

AN AMERICAN HERD BOOK.

The inconvenience arising from the want of a work of this kind is already greatly felt in the United States, and with the rapid multiplication of our herds, is continually increasing. There may now be estimated at least 2,000 thoroughbred Short Horn cattle on this side the Atlantic, distributed in the hands of perhaps five hundred different breeders. These animals, in most cases, have been selected from among the best herds in England, and imported at great expense, and their descendants widely disseminated into every State of our Union and the Canadas. Strict attention has been given to their breeding, and great care bestowed to maintain their original excellence. The climate and soils of America have proved congenial to their growth and from the rapidity with which they have multiplied, and their present comparative cheapness, we may anticipate that but few further importations will be made from abroad. Still the decided advantages conferred upon one of the most important branches of our agriculture by the introduction of the Short Horns into this country, have distinctly established them as a race to be perpetuated in their purity; and the progressive improvement in American husbandry is a sufficient guarantee that they will hereafter maintain their exalted character in elevating the standard of American cattle.

So important was it esteemed by the Short Horn breeders of England to establish and record the lineage of their unrivalled herds, that in the year 1822 the first volume of Coates' Herd Book was published, containing the pedigrees of over 2,500 animals; and so strongly has the public mind sanctioned the utility of the work and its continuance, that three successive supplements have from time to time been issued, and another is now in the press, embracing altogether a list of probably 12,000 cattle.

In the great mass of these, the American breeder has little interest, although from the absence of a domestic record many of our citizens have encountered the inconvenience and expense of transmitting a list of their herds to England for registry. A moments reflection will convince us of the absurdity of a perpetual dependence upon foreign records for the pedigrees of American stock; and the great expense of obtaining the entire English herd book, comprising five large volumes, at a cost of not less than forty dollars, are subjects not unworthy of consideration; add to this the probability of errors in printing the registry at such a distance, where corrections can hardly be made, together with the possession of no greater assurance for the integrity of the records than may be found at home, and the propriety of at once establishing an American Herd Book, will be apparent.

A work of this kind has long been agitated by various gentlemen connected with cattle breeding in America; but no

one has hitherto ventured the experiment, although earnestly called for by a numerous body of breeders.

Its demand then being conceded, it remains to be seen whether the public will sustain an effort to accomplish it. It is a labour involving industry, research and discrimination; and in its proper execution, demanding no ordinary degree of firmness and decision in resisting undue admissions within its pages. It may, perhaps, be deemed an act of presumption in the undersigned to assume this responsibility; but he can only answer that *some one* must undertake it, if it be undertaken at all; and having been a considerable breeder of Short Horns for many years, and more or less conversant with most of the principal herds of this country, he considers his observation and experience, together with a familiar acquaintance with the volumes of the English Herd Book, somewhat of a guarantee for the performance. Be it remembered, however, that the task is not assumed without mature reflection, and after the repeated solicitations of several distinguished breeders in different sections of the United States; and if pursued, the co-operation of skillful and experienced individuals will be rendered. But for the integrity of its execution the undersigned will be solely responsible.

As this work is not proposed in the anticipation of private gain, so neither will it be expected to involve pecuniary loss. It is therefore necessary to ascertain the extent of encouragement which will be given to it before proceeding; and for that purpose the undersigned respectfully asks the publication of this notice by the agricultural press generally in the United States and the Canadian Provinces, for which together with a copy of the paper containing it, directed to him, he will present the proprietor with a copy of the work, if prosecuted.

He also requests all who approve the plan to write him, *post paid*, if by mail, previous to the 1st day of July next, stating the number of animals they propose to register, together with the number of copies they will take. If a sufficient number of responses are made to encourage the undertaking, the work will proceed; if not it will be given up. The determination of going on with it will be announced through the agricultural papers as early as September next, and those proposing to patronize the work will then be notified to forward their respective registers of cattle immediately, together with the necessary evidence of their correctness, that it may be issued as early as the spring of 1845.

As it is not expected that the sales of the book will more than pay for the printing and publication, a small charge for admission will be required, say from twenty-five to fifty cents for each animal, as the number may determine.

Well executed portraits of animals, the plates being furnished by the owners, will be inserted with the register.

The full pedigree of each animal will be given, running back through its whole extent in the English Herd Book, if thus furnished, together with its reference numbers, so as to render the American Herd Book a *perfect* record of every one's genealogy.

An index containing the name and residence of every breeder whose cattle are registered, will be inserted.

Another index will contain the name of every animal, and the page on which it is recorded.

The work will be prefaced with a full and accurate history of the Short Horn breed of cattle, drawn up from the best English authorities, together with a particular account of their extraordinary productions both in the dairy and at the shambles.

It will be executed as near as possible in the style of an English Herd Book, well bound, and delivered to subscribers at a price not exceeding three dollars a copy, either at New York, Albany, or Buffalo, at their option.

LEWIS F. ALLEN.

Black Rock, N. Y., April, 1844.

For the British American Cultivator.

(CONTINUED FROM THE MARCH NUMBER.)

CHERRIES.

Some of the best varieties of imported cherries are, the Early May Duke, the white Heart, the red Mazard or Downer Cherry, the Waterloo, the yellow Spanish, the black Heart, and the black Tartarian. The common little red Cherry of the country is hardly worth cultivating, if better can be got, except for planting at our corners, for the purpose of engaging the birds, and keeping them away from the better varieties, for which it, (as well as the green or wild cherry of the woods, which is also a very ornamental tree,) may be very useful. But still if it wishes to enjoy a lengthened succession of ripe fruits through the summer, ought to have Cherries of some sort.

ANDREW WILLANSON.

Fairy Knowe, March, 1844.

Wash for Fruit Trees.—You constantly recommend that fruit-trees should be done over with lime as a wash. Nothing can look more frightful than their glaring conspicuous trunks on a hot summer's day; and to obviate this disgust I use cow-dung, soot, or wood-ash, mixed up with urine, the drainage of a dung-mix, or ammoniacal water from the gas-works, to the consistency of thin paint. This composition appears to me to possess all the advantages of the lime, and the trunks of the trees appear lessened, and altogether much more pleasing to the eye.

Hoarseness.—One drachm of freshly scraped horse radish root, to be infused with four ounces of water, in a close vessel, for two hours, and made into a syrup, with double its weight in vinegar, is an improved remedy for hoarseness; a tea-spoonful has often proved effectual; a few tea-spoonfuls, it is said, have never been known to fail in removing hoarseness.