



Shorthorns.

In the above illustration, which we have copied from a British exchange, that clever animal draughtsman—Harrison Weir—has admirably depicted what may be termed the generic type of a Shorthorn herd. The location and surroundings are also in excellent keeping. For, the natural home of the Shorthorn is, as the artist has placed it, among fertile meadows and fat pastures. The breed is not, however, confined to such favorable and exceptional circumstances, but will thrive wherever there is good grazing. In Britain, the Shorthorn may be found in its purity, as well as intermixed with other breeds, from the Orkneys to the Land's End; while on this continent, its dissemination and its increasing popularity are the certain accompaniments of improved agricultural practice. It is only necessary carefully to inspect the cattle at our great annual Provincial and County Fairs, or to mark the animals which furnish the beef for our cities, to be convinced that the Shorthorn is surely altering and improving the character of our cattle. A similar condition of things obtains in the Australian Colonies. The breed, therefore, eminently deserves to be denominated *cosmopolitan*.

There is something very enticing in a Shorthorn, and it is therefore not surprising that so many have been induced to become breeders. An indistinct notion would seem to exist on this subject, leading people to imagine that Shorthorn breeding is something which comes by nature, like driving a conveyance. Instead of this, it is one of the most intricate arts that any man can venture upon; we may almost call it a science, and it demands special qualifications in those who follow it, which are rarely combined in one individual. Hence, no doubt, the many failures; and hence also the brilliant successes which have attended the operations of certain breeders. Enthusiasm, judgment, energy—a power to discriminate between the precious and the vile—a determination

to have females of good families, and sires of the best blood—a resolution to allow no parsimonious policy to mar success—are some of the pre-requisites which the first-class breeder must possess. Some of the finest specimens of the Shorthorn race have been produced by men whose lot it was to live by farming; while, on the other hand, we know of magnificent animals having been bred by men to whom farming was a pastime and a parenthesis. Good blood is the grand desideratum—the great lever by which breeds are elevated and improved. It makes itself felt wherever it is, and whoever uses it. It is independent of social position, and asserts its power, whether cherished by a tenant farmer, or patronized by a peer. Its tendencies, outwards and upwards, are inevitable.

With respect to nice grades in the Shorthorn breeds—to the relative merits and advantages of Bates blood or of Booth blood,—there will always be differences of opinion. Some breeders will believe in distinct sorts or types of Shorthorns, because they are distinct, and others will patronize sorts or types that are good, because they are good. The latter class are the most likely to shape the future character of our cattle; to modify existing materials, and to create, by the readjustment of established combinations, new orders bearing new names. These in their turn will be the favorites of the day, pale, decline, and in their turn give way to fresh favorites. Periodical changes have affected, and will continue to affect Shorthorn breeding, and fashion in Shorthorns, as well as every thing else.

Respecting the points of a Shorthorn, the following is the standard of one who is everywhere acknowledged as a first-rate judge—Mr. Douglas of Athelstaneford. To Shorthorn fanciers who are familiar with the splendid animals imported by the Hon. David Christie, from Athelstaneford, it is almost unnecessary to say that the Douglas herd has attained a world-wide celebrity. Its proprietor thus enumerates

the "points":—"An animal of apparently small scale, but in reality not so, having a great propensity to fatten; on short legs, with fine bone; massive compact body; wide chest; ribs well sprung; thick loins, and well filled up quarters; with deep twist; body all equally covered over with heavy flesh, and plenty of soft hair, and having no coarse beef on any part." This is a faithful description of the leading characteristics of the animals composing the herds once to be seen at Athelstaneford. When Mr. Douglas, however, gave that description, he stated he had in his mind's eye many of Mr. Booth of Warlaby's best animals. Warming with enthusiasm, he went on to say: "Look at the docile, even, intelligent expression of countenance; the waxy horn; moderately short neck; full neck-vein; prominent bosom; beautiful laid shoulder; capacious chest; ribs well sprung from the back; thick-fleshed, strong loins; deep flanks, huggins well covered; lengthy, well-packed hind quarters, with deep twist on straight legs; and fine bone. Such are nearly all the animals that constitute Mr. Booth's celebrated tribes, or families of Shorthorns."

We had something more to say, but the foregoing observations must suffice for the present.

KEEPING HORSES FEET AND LEGS IN ORDER.—If I were asked to account for my horses' legs and feet being in better order than those of my neighbour's, I should attribute it to the four following circumstances:—First, they are all shod with a few nails, so placed in the shoe as to permit the foot to expand every time they move; second, that they all live in boxes instead of stalls, and can move whenever they please; third, they spend two hours, daily, walking-exercise when they are not at work; and fourth, that I have not a headstall or track chain in my stall. These four circumstances comprehend the whole mystery of keeping horses' legs fine, and their feet in sound working condition up to old age.—*Miles*.