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HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF SHORT HORN CATTLE.

(Continued from page 101.)

It was conceded by a company of old breeders in 1812, in discussing the question of the improvement of Short Horns, that no stock of Mr. Colling's breeding ever equalled "Lady Maynard," the dam of Phoenix, and granddam of Favourite. One cannot deny that the Messrs. Colling deserve great credit as breeders, and were no doubt improvers to a considerable extent; but if the above statements be true, they are far, very far indeed, from being the *creators* and *originators* of the best tribes of the Short Horns. They strike us as having been sharp shrewd men, and were fortunate in securing the best animals of their day, and these, so long as they continued breeders, they kept exclusively to themselves. We saw a letter of Mr. C. Colling, when in England, written in a handsome round hand, declining to give the pedigree of an animal asked of him, and stating it was a general rule with him, from which, if our memory serves us right, he added, he had never departed, and his movements (as indeed are most of those of the breeders in England even at the present day, were hrouded in as much mystery as it was possible to assume.* If they see an advantage in their stock, they at once determine to keep it as exclusively as they can, and make the most possible out of it. Perhaps as they cannot get any patent right for animals, this is all fair enough as the world goes, and for one we do not complain, since they left the *results* for the world.

Great antiquity is claimed for some of the stock in Northumberland, and as early as 1770, a Mr. Dickson, and probably some others, had cattle that were famous milkers, and much resembled in other particulars the Short Horns of the present day, being quick feeders and good handlers. We might enlarge upon this subject, but perhaps have already said too much, and therefore forbear. Enough is on record to prove what we at first set out so do, namely, that the Short Horns are of an ancient and superior race; and it is undeniable throughout Great Britain, that when the good milking and quick feeding qualities of any breed of cattle are sought to be improved, the Short Horns are universally resorted to, and when properly selected, always with marked success. We saw these crosses in infinite number on the cattle of Ireland, Scotland, England and Jersey; and the colours and form of the Short Horns immediately stamped themselves upon the produce and predominated, which is proof indisputable, if other were wanting, of their great antiquity and high breeding.

The dam of Hubback was supposed to be a well bred Short Horn, with at least a portion, if not all of the imported Holland blood in her veins. Her size was barely medium for a Short Horn, with a

* This was also eminently the case with the celebrated Blakewell.

† We have heard it asserted, that this stock was originally sent from England to Holland about two centuries since, as a present, by Charles I. to William, Prince of Orange, then Stadtholder, at the time of his marriage with the daughter of Charles, the Princess Henrietta Maria. From this produce a century after, Sir William St. Quintin and others made their importations. Mr. Bates had some of the same in his possession, which he called the Wild Eyes breed of Short Horns. They were originally pure white, and it is this tribe which is supposed to have marked the Short Horn families generally, and not the Wild Cattle of Chillingworth Park, as asserted by Mr. Youatt in his work on British Cattle; for these last have white brittle horns, a dull, sluggish, ferocious eye, and other characteristics totally different from any in the tribe: Short Horn.

carcase near the ground. And very fine in all her points. She was a quick feeder, and would keep in good condition though running on the poor, short pasture of the common highway, and giving milk at the time. According to Mr. Berry's account, when put upon good pasture near Darlington, she soon became too fat to breed, and was consequently sent to the butcher. She was originally owned by Mr. Hunter near Hunworth, and there bred to Mr. Snowden's bull, of Sir James Pennymann's stock, and that produce was Hubback. When a calf, he and his mother were sold in the Darlington market. The purchaser retained the cow, but re-sold the calf to a blacksmith, who gave it to his daughter after her marriage, and it was brought up in the lanes at Houby, within 5 miles of Kilkilvington. In 1783 it became the property of Mr. R. Colling, and his neighbour Mr. Waistell, but it was not till a year after this, that Hubback attracted Mr. C. Colling's particular attention. He had then just returned from spending a week with the celebrated Mr. Bakewell, at Dishley, who at that period, was in the zenith of his glory as a breeder, and doubtless gave Mr. Colling many a good lesson on Cattle, for upon getting back to Durham, he instantly saw how superior Hubback was to the much vaunted Long Horns of Leicestershire, and was at once aroused to his great merits, and immediately very adroitly bought him for £88, of his brother and Mr. Waistell, and would never after permit him to breed to any but his own herd. Hubback was a remarkable quick feeder, with clear waxy horns, mild, bright eyes, and a very pleasing countenance. His handling was superior to any bull of his day: his coat was of soft downy hair, and he had a habit of retaining it long in spring before shedding. He had the same propensity to take on flesh as the dam, and with Mr. Colling's good keep, soon became useless as a breeder.

Bolingbroke, (86), son of the celebrated bull Favourite (252), took on flesh rapidly, and in other respects was much like Hubback.

Favourite, his son, was a large massy animal, partaking of the character of his dam Phoenix, than that of his sire. He possessed remarkable good loins, and long level hind quarters; his shoulder points stood wide, and were somewhat coarse, and too forward in the neck; his horns also, in comparison with Hubback's, were long and strong. These qualities were derived from Mr. Hill's stock of Blackwell, to which, though several crosses off, he seemed to breed directly back in all his general characteristics. He was a powerful animal, and of great constitution. As a proof of this last quality, Mr. Colling used to show with great pride a fine large heifer from him, of direct in and in breeding, of sue to daughter, grand-daughter, and so on to her, of the sixth generation. His bull calves were generally like himself, a trifle coarse, but of good constitution.

Comet was the most celebrated of his get, and sold for 1,000 guineas. It was the stock of these two last bulls that brought the Short Horns into so great repute.

