

SHORTHORN

EXPERIENCES

WILLIAM ASHBURNER

A-581646

SE 199.556

P.A.L. 58164



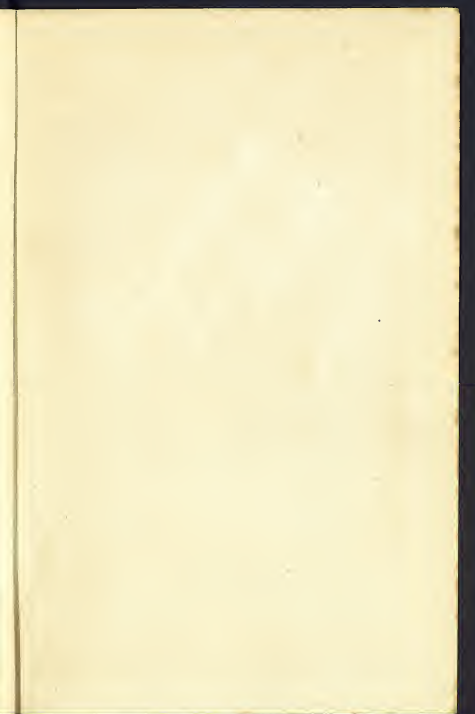
PERKINS  
AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

—  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
SOUTHAMPTON

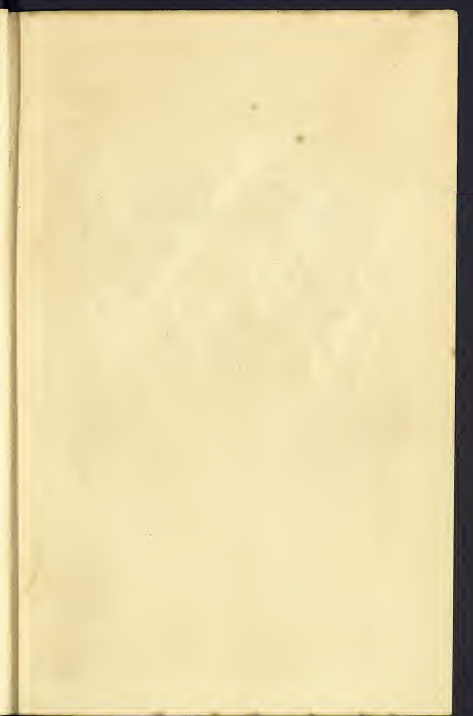
J. J. Everett Wards  
from Bacteria

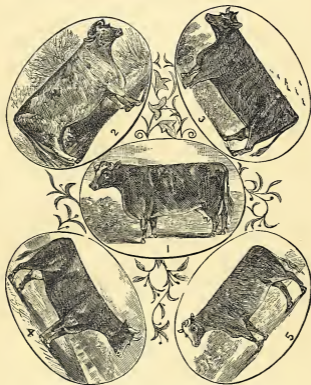
S. April 1888





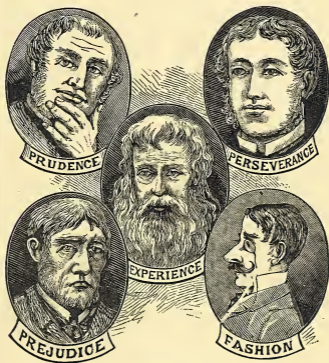






See Page 207.





See Page 200.



SHORTHORN  
EXPERIENCES,

(WRITTEN AT THE REQUEST OF A FEW BREEDERS,)

BY

WILLIAM ASHBURNER,

*The Manor House, Moreton, Warwick.*



WARWICK:

HENRY T. COOKE & SON, HIGH STREET,  
LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & Co.

THE HISTORY OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON

BY  
JOHN H. COOPER

1857



## CONTENTS.

	PART I.	PAGE.
INTRODUCTION	- - -	1
CHAPTER I.	- - -	5
How Messrs. Collings bred their shorthorns, afterwards called Bates' tribes.		
CHAPTER II.	- - -	14
How Mr. Bates bred the Duchesses and the result.		
CHAPTER III.	- - -	24
The tribes in Mr. Bates' possession at his death. Other families descended from Hubback that were purely descended, which did not pass through his hands.		
CHAPTER IV.	- - -	33
The experience of several breeders, with the author's remarks.		
	PART II.	
CHAPTER I.	- - -	47
My birth-place, my Father's experience as a breeder, and the first impressions it gave me upon in-breeding.		
CHAPTER II.	- - -	57
A picture of real life in 1846, and an imaginary one compared in 1886.		

	PAGE.
CHAPTER III. - - -	71
Wisdom in youth, advice how to write my experiences, my first shorthorns, gaining experience by being a disappointed exhibitor, my first sale, or preliminary examination, leaving the village school for the preparatory.	
CHAPTER IV. - - -	81
Gaining experience by expensive purchases under the guidance of fashion. Passing the intermediate examination by a second successful sale.	
CHAPTER V. - - -	90
Purchasing by fashion, and selling by fashion to the inexperienced, purchasing a Duke, purchasing the remnant of Mr. Harvey's herd, the loss by purity through in-breeding, and being prejudiced. Satisfactory results in the sale of 1875, or in other words, passing the final examination as a shorthorn breeder.	
CHAPTER VI. - - -	105
Table of figures, the reason the animals varied in their prices, purchasing largely for Canada principally through fashion and prejudice, too close breeding, injurious, comparing shorthorn breeding to a manufactory, different degrees of fashion.	
CHAPTER VII. - - -	117
Fashion and prices at their height, signs of their decline, profitable purchases, difference between the Americans and Australians, why Mr. Bates used Cleveland Lad (3408), the school of experience.	
CHAPTER VIII. - - -	128
The sale season of 1878, the varieties of prices, showing the decline in value, except for the most fashionably bred shorthorn.	
CHAPTER IX. - - -	148
Gaining experience through other breeders, fashion by inbreeding injurious to the constitution of any animal, the fatal result of adding Duchess blood to various tribes for the sake of fashion alone.	

	PAGE.
CHAPTER X.           -           -           -	164
<p>The dates of the rise and fall in shorthorns, comparing them to travelling over a mountain, various tribes of cattle worthy of selection to breed from, not necessary to breed good cattle for the sake of fashion, but for same reason as they were originally introduced by early breeders, a good herd can be profitably bred by careful selection from dairy cows, animals to be kept in a natural state to be productive as breeders and milkers.</p>	
CHAPTER XI.           -           -           -	180
<p>Different degrees in writers compared to shorthorn breeders, general remarks upon the past and present.</p>	
CHAPTER XII.         -           -           -	192
<p>Things as they were, the story of three companions, the three drawings, experiences intermixed, things as they are, concluding remarks.</p>	



## ERRATA.

### PAGE.

- 35—Lines 7 and 19, Samartine, *read* Lamartine.  
57—Line 3, confirmed, *read* compared.  
71—Line 2, unite, *read* write.  
71—Line 6, having, *read* leaving.  
113—Line 11, it is in making, *read* but in making.  
123—Line 3, was, *read* were.  
139—Lines 18 and 21, Barnyeat, *read* Burnyeat.  
149—Line 13, he was not then young in years, and not far advanced in years of experience in shorthorn breeding, *read* although advanced in years he was but young in the experience of shorthorn breeding.  
166—Line 18, there, *read* where.  
176—Line 12, not pretty enough for the dairy, *read* and not even that for the dairy.  
182—Line 4, provoking, *read* creating.



## INTRODUCTION.

THE Author of this small work has frequently been requested by several friends, and shorthorn breeders, to write a short account upon his experience in shorthorns, as well as giving a few illustrations, respecting the doings of breeders of the past. He has at last, yet, very reluctantly, taken up his pen, to commence to write upon this important question, it has taken him months, he may say more, even years, to make up his mind to appear in print; having acceded to their wishes, he trusts that they will deal leniently with him, in not criticising his remarks too severely, but pass over any errors he may unavoidably make, with a gentle reproof; but having had considerable experience in breeding, he dare not hope to be altogether passed by uncriticized, neither can he boast of any information that he can give to the experienced, will be worthy of notice, but perhaps, to the inexperienced,

“ Or to one, that is not a shorthorn breeder born,

Or to one, that has not by shorthorns had his pocket  
threadbare worn,”

it may be of interest, to be guided a little by the writer, who has passed through a number of years

in the rising and falling of the prices of shorthorns, as well as the changes that have taken place in the rising and falling of their popularity, in addition to being a breeder for a quarter of a century.

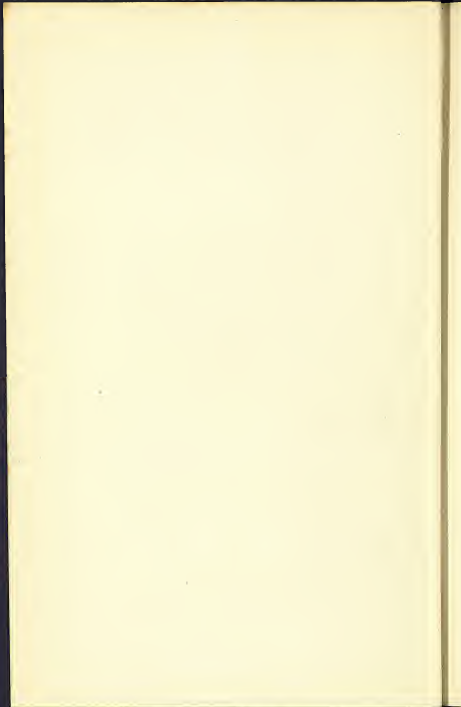
It is not an easy matter for an amateur in writing to explain minutely his experience in life, even if that experience be principally upon shorthorns. The writer looks upon experience as a great master, a master of arts, full of years, and honour, one, that is capable of teaching others as he has been taught many valuable lessons to be remembered through life; and in writing this small volume for publication, he shall dwell principally upon Experience, and his four pupils, viz. Prudence, Perseverance, Fashion, and Prejudice; the two former are far advanced in their scholarship, and agreeable companions, the two latter, quite the reverse, slow to learn, and unsociable when in companionship, but apart from Prejudice; the writer has found by experience that Fashion, united with Prudence and Perseverance, can be both agreeable and profitable. To give satisfactory proof of this, he shall endeavour to show, how the union of the three pupils of experience, assisted him, in becoming not only a fashionable, but practical, and profitable shorthorn breeder; had they been divided, or prejudice admitted, it would have been a complete failure. To arrive at this clearly, he will appear as a scholar, commencing with the alphabet on shorthorn breed-

ing, and undergo three examinations—the preliminary, intermediate, and final—which he shall explain in three different chapters, by three successful sales that took place as he advanced by experience as a breeder.

The writer has fully made up his mind, not to allow prejudice to interfere with his description of either any breed of cattle, or breeder. Although he is an admirer of Bates' blood, it shall not be puff'd up beyond its merits in the book which he has decided to write in two parts, the first to contain experience from breeders of the past, with remarks by the Author. The second part, will give a brief explanation of his experience in life, from childhood, to boyhood, and from boyhood, to manhood, to extend over a period of forty years, and by the experience gained, would advise the young or inexperienced breeder—

- “ To breed the beast, to fill the pail ;  
To breed the beast, to graze hill or dale ;  
To breed the beast, that will quick mature ;  
To breed the beast, that will all piercing winds endure.”





# SHORTHORN EXPERIENCES.

---

## CHAPTER I.

HOW MESSRS. COLLINGS BRED THEIR SHORTHORNS,  
AFTERWARDS CALLED BATES' TRIBES.

The writer thinks it more prudent to relate briefly the experiences of one or two eminent breeders before that of his own, which have taught him many valuable lessons; although they have passed away from us, their experience is still with us, recorded in many a shorthorn history, and he may add almost invaluable to the inexperienced. But I imagine the experienced will probably say, what is the good of repeating the old story over and over again; tell us something new, and interesting, and not relate the old dried material of almost a century ago. If this be his opinion, the writer

surely differs from him. He has made up his mind to give his readers fully two chapters of the experiences of others, in the early part of the present century, who paid even a higher price for it than we at the present time.

It is now just over one hundred years, since Mr. Charles Collings purchased at Stanwick Park, his first Duchess cow, for the sum of £13. The same period of years have also elapsed, since he had the pleasure of giving his brother Robert and Mr. Waistell his advice, as to the purchase of a little bull, that he had seen grazing in a field when taking a walk a few days previous, which he thought might be bought cheap, and answer their purpose until a large calf of their own breeding was of sufficient age. Not thinking for one moment that the animal was beyond ordinary merit, but simply that he might do for the time required, at last the bull was purchased for the sum of 8 guineas, certainly not a very extravagant price for a beast at 7 years of age, which won the first prize at Durham Agricultural Show the same year, for the best aged shorthorn bull, and that bull was named "Hubback (319.\*)" Not even the shrewdest of shorthorn breeders could have discerned at so early a date, the astounding results the union of these two animals would at a future day bring forth; it takes time and experience, to carry out practically the breeder's part. The

Duchess cow, being a daughter of James Brown's Red Bull (97), was put to Hubback, the produce of their union being a heifer, and that heifer in due time mated with Favourite (252), which again resulted in a female, when of sufficient age, was put to Daisy Bull (186) a son of Favourite (252) and the produce proved to be "Old Duchess," the dam of Ketton (709) one of the most wonderful bulls in his day, he was also a son of Favourite (252). Old Duchess, was the dam of an own sister to Ketton and that sister was the dam of "Young Duchess," by Comet (155), also a son of Favourite (252) purchased by Mr. Bates for 183gs. in Mr. Charles Collings' sale in 1810, and her sire Comet, realizing 1000gs. the same day to four breeders jointly, viz. Wetherell, Trotter, Wright, and Charge. "Young Duchess," is the ancestress of all Duchesses, and Grand Duchesses, now in existence, either in England, or any other part of the world. Thus far, we see the increase in value, and numbers of the Duchess family in the space of 16 years, between Mr. C. Collings purchasing for £13, and selling at £192, having previously sold the dam of Ketton for 100gs. to Mr. Bates.

As I am advancing rather too quickly with my history, kindly allow me to return again to the days—

"When Brothers' Collings as breeders made their name,  
Through them alone, "Hubback," gained his fame."

Mr. Robert Collings, and Mr. Waistell, had Hubback only a very short period, before asking their former adviser if he knew of a customer for the animal. Mr. Charles immediately replied, "I will take him at the price you gave for him." Shortly after he was sold, Mr. Waistell noticing the merits of the bull as a quick thriver, to be rather extraordinary, wished to send some of his cows to him, but Charles Collings refused his request, unless he paid five guineas per cow. This exorbitant demand, after receiving only four guineas for half of the beast, taught Mr. Waistell that Mr. Charles Collings' advice was worth remembering. This same Mr. Waistell was the first person to turn Mr. Bates' attention to highly bred cattle, a lesson dearly bought is often well remembered, as he evidently impressed upon Mr. Bates the value of Hubback's blood. Apparently from what we read, the latter would have tired the most patient listener by sounding the praise of Hubback; as tracing direct to Hubback, was Mr. Bates's motto to get the best of blood. But what became of Hubback? some might inquire. Why, he was sold at 10 years of age for 30gs., and after that time made a wonderful impression as a sire whenever he was used, even upon ordinary dairy stock. He was only a small bull, and we are informed that is why Mr. Charles Collings sold him, because purchasers of his animals were fond of size. No doubt it is a great mistake, and one



made almost daily in the nineteenth century. A massive, well-proportioned sire, is the one to leave his mark behind him; beware of long legs, long heads, and thin thighs. The writer remembers about 30 years ago, two neighbouring farmers who vied each other in their bulls. One was fond of a good animal upon short legs, the other of one upon a large bony scale to make some weight in the end as he expressed himself. At last the two bulls ended their days by being made into cash, the small one in exchange for £40, to a home butcher, but the large frame had to be sent to a manufacturing town, at some distance, before he could be got rid of, after some difficulty the owner obtained a bid of £35 and had to accept it with many thanks. Well might Messrs. Collings, Waistell, and Bates attach great importance to the blood of Hubback, for the influence he had for good on their stock, compared with what other sires had done. We never hear of any miraculous results from the service of the large bull preferred before him by Messrs. Waistell and Collings, but we have it impressed upon us over and over again, about the value attached to the relationship of the little bull who once grazed the lanes of Haughton, and ran by the side of the blacksmith's cow—

“ But at last he stood as a noble sire,  
Both for his friends and foes to admire.”

But when we read of his dam being bred by Mr.

Stephenson of Ketton before Mr. Charles Collings went there to reside, need we wonder that this remarkable animal was so highly appreciated, as the Stephensons continued to cling to this blood, through the Princess tribe, for at least a century, and the same family ranks one of the first in fashion unto this day. Mr. Robert Collings too, was a great admirer of the descendants of the little fellow, in founding the Red Rose family, which told their own tale at his sale in 1818, by making the highest prices; for instance Lancaster (360), at 4 years old 621gs., and two females of the same line of blood realizing 300, and 331gs., respectively. This family, known as the Cambridge Roses in Mr. Bates' day, and at the present time as the "Thorndale Roses," here we have three noted families, tracing to Hubback, through the Duchesses, Red Roses, and Princesses, as well as the Daisies, which descend through Major (398) Windsor (698) Punch (531) and lastly Hubback. This family was then in high repute, but through intermingling with too many varieties of blood, although once so famous before the public, has gradually fallen away to be surpassed by many other families. The "Charmers," which descend through Sylph by Sir Walter (2627) Hotspur (1117) Coxcomb (928) Midas (435) Rachel by Comet (115) Russells by R. Collings' son of Favourite (252) repeated a second time by the same son of that most popular sire of his day, lastly

Hubback, which is the foundation of this most evenly bred tribe, it has passed through the hands of men of both judgment and influence in the short-horn circle. Its popularity as a tribe has ebbed a little, but will return gradually, if the personal appearance and the breeding is kept up to its present standard. As a pedigree it reads well, and bears criticism, as animals, they are generally true made, and robust, without coarseness. The Daisies having same foundation, and full of Collings' best blood, will not at present, bear out the examination so closely, but no doubt with perseverance, and prudence by their present owners, they will attain the celebrity they held in the days of Messrs. Collings, when Daisy Bull (186) was thought of sufficient merit to unite with the dam of Duchess of 1804. I must not omit the descendants of Mr. Robert Collings "Wildair," as tracing direct to Hubback, through a double cross of Favourite (252) and Ben (70) who also claims his ancestry to the son of the famed blacksmith's cow. The Wildairs, are now distinguished by the name of the "Flowers," having passed through Mr. Torr's hands for generations, contain a considerable dash of Warlaby blood, and are still a fine tribe of cattle, which were distributed to different breeders at the dispersion of the Aylesby herd, after Mr. Torr's death, when the Flowers were in full bloom, and made an average of £576 for 25 animals.

The only other branch descended from Wildair by Favourite, are named Fama's or Fatima's and are in the possession of the Duke of Manchester. They are now crossed with Bates' bulls, and admitted to be highly descended since the days of Brothers Collings, without being bound by prejudice to the purity of one line of blood, still this pedigree can claim 17 generations without a single stain in their breeding.

But we must be awake and not caught slumbering our time away, it requires thought, and careful watching, to surpass what our ancestors did before us, but experience alone, will teach us where to be certain they erred in judgment; they had reasons we know not of, for using certain males, and buying animals of certain families, in many instances it was an experiment for our benefit, which makes me feel loath to condemn the judgment of any breeders of shorthorns, who spent the best part of their lives almost a century back in the improvement of the breed of cattle; but many thanks are due to such eminent men as Messrs. Mason, Wetherell, Trotter, Wright, Charge, Whittaker, Maynard, and many others, including John Hunter, the breeder of Hubback, who had even then a type of cattle difficult to surpass. It behoves us to breed with judgment and not to let our animals deteriorate, to be surpassed by other nations, in being led away by supporting

---

weeds, in place of robust plants, because they are more fashionable ; adhere to the sorts that are good, not only in pedigree, but good in themselves, and cleave to the class of animals well tried for generations, and not because they are now simply prize winners, it is rarely we hear of their progeny being either numerous or prosperous.

---

## CHAPTER II

HOW MR. BATES BRED THE DUCHESSES AND THE  
RESULT.

