

sent occasion, to trace that history, with as much particularity and attention as time and space will permit, with reference to selection as the chief means of attaining excellence; and shall avail ourselves of an early opportunity to enter upon a similar engagement with respect to the blood of the Kirklevington short-horns. Neither Mr. John nor Mr. Richard Booth achieved renown by ways that are inaccessible to other breeders, nor did either of them achieve renown by methods that are not deserving of universal imitation. The servile submission of will and judgment of the authority of a name and the imperious demand of fashion, by which the fitful and frivolous career of some of their admirers has been more or less characterized, is not to be charged against them. They adopted the labors of predecessors and contemporaries, cheerfully and freely; but they adopted them at the same time deliberately and independently, using them, not as denoting finality, but as conducing instrumentally to unattained results. They were no snappers up of unconsidered animals. The bait of a pedigree *et prater ea nihil* failed to catch them. Something more than other men's leavings, or the sweepings of weeded herds, was demanded by these august exemplars of a noble science. They looked before and after; they examined, considered, compared, selected; and their careful and patient operations issued in effects which have been long before us, stamped with the approbation not of a nation only, but of the world. In prosecuting our proposed inquiry we assume at the outset that the Warlaby and Killerby blood is properly designated now by the term "distinct," the main question to which we invite the attention of the reader being, not so much the character of Booth blood, which we are glad to admit is as fine as blood well can be, but in what way this blood arrived at its present state.

So far back as about the year 1810, upwards of fifty years ago, we find Mr. Thomas Booth, the father of the late John Booth, of Killerby, and Mr. Richard Booth, of Warlaby, using, in addition to his own bulls, sires from the Collings, Charles and Robert; and among the principal bulls used as crosses within the last fifty two years, but not bred by the Booths (that is, by Mr. Thos. Booth, the father, or Messrs. John and Richard Booth, the sons), are Albion (14), bred by Mr. C. Colling; Pilot (496), bred by Mr. R. Colling; Rubens (5027), bred by Mr. J. Colling White House; Remus (550), bred by Mr. Wright; Stephen (1456), bred by Mr. Charge; Matchem (2281), bred by Mr. Mason; Lord Lieutenant (4260), bred by Mr. Raine; Mussu'man (4525), bred by Col. Cradock, and afterwards the property of Mr. Lax; Lord Stanley (4269), bred by Lord Carlisle; Exquisite (8048), bred by Earl Spencer; and Water King (11,024), bred by Mr. Torr. Among the bulls which cannot with propriety be called principal bulls, but were abundantly used, though not bred by

the Booths, are sir Alexander (591), bred by Mr. J. C. Maynard; Scipio (1421), bred by Mr. Donkin; Ambo (1636), breeder's name not recorded, but his dam was bred by Mr. Poole; Francisco (2032) and Velocipede (5552), bred by Mr. J. C. Maynard; and Burley (766), bred by the same gentlemen, and out of and by a son of Venilia by Mr. Bates's Enchanter.

These details are far from being supplied in a spirit at all depreciatory of the Messrs. Booth. On the contrary, they are offered as affording very strong proofs of their sagacity and wisdom, and as a precedent which cannot be followed without immense advantage to all who adopt it. We have omitted several bulls intentionally, and some are, no doubt, omitted inadvertently; but this list, defective as it is, is sufficiently complete to assure the reader that the practice of the Booths convincingly illustrates the principle of selection, and establishes the general propositions we have advanced in its favour. It does not, of course, follow from the fact of so many bulls from various quarters having been used that a great variety of blood has been resorted to, for the several sires might have been related by affinities more or less near; but a somewhat cruel examination of the composition of the pedigrees of the bulls whose services were engaged at Killerby and Warlaby shows that such was not the case, and that not only were many bulls used, but much blood of a diversified character was sought and adopted. We do not ask which of these crosses the Messrs. Booth liked best, or whether they ever regretted having adopted any of them: our present business being chiefly to set before the reader some evidence bearing upon the allegation, that the Booths, in attaining reputation, in no wise discarded the principle and practice of mixing blood from different sources and of different strains. More recently, the principle upon which Mr. Booth has proceeded, in resorting to a new cross, has evidently been to adopt a cross nearly allied to his own blood, thus avoiding abruptness of transition whilst he obtained the impulse of a fresh element. In two of the latest of the Warlaby crosses with other blood, the Water King and Lord Stanley crosses, this is strikingly apparent. Water King was out of a pure Bates cow, and by Baron Warlaby, a pure Booth bull; and the granddam of Lord Stanley was Lady Sarah, bred by Mr. Richard Booth, and own sister to Isabella by Pilot.

So far, then, from the Booths forming any exception to the principle of selection they are very prominent examples of it, and we may add, of its beneficial tendencies. It was during the time when this principle most largely prevailed with them their best families were consolidated. The partial reader may acknowledge the generality of our observations, but may meet them by alleging that Mr. Booth's short-horns being now perfect, the necessity for occasionally re