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DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,
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BREEDS OF CATTLE.

There is an idea very generally diffused that the largest breeds of cattle are the best. No rule can be more erroneous. The breed is that which gives the greatest profit in proportion to the expense of keeping it. The size of a breed depends upon the quantity and quality of its food. Where the pastures are very middling sized cattle have in the course of a century become a very large breed, and very poor pastures have within the period reduced middling sized cattle to a very small breed. Both the large and small breeds some will be found much superior to others for milk, and some will have the same superiority of property of fattening easily. These should be chosen for the purpose, but where the pasture is very poor the young calf should be allowed as much milk as it will take, because it will tend to increase the size, which in such a situation would prove injurious.

Many of the Tartars winter their cattle without hay, and the young calf but half the milk if the cow gives an ordinary quantity. They say that if the calf is allowed all the milk, it will not when grown be able to stand the winter. A young calf notwithstanding should never be allowed to be very poor. It is wished to have cows give an extraordinary quantity of milk, the calf should always be very well fed, but in some situations such cows are rather objects of curiosity than of profit. A cow cannot create milk; the materials to form it must be given to her. We have known a cow which gave six gallons of milk daily, and in the neighbourhood two others that between them gave six and a half gallons; they all fed in a pasture which was rather overstocked, and had each as much Indian meal twice a day as it was thought safe to give them, being all in a condition that would have been passable beef. The pasture cost but little; the meal at that time was very dear; and as the large cow consumed more than the small ones, we conceive the latter to have been the most profitable. There are situations where cattle are allowed but little to live in winter much upon browse, and constantly attending to them who are cutting cordwood. The cattle who have been kept in this way for a considerable time are never large, they have a considerable proportion of bone and sinew, can run fast, leap fences, and climb steep rocky hills. They quickly take on fat in the early part of the summer, but rarely become very fat. They are poor milkers and go dry for a long time. Their mode

of living has altered them to animals stronger and more active than those from which they descended, but more unsuitable for furnishing milk or fat. The breeds that fatten easily are rather sluggish, with plenty of muscle, for the most part, but always with small bones and sinews, and possessing neither great strength, long wind, nor the quality of enduring labor without weariness, they spend their time rather in eating and resting than in wearing out their flesh by running about. The great milker is generally also a quiet cow with small bones and sinews, but always light at the shoulders and deeper behind. No one breed can be the best for every part of this province. As agricultural skill increases in any country, the pastures become richer, and the size of sheep and cattle increases proportionally; but in all situations the best only of every breed should be employed as the breeders. No regard should be paid to the size, very small cattle frequently pay as well for the food they consume as those that are larger. The particular conformation is important, but not all that is important. Cattle are often found very well formed who appear too sluggish to feed well; they stand still or lie down a great part of the time, and will rarely give any considerable quantity of milk without a large quantity of short feed is given them. Others not much differing in form feed with great activity and collect for themselves the food which furnishes a good mess of milk. There is spirit as well as flesh and bone in neat cattle as well as in horses, and this spirit is transmitted to their descendants, and should always be regarded in choosing cattle to breed from. It is rarely profitable to allow cattle to be poor in winter except in situations where the winter food costs but very little, for the cow that is very poor in May will rarely make two thirds the quantity of butter that she would have done had she been in good condition at that time. Where the pastures are very poor, if a small piece of good grass land is allotted to the purpose of furnishing the cattle with a feed of young grass when they are brought home at night, mowing it always before it is half grown, the first time; and if the hay for winter were cut about a fortnight earlier than the usual season, the cows would generally calve a year earlier, and would increase in size, and in the proportion of milk. It is commonly accounted that cows which calve at two years old are much reduced in size by breeding so young, but we have not observed any great effect of this kind, although it is certain that it retards their growth, but they generally prove better milkers than those which calve at four years old. Many writers have recommended that heifers should not be put to the bull till they are three years old, but it should be remembered that cattle are often injured and sometimes rendered worthless by neglecting to put them to the bull when in heat; there is danger that they will not afterwards stand to the bulling, and there are many cattle who from this cause rarely have a calf oftener than once in two years. Bull Stags (bulls who have been castrated when two years old or more) should never be allowed to run with heifers, which they often ruin, by reducing them to such a state that they cannot be fattened because they are half the time in heat, while they never get with calf when taken to the Bull.

The artificial Breed, the Durham short horn, has almost invariably given to every breed with which it has been crossed a portion of its properties, of early maturity, and a disposition to fatten, but it is not yet agreed generally that it is the best breed for