In the last chapter we left Mr. Bates as a purchaser at Mr. C. Collings sale in 1810, of young Duchess for 183gs., an amateur in shorthorns might wonder who purchased the other animals descended from the "Stanwick Duchess," there were none for sale, a sad tale to relate, but it is too true to be forgotten, an experienced owner of cattle like Mr. C. Collings to breed from the grand cow as we have her described in Bell's history, and to have but one female descendant, and one male, named Duke (226), in the space of 16 years, but need we wonder at it, as the blood of Hubback, and Favourite, are repeated in every cross from the foundation, nor can any constitution stand it, it is impossible to go so far against nature, it appears to the writer that some of our early breeders took a delight to breeding in, and in, as much as possible, through their pet sires, throwing away constitution, by prejudice, and reaping their reward by being taught a lesson of experience, either by lack of constitution, or being unprolific. Mr. Bates undoubtedly was a shrewd man of business, and a good judge of cattle, keen to detect the errors in the judgment of others, but while smiling at them, did he always detect the errors in himself, I

am afraid not, experience taught him many a bitter lesson, because prejudice fought hard against him, which is most ruinous to shorthorn breeding, but however resistant, sooner or later, will have to give way to its master experience. I have said Mr. Bates was a shrewd man, but I will say more, I believe he was a man most honourable in all his transactions, and particular in having good sires in his herd, which undoubtedly is one of the most essential points in shorthorn breeding. Allow me now to point out how Mr. Bates began to breed, with his in bred "Duchess," having already two direct crosses of Favourite, and two indirect, he puts her to Ketton 1st (709), also a son of Favourite, from old Duchess, by Daisy Bull, being a son of Favourite, and his grand-dam by Favourite, followed by Hubback, the result of the union is Duchess 2nd; three years after she produces Duchess 3rd, by the same sire, and in the two following years, she produces Duchess 4th, and 5th, by Ketton 2nd, (710), a son of Ketton 1st, but from a different family, and lastly, she produces Cleveland, by Ketton 3rd (349), he is by Ketton 2nd, from Duchess 3rd, by Ketton 1st, Duchess 2nd, a daughter of Ketton 1st, is put to Ketton 2nd, and then to Ketton 3rd, a son of Duchess 3rd, own sister to Duchess 2nd, she is mated with Marske (418), a bull with three successive crosses of Favourite, followed by Punch, and Hubback, Duchess 3rd, and 4th, are also put to Marske, Duchess 3rd next

produces two calves to Duke (226), own brother to Duchess 1st, Duchess 5th, by Ketton 2nd, from Duchess 1st, has her first calf to "His Grace" (311), a son of Ketton 2nd, from Duchess 2nd, by Ketton 1st, Duchess 10th, is by Cleveland (146), a son of Ketton 3rd, and Duchess 1st, as far as I can trace, to the year 1821, when Duchess 10th was calved, Mr. Bates had then bred 9 Duchesses, and 8 Dukes, from Duchess 1st, by Comet in the space of a little over 10 years, all the 17 calves are bred in, and in, to the highest degree, no change of blood is admitted, except a little in Ketton 2nd, and Marske, and that only in very small proportions, it is not until 1825 that he again admits any fresh blood to his Duchess's and that is by the use of 2nd Hubback (1423), a son of the Earl, an in-bred Duke, 2nd Hubback's dam, is Mr. Hustler's Red Rose, by Yarborough (705), a son of Cupid, whose dam was by Favourite, gr. d. by Hubback, the 3rd cross in 2nd Hubback, is Favourite, followed by Punch, Foljambe, and Hubback, so even 2nd Hubback, is very near related. I have now given a rough sketch of the Duchess's up to 1827 and find Mr. Bates has bred 28 females. A change here begins to tell the old story, that too much in, and in, won't do, in 1828 there is no addition, in 1829, Duchess 29th by 2nd Hubback is born from Duchess 20th, in 1830, the calves Duchess 30th, by the same sire, Duchess 31st is also born to 2nd Hubback, from a second Hubback's dam,



in the year 1831, the same year, also brings a double cross of 2nd Hubback in Duchess 32nd, from Duchess 19th. There only being 4 Duchesses born from the end of the year 1827, up to August 1832.

Prejudice had fought hard for the previous 20 years to gain the mastership by Fashion (in using home-bred sires), but perseverance is of no avail when the battle is lost, experience steps in at Kirklevington, and proclaims himself the conqueror. As Mr. Bates at last opens his eyes to the fact, and travels in search of a bull, in the mean time he takes the advantage of Mr. Whittaker's Bertram (1716), and Gambier, the latter, a son of the former, from a Wildair dam, and full of Mr. Robert Colling's best blood, Bertram was a son of Mr. Charge's Frederick (1060), who had Comet (155), no less than 4 times in his pedigree, and from Red Daisy, bred by Mr. Hustler, by Major (398), if blood like Bertram, and Gambier, was good enough for Messrs. Charge, Whittaker, and Hustler, surely it was good enough for Mr. Bates; but he at last found courage to buy Belvedere (1706), from Mr. Stephenson of Wolviston, a bull equally as well descended as the Duchess's, and tracing further back to the foundation, if that adds anything to the value of either pedigree, or animal; Belvedere was calved April, 1826, consequently in his 6th year, when Mr. Bates bought him, and used him for 6 years longer, so he would be

in his 12th year when he was again sold. Belvedere was a son of Mr. Stephenson's Waterloo (2816), from Angelina 2nd, by young Wynyard (2859), a son of Mr. Robert Colling's Wellington (680), which was got by Comet (155), from Wildair, by Favourite (252), Young Wynyards dam being Princess by Favourite (252), Waterloo (2816), was also by Young Wynyard from Angelina 1st, by Mr. Robert Colling's Phenomenon (491), a son of Favourite, Belvederes gr dam, also being Angelina 1st, by Phenomenon (491), from Ann Boleyn by Favourite (252), g g dam Princess, by Favourite (252), g g g dam Colling's sister to his white bull by Favourite (252), followed by Hubback (319), the two successive crosses that Mr. Bates imagined could not be surpassed in the world. I trust that I have fully explained that Belvedere, and the Duchesses, were as one, and the same in blood, the only difference in the 26 years that had elapsed since Charles Collings' sale, the former has but two generations added since that time, and both these additions are of the Princess blood, to Mr. Colling's blood of the same line, apparently Mr. Stephenson, and the Countess of Antrim, adopted the same course in breeding as Messrs. Collings, and Bates. Altho' the new bull to unite with the Duchess is similar blood to themselves, and equally as much in-bred, for a time this course of breeding will answer, when they are of different families on the dam's side, however near

related by the sires, I have always found that an impression is made when a male is used from a different family, at any rate, Mr. Bates used his new purchase with confidence to all his animals, and to some, he gave a double cross, one especial result, all Bates breeders will remember in Duke of Northumberland (1940), from Duchess 34th, by Belvedere. I, as well as others must admit, that Mr. Bates was right in his selection, as kindred blood at a distant date, saves the type and constitution, but brothers, and sisters, uncles, and aunts, &c., mated together as Mr. Bates continued to breed after Mr. C. Collings had done before him, it was utterly impossible for such a course of breeding to answer. In August 1832 Duchess 19th calved two heifers to Belvedere (1706), of which one is dead, the following month the 34th Duchess is calved, another 12 months passed, before the 35th arrives, she is by Gambier, the 36th in August 1834, the 37th, in September of the same year, both by Belvedere. In two years, we have but four living Duchesses added, and not a Duke bull, the sire of any of them; so it is evident Mr. Bates felt fully convinced to continue such a course, would be utter ruin, as I find in May, 1835, that Duchess 33rd by Belvedere, produces Duchess 38th, by Mr. Whittaker's Norfolk (2377), a son of 2nd Hubback, tracing through Colling's blood to Hubback (319). I cannot but admire the old gentleman's lingering after Hubback's blood, when

Hubback is no more ; to keep him in remembrance, he has his blood in store. After the birth of the 38th by Norfolk, in the same year, in the months of August, September, and December, Duchess 39th, 40th, and 41st, are all born to Belvedere, as well as the Chief of Kirklevington, or better known as Duke of Northumberland in October of the same year ; Short Tail (2621), is calved the year previous to him, and by Belvedere, these are the only two bulls I find recorded from Duchess cows by him, and seven Duchesses, the 33rd, 34th, 36th, 37th, 39th, 40th, and 41st, the 33rd, 36th, and 40th, are from Duchess 19th, by 2nd Hubback, 34th from Duchess 29th, by 2nd Hubback, 37th and 39th, from the 30th, by 2nd Hubback, 41st from the 32nd, with a double cross of 2nd Hubback, from August 1832 to end of December 1835, there were 9 Duchesses made their appearance, besides a dead twin to the 33rd ; in addition to Short Tail, and Duke of Northumberland we have Duke of Cleveland, by Bertram, in the last specified period. After this date I find no Duchess recorded until Duchess 49th by Short Tail (2621,) which was calved October 8th, 1839, what became of the 8 intervening ones, I cannot relate anything, except from Bell's History, I find Duchess 42nd, and 43rd, calved in 1837, by Belvedere, and from the 30th, and the 34th, in 1838, and 1839, there are 5 entered to the credit of Short Tail (2621), from the 30th, 34th, and 37th, the 49th, being the only one I can trace any produce

from, being the dam of the 54th, and Earl of Liverpool in the Kirklevingtons, he is by Duke of Northumberland from Duchess 54th by Cleveland Lad 2nd (3408), Duchess 50th, by Duke of Northumberland from the 38th, is also calved in 1839, Duchess 51st is the only one calved in 1840, and by Cleveland Lad (3907), dam 41st, Duchess 52nd, is by Holkar (4041), a son of Belvedere, with a dam and gr. dam both by 2nd Hubback, the dam of the 52nd, is the 38th, by Norfolk, this is the only female in 1842, in 1843 none at all, in 1844 the 53rd arrived, by Duke of Northumberland, from the 41st, by Belvedere followed by a double cross of 2nd Hubback, Duke of Northumberland is also by Belvedere, dam by Belvedere, gr. dam by 2nd Hubback, so here we are again with the close relationship, one thought ere this, Mr. Bates would have had sufficient experience in too close alliance, but he tells us that it was not for profit he bred shorthorns, but for experiment, surely it is a lesson of experience by experiment, worth remembering, as we neither see, nor hear any more of the 53rd Duchess, she is the only one besides the 50th by Duke of Northumberland. The 55th is calved in 1844, by 4th Duke of Northumberland (3649), from the 38th, by Norfolk, the 56th calved in the same year from the 51st, by 2nd Duke of Northumberland (3646), the 57th being the only one born in 1845 is by Cleveland Lad 2nd, from the 50th, the 58th is the solitary calf for 1846, from the

54th, and by Lord Barrington (9308), a son of 2nd Duke of Northumberland from Lady Barrington, by Cleveland Lad, gr. dam by Belvedere, the 2nd Duke has also the double blessing of Belvedere, the 59th, and 60th, are calved in 1847, the former by 2nd Duke of Oxford (9046), from the 56th, the latter is by 4th Duke of Northumberland (3649) from the 54th; 61st, 62nd, and 63rd, are all calved in 1848, and by 2nd Duke of Oxford, from the 51st, 56th, and 54th. The 64th the last Duchess bred by Mr. Bates, is also by the same sire from the 55th, and calved in 1849, the year of his death. The sale took place on the 9th day of May, 1850, and the following 8 Duchesses were the only females then living, bred by him, of which I annex prices realized, and names of purchasers:—

- Duchess 51st, 60gs., Mr. Bolden.
- Duchess 54th, 90gs., Mr. Eastwood.
- Duchess 55th, 105gs., Lord Ducie.
- Duchess 56th, 52gs., Mr. Ambler.
- Duchess 59th, 200gs., Lord Ducie.
- Duchess 61st, 100gs., Lord Feversham.
- Duchess 62nd, 120gs., Mr. Champion.
- Duchess 64th, 155gs., Lord Ducie.

Should any inaccuracy have occurred in my explanation of the Duchesses, either in one way or another, I hope my readers will look upon it as an

oversight, and not wilful mischief, to either the animals as a tribe, or to their previous owners as breeders, the writer fully understanding the difficulties they had to contend with, in procuring sires the early part of the present century; yet! is not there a fragment of knowledge to be gathered by us, from their errors in breeding, as well as by their experienced judgement, as it is frequently by lessons derived from the former, that the most experience is gained.

---

## CHAPTER III.

THE TRIBES IN MR. BATES' POSSESSION AT HIS DEATH. OTHER FAMILIES DESCENDED FROM HUBBACK THAT WERE PURELY DESCENDED, WHICH DID NOT PASS THROUGH HIS HANDS.

Having briefly described how the Duchesses were bred in the hands of Mr. C. Collings, and Mr. Bates, since the first Duchess left Stanwick Park, with the result of prices obtained, and number of animals in their possession, at the final dispersion of their herds, after being bred by them for over a period of 50 years, without effecting any sales to breeders, beyond the two females sold by Mr. Collings to Mr. Bates, and the eight animals sold at Kirklevington after his death; the Dukes, that were descended from the Stauwick Duchess, I will not attempt to describe, as it is quite probable that many of them were sold without registration, and it is not improbable that Mr. Collings and Mr. Bates might dispose of the weeds to the butcher from the females, which is undoubtedly the proper course to pursue, to establish a good tribe, or even a herd of shorthorns, but this is rarely done without a number of years visitation from the old master Experience, although I have no direct proof that this course was adopted, but whether, or not, the writer shall give them the credit of doing it, but even if it were so,



the weeds must have been very numerous, or the Duchesses extraordinary slow breeders, seeing there were so few animals of this fashionable tribe at Kirklevington in the year 1850, when we were given to understand that they were superior animals to any other then in existence. If this be a true tale, why were they slow to breed, or why did they produce animals that were not fitted for a better purpose in their youth than the shambles? Surely there must have been something wrong, either in one way, or another, if genealogy in pedigree for half a century is valuable, if not, what is the good of registration at all. I am afraid if the mystery was more fully brought to light, Mr. Prejudice would prove to be the great obstacle that kept the numbers few, at Kirklevington, but stiff-necked as he may be, Experience will at last step in, and claim the victory.

It has been often remarked that Mr. Bates tried many tribes of cattle, but frequently gave them up, and why did he do it? The writer is of an opinion that he had made up his mind to strike out a course of his own, by founding families that he could intermingle with his Duchesses, in preference to purchasing a male from any other breeder; it is too true that we often prefer mine to thine, and I am afraid it was the case with Mr. Bates. He undoubtedly thought he was better fitted to select a male for his

herd than any one else; it is hard to kick against the pricks, for any length of time, no doubt the old veteran began to feel this effect, and departed from singing the song, that all good shorthorns must descend from Hnback, yet prejudice chimes in, they must be full of Hubback's blood, and so the next sires that had the honour of being united to a Duchess at Kirklevington, were Cleveland Lad (3407) and 2nd Duke of Oxford (9046), the former by Short-tail (2621) a son of Belvedere and Duchess 32nd with a double cross of 2nd Hubback (1423), the latter by Duke of Northumberland (1940), with a double blessing of Belvedere, followed by 2nd Hubback, and of course descending from Hubback. The dam of 2nd Duke of Oxford, was Oxford 2nd by Short-tail (2621), consequently own sister to Cleveland Lad. I will at present omit going into the breeding of Cleveland Lad, beyond his sire, to avoid repetition, as I wish to draw my reader's attention in the second part of my experience, why Mr. Bates used him to his Duchesses, yet any observer, might see for himself, that another course of breeding had commenced at Kirklevington, by using the two bulls I have just named, as they were not animals of noble birth, but simply a son, and grandson of Mr. Brown's cow, that passed through Mr. Bell's hands to Mr. Bates for the sum of £11, but why should the descendants of this animal, with two acknowledged crosses of registered blood, be inferior

to the descendants of the one, that had previously cost but £13, with one registered cross, when Mr. Collings purchased her at Stanwick Park. It is evident that Mr. Bates saw considerable individual merit in the animal he purchased from Mr. Bell. When the bargain was concluded, he remarked, "I will put her to one of my Duke bulls, and breed a Royal winner," which proved to be the "Oxford Premium cow," by Duke of Cleveland (1987). What was Duke of Cleveland, but a son of Mr. Whittaker's Bertram (1716) from a daughter of Red Daisy, descending from Hubback. The Duke's dam was Duchess 26th by 2nd Hubback, his granddam being Duchess 3rd by Ketton 1st (709). Here we have the best of Bates', Colling's, and Whittaker's blood united to Mr. Brown's cow, by Mr. Bates, who is now a little more cautious through experience gained by breeding Duchesses for experiment not to allow prejudice to overrule his judgment. So here we have a new tribe founded, known by the name of Oxford's, commenced by Mr. Bates, through his own sires and Mr. Brown's cow, but not without being narrowly watched by numerous critics. The old breeder persevered, with prudence, and carried out his object successfully, by breeding 13 cows and heifers in the space of a little more than 10 years. There were 10 females and 3 bulls sold in his sale at an average of £68 16s. each, which proved his judgment on this point to be correct, after 40 years

experience in experimental and unprofitable breeding, through the Duchesses, that all traced to Hubback.

Mr. Bates commenced the Waterloo family in a similar way to the Oxfords, by being careful not to add an abrupt cross upon the preceding Princess blood, that was derived through the bull Waterloo 2816, which had been used upon his own daughter, this animal with the double Princess cross, was sent by Mr. Bates to Mr. Whittaker's Norfolk 2377, a son of 2nd Hubback, and descending through Mr. R. Colling's Sally to Hubback, the produce being Waterloo 3rd, the ancestors of the present Waterloo family, there being no descendants from Waterloo 2nd by Belvedere, which Mr. Bates tried upon Waterloo cow, before he sent her to Norfolk. There were six animals of this tribe sold in the Kirklevington sale at £59 10s. each, Mr. Bates being the breeder of twelve of the family, but it is remarkable that he had never used a bull from the Waterloos, after being in his possession for 19 years, neither were there any sold in his sale.

The Cambridge, or Red Rose tribe, only supplied three representatives at the winding up of Mr. Bates' herd, which resulted in £49 each; what became of the residue of the descendants from Mr. Hustler's Red Rose, after 28 years breeding by Mr.

Bates from the foundation commencing with Hubback and of the same family as the idolized 2nd Hubback, I have no information to add beyond that given by Mr. Bell.

The Foggathorpes, another new family in Mr. Bates' hands originally from Mr. R. Colling's stock, had seven animals to represent them, of which four were bulls and realized £46 each. Twenty-five of the prolific Wild Eyes family made £48 a piece, after 18 years breeding from the original cow Wild Eyes, by Emperor (1975) purchased at Mr. Parrington's when a calf in 1831, for 70 shillings, while Red Rose was purchased ten years previous to her, and was supposed to be of a superior type and origin, as she not only descended from Hubback but was the dam of 2nd Hubback.

I have passed over very briefly the families that were in Mr. Bates' possession at the time of his death, owing to Mr. Bell having alluded to them fully in his *History of Bates' Cattle*, and to avoid much repetition, shall draw my remarks to a close upon the far famed Kirklevington herd, beyond a few hints, that might be useful to the young, or inexperienced, who has not had the privilege of witnessing the dispersion of many representatives from the house of Kirklevington which realized higher prices, than from any other race of cattle on record. The Blanches, and Barringtons are two families that were

sometime in Mr. Bates' possession, but we are not given to understand by Mr. Bell why they were discarded from Kirklevington, perhaps it was through the absence of the blood of Hubback, in their ancestors, but whether this was the reason, or not, to day, their descendants are equal in personal merit to any of the six families that were retained as favourites to build up the experimental herd, that had taken the best part of a man's life to accomplish his object, that name will ever be remembered as a Hero in Shorthorn History, by the admirers of Kirklevington blood.

I have dwelt at considerable length upon the value of Hubback's blood in certain families through the estimation of Prejudice, but what has become of the other descendants of Hubback, that have not had the opportunity of passing through the critic's hands, where are the descendants of Mr. Charles Colling's Fortune, the ancestor of Matchem 2281, the grandsire of the first Oxford cow, if Mr. Bates thought his daughter good enough to breed a sire to cross his Duchesses surely either he, or some other breeder, should have seen to preserve this family in its purity, as a representative of Hubback; if Mr. Maynard thought Matchem a desirable exchange for 110gs. at Mr. Mason's sale, when four years of age, he must have been possessed of considerable merit beyond being the sire of Mr. Brown's cow.

