attended the Kinnoul Park herd, both abroad and at home, are the best illustration of the correctness of the above remarks.

The JOURNAL has supplied a long felt want, and stock owners appreciate the services in that direction. We wish you success in your unceasing efforts towards the improvement of our Canadian stock interest.—M. Cook & Sons, Aultsville, Ont.

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