

The Breeder and Grazier.

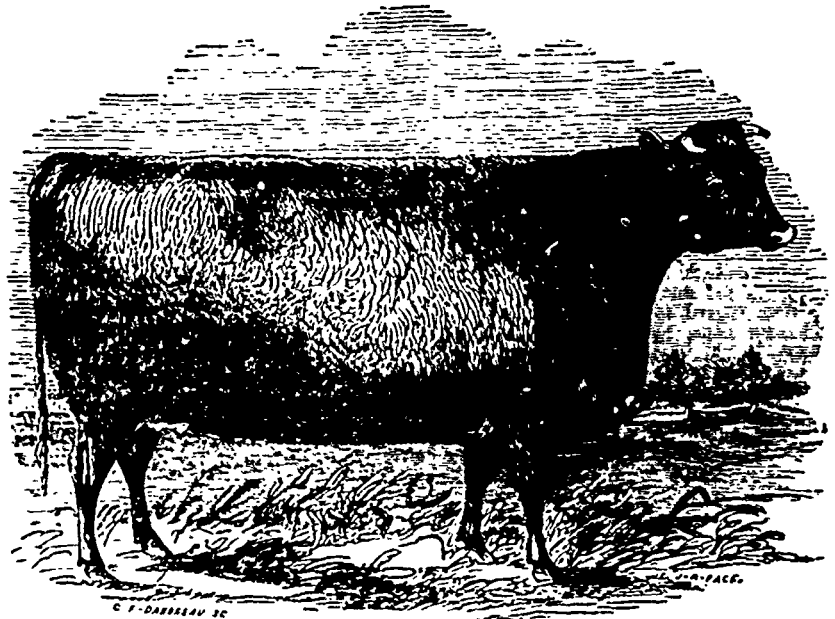
Regularity in Feeding.

FARMERS would do well to bear constantly in mind that next to a sufficient supply of nutritious food, is *strict regularity in feeding*. The horse, and domestic animals generally,—not even excepting the pig,—have an instinctive capability of keeping time; that is, they know by the natural promptings of their appetite, when the meal hour arrives, and this is the case particularly, when they have been accustomed to *regular feeding*. Animals when fed irregularly, and insufficiently, always manifest a fretful and uneasy feeling, which is very inimical to a healthy and thrifty condition. If they are supplied at regular intervals, with a sufficient amount of suitable food, they will keep perfectly quiet during the intervals and evince no fretfulness or desire for food, till the regular period for feeding approaches, and this is a state most essential to their comfort and well doing. As soon as an animal begins to worry, from whatever cause, it will decline in weight and condition. This result is always apparent where cattle of different strength and ages, are kept loose in a yard together, the stronger and older will worry the weaker and younger. No amount or quality of food, can make up for irregular periods of feeding. With fattening stock, which require to be kept uniformly quiet and in good temper, this is strikingly apparent. We have often seen cattle kept in good condition, upon a smaller amount of food, of the same quality, than has been consumed by others that have made much less progress; and the cause has been, that the former have been fed punctually and systematically, and the latter just the reverse. The practice of throwing a large quantity of hay, or any other food to cattle, once or twice a day, and allowing them to have a scramble for it, as is not infrequently the case, is wasteful and exceedingly detrimental.

There is no department of rural economy that requires, perhaps, so much close and systematic attention, and the exercise of a sound and enlightened judgment, as the breeding and management of farm stock; and particularly when they are in a state of artificial confinement during the winter months. Not only is strict punctuality as to the time of feeding imperatively required, but the amount, and to some extent, even the quality of the food should be varied to meet the changing conditions of temperature, humidity, and other physical agencies affecting the progress and well being of animal life. In sharp, dry, frosty weather, cattle require a larger amount of food, richer in both carbonaceous and nitrogenous ingredients, than when the atmosphere is warm and humid. But, how often does it happen from carelessness or ignorance, that sometimes they are starved, and at others made to fast; both conditions being opposed to a healthy state of progress.

We observed the other day, half a dozen cows in excellent condition, and yielding a large supply of milk, kept on a variety of food, mainly the produce of eight acres. Here cleanliness and strict regularity in feeding, are carefully practised, with all necessary attention to warmth and ventilation. With a moderate quantity of chopped hay and straw twice a day, are given a few mangolds or carrots; the other meal consisting of steamed hay and straw, and linseed, with a little corn meal, forming a warm and nutritious diet. In another direction, we found a considerable herd of cattle, on a large farm, in a miserable plight, partly owing to insufficiency of food, but more to neglect and irregular feeding. Some of the cows would evidently have great difficulty, whatever attention may now be paid them, in getting through calving. With the addition of a few roots, there was sufficient hay and straw on this farm, to carry the stock through the winter, if sufficient care and judgment had been exercised, in comparative comfort. The housing or protection was also bad. How is it possible for people to succeed in matters of this sort, who persistently act in opposition to the ordinary laws of nature?

Best One-Year-Old Heifer at the Provincial Show, Hamilton, 1864.



PRINCESS OF ATHELSTANE.

