

A LETTER FROM THE ISLAND OF JERSEY ABOUT ALDERNEYS, JERSEYS AND GUERNSEYS.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN,—That Alderney, Jersey and Guernsey, are distinct islands in the English Channel, is better known than that their several breeds of cattle are nearly as distinct. Indeed, while the climate of these islands is equally mild and salubrious, and of equal advantage to their unique specimens of stock, yet it is sufficiently diverse to suggest only slightly a common origin—arising perhaps from a uniformly long separation. This diversity awakens inquiries, which by way of casual answering, it may be said, that there is a distinction in appearance, but not one suggesting a difference in the produce of either milk, cream or butter. Nor is there any which—in looking at the best specimens of either breed—an artist would respect, since a picture of either drawn as dotting their hedged inclosures, staked in right lines by companies, cropping the luxuriant grass, would be much the same.

In purity of breed, the distinction is without a difference, for the sufficient reason, that since 1789 these islands have maintained a law forbidding the landing on their shores of any foreign stock. Nor does either island covet, nor will it have, the others' breeds. Their purity is thus beyond a question. In breeding to supply the demand for solid colors—as squirrel-grey, late the rage—and thereby endangering the solid qualities for which these breeds are famous, the Guernseys perhaps suffer least, their breeders being more content to let mixed colors, rather than grey, rule, if they will.

Each island alike holds to a high standard of excellence, and to judging from a scale of points at their several shows—to the confusion of a late London journal which asserted that "judging from points had quite gone out of practice in Jersey." Quite the reverse is true, since to these points the Royal Jersey Agricultural Society is adding those of Guenon, and offering premiums for the best developments according to his system, thus enlarging the standard of judging, largely endorsing Guenon, and confirming many here—with whom Flanders, Sisiers, Courbelings, Poitevines and Batardes, are as familiar as household words. They will at sight point out to you these distinct orders of cows and their respective classes as well. In size, while the Alderneys are a trifle smaller and more delicately farmed, it may be, than the Jerseys, the Guernseys so far excel both as to approach nearer to the Short-Horns, which is thought to add not a little to their intrinsic value, but as understood here not sufficiently so, to rule much, if any higher, in market. Indeed, here the

style of the former is thought quite sufficiently to offset the increased size of the latter, since beauty, as well as quality and quantity, has its price.

As to the dairy qualities, from the Guernsey cow's increased size is expected an increased weight of milk, and, as is contended, richer and superior for butter. And yet, according to the Royal Jersey Agricultural Report for 1878, at the dairy show of that year, in London, the prize medal for butter was awarded to that made from Jersey cows as the best from the Channel Islands. If there is any difference in hardness of constitution, heatiness of appetite, or adaptability to acclimation, none is apparent. For continuous vigor of produce, judging from rumors afloat here, and the limited data at hand, an inference might be drawn unfavorable to the Guernsey cow, but why her productive days are less—if they are—no sufficient reason is offered. Thus it would appear that for real worth there is little, if any difference, between these breeds. But if the choice is to turn upon a handsome cow, to adorn a gentleman's dairy, and ornament his table with delicious cream and gilt-edge butter as well, fancy would undoubtedly select a Jersey. For this reason, it may be, it is that England—to whom these islands are near by and equally known, and loyal—imports by far the largest number from Jersey.

St. Helier's, Jersey, March 3.

—Country Gentleman.

Our attention has been called by Mr. Ogden, M. P., for Guysborough, to a statement recently published of the sales of the produce of a Duchess cow belonging to Senator Cochrane, of Hillhurst, Compton, Q. The facts are sufficiently remarkable to arrest the attention of our readers:—

A GOLD MINE IN A COW.—WHAT THE "TENTH DUCHESS OF AIRDRIE" HAS DONE FOR HER OWNER.

One of the most remarkable cows on record is the "10th Duchess of Airdrie," owned by Hon. Mr. Cochrane, which has just given birth to her ninth calf, a red heifer, to be named the "8th Duchess of Hillhurst," by 3rd Duke of Onclida. Of the 10th Duchess and her daughter's calves, Mr. Cochrane has sold the following animals at the prices named:—In the winter of 1875 the bull calf, 4th Duke of Hillhurst, at \$7,000; at public auction in Toronto, June 16th, 1875, the bull calf, 5th Duke of Hillhurst, two months old, at \$8,000, and the heifer Airdrie, Duchess 5th, eight months old, at \$18,000; at auction sale in Toronto, June 14th, 1876, the cow Airdrie, Duchess 2nd, at \$21,000, and the heifer Airdrie, Duchess 3rd, at \$23,600. In August, 1877, privately, the heifer 6th Duchess of Hillhurst, at \$12,000; and at public sale at Bowness, Windermere, England, September 4th, 1877, the heifers 3rd Duchess and 5th Duchess of Hillhurst, at 4,100, and 4,300

guineas each, or \$20,500 and \$21,500 respectively, making a total of \$131,600 for eight animals sold. He has still in his possession, besides the 10th Duchess, Airdrie Duchess 4th, 7th Duke, and 7th and 8th Duchess of Hillhurst, five animals, and has lost four animals by death. The above result has perhaps never been equalled by any one animal at the same age. In December, 1875, an offer of \$25,000 for the 10th Duchess was refused, and the same for her daughter, Airdrie Duchess 4th. Since then the old cow has brought three heifers and one bull; two of the heifers have been sold for \$33,500, and there still remain the bull and the heifer just dropped, besides the dam, who will probably breed a number of calves yet.

POTATOES.—Hon. Hiram Black has forwarded to Halifax from this station, 1100 bushels of potatoes.

S. E. Freeman, Esq., has lately sent 1400 bushels from this station, and 800 bushels from Nappan and Maccan, to the same city.

Mr. Stephen Ripley recently sent 350 bushels from here to Halifax; and Mr. Rufus Embree 400 bushels to St. John.

The prices delivered at cars have been 40 to 45 cents, and for some of best quality 50 cents.—*Amherst Gazette*.

MALAGASH, April 14th, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—I received the cheque for the Government Grant of our Society; also, the Reports of Central Board. I noticed in looking over the statement of registered thorough-bred cattle within the bounds of each of the Agricultural Societies, that our Jersey bull, Round Robin, 101, was not included. I sent the return. Our Society is anxious to know what is the reason that he was not entered. Please publish in next JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, and oblige

WESLEY J. TREEN, Sec'y.

[The Return was not received.—ED. J. OF A.]

MR. BROWN'S JERSEY.—CLL. AZTINBAR, 321. Dropped 25th April, 1878. Weighed 4th Nov., 1878, 460 lbs. Gain.

"	4th Dec.,	"	470	"	10 lbs
"	4th Jan., 1879,	"	520	"	50 "
"	4th Feb.,	"	560	"	40 "
"	4th Mar.,	"	615	"	55 "
"	4th April,	"	695	"	80 "

CHARLES E. BROWN.

Yarmouth, April 4th, 1879.

"HAPPY THOUGHT."—This is the Pelagium introduced about five years ago in this country with leaves having white discs and green margins—just reversing the markings of the old silver-margined varieties. We have raised quite a number of seedlings from it, but not one has ever shown a sign of variegation. We have never learnt whether this variety is a "sport" from an old variety, or whether it was produced directly from seed. It would be interesting to know.—*Rural New Yorker*.