

saw dust, or vegetable mould. Uncrushed bones will answer as well, but take longer preparing.

"Or, (and it is the paragraph to which I particularly directed your notice) mix four cart loads of bones with as many of sand, and place in a flat topped heap, then thoroughly drench with water. At the end of a fortnight turn over the heap and water afresh; in a month few of the bones will remain whole. In this way large bones may be reduced, but broken bones will of course reduce more quickly."

LONGUEUIL.

#### DEVON CATTLE.

*Editor of the Agriculturist:*

DEAR SIR.—As so much is being said in the *Agriculturist*, by the admirers of Short Horn and Hereford cattle, in favor of their favorite breed; perhaps you will allow me to put in a word in favor of the Devons.

When I was living in the South West of England we usually milked about thirty cows, and at one time a large proportion of them were Short Horns,—they all lived alike—Short Horns and Devons side by side; the land was of excellent quality; the climate as is well known, mild, and humid, and grass almost always plentiful. We finally discarded the Short Horns for the following reasons:—

1st. Because we could keep three Devons on the same quantity of food, which two Short Horns required.

2nd. Because we found the milk from three Devon cows worth more, especially for butter making, than the milk from two Short Horns.

3rd. Because we found the Devons much less subject to barrenness.

4th. Because among a hundred Devon calves you would hardly find one inferior, all would be uniform and exquisitely symmetrical; but we could not get a dozen Short Horn calves without some coarse and inferior ones among them.

5th. Because when fat the Devons brought about 6d per stone of 8 lbs more than any other cattle, excepting Scots.

Nevertheless I believe the very best tribes of Short Horns are the most beautiful cattle in existence, it would, I think, look like prejudice to deny it; but do they suit the Canadian farmers? Except a farmer can afford to purchase a bull every two years and pay two or three hundred dollars for him, for he must be thorough-bred (or full-blooded as the Canadians term it) his herd will soon deteriorate; and badly bred, long, gaunt Short Horns, are the worst things ever a farmer had on his place. Crosses after the first never answer; no breed that I know anything of require so much care and judgment.

But crosses from the Devon bull and the native cattle answer better in my opinion, though inferior to pure Devons, they are seldom coarse,

never long legged, and are generally good handlers.

The Devons are equally as hardy in my opinion as the natives. Your respectable correspondent Mr. R. F. Cook, seems to class them with those breeds that require nursing, and high priced food in winter; but I must beg leave to differ from him. As to Herefords I have had no experience among them, what I have seen at Agricultural Shows in England were very fine animals. My only additional observation is, that I do not at present own any Devon cattle; and therefore am not pleading to fill my own pockets.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours, most respectfully,  
W. H.

#### LETTER FROM MR. SOTHAM.

*To the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.*

DEAR SIR,—I have no desire to dispute your valuable correspondent Mr. Cameron, as I think he must be mistaken in the place of Showing. I never heard of a bull or breeding cow taking prizes at Smithfield. If so, I shall be very much obliged to Mr. C. to refer me to it. "Bamboo" may have won many premiums, but did he ever show against a Hereford or Devon, if not, there can be no comparison. These two breeds have never come in competition with each other, except at Smithfield, but what the Herefords have *invariably proved triumphant*.

My bull Tromp, now owned by Hon. Allen Ayrault and one of the "Parsons Rhinoceros tribe," took first prize as a calf, as a yearling, as a two year old, and as an aged bull, but did not compete with Short Horns. I should like to see him shown against "Bamboo," both in the same condition, *high, low, or moderate*. I should have much pleasure in seeing either of my cows Silla, Rose, Pretty Maid, Sally, Jenny Lind, Bombazine, or Cynthia, shown against Butter Cup, and let merit prove which was champion. Mr. Parsons may again say the "distance" is too far between them, but if Short Horn men feel inclined they can meet. I hope Mr. Cameron will advance some way of bringing them into fair competition, he has only to suggest, and I think he will be met. As Mr. C. has commenced on the merits of this breed I hope he will continue it. I will not accuse him of "untruth," if he is sometimes "mistaken." He may not be in this instance and I may be proved "in ignorance."

I am dear Sir,

Yours Sincerely,  
WM. HY. SOTHAM.

Piffardinia, N. Y. Dec. 1852.