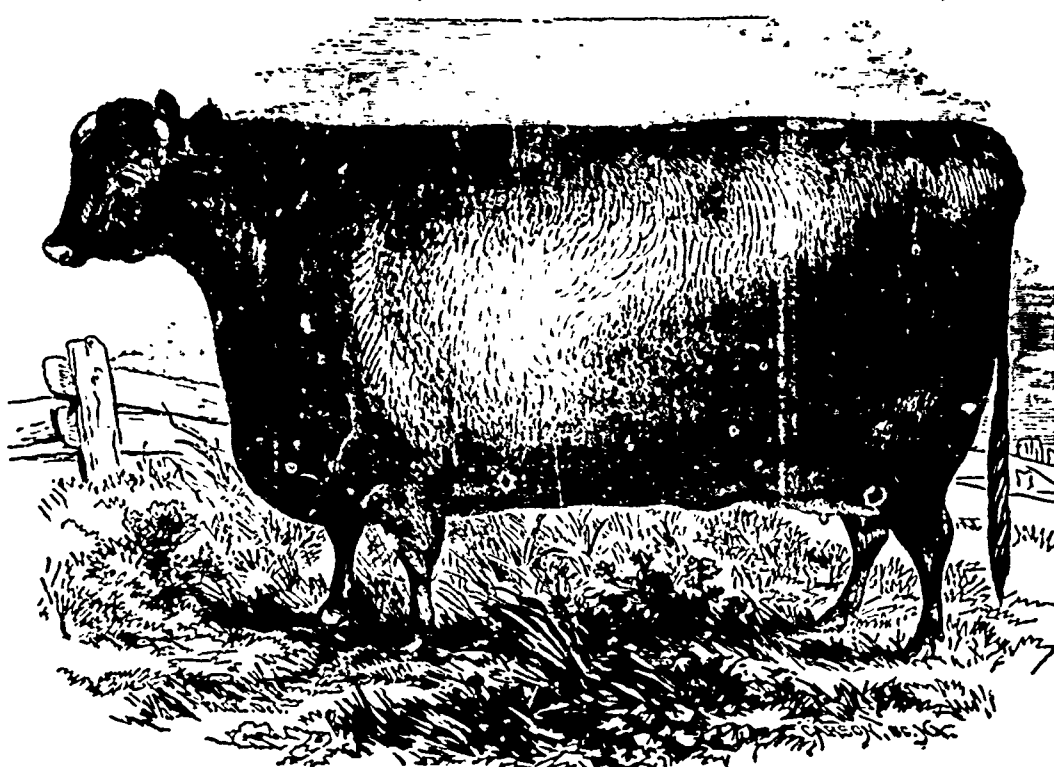


We have much pleasure in presenting our readers with an engraving, sketched by Mr. Page, of New York, of one of the highest-bred animals ever imported into this Province, or any other portion of this continent. The *Queen of Athelstane* formed part of the recent importation from Britain by the Hon. David Christie of the Plains, P. M., C. W., consisting of three cows, a heifer and a calf, which were exhibited at the late Provincial Show, at Hamilton. These cattle are from the celebrated herd of James Douglas, Esq., Athelstanford, E. Lothian; a gentleman that occupies a favourite position among British Short-horn breeders. The other two cows are the "*Pride of Athelstane*," a red three-year-old, got by "Sir James the Rose," of the celebrated cow, "*Lady of Athelstane*;" and "*Placida*," got by "Master of Athelstane;" "*The Crown Prince of Athelstane*," son of the "*Queen*," by "Ner: of Kin," son of the prize cow, "*Rose of Sharon*."

These animals have carried off first prizes and gold medals; some more than once, at the great National and Provincial Shows both of England and Scotland, and they come to Canada, therefore, stamped with the highest order of excellence. At the late Provincial Show they attracted a constant current of admirers, who narrowly scanned their characteristic points, indicating a very advanced type of Short-horn

FIRST PRIZE SHORT-HORN COW, AT THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION, HAMILTON, 1861.



QUEEN OF ATHELSTANE.

excellence. The only possible objection that could be urged against this superb importation was, that they were in too fat a condition for breeding stock, but this will no doubt be soon corrected by lower feeding and careful management. The way in which some families of the Short-horn lay on fat and muscle, even under moderate keeping, is truly astonishing, and hence the value everywhere attached to this world-renowned breed as beef-cattle. We sincerely wish Mr. Christie "good luck" with his fine importation, and trust that his enterprise will be profitable to himself as it cannot fail to be highly advantageous to the country.

1862, was highly commended at the Royal English Society's Show held at Battersea; 2nd prize at the Northumberland Society's Show at Belford; the first prize at the Yorkshire Society's Show held at York, beating the animal that was placed before her at Belford, and one of the heifers placed before her at Battersea. In 1863 she won the 2nd prize at the Highland Society's Show at Kelso; in 1864, the first prize at Saltoun, and was highly commended, and the reserve number, at the Royal English Show at Newcastle.

Her pedigree shows that in descent as well as intrinsic excellence the "*Queen*" is a first-class animal.

