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The Whitfield Stock Farm.

On Tuesday, Jan. 4th, Mr. Ed. Barnard, Director of Agriculture, and I, paid a visit to this establishment. Taking the S. E. train to Mariaville, we were there met by Mr. Whitfield's nephew, a most intelligent young man, who, during our drive of 7 miles, gave us a good deal of general information on the subject of the farm and its collection of animals of various breeds and races. We reached Rougemont at ½ past 10 a. m. and spent the rest of the day, except the hours during which we enjoyed the profuse hospitality, and the pleasant conversation of Mrs. Whitfield, in examining the buildings and their contents. Mr. Whitfield was, unfortunately for us, in Barbadoes.

It is not enough to say we were pleased, we were delighted with the general appearance of the buildings, and the careful attention shown by the manager to the valuable herd under his control. A choicer collection of breeding cattle would be hard to find anywhere; and I do not believe so many choice specimens of the different sorts exist on this continent under the same owner. One knows not which to admire most: the judgment exercised in selecting the stock, or the liberality displayed in appropriating the services of the males to the general improvement of the herds of the country. Situated as the farm is, in a district occupied almost equally by English and French Canadians, the cattle of the neighbourhood must, before long, show a wonderful alteration in form and productiveness. Does a *habitant* wish to improve his stock of milk-cows? He can select for his service a Jersey, the original root whence sprang the Canadian cattle. Has my old friend, Mr. Standish, a high-grade heifer from whom he would like to rear a calf of still better quality? A pure Shorthorn bull is at his command. And all this, as far as two cows go, gratis; with only one proviso: the calves are to be reared in a fit and proper manner, so that they shall not disgrace their ancestry, when the enquiry is made: "Whose get is this?"

And if this goes on for a few years, if good judgment is exercised in selecting the males, in correcting by their impressiveness the weak points of the cows; we shall, in ten years from now, see Rougemont the chief seat of the cattle-breeding industry of the province. I am not generally credited with a tendency to overpraise in my writings what I see in my travels. But here, for once at least, I must depart from what, I fear, is called my criticising spirit, and say, that the general herd is excellent, and the picked

specimens superb. The following is a list of the thoroughbred cattle, as nearly as I can remember.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Kerry bulls 2 | cows 3 |
| Jersey " 2 | " 4 |
| Shorthorn " 2 | " 5 |
| Hereford " 1 | " 4 |
| Devon " 2 | " 4 |
| Ayrshire " 2 | " 20 |
| Galloway " 1 | " 4 |
| Kyloes (West Highlanders) 1. | " 7 |
| Polled-Angus " 1. | " 5 |

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Now, I may as well say at once that I have seen better Ayrshires, and Shorthorns, though they are good of their stamp, but for the rest they are as good as can be found anywhere. Mr. Barnard and I agreed wonderfully in our opinions, except that he rather fancied the younger Jersey more than his older companion; I confess, I preferred the latter. However they are both as good as need be; the elder rather hollow-backed, as these cattle generally become as age steals on. There could be no doubt about the younger Devon being as near the type of the breed as can be seen in the West of England. He is a pure *North Devon*, hardy as a mountain goat, and with all his meat where it ought to be, viz. on the roasting pieces and rounds. One of the Devon cows is a fit mate for him, and I cannot say more than that in her praise.

The Herefords were, I believe, selected by Mr. Duckham, a tenant farmer, M. P. for his native county. It is remarkable that these moderate-looking cows should produce such grand bulls and steers; but it is invariably the case, and, as I have often observed, in Worcestershire and Herefordshire, the bulls and steers ought always to be shown to a stranger to the breed, before he sees the cows. They are not great milkers, though they might easily be trained to be, but as the calf sucks the cow, and, in the majority of cases, the dam is never milked, but the young weaned early, they do not stand much chance of becoming good dairy cattle; though I have seen, at Sir Baldwyn Leighton's, Shropshire, a herd of Herefords averaging their 16 quarts of milk a day.

The Keries I said enough about in the October number. One or two of Mr. Whitfield's heifers of this breed give 10 quarts of milk a day, of a quality equal to the Jerseys.

But the marvel of the herd is *Judge*, the *Polled-Angus Bull*.

He is the same that won the first prize of his class at the Paris Exhibition of 1878, where Mr. McCombie's herd of the same breed gained the championship of the world; beating Shorthorns, Herefords, Devons, as well as all the continental races, in a canter. The *Polled-Angus* are mixed up with another Aberdeenshire polled kind, the *Buchan Humlies*. They form a feature every year at the Xmas London market, whither, this last month, seven car-loads were dispatched, in