

Our Scottish Letter.

Work is so pressing just now, that I have no time to do justice to the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE by writing anew. The following extract from a lecture delivered lately at West Calder, on Clydesdales from 1871, may be of interest to some Canadian readers:—

"In the year 1873, the Highland Society held a very fine show at Stirling. The late Alexander Galbraith's great chestnut horse Topsman (886) was first aged stallion, followed by a horse of quite a different type, the late Samuel Clarke's Young Lorne (997). The produce of Lochfergus Champion were figuring in the showyards about this date. He was not a sire who created sensations, but for steady, plodding, enduring work he takes very high rank in the Clydesdale records. His representative on this occasion was the late Peter Crawford's Young Scotsman (1030), own brother to the same owner's Scotsman (759), which was three years older. The two most notable horses at this show, however, were not amongst these; they were the third prize three-year-old and the second prize yearling colts. Their names respectively are Time o' Day (875) and Darnley (222). The former was beaten by both Prince of Kilbride (660) and Prince Arthur (623), two big horses; but not many remember them while the little fellow, as he might have been called, can never be forgotten. He was during that season the Falkirk premium horse. In the two following seasons he was the Glasgow premium horse, and in 1875 he was first at one of the grandest shows of the Highland Society ever held in Glasgow. Time o' Day was a horse which made himself look big whenever he came into the show-ring. He never stood wrong. Like his granddaughter, Moss Rose, he understood the business, and faced his audience, meaning to win. He was none of your loose-kneed gentlemen who want a blow under the lower jaw every now and again to make them keep up their heads. He was not over big, but he had the right sort of feet and legs and action, and he lives, while the two big fellows that beat him are all but sunk into oblivion. The dam of Time o' Day was Lily of Drumshang, one of the best mares in Ayrshire, and a well-known prize winner. His sire, Ivanhoe II., was the son of a son of Sir Walter Scott and London Maggie, and a Knockdon prize mare named Brisk. He was the sire of Rosebud, the dam of Moss Rose, of Hatton Bella, the dam of Lord Erskine, of Scottish Princess, the dam of Lord Blantyre—the best stallion bred in Scotland during the past fifteen years, if he were sound—of the Kenmuir Mature, the dam of Gallant Lad, Crown Royal, and the Canadian Bessie Belle, and of the Whittlebury, now the Edengrove, Flora Macdonald, as well as her full brother, the tight, well-coupled, active horse Blantyre. Concerning Darnley, I have nothing more to say than to summarise all that can be said—he is up to this time the greatest Clydesdale stallion of the nineteenth century. The problem before any and all living horses is to break Darnley's record as a prize horse, as a sire of prize winners, and as the sire of the sires and dams of prize winners. It is a threefold cord by which Darnley's record hangs. One strain may go, but still it endures; all must snap before it falls. The mares in 1873 were almost as good as the horses. Keir Rose, a noble mare, but, as I have already hinted, of unknown breeding, was first in the brood class. I cannot say that ever I saw her; but one of the best specimens of a draught mare ever seen by me was her daughter, Keir Young Rose (3658), one of the first of the numerous progeny of Darnley, and dam of the magnificent mare Keir Rose III., so well-known to visitors to Keir as the dam of the stud horse Ethiopia (5750). The Darnley mare had all the wealth of form and substance, and that mysterious breeding-like character so easily recognized in the female progeny of her sire. A gelding of the same age, also by Darnley, was a well-known member of the Keir stud for many years, and his match is more eagerly sought for than found. Ethiopia has good blood in his veins, from his maternal ancestors. Several of the prize winning mares at the show of 1873 were from the Keir stud, and there were also numerous other females of note in the prize list. The first brood mare was the celebrated Knox Rossie, with Dunmore Prince Charlie a foal at foot. Young Darling, half-sister to Prince of Wales, and owned by Mr. Drew, was second brood mare, and the same gentleman was third with a breeder-unknown mare, and fourth with London Maggie, although then fifteen years old. In the mare in foal class Mr. Archibald Johnson, Lochburnie, was the owner of the first three-year-old filly Maggie of Lochburn (800), a superior mare got by Young Campsie (929); but probably the female Clydesdale which attracted most attention was the first two-year-old filly Maggie Craig, exhibited by Mr. W. Craig, Craig Villa, New Cumnock. She was got by the well-known Kintyre breeding horse Largs Jock, and was out of the same dam as a powerful big stallion which subsequently claimed some attention—namely, Ferguson's King William (437). Maggie Craig was unfortunately, for this country, sold for exportation to Australia, and consequently we can only speculate on what she might have done. The first yearling filly was probably the best show mare ever bred in the Lothians. She was bred by Mr. Hardie, Borrowstoun Mains, and eventually becoming the property of Mr. Martin, is perhaps commonly remembered now as the

Auchendennan Rancee, although she ended her days at Montrave. The show of 1873 was the first at which Mr. Drew exhibited mares of unknown breeding, and presumably of English origin. In what time remains to me now, I purpose passing under review the majority of the mares of this class which afterwards appeared in the national showyard, leaving detailed reference to all other prize stock until a more favorable opportunity.