PEDIGREE OF THE QUEEN OF ATHELSTANE.—Red; calved 29th April, 1860; bred by James Douglas, Esq., Athelstanford, Scotland; the property of Mr. Christie, Brantford, C. W.

Got by Sir James the Rose (15290).

Dam Playful, by Fourth Duke of York (10167).

g d Place 3rd, by Fourth Duke of Northumberland (3639).

gr g d Place 2nd, by Duke of Northumberland (1910).

gr gr g d Place 1st, by Second Earl of Darlington (1915).

gr gr gr g d Place, by Son of Second Hubback (2082).

gr gr gr gr g d a cow of Mr. Bates' of Kirkclevington.

"Queen of Athelstane" obtained, in 1861, the first prize at the Highland Society's Show at Perth; in

Correspondence.

Comments by "Nota Bene."

THIS correspondent writes from Sidney, on sundry topics, as follows:—

HARVESTING CORN.—"J. E." would stook his corn much faster by using a corn horse. The animal can be made in a few minutes. Take a light tapering pole, say 10 feet long. Put two legs into the larger end, so as to elevate it three feet from the ground. Bore a horizontal hole through the pole three feet further back, and insert a moveable pin projecting 1½ feet on each side. Place your corn, as fast as cut, in the four angles thus formed—bind your stook—pull out your transverse moveable pin, and lead your horse between the rows to the next stooking place. It requires two to stook, but one need only be a twenty-five cent horse. Knives inserted in a straight handle, at an obtuse angle, are better than sickles. A single blow cuts up a hill of corn.

MIDGE PROOF WHEAT.—Where the midge abounds, farmers would do well to abolish fall wheat altogether for a few years. Its cultivation is being resumed in this locality, after a period of almost total cessation. The writer got 30 bushels per acre this year from barley stubble, entirely free from midges. The same field yielded 40 bushels of barley last year. Barley is the most reliable and profitable midge proof that I know of.

ERROR IN LAST NUMBER.—In an article headed "Notes on Sundry Topics," page 322, 16 li. from the bottom, for "hair" read "haws."

SUBSTITUTE FOR FIFE WHEAT.—"J. E." of Coldsprings, asks:—"Can you or any of your readers inform me where I can get a variety of wheat that is adapted to take the place of the Fife, as I think that kind is nearly run out?"

THE PLOUGH AS AN EXTERMINATOR OF CANADA THISTLES.—On this subject "J. E." of Coldsprings writes:—"In your number of October 15th I see an article signed 'D. H. O.' in the *Country Gentleman*, in answer to some inquiry about killing Canada thistles. I agree with 'D. H. O.' so far as cutting goes, but differ from him in regard to the plough. 'D. H. O.' seems to put no value upon the plough as an instrument of torture to that pest of the farmers. I consider it of essential benefit, and would just say to those wishing a cure for the Canada thistle, to give the field a good summer fallowing, by ploughing from three to five times, as circumstances will permit. Then seed to grass (clover and timothy), cut for hay two or three times; then pasture one or two years. Were this mode adopted and followed up by a proper course of cultivation afterwards, I do not think you, Mr. Editor, would have so many communications about Canada thistles."

DRAIN TILE MACHINE WANTED.—"D. Norton, Brick-maker, Bolton, Albion, C. W.," writes:—"Will you allow me to inquire where I can procure any information concerning a Drain Tile Machine, the probable cost, and also its capabilities? If I could see a drawing of an Improved Canadian Machine, I would prefer it. I have no doubt if such a thing appeared in THE CANADA FARMER, many persons of my trade would be well pleased to see it."

"HONEST JOHN."—A letter on farming life in Canada, with the above signature to it, has come into our hands for publication, but it is so palpably one-sided

and unfair that we are inclined to think the writer must have penned it under the influence of bitter disappointment, a state of mind in which it is difficult, if not impossible, to judge fairly of things. The letter is neither just to Canada nor the adjacent republic, and though its writer was, doubtless, very sincere in signing himself "Honest John," he made choice of an unfortunate misnomer.

TAXATION PROPOSED.—"T. C.," of Craighurst, writes:—"I have noticed in my neighbourhood, and the country in general, that when some enterprising individual obtains a thorough-bred animal of any kind, some one or two others are sure to become possessors also, whereas, before the former possessed an animal, there were nothing but 'runts' (as they may be properly called), in the vicinity, which were allowed to run at large, thus hindering the introduction of good stock. Now, I propose that a Bill be introduced into Parliament to lay a license fee on the possessors of entire horses, bulls and boars. By this means, I think, there would be fewer but better animals in the country; fewer, because every Tom, Dick and Harry would not care to keep an animal on account of the expense; better, because he who kept one would wish to keep a good one to obtain custom; a bad animal would not pay, for people are beginning to get their eyes open regarding the importance of good stock."

POTATOES FROZEN WITHOUT INJURY.—"S. Walford," of Albion, says:—"Permit me to lay before your numerous readers the following fact which I have this day received from Mr. William Roadhouse, J.P., of the township of Albion. He informs me that in February last, during the severe frosty weather, his potatoes, deposited in a good stone cellar, about 20 bushels in the heap, had become frozen as hard as bullets, and by way of experiment, he threw some