

them are not perfection. They are only moderate in size; are apt to have small teats; are often hard milkers; have a tendency to nervousness, and, according to our friend, Harris Lewis, have a certain testy, high-strung, old-maidishness about them. But for the one purpose of increasing the milk-yield of our native cows there is probably no cross equal to that of a good Ayrshire bull from a first-class milking strain of this choice breed. For milking three or four years, and then converting into beef, the Short-horn is unrivalled. This fine breed of cattle were originally renowned for their milking qualities, and it argues the tenacity with which they retain their primitive character that there are still so many excellent milkers among them. For, most assuredly, every effort has been made to deprive them of this quality. They have been bred for color, for size, for meat production; they have been pampered for exhibition, until wet nurses had to be provided for their calves; and yet to-day there are milkers among them that, taking comparative size, weight of food, and everything else into account, are the equals of any that can be mustered. Their quiet habits, large teats, easiness to milk, aptitude to fatten, even when no longer young, and, finally, their suitability for that British meat market which had lately opened wide its doors to the farmers of the American continent, render the Short-horn a highly desirable breed, both for the dairy and for general purposes, provided always that you have rich pasture and fodder for them, and are never compelled to put them on "hard tack." For beef alone, probably the Hereford has no superior; and I believe the time is coming when, restored to their primitive state of dairy virtue, the Short-horns will be decked with the honors of milk production, and the Herefords with those of meat production. The great breeders of the West have discovered the merits of this much neglected breed, and the whole world will yet endorse the judgment of "An Australian Agriculturist," published in a recent English paper:

"Reared under exactly the same conditions, and fed side by side on the same pastures, an excellent opportunity is afforded for contrasting the qualities of the various breeds of cattle, the test being an exceedingly fair one, as no hand feeding is given, unless possibly a little hay thrown on the pastures for a few weeks in spring, and no animal ever being in a house or shed till driven into the slaughter house. The two favorite breeds are the Short-horn and Hereford, and there can scarcely be a doubt but that the latter is the most valuable. It is hardier in constitution, and stands the weather better than the thinner-skinned Short-horn, holds the flesh and internal fat longer, and recovers condition quicker in spring, while being quite as easily fed and attaining as heavy weights at quite as early a period of its existence."

For working cattle choose the Devons. They are light on foot, wiry, muscular, hardy, and docile. Those who have never seen the prize ox teams of New England have no idea of the beauty, fleetness, and efficiency of a yoke of Devons. They will out-travel many farm horses at the plough, or on the road; cost far less in feed and for harness; and are better than Lieut.-Governors, for their usefulness is never at an end. When unfit for labor, they make prime beef. In that good time coming, when all the leaks of the farm shall be stopped, only one team of horses will be kept on a 100-acre farm—the other will be a yoke of Devons—probably Devon cows. The farmer expects his wife to work *some* when she has a babe at her breast, and most farmers' wives do more work when they become nursing mothers than they ever did in their lives before. Too much, indeed, is often put upon them; but all hygienic authorities admit that work in moderation is good for the human mother. Why then should it be bad for the milch cow? I look to see the day when a double profit will be made on cows, and they will perform at light, useful labor as well as at the milk-pail. If the experiment be tried