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Live Stock Notes.

Mr. Caigwillie, of Aberdeenshire, the red ox that has so often been a prize winner, to Mr. Reid, of Alford, for 1,000 guineas. He is only two years and eleven months old.

Mr. James Graham, of Carlisle, has sold two polled Galloway bull calves at 50 guineas each.

The sale of Mr. McCulloch's herd of Shorthorns The sale of Mr. McCulloch's herd of Shorthorns was held at Essendon, Australia. The herd of cattle, consisting of 11 bulls and 57 cows, realized £16,285 10s. The highest price paid for a bull was 650 guineas. Easthope Lady 6th, was sold for 640 guineas, and Pink, 775 guineas. Three brood mares, two two-year-old colts, and one yearling realized £2756 5s. Two imported brood mares, with foals at foot, were bought, one at 800 guineas, the other at 850 guineas. the other at 850 guineas.

A convention of the Shorthorn breeders of Missouri is proposed, to be held at Broonville on the lst Monday of April next.

At a sale of Norman-Penheron horses at Chicago, Feb. 10th, there were sold one at \$2,200; one at \$1,775, one at \$1,800, and one at \$1,250.

The County Gentleman, noticing a sale of Ayrshires, remarks:—The breed is rapidly growing in favor in that cheese producing country.

At the late sale of short-horns, the property of Mr. J. M. Bell, of Atha, thirty-five head were sold at an average price \$240. Of these 5 were bulls at an average of \$267. The highest prices realized were, Kate Miller, \$850, and Nisklan 6th and calf, \$300

Mr. A. Whitman, Mass., has sold from his Shorthorn herd 33 cows and heifers with the imported bull Bean, of Oxford, 2nd, for \$26,000.

Mr. C. M. Laning, Lansing, Niagara, Ont., has sold to G. W. Miller, Grantham, the Groynne Shorthorn bull Consul.

Five promising heifers of Booth breed have been purchased from the breeder, Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Compton, Ont., by Mr. A. H. Brown, Northumberland E. It is said they cost 3,500 guineas.

22nd Duke of Airdrie.

The 22nd Duke of Airdrie, 16695, is a dark red, with little white, bred by A. J. Alexander, Woodburn, Ky., the property of Ricard Gibson, London, Ont., calved Sept. 9, 1871; got by Royal Oxford (18774), out of 6th Duchess of Airdrie by Clifford Duches, Oxford (18784).

Oxford (18774), out of 6th Duchess of Airdrie by Clifton Duke (23580), gr. dam 4th Duchess of Airdrie, &c., &c., and so on through 16 crosses of the celebrated Duchess family.

His sire was the last pure Oxford living, and was very celebrated as a stock getter, amongst the most prominent being the 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 22nd and 23rd Duches of Airdrie, and the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th Duchesses of Airdrie.

The 8th was exported to England, the 9th was the dam of the 24th Duke, lately sold for \$12,000, and 20th Duchess sold for \$18,000 to Mr. Fox, England.

The 10th, now owned by M. H. Cochrane, is one of the best breeding cows of the family, and gr. dam of the 7 months old calf sold at Toronto for \$18,000 to Avery & Murphy, Detroit.

The 11th was dam of 16th Duchess, sold to go

to England for \$18,000, and whose calf, 4 months old, sold for \$17,500, last October, to J. H. Spears

The 14th Duke, lately returned to his native state, and, though 10 years old, realized nearly \$5,000. The 17th has also gone back to Kentucky with \$4,500 on his head, though nine years old. The 19th was lately purchased by E. Cobb, Ill., for \$9,000, and the 23rd was sold for \$9,600 to J. P. Saphorn Port Hyron Sanborn, Port Huron.

The 22nd Duke has proved himself a very superior sire; but 3 of his stock have been offered in the sale ring, and they have realized good prices, viz.: Duchess of Huron, 20 months old, made \$2,900; Duchess of Cambridge, 19 months, \$2,750; and 12th Duchess of Springwood, 2 years and 2

He is the only Duke bull in Ontario, and, for some time, the only one in Canada, until M. H. Cochrane purchased the 2nd Duke of Hillhurst for months, \$2,210.

THE DUKE OF AIRDRIE, a cut of which appears in this paper, was drawn and engraved by Canadian Artists. Our Canadian artists, we feel satisfied from the improvements they are making, will, in future, be able to produce works equal to any other artists. Should any of our subscribers have any good animals they wish engraved, if they would confer with us we would give them full particulars regarding them.

The Story.

Ruth's Stepfather.

A curious trade to take to, but then it has grown to be profitable. Things were at a low ebb with me when I took it up, while now-

There, I won't boast, only say that I'm thankful for it. Poverty comes in at the door, and love flies out of the window, so they say; but that's all nonsense, or else your poor people would be always miserable, while, according to my experience, your poor man is often more light-hearted than the man with thousands.

I was at my wit's end for something to do, and sat nibbling my nails one day, and grumbling horribly.

