

ground of impurity, one of the most noted tribes of the polled breed in existence, namely, the Prides of Aberdeen. I at once join issue with him. This is the extraordinary statement to which I refer:

"I make the deliberate assertion that the first Pride of Aberdeen, the most celebrated cow of the Aberdeen-Angus breed, was not a pure-bred Polled cow. By her dam's side she was as pure as any, I believe; but if Polled means anything in reference to cattle, it means that no horn or horny excrescence of any kind projects from the animal's skull through the hair. Now, Hanton, her sire, had unmistakable scurs, and was, therefore, undoubtedly not a pure polled bull. . . . I dare say to assert that the most famous cow of the Polled Aberdeen Angus breed was not a pure Polled cow will meet with some incredulity, but the question simply is—Is a bull or cow with scurs or other horny excrescence projecting from the skull through the hair on the crown of the head a Polled animal? If so, how is an animal that has no such excrescence from the frontal bone designated? If a bull or cow with such excrescence is to be called a Polled animal, what amount and nature of horny excrescence is allowable for a so-called Polled?"

This rather puerile attack upon the Polled Aberdeen Angus breed, for in attacking the Prides he may be said to be attacking nearly all the prominent families extant, will bring a smile to the faces of those whose acquaintance with the history of the polled cattle has passed the most elementary stage. The fact is well known and admitted that the black Polled Aberdeens, and the black horned Aberdeens, were herded together for many generations, perhaps centuries. And within the recollection of those living, cattle were of little value, comparatively, and no endeavor at that time was made to keep the one strain apart from the other; but notwithstanding the two strains were quite distinct at the time when McCombie appeared on the scene, there being a typical breed of polled cattle as well as the black horned cattle. But it would have been strange indeed if the two strains had never commingled. Recognizing the pre-eminent merits of the polled variety, McCombie and other breeders before him determined that the admirable material that lay at hand should be turned to better account. You know what in his labors have resulted—the production of a breed of cattle that in many important respects outstrips all rivals. For some forty years they have been handled with great judgment by the breeders in Scotland, and without in any way detracting from the merits of the Polled Aberdeen Angus cattle, I may say that the pluck, energy and perseverance of those who have joined their fortunes with "the blackskins" within the period covered by the recollection of the present generation, are in a great measure reflected in the extraordinary career of the breed. That an infusion of the two strains took place at a now pretty remote period has never been denied; it is admitted, in fact, in the only history of the breed that has ever been published, Messrs. Macdonald & Sinclair's. But where will you find a race of cattle showing an uninterrupted descent from one variety of uniform character? In the usual acceptance of the term the Aberdeen Angus cattle are undoubtedly pure. Since they were taken in hand by the early improvers they have been bred with extraordinary care and with equal success. As a breed their type is almost more firmly fixed than is the case in any other race of cattle. No variety exercises so strong an influence in the moulding of their progeny, not even the Shorthorn or Hereford or Devon. That has been a distinctive feature of the Polled Aberdeen-Angus cattle from the first, and it certainly points to the existence of the breed in the "dim and distant" past, and spite of perhaps a slight blending of foreign elements, before the days of McCombie, they were found even in his time a distinct and typical strain by themselves. Mr. Smith's wonderful discovery has, I may assure you, disconcerted nobody on this side of the water; and probably, breeders on your side will also be able to value it at its true worth. Here Mr. Smith is advised by an able critic to inform himself of the elementary aspects of the subject in which he seems to have made so little progress.

The demand for our polled cattle is reviving. Breeders are getting a number of inquiries for their stock. Several buyers from America are at present here (February), and one gentleman, Mr. Christie, of Minnesota, has in Speyside and Morayshire picked up a dozen well-bred polls. At the head of the lot is a very fine ten months old bull-calf from the herd of Sir George Macpherson Grant Bt., of Ballindalloch.

Descended from the celebrated Erica family, he is by Bushman 2011, and out of Elfin 3795, by Elcho 595, and cost his new owner 100 gs. The remainder of the lot are heifers, five of these being from Aberlour Mains herd, and 6 from the Alyric herd. They have been well chosen, and the breeding of the animals is more than usually select.

QUIDAM.

Prince Edward Island Shorthorns.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—In the February number of the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL, in an article headed "The Duty of Shorthorn Breeders in their Relations to the new Herd Book," it is said: "Shall we not expect that friends in the Maritime Provinces will act upon the gentle but constant reminder and register their cattle in our herd book. Although Shorthorns are recorded in a way in these Provinces, the standard (our good friends by the sea will pardon us for saying it), is quite too low. They are placing an embargo on their own Shorthorns, which will hedge them in by a wall running around the provinces higher than that of China, from which there can be no egress to the markets of the world except through the gates which are made for the sale of beef." This may be applicable in respect to the registry of animals of this breed in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but so far as this Province is concerned, I beg to differ from the above, by informing you that for some years I have kept a register for all pure-bred Shorthorns bred or owned on the Island, including those bred on the Government Stock Farm. Of cattle admitted to this register, there is not one, either male or female, but which has eight or more crosses from pure registered bulls, the ancestry, in every instance, both paternal and maternal being traced to direct importation from the old country. The first bull entered as the foundation of the Government herd is Lord Clarence (22135), which was imported in 1864. He was bred by Mr. Wm. Torr, of Aylesby Manor, Lincolnshire, *got by Fitzclarence (14552), dam Lady Hopewell by Hopewell (10332), g dam Lady of the Manor by Highflyer (11576)*. These three bulls were bred by Mr. Robert Booth. His pedigree runs back to the celebrated bull Comet (155), to Mr. Colling's Favorite (252), and Hubback (314). This, perhaps, was, up to that time, one of the finest bulls imported to British America. The animal now standing at the head of the Government herd is Prince Alfred (12436), a massive, well-fleshed bull, with good ancestry. His g. g. sire Baron Oxford 6th (33075). Sir Wm. Lawson bought at one of the Holker sales from the Duke of Devonshire, at a large price. He left a lot of fine useful calves at Brayton, but he sickened, and while men slept, died. In the morning he was lying stark and dead when Sir William came to the Home Farm. With a regretful look the baronet struck off the following epitaph:

