

McMullen, Winner of Sweepstakes Prize, Chicago Fat-Stock Show, 1881-1882.

The subject of our engraving is owned by Mr. Gillette of Elkhart, Illinois. The steer McMullen was bred by one of Mr. Gillette's neighbors, was got by a bull of Mr. Gillette's stock, and from a cow of the same strain. Mr. G. bought him as a yearling, and since then he has been fed simply as all the steers on that farm are fed—on corn and grass. He has never been housed a day in his life, winter or summer, except while at the Fat Stock Show, and has had no oil-meal or ground feed of any kind. Mr. Gillette is of the opinion that his steers can do their own grinding more cheaply than he can do it; and that a little extra corn in the winter is less expensive than barns and the consequent expense of attendance in cold weather.

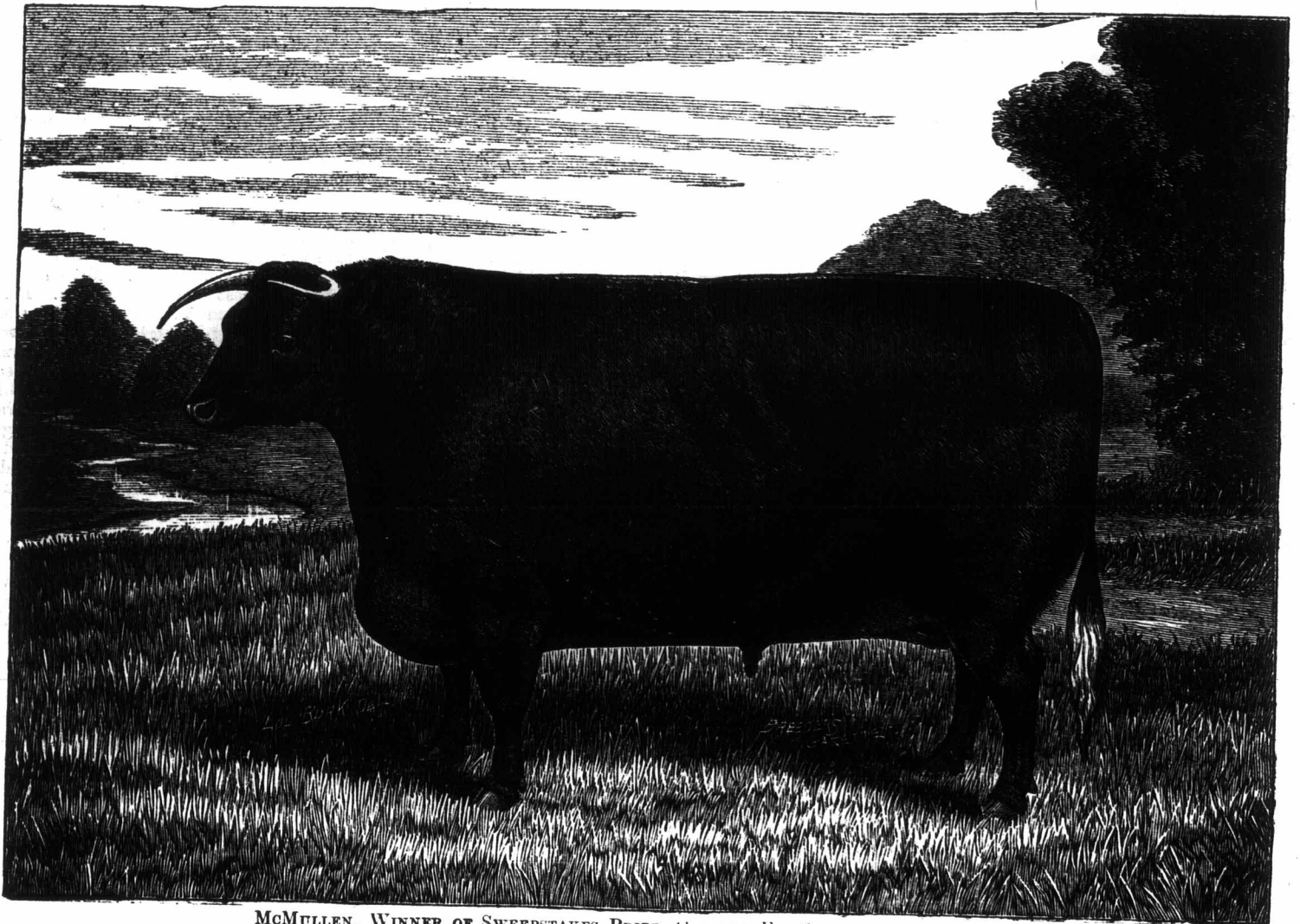
portion to live weight. They pointed to his neat, fine head and neck, to his comparatively fine bone, to his general smoothness, to his mellowness of touch, and, above all, to his wonderful back and loin, and challenged comparison in these particulars with any other beast in the show. They said: 'What does an inch or two in height signify, or the lack of a few pounds of tallow on the flank, and of cheap meat on the lower part of the round, when you have such a wealth of roast and sirloin and loin; such uniform smoothness and finish; and such a small proportion of offal?' They further said: 'Cut him in two, longitudinally, in the middle, and where is the steer that will show an equal proportion of his carcass on the upper side of the dividing line?'

