

Pedigree.

There were many causes at work which led to the wholesale overthrow of the malcontents, when at the meeting of the Dominion Shorthorn Association it was resolved to keep the standard at the elevated notch, adopted when the fusion of the older herds took place. It was felt that yet another change would at least fasten on Shorthorn men the cynic's remark, *varium et mutabile semper Femina*—"a shifting and changeable thing always is woman"—and however anxious to conciliate and averse to persecution, the men convened at the St. Lawrence Hall were in their innermost souls simply ashamed to change again. All who had not suffered in their own stables felt thus, and many who had so suffered scorning to whine, advocated by their silence—one, Mr. Graham, by his eloquence—the policy of the Medes and Persians. It was well that special grievances should be aired, and be done with; and it is noticeable that very little was said on the side of those who opposed alteration. Feeling that there must be an overwhelming preponderance against the admission of any particular animal or animals, in breach of universal rule, the majority could afford to rest on their oars without rubbing it in, and what little acrimony there was displayed, therefore fell harmless, as it amounted only to kicking the air. In the hearts perhaps of many present, who remembered the broad backs and shapely loins, the long quarters, deep shoulders, and intelligent heads of the animals at home thus doomed to class only as grades in the future, while many a beast of no pretensions to beauty or excellence of any kind was to lord it over a first-prize rival by virtue of the book, there was no doubt an unspoken tendency to sneer at pedigree. Says the Druid, "A beast may be a good beast, however he is got; but it is to pedigree alone that we can look for succession." Though many of the rejected animals are doubtless as thoroughbred as the 4th Duke of Clarence or the Earl of Marr, and every bit as likely to transmit their individual excellence, the proof of pedigree is absent. To rule these animals in, and less presentable animals out, would be at once adopting an optional scale of preference which was impossible. They had, therefore, to be sacrificed on the altar of club law, which knows no distinction and favoritism. We may be sure that there was not a member of the revising committee who would not feel anxious to make wrong right if he could—and to them and to the officers of the association we would say, having applied the axe to the root of the tree, beware that you do not let branches escape. It is to carelessness on the part of the executive officers that those mistakes in the British American book are due which prevented that book being continued, and so in necessitating a new book, gave rise to a contemporaneous change of standard, and caused all the trouble. To those who understand the labor of going over a pedigree, tracing each bull to a legitimate foundation, it must be obvious that the revising committee can only adjudicate on such pedigrees as are found doubtful or defective by their paid officers. Verifying admitted pedigrees is altogether out of their power. Each animal has two parents, four grand-parents, and the rise through eight, sixteen, thirty-two, and sixty-four to one hundred and twenty-eight is a matter to be thought of only with profound respect for those amateurs whose leisure or patience suffice for the job, and in the case of paid officials with an equally profound hope that they do not slur over their duties. The rules must be of universal application. No doubtful animal must be passed without the owner being called upon to make the detected *hiatus* good. No fear of results

must stay the axeman's hand. There must be no "forced balances," no erring on the side of leniency. The strict letter of the law, and nothing else must be practised: and present sufferers have a right to insist that nothing shall be taken for granted. On Mr. Denison and Mr. Wade there rests a great responsibility, and they must remember that their goings out and comings-in are henceforth the subject of a jealous watchfulness; sure to detect error, and to bring it home to them in no forbearing spirit.

Over and above some natural impatience at the insistence upon pedigree (which resembles the swallowing of a black draught, remedial if disgusting), there is, we fear, in some quarters, where more intelligence would be expected, undisguised contempt for it. But at the risk of incurring the charge of sentimentality we would say, must there not always attach to a high-bred animal some of the halo of its ancestors' celebrity? What more natural than to overlook slight individual defects in the unavoidable respect one has for a lean heifer who can boast perhaps of a faultless \$20,000 grandsire? Blue blood does not mean in cows as in the human family, that the individual is descended from a long line of ancestors bred and crossed at their own sweet will, regardless always of mental, and not infrequently of physical, defects. The ancestors have each reached the position of a landmark in the herd-book by sheer excellence of make and shape, and as like begets like or the likeness of an ancestor, the lean heifer may throw a calf unlike herself. There is always the hope of it; there is often the realization of the hope. But of course the strong-minded breeder will insist on both, on individual excellence and on that pedigree which best promises the continuance of it. We would never advise a young man starting in life to buy a heifer in spite of its faults because it had the Duke of Clarence or the Duke of Connaught for grandsire. We would rather counsel the purchase of a better heifer with a less illustrious pedigree table. For those breeders who retain inferior heifers, because they know the excellence of their forefathers, we make every allowance. Those beginners who even buy on this principle have our sympathy as many others have it who in giving play to the imagination point the moral that man was not intended to live by bread alone. There was to be some little luxury mixed with his daily ration of the necessities of life. Q.