If Mr. Bates thought Norfolk 2377 good enough to unite with six of his best females, when in Mr. Whittaker's possession, how is it that this family, being the representatives of Mr. R. Colling's Sally, and descendants of Hubback, have to bow to the offspring of Mr. Brown's cow; it appears to the writer that prejudice too frequently gained the mastery over prudence in the selection of sires half a century ago, by compulsory measures that they must trace their descent to Hubback, but is this the fashion in the present day? No! but equally as ruinous to Shorthorns as tracing to Hubback, they must not only trace to either Warlabey or Kirklevington, but have no connexion with the blood of other breeders of the past, they must be line bred in the eyes of the purist. Surely there were men of judgment in the early part of the present century, who knew when they saw a good beast, and also how to breed one. Are there no pedigrees of sufficient merit in their purity yet remaining in our herds, that can boast of descending from such eminent breeders as Messrs. Mason, Whittaker, Wetherell, Maynard, Sir Charles Knightley, Jobson, Wright and Charge, as well as many of their associates, that are named in the early history upon cattle, whose memories ought ever to be cherished by the admirer of the improved shorthorn, and not to allow prejudice to rule in our minds, that all good cattle must descend

from animals bred by two renowned breeders, who years ago, took up their abode in one of our North Eastern Counties. Do not think for one moment that I am prejudiced against their style of breeding, the two both sprang from one root, but branched in different directions, it is the branches that we have to cultivate and keep in a prosperous condition, and not simply to boast that the branches have all one foundation, as in the days of yore, when breeders sang the song, that all good shorthorns must necessarily descend from Hubback, or be full of Hubbacks blood, have I not said enough, to set the old story at nought, when the descendants of the aristocratic animals have to bow so low, as to intermix with farmer Brown's cow, to preserve their fecundity, and prosperity; shall I not wind up my chapter by saying that experience has not only fought a victorious battle against prejudice, but justly conquered, by the aid of prudence.

---



## CHAPTER IV.

THE EXPERIENCE OF SEVERAL BREEDERS, WITH  
THE AUTHOR'S REMARKS.

I am afraid that I shall weary my readers by speaking of Messrs. Collings and Bates, but as it is principally through the tribes that have been in their possession, or full of their blood, that I have had the most experience, it is hard getting beyond what the writer loves to dwell upon most with his pen, and that is a good shorthorn, but it is not necessary it should descend from Hubback. Kirklevington, or Warlaby, it is true, they are musical names in his ears, but all songs do not fit to one tune, neither would the song of Warlaby, or Kirklevington, be a tune of melody in the ears of every shorthorn breeder, so to them he must bid adieu for the present and speak of others whose memory is dear to every true lover of a good shorthorn, and what name could be brought forward more prominently than the late Sir Charles Knightley, who bred shorthorns for pleasure, and built up several families or tribes, by selections from foundations laid by breeders of experience, who were not related to prejudice, neither did they bow to the shorthorn idol known by the name of Hubback, but preferring their own judgement to dwelling entirely upon fashion ; from such breeders

as these Sir Charles founded the tribes known as Rosies, Primroses, Walnuts, Rubys, and the Cold-creams, have they not been admired and sought after, yea! and will be again; good animals, well descended with sound constitutions, will not be lost sight of for ever. The beautiful laid shoulders, and the lovely countenance that his cattle possessed, which took Sir Charles the best part of his life to cultivate, cannot be easily forgotten, their dairy qualities not neglected by the union of the Earl of Dublin 10178, the abrupt cross of Duke of Cambridge, with the idea of gaining a little more substance, taught him a lesson of experience, by losing the refined shoulder, after the in-bred sires that had been in service at Fawsley Park, it required but a gentle tincture in memory of Tommy Bates, to have had the desired effect, step by step, is the proper way to ascend with safety, to accomplish any improvement required in a shorthorn. I need hardly relate that the founder of these much admired tribes of cattle, suddenly found that his anxiety to improve their deficiency too quickly, was but a step backward, as well as that it took time to gain experience.

Messrs. Becar and Morris, from the U. S. A., purchased at Mr. Bates' sale Oxford 5th, by Duke of Northumberland, as well as her two daughters 10th, and 13th, both by 3rd Duke of York, but mark the difference in the sires they commence

to use to their new purchases, to what their breeder had done at Kirklevington, apparently their was no studying whether the pedigree traced to Hubback or not. Oxford 5th was put to the following bulls by Mr. Morris, Lord of Eryholme (12205), the produce being a bull, was named Tommy Bates, the union of Samartine (11662), was the next attempt to breed an Oxford, which again proved to be a bull, and was named Oxford Lad, she was next mated with Marquis of Carrabas (11789), the result being Oxford 20th, from which the Maids of Oxford descend, a fourth attempt was made by Mr. Morris to imitate Mr. Bates in breeding, by putting her to the Marquis of Exeter's Romeo (13619), a bull without any pretensions as to breed, beyond being eligible for the Herd Book, the offspring being a heifer was named Romeo's Oxford, the ancestors of the Oxford Belle's. Oxford 10th, had also the honour of the union of Samartine which proved to be Oxford 17th, the origin of the Belle's of Oxford, but to this daughter of the old cow's, Mr. Morris adds the blood of Mr. Fawkes, though Marquis of Carabas, but fortunately the result of the union was a bull, named Oxfordshire, of which we hear no more. This style of breeding very forcibly reminds me of my own commencement to breed shorthorns, by getting as far wrong as I possibly could in selecting male animals, and surely must have been trying to imitate Mr. Morris, as he appears to have made a blunder

in every calf he bred from his Kirklington purchases, but what is the reason? only one, which is very easy to explain, that it was for want of experience alone, and that is a great deal to be deficient of in commencing to breed shorthorns, as it was by experience that Mr. Bates had bred Mr. Morris' two Oxford cows. I must not omit to notice what Mr. Becar was doing with Oxford 13th, he was following in the steps of his companion by breeding her to Lord of Eryholme, and Marquis of Carabas, the union in each case, resulted in a heifer, the one by Lord of Eryholme, named Maid of Oxford, is the grand-dam of that beautiful cow Lady Oxford 5th, the ancestor of the Baroness Oxfords; the daughter of the Marquis, was named Bride of Oxford, of which we have no further record, but to the Lady's of Oxfords, and Duchesses of Oxfords, descended from Oxford 13th, and 2nd Grand Duke, no cross has ever been admitted since they left Kirklevington. Three years pass away and we find Messrs. Becar and Morris at Tortworth Court, purchasing Duke of Gloucester (11382), for 650gs., they have at last had their eyes opened by experience to see that to breed from fashion on one side, would be fruitless, consequently the Duke is put to Oxford 13th, and Baron of Oxford is born, one of the hardiest and most prolific sires ever used across the Atlantic.

Have we not Oxfords that have been bred in England of Kirklevington fame, that now possess blood that they would not have done had it not been

for want of experience, have we not many other Bates families that have blood intermingled with that of Kirklevington, which would not have been added had it not been for the absence of experience. Have we not many other tribes of shorthorns, that have suffered for want of experience by additions injudiciously made to the blood they already contained. Have we not many other tribes gradually gone to decay, through prejudice gaining the mastery over prudence by fashion, I may answer safely yes! and promise that the reason shall be explained in the second part of my history upon the experiences in life. What herd was more prosperous, or more gay in colours, than that of the late Col. Townley's, between the dates of 1854 and 1864, when at the latter date it was triumphantly brought to the hammer by Mr. Strafford at Towuley Park, resulting in an average of £128 for about 50 animals, which were not distinguishable by Booth or Bates blood alone, but by a compound mixture, not only of blood from the two rival houses, but containing a tincture from almost every leading herd in the kingdom, it is true, they each had representatives, one by the Roan Duchess's in descending from Mr. Bates' best cow Blanche. With a double cross of Belvedere, and the Pearls from Mr. Booth's Bracelet, as well as Madaline, by Marcus (2262), it is also true, that the blood of other great men distinguished as shorthorn breeders in their day, had a share of honours in the

production of the successful sale at Townley Park. The late Earl Ducie of Tortworth Court, contributed Pride, Pomp, and Parade, the last of the three being grand-dam of Royal Butterfly's Pagant, the highest priced animal in the sale, Mr. Betts had to bid 590gs. before he was permitted to take her in company with the 500gs. Royal Butterfly Duchess, to Preston Hall, two daughters of Royal Butterfly, surpassing the prices made of the produce of the Duke bull, Duke of Wharfdale (19648), and the Mantalina Baron Hopewell (14134), Barmpton Butterfly, another daughter of Royal Butterfly and of the same family as himself claims 350gs. from Mr. Eastwood. Double Butterfly, a great grand-daughter of Mr. Booth's Madaline by the same sire and her dam, by his own brother Master Butterfly, realizes 300gs. Is this not so much due to the credit of the Barmpton Rose family, having passed through the hands of Mr. Waldby, Mr. Watson, Mr. Wetherell, Mr. Eastwood, and Earl Ducie, after which it was cultivated for years at Townley. I have named a few who supplied materials to build upon, but as yet, have not named the builder, who built up this herd to such perfection, when the Butterflies returned from exhibition with many a laurel upon their heads. It was no one but plain Joseph Calshaw, under the guidance in his earlier days, of the late Sir Charles Tempest and Mr. Eastwood, Mr. Calshaw was not puffed up by Fashion,

not sold by prejudice, he tried experiments by using pure Bates, and pure Booth bulls on his Butterflies, but acknowledged it was not a success, Butterfly added to Butterfly with a small ingredient of the result of the work of other experienced breeders in addition, was his motto, I may take such breeding as Frederick (11489), the sire of the two famed bulls, as an example of what the cultivation of the Butterflies achieved, but it was not his breeding alone, but his produce that gained him favours. After this famous herd was dispersed, the 6th Maid of Oxford and Baron Oxford made their appearance at Townley, along with British Beauty, of the Foggathorpe family, from Mr. Robinsons of Clifton Pastures, which bred Baron Oxford Beauty's, that were equal to their name, the 6th Maid proved to be a bull breeder, and left no female issue, until after she went into Gloucestershire, other Barmpton Roses, were picked up, but for want of pruning in due time had grown a little wild, they had not the character of the animals of Townley's cultivation, there was that want of refinement and gaiety that they originally possessed, the character once gone, was not easily restored, not even by the service of such a superior bull as Baron Oxford, followed by the purest bred Bates bull in England, they did not reclaim what they had lost in their absence ; yet the second herd has also been successfully dispersed by an average of £121 for 40 animals being obtained, at last the

Butterflies all flew away from Townley Park when they lighted hither and thither, and have since had no settled home.

The descendants of the famous Cassandra, by Miracle (2320), have suffered as much by injudicious breeding, as the Barmpton Roses, since they left the supervision of Mr. Culshaw; I remember well, a grand cow, a daughter of the renowned Frederick, sent to a bull bred at Warlaby, for the only reason that he was bred there, the produce being a heifer, was much more like a camel than a shorthorn in her shape, this animal came into my possession as I thought she had a good pedigree, and might breed something good, so had her put to my own bull, which resulted in a heifer, comparatively as short in her legs as her dams were long, not through any good judgement that I possessed, but simply because I owned a bull that assisted to restore the Townley type; this is the way many valuable tribes of cattle degenerate, passing into such hands as my own, when scarcely knowing one pedigree from another. The Cresida's or Cassandra's were the most fashionable of any family of shorthorns in the neighbourhood where I then resided, I had been told that Cassandra had bred 3 Royal winners, which sold for 200gs. each, I thought of the honour of winning, but perhaps more the hopes of obtaining 200 guineas should I ever be fortunate enough to possess a



descendant of the famous cow, at last my wish was gratified, by purchasing one; as I intended making money by breeding from her, of course, I put her to a good pedigree, not knowing, or for want of knowledge, did not think that a good animal might be required too, at last a calf was born, which I named Cassandra 3rd, she grew in stature, but scarcely in any other way, she was more like following the hounds, than a shorthorn to be admired, but fortunately another beast jumped upon her and broke her back, this was the end of my experience in breeding Barmpton Roses and Cassandras, but it has not been the end of using my eyes, but perhaps the means of more narrowly watching to see if any other breeders were as ignorant as myself, in knowing how to breed a good shorthorn, alas! it is too true, that two such families as I have just described, are often condemned unjustly, when the fault rests entirely with injudicious, or inexperienced breeders, these shorthorns degenerate, and are given up with disgust, when the real reason is, that the unfortunate tribes have to suffer, simply for want of experience.

It is still fresh in my memory, travelling with my father in the year 1853, to Holker, to see Oxford 15th, which had just arrived from Tortworth Court, for the sum of 200gs., Mr. Drewery inquired of my father what he thought of his new purchase, the reply he gave, she was worth about £11, so it appears the

value of an Oxford was exactly the same amount when the Duke of Devonshire began to breed Oxfords as they were when Mr. Bates began 15 years previous. I was then too young to give an opinion, so had to be content by keeping my thoughts to myself, as I have kept them a secret over 30 years, perhaps I may now be allowed to divulge in them more freely, by writing of what I can relate respecting the Holker herd of years gone by, when it was in its infancy ; but it now has become so gigantic in importance, that I will not attempt to describe the herd of the present, but try to picture to my readers what Holker was in the past, by explaining what has been done there by experience since I first knew it, when the Duke of Devonshire, then Earl of Burlington, and my father vied with each other at the local cattle shows with their animals. I remember very distinctly when there was no opportunity to travel by rail, that a cow named Rosa, was sent in a covered cart (called then a caravan), which was dreaded being seen at the exhibition, as much as the appearance of Bonaparte and his army were in the early part of the present century. To win at a local exhibition was enough for Holker, when I first knew it. The families now known as Bracelets, and Statiras, were then classed amongst the best, and other families of local repute. The bull Balco, bought at Mr. Bates' sale for 150 guineas, was the

first advance towards fashion, but he was shortly disposed of at 80gs. in the first sale at Holker that took place in 1851 and supplanted by Earl of Warwick 11412, which I remember as clearly as if it was but yesterday, seeing him crouching up in a corner more like an unicorn than a highbred shorthorn, he was neither a Master, or a Royal Butterfly in appearance, but an inbred Princess, the sire of "Countess of Oxford," the first female produce of the 200gs. heifer. I have some doubt whether he would have been permitted to occupy the chief place in 1883 as he did in 1853, also whether Priam 18567 would have had the honour of being united to the Earl's daughter in these latter days, when fashion rules almost in preference to judgment. The Holker herd did not attain its present celebrity by chance, or a sudden drop from the clouds, it has risen step by step, through purchase after purchase being made, both in male, and female, from Mr. Grundy of the Dales, Mr. Tanquary, Mr. Maynard, Mr. Maekintosh, Col. Gunter, and others, it has been a work of time and patience, wrought out by experience, to arrive at its present perfection.

I might ramble on with my pen until I had written the last page in the history of my shorthorn experience, describing the doings of great men of the past, and present; of the latter, we have Col. Gunter, who has had the lion's share of good fortune with his

descendants from Hubback, and yet he has learned a lesson by Experience that it is not necessary for a beast to descend either from Hubback, or Mr. Brown's cow, to be a true model of a shorthorn. Have we not the name of the late Earl Spencer recorded in the annals of shorthorn history as an influential breeder of the past, was he not a friend, and yet a rival to Mr. Bates, did he not breed the bull Exquisite 8048, that the late Mr. Booth of Killerby and Mr. Torr of Riby, thought good enough to take in exchange for 370 guineas, although the bull was possessed of considerable merit, and descended from the beautiful cow Lady Maynard, the ancestor of Favourite 252, he scarcely answered their expectations, and why, because he did not contain sufficient of the blood of the animals they had selected for his alliance. A male of close breeding, or too far away, are equally mischievous to inbred tribes, an improvement to be made all at once is not as easily accomplished by a sudden change of blood, as an injury might be done; step by step, is the writer's motto, to add fresh blood, a son of Exquisite from a Killerby, or a Riby cow, would have been much more beneficial, but no doubt Experience taught the purchasers sufficient without any comment from an amateur writer, so I will return and say something more in memory of the late Earl, whom I can remember being talked about as a fashionable breeder when I

was but little more than a prattling child. Spencer, Mason, Booth, Bates, Wetherell, Whittaker, Maynard and Tempest, were names then often repeated, and will yet be long remembered. Mr. Mason was the founder of Earl Spencer's herd, in supplying him with his best material in Nos. 13, 19, 25, 54 and 57 from Chilton Sale in 1829, from these purchases the entire herd at Wiseton were descended, excepting Dairy cows crossed for generations, with Mason or Spencer blood, until the herd became 130 strong, at the time of its dispersion in 1846, when several animals made over 100 guineas each. One purchaser especially, I must not omit to name, that is the late Earl Ducie, a true lover of a shorthorn, and who had the boldness to unite the Spencer blood to the Duchesses, the sudden leap did not meet with the approval of the purists, neither did it satisfy the Earl, that his adventure was successful, yet it is a lesson of experience taught by others for our benefit, that to add new blood wholesale to inbred tribes is dangerous. No doubt there were breeders then, as there are now, that would say, I am not an admirer especially of Booth, Bates, Spencer, Ducie, Mason, or Knightley, but an admirer of good cattle, such a breeder I am afraid is anxious to have all the praise to himself, as his breeding must descend from the work of other men's hands; but the writer would say, give honour to whom honour is due, and certainly it is due to English breeders of the past,

who have left us a race of cattle not to be equalled by any other nation in the world. May the breeders of the present not only continue to claim, but deserve the championship they now hold by their merit in shorthorn breeding, but it will neither be held by prejudice, nor gained by fashion, but in persevering by prudent selections, in both male, and female, from breeders of experience, no matter whether they are admirers of the blood of Booth, Bates, Mason, Knightley, or any other that have distinguished themselves in years past, by breeding superior cattle. I shall now draw to a close my remarks upon the experience of others, and commence my own history of youth as a shorthorn breeder.

“ Still, I admire the man in silvery gray,  
Who relates the errors of his early day;  
How I love to sit and listen by his side,  
While he describes his mistakes far and wide :  
Not like youth, who thinks himself so clever,  
Appearing always right, mistaken never.”

---

## PART II.

## CHAPTER I.

MY BIRTH-PLACE, MY FATHER'S EXPERIENCE AS A BREEDER, AND THE FIRST IMPRESSIONS IT GAVE ME UPON IN-BREEDING.

Having sufficiently illustrated upon breeders of the past,

“ I must not dwell upon Townley's fame,  
Or the days that Hubback made his name,”

but return to the days of my boyhood, and inform my readers of my birthplace, and what were the ideas of people in those parts just half a century ago, as it is neither more nor less since I was born, in a pretty village, situated on a hill side, far away from where the writer is now using his pen, sheltered from the cold piercing winds from the North and the East; where the oak and the ash grew luxuriantly, the vine and the fig tree embraced each other beneath the window of the room where I slept. Yes, it was a sheltered and sunny spot, although that village was situated in the extreme end of North Lancashire. The inhabitants there knew nothing of the bustle and hurry of the present day, it was purely an agricultural district, no travelling by rail, nor even the postman's knock to be heard at the door.

How things have now changed, even in that peaceful little village ; as time rolled on, people from a distance paid it a visit, and began to talk that a railway would be a good thing to pass through that part of the country. But the inhabitants could not see what earthly good it could be, as there was nothing to be carried upon it, neither people to travel by it ; but at last the task was accomplished. I well remember the first train that ran upon it, and so anxious were the natives to see the wonder of that age, carriages drawn without horses, that the lame forgot the assistance of their chief support in helping them to walk. For years many would not entrust themselves to be carried by steam, but travelled on in their old-fashioned way. The village increased little by little, until by and by it grew at a miraculous rate, and a second wonder shortly appeared on the scene, by a tall chimney being built ; the quiet residents who had scarcely ever left their native village, beyond the market town, almost began to think the tall building springing up so rapidly, to such an immense height, surely must be a second Tower of Babel ; but at last they began to see that it was simply a benefit for their pockets, and that it would not do for them to stand still any longer, but to move along with the rest of their fellow-men.

That small village is now a populous and thriving town, and acres of the land my father owned at the



time is now turned into streets of houses, and even he altered in his opinion, that land could be turned to a better account than for agricultural purposes, just as quickly as he did when he saw that well bred cattle would be more remunerative than inferior ones. It was then his practice to buy the weeds from Ireland in the autumn at £2 each, winter them in the strawyard, selling them in the spring at about £4; fortunately for him, there was one of better quality in the lot, that he was compelled to purchase at double the amount, but sadly against his wish. When the spring arrived this high-priced heifer was sold for £8; which was his first lesson of experience, that a profit of £4 could be realized by the keeping of one animal in place of two, so he determined to purchase the Flower of England in lieu of the weed from Ireland. As I have said before, there was no travelling by rail, and seldom by a vehicle of any kind, so he saddled his horse and went in search of better cattle, his first purchase being Lady, by Young Western Comet (1575) dam by a son of Layton (366) g dam by Layton (366) g g dam Mr. R. Collings' "Roan Twin," by Simon (590), the price being about £17. He then paid a second visit to the same place in Cumberland, and purchased "Fairy" for £20, by Hetherington Bull (4029), a sire of the same breed as herself, her dam "Bloom," by Pilot (496), being bred by the late Mr. Richard Booth. The horse was saddled once more in pursuit

of another good beast into the same county, and returned after purchasing "Jesamine," also by Hetherington's Bull, her grand dam being Mr. R. Booth's "Rebecca," by Pilot, the price of the last purchase being 25gs. He had now three well descended shorthorns to commence breeding from, but purchasing is not all, knowing what to do with them is frequently more difficult than purchasing, so the case proved to be with my father; he had made good selections to breed from, but let me explain to my readers how he commenced to improve upon his new animals in their progeny. I will take "Lady" first, as an example. She was in calf at the time he purchased her to "Anthony," for what reason, I could hear of none, only that he was a very large bull, but without any record whatever as to his sire or dam; the produce being the first shorthorn that my father bred, was named "Ruby Gilliver." Although a daughter of "Lady," she was the daughter of "Anthony" too; 50 years have now passed since the error was committed, yet it remains to this day a blot in the pedigree, and a stain of the deepest dye to an admirer of purity.

