

ORIGIN OF THE DUCHESS SHORT-HORNS.

T. R. Jameson, in a recent address at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, thus describes the origin of this famous strain of cattle:

Thomas Bates seems to have selected his Duchess tribe on account of their combining great milking powers with an aptitude to fatten readily. I believe Bates is generally considered to have been a trustworthy man in his statements, and correct in his facts, although many thought he had an overweening opinion of his own stock. He tells us that his first Duchess cow, which he bought from Chas. Colling, gave seven gallons of milk per day, namely, fourteen quarts each milking, the practice being to milk only twice a day, morning and night, and the milk yielded eighteen imperial pounds of butter in a week. He never had a cow that to his knowledge gave more than this. This same cow was the dam of the bull Ketton, a very fine animal and an excellent sire.

As the Duchess tribe has become so famous and sells at such enormous prices, I may here give a few particulars regarding it. The first of the family we hear anything of was bought by Chas. Colling from the Duke of Northumberland's agent at Stanwick, in 1784, for the modest sum of thirteen pounds sterling. She was a massive, short-legged cow, of a yellowish red color, with the breast near the ground. She had a white back, and was a great grower. Colling called her Duchess and had often described her to Bates as a very superior animal, particularly in her handling; and told him that he considered her the best cow he had ever seen, but that he could not breed such a good one from her. She was descended from the old stock of Sir Hugh Smithson, of Stanwick. Thomas Bates bought from Colling one of the descendants of his cow in 1804, for 100 guineas, being the same I have mentioned as being such a fine dairy animal, and he bought another at Colling's sale in 1810. For the latter he paid 183 guineas, and styled her Duchess Ist; and from her all the present family descended. Bates tells us that he was induced to select this tribe from having found that they were great growers, quick feeders, with fine qualities of meat, consuming little feed in proportion to the progress they made, and also from finding that they were equally remarkable as great milkers. Bates asserts that the tribe improved under his care in regard both to growth, aptitude to fatten and small consumption of food; but admitted they gave less milk than the first cow of the tribe which he bought from Colling in 1804, although what they did give was richer in butter. I have seen no statement of the actual produce in milk from any of them, except the first one in 1834, and am unable to state to what extent the present Duchesses excel as dairy cows.

We may readily allow that Bates improved the breed in regard to form and aptitude to fatten, for several of those he produced, especially after the cross between Belvedere, were remarkably fine animals; and at the first show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, which took place at Oxford in 1839, he carried off all the prizes in the Short-Horn class, except one, for which he had not an animal present. Bates' herd was sold off in 1850, shortly after his death, and the animals were dispersed, and fell into various hands. Some of the best of the Duchess tribe were bought by Lord Ducie; and when that nobleman's herd came to the hammer in 1852, the Americans carried off several of the choicest, at great prices. At the present time, I believe, Col. Gunter's herd contains the purest representatives in England, and his Duchess 77th well maintained the family of the breed by beating all others at Leeds and elsewhere, carrying off no less than nineteen prizes and seven challenge cups; but the Col., having experienced some of the evils resulting from the state of fatness in which it is necessary to bring out the animals at these shows, I believe wisely declined to exhibit.

PROFITS OF PIG-RAISING.

If I could have but three animals on my farm, I would have one cow and two hogs; and I would feed the cow very liberally, that she might feed the hogs well.

I am very confident that if brother Smith understood the selection and management of swine as well as he does cows and oxen, and he would keep a proper number of the right sort, that he would make much more money than he does without them. When I was a hog breeder, my swine bore away the highest prizes wherever I exhibited them in competition with all that came far and near. For twelve years I was an exhibitor of swine in several States, and sold all that I reared for breed, selling them usually at from six weeks to six months. I rarely sold a pig for less than \$50. When I discontinued swine breeding, some twenty years since, I sold a sow which was six years old, for \$100; and the prizes she and her pigs received, and the amount realized from the sale of her pigs, was \$1350, making, with the amount for which the sow sold, \$1450, and this was done in five

years, except the cost of keeping the sow for one year when she had her first litter.

Mr. Smith says that he feeds the refuse of the kitchen, skim milk, whey, etc., to his calves. Now I contend that this material fed to swine of the right age, of the right breed, and only a proper number of them, and each kept in a separate pen, will, under my hoggish treatment, make more than twice the money that any one can make by feeding it to cattle of any age.

