

and again for the great Jubilee Show in 1889—the Queen thus indicating in a very practical and useful way her interest in agriculture.

There is every prospect that the support and patronage of the British Royal House will continue to be bestowed on agriculture, and especially on stock breeding. The Prince of Wales (whose portrait will interest your readers) has a large stud of Shires and another of Hackneys at Wolferton, Sandringham; and his herd of Shorthorn cattle at the same Norfolk farm has a great reputation, one bull from it, named The Celt, winning first at the Royal last year and being afterwards sold for £1,000. The Duke of York has a small herd of Norfolk Red Polled cattle, with which he has been highly successful alike at the summer and the fat stock shows.

"SCOTLAND YET."

British Live Stock Breeding in the Victorian Era.

BY RICHARD GIBSON.

When the historian writes up the Victorian era, after giving due credit to the advancement in the sciences, manufactures, and commerce, he will, if a true chronicler of the nineteenth century, not omit to point out the strides agriculture has made during that period, nor fail to note the great interest taken by our Gracious Sovereign and the late Prince Consort in all branches thereof, especially in the improvement of the various breeds of live stock.

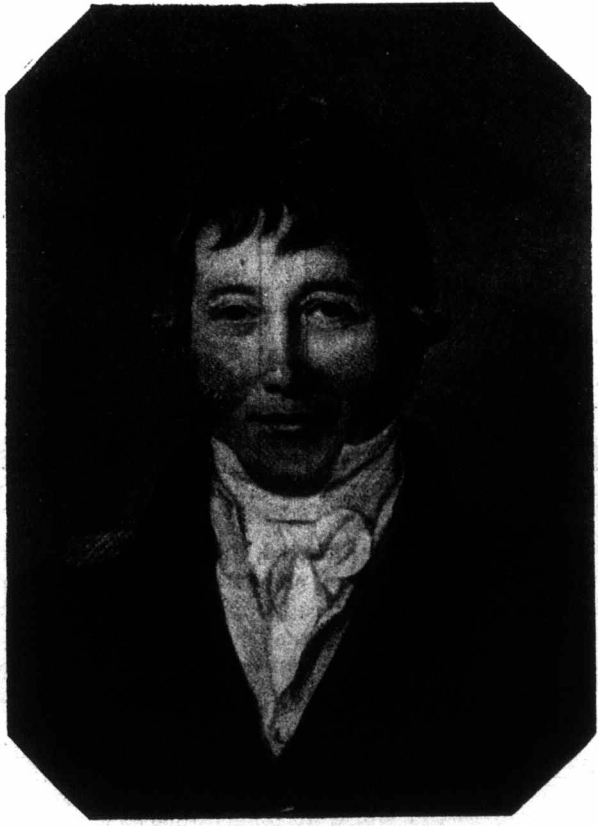
Amongst the most important changes and transactions during the early period of which we write may be mentioned the substitution of steam for horse power in threshing and plowing; the introduction of machinery to harvest and prepare for market the various grain and fodder crops; the practice of thorough drainage, assisted by the Drainage Act; the manufacture and use of artificial manures and foods; the repeal of the Corn Laws; the establishment of agricultural shows; the registration of pure-bred stock, and publication of herd, stud and flock books; the passing of the Agricultural Holdings Act; and the encouragement given to the improvement of farm stock, and their general dissemination to the civilized portions of the globe.

The repeal of the Corn Laws (throwing open British ports to the free entry of wheat and other grains from the cheap lands and serf labor districts of Europe, as well as from other continents where cheap land and cheap labor are obtained) convinced the leading agriculturists that with high rents, heavy rates and taxes, the British farmer could not compete with these foreigners in growing grain, but must look to his flocks and herds to relieve him from that position in which the cry of "cheap loaf" had placed him; hence the stimulus given to the live stock industry.

Thanks to the skill and foresight of eminent breeders before that time the various breeds had been so improved that the material was close at hand to help them in the emergency, and to-day Great Britain occupies the unique position of supplying the nations of the world with all the most valuable breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, and upon the home flocks and herds the foreigners are compelled to be ever drawing to keep up the standard of their stocks. It is a proud assertion, and may seem like boasting, to say that outside the Arabian horse and the Merino sheep, the combined nations of the world have failed to produce a single breed of domestic animal that is of superior or indeed equal merit to what is found in Britain. I hear American trotter whistled. Yes, as a racing machine, I admit, but for no other purpose. Is it not, however, distinctly English in its make-up, a combination of Thoroughbred and Hackney, and consequently is entitled to possess some valuable characteristics.

Retrospective.—While thinking this matter over, and failing to find any breed, the mind gradually wandered through the vista of time, and, falling into a reverie, a misty vision passes before the mind's-eye of a noble army of workers in the advancement of agriculture and the improvement of the domestic breeds of live stock. First pass, centuries ago, along the dales of Northumbria a dusky-armed army with cassock and cowl. Though not altogether comely to the eye, they are well-fed and sleek; good cheer evidently more than counterbalances their fasts and vigils. Good beef and good mutton were not despised by these holy men, and

as they were the first in arts and literature, so were they in all practical pursuits, especially of agriculture. Following these, passing rapidly. (Arthur Young, who was at my elbow, mentioned the names of some.) They were Somerville, Culley, Pusey, Jethro, Tull, Turnip, Townsend, Coke of Norfolk, the Duke of Bedford and his Woburn experiments. These he explained were the chroniclers of their times, and men who had made two blades of grass to grow where one had grown previously. Then came another small band, with retort and scales as symbols upon their banners, and the names in-



THOS. BATES, OF KIRKLEAVINGTON, FOUNDER OF THE "BATES SHORTHORNS"; DIED JULY, 1849.

scribed were Sir Humphrey Davy, Leibig, Voelker, Bousingault, and Lawes and Gilbert.