The Smithfield Club's Cattle Show.

The eighty-fifth annual exhibition of this time-honored and almost uniquely popular Society, and its twentieth in the Agricultural Hall at Islington,

educational *raison d'être* of the Society, quite independently it may be of its exhibitorial capacity, is not only not complete, but will never be wholly finished. And for this reason: fresh generations of men are constantly arising; and these require to pass through the same, or and even more elaborate, curriculum of tuition.

But even the original measure of education in the art of breeding and fattening stock is not as yet by any means completed. The Smithfield exhibitions have not yet attained the height of average merit of which the animal world is susceptible, albeit we discern each year, and this year most of all, a nearer approach to that desirable end. And were the Smithfield Show to be discontinued, which we trust will not come to pass for an indefinite period, it would prove this—that the senility of old age had brought about the final decadence of British agriculture; and this result would follow: the art of breeding and fattening would immediately begin to deteriorate. If only the show were held in abeyance for a few years, by way of experiment, we believe people would be



McMULLEN, WINNER OF SWEEPSTAKES PRIZE, CHICAGO FAT-STOCK SHOW, 1881-1882.

We consider the likeness a very flattering one, as the animal was much longer in the legs than he is represented in the engraving. The *Breeder's Gazette* speaks of him thus:

"The award last year was adversely criticised by many; and inasmuch as McMullen had not been thought worthy of a prize in his class—three-year-olds, grades and crosses—by the judges in that ring, there seemed to be some foundation for the criticism. Those who were disposed to find fault with the award called attention to the fact that he was long-legged, comparatively light in the flank, and not so heavy in the thighs as one would like to see, and it was for these reasons that the judges in the three-year-old class had passed him by. On the other hand, the judges in the sweepstakes ring stated that no steer in the show would, in their opinion, cut up so well—none would yield so large a percentage of high-priced meat in pro-

London, England, was held from the 4th to the 8th December. To say that the display has been this year equal to any of its predecessors is beyond our ken and province, but that it has may be taken for the saying. We have made many pilgrimages to the Smithfield fat-stock shows, and apart from the unavoidable sameness, or, rather, similarity, which is apparent in the series, we find an unflinching perennial freshness; and of the present show we feel constrained to state our impression that, take it for all in all, it is as good an all-round display as we remember to have seen. More pronounced is our impression that the different breeds and classes are even and levelled, so far as style, type, and quality are concerned, than they have heretofore been. Some people have thought that the Smithfield Club's work, as originally sketched out, has been some time ago sufficiently completed, and that its annual appearances may be discontinued, without much loss to the community at large, and to farmers in particular. We have not ourselves arrived at present, and are not for some time to come likely to arrive, at this conclusion. We are quite free to admit our belief that the

astonished at the measure of decay which had taken place during that period. Once the shows recommenced, the quality, type, size, and style of the animals would be found, we conceive, to have fallen off very much, and to have become almost ludicrously irregular. There is work, then, for the Society to do, so long as the leading institutions of this country exist, in anything like a prosperous condition, in the way of instructing the producer, not to mention that of interesting the consumer, of animal food—of beef and mutton and bacon.

We do not think there has been in this show any cattle equal to the champions of former years; but we do not consider that the display as a whole is of higher all-round quality and merit than any of its predecessors we have had the pleasure of inspecting. The Devon cattle and South-down sheep, each of which, as a breed, is the neatest and comeliest of the species of four-footed animals of which it is a member, maintain, to say the least, their general excellence; and the same may be said of most other breeds of sheep and all other breeds of cattle. The Sussex cattle and the Hampshire sheep show, perhaps, as breeds, the