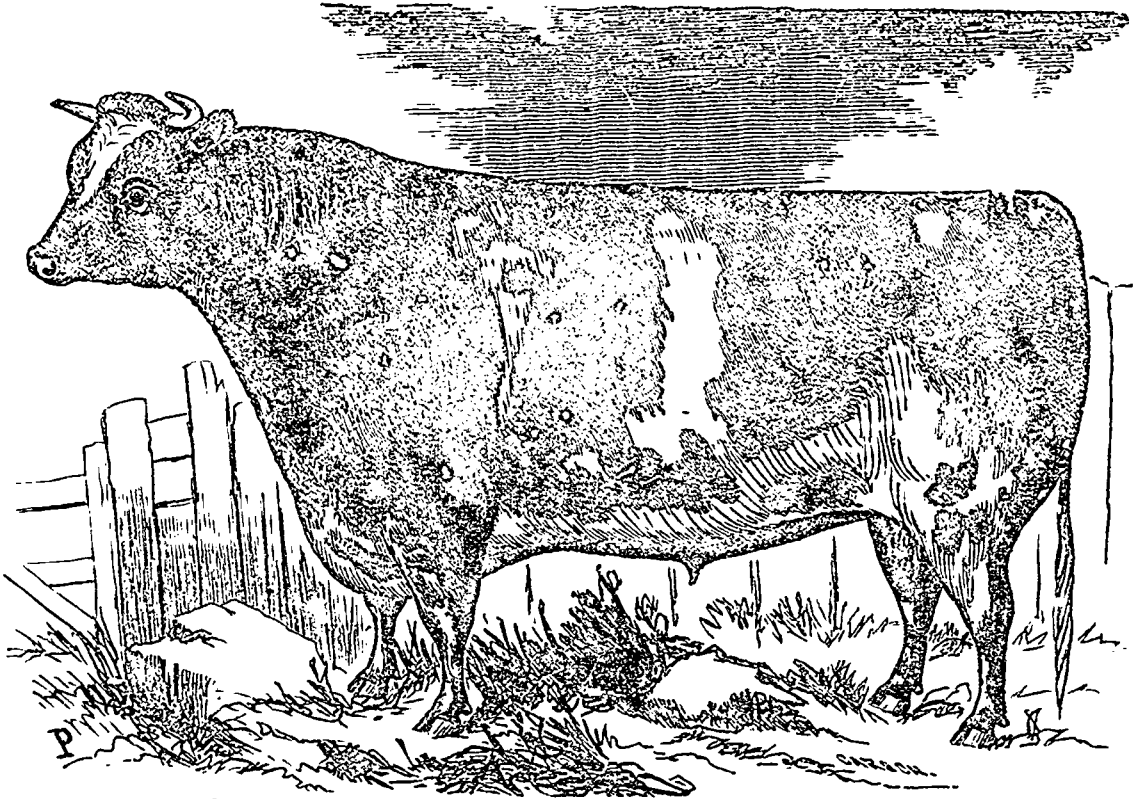


Washington. We know of no country in the world, Germany perhaps excepted, where more interesting and more persevering efforts are officially made to study out the various and all important questions connected with the agricultural improvement of the whole country.

We have often read complaints as to the useless expenditure connected with this department. Of the fairness of the complaints we know nothing: but what we do know is that however immense the agricultural wealth of the United States may be, yet it can easily be increased tenfold. And nothing can sooner tend to this enormous possible increase than the careful and diligent study of the innumerable agricultural problems which are constantly being studied or solved by the scientific practice of the best agriculturists in that

country, and by the far and wide dissemination of such practical solutions, when they have been obtained. This is really the work which the Department of Agriculture at Washington strives to do, with such means as the United States Legislature may allow. Let us hope that every possible assistance, consistent with due economy, will be generously voted by the American people for this all important Department, and that its work will be scrupulously watched, in order to make it always thoroughly useful. Let us hope also that the eminently satisfactory results which must follow may induce our own Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, to organize work of the same nature which is so much needed for the improvement of the agricultural interests of the various Provinces in the Dominion of Canada.



MARS, Ayrshire Bull, imported by John L. Gibb, Compton, P. Q. Canada.

### Ayrshire Stock.

The animals represented in this number are the Ayrshire bull "Mars" and cows "Medora" and "Rossie," imported from Scotland and owned by Mr. John L. Gibb of Compton, P. Q.

Mr. Gibb has, since he commenced farming on the old homestead at Bellevue, near Quebec, in 1859, devoted his attention principally to the breeding of thoroughbred Ayrshires, which he considers the most valuable and suitable animal for this particular section of Canada.

From time to time he has made large additions to his herd—which generally consists of about fifty (50) Ayrshires—by importations from Scotland. In the year 1868 he had the good fortune to become possessed of the bull "Mars" purchasing him from W. A. MacLachlin, Esq., Sterlingshire, Scotland, a gentleman whom none surpassed as a breeder and exhibiter of Ayrshires.

This bull has been pronounced one of the finest animals ever brought to this country. His success in the show ring proves this to be a fact. He not only won his laurels at our

Provincial Exhibitions, but also in the United States, carrying off first prizes from animals of high repute. M. Gibb twice refused the large sum of twenty five hundred dollars for "Mars"; and considers that his success with this breed is greatly owing to the good qualities transmitted by "Mars" to his progeny.

In 1870, a valuable importation of twelve cows and heifers was made, including "Medora" and "Rossie," purchased from the famous herd of Mr. Lawrence Drew, Merryton, factor to the Duke of Hamilton. This shipment arrived in splendid condition after a sail of forty days.

In 1872 Mr. Gibb visited Scotland with the express intention of buying a few Ayrshires that could not be beaten. The result was the importation of five prize cows which arrived in Quebec the 11th September 1873, a few days previous to the Provincial Exhibition held in Montreal. It is satisfactory to note that with one of these cows, "Heather Bloom" Mr. Gibb carried off the first premium over thirty-two of the finest Ayrshires that ever entered a ring; and took the herd prize with "Mars" at its head, over six competing herds.