"Don't go on like that, Tom," says my wife, "things might

"How?" I said. 'Well, we might have Luke at home, and he is doing well." Luke's our boy, you know, and we had got him into a merchant's office, where he seemed likely to stay; but I was in a grumbling fit then, and there was a clickety-click noise going on in the next room that fidgeted me terribly.

"Things can't be worse," I said, angrily; and I was going to prove myself in the wrong by making my wife cry, when there was a knock at the door.

"Come in," I said, and a fellow-lodger put in his head.
"Are you good at works, Mr. Smith," he said.

"What works?" I said; 'fireworks—gasworks?"

"No, no; "I mean works of things as goes with wheels and springs." "Middling," I said, for I was fond of pulling clocks to pieces and trying to invent.

"I wish you'd come and look at this sewing machine of mine, for I can't get it to go."

mine, for I can't get it to go."

Sewing machines were newish in those days, and I got up to have a look at it, and, after an hour's fiddling about, I began to see a bit the reason why—the purpose, you know, of all the screws and cranks and wheels; I found out, too, why our neighbor's wife—who was a dressmaker, and had just started one—could not get it to go; and before night, by thinking, and putting this and that together, had got her in the way of working it pretty steadily, though, with my clumsy fingers, I couldn't have done it myself.

I had my hit of dinner and tea with those people, and

I had my bit of dinner and tea with those people, and they forced half-a-crown upon me as well, and I went back feeling like a new man, so refreshing had been that bit of work.

'There," said my wife, "I told you something would come." "Well, so you did," I said; "but that something is rather

small."

But the very next day—as we were living in the midst of people who were fast taking to sewing machines—if the folks from the next house didn't want me to look at theirs! and then, the news spreading, as news will spread, that there was smebody who could cobble and tinker machinery without putting people to the expense that makers would if the jobs didn't come in fast, so that I was obliged to get files and drills and a vice—regular set of too's by degrees; and at 1.st I was as busy as a bee from morning to night, and whistling over my work as happy as a king.

Of course, every now and then I got a breakage, but I could generally get over that by buying a new wheel, or spindle, or what not. Next we got to supplying shuttles, and needles and machine cotton. Soon after I bought a machine of a man who was tired of it. Next week I sold it at a profit; boughtanother, and another, and sold them; then got to taking them and money in exchange for new ones; and one way or another became a regular big dealer, as you see.

Hundred? Why, new, second-hand, and with those being

Hundred? Why, new, second-hand, and with those being repaired up-stairs by the men, I've got at least three hundred on the premises, while ff anybody had told me fifteen years ago that I should be doing this, I should have laughed

That pretty girl showing and explaining the machine to a customer? That's Ruth, that is. No, not my daughter—yet, but she soon will be. Poor girl, I always think of her and of bread thrown upon the waters at the same time.

Curious idea that; you will say, but I'll tell you why In our trade we have strange people to deal with. Most of 'em are poor, and can't buy a machine right off, but are ready and widing to pay so much a week, That suits them, and it suits me, if they'll only keep the payments up to the

You won't believe me, perhaps, but some of them don't do that. Some of them leave their lodgings, and I never see them again; and the most curious part is that the sewing machine disappears with them, and I never see that again. Many a one, too, that has disappeared like that I do see again—perhaps have it brought here by some one to be repaired, or exchanged for a bigger, or for one by a different maker; for if you look round here you'll see I've got all kinds—new and old, little domestics and big trades—there, you name any maker, and see if I don't bring you out one of his works.

Well, when I ask these people where they got the machine—for I always know them by the number—it turns out that they've bought it through an advertisement, or at a sale-room, or may be cut of a pawn broker's shop.

But I've had plenty of honest people to deal with too—them

But I've had plenty of honest people to deal with too—them as have come straight forward and told me they couldn't keep up their payments, and ask me to take their machine back, when I'd allow them as much as I thought fair, and 'twould be an end to a pleasant transaction.

twould be an end to a pleasant transaction.

The way I've been bitten, though, by some folks has made me that case-hardened that sometimes I've wondered whether I'd got any heart left, and the wife's had to interfere, telling me I've been spoiled with prosperity, and grown unfeeling.

It was she made me give way about Ruth, for one day, after having all my bristles set up by finding out that three good, having all my bristles set up by finding out that three good, sound machines, by best makers, had gone nobody knew where, who should come into the shop but a ladylike-looking where, who should come into the shop but a ladylike-looking woman in very shabby widow's weeds. She wanted a machine for herself and daughter to learn, and said she had heard that I would take the money by instalments. Now just half an hour before, by our shop clock, I had made a vow that I'd give up all that part of the trade, and I was very rough with her—just as I am when I'm cross—and said, "No,"

"But you will if the lady gives security," says my wife

The poor woman gave such a woe-begone look at us that it made me more out of temper than ever, for I could feel that if I stopped I should have to let her have one at her own terms. And so it was; for, there, if I didn't let her have a first-class machine, as good as new, she only paying seven and six down, and undertaking to pay half-a-crown a week, and no more security than nothing!

no more security than nothing!

