

	1855.	1856.	1857	1858.
Devons.....	17	21	32	28
Herefords.....	20	21	36	26
Shorthorns.....	40	42	43	42
Scotch, Irish, and Welsh.....	16	13	18	12
Other pure breeds.....	3	18	22	26
Cross-bred ....	7	12	8	23
Extra.....	9	13	17	14
Total.....	112	140	176	171

"That is, as compared with last year, we have a decrease of Devons, Herefords, Shorthorns, Scotch, Irish, and Welsh, and Extra stock, the principal deficiency being with the Herefords and Irish. Other pure breeds show an increase, and the Cross-bred are three times as many as they were last year. The Shorthorns keep pretty closely to their usual force. The Show, altogether, is full as usual, without being in excess.—Taken as a whole, the cattle classes cannot be ranked higher, if as high, in merit as we have known them, there being too many second-rate and third-rate animals—forming a disproportionately large back-ground, setting off the few marvels of excellence which are conspicuous in the Show. One feature, however, is more observable than ever—and this must gratify our humane and economical friends who are opposed to the pampering and bloating of beef into unwholesome fat meat, bad for graziers and butchers, good only for cooks—this is the presence of well-bred, well-fed meat, with an almost complete absence of unsightly lumps of fat on backs and rumps. In a word, it is, in this sense, the "evenest" show we have ever seen."

The *Devons* mustered in good force, and had some good representatives. Prince Albert's prize Steer is represented as a handsome animal, "symmetrical, with flesh well laid on, and capital in flank and thigh." In *Herefords*, the Show was excellent. Mr. Naylor's Birmingham Gold Medal Hereford Ox was not permitted to compete at Smithfield, which is described "as the grandest Hereford of the year, or indeed of several years; a beast that would of itself form a magnificent point of attraction."—Mr. Stratton's Gold Medal Steer is described "as a perfect model of a *Shorthorn*, surpassing all competitors. Mr. Stratton is an eminent breeder of this world-renowned class of cattle, and the gold medal heifer got by one of his bulls, is said "to be a study of what a young Shorn-horn ought to be." There were a few good specimens of *Sussex*,—well fated and good handlers, but in general their backs are too narrow. No Irish breeds were entered, and the *Welsh* were thinly represented. Some very good Scotch horned and Scotch polled cattle, and a Galloway Ox of great depth of frame.

"The Cross or Mixed Breed classes are of great interest and importance, as though the perpetuation of a good first cross is a difficulty not easily overcome, the production of first-rate feeders by crossing breeds judiciously is of great and growing value. Besides, it is sometimes a matter of curiosity to find how experiments answer with the most diverse of breeds, the results of extraordinary mixtures being sometimes highly instructive if not profitable. Messrs Martin showed a good Aberdeen and Shorthorn—Mr. Knowles, a very nice thing as a steer, the produce of a Shorthorn and Scotch horned. Mr. Knowles' Shorthorn and Aberdeen heifer, red, with horns, is very well formed—straight, deep, and uncommonly nice meat. The Duke of Beaufort's Shorthorn and Gloucester very good indeed, handsome, and with a full outspringing chine. Mr. Farquharson's Devon and Highland is a happy hit; and the Earl of Darnley has done well with a Hereford and Shorthorn cross, bred by Mr. Griffin, the character of both breeds being, however, clearly discernible. The heifer class comprises some very nice things indeed, especially Mr. Holland's beautifully fed heifer, and Mr. Druce's compact white heifer."

## SHEEP.

The number of sheep for the last three years is as under:

	1856.	1857.	1858.
Long-wools.....	40	35	37
Cross-breeds.....	18	32	32
Short-wools.....	35	62	60
Total.....	96	129	129