"Perseverance" joined hand in hand with my father in his enterprise, but "Prudence" stood afar off, some might be anxious to know the reason why, because "Experience" was at a still greater distance, and surely one error after another will be committed until they are in unity. What was

the first blunder the young and inexperienced breeder made, but sending the refined "Lady" on a visit to the plain Yorkshireman, a sire without any refinement whatever, or the least trace of his descent. I could gather no information whatever from him why she was sent there, only that it was convenient, and the advice of a neighbour. The production of the union was a red and white bull, taking in personal appearance after his dam, a deep and attractive short-legged animal. He was named "Favourite" (3772), and so he proved to be one to my father, as he had his portrait taken and hung up in the hall. After using Favourite as a sire to all his purchases, and the connection of "Anthony" with "Ruby Gilliver," makes it appear to the writer rather like a step backward on the improved shorthorn, but as my father had not yet gained experience sufficient to guide him for their improvement, he next permitted "Lady" to pay a visit to "Stephen" (5324), an animal even without any local reputation as a sire. The union of the aristocratic cow and the rustic "Stephen," resulted in the birth of "Flora." With this beautiful admixture, I think the young shorthorn breeder was about as well prepared to improve the breed of shorthorns, as a student to give advice to a physician, in his first year, how to prepare a medicine for a patient that is dangerously ill. "Flora" and "Ruby Gilliver" being the only daughters of the "Lady," and the old cow herself

has now finished her course, so there is no other alternative but to breed from the alloyed blood, but the mischief does not end here. Sires are used of their breeding to "Fairy," and "Jesamine," and for want of experience the descendants of all the three cows that were judiciously purchased are now ruined, as far as being purely descended. What others had built up, my father had now thrown down. He blends the three families together, and breeds on for a space of 30 years, without even purchasing a single male animal, but breeds in and in, one generation after another, until he becomes somewhat prejudiced against any new blood, closing his eyes against what was really needed, something similar to the late Mr. Bates. A change becomes compulsory before it is made, and then only in a small degree, as prejudice and inbreeding allowed the descendants of Fairy and Jesamine to wear out until there was not a single animal left in the herd. But what became of the descendants of "Lady?" Why, to-day they are more numerous than ever, through additions of blood in 10th Grand Duke, 10th Duke of Oxford, and several other influential sires, while the other two families in his herd finished their career nearly 20 years ago, when they might yet have been numerous and robust with "judicious" infusions of alien blood, as the descendants of Lady are better and equally as healthy cattle as they were half a century back.

I have now spoken of my father as an inexperienced breeder in his youth, as prejudiced in favour of his own cattle in preference to others, but as yet have said little in his favour as a breeder in after life, but others have done it for me, over and over again, although it may not be in print, it has been expressed freely from their lips, that he was a thorough good judge of cattle, and no better manager of them ever lived; he was exceedingly particular in their diet and cleanliness, each meal to be given at a certain hour, I may almost add to the minute, as well as fresh food given them each time, he was more particular in breeding good animals than having good pedigrees, and to some degree prejudiced against fashion. I often begged of him to get a little more fashionable blood into his herd, but was soon given to understand that it was all humbug. He thoroughly enjoyed chatting over the blunders he had made in his youth, by sending "Lady" to "Yorkshireman," and Stephen, and often said it took a lifetime to know how to breed good cattle. Although his herd was not large, he generally had not less than three sires for the use of it; as he truly remarked, no herd could be kept good by the use of one, but that each male and female should be mated according to their merits and colours, as the deficiencies of one might be counteracted by the merits of the other. I have little doubt but some of my young readers will be anxious to know

what kind of shorthorns he kept at the time I have alluded to, I will describe them as minutely as possible. What was termed a good shorthorn then would not be looked upon as a good one in the present day. The style of cattle my father had 35 years ago were genteel enough in appearance, if not too much so, the head was long, and narrow. I remember hearing the herdsman exclaim, "What a beautiful head 'Rosannah' has got, she might almost drink from a quart pot." No such exclamation to be heard from the herdsman in the year 1886. The breasts of his animals were wide and deep, somewhat better filled than they are now, shoulders neat, with deep chest, he had a great abhorrence of coarse shoulders and narrow chests; they were generally deep in the flank, with long neat hindquarters, but too often rather bare on the loins, and light in the thighs, by paying too much attention to the hindquarters, but they were almost without exception, good at the pail, but not so even in flesh as the shorthorns are at the present day.

More experienced breeders may be anxious to know what proof I can give that my father injured his cattle by inbreeding. I am afraid after being an eyewitness for such a length of time, that I am possessed of evidence sufficient to prove that close breeding did not improve either animal or constitution. Year by year, it was my duty to watch the

young animals grow up to maturity, but, alas! it was painful to discern that consumption had found its way to that vital part before the day of maturity had arrived. The eye became dim before their youthful days were passed, and many of the animals gradually sickened and died, without leaving either son or daughter to mourn their loss. Have not there been several other breeders besides him who have sacrificed their herds to inbreeding? What a lesson we have daily before us, in the result of 50 years breeding from the best cow Mr. Charles Colling ever saw, when there were but eight female representatives at the end of that period. Does it not speak volumes against the style of breeding that had been advocated by two of the Prime Ministers of the past, in the shorthorn circle? Where are the descendants of the far-famed Necklace, and Bracelet; where are the descendants of Fame, by Raspberry, free from admixture; I may ask the same question of the beautiful Bliss family, can I not count their numbers upon the fingers of one hand; is it not much easier to put all into one question—Where are all the purely descended families of the late Richard Booth? Why, they are now no more than a tottering reed begging for support from the passer-by. And how has this all come to pass? Simply by prejudice and inbreeding. The latter is good to a certain extent, but I imagine the inexperienced asking to what extent; until the practical

eye of experience observes the animal begin to deteriorate, but not beyond. Then is the time to select a change of blood, but to be added as carefully and judiciously as a physician would add his ingredients to the pure water, before giving it to his patient, "in hopes of having the desired effect to restore perfect health." This is the opinion of the writer upon close breeding of any kind of cattle, that it may be carried out effectually for many years by a restorative being given in due season from the hand of experience, but not to linger until prejudice lays hold of the constitution.

---



## CHAPTER II.

A PICTURE OF REAL LIFE IN 1846, AND AN IMAGINARY ONE CONFIRMED IN 1886.

I must ask as a favour from my readers to deviate a little from shorthorns in the present chapter, as it is tedious both to the reader and writer to repeat the same story over and over again, without a little change, for this reason alone I have selected to write upon different characters in real life, altho' they lived before many that may take up this small book, were born; perhaps I shall not be out of place by styling them "Funny Folks," why! can I not speak of people that were peculiar in the past, as well as others do of people in the present, they speak of shrewd or ridiculous things being done in our English Capital by men of renown, but I simply relate in my story about country people who had no pretensions whatever, not known beyond Mr., or even plain John. We must all admit that we are now living in peculiar times, the tenant rebels against his landlord by informing him that he must have his rent reduced or he cannot live,

"As he did in the days of yore,  
Landlord replies, I must have a trifle more,"

or I cannot keep my household up to its present standard. The labourer informs his master

“That he must really increase his wage,  
To cloth his children up to the present age,”

which causes the labourer to leave his employer and go complaining about the streets that no employment is to be had, the master gives up his farm to his landlord, and endeavours to get him to understand that the labourer is not worthy of his hire, and according to present prices of the produce of the land, his farm is not worth the rent, so the labourer goes without his wage, the tenant without his farm, and the landlord without his rent; then the land too frequently remains in a barren state, neither good to the unemployed, to a master without his farm, nor to a landlord without his tenant, surely we are not living in the brightest of days, but let us live in hope.

But to return to the days of my childhood, when I was a little fellow prattling by my grandmother's side, who had the honourable position of being the Vicar's wife for nearly a period of fifty years, yet she acted in the humble sphere as the Doctor's assistant free gratis, in the village where she resided, and as I named in the last chapter, railways were then few and far between,

“So the Doctor complained,  
That his horse was nearly run down,  
Especially when no fee was obtained,  
And even then, it was but half-a-crown.”

For this reason the patients became numerous to the assistant, as her medicine was sweet and simple to the taste, which was chiefly composed of juice from the honey-comb, tinctured from the long necked bottle, her advice kindly and cheering, and often adding with it, take that home with you, it may be found useful, so naturally the patients flocked to the parson's wife, in preference to the doctor, because they said she was more clever, and I agreed with them, as she slipped many a bright piece of silver into my hands, that even my brothers did not observe, young as I was then, I thought how nicely she had done it, and how wisely the inhabitants spoke when they called her clever, yes! self is an old man full of years, but free from honour.

The next persons that I shall speak of, are Mr. and Mrs. Thrifty who resided in the same village, and probably partook of the same hospitality. There was then a small estate to sell by auction measuring about seventy acres, within a few yards from my grandmother's door, the auctioneer announced that the last bid of £900 fell from the lips of Mr. Thrifty, and if no advance was made, the estate would become his property, so at last he declared the purchaser to be Mr. Thrifty, adding, kindly give me a substantial name, that the money will be forthcoming when required, but almost with a sneer upon his countenance, doubting if the purchaser could find one. Mr.

Thrifty had by this time received quite enough of his chaff, when he knew he held the grain in his own hands, as well as the chaff, turning round to his wife, and speaking in affectionate terms; "Now Katie, where's thy bondsman," Kate had only to remove her apron, and the bondsman appeared in the shape of a stocking, well secured by needle and thread, the latter was rent asunder, and the bondsman immediately made his appearance by 900 sovereigns being poured upon the table, in payment of the estate, Thrifty knavely replying, it was the only bond that he had to offer. What a difference then, to a sale of property in the present day, there is rarely an estate now to be sold without Lawyer, Mortgagee, and Mortgagor having a finger in the pie, but not so with Mr. and Mrs. Thrifty, it was the substance of the toil of their long life, and they had no desire for any one to share the estate with them, while they could enjoy it. It was rented by Mr. Grumbler, at £50 per annum, until his retirement from public life, if I may be allowed to use such an expression, and I think I have good grounds for doing so, as I often had a chat with him in his last earthly dwelling place, which was rented at £4 per annum, and the only entrance to it was from one door, facing a large rock, and if I could compare him to anything at all, it would be to that grim rock, as I never remember seeing even one smile pass over his face, and to see it in that house, after the bright rays of the sun had passed from the sky, would have been

impossible, as the writer never distinguished a light burning within that door, nor the least signs of brightness upon the occupier's countenance; this is one way of retirement from public life, but I should not say a happy one; allow me just to explain the result of a portion of the sale of his farm stock. His ewes in lamb averaged about thirteen shillings per head, and the Auctioneer remarked he thought they sold remarkably well for the times, four two year old heifers which the writer can remember individually realized the following prices, sixty-six shillings, fifty-six, fifty-four, and forty-two shillings respectively, it remains for my readers to judge, whether we have more reason to complain of the farming of to-day, or the farming of forty-four years ago.

By this time both Mr. and Mrs. Thrifty had passed away from us, and the estate had fallen into the hands of Mr. Spendall, who enjoyed himself thoroughly after his own fashion, altho' persevering in everything he undertook, and as I explained in my last chapter, a railway was just completed in that locality, of course he must travel by steam, as the old fashioned highways were a thing of the past for men of business, evidently he was as much too fast, as the late owner was too slow, he started his journey in life as if nothing would ever come to an end, and eventually travelled on the wrong line, and booked for the most fashionable station then in existence, but let me not

forget to add, Mr. Prejudice was his too frequent companion, and strongly advised him not to take a ticket for the quiet little town of Prudence, where he should undoubtedly have travelled, but Mr. Spendall at last travelled on and on until he came to the end of his jouruey, which was in the town of Fashion, where he had a desire to reside, a stranger met him there, kuown by the name of Experience, and very politely informed him that £2,000 was too weighty a matter to rest upon the contents of a stocking, and requested that a portion of its burdeu, if not all, would shortly be removed. This is another lesson of experience learned by the writer, that ueither Fashion nor Perseverance cau profitably exist without Prudence and Experience. Honest John was a labourer at the time in the same village, who had to be content with five shillings per week, for his family's support. Stout hearted David a little more capable as a workman, often admitted that seven shillings for six days toil was canny pay for his labour. Farmer Saveall, his employer, knew that the extravagaut wage would be well earned, before he parted with it; as he is the last of the list of my "Funny Folks" for 1846, I must not close without making a few remarks, respecting his peculiarities, he imagined he was not very strong, and could not partake of anything that was very rich, as he had a weak stomach, but neighbour Prudent invited him to dine with him; poor farmer Saveall quite forgot his weak stomach, and

expressed himself how happy he could be if he only lived with gentle folks. He provided the food for his cattle six days in a week, and thought they were to some extent like human beings, requiring rest from their labours; as he was a man that did not care for theory, but approved of his ideas being carried out practically, especially when it suited his pocket, so he allowed their stomachs to rest on the seventh day, and said surely they can not give up thriving for lack of one day's food,

" He made his calculations so fine,  
That he never asked a neighbour to dine,  
For fear he should not have enough for tomorrow,  
And bring upon himself nothing but sorrow."

I have spoken of Messrs. Saveall, Spendall, Grumbler, and Thrifty, as a sample of funny folks, bordering upon half a century since I first knew them, had they been living in the present day with their peculiarities, they would have been looked upon as almost insane. The picture that I have drawn upon my experience from real life, of the above characters, may appear to some of my readers without any aim at any object, but if they are under that impression, I trust they will find that they are slightly mistaken before the close of the chapter, as the drawer of the picture gives his assurance that it is full of meaning to them that study it with the keenest eye, or even in comparing the difference of life between now and forty

years back, it simply requires touching up with the accomplished artist's brush and placing within his gilded frame,

" Then I feel it would be much admired,  
Full of meaning and greatly desired."

Having completed my picture upon the peculiarities of 1846, I will next try to compare an equal number of imaginary characters of 1886, to the reality of the earlier period, and perhaps some of its admirers may agree with the painter that there is a similarity between the two, altho' forty years have elapsed since the former picture was drawn. To commence the latter drawing, I must first compare notes with Mr. Grumbler of to day, and the one of forty years ago, in personal appearance they might be brothers, in actions nearer still, if it is possible to be so, he is an unthankful servant, a disagreeable master, and not an amiable landlord, for any one to have to contend with, he is continually complaining of the times, the weather, or his tenantry, and rarely agreeing with himself twelve hours together; I should much like to have put him behind the scenes in my imaginations, but no, such a character must be placed in the front ranks for exposition, but I shall only place him on the left side of my drawing and put near him his friend Mr. Saveall, he too I willingly would have driven from my thoughts, and placed him also in the background, but it would not be fair to screen him



from public notice, as he is a mean fellow, and thinks of no one but himself, therefore I shall bring him forward and expose him to his friends, but doubt very much if he has many, so I will leave him alone for the present, and introduce Mr. Spendall, who I will let stand at the bottom of my painting, for fear he should injure himself by falling, if I place him higher, as it will surely be his destination, sooner or later, unlike Mr. Saveall, he remembers every one but himself in his kindness, he is what many term a jolly good fellow. Standing higher in the picture is Mr. Thrifty, apparently looking very grave at the three characters I have already represented, that one should appear so reckless, another so mean, and a third so prejudiced against any improvement in society, he therefore quietly removes the piece of clay from between his lips, and inquires the reason they are so sad. Mr. Spendall replies that he had invested his all in the Town of Fashion, and the only thing that troubled him was, who would receive the interest, Mr. Grumbler's and Mr. Saveall's troubles were as one, they replied the times were really so bad, that they could save no more, and that the eminent Mr. Whitewash had thoroughly deceived them by promising that they would improve for the last seven years, and they were not one jot better now, than they were then, but worse than that, they understood by his gifted speech and flowery language, that he would have all the land divided into equal portions, and

that there would be no reason either to grumble or save any more, so we freely supported him. When shortly after he retired into the Forest and quite forgot either his promise of the good times, or the division of the land. Mr. Thrifty who had now to take the name of Perseverance, through a legacy being left him by the will of Prudence, cast his eye upon the gentleman in the centre of the picture, whose name is Experience, and exclaims there's the man of Solidity, call at his office in Salisbury Square, and you will find Mr. Prudence awaiting to receive you at the door, and Mr. Perseverance prepared to assist you on the way to prosperity. Mr. Saveall on hearing the good news, could hardly contain himself for joy, and made up his mind to put his scraping machine in order, so that he might die worth another thousand, look at the thin and miserable face he has got, compare it with the gentleman's at the right side of the picture, one might imagine that he had lived all life long in the height of prosperity and happiness, while the former is fretting and fuming over his nephew John, who has not married according to his liking, therefore he must cut him short in his will, yes! that is the punishment for his nephew's disobedience. His niece Mary has also displeased him by marrying a scamp, that entitles her to be left out in the cold, and her poor sister Elizabeth, has disgraced herself by being too extravagant, as she gave a shilling away to the poor where sixpence

ought to have done, she is not to be trusted with much money, therefore it gives the old Uncle the trouble of again altering his will, and see that she cannot either give or spend too much. Poor fellow, what anxiety he brings upon himself, but it is some consolation when he hears that his nephew Solomon is making money very fast, by following in his steps, it appears most probable that Benjamin's share of the hard savings shall fall to his lot.

