

mellow in flesh; chest full; loin broad; hips standing wide, and level with the chine; quarters long, and wide at the neck; rump even with the level of the back, and not drooping or standing wide and sharp above the quarters; tail slender and neatly haired; barrel round and roomy; the carcass throughout deep and well spread; ribs broad, standing flat and close on the outer surface, forming a smooth, even barrel, the hindmost large and full of length; round bone small, snug, not prominent; thigh clean, and regularly tapering; legs upright and short; bone below the knee and hock small; feet of middle size; flank large; flesh everywhere mellow, soft, and yielding; leanly to the touch, especially on the chine, the shoulder, and the ribs; hide mellow, supple, of a middle thickness, and loose on the neck and huckle; coat neatly haired, bright and silky; color, a middle red, with a bald face, characteristic of the true Hereford breed."

They fatten to a much greater weight than the Devons, and run from fifty to seventy score. (A tolerable cow will average from thirty-five to fifty score.) They are not now much used for husbandry, though their form adapts them for the heavier work; and they have all the honesty and docility of the Devon ox, and greater strength, if not his activity. The Hereford ox fattens speedily at an early age, and it is more advantageous to the farmer, and perhaps to the country, that he should go to market a three years old, than to be kept longer to be employed as a beast of draught.

They are far worse milkers than the Devons. This is so generally acknowledged, that while there are many dairies of Devon cows in various parts of the country (none of which, however, are very profitable to their owners,) a dairy of Herefords is rarely to be found.

To compensate for this, they are kindly feeders. Their beef may be objected to by some as being occasionally a little too large in the bone, and the forequarters being coarse and heavy; but the meat of the best pieces is often very fine grained and beautifully marbled. There are few cattle more prized in the market than the genuine Herefords.

The Devons and the Herefords are both excellent breeds, and the prejudices of the Devonshire and Herefordshire farmers for their peculiar breed being set aside, a cross for the yoke or beef of the one will often materially improve the other. The Devon will acquire bulk, and the Hereford a finer form and activity.

The Herefords are evidently an aboriginal breed, and descended from the same stock as the Devons. If it were not for the white face, and somewhat larger head and thicker neck, it would not at all times be easy to distinguish between a heavy Devon and a light Hereford. Their white faces may probably be traced to a cross with their not distant relations, the Montgomerys.

The Hereford cow is apparently a very inferior animal. Not only is she no milker, but even her form has been sacrificed by the breeder. Herefordshire is more a rearing than a feeding county, and therefore the farmer looks mostly to the shape and value of his young stock; and, in the choice of his cow, he does not value her, or select her,

or breed from her according to her milking qualities, or the price which the grazier would give for her, but in proportion as she possesses that general form which experience has taught him will render her likely to produce a good ox. Hence the Hereford cow is comparatively small and delicate, and some would call her ill-made. She is very light fleshed when in common condition, and beyond that, while she is breeding, she is not suited to proceed; but when she is actually put up for fattening, she spreads out and accumulates fat at a most extraordinary rate.

The breeder has been taught by experience, that when the cow, although she should be somewhat roomy, is too large and masculine, the ox will be brawny and coarse, and perhaps a little sluggish at work, and even somewhat unkind and slow in the process of fattening, and these are objections which, most of all, he would be unwilling to have justly made. The Hereford cow is therefore somewhat undersized; and it not unfrequently happens that she produces a bull-calf that grows to three times her own weight.

Kindly as the Hereford ox fattens, very few are grazed in their native county: even the least which the home consumption requires are principally heifers and old cows. The oxen are sold at five and six years old, in tolerable condition, at the Michaelmas fair in Hereford, to the graziers of Buckinghamshire and the neighbouring counties, by whom they are principally preferred for the London market.

The fertility of the soil in Herefordshire has been very much over-rated. The traveller and the superficial observer have been misled by the luxuriant woods and rich alluvial soil upon the banks of the rivers. The pasture-grounds are generally poor, and the herbage is not nutritious, and therefore the farmer naturally confines his chief attention to his rearing-stock. The dairy has been comparatively neglected; for experience has proved that the breeding qualities of a cow are materially lessened, and even her form is deteriorated, by her being inclined to give a large quantity of milk.

THE SUSSEX CATTLE.

Some of the ancient Britons sought refuge from the attacks of their invaders, amid the fastnesses of the Weald of East Sussex. Thither they drove, or there they found, some of the native cattle of the country; and they anxiously preserved them free from all admixture.

The resemblance between the Sussex and the Devon oxen is very great. They unquestionably betray the same origin.

The Sussex ox has a small and well formed head compared with many other breeds, and even with the Hereford, but evidently coarser than that of the Devon; the horns pushing forward a little, and then turning upward, thin, tapering and long—not so as to confound this breed with the long horns. The eye is full, large and mild in the ox; but with some degree of unequibleness in the cow. The throat clean, and the neck, compared with either the long horns or the short ones, long and thin, yet evidently coarser than that of the Devon.