

Stock Department.

"Bolivar," the Favorite Short-Horn of the Year in Great Britain.

It will doubtless be interesting and instructive to Canadian farmers and stock-breeders to compare our own prize animals occasionally with successful candidates for honours in the show yards of Great Britain. We have, therefore, much pleasure in presenting our readers with the accompanying portrait of "Bolivar," which the *Farmer* (Scottish) says "may be justly considered the crack short-horn bull of this season." For our illustration and the following brief account we are indebted to the same excellent journal:

Bolivar, the favourite yearling bull, was bred by Mr. Joseph Meadows, Thornville, Wexford, and his first appearance in public was made at the last Spring Show of the Royal Dublin Society, which was held this year during the second week after Easter. He was at that time just a year old, but possessed great substance for his age. On that occasion he won the first prize in the yearling bull class, in which there were no less than 108 animals of the same age entered, many of them being of a very good description. The Towneley, or *Irish Farmers' Gazette* Plate, value £105, was also awarded at that time to Bolivar, as the best of all the prize animals of any age, sex, or breed in the cattle sections exhibited at the show.

His next appearance was at the Leicester Show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, held last July. At Leicester, Bolivar sustained his early honours, having been put first in the yearling bull class, which numbered twenty-three entries, being a very superior class, and the propriety of the award was universally allowed, not a

few going even the length of saying he was the best animal in the yard.

Bolivar was not exhibited at the Yorkshire meeting, but Mr. Brierly, Rhodes House, Lancashire, who had purchased him soon after the Leicester show for 300 guineas, brought him out at the show of the Keighley Society, August 21, where, amongst other first-class bulls, he had to compete against Mr. Jonathan Peel's Knight of Knowlmore, a bull which is nearly five years old, and which had been second in the aged class at Leicester, to Mr. Booth's Commander-in-Chief, beating Commander-in-Chief, however, when shown subsequently at the Wetherby meeting of the Yorkshire Society.

At the show of the Halifax and Calder Vale Society, which was held at Halifax on the 29th Sept., Bolivar was not only first in the yearling class, but carried off also the Vice President's Cup as the best male short-horn exhibited.

The last appearance of Bolivar was at the show of the Manchester and Liverpool Society, held at Southport on the 1st October. At Southport he had to contend, amongst others in the yearling class, with Mr. Lynn's Grand Sultan, a son of Prizeman (24,870); Lady Pigot's Rosolio, the second prize yearling bull

at Leicester; Mr. Dickinson's Buxton, by 10th Grand Duke, from a Lord Oxford dam; and Mr. Peel's Baron Beust, by Knight of Knowlmore, from a dam by Prince Imperial—all formidable rivals. Bolivar, however, again got the first place.

Bolivar's points are a capital style of head, a long symmetrical frame, exquisite quality of flesh, and a rare coat of rich, mossy hair. During the early part of the year, and until after the Leicester show, the roan colour of his coat had a peculiar dingy appearance, but that has now given place to a new one of the richest blooming roan hue. He is chiefly of Booth and Mason blood.

Weaning Colts.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—As I have had some experience in weaning colts, allow me to tell your correspondent "Gosford" what I have found to be a "good way." Put the colt and its mother in a stable; tie both side by side to a manger, in a wide stall; have nothing between them; give them an adequate supply of nutritious aliment for a few days, and the thing is accomplished. I prefer this way, because it prevents fret-



"BOLIVAR," the Property of Joseph Meadows, Thornville, Wexford, England.

ting, on the part of the mare and colt both, and, as the Irishman expresses it, about two pigs in the same pen, the one encourages the other to eat; so that the colt is not reduced in condition, as is too often the case during the weaning process. This mode of treatment helps to halter-break the colt, too, if it has not previously been done.

Another plan I have sometimes adopted, when I did not want to stable the colt—that is, started the old folks away on a visiting tour for a week or so with the mare, leaving the colt in the pasture-field with other colts; thus the two are out of hearing distance of each other, until the young one forgets its baby notions.

Newburgh, Nov. 9th, 1868.

The above directions are in accordance with those given in the following extract from the *Rural World*:

"When a colt is about four months old, if he has had proper care and training, and if the dam is to be used in harness, or if she is breeding again, he is old enough to be weaned. Supposing, as most farmers are obliged to do, that the mare has had to work more or less since dropping her foal, and that the colt has been allowed to follow the dam when at work—the attachment between the two has become

very strong. If separated entirely and at once, and if the mare is nervous and high-strung, she will, perhaps, refuse to work, act frantic, kick, and do everything else she ought not and would not do but for the separation. On the other hand, put the colt into ever so good a pasture, feed him on grain, and do everything you may, he will run up and down by the fence, perhaps try to scale it, etc., to get to the dam, until he has run off every bit of flesh on his bones. Now, what's to be done?"

"We would place the mare in a stall wide enough for her and the colt; then we would halter the colt and tie him so that he could get to the manger but not reach to the teat. It may be necessary, also, to change somewhat the halter of the dam, so that she cannot turn sufficiently to allow the colt to suck. Water the colt freely, but the dam as little as possible, for a few days, at least. If possible, feed the colt a double-handful of oats twice per day for two or three weeks before you attempt the weaning. Increase the quantity of oats a little at weaning time, even if you withdraw the extra ration by-and-by. Standing by the side of his dam he will be more quiet, and, after a little, forget his teat. The mare, also, will leave him more readily in the stable while she labours, especially when she finds him on her return. To facilitate the drying up of the milk in the mare take a little soft soap and smooth it over the udder. It may be necessary to draw out some milk first for a few times, to ease her distress. After a few days, especially if the mare is again breeding, milk will not flow very readily and be diverted naturally to the embryo foal; and, although the mare may call her colt, she will refuse to let him suck. If possible, the colt should have the best of pasture, and the company of other colts of his own age, and the daily allowance of oats, or a handful or two of meal mixed with wheat bran should be given every day.

"The latter years of our life on the farm, we never allowed the colts to follow in the field, but kept them in a loose box in an underground stable during the day. When the mares came home and were watered at night, the colts were allowed a play spell, and also at noon while the dams were feeding. The colts kept in better flesh, and gave a great deal less trouble, at weaning."

"Old Jerry."

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I noticed an article in the last number of the CANADA FARMER, headed "The Oldest Horse." I would just say, I can probably give as correct a history of "Old Jerry" as any of your subscribers. His colour is dark brown, except one white foot and a few white hairs in the forehead. He stands fifteen feet one inch high; girth about six feet three; head small; eye full and sharp; neck well arched; shoulder and arm powerful; deep chest; short, strong, hairy legs; knees inclining, or knock-kneed; ribs well arched; hips smooth; hind-quarters rather narrow; hind legs slightly bent; mane and tail not very heavy. He was quite timid and nervous upon being