

Short-horns and Herefords, and with results that would indicate that the latter breed was making certain, if not rapid, progress towards that high state of excellence for which the former has so long been celebrated. And this, we believe, to some extent, to have been the case, notwithstanding a different result was obtained at the late Show. The improvement of other breeds is, most certainly, no disparagement to Short-horns, which have been the objects for so many years of the most careful and scientific attention and liberal expenditure; so much so, indeed, as to place them in the first class for general purposes.—“The Short-horn cattle (observes the *Mark Lane Express*) of this year carried away the chief prize in the gold medal, as the best beast of any breed, most justly; thus raising that celebrated breed from the very general imputation of having retrograded for some years past.” This animal was bred and fattened by Mr. R. Stratton of Wiltshire, who has attained great celebrity for his Short-horn stock, which seems characterised for general usefulness. The *Express* remarks, “that much more refined Short-horns are found than Mr. Stratton’s;—finer and more glossy in the skin, and more fashionable and attractive in the color; but for general purposes no equal competitor has yet appeared.” • • • “The Short-horn cattle have been exhibited in a more refined manner than in the Show of this year, but never more usefully. The carcasses have been much more fattened, but better frames of beef have not often appeared.” A very superior Short-horn Cow was shown as extra stock, which won the silver medal. Her colour was most fashionable, and her carcass handsome, almost beyond a fair equality.

In Herefords the first prize, for animals not over three years, deservedly went to Lord Radnor, and for animals above that age the prize was awarded to a very superior animal of great width and rotundity of carcass. There were some good cows shown of this breed. “The Hereford cattle (observes the *Express*) have, certainly, been very much better exhibited than in the show of this year, and more especially the oxen of that breed.” The unsuccessful animals are said to have had, as a class, more relative merit than the prize beasts.

In Devons the chief prize went to the Earl of Leicester, for an ox under three years old. “The appearance was neat and feminine, almost beyond example, and the carcass was fleshy in a uniform covering. The twist was narrow, as happens with the Devon cattle. The *Holkham* cattle are known by their very compact symmetry and general contour.” Among the cows and heifers of this beautiful and symmetrical breed there were several samples of rare excellence. “The Devon cattle (says the *Express*) were well exhibited, though wanting the curly coat of hair and thick gelatinous skin in the stock of Mr. Quartly, which never failed to attract our attention, and always obtained a superior notice. The *Holkham* animals are too small, too silky in the skin, and too thin in the hairy covering. The symmetry is unquestionable. • • • • One opinion has long maintained, that the Devon cattle being enlarged in the size, widened in the twist, with upright buttocks, and the horn reduced to one-third of the present length, and retaining the symmetry now possessed, would exhibit a *ne plus ultra* specimen of animal organization in the genus of cattle.”

In the cross breeds there was nothing deserving very special notice, except a few good specimens of Galloway and Highland steers. The Scotch cattle were badly exhibited, particularly the Argyle breed. Two good specimens were shown of Long-horn Cows, one of which obtained a prize. The length of body of this breed is the chief and almost the only recommendation; the lightness of the forequarters sinks the animal into neglect. A most handsome Durham and Galloway Scott heifer, polled, and beautifully variegated in color, obtained a prize. The *Gazette* remarks that “these breeds ought to be more highly encouraged than they are,—not perhaps by such societies as the English Agricultural Society, which aims at the improvement of breeds, but by the Smithfield Club, which aims at improvement in the quality of the beef. There is, at all events, a fair claim on their behalf for equal patronage, but this they do not receive, and the expense of conveying animals such long distances as their exhibitors have to incur, ought to be taken into account.”

The sheep department was more than usually