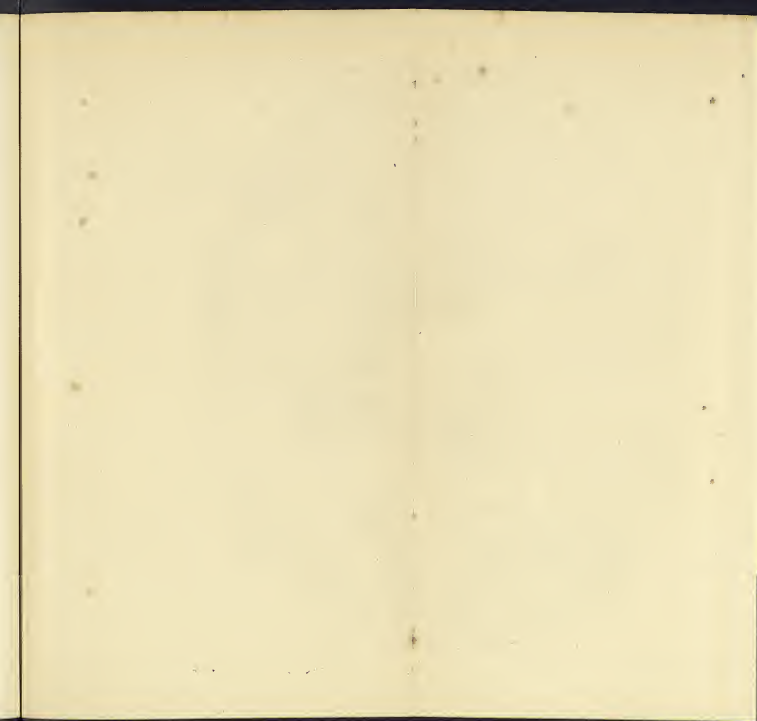
Mr. Grumbler also tries to raise a smile on hearing the good news of returning prosperity, but alas! they are no glad tidings for him, as he has spent the best part of his life in being prejudiced against any improvement being made for the welfare of his fellow-men and declares he has been one of the most unfortunate beings in existence, as he has always been industrious and most careful, or perhaps the writer may add greedy to the extreme, he thinks if he had been as fortunate as his neighbours, he would have had, at his time of life, a good round sum to have made a respectable division at his death for his family, but for some reason or other his sons had not helped him to gather, but rather to scatter, and that last law suit also cost him a considerable sum, which was only one of a few, through squabbling over trivial matters, and it very often rained when he wanted to secure his crops, which caused them to be sold at a low price, and his stock rarely made so high a figure as

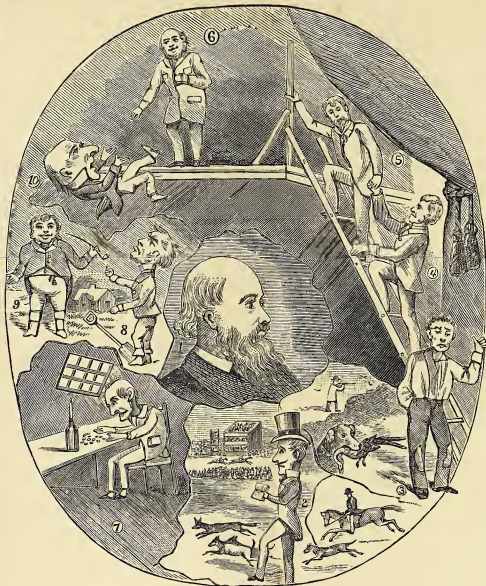
that of his neighbours, and the times are really so bad that there is little hope of ever doing any more good in farming at all. Mr. Spendall is apparently in high spirits, when he hears it is probable that he may once more return to his former position in life, by the improvement of the times, the old centre piece of the picture whispers in his ear, improve thyself with the times, the hint is not thrown away upon Mr. Spendall, as he has had enough of the advice given him by Mr. Prejudice and Mr. Fashion that he now gladly travels by the line of Perseverance, to commence business in the town of Prudence, where he receives a healing balm for his bruises, and a permanent cure for his fall. But not so with Mr. Grumbler, nor Mr. Saveall, the former appears to the painter to be a hopeless case, as he finds it impossible to draw his face straight for his picture, it may be that Mr. Prejudice has allowed him to hold it for so many years in that crooked position, or perhaps the climate has something to do with it, as he generally takes up his abode in the extreme North of our British Empire, where the frosts are very severe, which may have left a hard impression upon it, but as I am only an amateur in painting, I shall leave the mystery to be unravelled by a more experienced hand. But just one more touch up with the brush before finishing my imaginary work of 1886, as I feel certain I could improve Mr. Saveall's face by a little more paint, as it is the most miserable looking in the whole group, the more out

of sight it is kept the more it is admired. Altho' he dwells in the far west, he cannot get away from his troubles, his nephew Solomon, undoubtedly very rich, has at last displeased him, by driving his carriage, which he thinks not only a very expensive, but unnecessary habit, his misdemeanour causes the will to be altered once more, to see that his nephew is bound to maintain the family position in life, by his walking on foot, and not to forget that his name is Solomon Saveall. The old man now begins to get weary of nephews and nieces, as they are continually trying to get from him what he prizes most, so he makes up his mind to do good with his money, when he is bound to part with it. At last the time comes when the machinery of life stops, the last will and testament of the late Mr. Saveall is read, to the disappointment of all nephews and nieces, when they hear that all the scrapings of a long and weary life are left to an entire stranger, and the name of that stranger is "Charity." Kindly admire the contented looking face of Mr. Thrifty as he is making his speech from the gallery, he has risen little by little through Prudence and Perseverance until he now holds a high position in life, watch how he pushes away old Mr. Whitewash from him, as he hovers about the crown of the picture, and adds, he may hover round about it, but shall never enter within its frame. There's the man of Experience in the centre, he exclaims, he shall be the leader of the party to restore England to its

former greatness, there stands his chief supporter on the right, "Prudence" by name and nature, a friend to the landlord, tenant, and labourer, three important persons of the past, present, and future, the prosperity of the nation cannot move on without them, so be of good cheer landlord, tenant, and labourer, brighter days are in store for you, and are now in the bud. I shall now lay down my brush with the satisfaction of knowing that a painter of even an imaginary picture requires experience before his work can possibly be made perfect.

---





See Page 201.



## CHAPTER III.

WISDOM IN YOUTH, ADVICE HOW TO UNITE MY EXPERIENCES, MY FIRST SHORTHORNS, GAINING EXPERIENCE BY BEING A DISAPPOINTED EXHIBITOR, MY FIRST SALE, OR PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, HAVING THE VILLAGE SCHOOL FOR THE PREPARATORY.

Having passed over briefly, in the two last chapters, the days of my childhood and boyhood, I must now advance with my experience a step forward to the time of early manhood, a point in life when the young man thinks himself possessed of wisdom to overflowing, but when he has advanced so far in life as to see another generation take his place in youth, he looks back with regret upon his early wisdom, although he has now spent half of his allotted time, he feels anxious to gain more knowledge, and is convinced that it only can be obtained by experience, at any rate it is the case with the writer, who has been asked to write a book upon his experience in life, but to dwell principally upon shorthorn breeding; the request has been granted to the best of his ability, but he feels sure that he is not capable of meeting their desires upon every point, so has made up his mind to compose this

small volume in his own style, which his future readers principally know must be an old-fashioned one; but if he can avoid it the book shall not fall from any one's hand and say that he had written them to sleep, but on the contrary, will try to awake them out of it, not by praising their cattle, or their doings, but by showing the folly of fashion in shorthorn breeding without experience, and for want of the latter the writer did not know when to accept the benefit of the former. It is perfectly true that he has been requested to write a book upon his experiences; but, more than that, advised how to write it, not only once, but over and over again. The first says write it all upon shorthorns, as you have had considerable experience in them; another tells him not to write it all upon shorthorns, but intermix it with other experiences in general; a third requests that it should not be written too dry, or the people will never read it; his companion advises differently, and says don't write as you talk, but put it more seriously; a fifth presents more liberal terms by adding, don't be too grave and serious with your remarks, but give it a jovial turn so that the reader may compliment the writer; but the sixth adviser is perhaps the most suitable to both writer and reader, as he desires that the book should be a sensible one. Yes, I believe he is right, to a certain extent, if he bears in remembrance that what is sensible to one is not to another; but I am

a little afraid that prejudice in his case might get the master of prudence, and not allow a sufficient margin for different opinions, although I must not forget the old man who carried his ass to please every one. Yet, it is by different opinions collected together, and well sifted, that we gain knowledge, and that is not to be gained only by small proportions in one day; as I have repeatedly said, it requires time and experience to be anything near perfect, even if it be only in the writing of a small book. So there is room for excuse in an amateur writer, as much as there is in an inexperienced shorthorn breeder; fortunately I shall be a shareholder in both, as the blunders made in the commencement of my career as a breeder were numerous, but perhaps more amusing than the losses I sustained by them.

As a writer I do not claim any pretensions whatever, but simply express myself in such language as any youth might understand. As a painter I acknowledge my drawings are not very clear, and rather difficult to discern the characters they represent, especially to those who do not care to understand them.

I must now return to the year 1860, when I commenced farming, as I had then become a master, naturally thought myself fitted to instruct others, and as I was most active with my

feet and tongue, imagined I could not be far behind my seniors in knowledge upon farming, so I was determined that I would not be left behind, and entered my farm for the prize, being the best managed throughout; there were three competitors, and three prizes; the young farmer had the honour of distinguishing himself by gaining the third prize; this was a gentle hint that he was somewhat behind the men of riper years, who had gained their knowledge by time and experience.

Being fond of cattle, I soon made up my mind to surpass my neighbours there also, and had heard that to get good cattle they must be well-bred, so desired that my father should present me with one or two with pedigrees; to oblige me he did so, and purchased from Mr. Caddy, of Rougholm, in Cumberland, a cow called Buttercup 3rd, and her heifer calf Buttercup 4th, the price being £23 the pair; they were such cattle that I recommend in my introductory chapter, suitable for any breeder that has rent to pay for the land he occupies; but not being satisfied with the breeding of such animals as he previously had deemed prudent to give me, I imagined as I had now become a man, that I understood shorthorn breeding as well as he did, so I readily made up my mind to follow in the steps of his youth, and go in search of better bred cattle; at last I purchased a heifer at the same home, and

descended from the same cow Jesamine as he purchased about 30 years previous; I had my new bargain brought home with considerable glee, as I considered her better bred than any that he possessed, the price being £10 at two years of age; my father came over to see the new and important purchase; he was so long in giving his opinion upon it that I asked him the reason, he replied he was just looking to see if she was a heifer at all; I felt a little annoyed at his decision, and therefore decided to follow my own course in the way that I would breed from her, so in due time she was put to Belvedere (23405), a bull bred from Buttercup 3rd, by John Bunyan (20030), descended from Jesamine, and full of the blood of the renowned Stephen, and Yorkshireman, mentioned in the previous chapter, where I spoke of my father's ridiculous breeding, and what was I now doing but adopting the same course as he did then, simply for want of experience? The produce of the union resulted in a white heifer, which I named "Princess Helena," thinking I must imitate in a fashionable name if I could do nothing more, her dam was "Princess Alice," a grand-daughter of Mr. Booth's "Baron Warlaby," and as I explained before, Jesamine was a grand-daughter of Mr. Booth's "Rebecca," therefore I had a good foundation to build upon, but destroyed the structure already made, by the birth of "Princess Helena," although she was a Princess, and daughter

of "Princess Alice," I was often reminded that she was the daughter of Belvedere too; what a blunder to make by one that had thought himself fully capable of finding fault with others. "Princess Helena" being a pretty little creature, although somewhat diminutive looking, I made up my mind to exhibit her for the prize, which she won easily in a large class, so easily, that it stole away the judgment of its owner. The following year she was again exhibited; of course, I felt quite certain that there would be nothing there to equal her, but to my horror, the lovely Princess was left in the background, not that I thought she was deficient in beauty, but the judges did not understand their business, and awarded the prize to the wrong animal; this was my first lesson of experience that animals were not brought before judges at a Show for them to point out their merits; no! they are already known by their owners too well, but they are placed before them as a criminal at the Bar is placed before a Court of Justice, to find out where they are wrong. I had not thought of this before, but a lesson from the book of experience teaches one that wisdom in youth is but little more than folly. I had so far made no improvement upon what others had done before me in their breeding, as I next put her to a bull of the Elvira family, and lastly to a pure Bates bull, which was about as far in the wrong direction as I could possibly get.

Let me briefly explain what became of Buttercup 3rd, and her descendants which I bred for generations without any aim as to pedigree, beyond that they were eligible for the English Herd Book, the pedigree read as follows, by Flying Dutchman (10235), by Bachelor (5770), by Esk (23895), by Coroner (3497), I had not as yet been taught beyond the alphabet in shorthorn knowledge, so imagined they were equally as valuable, as the animals of accomplished breeders, but many a hard lesson must be learned by the inexperienced, before he can stand in the front ranks as a breeder, at least the writer had many difficulties to contend with before he even passed his preliminary examination. The Buttercup family, altho' fairly good in themselves never left their mark beyond their own locality; so I decided to give them up; and the descendants of Princess Alice, I had utterly taken away the most profitable and interesting part of their history by injudicious crossing, as they were lineally descended from fashionable ancestors.

Fashion, added to fashion, is a dangerous game to play;  
Judgment, added to fashion, is sure to gain the day.

But I am sorry to say I was not guilty of either of the two, as I neither added fashion nor judgment to the descendants of "Princess Alice," but simply prepared them fitted for nobody. What could I have done more? I imagined as I had persevered

with all my might in breeding shorthorns since my commencement. I had now an offer of £27 10s. for the old Princess, which I gladly accepted, thinking there could not be much benefit remaining for any one else, after receiving such an exorbitant price, leaving in my hands her two daughters and a grand-daughter. A little more than two years elapsed when she was again sold for 42gs., and her daughter realizing 80gs. What a lesson this taught me, that even "Princess Alice" in experienced hands was capable of breeding valuable animals; and what were her other daughters in comparison? They were simply daughters of sires descended from "Folly," a very prolific family in my herd; so I made up my mind to dispose of them all at the first opportunity, and purchase animals from the tribes of "Fashion," and see if I could not make some improvement, as up to this date I could only give myself the credit of removing the improved shorthorn a step backward, I had so far been disappointed in not securing the best of blood, as I imagined, by keeping too near ashore. So I ventured a little further out from land, and succeeded in buying, or rather Mr. Thornton succeeded in selling me, three Blanche cows, and one of the J. tribe. After these important purchases, my pride and wisdom increased immensely upon shorthorn matters, when a neighbour inquired of me if I had not purchased some shorthorns, I replied yes; he



added, he meant real shorthorns, not simply animals with pedigrees; my further reply was, he was quite right, they were real ones. My friends came far and near to see these extraordinary animals, and no doubt I disclosed my wisdom to no few, and to their astonishment my ignorance in the breeding of shorthorns. As to the J. cow, I did not then know she was descended from Princess, by Favourite (252); I was not even then possessed of a very large percentage of herd book knowledge, or I would not have been prevailed upon to buy animals seeking a customer, but lessons must be taught us before we thoroughly understand that experience is so great a master. I must confess that this lesson opened my eyes, to a certain extent, when I found the young and bright London auctioneer had used his persuasive powers so successfully in disposing of three of the most indifferent bred Blanches then in existence, and the J. animal one of the meanest-looking brutes I ever saw, I almost began to doubt if she was a real shorthorn at all, but simply an animal with a pedigree, like hundreds of those that Mr. Fashion has purchased since,

At a more costly price in pounds, than two score;

As this was the price of each Blanche, and nothing more.

In addition to the above purchases I secured many animals of local reputation, besides giving 50gs. for a bull of the Fletcher tribe, which proved quite a success, and became the sire of many good animals.

My herd having now increased considerably, and preferring some other persons owning a portion of them to myself, as I had begun to take lessons upon breeding, and found when my pedigrees were analysed, that they scarcely contained 50 per cent. of what I wanted. What was the next course to adopt, but to dispose of some of the animals by applying to the same gentleman in London, who gave me his advice so freely in purchasing them. He now advises me to sell by auction; so I partook of the advice given, for the second time, and advertised my first shorthorn sale to take place on the 21st day of September, 1871, by John Thornton, which resulted in an average of £30 a piece for thirty head, which was considered a very satisfactory examination for a preliminary to being a shorthorn breeder, after the serious blunders I had made in the alphabet, but dull beginners sometimes advance more quickly with their lessons as they grow in years than the brightest youth, who rushes along without having them thoroughly grounded. I must close my chapter, at the time I had to leave the village school to go to another, as a preparatory, for a fashionable shorthorn breeder; so bid good bye to Mr. Experience until we met again, as I was then in haste to meet my new master, and had but very little time for studying before I went in for the next examination.

---

## CHAPTER IV.

GAINING EXPERIENCE BY EXPENSIVE PURCHASES  
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF FASHION. PASSING THE  
INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION BY A SECOND SUCCESSFUL SALE.

Feeling a little languid and weary after the exertions of the public examination, it was natural one required a little rest, and as the days were short and dreary, I gave up studying until after Christmas holidays were past, when I felt more sure that I could then go to work in earnest, and as I had but little over a year to prepare for the intermediate, there was no time to be lost, yet preferring lingering on to the spring, before commencing my arduous task, when it would be more cheering, and often new ideas spring up in one's thoughts, as bright as the morning sun. But further excuses were useless, as my new master was at hand, whose name was Mr. Fashion, who kindly invited me to go into work, and so to work I went at once, and to inform my readers what I did, and how I did it, I think it best to return back to the previous midsummer, or to explain my doings more minutely a little further still, to the time that the writer loves most, and that is the spring.

It was a pleasant and sunny afternoon for my journey, when I travelled a little to the west, the day was drawing to a close as I arrived at my destination, where I accomplished the work Mr. Fashion had sent me to do, and that was, to purchase a bull calf for the sum of 150gs. My neighbours and friends seemed thunderstruck at the idea, and exclaimed such like work could never pay, fifty guineas profit was offered before the traveller's return, could such a thing be, they asked one another, in reply to their own question, they answered themselves, if he has refused such a profit, he surely must be insane, the animal, which was an Oxford, arrived safely at home, and was much admired in every respect but his price; but allow me to pass on and leave the mystery for the present, as I have other work to explain. The year advanced from Spring into Summer, when I took a second journey as pleasant as the former, to where I spent an enjoyable evening with Mr. Thomas Bell, who entertained me by describing the animals he had so often admired in the possession of Mr. Bates, it is pleasant to chat over with experienced men their doings of the past, it prepares a young man to look forward in the hopes that he should some day distinguish himself as a breeder. The old veteran informed me the same evening that Kirklevington 10th was the best animal of that family bred up to that time, and that Kirklevington 24th, a grand-daughter of hers, was to sell the follow-

ing day, at Messrs. Harward and Downings sale, so I made up my mind to go and purchase her; the last sand passed from the glass as the writer's bid stood at 100gs.; a cheap calf was the exclamation round the ring, a very pretty one indeed; the animal was sent to my farm and prospered; but its owner has omitted an important purchase which he previously made when he travelled in a southern direction, but on a cold frosty night at the end of March, when the wind was piercing, and company scarce, but he had an object in view, so travelled on until he was gladly released from his cold habitation, and drove out to the late Capt. Olliver's, and there had the pleasure of inspecting Grand Duchess 17th, and her descendants; it was there he learned that a highly-bred shorthorn was considered a good milker, when she gave but half the quantity of what the animals did he had left behind him; but on to the end of his journey he must travel, as Mr. Fashion had sent him on a mission, where he arrived at early morn, and was greeted by Mr. Robart's, the banker, and the owner of the cattle for sale. The traveller made the purchase he went in search of, and that was "Lady Barrington 9th," a very pretty red heifer seven months old, for the sum of 77gs. Grand Princess, a neat red cow, of the Darlington family, accompanied her, but unfortunately broke her leg, without leaving any issue. One year passes quickly after another, as it was on a busy

morning with me in the following spring that a perfect stranger, a gentleman from a northern county, drove up to my door, inquiring if he could have a peep at my shorthorns. I was delighted to show them to him, especially when he came from so great a distance, but perhaps for a better reason still, he asked me what I had to sell, that was something new to be asked by a stranger; before the day had closed the animal that I was condemned for buying, was sold for 300gs.; the ordinary looking J. cow, and her heifer calf at 80gs.; a Kirklevington heifer calf, of my own breeding, 70gs., at four months old; and a pair of young bull calves at 65gs. I felt sure I was right when I admired the spring in preference to winter. Notice what one bargain brought forth on that lovely spring day; my neighbours could not admire it as I did, but simply said I was a lucky fellow. I did not understand whether it was for selling the cattle so well, or for escaping insanity, if I had not sold them; whether sane or not sane, I again travelled by rail and purchased two animals of the far-famed Kirklevington blood, male and female; but the former a friend of mine induced me to give up for a small profit; the latter was one of the prettiest of pretty ones, but what a price 300gs. for Kirklevington Duchess 7th, and only seven months old; surely it can never pay, was the remark of Mr. Prejudice and his friends.

I had by this time three Kirklevington females, and one Barrington, but no male for my herd, so I had again to travel south, in pursuit of a bull, which proved to be an Oxford, a better animal at less price than the one I had sold, but his produce scarcely proved equal to his appearance, although a daughter of his afterwards realized 265gs.; she was not such an animal as Mr. Experience would approve of, but the junior master, Mr. Fashion, would gladly accept her for a good heifer, as she was fashionably bred, and possessed of an attractive appearance.

Up to this time I had been most particular in selection of good animals, and the three red calves that I had purchased would bear inspection by any critic as to personal merit. So far Mr. Fashion had not been allowed to draw me away from carrying out practically what Mr. Experience had previously taught me. As yet my two masters agreed in their teaching for me to buy fashionably bred animals, and I feel certain that their pupil was most obedient to their instructions, at least, as near as it was possible, I obeyed two masters in every point, but if any favour was shewn at all, it was towards Mr. Fashion, as Mr. Experience was so very particular and exact in everything, the animal must be perfect, pedigree good, and the constitution faultless; not so with Mr. Fashion, he

let me off much easier, if the animal was fashionably bred, of a taking character, and not actually under the veterinary treatment, it would do admirably for him, and I am afraid his pupil too.

By this time I had a herd of shorthorns that people began to talk and write about; it is a very easy matter for an inexperienced breeder to listen to the varnished description given of his herd in some local paper written by an unpractical writer, the temptation is strong enough for him to believe it is real, and imagine that his herd is much superior to his neighbours, but public opinion will decide the matter for him when required, if it be to find their money value, and it is to that value we must aim if we desire shorthorn breeding to pay a fair percentage for the outlay; that has been, and is still the writer's aim, whether in breeding pedigreed, or nonpedigreed animals, fashionable, or animals of lower degree, to go on improving our herds from the foundation is the point not to be lost sight of, but how few do it in youth for want of experience, or rather by being in too great haste after fashion? Has not the writer said enough respecting the blunders of his early days? but he will say still more before he closes the volume of his experience upon shorthorn breeding. Kindly allow him to relate how he was spending his leisure hours at the close of the year 1872. Why, he was as busy as Mr.