In attempting this, I should certainly not practice the ridiculous nonsense that has been published and republished perhaps ten or a hundred times a year, for at least thirty years past, of using hogs to walk over manure piles with grain distributed through it. But the most profitable way to keep swine, is to put each in a separate pen, feed them so liberally that they will only leave their bed to come to meals; give a clean, dry bed at all seasons, bedding in cold weather but none in hot, when they should have access at will to a bath of clean water. The bath tub should be a strong plank box, eight inches in depth, set half its depth below the floor of the pen. It should be supplied with a plug near one corner, by removing which the water may be drawn off. Charcoal, with a slight sprinkling of sulphur over it, should be kept under roof where it will be accessible at all times, and in another box salt should be kept, and none should be put in the food. All the food should be cooked. The swine should have a good scrubbing with carbolic soapsuds, using a brush, at least once a week in warm weather.

No labor or expenditure of money on the farm will give a better return than a proper number of the right breed of hogs thus kept. — J. Wilkinson, in *Germantown Telegraph*.

KEEP SHEEP.

Farmers should all keep sheep, so should all horticulturists and market gardeners, for the following reasons:—

There are no droppings from any animal, size considered, that will enrich as much as sheep and do it as well. There is no animal that will eat as great a variety of food, let it come as grain, herbage, roots or fruit. Most kinds of weeds are palatable; nearly all kinds of briars, cockle burrs and most other burrs cannot flourish, or grow even, in a sheep pasture. On the farms they may be turned into a weedy corn field at the proper stage of the corn, and they will destroy a great amount of weeds, very little to the injury of the corn. In a small grain field they are better gleaners than hogs. Meadows will grow good grass longer by being pastured with sheep after mowing. Pastures for horses and cattle will grow up to different kinds of weeds and become almost worthless where sheep are not kept. In orchards they are useful and dangerous; useful in eating all fruit as it drops and destroying great amounts of troublesome insects, dangerous, for harmless as they are said to be, they will bite—the bark of fruit trees if they remain too long at a time.

But, joking aside, sheep of some kind should be handled on all farms. On poor, worn-out farms, if one had as many as he could pasture, and buy some winter feed, the farm would be largely the gainer and the owner no loser. There is very little inducement in ploughing and working a poor, hilly farm; and on that kind of farms sheep of any kind will do better than on level, rich lands.

On rich lands there will be much that is wasted every year that sheep will do well on, and, if for nothing more, they serve to keep the pastures and fence corners clean.

Market gardeners can keep sheep to first rate advantage on the refuse and waste of their vegetables. The manure of sheep put in casks, watered, and sprinkled on plants will give them an astonishing growth. Sheep well cared for will always pay, though one may not handle so much money, for there is not much outlay in feeding sheep and harvesting wool, so that what you sell is nearly clear profit. Sheep, after six months old, cannot die in debt to their owner, for the wool or pelt will pay all expenses, no matter how soon they die.

The kind of sheep one should keep I will not say; for the reason that one locality is better for one breed of sheep than another. One man is better fitted for handling one kind than he would be for others. The best plan, where one wants to begin with sheep, is to ask some experienced sheep man who is acquainted with his farm, what he shall keep. If he knows no such, write to some sheep

farmer, describing his farm and location.—Wool-growers are very willing, generally, to answer all enquiries.

In conclusion I may state that it was demonstrated in England forty years ago that an area of land capable of maintaining 1,000 sheep one year, would, by being thus appropriated, maintain 1,365 sheep the next year. The same is true in other stock, though in a small degree.—V. P. R. in *Western Rural*.



UNCLE TOM'S COLUMN.

MY DEAR CHILDREN:

Holidays are coming, and that is cool news this hot weather. Long ago when I was a boy, I can remember how I looked forward to the holidays with as bright hopes as any of you, and I enjoyed them too. Think of fishing along a nice shady stream, or picking berries in a nice sheltered patch; and then in the afternoon, when it was getting cool, off for a game of cricket or base ball. I tell you what it is, I could find just as much fun in it now as when I was a youngster. I like to see the old folks take an interest in the children's fun; when they don't I always think of the cross old man who said to a little boy: "Get out of my way—what are you good for?" The little fellow, as he stepped to one side, replied very gently: "They make men out of such things as we are."

I have a pretty smart family, and sometimes like to tell about the sharp things they say. One of my four year old nephews has a mother who is not any too liberal about giving him cakes and other good things. Well, he was teasing his mother to tell him a story, "something funny," he said. "How can I?" she asked, "don't you see how busy I am baking these pies?" "Well, you might say, 'Willie, won't you have a pie?'—that would be funny for you."

The other day one of my little nieces, who had cut her finger, ran in to her mother crying. "Tie it up, ma; tie it up quick, for the juice is all running out." This reminds me of the little boy who was sweating one of those late hot days. He appealed to his mother for help, saying: "Ma, do fix me up, for I'm leaking all over."

I have not heard from any of you about your garden. This is the kind of weather to make everything grow, and I hope you all take pleasure in looking after the flowers and vegetables. Let me hear what success you are having with them. — UNCLE TOM.

BABY'S ADVICE.