To make it worse, too, if I didn't send the thing home without charge—Luke going with it, for he was back at home now, keeping my books, being grown into a fine young fellow of five-and-twenty; and I sat and growled the whole of the rest of the day, calling myself all the weak-minded idiots under the sun, and telling the wife that business was going to the dogs, and I should be ruined.

"You ought to be ashamed of, yourself, Tom," she said. "So I am," says 1. "I didn't think I could be such a fool," "Such a fool as to do a good, kind action to one who was dently a lady born, and come down in the world?"

"Yes," I says, "to living in Bennett's Place, where I've sunk no less than ten machines in five years."

"Yes," says the wife, "and cleared hundreds of pounds, Tom, I'm ashamed of you—you. a man with twenty workmen busy up-stairs, a couple of thousand pound's worth of stock, and in the bank a——"

"Hold you tongue, will you!" I said, roughly, and went out into the shop to try and work it all eff.

Luke came back soon after, looking very strange, and I was at him directly.

"Where's the seven an' six?" I says, angrily,

He didn't answer, but put three half crown's down on the desk, took out the book, made his entries—date of delivery, first payment, when the other's due, and all the rest of it—and was then going into the house.

"Mind," I says, sharply, "those payments are to be kept up to the day; and to-morrow you go to Rolly's, who live nearly opposite to 'em, and tell 'em to keep an eye on the widow, or we shall lose another machine."

"You needn't be afraid, father," he says, coldly; "they're honest enough, only poor." I was just in that humor, that I wanted to quarrel with somebody, and that did it."

someoody, and that did it.

"When I ask you for your opinion, young man, you give it to me; and when I tell you to do a thing, you do it," I says, in as savage a way as ever I spoke to the lad. "You go over to morrow and tell Rolly's to keep a strict look-out on those people—do you hear?"

"Father," he says, looking me full in the face, 'I couldn't insult them by doing such a thing," when, without another word, he walked quietly out of the shop, leaving me worse

For that boy had never spoken to me like that before, and I should have gone after him, feeling mad like, only some people came in, and I dian't see him again til evening, and a good thing, too, for I'm sure I should have said all sorts of things to the boy, that I should have been sorry for after. And there I was, fuming and fretting about, savage with everybody, giving short answers, snapping at the wife, and feeling as a man does feel when he knows that he has been in the wrong and hasn't the heart to go and own it.

It was about eight o'clock that I was sitting by the parlor fire, with the wife working and very quiet, when Luke came in from the workshop with a book under his arm, for he had been totting up the men's piecework, and what was due to them; and the sight of him made me feel as if I must quarrel, He saw it, too, but he said nothing, only put the accounts away and began to read.

away and began to read.

The wife saw the storm brewing, and she knew how put out I was, for I had not lit my pipe, nor yet had my evening nap, which I always have after tea, so she did what she knew so well how to do—filled my pipe, forced it into my hand, and, just as I was going to dash it to pieces in the ashes, she gave me one of her old looks, kissed me on the forehead, as, with one hand, she pressed me back into chair, and then, with the other, she lit a splint and held it to my tobacco.

I was done. She always gets over me like that, and after

I was done. She always gets over me like that; and, after smoking in silence for half an hour, I was lying back with my eyes closed, dropping off to sleep, when my wife said (what had gone before I hadn't heard)—

"Yes, he's asleep now." That woke me up, of course, and if I didn't lie there sham-ming and heard all they said in a whisper.

"How came you to make him more vexed than he was, Luke?" says the wife; and he told her.

"I couldn't do it, mother," he said, excitedly. "It was heart-breaking. She's living in a wretched room there with her daughter; and, mother, when I saw her I felt as if—there,

"The're half starved," he said, in a husky way. "Oh, mother! it's horrible. Such a sweet, heautiful girl, and the poor woman herself dying almost with the same terrible disease."

"They told me," he went on, "how hard they had tried to live by ordinary needlework, and failed, and that, as a last resource, they had tried to get the machine." The wife sighed. "Poor things!" says the wife; "but are you sure the mother

"A clergyman's widow," says Luke, hastily; "there isn't a doubt about it. Poor girl' and they've got to learn to use it before it will be of any use."

before it will be of any use."

"Poor girl, Luke?" says the wife, softly; and I saw, through my eyelashes that she laid a hand upon his arm, and was looking curiously at him, when, if he didn't cover his face with his hands, rest his elbows on the table, and give a low from. Then the old woman got up, stood behind his chair, and began playing with and caressing his hair like the foolish old mother would.

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"Mother," he says, suddenly, "will you go and see them?" She didn't answer for a minute, only stood looking down at him, and then said, softly,

"They paid you the first money?"

To be Continued.