Breeding and Feeding Draught Horses.

Below we give the practice adopted by the Messrs. J. & A. Bell, Athelstane P. O., Huntingdon, P. Q., in the feeding and management of draught horses. These gentlemen have been very successful in the breeding of good horses, and success is usually the result of judicious practice.

They breed their mares at three, as a rule. The colts come in the spring usually. They do all the work with breeding mares, but do not like working mares very hard when suckling colt. Before foaling they work them carefully, and up till the time of foaling. One result is that but few colts are lost. They do not favor having them served very early in the season, as there will be difficulty in getting them with foal. In winter they let them out of their loose box-stalls twice a day, leaving them out an hour at a time, when the weather is fine. The foals suck the dam for about five or six months. The mares that do not work while suckling foals only get grass. If the colts come early, they feed the mare a mixture of ground oats, barley and bran in the proportion of three parts bran, two oats and one barley. The oats and barley are ground together in the proportion just named. They are fed sparingly at first, about 6 quarts of the mixture three times a day,

and take this off gradually as they are returned out to grass. Foals, when young, should not be left out in the cold dews, nor in cold rains. The effects of the hot sun are very injurious; so that from 9 to 4 they should be in out of the sun, and not out at all in rain for the first two months. The only grain ordinarily which they get is by feeding along with the mare. In being weaned they are put in and not let out for some time. They may be left out in the day when entirely weaned, but not at night at all the first autumn. After weaning they are fed oats, in the morning 1 quart, and this is increased, but never beyond 2 quarts. The noon feed consists of ground barley and oats, about 1½ quarts of it. At night they get 1½ quarts, but one half of it is bran. Toward spring the night feed is frequently boiled, consisting of barley and peas, ½ of the latter, and dried with bran stirred in, and fed a little warm with a little flax-seed meal added. When fed cold the flax-seed is steeped for about six hours. In spring they are turned out in the day and brought in at night till weather gets warm. The hay is timothy and clover. The second summer they get grass, the horse colts being kept in box-stalls large and roomy. They are then fed from cut hay or oats and peas also, given gradually, increasing the feed, but of the same ration.

The second winter the same kind of feed is fed, the quantities being increased. The morning meal consists of 3 quarts whole oats; at noon they get 3 quarts of the mixture, and at night 3 quarts, but when roots are fed it is at night, about 4 quarts of roots if potatoes, but if turnips or carrots a little more. They get all the salt they want, which the Messrs. Bell are satisfied has a tendency to prevent them from taking cold.

The mares are not fed so heavily. The third winter they get simply a little more than the second winter, *but of the same kind of feed*. The stallions, when being fitted for spring service, get the same kind of feed. They get a handful of grain; flax-seed once a day for about 2 weeks, commencing sometime in March, and during the season of service they get hay three times a week. They get oats morning and evening, gauged by the appetite and wants of the horse. They are fed the mixed feed once a day, and during the season they get a handful of oatmeal in their drink, and a feed of 4 quarts of potatoes about three times a week.

The Shorthorns of Springburn Farm.

But few men, perhaps, have a full idea of the controlling influence of association. Unconsciously it weaves around us its warp, and before we are aware of it we are inveigled in its meshes. In other ways than in morals it matters a good deal as to the sort of neighborhood in which we live, for we become affected by the practices of those around us in material things, for the better or the worse.

This makes plain what would otherwise be unaccountable, the fact that in some counties of Canada pure bred stock is numbered by the thousands, and in others of them they have not as yet reached the hundreds, although the inhabitants of both localities in intelligence are much on a par.

It is a great matter, then, as to the direction which movement in the line of improvement takes. If the common standard is low, improvement will be slow, but if a few resolute spirits aim high in any neighborhood, it will be well for that neighborhood in the end, for the electric power which animates them will be communicated more or less to one and another on every side. If the ambition in any neighborhood is simply to make money without regard to future results, the standard of agriculture will not be high, but if that ambition takes the direction at the same time