

"they are coming, Father Abraham," from England, Ireland, Scotland, and the countries of Europe, hundreds of thousands strong, to build up a great northern nation of sister provinces, that stretching hand in hand from the Atlantic to the Pacific, shall vie with one another to establish Anglo-Saxon civilization and British institutions throughout a vast area, unsurpassed by any other in the world as a home of a free and mighty people.

#### THE JERSEY FEVER.

From a brief paragraph which appears among our "Rural Notes" in the present issue, it will be seen that a sort of mania is being wrought up on behalf of the Jerseys. The cow Princess 2nd, which has recently attained notoriety by being sold for the large sum of \$4,800 in New York, was one of a herd of Jerseys imported by Mr. E. P. P. Fowler in January, 1870. At an auction sale in Philadelphia during the same month, she was knocked down to Mr. J. P. Hutchinson, of Georgetown, N. J., for \$150. Some time afterward, Mr. S. M. Burnham, a Connecticut Jersey fancier, tempted the owner of this cow with an offer of \$600, and she passed into his hands. On the 10th of May last, this animal was one of Mr. Burnham's contributions to the combination sale in New York, at which, after some lively bidding, she was knocked down to Mr. Shoemaker, of Baltimore, Md., for \$4,800.

The result of the *furor* gotten up in New York already shows itself in the high prices asked and obtained elsewhere. Mr. G. W. Farlee, of Trenton, N. J., has since sold one Jersey cow for \$2,000; another for \$1,750; a third for \$1,000; and a fourth for \$500. His asking price for his best cow, with a record of 19½ pounds of butter per week, is \$5,000. He and others are permitted, through the columns of the *Country Gentleman* and elsewhere, to trumpet forth the praises of their choice animals, and there is every appearance of a first-class excitement raging for a time.

Are these cows intrinsically worth the extravagant figures at which they are now quoted? And is it the part of wisdom for editors and others to aid in this kind of inflation? We are compelled to answer these queries in the negative. It is admitted by all candid and impartial judges, that the Shorthorns have been damaged by the fancy prices that have ruled for fashionable strains, and that it would have been better if calmer judgment had reigned in place of the reckless and speculative spirit which has so long dominated the interests of this valuable breed. The Jersey craze will do similar injury to the rising prospects of this tribe of cattle. It is a species of stock gambling which creates fictitious values, and will, sooner or later, bring heavy losses to the hindmost. We are glad to see the real merits of the Jerseys appreciated, and have hailed their introduction to this country, in the hope that they would improve our dairy herds, and so promote the prosperity of one of our most important and promising rural industries. But the certain effect of Jerseys being held at such figures as \$5,000 a piece will be, that dairymen will let them severely alone, and go on multiplying scrub cows and cheap bulls. A few of the class of whom it is proverbial that they and their money are soon parted, will invest in these fancy creatures, and, in the end, somebody will be hurt. The Jersey is an excellent butter cow, but there are plenty of animals to be had for \$50 or \$60 that will give a far larger yield of milk, and when their usefulness is past for dairy purposes, bring their first cost and more for meat. Black points, fawn shades, and diminutive size do not count for much where butter and beef are the standards of value, and

the man who puts the money that would buy a farm into a live cow hide, will not figure in history on the honour list of practical farmers, nor transmit his name to posterity as one of the benefactors of the human race.

#### SALES OF IMPROVED STOCK.

According to the *Oshawa Vindicator* of the 12th ult., the sales of Shropshire and Southdown sheep and Durham cattle have been pretty extensive in the county of Ontario this spring. It says:—