Fashion could possibly make him in preparing his lessons for the following spring, when the intermediate would take place, there was no more freedom to be had until that difficulty had been overcome.

The herd had now increased so much by purchases and births that it was really necessary to reduce it; to leave it more select, there were many weeds to be plucked out before it could be classed as the most fashionable. A fashionable master, with perseverance, will compel his pupil to accomplish his lesson however difficult; this left him no alternative but to fix a date for the next examination, and as there was a rising tendency for well-bred shorthorns, he thought there was but little fear he should get him through easily; but Experience thought differently, and said, so little had been done to improve the animals of my own breeding of late in appearance, it would require all the assistance that could be obtained from Prudence and Perseverance, to pass successfully on the 8th of April, as that was the day fixed for the inspector of the highest authority upon Bates cattle to attend at Ulverston, when, and where, my herd must undergo the strictest examination; after due notice had been given, I set to work and prepared in earnest for the event. Mr. Strafford (from London) was the name of the inspector, and the place where he would

attend was Mr. Brogden's Park. Having a joint sale with an M.P., and such an eminent auctioneer to dispose of the animals, made me think at the time no less of my own judgment, nor any more of the judgment of experienced breeders. At last the animals were selected to be retained, which consisted of the most fashionable portion of my herd, not omitting the three red calves previously purchased. The selection for sale included the Blanches, and all others gathered up of local reputation, and their produce, imagining they were almost valueless to breed from, as Mr. Fashion now ruled with a pretty high hand, and according to his taste nothing must be retained but the very best. At last the fatal time arrived, the day was bright and cheery, the assembly of more than an ordinary nature, but the cattle bred by myself were scarcely in accordance with the company for want of experience, yet Blanche Rose 3rd, a heifer bred by Mr. Cheney, leaving 44gs. for a few months keep, did not speak badly for my judgment in purchasing, three cheers were given for the young shorthorn breeder as she changed owners, at the sum of 100gs., Blossom, another of the same prolific and robust family realized 65gs., after breeding two bull calves, which I sold when about four months old for 27gs., and 20gs. respectively, her cost price being 40gs., as she was one of the three original purchases at that sum, any other animal in the sale with good looks,

---

especially those that were aiming in the direction of fashion, realized satisfactory figures, and a general average of £46 was not then to be despised by a late inexperienced breeder.

Fashion, it is true, gained the day,  
Prudence and Perseverance aided on the way;  
I was glad the exam' was o'er at last,  
Hand joined in hand, or I would not have passed.

## CHAPTER V.

PURCHASING BY FASHION, AND SELLING BY FASHION TO THE INEXPERIENCED, PURCHASING A DUKE, PURCHASING THE REMNANT OF MR. HARVEY'S HERD, THE LOSS BY PURITY THROUGH INBREEDING, AND BEING PREJUDICED. SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN THE SALE OF 1873, OR IN OTHER WORDS, PASSING THE FINAL EXAMINATION AS A SHORTHORN BREEDER.

One difficulty after another appears to the writer to be got over in shorthorn breeding as easily as in many other things we have to contend with as we pass through life, but as soon as we are free from one, another frequently makes its appearance; so it was with me after having a successful sale and satisfactory examination; the question was then, what am I to do next? to obey Fashion's demands, to move on with the times of 1873, or to stand still, as Prejudice might advise, or even more, go back to the time I have spoken of in 1846. Surely none of my readers would wish me to travel back with my ideas, but rather move steadily on with the improvements of the present age, as I was most anxious to do in shorthorn breeding; but it was a hard battle to fight, having so many advisers buzzing in one's

ears. So at last I made up my mind to take my own course, and have not only good animals but good pedigrees too, as I found to meet the rising market I must throw away the old-fashioned notion of prejudice, that we must not depart from what our fathers did before us; so I determined to strike out a course of my own, and to pursue it from the foundation, but experience said don't travel at too great a speed for fear of danger, but persevere on the line of Prudence to accomplish your object. I well remember travelling in the month of July, in the same year, into Gloucestershire, when Mr. Fashion was my companion to the sale, where I bent my steps, with the intent of purchasing something good; by what line I travelled I scarcely know, but at any rate, carried out the instructions of my companion to the letter, by purchasing "Cherry Duchess 13th," for 555gs., a bold stroke of business I admit, but she was truly a grand cow, and in calf to "Oxford Beau," a very fine animal indeed; the result of this union proved to be a magnificent bull, which an inexperienced breeder, came from some distance to buy, he admitted he liked the calf, but said he simply wanted him to cross ordinary dairy cattle; he also explained to me that he did not care for short-horns at all, as he thought they were not up to much; I asked him as politely as I could under the circumstances, where would he get his good bulls from, to cross his ordinary cattle with, if there were

not some foolish people like myself to breed the females; his reply was, he had never given that a thought, but he did not forget to leave a cheque for 250gs. for the first calf from Cherry Duchess 13th, and shortly after another, the right side of a 1,000gs., for a pair of cows that cost me less than half that sum, besides leaving their produce behind them, which realized nearly the same amount; this is not a difficult lesson of experience to remember, even if my memory is not quite so good as it was in times past. Just think for one moment such a person commencing to breed shorthorns; was it because he had fallen in love with them, or what other reason could he give after his previous explanation? that he did not admire them; at any rate, I am certain the animals he purchased from me were up to perfection in one point, and that was in their price. I am afraid he can give no other reason for his purchasing than to please Mr. Fashion, as he has great persuasive powers, he is a dangerous master, but a good servant; he may be a pleasant companion, but a costly one; if he is not kept under subjection, while he remains under the protection of Prudence and Experience, his services are invaluable; but left to himself to advise an inexperienced youth in his purchases, might be as far out of it as the man who spent 1,000gs. for two animals that he believed were not up to much until he went into partnership with his friend Fashion.

Another winter had now nearly passed away, and the sale season commenced rather earlier than usual; the first took place in North Lancashire, which I attended of course, to see if anything fashionable could be picked up worth the money, when I stood quietly looking on, and gave but a single bid, to my astonishment, the animal fell to my lot, and I thought him rather cheap, as he carried with him the title of Grand Duke; he cost me but a little over 200gs., when I knew him to be worth much more; 300gs. was readily offered, but in vain; 320 was the next temptation, but it did not suffice; at the end of a fortnight 400gs. was proposed and accepted; the animal was then despatched to his new quarters, which left me once more in a difficulty in being without a sire; so there was no other way but travelling again in search of one, as I really must have a good male with a good pedigree in my herd; Mr. Fashion whispered by a Duke, so a Duke I bought, which my readers will think was dearly bought too, when they read that his price was 1,200gs.; it certainly was a risky piece of business for a tenant farmer to transact, and a high price to give; the principal question to answer, I suppose, will be, did he pay? Yes! he paid his price within a hair's breadth in fees for services; but what did he not do more? he gave my herd a name that did not end within a small radius of a few miles. No! the sound travelled across the Atlantic, where men of

enterprise have travelled before, and will undoubtedly travel again. I will put the question once more, was I right or wrong, when I purchased one of the last sons of the memorable 7th Duke of York? Am I not fairly entitled to answer I was right when I purchased 2nd Duke of Gloucester (28392) for that was his name, and that of his lovely dam, 11th Duchess of Geneva, he was a sire with a constitution like iron, he had a head that every experienced breeder could not but admire, his loins were full and wide, flank deep, and thighs heavy, his calves were full of gaiety and hair, there was no mistaking them to be the sons and daughters of a "Duke."

For years he stood as a noble sire,  
For followers of Bates to admire.

I must not dwell longer upon the admiration of my old favourite, as the year 1874 is one of importance in my history, and must relate how I spent a second 1,200gs. the same spring in shorthorns. A large proportion of my readers will have read, or heard of the late Mr. Harvey, Walton-upon-the-Hill, near Liverpool; few better judges, I may add better breeders, than the late Mr. Harvey in his day, it was not a mere fancy, or hobby, to breed shorthorns, but he was a strict admirer of purity of blood, and clung to it, until the writer bought the remnant of his herd, which consisted of six animals of the Lally branch of Barringtons, it is somewhat



doubtful whether we have even now a branch of cattle that are more fruitful, where prejudice allied with fashion has not been strictly adhered to. My purchases differed a little in their breeding but not in name, three of the animals were what was termed pure, having no cross of any other blood since they had passed from the hands of Mr. Bates, Lally 6th, by 3rd Lord Oxford, her dam being Lally 3rd, by 4th Duke of Oxford, Lally 12th, a daughter of the 6th and by 3rd Duke of Claro and Lally Duchess 3rd, a daughter of the 12th by Grand Prince of Claro, he was a son of 2nd Duke of Claro 21516, from the pure Kirklevington 9th, these were the three animals that were strictly pure beyond the Usurer blood in the Duchesses, they were looked upon by Prejudice as more valuable than their relations, and as a rule, the writer looks upon Purists as friends of prejudice, and not friends in reality to shorthorn breeding, I do not mean by Purists, admirers of purity of blood, but persons who are prejudiced against any small infusion of pure blood, added to pedigrees by other experienced breeders equally as judiciously and as purely descended for generations, as the animals which are imagined by Prejudice and his friends, to have a superiority in money value over their companions.

Having now briefly described the breeding of half of the 1,200gs. purchase, I must next explain the other half that were not supposed to be so

valuable, which were Lally 11th, a white cow, five years of age, her roan heifer calf, one month old, by Grand Prince of Claro 28781, which I named Lally Duchess 2nd, and her own sister, twelve months old named Lally Duchess, the youngster's dam was by Lord Wild Eyes 5th, also bred by Mr. Harvey, he was a son of the American 3rd Lord Oxford, from Wild Eyes 24th, by 4th Duke of Oxford, the dam of Lally 11th, was a daughter of Duke of Wetherby, by 7th Duke of York, from the renowned Duchess 77th, Lally 2nd, the great grand-dam of Lally Duchess, and Lally Duchess 2nd, was by the Canterbury Royal winner named "Malachite," a son of Duke of Moscow, a sire with four successive crosses of Duke Bulls; his dam was Cowslip 3rd, by Mr. Bates's "Chieftain," grand dam by Mr. Bates's "Duke of Norfolk," great grand dam by "Waterloo," the sire of "Belvedere," and of the same family as Belvedere himself, a bull that Mr. Bates thought good enough to take two crosses in succession upon his idolized Duchess's. The next generation in the Lally pedigree is "Lally," by "Earl of Derby." The antecedents of both Lally 11th and 12th here stand on an equality, as they are both descended from Lally, it is my duty to next point out what fault Mr. Prejudice had to find with the breeders of such a bull as the winner at Canterbury; firstly, he says he is not of the tribe of Israel but a Malachite, although he has a

similarity in blood for generations past, yet he is not descended from Israel but from the Amalachites; secondly, look at the name of "Malachite" in a Bates pedigree, it is an absurdity to the extreme to think of accepting him in their society, he may be well descended, a good animal, and improve his produce in personal appearance upon their dams, but we must have purity of blood. After having the opinion of Mr. Prejudice upon the breeding of the latter half of my 1,200gs. purchase, there appeared but faint hopes of ever having a profitable return, and I am afraid Mr. Fashion's opinion was united with that of his companion; but as I named in the early part of this chapter, I would strike out a course of my own, independent of the companionship of Fashion and Prejudice, but with Perseverance and Prudence, felt sure I should gain experience how to become their master in shorthorn breeding.

I must now return to the pure branch of my latest purchase. Lally 6th, not being in calf when I bought her, was looked upon as rather a suspicious character; her daughter the 12th was then all that could be desired in a Bates shorthorn, as she had calved Lally Duchess 3rd a few days previous to the completion of my bargain, apparently there was every prospect of their becoming a numerous family, as the dam was in the prime of life and had only just passed her fourth summer, the calf by her side

was a beautiful red, and full of admiration; before many weeks had expired 250gs. had been offered in exchange for her, but Mr. Fashion whispered no! she is one of the purest Lallies in existence, and must be valuable, so she still remained in my herd; but how were her dam and grand-dam spending their time? The latter had done nothing but eat the food of idleness since she came into my possession, so she was dispatched to the butcher, and her daughter followed her bad example, as never another living Lally was added to the herd from her, simply a premature one, but I suppose the calf would be pure, as it was by the 1,200gs. Duke. As she had followed in the footsteps of her dam in life, she was also doomed to an early death. Lally Duchess 3rd was the only female offspring descended from dam and grand dam, they had made a bad use of their time, but the grand-daughter still worse, as she gradually sickened and died, which made me be rather doubtful if she was inwardly pure in every point.

But let me pass on from this doleful tale to the 2nd half that was so full of prejudice, and deficient in fashion. Poor Lally 11th, robust, strong and a good breeder, had to succumb to the foot and mouth disease, in not being able to deliver her calf when the fever was at its height; her eldest daughter was a pretty little cow, whose descendants are flourishing

even at the present day, and her younger sister I sold when a yearling for 500gs. to cross the Atlantic, a most beautiful heifer, and well descended in the estimation of the experienced buyer who purchased her, but I understood from the critics that she was not strictly pure; but what is the good of purity of blood to any breeder if he does not retain the constitution and fecundity? Perseverance in breeding is of no avail without prudence; no doubt that every care had been taken to preserve their purity, but little to preserve the constitution; the writer had to reap the reward of prejudice and fashion in loosing his 600gs. by being too closely bred by others before him; yet he had the advantage of the good judgment of the alliance between Malachite and Lally, as the descendants of their daughter, Lally 2nd, are now numerous, and to an experienced Bates breeder, robust and fashionable; but the descendants of Lally 3rd, her half-sister, by 4th Duke of Oxford, is it not sad to say all that are now remaining in England are two individuals, one a daughter of the 500gs. Lally 15th, and the other a grand-daughter of the 600gs. Lally 18th.

I must now move on with my history to the autumn of 1874 when I made two more important but unfortunate purchases in grand Duchess of Oxford 25th and 28th, two sisters, but by different sires, at a price of over 1,400gs.; the former was

injured, and had to be sold as a doubtful breeder; the latter had but two calves, when she was also injured, and had to be slaughtered, her eldest calf, a heifer, died at eighteen days old, through the effects of eating wheat straw before being strong enough to digest it; is this also not a lesson of experience worth remembering? but what made the loss more painful, 700gs. was offered for the calf as soon as she became well, but that day never came, so I had to be content with receiving 200gs. for her brother, in the place of the 700gs. for the sister, this was the melancholy end of my breeding Oxfords. I am afraid I am getting on slowly with the explanation of my final examination as a fashionable shorthorn breeder, but I have passed over in my experiences many lessons of less importance with the exception of profit, but have found that it is the unprofitable ones that strike the deepest root. I had by this time added to my herd two animals of the Waterloo family, and a daughter of that fine old cow "Rose of Raby" (so well known at Holker), by 6th Duke of Airdrie, her name was "Maid of Lorn." She bred me two heifers in succession, to which I gave the names of Rose of Raby 2nd and 3rd, the latter was by my favourite old sire 2nd Duke of Gloucester. But in all my purchases no cow stood more prominent in my estimation than Cherry Duchess 13th, her noble carriage was sufficient to make every passer-by notice her graceful style, even the village

blacksmith had his eyes fixed upon her for a considerable time before he could find words to express himself in his own language; at last his ideas were collected, and burst forth with the exclamation, I may take a long look at her, as I shall hardly ever see as much money walking about in a field again.

Although Cherry Duchess 13th was extremely grand, my three reds purchased as calves were equally as pretty, especially the 300gs. Kirklevington Duchess 7th, which was one of the sweetest-looking shorthorns that I ever possessed, perhaps for more reasons than her personal beauty, as she carried it out practically in breeding me two calves in a little over twelve months; that did not betray her sweetness in the prices they realized, the son, at a little over sixteen months old, made 110gs., and was thought good enough to travel beyond the Atlantic, a space of 3,000 miles; his tiny sister had been only born 14 weeks when she did not disgrace herself by scampering round the ring at Conishead sale in 1875, until she changed owners at 360gs., when her dam, a few minutes previously, not allowing the last saud to run from Mr. Thornton's glass before she reached 660gs. Now I must ask you who are prejudiced to refer back to 1872 when the 300gs. calf was doomed to never pay. Allow me to return one moment to her breeding, as it was her good breeding as well as her good looks that made her

sell, and I feel sure that my readers will agree with me, that a word of advice from an experienced breeder is worth remembering, when I tell them that this is a grand-daughter of Kirklevington 10th, by Delhi, that Mr. Bell pronounced the best of her family up to that number, Kirklevington Duchess 7th, was by Duke of Kirklevington (25982), a son of 7th Duke of York, her dam Kirklevington 18th by 3rd Lord Oxford, a grand cow in her day, often admired, as well as coveted, she had the honour of turning a great man away in a rage by being refused to become his property. I must not forget to name Kirklevington 24th, her companion and relative, as she was also a grand-daughter of Kirklevington 10th, but by 5th Duke of Wharfedale, from Kirklevington 17th, by Lord Lally; this was the 100gs. calf that I had also bought four years previously by the advice of Mr. Bell, she too bred for me a son and a daughter, the son was sold at six months old for 60gs.; his sister, Kirklevington 26th, at the same age, made 390gs., to travel to Canada; and her dam 420gs. to remain in England. Lady Barrington 9th, the 77gs. calf, also bred a son and a daughter in the same period; the son met with a premature death to the butcher, but his sister made up for the loss in selling for 265gs. as a yearling, and her dam the same day realizing 360gs. I might as well add another to the trio of purchases in calves, that makes the business look more four square in com-



pletion; she was one of the Wild Eyes tribe, that came into my possession a little after the other three, and did not idle her time when in my hands, as her cost price was but 50gs, realizing 255gs. at the same time as the others, for California; and her heifer calf 160gs., for Canada. Having now mixed the sweet, with the bitter, sufficiently for any young breeder to get a glimpse of the results of fashionable shorthorn breeding, by my experience given in this chapter, I must now draw it to a close by winding up with showing how I became, not only a fashionable but a practical shorthorn breeder, which year was equally as important to me as the one that had passed before it, as I well knew that I had to pass the final examination before another had set in; the dreaded day appeared to draw closer and closer; but as I had very quickly found by experience that there was nothing equal to perseverance with prudence, to overcome the greatest difficulty, I had made up my mind to overcome them all by their aid, on the 14th day of September. After the expensive lessons received from Mr. Fashion since I left the village school, I gained confidence that I would be able to answer all questions put before me by Inspector Thornton, at Conishead Priory, where he would attend; so at last the final day arrived, when scrutineers were both numerous and select, which caused me to find that no half measures would be passed, but a

thorough examination, not in theory, but practically would have to be gone through before that day had passed away; naturally I felt a little nervous for fear all should not be in my favour, but the inspector bid me to be of good cheer, that he carried within his breast a vocabulary that would explain the deepest mystery before the bright sun had set, and without giving any further time, called out for question number one to be answered immediately. Perhaps my readers would wish me to explain in figures

What he did for me in the days of old,  
It is as pleasant a tale as ever was told;  
Both Conishead and cattle were much admired,  
The company, all that could be desired.

The good old "Maid of Lorn" led off the Ball,  
At one hundred and fifteen Thornton let the hammer fall;  
At eventide two hundred and twenty-three guineas each was  
proclaimed,  
Even so, the writer passed his final as a shorthorn breeder  
famed.

---

## CHAPTER VI.

TABLE OF FIGURES, THE REASON THE ANIMALS VARIED IN THEIR PRICES, PURCHASING LARGELY FOR CANADA PRINCIPALLY THROUGH FASHION AND PREJUDICE, TOO CLOSE BREEDING, INJURIOUS, COMPARING SHORTHORN BREEDING TO A MANUFACTORY, DIFFERENT DEGREES OF FASHION.

After passing through the examination so triumphantly on the 14th of September, by placing the larger half of my herd in the hands of the public, and their realisation being fully 40gs. each more than I anticipated, is a proof that neither fashion, nor prejudice, had led me beyond their money value in purchasing them or their ancestors; but as I am now writing upon experience in shorthorn breeding, by request, I have a desire that every point should be made clear to my readers, and give them sufficient evidence of my testimony, by placing a table before them in figures (and the writer has found by experience that figures are very truthful things), giving the cost price of every animal bought, the time when purchased, and what they realized with their produce, leaving it to the discretion of the admirers of shorthorns, deductions to be made for keep, and interest of money laid out.