"Here lies Baron Oxford 6th,
Quiet and cool,
Bred by a Duke, and
Bought by a fool."

Shorthorns have been imported to this Province from the old country at various times in the last sixty years, but the pedigrees were not properly preserved, so that our registry is unable to date back without flaws or missing links for a longer time than twenty-five years. In one instance since then a magnificent animal was imported of undoubted purity and high breeding, as he himself and all his progeny have shown; but his pedigree in part having a shadow of doubt as to its connectness, *debarred all his offspring from registry*. This action shut out many of our best, and no doubt pure-bred animals; but anticipating that the time would come when such pedigrees would not stand the ordeal they are now being subjected to, we decided to resist all blood that might possibly have a contaminating influence in our records. We have, however, found in one or two instances, to our cost, in breeding Shorthorn cattle, that if a bull is deficient in stamina, shape and constitution, he is the most unworthy of his kind to gain access to a herd, particularly if he is one of those with a long, high-sounding pedigree, for in that case he is much more impressive as a sire, and will transmit his weak and deficient qualities to a greater extent than one not so highly bred. A bull of this description was bought and brought here a few years ago from one of your most noted breeders in Canada, a gentleman who perhaps thinks, notwithstanding his long experience in

cattle breeding, that it may be unnecessary to breed from animals of a thoroughly sound and robust constitution providing their pedigrees show many crosses of the fashionable and aristocratic strains.

Were it possible for the executive committee of the combined herd book association now arranging to so thoroughly review the pedigrees of Canadian Shorthorns, to devise some possible plan by which the miserable, weak, ill shaped brutes, as many are, with pedigrees whose length may be lost in the mists of the past, and whose constitutions are diseased by tuberculosis, could be deprived of admittance to the new herd book, they, it will be conceded by many, would accomplish more for the benefit of this race of cattle than by excluding, as it will be necessary to do, many good animals of merit, through having a short or imperfect record of their breeding.

CHAS. C. GARDINER.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Mr. Gardiner has done the public and our selves a kindness by calling attention to the misconceptions the quoted sentences (unwittingly on our part) would undoubtedly convey. It is our object to state only truth—unvarnished truth—that all parties may be fairly dealt with. We are very much pleased to know that so much has been done in Prince Edward Island to promote a high standard of registry for Shorthorns.

Farming and Stock-Raising Matters in Amaranth.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—Thinking that a few notes on agriculture and improvement in stock-raising, from this part of our Province, would interest many of your readers, I thus assume the responsibility of writing a few jottings to give this township a representation in Canada's great and best stock paper. As a stock-raising district Amaranth is unsurpassed, on account of its great adaptability for pasturage and haymaking. The rearing of horses and cattle is principally the main object amongst our farmers, especially beef cattle, some of which would do credit to Toronto's great Industrial Exhibition. Car-loads of fine cattle are being constantly shipped from Waldemar *via* the Canadian Pacific railway, to Toronto, Montreal, and elsewhere. The monthly cattle fair held at Orangeville (the county town of Dufferin), and adjoining this township, is a grand sight to witness. Dozes of cattle are driven to this fair within a radius of 20 miles, and generally disposed of at good figures. Orangeville is noted for its great fair, as thousands of people flock into it on fair-day.

Of course there is still a great need for improvement in all the branches of farming and stock-raising. But time, which changes all things, will assuredly bring intelligent progress in these branches of agriculture. The scientific farmer who reads farm journals, whose ambition is to rise above the present state of things, continually improving his mind, is the man who will succeed in his calling and profession.

I think your JOURNAL ought to be in the hands of, and highly prized by every intelligent farmer in the Province. A number of them round here take the JOURNAL. I give mine to farmers to induce them to subscribe, and probably some of them have already done so.

J. MCPHERSON,

Waldemar, Ont.

The Journal as an Emigration Agency.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—I am highly pleased with the JOURNAL. I believe it would do more to induce the right kind of emigrants to come to this country if only one-tenth of the money expended in Government pamphlets, and in paying good-for-nothing agents, was properly invested in such literature as the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL, and placed in the hands of farmers and mechanics of Great Britain. In conversation with a new arrival from Scotland the other day, I asked him if they put much confidence in these Government pamphlets. His answer was, "They wadna look at them; they were 'a lees.'" I showed him a copy of the STOCK JOURNAL. After he had perused it awhile, I said to him, "Would they believe that?" "Oh yes," he replied, "that's a reality."

Ormond, Ont.

P. R. McDONALD.