

from which it comes, lies at the foot of the Welsh mountains, and possesses a soil of but indifferent fertility.

The English farmer looks upon cattle, with the instinctive calculation, which distinguishes his class, and argues that there are three descriptions of produce, which man may demand from cattle, besides the manures the hide and the offal—namely, their labor, their milk and their flesh. Of these, he deems their labor the least profitable, and therefore looks chiefly to their meat and their milk.

He demands of his milch cows the greatest supply of milk, and a good Ayrshire cow will give four thousand quarts of milk in the year; and it is reckoned that the three million cows in Great Britain produce three thousand millions quarts in a year—an average of a thousand quarts for each cow. The French cows, many of which are worked, do not average, as a whole, over five hundred quarts a head. To get the greatest quantity of milk from the cow, the English farmer has studied and labored, till he has spread over his fields the finest herds of milch cows in the world.

It appears, at first sight, that the work our cattle are made to go through with, would have but little influence upon the return they give in meat. It might be supposed that this work, since it turned the life of the animal to account, admitted of a cheaper production of meat. But not so argues the English farmer. He believes that habitual labor causes animals to become hardy, vigorous and slow, to eat much and fatten little, to increase in bony structure, make little available flesh and that slowly; that habitual inaction on the country, produces a soft, lazy race, which fatten early, assume rotundity of form and fleshiness, and on an equal amount of food, give a better product of butcher meat. The English farmer argues further that where labor is the first consideration, the animal is not killed till it has finished its office; but on the other hand, where meat only is sought, it is slaughtered at that period when it gives most, and that when the breed is precocious, this period comes early—and that thus, by raising cattle for slaughtering, he gets the best return for what they consume. The English farmer's reasoning on this matter, is, I have no doubt, right, when he possesses a precocious breed of cattle like Durham or improved Hereford. And this reasoning would be true, in any country possessing similar breeds of cattle, unless the profit of working oxen was greater than is in England. The result of British agriculture in raising cattle are that Great Britain feeds eight millions of horn cattle—slaughters two millions annually, which she realizes a hundred millions of dollars for meat alone.

The other species of domestic animals are horses and pigs. As regards horses, the pre-eminence of the English breeders has long been recognized. As for the race-horses and his rival, the hunter, everybody knows by what a combination of effort the English

have succeeded in producing and keeping up these superior breeds. They are productions of human industry, real works of art, obtained at a great expense, and designed to gratify a national passion. A fine horse constitutes with everybody the ideal of fashionable life; it is the first dream of the young girl, as it is the latest pleasure of the aged man of business. But the English have breeds for draught, which are equally valuable. Such, for example, are the plow horses, the best of which, perhaps, come from Suffolk. I have already stated that tillage with horses has been generally substituted by the English for that of oxen; they thought, and with reason, that the quicker action of the horse made its work more productive, and that an idle life made the meat of the ox more productive. But they have done more; they have substituted horses for men wherever manual labor—the most expensive of all—could be replaced by a machine set in motion by horse-power. The brewers' horses and those used in coal wagons are celebrated for their strength and bulk. The best fetch high prices. It is the same with the carriage horses; the breed of Cleveland bay from Yorkshire is reckoned one of the most perfect that exists for average work.

English pigs on an average are not very large; but they are killed young, exemplifying the great principle of precocity contended for by Bakewell, and applied to all kinds of animals destined for food. They are all of breeds which fatten rapidly, and whose shapes have been improved for a lengthened period.

The English rear few fowls, the dampness of their climate being unsuitable for it, and spite of the efforts of wealthy amateurs, the occupation has hitherto obtained but little favour; whereas in France the annual production of eggs alone is estimated at twenty millions of dollars, and that of all kinds of fowls at an equal sum.

Such are the advantages obtained by British agriculture, from the best breeds and the best management of them in rearing domestic animals.

I must next show what crops support this animal production of England; for crops are both the causes and consequences of a great production of domestic animals.

—30—

The Provincial Exhibition.

As this great design is one of paramount importance to this community and agriculturists generally, to the exclusion on other matter we give place to the following from the Montreal Transcript:—

"We understand great efforts are being made by the County Societies, both here and in the Upper Province, to exhibit specimens of Stock at the next Provincial Exhibitions such as will take the shine out of all that has been formerly shown in Canada. Our own County Society is importing two additional Ayrshire Bulls, and another couple of monster pigs. There is, however, considerable dissatisfaction evinced by many of

the farmers with whom we have conversed, in reference to the ninth of the general regulations printed for the guidance of competitors in the Lower Province. It declares that "an animal which has already gained a first premium at a Provincial Exhibition, cannot again receive one in the same class; but it may be awarded a certificate, if it be deemed worthy of the first prize, but not otherwise." This rule is said to be very unjust, and destroys all fair and honest competition. The Provincial Exhibition in Upper Canada, for instance, takes place before ours at Three Rivers. Animals which carry off first premiums there cannot again compete here. Therefore, as, in a pecuniary point of view the first prizes here are more valuable, none of our first class stock will find their way to Kingston. One great object of these Exhibitions—large and extended competition—will thus be frustrated. Again, the rule is unfair towards the Upper Canadian farmers who make no such condition with ours; but let all the animals desirous of competing come in whether they have or have not already carried off prizes, and give them a fair field and no favor. And, once more, it is unjust towards our County Societies, who, with a spirit of progression that does them great credit, at much expense and trouble, import animals here to improve the stock and add value to the breeds already in the country. The only way of repaying such Societies is by allowing them every facility to compete with each other; and letting the best carry off the prize. We, therefore, commend this matter to the attention of Major Campbell and his *confreres* of the Board of Agriculture; and trust it will have their attention at an early meeting."

The "Transcript" is in error. The Three Rivers Show commences on the 16th September, the Kingston Show on the 23rd. The advantage, such as it is, lies with the Lower Province, and she is heartily welcome to it. Our Agriculturists are determined to render the Exhibition of 1856 "a great fact" in the industrial history of the Province, and they desire above all things to encourage and invite honorable competition. The "American Scientific Association" meet at Albany the third week in August; they have issued invitations to some twenty or thirty of the first Scientific men in Europe, to make the voyage both ways free of expense. The invitation includes Professor Lindley of the Horticultural Society; Sir William Hooker, of the Botanic Gardens; Sir Joseph Paxton, and many other high Agricultural authorities. The American Association will rise in time for the members to proceed to the Three Rivers Show on the 16th September, the Kingston Show on the 23rd, and the Watertown Show on the 30th. And as some of the best judges in the world will be among us, we are making great efforts, and do mean to show Europe and America what the Province can accomplish.—*Kingston News*.