The mare and filly of this class, with which Mr. Drew gained third prizes in 1873, I have not been able to identify. It is not, however, I think, going beyond fair criticism to say that, had they afterwards distinguished themselves as breeding mares, their identity would not have been lost. The tenant of Merryton was not an exhibitor, but he was a judge at the show held at Inverness in 1874. That meeting is probably chiefly noteworthy now, so far as the female classes are concerned, as being the first at which Mr. Andrew Montgomery was an exhibitor. He was third in the class of mares in foal with the good old mare Nanny, bred at Rattray, and got by Lochfergus Champion. At the show held at Glasgow in 1875, Mr. Drew was well forward in the battle, and two of his exhibits were undoubtedly amongst the best mares he ever imported. The first brood mare with foal at foot was the massive short-legged chestnut mare Mary, the dam of the Lord Harry which on the same day was first in the class of yearling colts. Mary was a good example of the best class of English mares—the class, the purchasing of which somewhat extensively by Mr. Drew, first gave the breeders of Shires in Derby and the Midlands, generally, a hint of the type of mares to aim at and breed from. There was something about mares like Mary which, in spite of characteristics not quite after the Scottish pattern, caused them to be viewed with favor by Clydesdale breeders. There was certainly no attempt to boycott them in the Scottish showyards. Often unpopular in color, as we shall see, Mr. Drew's mares never suffered on that account in the show-ring. If today we can trace comparatively little of their influence in our breed, it was not because they were at all handicapped in show competitions. I do not know of any descendants of Mary worthy of recognition in good company, except a mare by Newman, owned by Captain Stewart, of Knockrioch, which has been shown at Ayr; and her companion mare at Glasgow in 1875 I have not been able to identify.

Mr. Riddell gained first prize in every class of stallions at Aberdeen in 1876, his horses being Baron Keir (34), Luck's All (510), King of the Princes (2203), and King o' Scots (1172). Mr. Drew was not an exhibitor—his name does not occur in the catalogue, and I am not able to see that any of the female prize winners came through his hands. The first prize winners were great mares—namely, Garscadden Maggie (41), perhaps the most typical Clydesdale of her time; Mr. James M'Nab's Princess, from Glenochil, a first-class mare, daughter of Prince of Wales and a Tintock mare; the world-famed Kelso Maggie (420); a beautiful Time o' Day mare named Maggie, owned by a veteran breeder, Mr. John Anderson, Smithstown, Cumbernauld; and lastly, the all but invincible Auchendennan Damsel. The show of the Highland Society, held at Edinburgh in 1877, has always been regarded, and justly, by the advocates of an English cross in the Clydesdale as their Flodden. On that occasion Mr. Drew undoubtedly played some of his strongest cards, either directly or indirectly. In the class of mares in foal, three Merryton mares took tickets—namely, first and second prizes, and the very highly commended. He also took the very highly commended in the class of three-year-old fillies, and the fourth prize in the class of yearling fillies. The animals thus decorated were in order—(1) Keir Netty, which at the preceding Merryton sale in April had been purchased by Mr. Alexander Young for Sir Wm. Stirling Maxwell, Bart., at 650 gs., for long the highest price paid for a draught mare at public auction in Scotland, but now eclipsed; (2) the big chestnut mare Sheba, which in the following year was first in the brood mare class at Dumfries, with St. Vincent, a foal, at foot; (3) the best of all the English mares brought into Scotland, namely, the roan mare The Queen; (4) the black three-year-old mare Beatrice; and (5) a brown yearling filly. I have said that this was the Flodden of the advocates of the English blood in Scotland, and here is the proof. The mare which stood third to Netty and Sheba was Garscadden Maggie—be it observed, however, that she had a foal at foot competing with yeld mares. The first prize winners in the other classes were Rancee (244) in the brood mare class, Coltness Sally (170) in the three-year-old class, with the champion of the succeeding year, Lochwood Jess (144) second, the Auchendennan Damsel, and a Strathmore yearling filly registered as Duchess of Glamis (653); and to crown what seemed to be the disasters of the day for the Clydesdale, the judges recommended that Netty's portrait should be painted and hung in the Board room of the Highland Society, and there it is unto this day. I only wish that portraits of Netty and Garscadden Maggie had been taken ten years later, and hung alongside of it. I even wish these portraits could be taken now. Had this been done there would have been less ink spilled writing about the events of 1877 at Edinburgh. Scotchmen are not easily beaten. On this Flodden battlefield the Clydesdale Stud Book was founded.