*Table of Prices of Animals sold on the 14th September, 1875, by John Thornton, at Conishead Priory, giving the Cost Price of every Animal, and Date of Purchase, and what they realized with their Produce.*

Name of Animal.	Date of Produce.	Cost Price.		At what Sold		Sale of Produce.		Total Realization.	
		Gs.	..	Gs.	..	Gs.	..	Gs.	..
Maid of Lorn ..	October, 1873 ..	210	..	115	..	320	..	435	..
Wildeyes Gwynne 2nd	July, 1875 ..	60	..	74	..	..	..	74	..
Lady Waterloo 18th ..	May, 1874 ..	120	..	150	..	..	..	150	..
Double Gwynne ..	October, 1870 ..	28	..	285	..	212	..	447	..
Lady Barrington 9th	March, 1871 ..	77	..	360	..	282	..	642	..
Kirkleyton 24th ..	July, 1871 ..	100	..	420	..	450	..	870	..
Wild Eyes 31st ..	May, 1873 ..	50	..	255	..	160	..	415	..
Dame Gwynne ..	October, 1872 ..	81	..	125	..	15	..	150	..
Kirkleyton Duchess 7th	April, 1872 ..	300	..	660	..	470	..	1180	..
Cherry Oxford 2nd ..	Calved February, 1873 ..	..	..	200	..	..	..	200	..
Buttercup 21st ..	Calved March, 1873 ..	..	..	41	..	..	..	41	..
Lady Waterloo 26th ..	July, 1873 ..	105	..	280	..	..	..	280	..
Lady Duchess 2nd ..	March, 1874 ..	100	..	500	..	..	..	500	..
Camoo 8th ..	May, 1875 ..	50	..	75	..	..	..	75	..
Oxford Minstrel ..	July, 1875 ..	60	..	93	..	..	..	93	..
Minstrel 6th ..	May, 1875 ..	100	..	175	..	..	..	175	..
Master Wildeyes ..	March, 1875 ..	25	..	135	..	..	..	135	..
		1466		3893		1909		5812	— sum realized
								1466	— cost price
								4356	— difference

It will be taken as a special favour, if my readers will glance carefully over the table of figures placed before them, and notice in particular dates of purchases, to what family each purchase belongs, as well as the difference in their results. Taking for instance the only heifers sold that were over two years of age of my own breeding, and only a few days difference in their birth, but mark the difference in price, Buttercup 21st, the last of the family that I commenced to breed from in 1860, only realized 41gs., being in calf; while her companion in life, Cherry Oxford 2nd, descended from Cherry by Pirate (2430), made 200gs.; they were both fed exactly on the same food, and grazed in the same field, but not bred in the same way; the former, for want of experience; the latter, by the benefit of it. I will next take "Double Gwynne," which name she derives from her sire, as well as her dam, being of one family, which was also the principal reason of her realizing 235gs.; while "Dame Gwynne," from the same place, but carelessly bred, sold on the same day for 125gs., and in many respects her equal as an animal; but Wildeyes Gwynne 2nd, bred by the same gentleman, was not equal to either in one way or another, as she only made 74gs., through being so much jumbled up in her breeding, that she was neither good for an admirer, of Bates, Booth, or a Gwynne. While "Double Gwynne" was sold to me through

Prejudice at a lower price, for the only reason that she was not by a Booth bull, but by a "Gwynne," and that was the very reason I purchased her and left the other two behind me. I will next take two of the Minstrel branch of the Gwynnes, named "Oxford Minstrel 2nd, and "Minstrel 6th," both by Bates bulls, and descended from same grand-dam "Minstrel 4th," which had two daughters in experienced hands that made over 500gs. each, while the former of the two animals that I have named realized but 93gs., through the injudicious cross of a Booth bull, admitted by an inexperienced breeder; the latter animal mentioned contained but the half-cross of the same blood, sold for 175gs. I have alluded to the breeding sufficiently to show why the prices of some of the animals were so far below the other; it was not personal merit alone that made the difference in their value, but either judicious or injudicious crosses, added by experienced or inexperienced hands, as well as the difference in the popularity of the tribes; but the Kirklevingtons and Barringtons stood then, as they stand now, much admired, often coveted, but not always to be obtained. It is entirely at our own discretion whether we breed fashionable, or unfashionable animals; but it is not prudent to be prejudiced, either for one or the other, beyond what is profitable.

After the disposal of the animals before mentioned, I still retained my favourite old bull, 5 Lallies, 2 Oxfords, and a Kirklevington, besides a few others, some of which, fashion did not admit into their society. Never was it more true that they came from the East and the West, the North and the South, as it was on the 14th day of September, as visitors not only appeared, but purchased for California, Canada and Nova Scotia. After this remarkable event in my career, as a breeder, I was invited to purchase animals for Canada of the most fashionable and costly nature, to lay the foundation of an extensive herd, which my employer informed me he had a desire for it to be, not only the largest, but the most fashionable in that country, and to accomplish that object I had not to spare my hand in placing it deep into his pocket; but with all these privileges, the work was difficult to perform, as I soon found I could not oblige him in his ambition with a satisfactory result, as it was frequently compulsory on my part to act injudiciously in purchasing animals to some extent to oblige prejudice, which was undoubtedly an hindrance to make the work a success, as I had to fight strongly against prejudice, combined with fashion, and they are certainly two dangerous opponents to contend with. If I had only been allowed the privilege of acting through Prudence and Perseverance by the advice of Experience they would easily have been conquered;

but when bound to Fashion through Prejudice, against experience, the task is most difficult to accomplish, as instructions were given me by Prejudice, to purchase for Fashion certain animals at any cost, leaving Prudence and Experience in the back ground. To lay the foundation of an extensive and fashionable herd like this, with a view to paying a reasonable per centage, does not require going at it with a rush, like a train entering in at one end of a tunnel and out at the other, but quite the reverse, if the purchaser intends to become a shorthorn breeder of note or permanent standing, compulsory measures are of no avail in either buying or breeding, but prudence must have her own time and way, and not be compelled to breed in and in for ever, or to purchase indiscreetly to oblige either Prejudice or Fashion.

I trust my readers will not think me too severe upon inbreeding, as I am really fond of it, to a certain extent, to keep up type and uniformity; but saw the evil of indulging in it too deeply thirty years ago, still at no more distant date than twenty years, when I beheld animal after animal pine away for reasons unknown to many; but the writer knew it then, and knows it still, even less than ten years have elapsed since he saw the disease nearer and nearer, it was hovering round about his own herd, and at last it called upon him and took



away animals full of aristocratic blood, costly purchases, without leaving a profitable return. And why is all this? Simply high feeding, and injudicious breeding, from one generation to another; had the writer not experienced it, he would not have written it. The Americans laid the temptation for us, in asking for pure or line bred animals; we went in search and found them out; the prices went up for purity of blood, but down for constitution, and shorthorn breeding; purity of pedigree was all that was then required, animal or no animal, when the fever was raging; but they, like ourselves, are beginning to get their eyes opened, and require to look at the animal before taking it across the Atlantic. Some of the present branches they sought after, where are they now? They are scarcely here, or there, but almost extinct; take for example, the Fuschia tribe once so popular, and I may add once so pretty, there are now but half-a-dozen animals remaining in England of this family that were considered pure enough to please the most fashionable breeder, and only one has been exported for years past. What have become of the animals of this inbred tribe? They have gradually worn out like an inebriate man, before half the time of his natural life is expired. Only a few years have elapsed since this was one of the most admired families of Bates cattle in England, and when they left Captain Blathwayt's, in Gloucestershire, for Lord

Dunmore's, in Scotland, in the year 1874, at a cost of over 400gs. each, they were as hardy and as pretty a lot of animals as eye would desire to look upon. The piercing winds of Scotland appeared to be too much for their refinement, but from the sale at Dunmore, in 1875, they travelled back to the extreme South of England, at a more costly price than the original one. In their new home they fared sumptuously every day, principally upon artificial food, more than was natural to any breeding animal, to hold the constitution together, and to some extent the removal into the Northern climate, and followed by excessive living in the South, did equally as much harm to break up the constitution of this family as the inbreeding had done, but still when I allow sufficiently on climate and injudicious feeding, why should they have disappeared as a tribe any more than the Fantails, another branch from the same foundation which are still numerous, prolific, and robust, and equally as well bred, providing Mr. Prejudice keeps aloof, as he is almost sure to condemn the breeding of the late Sir Charles Knightley's Touchstone and Barleycorn, which blood they carry within their veins, and no doubt to some extent have been the means of preserving this branch of the family. The Fidgets, a third offshoot from Fletcher by a son of Young Wynyard are numerous where new blood has been added, but from Fidget 7th, by 3rd Lord Oxford, there is but one daughter

and her offspring to uphold the purity in England, which have all now passed into the hands of Mr. Ellis, of Summersbury Hall, in Surrey.

The seekers of pure or what is termed line bred animals, raise them to a fabulous price, and tempt many a young and inexperienced breeder in a wrong direction towards improving his herd even in the present day, as the writer knows full well the temptation offered by Fashion, to be resisted when business is brisk, it is not shorthorn breeding alone that he depends on then, it is in making wise purchases and profitable sales where the benefit lies, it is not always the manufacturer that receives the most profit from his goods, but the shrewd man of business, who follows after him. By the experience that I have gained in shorthorns I would advise any young man to be a manufacturer in preference to the other, providing he builds his factory upon a good foundation, as that is the chief point in the commencement of breeding, but it is not all, as after the factory is built, it requires machinery to work it, and after the machinery is purchased, it requires the knowledge of managing the machinery, and without that knowledge both the machinery and the factory are useless, however valuable the foundation may be when first laid. Have I not shown in my previous chapters what I and my father did in shorthorn breeding in our youth, by

throwing down what others had carefully built up, each of us had a good foundation to build upon, but for want of experience could not carry out the building of a herd that others had commenced before us, no! it requires time and experience to become a manufacturer, even if it be only for a herd of shorthorns, no matter whether it is a herd of extreme fashion, or one entirely free from it, but we must in our breeding prepare for sale what the market requires, and undoubtedly they must be such animals to meet that requirement as the present fashion demands, some may ask what is the present fashion, the best answer that I can give, let every one breed according to his own taste, but not to forget that in winning a race only one obtains the prize, but frequently many are highly commended, and to all who attain that honour I would say be content, as one has his mind bent upon winning the Champion prize at the Royal, another at the Christmas Fat Show, both are equally right in their own way, and according to their own taste, a third is content if he gains the highest honours at a County Show, his companion rests satisfied with surpassing his neighbours at a local one, there is a wide contrast between the first and the last I have named, but the last is equal in his ambition to the first, to gain the chief honours in that Society in which he competes, whether he produces an animal for the Royal, Smithfield, the British Dairy Show, or the

sale ring, his ambition is equally as great in trying to surpass the other competitors. As regards fashion, the winner at Smithfield is fashionable there, but not as a breeding shorthorn; the champion at the Dairy Show is fashionable there, but it may not be so, if in company with the Royal visitor; reversing the case, and placing the Royal winner at the Dairy Show, I am afraid that out of its own society it will not be fashionable, and it might be that the most fashionable animal in a sale ring would not be a fit companion for any of the other three; but why is this so? Firstly, the animal at the Royal is too frequently so excessively fat, that rarely we hear of its offspring following its example; as a rule the Smithfield champion is beyond hope as a breeder, and the Dairy winner too often as far behind in appearance to a fashionable bred shorthorn as a dairymaid is to a Duchess. I hope I have clearly shown what is fashionable for one purpose is not for another, and what is fashionable to one breeder is not to another; fashionably bred animals have different degrees in fashion, and for different purposes.

Firstly, I will refer to a nobleman, on his breeding establishment, all must be of the highest class there, without considering the cost of its production, as well as being fashionable to the highest degree. If he makes up his mind to purchase the best of

everything, he has it in his power to do it. Secondly, the Squire may also be fond of fashionable blood, yet his ambition rarely leads him on to be a rival with the noble Lord; and lastly, the small landowner or the tenant farmer is equally as ambitious in his own sphere of life, but experience teaches him that he must not travel beyond his depth on the same line of fashion as the other two, but breed from such animals as Prudence will admit to be the best and most fashionable, adapted for his position in life, and the land he occupies. Fashion has often changed, and will undoubtedly often change again; yet there have been different degrees of fashion for centuries back, and there will be different degrees to the end of time; and a continual warfare will remain between her and Prejudice, as bitter as it has ever existed for many a long year before any date that the writer can give upon his experience in shorthorns.

---

## CHAPTER VII.

FASHION AND PRICES AT THEIR HEIGHT, SIGNS OF THEIR DECLINE, PROFITABLE PURCHASES, DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AMERICANS AND AUSTRALIANS, WHY MR. BATES USED CLEVELAND LAD (3408), THE SCHOOL OF EXPERIENCE.

A year had now passed away since the day of that most remarkable event that ever took place in my shorthorn history, the close of 1876 was near at hand, and I had explained but little of my doings for that season, beyond the extensive purchases that I made for Canada, which will ever be remembered as a mark in my experience upon shorthorns, it was a year that I think can claim the very height of fashion above all others, and not only the height in that respect, but in prices too, as 1,600gs. had to be paid for a pair of Kirklevingtons before they could be obtained, and even then, to be had only as a special favour; and 1,000gs. for a pair of the best of Gwynne's appears a ridiculous sum to give, when now they can be had for 100gs.; 1,000gs. had to be remitted before the best and purest of the Wild Eyes was allowed to leave her native home; 1,700gs. was offered, but rejected, for an Oxford heifer calf; 2,500gs. had to be paid for one of

England's best of that family, and the same sum for a Noble Duke, and truly he was deserving of his name, as he stood in the position of Champion in the show ring, and one of the best of sires ever since he crossed the Atlantic, his price was then and is still, the highest of any male, that ever left England's shores, even if it had been double the amount it would never have been regretted being paid by the owner of the 4th Duke of Clarence (33596), as he was then one of England's choice, and remains even now, in his 14th year, to be one of Canada's best.

Am I not right when I say prices ruled high in 1876 for fashionable animals, as the writer, after the completion of his Canadian purchases, secured one of our purest English Princesses at 360gs, which left him 100gs. profit at the end of a single week? Is this not a lesson of profit, what he previously stated, that the merchant frequently obtained by his merchandise, a larger percentage than the manufacturer? But it is to the latter that he more especially wishes to refer. If the breeder is a man of experience in his undertaking, he can readily dispose of his merchandise, according to the value of his manufactured article, especially when made of the best quality. I am afraid that I am wandering away a little too far from my experience, by comparing shorthorn breeding to a manufacturer,



to please the majority of my readers ; so I suppose my pen must scribble along respecting the doings amongst cattle alone, and leave behind me the imagination of tall chimneys.

As I was just thinking of settling down for the winter after my tour through England in search of shorthorns for Canada, when I found that a good Barrington could scarcely be bought for money, and that a Duchess was not available at a price prudent to pay, I unexpectedly had the offer of two Wild Eyes cows, in calf, and two yearling heifers, that I ultimately purchased for 1,600gs., which closed my shorthorn labours for the season. When another year had commenced, men began to whisper one to another that the shorthorn fever was abating, and all would soon be well, except in cases where the parties had purchased largely when it was at its height, so surely I was in for the disease as the fever had not left me, which made me begin to think what would be the best means to get rid of the complaint, so I consulted the physician in London, that I had applied to before, and he advised that I should invite my friends together, and see if they could not assist me by their means to release me of this malady, which had entirely now fallen into my pocket ; of course, I must not pay a physician and not take his advice ; so I at last invited my friends to meet him at Conishead Grange,

on the 6th day of September, 1877, when a general consultation took place; but after the consultation, an operation had to be performed, which resulted in a perfect cure by one of the Wild Eyes cows I had recently purchased, one yearling heifer, and the two newly-born calves realizing the sum of 2,058gs., leaving in my possession one cow and one of the heifers, which were both in calf, being worth at that time, at a reasonable estimate, 1,000gs., which would be in addition to the 2,058gs already received, making a total of 3,058gs. for 1,600gs. outlay over a period of ten months; this is surely worth recording in my experience upon shorthorns, and certainly a lesson that I should very much like to have often repeated, as a general average of £153 for twenty-seven head was as much as could be expected, when the sale included, three doubtful breeders that had wearied my patience in endeavouring to get them to be remunerative, their persistency obliged me to give them up, although fashionable. These were the only non-breeders that I had been troubled with since my commencement of keeping highly-bred animals; their names were "Cherry Duchess 13th," "Lally 12th," and "Grand Duchess of Oxford 25th." This was one of the three Northern sales that was named at the time, in the Agricultural journals, as being full of interest. Mr. Staniforth's, of "Storrs Hall," and Mr. Cochrane's animals being removed from Canada to Windermere to be disposed

of, were the other two; the last named included two of the "Airdrie Duchesses, viz:—3rd Duchess of Hillhurst and 5th Duchess of Hillhurst, the former purchased by Mr. Loder, of Whittlebury, for the sum of 4,100gs., and the latter by Lord Bective at 4,300gs., Mr. Longman taking 2nd Duke of Hillhurst in exchange for 800gs., at six years old; such prices as the two yearlings realized are unparalleled in England, with the exception of Duke of Connaught bought by Lord Fitzhardinge, in Lord Dunmore's sale in 1875, for 4,500gs., the general average for forty head at Mr. Cochrane's sale was £197 not including either Duke or Duchesses, Mr. Stainforth's thirty-nine head of Booth cattle made 85gs. each, of the animals included in the Conishead, twenty-seven head, nine were calves, or under twelve months old.

I still retained in my herd the Lally, Wild Eyes, Kirklevington, Oxford, and Fuschia families, quite sufficient in both numbers and quality to make a first-class herd of shorthorns. After this profitable sale I became a little more cautious in not launching out too deeply in purchasing, as things appeared a little darker for investments of that description, but picked up old cows or heifers with some little change of blood in their pedigree, at a lower figure than was palatable to the purists, as I had found by experience the danger of too close breeding, especially in old families, altho' the Americans

were as keen as ever over the line bred animals as they termed them, and could not be persuaded that the constitution of some of them was on a sliding scale towards ruin. Animals with four successive crosses of Duchess blood upon old pedigrees were eagerly sought after, when pure pedigrees throughout could not be obtained, or even animals with only five successive crosses of either pure Bates or Booth blood, descended from a dairy cow, in preference to any good blood that was not line bred from the foundation. About a year previous to this time, I was invited to purchase four females for Australia, at a price of 500gs. each, the animals had to be well formed, with not less than four direct crosses of pure Bates blood, last added to an old pedigree, but not necessarily to be what was termed a Bates pedigree, but their last four crosses being strictly pure, were considered of more importance than the original portion of the pedigree, yet the animals had to descend from the blood of breeders half a century back, here the Australians differed in their opinions to the Americans, ten years ago, as five direct crosses of pure Bates blood, even if the sixth cross was an Aberdeen Angus, satisfied them, they even went so far as to think the Angus would do less injury to a pedigree, (but perhaps not the animal), than a sixth cross of shorthorn blood, if it was not in direct descent with the other five, but how long did this last, quite as long as any experienced breeder could expect it to

have done. I remember seeing one animal sold for 300gs. by auction, only the fifth cross removed from a dunn'd scotch cow, yet she was considered pure. A well known and reliable breeder not far from where the writer is using his pen, recently told him he had known the original black colour return in the seventh cross of shorthorn blood, and the produce from that cross had every appearance of a true bred shorthorn; this shows us that old pedigrees are much more to be relied upon than purity of short descent, some may turn round upon me by saying why did Mr. Bates use Cleveland Lad upon his Duchesses? for two reasons, the first, that he contained a large proportion of the same blood, through Young Wynyard (2859) and Short Tail (2621), by using Belvedere in his herd intermingled with Matchem (2281), full of Mason and Colling blood, tracing to Hubback (319), the bull we understand, Mr. Bates almost worshipped as an "Idol" in shorthorns, but give the old breeder his due, he generally knew in what direction he intended to aim with his ideas, no doubt he had watched carefully the breeding of Mr. Brown's Matchem cow, before he disclosed it to others, and feeling certain that her ancestors traced back far beyond Young Wynyard, he secured in her what he had been eagerly looking for, to breed a bull that would suit his purpose for the much needed change in his Duchesses. Secondly, Mr. Bates had not the opportunity of obtaining so easily

as what he could have done had he been living at the present day, the blood he required for the alliance. On the other hand some might remark that prejudice held him too fast to his own opinions to obtain it, but the writer certainly agrees with him that his admixture was right for the Duchesses, as experience has taught him that an abrupt alliance is ruinous to the type, and too often to the constitution. He remembers well an old breeder who bred his animals so closely that he was at a standstill, at least his cattle were, if not more, they were going back by taking a downward course, it is certainly the wrong way to travel before retiring from his pursuit. What did this old breeder do next but the very same thing as Mr. Bates did with Cleveland Lad, he used a bull with only four registered crosses, which he had no doubt of being purely bred for generations beyond the registration, as his granddam was a successful winner in her day at the local shows, undoubtedly this breeder that I am now speaking of, had been watching her career so closely that he was tempted to purchase her daughter, by his own bull, and in due time she was also put to one of his own inbred bulls, and produced a short-legged, thick fleshed animal, which he used as a sire to a portion of his herd, with the greatest success, as the progeny improved in size, flesh and constitution, but if anything destroyed their original neatness, in returning to his inbred bulls on this animal's

produce, they gradually regained the original type, without losing their robustness. After some years he tried an abrupt cross with a pure Bates bull upon a pedigree that was quite the opposite in breeding, which resulted in entirely destroying the type and not improving the constitution, if my readers look upon this as correct, it certainly is necessary for every breeder to be careful in the sires he uses upon any kind of stock, as it requires different characters in the male animal to suit the different characters in the female.

