



LORD ALTHORP'S COW.

crossing with the stocks of each other, unavoidably lead to the practice of breeding in and in ; which, in cases of any original deficiency of the milking property, must unquestionably go on to render the deficiency greater. Bad milking, in a breed of animals which were ever distinguished as good milkers, is not a necessary consequence of improvement in the animal in other respects, but a consequence of the manner in which such improvement is pursued. Short-horns, inferior to none for the grazier, may always be selected and bred with the most valuable dairy properties. There are many instances of the highest bred short-horns giving upwards of four gallons of milk night and morning ; and attention only is requisite, on the part of the breeder, to perpetuate this quality to any desirable extent. A moderately good milker will be found to yield as much *butter* in the week as one giving an enormous quantity ; the milk being unquestionably of very superior quality ; and, indeed, it should be the case, that the animal economy, which leads to an excessive secretion of flesh and fat, should also be productive of other rich secretions.

Wherever the improved short-horns have been crossed with other cattle, their superiority is equally manifest, in respect of dairy qualifications, as in every other.

An opinion generally prevails that the short-horns are unfitted for work ; and in some respects it is admitted they are so : but the correct reason has not been assigned, and the question may fairly come briefly under notice. They are willing and able to work, but surely cattle which, as the preceding account proves, will go as profitably to the butcher at two years old as any other breed at three, and as many even at four, ought never to be placed in the yoke. No beast, in the present advanced state of breeding, ought

to be put upon a system which arose out of the necessity of obtaining compensation by work for the loss attending a tardy maturity. But where it may be convenient, the short-horns, particularly the bulls, work admirably, as their great docility promises : And as good bulls are apt to become useless, from acquiring too much flesh in a state of confinement, moderate work might, in most cases, prove beneficial.

The specimens which accompany this account will render little comment necessary on their form. With deference, however, it is submitted to the breeders of short-horns, that they should avoid breeding from too close affinities, and, while they steer clear of coarseness, should require a sufficiency of *masculine* character in their males. This is a point in which many short-horns are rather defective, and it is one of infinite importance. The length of the carcass should be medium, as well as that of the legs, and a harder animal, with equal size and on a more profitable scale, will be produced. The facilities for making this improvement are sufficiently numerous, the short-horns being now more generally diffused. That wider diffusion also multiplies the means of selecting for milk ; a quality which should not be lost sight of ; for it is the combination of perfections which has conferred, and will perpetuate, the superiority of this breed of cattle.

The colors of the short-horns are red or white, or a mixture of the two, combining in endless variety, and producing, very frequently, most brilliant effect. The white, it is very probable, they obtained from an early cross with the wild breed ; and whenever this color shows itself, it is accompanied, more or less, with a red tinge on the extremity of the ear ; a distinctive character, also, of the wild cattle. No *pure short-horns* are found of any colors but those above named.