

Stock Department.

Good Stock.

THE recent Provincial Exhibition has been pronounced a decided success. The excellence of the articles exhibited, the throng of visitors, and we presume, the pecuniary results, have realized the most sanguine expectations of the Association. But, to establish the success of all such exhibitions, there is one result requisite, without which all the labor and trouble attending them will be comparatively expended in vain. Unless our farmers are stimulated by what they see to a laudable emulation; unless the display of good field and garden produce incites a desire and effort to raise the like; and unless the show of beautiful animals, in fine condition, diminishes the lazy complacency with which the easy farmer has been accustomed to regard his lean kine, and all the varieties of his ill-favored stock at home, and sets him thinking whether he cannot himself raise a breed of animals that shall at least approximate to the excellence which he sees and admires—unless, as the main result of these gatherings and this competition, the produce and stock throughout the country generally become improved—then must these annual exhibitions, however admirable, be pronounced a failure rather than a success.

Looking now at the department of stock only, let us enquire whether there is any valid reason why the ordinary farmer, who earns his daily bread by his calling, who has no surplus funds to spare for mere display, and can afford no fancy prices to gratify his taste or his vanity—is there any sufficient reason why he should not be the owner of first-class stock of all kinds? and would it not pay him better than raising inferior animals, of the old sorts, and in the old way? It will be found on investigation that many of our most successful stock-raisers have begun with very small means, and have attained their present success by skill and attention rather than by money. Many instances in point could be adduced. One farmer, for example, who has taken prizes for his cattle in local and Provincial Exhibitions for several years past, commenced his farm experience by purchasing from a neighbour, at the ordinary market price at the time, a single cow in calf. The calf proved to be a heifer, a very pretty creature; and from this, by judicious selection of the bull, and intelligent care in rearing the young,—learning his experience as he went on—for he had not been a practical farmer in the old country—he gradually improved his stock, without making a single expensive purchase, till he became the owner of one of the choicest herds in the Province. As another example it may be mentioned

that the animal which took the first prize in the grade class at the recent Exhibition, was raised in the same way; and the best judges on the ground affirmed that it would be difficult, if possible, to distinguish this animal from one of the purest blood.

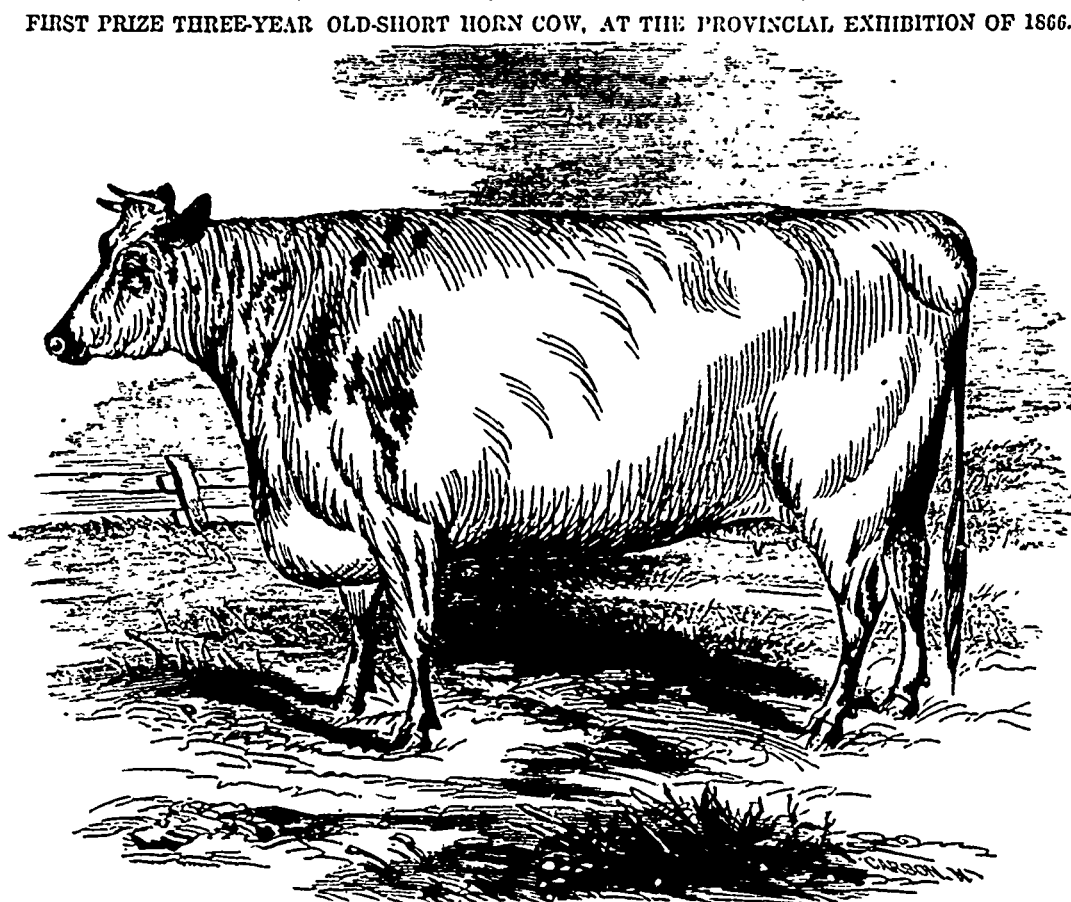
There are plenty of similar instances, to encourage the poorest farmer in the laudable desire of improving the stock on his farm. Let him remember, that the keep of the best animal is perhaps less expensive than of the poorest of the same class. For, an animal in good condition will eat less than a lean, hungry, half-starved creature, whose appetite is never satisfied, and whose instincts cry out against the low condition in which he is kept.

