

To the extreme right appears a heifer with high prospects before her, Lily D. 3834, one that has been bred by Mr. Drummond himself, sired by their former stock bull Promotion 3212, dam Maggie Sands 3627, imported by Mr. Drummond. This heifer is one of splendid promise, being of excellent breeding and of fine appearance. She is the owner of a neat and pretty head, mounted with a nice pair of horns. Though one would not expect to see her body fully developed, yet in length and spring of rib she will equal many a cow of riper years. In loin she is strong and wide between the hocks, indicating that the claims of maternity will be easily met by her. Her teats are of good size, and are a good distance apart. She is a vigorous and sturdy looking heifer, and will, no doubt, meet the great expectations that her present merits have given rise to.

Viola 5th 4540, another heifer of many good parts, stands in the left hand corner in the group above. She is of good stock, having been sired by Promotion, and out of Viola 3rd 3822. She, however, is worthy of such progenitors, for though yet young she gives strong indications of future worth in the dairy, and as a breeder of prime stock. Though strong in bone and robust in appearance she is of excellent quality throughout. She is light in the fore-quarter, and wide and deep behind. Her barrel is well ribbed and rounded, while her teats are all that could be desired. Over all she has a skin that indicates butter-giving qualities, being of a good color and pliant handling.

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### The Best Always Commands a Good Price.

If there is one error which our farmers are more prone to fall into than another it is the production of what is only medium or inferior. What is medium only brings an average price, and what is inferior one that is less than the article is worth. But an article that is first class will bring the highest price going, and in almost every instance finds ready sale when offered. We have an illustration of this in the case of the sale of a pair of two-year-old grade Galloways, which has only recently come under our notice. They were bred by Mr. Keough, of Owen Sound, and when sold last spring they brought 6c. per pound live weight, at a time when good medium beef cattle were being picked up at 4½ cents per pound. They weighed 1,700 lbs. apiece. Here then we find \$100 each received for a pair of cattle not three years old, when the

average of three-year-old shipping cattle brought no more than \$73.00, and the farmer sold his half fattened steer of the same age to the local butcher for about \$45.00. It may be said that the difference between the price in the first and third instances was fed to the Galloway grades. We cannot think that such is true, for the cost of sustaining the life processes in the Galloways, as the replacing of waste tissue, was very much less than in that of the beasts sold to the local butcher. Again, beasts that gained so rapidly as the Galloway grades evidently must have made a much better use of every pound of food fed to them. We should never be content with the production of what is not really first in any line of life.

### As It Ought to Be.

Some time ago we inserted a paper in the JOURNAL on growing clover seed, from the pen of Mr. R. C. Brandon, Cannington. We have been much gratified to learn that that article has rendered good service in the country. Mr. Brandon dwelt upon the importance of cutting at just a particular stage which he indicated. A farmer living near Heathcote, where alsike clover is now extensively grown, profiting by the directions given by Mr. Brandon, cut a large field in 1888, at that particular period; several of his neighbors allowed theirs to reach a more advanced stage before cutting, and thereby lost quite a portion of the seed from shelling in the harvesting. They also injured the quality of the hay for feeding. The gentleman to whom we refer considers that he profited to the value of two dollars per acre in this instance, to say nothing of the results that will be reaped in coming years. The farmers of that neighborhood will also doubtless profit in future from the results of his experience in the instance given. In how many different centres similar results have been reaped from the perusal of Mr. Brandon's letter we have no means of ascertaining. We always had a strong faith in the relative value of the writings of thoroughly practical men, and in their ability to give bread to the readers of their writings rather than husks. We can assure our readers that nothing gratifies us more than to know that we are helping our farmers toward the adoption of improved methods of agriculture, which are sure to be followed by better financial returns.

### The Value of Improved Sires.

When pure bred sires were so dear that it required a sum equal to one-half the value of an entire common herd or flock to purchase one, those who hesitated are not to be charged with lack of enterprise. There was then a large risk incurred in investing in a sire, owing to the liability to accident in one way or another. Now it is entirely different. The prices of good sires are within the reach of any farmer who is really anxious to improve his stock. Why more attention is not given to this important matter is one of those things which it is not easy to answer. The advantages of growing improved stock are so apparent that the most careless observers cannot fail to have discovered this. Our cattle shippers will not go into a locality to look for stocks where a pure sire has not been kept for some time, and the same holds true of those who purchase sheep. Where good heavy draught sires are used there is no difficulty in finding a market for the offspring and at good prices, but where sires of mixed breeding, or of no special breeding, are in favor, the horse-buyer is seldom or never found. The gap in the prices for the improved and unimproved is also a large one. Take the prices for one week at the Chi-

cago live stock show yards, where oftentimes the arrivals sum up 12,000 head per day; while good fairly well-finished cattle bring from \$4.50 to \$4.60 per hundred live weight, the same day native cattle, a little older but considerably less in weight, sell for \$3.50 per one hundred pounds. To put it differently the well furnished steers of 1,400 lbs. averaged \$63.00 per head, while the native steers, considerably older, weighing 1,240 lbs. averaged \$43.40 per head. We feel quite safe in saying that the native steers cost the most to raise them, owing to their slower habit of growth, although the price obtained was \$19.60 less. Where the feed and care are right it is impossible to grow a pound of scrub meat as cheaply as a pound from an improved animal, as the habit of growth of the scrub forbids it. Every farmer in Canada should feel a patriotic pride in producing the best, to say nothing of the self-interest side of the question. Purchase a good sire if you are able, and if you are not patronize one though you should have to go miles in doing so.

### An Ayrshire Stock Farm.

Accepting the historical data furnished us by the chroniclers of early times in rural life one cannot but be impressed with the wondrous progress that has been made in the improvement of the various breeds of domesticated animals, and if we were to single out one breed, confining our selection to cattle that show the greatest advancement considering their appearance and qualities fifty or seventy-five years ago, the now comely and vigorous Ayrshire would undoubtedly be our choice. It is but within the last century that those characteristics, that make them invaluable as a breed, have become fixed through constant selection to a definite type for a well defined purpose, and to meet the exacting conditions of their native district. Their progress may not be so marked in later days, but it is none the less sure, so that with each year the canny Ayrshire fills with greater honor her destined position on the farm—the thrifty and economical dairy cow. Thrifty in the sense of being rugged in constitution, vigorous in vitality, and with the ability to stand climatic severities; economical in the light of giving good returns for all food consumed whatever its nature.

Among the many that have been successful in breeding these cattle, for all with but few exceptions indeed have done well with them because of the easiness of raising and caring for them, the name of Mr. James Drummond, Parkhill, Petite Cote, Montreal, stands forth prominently. For the last twenty-five years Mr. Drummond has been a believer in the Ayrshire and an enthusiastic laborer for her cause, and during that time he has called into play all the powers that be to build up a herd of the best possible merit. About twenty years ago he began the work of importing them from their native heath, and the enterprise and selective ability shown in importing animals of the best qualities and type, coupled with intelligent breeding and skilful management, has brought his herd to the fore as attested to by the high stand they have always taken at the leading exhibition contests each year. Perhaps the most remarkable of these importations was the superior Ayrshire bull Promotion 3212, obtained from Jas. Weir, of Sandlands, Scotland, when but a calf. This bull has done much to build up the herd to its present high status, and though his place is at present taken by another the good followed his use in the herd will yet show itself for years. Three excellent cows imported in '83, two of which, Viola 3rd 3822, sired by Gallant Graham 255, and bred by Duncan Keir, of Bucklivie; and Lily of Hardinstan