Another slide is inserted in the magic lantern, and behold a motly crew, some fantastically dressed in silk jackets of various colors, others wearing crowns and coronets, and, again, lawyers, statesmen, and financiers. I asked "the Druid" who stood by what it meant. He said the patrons of the turf. They evolved the Thoroughbred horse, the acme of man's efforts in moulding things animate. They were a riotous, boisterous lot, carrying banners upon which were inscribed the names of

man, Stephenson, Maynard, Dobson, Charge, Wright, Robson, Snowden, Waistell, Barker, etc. These were followed later by Chas. and Robt. Colling, and I was informed that they were the great improvers, that as friends of Bakewell they had learned his methods of breeding, and applied them to Shorthorns with the same success that Bakewell had accomplished with sheep, cattle, etc.

Then came a miscellaneous collection of banners, Bakewell heading the procession with one inscribed with Longhorn cattle, Leicester sheep, Shire horses, and Large White pigs, and his master hand is yet recognized in all those breeds. His ability to mould animal form to his wish was marvellous, considering the material he had to work with. Of this wonderful man a book might be written. Then followed a small group with the Hereford colors, led by B. Tompkins, Price, Knight, etc.

The men of Devon were also there with a ruby banner. Ellman of Glynde carried that of Sussex cattle and Southdown sheep, and his efforts with Southdowns have been likened unto those of Bakewell with Longwools.

Hugh Watson was there sailing under the black flag, but his countenance was benign and his victories were bloodless ones.

I was at this time aroused by a great noise. It was the announcement that the Victorian era had commenced. In the Shorthorn world C. Colling had sent throughout England the Durham ox. This monster weighed 3,024 pounds when five years old, and created a great sensation wherever shown. It was a cute advertisement, and drew attention to the breed throughout Britain. Robt. Colling followed suit with his White heifer. She was also by Favourite, and weighed 2,300 pounds. Then came C. Colling's sale, where 47 head averaged \$756 each. Comet made \$5,000. T. Bates bought Young Duchess, and T. Booth the bull Albion.

Robt. Colling's sale was held in 1818, and 60 head averaged \$643. These sales distributed Shorthorns over a great portion of England, and gave the breed a national reputation. Importations had also been made to America, but it was not until the Herd Book was published in 1822 that the breed became firmly established. It is true private records were kept, but "said to be by" would occur in many pedigrees. As an illustration of the difficulties under which buyers labored, amongst the early importations to America were a Longhorn bull and a Hereford, both of which found record in the American Herd Book. To Mr. Whitaker must be given the greater credit of publishing the first volume, though Mr. Coates did the clerical work, as had he not come forward at a critical time with financial aid the publication would probably have been delayed for many years. He was a manufacturer, and as his operatives required milk, he made it a *sine qua non* that his cows should subscribe liberally to the pail.

Mr. Bates, we noted, bought a Duchess at C. Colling's sale; he had previously obtained Duchess, by Daisy Bull, privately from Mr. Colling, and these constituted the basis of a herd which afterwards became celebrated on each continent. He adopted the practice followed by the Messrs. Colling and Bakewell, and bred very closely, only taking an outcross when compelled. At his sale in 1850, when some 5,000 persons at least were present, the principal buyers were Lord Ducie and some Americans. Three years later, at Lord Ducie's sale, the Americans were again purchasers of some of the most valuable animals. Eleven Duchesses realized an average of \$2,160 each. And it was a sorry day for English breeders when they allowed the foreigner to outbid them. Descendants of those very cattle were afterwards purchased to return at extraordinary prices—10th Duchess of Geneva (illustrated) at a cost of \$35,000, and in the hands of Lord Bective she proved a profitable purchase.

From the expatriated also descended Duke of Connaught, sold at Lord Dunmore's sale to Lord Fitzhardinge for \$22,500, who had a fine herd at Berkeley, and whose Kirkleavington Empress

3rd proved one of the noted Shorthorns of the era, winning 3 first prizes at the Royal. Mr. Bates also bred Duke of Northumberland (illustrated); he was the result of coupling father to daughter, and according to those capable of forming an opinion his equal has yet to be produced.

About this time another name appears, one that has commanded equal credit with that of Bates. I refer to the Messrs. Booth. Their victories for a great number of years in the showing were phenomenal. From 1841 to 1870, when showyard competition was relinquished by Mr. T. C. Booth, only twice are the honor rolls of the Royal Agricultural



MR. THOS. BATES' FAMOUS SHORTHORN BULL, "DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND" (1940), AFTER A PICTURE BY DALBY IN 1843.

Eclipse and Flying Childers, Touchstone, Stockwell, Newminster, Melbourne, St. Simon, Queen Mary, and Pocahontas. The slide moved more rapidly, but I could notice there was a terribly slimy tail attached, which destroyed the otherwise captivating scene.

Another picture, this time amid grassy meads and by side of gurgling streams, with W. Wetherall as my nestor. A stately, thoughtful crowd in knee breeches and top boots, and their talk was of sirloin and saddle. As they slowly moved I noticed inscribed on their banner, red, white and roan. My mentor named them Milbank, St. Quintin, Penny-