It has sometimes been objected against high-bred animals, that they are less hardy, and more liable to disease than inferior stock; and that the farmer who raises the finer breed is more exposed to loss, on account of sickness and death, than he who keeps only the common kind. Surely, there is some mistake here. The improvement of the physical con-

sound argument for keeping inferior beasts. You cannot enhance the value of anything on other terms than rendering its loss, when it occurs, more heavy; but the risk of loss is not thereby increased. In the case under consideration it is even, with proper precautions, diminished, and vastly counterbalanced by the advantages and profit of raising good stock.

Every farmer has it in his power to attain this desirable object. Let him, if necessary, sell some of his present inferior animals, and buy one good heifer calf, one sow pig of superior breed, and make a commencement in the same direction among his poultry, selecting any of the excellent varieties that may best suit his taste or his special purpose; and by after care and attention, choosing for breeding always the best females he can raise, and using for service only the males of approved qualities and pure blood, if possible, he will soon see his farm stocked with animals that he will be proud to own, and that will yield him far better returns in pocket than he has hitherto realized. There is one other point he must

attend to. Besides the careful selection of the parents, he must never stint the young. Poor keep and neglect will check the growth and alter the form of animals sprung from the very best blood; and, in time, produce a degeneration from which all trace of the original excellence will have disappeared. One of the disadvantages of possessing only ordinary stock is that the farmer will be tempted, on account of their small value, to neglect them; while the owner of a fine animal is impelled by considerations of interest, as well as the pride he takes in his property, to give all due care and attention to the creatures whom he values so highly, and probably elects into the circle of his pets. When right views on this subject become more



"GRACE DARLING,"

Owned by MR. JOHN SNELL, of Edmonton.

dition of an animal cannot render it more liable to disease. It may be true, that in man, increased refinement and mental culture, which are often attained at the expense of physical development, may bring in a train of corporeal maladies to which inferior races, or lower classes, are strangers. But these disorders are not the necessary associates of a higher humanity. They spring from violations of natural laws, and the neglect, often, of the most obvious conditions of bodily health. The higher physical development engenders a vigour of constitution and energy of vital power that will resist effectually those sources of disease by which the feeble body would be overcome. The prejudice in question has, most likely, arisen from the fact that slight notice is taken of the sickness or death of the poor animal of little worth; while the loss, or mere ailing, of a valuable animal makes a great sensation. It is not that good stock are more subject to disease, but that their disorders are reckoned of more account, and their loss more severely felt. But this is surely no

general, the raising of first-class stock will be regarded, not as the amusement merely of the wealthy, but as the business of the farmer, whose calling, by this means, and by the enlarged intelligence pervading the other departments of his work, will become more profitable, and will be held in higher esteem.

THE DURHAM COW, "GRACE DARLING."—We commence our series of illustrations of prize takers at the recent Provincial Show, with this choice animal. Her pedigree is as follows:

No. 1006, Light Roan, calved April 1st, 1863, bred by John Snell, Edmonton; Grace Darling, by Baron Solway, 602; 1. dam, Fancy, by John O'Gaunt 2nd, (13089); 2. dam, Fairy, by Logan, A.H.B., 95; 3. dam, Double Rose, by Prince Hal, 137; 4. dam, Roscilla, by Enchanter, (3729); 5. dam, Elvira, by Young Comet, (3437); 6. dam, Emma, by Rockingham, (560); 7. dam, Annabella, by Major, (398); 8. dam, Ada, by Denton, (198); 9. dam, Aurora, by Comet, (150); 10. dam, by Henry, (301); 11. dam, by Danby, (190).