Phoenix, the dam of Favourite, was a large open boned cow, with more horn, altogether coarser than her dam the beautiful Lady Maynard. Both Phoenix and Old Johanna had the fat lumps on the points of their buttocks, that formerly for a time carried off the prizes at the Yorkshire Cattle Shows. But these critical remarks are exhausting the patience of our readers.

To say that we admired Mr. Bates' stock, is only reiterating the opinion of many of the best judges in England. It particularly excels in handling and feeding qualities, and he informed us that in milking they were quite equal. He has hitherto been more successful than any other breeder, in obtaining prizes at the Royal Agricultural Shows, and whether he continues so hereafter, remains to be seen. It is both troublesome and expensive showing stock, and perhaps satisfied with the honours already obtained, he may now retire from further competition.

MANURES.

(Continued from page 162.)

SHOVELLING OVER THE COMPOST HEAP

The above remarks may be called our Compost Heap. It must be well shovelled over. You must, reader, before you cart it out and spread it, understand well what this compost contains. Now just let me turn over a few shovels full, and fork out the main points to which I wish to call your attention.

1st. That all plants find in stable manure everything they want.

2nd. That stable manure consists of water, coal, and salts.

3rd. That these, water, coal and salts, consists in all plants of certain substances, in number fifteen, which are called,

1. Oxygen, 2. Hydrogen, 3. Nitrogen, 4. Carbon, 5. Sulphur, 6. Phosphorus, 7. Potash, 8. Soda, 9. Lime, 10. Magnesia, 11. Alumina or clay, 12. Iron, 13. Manganese, 14. Chlorine, which last, as we have said, forms about one half the weight of common salt, 15. Silica. And if you always associate with the word chlorine, the fertilizing qualities of common salt, you will, perhaps, have as good an idea of this substance as a farmer need have, to understand the action of chlorine.

4th. These fifteen substances may be divided into four classes.

1st. The airy or gases, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, and chlorine.

2nd. The combustibles, carbon, sulphur, and phosphorus.

3rd. The earths and metals, lime, clay, magnesia, iron, manganese, and silica.

4th. The alkalies, potash and soda.

You may be surprised that I have not turned up ammonia, but this exists in plants as hydrogen and nitrogen.

5th. The term salt includes a vast variety of substances, formed of alkalies, earths, and metals, combined with acids. Fix well the meaning of this term in your mind, and remember the distinction pointed out, that some salts are volatile, and not quick in manure, and others are fixed, and act slower.

6th. When the plants die or decay, they return to the earth or the air these fifteen substances. These returned to the earth form the mould, which thus is composed of carbon, salts, and water, is natural manure.

7th. Mould consists of two kinds, one of which may be, and the other cannot be dissolved by water. Alkalies put it into a state to be dissolved, and in proportion as it is dissolved, it becomes valuable as a manure.

8th. If any manure contains only water, carbon, and salts, any substance which affords similar products may be substituted for it. Hence we come to a division of manures into natural and artificial. The consideration of these is the carting out and spreading of our compost. And we shall first consider in detail the natural manures.

That is, those which are furnished us by the dung and urine of animals, and the manure or mould formed by the decay of

animal bodies or plants. These are truly the natural manures, consisting of water, mould and salts. This is all that is found in cattle dung. This being premised, we may divide manures, reader, for your more convenient consideration, not by their origin, but by their composition. We may divide manures into these three classes: First, those consisting of vegetable or animal matter, called mould; Secondly, those consisting chiefly of salts; and, Thirdly, those consisting of a mixture of these two classes. And, beginning with the last first, we will now proceed to the consideration.

CARTING OUT AND SPREADING.

The general chemical information set forth in the preceding Sections will be of service to you, reader, if it conducts you not beyond the result arrived at in the close of the last Section, that cattle dung is composed of water, mould, and salts.

You want to know what salts, and how they act. If you understand this, you may be able to say beforehand, whether other things, supposing their nature understood, can take the place of the mould and salts.

The mould, then, of cattle dung, as of all other mould, contains the following substances:

The water, consists of oxygen and hydrogen.

The mould consists of carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, and ammonia.

Thus it is seen, that the mould contains all the substances found in the first class into which elements of plants were divided. The salts contain the sulphur, phosphorus, and the carbon as sulphuric, phosphoric, and carbonic acids, and the chlorine, as muriatic acid or spirits of salt.

The acids, formed of the elements of the fourth class of the substances, entering into plants, are combined with those of the second and third classes, namely: the potash, soda, lime, clay, magnesia, iron, and manganese. Here then we have all the elements of plants, found in cattle dung. Let us detail their several proportions. We have all that plants need, distributed in cattle dung, as follows:—

In 100 lbs. of clear cattle dung, are	
Water	83.00
Mould, composed of hay	14.00
Soil and Slime	1.275
Albumen, a substance like the white of an egg	1.76
Salts, etc. or sand	1.4
Potash, united to oil of vitriol, forming a salt	.65
Potash, united to acid of mould	.67
Common Salt	.68
Bone Dust, or phosphate of lime	.24
Plaster of Paris	.12
Chalk, or carbonate of lime	.12
Magnesia, iron, manganese, clay, united to the several acids above	.14

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WHEAT—ITS PROPER MANURE.

How can one best increase the elements of wheat in soils where such elements are lacking.

This is a question of great practical moment. To show, in the first place, what one acre of land can do, where Science had supplied it with each element used by nature in forming this invaluable plant, as far as such elements were lacking in the soil, we ask the reader's attention to the following facts:

Says Mr. Colman:—"It is well attested that a crop of wheat grown in Norfolk county in the same year (1845) produced 11 quarters, 2 bushels, 3 pecks per acre, that is to say, 90 bushels, 3 pecks per acre." The evidence of the truth of this statement being satisfactory to the Royal Agricultural Society, its Council directed Prof. Playfair to make a critical analysis of the soil that produced this remarkable