Between 1877, and his death in 1884, Mr. Drew continued to show mares of the same class. Netty never again appeared in a showyard. Sheba, as has already been said, won at Dumfries in 1878, but subsequently passing into the hands of the late Provost Waddell, she died at Inch a few years later. The Queen continued to be shown with growing popularity at all the shows, and as late as 1883 was first in the brood mare class at Inverness. Of all her class, she offered to breed the best. A yearling colt out of her, and by Prince of Wales, was first at the Glasgow Summer Show in 1881. He is still regarded as perhaps the best yearling exhibited within the past twenty years. Unfortunately, he died shortly after the show in question. At the Merryton dispersion in 1884, the old mare herself was sold to Mr. Alex. Weir, Campbelltown. She bred several foals for him, one of them at least by Prince of Avondale, but none of them has been able to get as far forward as first at the local show. Sheba's only progeny known to me was the big powerful horse St. Vincent, by Prince of Wales. He left useful stock in Cumberland. Netty bred several foals. The best was a dark-brown filly by Newstead, which took prizes at Maryhill and other shows round Glasgow and passed into the Londonderry stud, where her descendants are still to be found.

None of the other English mares imported by Mr. Drew attained to the eminence of those to which reference has just been made. One which attracted more than an average share of attention was a two-year-old filly named Bonnie, which he showed at Glasgow Summer Show in 1876, where she won first prize. Like many more of the same class she became the property of Provost Waddell, but one searches in vain for almost any of the descendants of these mares amongst the prize winners of the past ten years. Time does not admit of fuller details being given, but Merryton mares that deserve honorable mention, ere we proceed to sum up, are—Minnette, the dam of Mr. MacGibbon's Minnie, which stood second to Moss Rose in 1884; Ruby, the dam of Rosebery; Juno, the dam of Prince of Avondale, Pearl of Avondale, and others; Topsy, a London cup winner, the grand-dam of Castle-reagh; that other mare, probably Bella, the grand-dam of Royalist, Darnley's Last, Queen of Hearts, &c.; Jessie Brown, the dam of Prince George of Wales, Prince Imperial, Lord Douglas, and other prize stock, the second best breeding mare of the Merryton class; and Flora, by Lincolnshire Lad, now known in Mr. Lockhart's possession as Galloway Lass, the dam of Grand Duchess, Premier Prince, Clarendon, Princess Royal, Pandora, and Orraland, the best breeding mare ever brought to Scotland from England. There were also several mares got by Tagg's Lofty, otherwise Samuel Clark's Young Lofty (987), brought from Derbyshire, where he travelled for many years. Chief amongst these may be named Countess and Baroness, the former the dam of a filly by Duke of Hamilton (2074), which gained first prize as a two-year-old at Glasgow in 1882, and was exported to Australia. Other mares doubtless there are to which reference might be made, but these are the chief, and the closing question is—Considering their pre-eminence in the show-ring, the character of the horse with which they were mated, and the high positions which the immediate progeny of more than one of them have taken in the showyard, do the results amount to a demonstration that without this outside influence the Clydesdale breed of to-day could not have existed? Observe the question. We are not discussing whether the good stock descended from these mares are really good, but whether as good stock could not have been bred within the Clydesdale family as any which claim kindred with them. The evidence that the reply to this inquiry must be that they have been more indebted to the Clydesdale than the Clydesdale has been to them, seems overwhelming. Possibly there may be exceptions contrary to this proposition, but I cannot recall them. The proposition is—The outstanding good stock tracing descent from Mr. Drew's mares are either in-bred (see Prince Lawrence) or they have a double Clydesdale cross, and of necessity a cross of the Darnley blood. Castlereagh, Royalist, Darnley's Last, Handsome Prince, and Mains of Airies all come under this category. The fillies by Prince of Wales, out of these Merryton mares, appear to have bred much better than the horses. Prince of Avondale may seem an exception to this rule, but his reputation as a breeding horse rests on three animals, all of which are out of typical old-fashioned Clydesdale mares, and the best one of the lot is out of a Darnley mare. In like manner all the prominent stock out of Merryton Prince of Wales mares are by well-bred Clydesdale horses, and nine-tenths of it by Darnley. In fine, it is not too strong an assertion that, taking prize stock and breeding stock as the test, without Darnley the Merryton race of horses would have sunk into oblivion. And therefore the conclusion is inevitable, that the Clydesdale could have survived and reigned supreme without extraneous aid, but the aliens would have gone out of sight but for the Clydesdale. To anyone disposed to make trial of the same methods as the late Mr. Drew, I would not say—Do not attempt it; but I do say that the experience of the past clearly shows that if he means to have any success in his work, and do any good to his neighbors, it is a preliminary *sine qua non* that the experimenter have Clydesdales of a high standard of purity existing alongside of the results of his experiments. SCOTLAND YET."