"Within the last two weeks our county has been visited by some of the leading American stock breeders, who have bought a large number of our very choice animals, for which they had high prices. From Mr. John Dryden, M.P.P., they bought seven Shorthorns, also twenty-five Cotswolds, and all his Shropshires, eight in number. From H. H. Spencer, of Brooklyn, the well-known Southdown breeder, the same gentleman bought twenty-one head of Shropshires and Southdowns, all very choice animals. The majority of them were bred by Mr. Spencer, the remainder were imported by him last summer, as were the Shropshires they bought of Mr. Dryden. The amount of stock bought by our American friends from the above named gentlemen on this occasion filled three cars to overflowing—in fact one car had to be double-decked. We feel safe in saying three better car loads of stock never left the country on any single occasion. This seems to us a fitting opportunity to draw our readers' attention to the rapid advance made by the Down sheep in public favour within the last five years. Especially is this the case with the Shropshires. A few years ago Downs were but little noticed in Ontario Province; very few bred them. Mr. Spencer, of Brooklyn, Mr. Stone, of Guelph, and Mr. Marsh, of Richmond Hill, were almost the only breeders of any note; of these, Mr. Spencer has for many years taken the lead in the show rings of this Province. His show record dates back to 1850. For many years these gentlemen found it difficult to sell their surplus stock for breeding purposes at anything like the prices obtained by the long-wool breeders for their stock, but this state of affairs is rapidly changing. Within the last six months Mr. Spencer has sold upwards of eighty head of "Downs" for breeding purposes. Every lamb (but two which he reserved) of last year's crop, and nearly all of his large importation of 1881 are now gone; in fact Mr. Spencer told us recently that many he had intended to keep in his own flock are now sold. This change in the demand is no doubt due to several causes, the first being the increased demand for a finer class of wool for home manufactures, something which our home manufacturers have been calling for many years; and the recent impetus given to the woolen manufacturing industry has greatly increased this demand. Also the live meat trade with Britain has had a strong tendency to bring the Downs into public favour. It is a well-known fact their mutton sells in the best English markets for several cents more a pound than that obtained for long-wool mutton, and it will doubtless sell more readily in our larger cities and towns. This discrimination will be more obvious as our trade grows with England and our country grows more thickly settled, instead of getting less it will gather strength with years as the Downs become better known. From carefully made experiments at the Ontario Experimental Farm, the Downs have been found more than twice as profitable as the long-wools. Professor Brown in his report says from his experiments such striking evidence is obtained in favour of the short and medium woolled sheep,

that in view of the present export trade no one need hesitate. In England the Downs stand pre-eminently above all competitors; they have long been the favourite sheep among the masses."

#### PRIZES FOR THE JERSEYS.

All fair-minded men will be glad to see encouragement given to those, who, like Mr. V. E. Fuller, of Hamilton, are doing what they can to introduce a meritorious representation of Jerseys into this country. They have their place and their merits. The fact that some people are giving way to a Jersey "craze," is no reason why better-poised minds should not accord them justice. As a butter breed, and as "family cows," they are unrivalled. Let them have a "fair show," and a just proportion of the prize money at our exhibitions, by all means.

#### SKETCHES OF CANADIAN WILD BIRDS.

By W. L. KELLS, LISTOWEL, ONT.

##### THE THRUSHES.

Some of the finest and most continuous of our song birds belong to this interesting genus. The robin, one of our harbingers of spring; the brown, or song thrush, which, by its soul-enlivening lays, gives such an additional charm to the natural attractions of our wild woods; and the mocking-bird, which so often deceives the hunter, and delights the students of nature;—all belong to this genus, some species of which are to be found in all the temperate countries of the world. Though exhibiting much variation in plumage and in voice, yet in their form, feeding, and nesting habits, there is close resemblance. They are all migratory—at least those that visit this country—and in their spring and autumn movements some species are gregarious. The beautiful and familiar blue bird is closely allied to this interesting group.

##### THE BROWN, OR SONG THRUSH.

This species is, of all Canadian birds, pre-eminent as a songster. Its charming notes are first heard in our wild woods about the middle of April, if the weather is mild, and its gladsome lays continue about three months. But after the middle of July, though the bird itself remains in its forest home until the changeful autumn, with its night frosts and chilly winds, has painted the woodland foliage with many a lovely hue, its tuneful notes are seldom heard. It is on a morning in June that the most delightful lays of this bird are poured forth. Long before the orb of day can be seen in the eastern horizon, while the grey twilight still struggles with the morning mist, and many of the twinkling stars are still visible in the blue vault of heaven—while the air is yet cool, and the night dew lies heavy on the verdant grass, or drops down from the emerald foliage of the trees upon the withered leaves, and the woods and fields are beginning to resound with the varied warblings of other members of the feathered race, it is then that the musical talents of this woodland songster are displayed to the best advantage. Perched among the middle branches of some tree, he pours forth his charming notes in strains of delightful melody, to the astonishment of the rude backwoodsman, and the delight of the student of nature, who may be abroad at that early hour. Often in his hurried morning walk is the hardy pioneer made to pause and listen to the enrapturing lays of this wild wood-musician. Sometimes he suddenly stops his usual song, and utters a strange wild melody, somewhat resembling the ringing of a small bell, but these notes are generally repeated in the latter part of summer, when his habitual song is about to cease. During the warm part of the day the song of this bird ceases, that period