

years. Sir Charles Knightley and Mr. Crofton accomplished a great deal in improving the form and developing the milking properties of Short-horns.

The Booth family began at Studley, about 1793, with "Teeswaters" and "Twin Brother to Ben" (660); and lengthening the hind-quarters, filling up the fore-flank, and breeding with a view to that fine deep flesh and constitution which bears any amount of forcing, have been their special aim. It is thought by some that modern Short-horns are not so massive in frame, or generally uniform in character, as the earlier herds; but all must acknowledge that for quality of meat, and the weight of the more valuable parts, a marked improvement, rather than deterioration, has been effected. What the brothers Colling were in earlier days, the brothers Booth have been in later. No blood has been more widely spread than that of "Warlabey" and "Killerby," or commanded a finer bull-hiring trade; and it was from "Buttercup," a daughter of "Brampton Rose," and crossed with Booth's "Jeweller," (10,341), that "Butterfly" sprang, chief foundation, with "Frederick" (11,489), of the Towneley herd, whose victories in the store and fat shows combined are wholly without parallel. It is true that North Devon, Herefordshire, Wales, Ayrshire, and the north and east of Scotland continue to maintain the purity and excellency of their respective breeds, but it is not less so that the modern Short-horns have been spread broadcast, and in many cases have superseded the native breeds altogether. More than two-thirds of the fat beasts sold annually in the London market are either pure Short-horns or Short-horn crosses. Beef-making, rather than the production of milk, is now-a-days the leading, if not exclusive, object of the generality of Short-horn breeders; a circumstance easily explained by the high price of butcher-meat in the British markets.

Scotland furnishes a most remarkable example of Short-horn beef development. Mr. Robertson, of Ladykirk, was, perhaps, the earliest patron of the breed when he bought "Broadhooks" from Robert Colling, and "Ladykirk" (355), from Charge. Mr. Rennie, of Phantassie, took a decided lead when the fine arable expanses of East Lothian were only whin and heather. In 1810 he spoke of the breed as "wider and thicker in their form, and therefore yielding the most weight and the greatest quantity of tallow." Mr. Stirling, of Keir, Mr. Boswell, of Kingcausie, and Captain Barclay, of Ury, were among the most distinguished breeders of that day. In 1820 some of the North Highland farmers did not even know a Short-horn by sight, whereas now no less than four first-class Royal English bulls are to be found between Caithness and Stirling, and a small farmer within those limits, only occupying a second-class farm of 130 acres, has been known to give 75 guineas for an eight or nine months' bull-calf. Scottish Short-horns have crossed the Border to some pur-

pose, in their turn. The "Queens" and the "Roses" of Athelstanford were often foremost among the best at the shows of the Royal Agricultural Society. It is calculated that eight-tenths of the immense beef supply from the north of Scotland to the English markets now consists either of Short-horns or their crosses with the native breeds. Even as far north as the Orkney and Shetland Islands the modern Short-horn has found his way, and the cross with the small native breeds has been found exceedingly beneficial. In the Orkneys, where the farmers were working on a mixed foundation of West Highland, Devon, and original Orkney, the price of yearling crosses has been raised by its use nearly 400 per cent. Short-horn progress throughout the meat producing counties of the north and north-east of Scotland has of late years been really surprising. The Forglie breed in Banffshire is quite "crossed out" by them; and in Aberdeenshire nearly every "cross-bred" cow has more strains of pure blood than would satisfy the Herd Book. The breadth of turnips has increased enormously throughout the three "beef counties," and although McCombie's black beasts from the Alford districts have no equals in the Smithfield Christmas market, Buchan has disowned its original blacks and brindles, and has quite fallen into the fashion. The number of Short-horns and their crosses is constantly increasing in these parts, and when well finished for the fat markets will bring from thirty to forty, and even fifty pounds each, from two and a half to three years old. A two-year old steer brought £91 10s. by auction! The bulls are not only used to cross-bred, but also to West Highland and polled cows, making a beautiful cross, and correcting the sluggish maturity of the Galloway blood. The second cross, however, generally falls short both in flesh and milk. These crosses are gradually extending in districts to the north, where it was formerly thought to be impossible for any but the small and hardy natives to exist. In Angus the "polls" have long been retreating before them, which has been the case with the native breeds of Fifehire, and the West Highlanders even have in some measure given way, and are sent south as "fancy cattle" to the English parks.

In Ireland, "Teeswaters" were very early imported, and the influence of that blood has been most beneficial on the cattle of that country, which now boasts of some of the best and purest herds. France and several other European countries have, of late years, extensively cultivated the Short-horns. British breeders have found their best customers in North America, and in the principal colonies of the Empire. Very high prices have been given by enterprising breeders in the States of New York, Ohio, and Kentucky, and in Canada, where Short-horn blood is to be found of the purest and highest quality, while the Australian colo-

nies have exhibited an equally commendable spirit in advancing this important pursuit.

Prices may at times have been wild and fanciful, and 250 guineas may seem an extravagant bull-hire; but still buying good beasts and holding to approved tribes, even at a large outlay, is the most profitable policy in the long run. There is some "method in the madness" which would give 125 guineas for "Oxford 11th" as a calf, 250 guineas for her as a three-year old, and 500 guineas for her as a cow, on the only three occasions that this dam of "Fifth Duke of Oxford"—the first prize aged bull of Chester, and a 300 guinea purchase at six months old—was brought into the sale ring. When we look back to the calm foresight of the brothers Colling, the courageous confidence of Mason, the Rev. Henry Berry, and Whitaker; "Tommy Bates," and all his animated lectures on touch and form in his pastures, or on the show-ground; "A quiet day at Wiston," the dashing cow and heifer contests between Towneley, Booth and Douglas; the victories of "Duchess 77th" and "The Twins;" the dispersion of the late Jonas Webb's herd at the steady paying average of £55 10s. for 145; the brilliant gathering which appraised the "Butterflies;" the £8,180 at Willis's Rooms for seventeen Grand Dukes and Duchesses; and then scan the result in so many fairs and pastures, we may well feel that Short-horns have repaid all the money, thought and labour which have been expended upon them. Still, in one way only can their supremacy be made permanent—by always keeping in mind the rule by which our first breeders have been guided, that "a good beast must be a good beast, however it has come; but that it is to pedigrees alone that we can trust for succession."

Swine—About Breeds.

A writer in the *Rural World* says he has bred and fattened the following breeds of hogs, and found some of all sorts good, but not uniform in their fattening tendencies: First trial with the China, then the Woburn or Bedford, followed by the Berkshire, Yorkshire, Chester, and lastly the Essex—the latter fully answering all his wishes as a perfect animal. Their early maturity, fine form, aptitude to take on flesh, quick growth, large, well developed hams, the sows prolific and good nurses—these qualities he considers the most desirable in swine. If every farmer in Canada had no swine in their hands but Essex, it would save hundreds of thousands of dollars by the saving of corn, peas, and other food. One other recommendation the Essex hog possesses is freedom from cutaneous diseases, such as mange and measles. All black breeds of swine are less subject to skin diseases than the white, and are altogether more hardy than white hogs.