THE accompanying illustration will afford our readers a general idea of the very promising young animal which formed a part of the valuable importation of Short-horn stock made by the Hon. David Christie during the autumn of last year, and which were so much admired by the numerous visitors at the last Provincial Exhibition. It will be seen from the accompanying pedigree that the Princess of Athelstane inherits the best blood from both sides, and should she progress as well as she has began, and no casualty occur, she will doubtless become a valuable acquisition not only to her enterprising owner, but to the country at large.

PRINCESS OF ATHELSTANE.

Red; calved July 6, 1863; bred by Mr. James Douglass, Athelstanesford, Scotland; imported in 1864 by and the property of Hon. D. Christie, Brantford, C.W.; got by Watchman (17216), dam Queen of Athelstane by Sir James the Rose, (15290); g. d. Playful, by 4th Duke of York (10167); g. g. d. Place 3rd, by 4th Duke of Northumberland (3649); Place 2nd by Duke of Northumberland (1940); Place 1st by second Earl of Darlington (1945); Place by son of second Hubback (2682); a cow of Mr. Bates', Kirklevington.

Question of Contagion Settled.

THE Governor and Council directed the cattle commissioners to isolate a certain number of animals that had been exposed to the pleuro pneumonia, and to test the contagiousness of the disease. This was done, and two cows taken fresh from uninfected districts put into the barn alongside.

On the 17th of January, one of these cows that had shown no signs, even, of a cough, was attacked with lung disease, and was quite sick for eight days. On Feb. 1st, the other cow that had been coughing, and whose cough still continues, first showed the usual symptoms of pleuro pneumonia, and on the 6th inst. was thought very severely affected, so much so that her recovery was considered very doubtful. The cow has been growing worse up to this date, the 11th, though efforts have been made to save her.

The experiment has shown that the disease is unquestionably contagious, that the period of incubation is still uncertain, showing that the release of animals that have been exposed to the disease, and isolated in consequence, is extremely dangerous.

True this same thing has been proved in the most conclusive manner, in this State, many times over but a skeptical member of the council insisted upon another expensive trial, which, though not ended, has shown in a most satisfactory and unmistakable manner that the disease is highly contagious.—*Ploughman*.

PRODIGIOUS IN HORSE FLESH.—From the high rates of the North Eastern Railway, coupled with the late fearful accident upon the incline between Malton and Whitby, various companies of omnibuses were started to run through the wild moors to the latter terminus. One company, entitled the Whitby and Castleton, came to grief, and upon Saturday week, under the hammer of Messrs Turner and Mead, the following prices for the stud respectively were realised: No. 1, 2l. 4s.; No. 2, 1l. 15s.; No. 3, 1l. 19s.; No. 4, 1l. 10s., making the grand total of 6l. 14s. Compare this with Mr. Chaplin's princely price of 11,000l. for two horses, and our readers must acknowledge there are ups and downs in horseflesh as in every other condition of English life. There used to be a very varmint pack of hounds trencher fed, called the Cleveland or "Rousby Chap's dogs." We hope they had a good feed off the effects of the sale.—*Field*.

FLESH IN VEGETABLES.—All vegetables, especially those eaten by animals, contain a certain portion of flesh; for instance, in every hundred parts of wheaten flour there are ten parts of flesh; in a hundred of Indian corn meal there are twelve parts of flesh, and in a hundred of Scotch oatmeal there are eighteen parts of flesh. Now, when vegetable food is eaten, it is its fleshy constituents alone that we are indebted for restoring to the body what it has lost by muscular exertion. "All flesh is grass," says the inspired writer, and science proves that this assertion will bear a literal interpretation. No animal has the power to create from its food the flesh to form its own body; all the stomach can do is to dissolve the solid food that is put into it; by and by the fleshy portion of the food enters the blood, and becomes part of the animal that has eaten it. The starch and sugar of the vegetables are either consumed—burned—for the production of warmth, or they are converted into fat, and laid up in store as future food, when required. Grass consists of certain fleshy constituents, starch and woody fibre. If a cow, arrived at maturity, eats grass, nearly all or the whole, of its food can be traced to the production of milk; the starch of the grass goes to form fat—butter—and the flesh appears as casein, or cheese. When a sheep eats grass, the flesh of grass is but slightly modified to produce mutton, while the starch is converted into fat—suet. When a man eats mutton or beef, he is merely appropriating to his own body the fleshy portion of grass, so perseveringly collected by the sheep or oxen. The human stomach, like that of a sheep or ox, has no power to create flesh; all that it can do is to build up its own form with the materials at hand. Iron is offered to a workman, and he builds a ship, makes a watch-spring, or a mariner's compass, according to his wants, but, although he alters the form and texture of the material under his hand, yet its composition remains the same. So as regards flesh, although there be but "one flesh of men, another of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds," yet their ultimate composition is the same, all of which can be traced to the grass of the field, or a similar source. Flesh, then, is derived from vegetables, and not from animals; the latter being merely the collectors of it. And, as though the plant knew that some future destiny waited the flesh which it makes, it will not use a particle of it to construct a leaf, a tendril or a flower, but lays it all up in the seed.—*Pieese*