Don't oo never, when oor mammy's dawn to wash oo, yun off as fas' as oo know how an' hide away in 'e yunnions, coz, if oo do, oo'l ky awful. All 'e yunnions is full of kies, an' 'e more oo pulls 'em up, 'e worse 'ey kies, an' 'e yunnions keeps a-kyin' up into oor eyes like ev'ry sing-an' 'e mere oo sk'eze 'e yunnions for bein' bad, an' wipe o'r nor itty eysies, 'e more 'ey all det a-kyin' togeeser.

NEW PUZZLES.

92.—What word of three syllables contains the whole twenty-six letters in the English language?
L. HEACOCK.

93.—A riddle, a riddle, as I suppose, a hundred eyes and never a nose.
EZRA ENT.

94.—Why are crows the most sensible of birds?
JOHN HUMPHREY.

95.—What two towns in France does a small boy with his father's coat on represent?
MAGGIE INGRAM.

96.—What is the most dissipated city in the world?
MARY DAVIDSON.

97.—If a Jew owed you money and came to pay it, which two of Shakespeare's characters would he maintain in doing so?
ANNIE HOGAN.

98.—If you bit the end off a man's nose, what would the judge oblige you to do?
ALFRED J. WRIGHT.

99.—Why does not a cock robin like to be called a pheasant?
ALFRED J. WRIGHT.

100.—GEOGRAPHICAL PUZZLE.
Where is the E. L. O. C., and why is it so called?
F. K. CHITTENDEN.

101.—Write a sentence of forgiveness in five letters.
IOLA MILLER.

102.—Look through the Alphabet and try If you the letter can descry, Which added to those placed below, A small poetic verse will show.

H n l d t w e r s t h u g h m y n l
T h n l v e s t t h t, t h u l v e s t t h n l
R n l d a k s y n r h l l w t n e
S l a s s l e m n, s u n d a l n e
S m u r n f u l u n e l v e s t g
R f y u r h t i n g h n l t k n w.
MAGGIE M. POTTER.

ANSWERS.

Answers have been sent in by Melissa Ostrom, Moira; James Hughson, Dawn Mills Elston Lawson, Battersea; Lizzie Elkington, Paris; Iola Miller, Markham; Hattie Haviland, Ingersoll. Several of my nieces and nephews ask for another of those Geographical Puzzles like No 91. Certainly, we will have another next month. I like them very much, as they are useful as well as amusing.

New Puzzles have come in from Alpheus R. Pike, Markham; James Hughson, Dawn Mills; F. K. Chittenden, Cainsville; Lizzie Elkington, Paris; Iola Miller, Markham; Thomas Freathy, Robroy; Melissa Ostrom, Moira; Hattie Haviland, Ingersoll. Thank you very much, Hattie, for this fine lot of puzzles. My thanks are, in fact, due to all of you. Iola says she has already fell in love with me. Now, I want you all to understand that any love between us must be grammatical. Iola sends a nice lot of puzzles.

ANSWERS TO JUNE PUZZLES.

84.—14 apples. 85.—Uncle Tom. 86.—Minnie May.

87.—She first filled the 5 qt. measure, and from it filled the 3 qt. measure; then emptied the 3 qt. measure, and put into it the two qts. that remained in the 5 qt. measure. She then filled the 5 qt. measure again, and, after filling up the 3 qt. measure, she had exactly 4 qts. left in the 5 qt. measure.

88.—Inch, chin. 89.—13 days, 8 hours (it is a kiss for every four minutes; that is the catch.)

90.—He has been to sea.)

ANSWER TO GEOGRAPHICAL PUZZLE.

During the month of March, dressed in a full suit of Nankin, which was lined with Cashmere, and wearing shoes made of Morocco, having Cork soles, trimmed with large brass Buckles, and attended by a Negro, I said Farewell to my friends Charles and Henry, and started to form an Alliance with a girl who had refused an offer of marriage with a rude fellow who, being angry with his father, had threatened to Bag-dad. When I arrived, her mamma being filled with Wrath, was Schwoerin at two noisy Guinea hens. When I met her I called her Ma-deria and gave her an Orange. Then she set before us a Turkey, which was



very full of Greece, and then retired to milk the Cowes. When I spoke to her about being her Man, she said I was Scilly, which was not Flattery, so I told her to go to Halifax, and put on my Panama, and went home, feeling worse than I had ever felt before since the day I was Borgne.

There were imported into Colorado in the last year eighty-seven pedigreed Short Horn, Jersey, Hereford, Devon and Galloway bulls; twenty-one stallions, and four hundred and fifty-six Merino, Southdown and Leicester bucks.

At a recent sale of Leicester sheep from the flocks of Lord Polwarth, an English breeder, one ram brought \$850, with one exception the highest price ever paid for a Leicester sheep. The average of the sale was \$185.