

**Imported Knight of the Garter (53094).**

The subject of our sketch is red, calved April, 1886, bred by A. Cruickshank, Sittyton, Aberdeen, Scotland, the property of Mr. James I. Davidson, Balsam, Ont., sire Dunblane (47792), 1st dam Rose of Knowlmore, by Knight of Knowlmore (22055); 2nd dam Red Violet, by Allan (21172), 3rd dam Violet. This family is well known, being the oldest at Sittyton. It came there in 1837, and since that time has produced many bulls that have been extensively used in the herd. If showyard honors are a guarantee of merit, this family certainly must rank high, very few tribes showing the same record at the leading shows of England and Scotland. Mr. Davidson in past years has

cows as these demonstrate the great value of the Cruickshank cattle. Mr. Davidson, as well as his son, Mr. John Davidson, have long been well known as breeders of good Clydesdales, and have many times won showyard honors. At the present time they have some good young stallions and brood mares on hand. Among the mares is Boydston Lass (2388), which with her colt last fall won the FARMER'S ADVOCATE pitcher, given at the Ontario Central for the best draft mare with foal by her side. A yearling and a two-year-old stallion, owned by Mr. John Davidson, have also distinguished themselves in the leading show rings of Ontario.

**Ideals in Stock Raising.**

BY JOHN DRYDEN, M. P. F.

Few men in life accomplish great results without some settled purpose—without some definite

tion by the exercise of his literary talent without some definite idea of what he proposed to accomplish. Without some settled conviction, some clear results to be reached, his effort could never command attention. The sculptor or painter could hardly be expected to astonish the world by his art unless he knew beforehand what he sought to produce. Neither could the builder erect a perfect building without some design or plan matured as an ideal in his own mind, or committed to paper from the mind of another.

These are surely self evident statements, and is it not equally evident that the breeder must inevitably fail unless he, too, sets before him some design, some ideal to which his aim is constantly directed. He may not reach his ideal. Obstacles and difficulties will constantly present them-

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THE PROPERTY OF MR. JAMES I. DAVIDSON, BALSAM, ONTARIO.

imported one hundred and eighty-five Short-horns from the famous herd at Sittyton, which have given such good satisfaction that he intends to make another large importation this fall, perhaps the largest and best he has ever made. At the present time he has twenty Cruickshank Shorthorns in his stables. In November last he bought three females from Mr. Geo. B. Briston, Rob Roy, all descended from imported Village Girl, which Mr. Davidson sold him in 1875 for \$1,000. Village girl is now in her eighteenth year, and will drop her sixteenth calf next month. Mr. Briston has sold descendants from this cow amounting to \$3,800, and has a good herd of them left. Mr. Davidson imported Rosemary the same year as Village Girl. She has produced fifteen calves, and several of them have never been beaten in the Canadian or American show rings. Such

object is kept before them. In no calling does this rule apply more directly than in the breeding and rearing of domestic animals. Past history records the results of the life work of men now known the world over, who, following this vocation always kept before them some ideal at which they were aiming. Bakewell, Colling, Mason, Bates, Booth, Cruickshank, and others, whose names are familiar in breeding circles, all have achieved success, and in each case for the same reason.

An ideal animal was in the minds of these men, and every effort was directed to produce in the flock or herd its exact likeness. Evidently the ideal was not the same in every case, for the results were not the same, but the success of each was measured by the nearness of approach to the standard set up.

An author could not hope to produce a sensa-

self. Disappointment will tend to discourage and dishearten. Yet the fact remains, unless the ideal is there, everything is governed by chance and haphazard. In the end he is sure to lose all that may be temporarily gained.

Is it not true that our Canadian farmers need much education and direction in this line? How few there are, who, when they have determined to make a purchase, have any definite idea what their purchase ought to be like. How few there are who are qualified to make a selection necessary to achieve success. How great is that number who simply buy because another man buys; who blindly follow the tastes and notions of others, when they may not know to what end their course is tending. They may have a partial ideal, but it is not founded on *well considered reasons*. It is not accepted because of its especial fitness for their circumstances. Hence