

fordshire to select a herd of cows for milking properties?

I have myself, for upwards of 25 years been engaged in dairying, and breeding, all kinds of stock, and was brought up in one of the largest cheese and butter counties in England—(Leicestershire.) But I never heard of, or saw in that county, or in the adjoining cheese counties, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, and Rutlandshire, that either the Herefords or Devons were patronised by any of the extensive dairymen in the different counties just alluded to. But I do know and can bear witness that the "Leicestershire long horns," (or Bakewell's breed,) of great celebrity at one time as milkers, as well as many other breeds, gave way to the Durhams and grade-Durhams. This in fact, took place, year after year, all around me when I first commenced dairying and breeding, till there was not, in the course of a few years, a single dairy left, in that and other vicinities with which I was well acquainted, of the old long-horn and grades of that breed. But the Durhams and grade-Durhams superseded all other breeds in the extensive dairies that I was familiar with.

The Herefords, however, no one can dispute, are a beautiful and profitable breed of animals, (I have grazed hundreds of them for the Smithfield market) and doubtless there are good milking cows to be found amongst them, and it would indeed be strange if it were not so, in such an extended and old established breed. Then again the oxen of the Hereford breed, as well as of the Devon are considered by some to be superior to the Durham for the Yoke. This may be so, or it may not, for *when* and *where* let me ask, has the *test* been *fairly* made? Who ever saw a pair of *thorough-bred* Durham steers or oxen in the Yoke? The breeders of these animals generally put them to feeding in consequence of the quick return they make, instead of to the yoke, when they find them not sufficiently good to reserve for breeding purposes. And I believe, as far as I have witnessed, that the half-bred, and three-quarter-bred Durhams are quite equal, if

not superior in speed and power, when properly trained at an early age, to any other breed that can be procured here. They have at any rate more weight and strength than the Devon, if not more speed. I have heard others, who have tried them *fairly* for a number of years state the same thing, and when no longer needed in the yoke, make heavier animals, and pay for fattening better than any other in this country. And now for the Devons, my friend Mr. Tye's favorite breed. They must, by all, be allowed to be very pretty and symmetrical animals; but as regards the profit of them, which I know he wishes, and will I doubt not, endeavour to make appear, over the Durhams, I cannot yet clearly see. I will undertake to prove that they are not superior, or even equal, in milk to the Durhams as regards both richness and quantity. I will also without much trouble prove, that neither the cow nor ox when put up to fatten will turn out equally profitable to the owner as the Durham cow or ox. The quantity of food consumed by each being duly estimated. They, the Devons, though perhaps nice in quality, come out too small, they have not sap or weight enough about them to be as profitable as they ought. The frame is not large enough to put on the weight; and the butchers here will not pay for *quality*, and, generally speaking, are very chary in paying (sufficiently) for weight. I have had practical and convincing proof of that this last winter in stall-feeding, independently of the experience in grazing thousands of the Devons, with almost all other breeds for Smithfield market, where, we always in the summer months obtained nearly, and sometimes quite as much, per pound, for the beautiful spayed Devon heifer, and ox, as for the equally handsome and greatly prized Highland Scot!

In fact, during the hot summer months they were both more readily sold in consequence of their *small weight*, as well as for the superior quality of their meat over other breeds. But here, I am sorry to say, the *quality* in purchasing an animal, with some men, is almost the last consideration; though, I trust, that we are somewhat progressing in that respect, even in this