Just imagine an inexperienced breeder purchasing a bull for the only reason that he has won at the Royal, thinking that he cannot be wrong in being directed by the decision of the judges, no doubt the male winner is adapted for many kinds of stock, but it remains nothing less than a lottery to him whether it is adapted for his own herd or not, it is only the man of experience that discerns the difference in the character of the male to answer his purpose, he knows full well what will answer in one case will not answer in another, but a weak head in a sire he certainly will not admit in any case, and a narrow chest will be more disgusting to him still. The writer has also found by the little experience that he has gained that a sire without a deep chest and flank, heavy thighs and masculine head, is not suitable for any breed or type, even if his beautiful level back and

neat shoulders have gained for him a distinction of honour, or more than that, if his ancestry trace down to the renowned Hubback, through blood of the most fashionable and most pure up to the year 1887, it being just a century since that Shorthorn Chief was purchased by Messrs. R. Colling and Mr. Waistell. Some of my readers may be induced to think that I do not approve of pedigrees of short descent, they that are under that impression, are greatly mistaken, as I am most fond of trying to improve upon the dairy cow and have frequently purchased animals with one or two registered crosses, then is the time for observing the good effect of a purely bred sire, and no doubt with line breeding soon can obtain a uniform character, but it is doubtful whether it is wise to rely too much upon their male offspring, unless they are in want of a little change to an inbred herd, or that the breeder knows something of their origin before the first registered cross, as the male is undoubtedly the animal that has the greatest influence either for good or for harm in their progeny.

I can well imagine a youth, in glancing over these pages, asking himself the question who is the writer of this rambling story, that he should dictate to me how to breed cattle, have I not been to Cambridge University where all was to be seen and learned that was most fashionable, and it is not more than a



few months since I left the Agricultural College, what more do I require in the knowledge of Agriculture. I very much doubt if the writer has ever taken a single lesson within these walls. It is true that he has not had that golden opportunity, but has spent half a century in a still more extensive school, where lessons are still more costly than either at the University or the Agricultural College, neither he nor any other youth can understand cattle breeding in all its branches, until he has taken a degree higher than either the University or the Agricultural College can teach, and that must be taken at the school of Experience, where practical knowledge is gained and theoretical teaching unknown. May I not repeat the same question, who is the writer of this voluminous epistle, no other answer can be given than he is still but a scholar in that school where he will remain until his natural term of years are expired, in the hopes of gaining knowledge from the hand of Experience.

---

## CHAPTER VIII.

THE SALE SEASON OF 1878, THE VARIETIES OF PRICES, SHOWING THE DECLINE IN VALUE, EXCEPT FOR THE MOST FASHIONABLY BRED SHORTHORN.

The sale season of 1878 commenced with rather a gloomy appearance, it was evident to any one attending them that there would shortly be a change in the shorthorn Ministry, as Mr. Bowby's average of twenty-four head fell short of £50, while Mr. Divitre's eleven animals made £77, though Siddington 10th, bred by Mr. Bowly realized 500gs. to Lord Moreton. Grand Duchess Butterfly, the beautiful cow from Townley, made 66gs. at ten years of age, and the only Gazelle offered was purchased by Lord Fitzhardinge at 180gs., anything still in fashion's favour realized fashion's prices, but for animals of inferior breeding there was evidently a downward tendency; it is pleasanter to pass on to something more cheery, to the sale of Lord Penrhyn's, at Wicken Park, where an average of nearly £120 was obtained for forty-four animals, the number certainly included two Oxford heifers, which made 920gs. each. The Waterloos also sold fairly well, but not extravagantly, the highest price being 215gs. to Captain Oliver, for Waterloo 43rd, taking myself the 42nd at 205gs.,

which was readily disposed of at 250gs. An exceedingly grand cow of the Craggs family cost me 150gs., which I thought at the time not too dear, she too was despatched into other hands without entering my herd, Dowager Duchess 7th and Duchess Nancy 2nd, were also obtained at 70gs. each, they were thought by others to be a great bargain, and apparently I imagined so too, as 50gs. profit was offered upon the pair before my return home, but being a little short sighted could not see to accept it, although a calf from one of them realized 63gs. the following year prevented me from taking any harm, a Barrington calf, four months old, sold for 105gs. to Mr. Jefferson, so up to the present, shorthorn breeding paid, if fashionable in their pedigree and fairly good animals.

On the 15th of May, the day following Lord Penrhyn's sale, the entire herd of fifty-two head of Bates shorthorns, the property of Mr. Larking, in Sussex, were disposed of by Mr. Stafford, a man as earnest in his work for Bates blood as the late Mr. Disraeli when Premier of England. No more reliable man than Mr. Strafford has lived since the days of Mr. Bates, not only as a shorthorn auctioneer, but in giving genuine advice upon his experience of Bates blood, but what was he doing for Mr. Larking on the day we have just named, but fighting manfully for his cause by setting the battle in array between England and Australia for the red,

white, and roan, which commenced by fierce action in forcing Mr. Allsopp to pay 250gs. for the first Siddington that Mr. Bowley ever bred at fourteen years of age, it is true she was a magnificent animal, but her price was not behind in grandeur, she was by 4th Duke of Oxford, from Kirklevington 7th, by Earl of Derby, bred by Mr. Bates. I also imagined with the rest of the company that it would not do to be behind in defending England against Australia, so opposed Mr. McCallock for Fuschia 10th and secured her at 240gs., at nine years of age, she was a lovely cow, with a true shorthorn character, no animals in the sale were to be compared with this family in uniformity. Lady Worcester 6th, bred by Mr. Harward, fell to the bid of Mr. Loder at 275gs., she too was a grand cow, Specimen 2nd, of the Charmer family, was secured for Australia at 92gs., the latter had now begun in earnest as there was a struggle between Australia and the little County of Westmorland for Gazelle 26th, when the auctioneer declared Australia had won the battle, but not without paying dearly for it, as the price was 425gs., the highest price on record for that family; the next stroke of business done was to decide the ownership of Kirklevington Duchess 9th, a grand-daughter of Kirklevington 14th, own sister to Siddington, she was ultimately claimed by Lord Moreton, for Gloucestershire, at 460gs. Fuschia 13th went with her relative at about half her cost price, to Mr.

W. Ashburner, she was a daughter of the 900 guinea Fuschia 9th. Cherry Queen, a 1,200 guinea purchase at Underley, fell on that day in the public's estimation to a sum of 680gs., but her much admired daughter was secured by Mr. Drewary for the Duke of Devonshire, at 905gs., then came the tug of war between Westmorland and Australia for Gazelle 29th, at last the victory was given in favour of Lord Bective, but not without a compromise of 455gs., it was then that I heard a nobleman exclaim, he had bought a calf of that family for simply nothing, as it was but little over 100gs. Marchioness of Worcester, a daughter of Lady Worcester 6th, next made her appearance in the ring, when a fight for this model of a shorthorn went by tens and twenties until she reached 850gs., for the Duke of Devonshire, Winsonedale 2nd accompanied her to Holker at 550gs., surely it was enough for her as she was but a plain cow, Fuschia's Duchess immediately entered the ring as soon as the last lot had departed from it, Mr. McCulloch was not to be denied this gem of a shorthorn, so she went to Australia with Fuschia Duchess 2nd, not a despicable companion to travel with across the wide ocean, they were exactly the same price, 400gs. each. Mr. Allsopp chimes in for Kirklevington Princess 4th and takes her to Hindlip, at 600gs., accompanied by Countess of Worcester, at 580gs., certainly they are not bad prices to obtain on the decline of shorthorns, Lord Fitzhardinge and

Lord Feversham each took a daughter of the old matron lot 1., at 400gs. each. Lord Moreton is not to be disappointed of Siddington 15th at 500gs., Lord Bective has to pay smartly for her last heifer at barely a year old, before taking her to Underly, as the sand did not all run from the glass until Mr. Strafford asked for the name of the buyer at 520gs. The Belle of Worcester was a strange price at eleven months of age, to go to Hindlip at 600gs., yet Mr. Drewry looked with longing eyes, to take her to Holker with her dam. Lady Gazelle, a four months calf, had to travel to Australia, at a price of 150gs., but all things must have an end so the last female entered into the ring, little more than a suckling youngster and by name Gem of Worcester, a daughter of the Countess', Sir Curtis Lampson promised Mr. Strafford that he would take her home at 185gs., as everything has an end, so it has a beginning, so the first male animal, 3rd Duke of Hillhurst by name, made his appearance, and gradually advanced in price until the auctioneer declared the last sand had departed from his glass and that Sir Curtis claimed him at 1,550gs., not a low price for a bull in the decline of life, as he was in his 7th year and we may surely add to it by saying it was not a bad average for fifty-two head, when the sum total of £16,194 allowed a division to be made, for each animal, of £311, which sum did not speak much in the favour of fashionable shorthorns going out of repute.

The following day found the company assembled with Mr. Tracey at Eden Bridge, to witness the dispersion of a portion of his herd by Mr. Thornton. Mr. Tracey is evidently a man who takes great interest in the breeding of shorthorns, at the same time he has a style of his own and only a few will admit that he is right in that style of breeding, while his animals contain much good blood and individually not to be despised, yet, they are not such shorthorns as Mr. Fashion would claim as either being purchased or bred by his direction, on the other hand, the writer can speak a word in favour of Mr. Tracey's judgement, as it would be no better than a leap in the dark to depart from his own course of breeding, by purchasing a male for fashion's sake from such animals as I have described in the early part of this chapter, but he has wisely taken a cross from one of the sires to his own cows, the produce being a bull, it is used extensively in his own herd, and he is more sure to get good animals by this mode of breeding as well as being certain to be profitable for the outlay, as I explained in a previous chapter there are different degrees of fashion and it is Mr. Tracey's degree to breed good animals from blood descended from breeders of fashion in their own day, although it may be half a century back, they contained sufficient good breeding to realize an average of £48 6s. 8d.

The 17th of May again finds a fashionable company gathered together at Buxted, in Sussex, a place almost roadless, as I remember well, having some difficulty in getting there from Tunbridge Wells, but it is an old saying "where there's a will there's a way," but I think I might safely add another saying to it, "where there's a fashionable shorthorn, there will be found a way to it, if this is not the case visitors would have been scarce both at Mr. Larking's and Mr. Samuda's, where Mr. Strafford mounted the rostrum to dispose of fashionable pedigrees at the latter gentleman's farm, I can scarcely say fashionable animals, at least what ought to be fashionable, as an old plain cow made 305gs. and her heifer calf eight months old 410gs., a Cherry Duchess made the same sum, but I am sorry to say that either the Duke or the Duchess had taken away all the Cherry and left little for the purchaser beyond the stone, yet Mr. Fashion sold her daughter for 810gs., but I am afraid he never had the opportunity of selling many of her produce, there were many other animals that Fashion bid at random for; it was then that I pocketed 100gs. profit in a single heifer, that I had previously purchased, it was there that I learned a lesson of experience, not to continue to add Duke upon Duke, but to use sires from various tribes, still related to each other, yet at a more distant date. The average of this entire herd of forty-three head was £136 7s. 6d.



We pass on until the 21st, when Mr. Thornton and his friends had an invitation to Surrey, where Lady Pigot invited them to luncheon at West Hall, after that was over, Mr. Thornton in his amusing manner of speech, kindly asks them to spend a couple of hours with him in the Park and assist him to value the pictures they would have before them, as well as discuss the merits of Warlabby and Killerby, as it was entirely due to their honour that Victoria Benedictee made 505gs. to Mr. Ackers, the result of the afternoon's pleasure being £63 each for thirty-one animals.

Mr. Thornton is next invited by Mr. Sartoris, of Rushden Hall, in Northamptonshire, to sell his herd, which consisted of fifty-four head, principally of Knightley, Waterloo, Gwynne, and Surmise families, where the last named found a good market by selling for 200gs., 200gs., and 160gs., respectively, to the Duke of Manchester, Sir Curtis Lampson and Sir George Phillips, the Gwynnes too were much appreciated in Northampton, as Mr. Foster and Mr. Loder paid 280gs. each for two sisters, while Lord Bective gave 185gs. for their dam, and Mr. Howard 180gs. for her twin sister, which appeared an exceedingly high price, especially when shorthorns, according to the idea of some, were going out of fashion. The Waterloos also found favour with the public on the 31st of May, as Mr. Lloyd had to pay 465gs. for

Duchess of Waterloo 2nd, before he was allowed to remove her into Surrey, and the Hon. Cecil Duncombe did not find it an easy matter to get hold of her dam for Yorkshire, until she cost him 195gs. without her bull calf, which Col. Levett was glad to secure at 44gs. Fawsley and Milcote each had their admirers and made satisfactory prices, the general result being £91 each, which is not a despicable sum for the decline in shorthorns.

Mr. Green and Mr. Clear had a draught sale at East Donyland in Essex, on the 4th of June, by Mr. Thornton, although the cattle had been crossed with fashionably bred bulls, they were not descended from anything taking enough to bring the average up to £40 each.

Mr. Strafford officiated on the 2nd of July, for Mr. Blundell in Bedfordshire, his animals were principally descended from Sir Charles Knightley's, Mr. Beasley's J.'s, Mr. Bates' Surmises, and Mr. Howard's branch of the Gwynnes. Frisky Gwynne being ten years of age, might be said to sell fairly well at 50gs., while her daughter Fraulein Gwynne realized 100gs. The Surmises, mother and daughter, made 150gs. and 165gs. respectively. The rest of the females did not sell high, but Duke of Oxford 32nd, after being in service two years, reached 235gs., to Mr. Cope in Ireland, the day ended by an average of £48.

Mr. Strafford next travels into Leicestershire to meet his friends at Mr. Holford's on the 4th of the same month, where there was choice material to work upon in the best of Winsomes and Waterloos, as well as the purest of Charmers and American Princesses. They all realized fabulous prices, but the mixed pedigrees were not in request, neither did the visitors care half enough for the fifteen Blanchés known by the name of "Brunettes," the property of Sir Curtis Lampson; as good as they were in appearance and their breeding, Mr. Fashion would not touch them, as much as Mr. Strafford used his persuasive powers, it was of no avail, it ended that Sir Curtis had to content himself with £35 10s. for each animal. While Mr. Holford's thirty-seven head made the magnificent sum of £198 11s. each; but look at the difference between Mr. Holford's first animal that entered the ring, and Sir Curtis', the latter brought the low sum of 50gs. for a really grand specimen of a shorthorn; while "Winsome 12th" did not leave until Mr. Strafford announced that she had become Mr. Lloyd's property at 810gs., and her two daughters fell to the bid of Mr. Allsop at 560gs., and 600gs. the younger only six months' old; he also took her companion, "Water Lily 2nd," still younger, at 380gs., a strong price, but she was certainly pretty, as well as being the choice of her family in breeding. Mr. McCulloch did not allow Mr. Allsop to have all his own way,

so he took the dam with him to Australia at 455gs. Three Princesses also travelled to Hindlip at nearly 400gs. each, where to-day they are scarcely worth one-fourth of the money. A couple of Charmers were within a hair's breadth of making 200gs. each to Mr. Sheldon. "Viscount Oxford" Mr. Mackintosh secured at 800gs., which brought the sale to a successful close.

The following day Mr. Thornton tried his hand at Elmhurst Hall, near Lichfield, to dispose of thirty-four animals, the property of Mr. Fox, and seventeen Blanches belonging to Mr. Hamer, who received in exchange for them £46 a piece, while Mr. Fox obtained £104; why is there so great a difference? simply fashion; where Mr. Hamer bred to please himself, Mr. Fox tried to please the public by fashion. The Red Roses were then in great force at Elmhurst, Mr. McCulloch was in their favour, and took them out to Australia at about 300gs. each. A pretty Waterloo at 225gs., joined them on their voyage; Kirklevington 25th, although not handsome, went to Mr. Riggs, in Kent, at 305gs.

England and Ireland were both rushing their shorthorns into the market, as we find Mr. Thornton over at our Sister Isle, on August 21st and 23rd, disposing of selections from Mr. Downing's and Mr. Chaloner's herds, which were both of Booth descent, or crossed with Booth bulls, but with

different results, as Mr. Chaloner's barely made 40gs. each, while Mr. Downing's realized over double the amount. Why was this so? Mr. Fashion had again a hand in the matter, which is a clear proof that animals must be in Fashion's favour, or they will not be admitted into Fashion's market.

A few days later Mr. Thornton is in Aberdeenshire, selling the entire herd of one hundred and fifteen animals, the property of the late Mr. Gordon, of Cluny Castle; they were principally of mixed pedigrees, with the exception of a few, and they are not bad to select by the prices they made, as a Booth Waterloo sold for 130gs., and a heifer of the Bliss family for the same price; an average of £30 is the result of Mr. Thornton's journey into Scotland. From there he travels to the Isle-of-Man, to dispose of the Booth bred cattle, the property of Mr. Barneyat; the herd numbers over eighty, and makes pretty near 40gs. each, which is as much as could be expected in a place so far from any other breeders, yet Mr. Barneyat had used great care and judgment without too strict economy, in gathering his extensive herd together.

As early as the 4th of September, Mr. Thornton had found his way up into Northumberland, to sell the entire herd of Mr. Wilson, at Shotley Hall; the principal features of the sale were the Wildeyes,

Waterloos and Blanches, Beverleys and Cowslips, the two last tribes having been in Mr. Wilson's possession for many years. The Beverleys having a Bates foundation, he naturally crossed the two families with Bates bulls; the other three are what is termed Bates tribes. The Blanches had a representative in "O. B's Justica," which Mr. MacCulloch secured for Australia at 150gs.; while her daughter, by Royal Killerby, did not reach 50gs., which was evident proof Booth upon Bates was not in request. The Waterloos seemed to have a good demand, but the Wildeyes scarcely knew any bounds to their prices, as the ten females averaged over £400 each; and the good qualities of Duke of Oxford 31st, at four years of age, induced Mr. MacCulloch to pay 435gs. The day wound up with an average of £123 for fifty-six animals; it could not be thought by this result that shorthorns were yet forsaken, not even in that cold northern county.

On the 6th day of September, Mr. Strafford had again the honour of disposing of a selection from a nobleman's herd, who has been, and is still, as staunch an admirer of Bates blood as the auctioneer himself, although that nobleman's residence is situated beneath the dreary hills in Yorkshire, where the herd is kept, it was not thought too far by his fellow noblemen and friends, not only to pay him a visit, but support him in assisting Mr.

Strafford to distribute his animals over the country. Who is the owner of this herd? No less a personage than the Earl of Feversham, whose name has always stood as one of the most prominent in the Kirklevington ranks. The Right Hon. the Earl of Lonsdale claims the highest priced heifer, known by the name of Wild Winsome 3rd, a daughter of Duke of Underley, and Winsome 11th, bred by the Duke of Devonshire, her price is 455gs., before she reached her second birthday. Col. Gunter admired "Winsome Winnie so much, that the auctioneer declared he should take her home, as she was but a tiny calf, and he thought that the Colonel's offer of 200gs ought to suffice. It is evident Lord Morton is not only fond of Kirklevington blood by nature, but name, as he selected "Fair Kirklevington," at three months old, for the Tortworth herd at 275gs. Twentieth Duke of Oxford 28,432, purchased at Holker four years previous for 1,000gs., is now selected by the Rev. H. Beever, at 105gs. to renew his Daisies with Bates blood. Mr. Strafford has the honour, at the conclusion of the day's proceedings, of informing his lordship that a cheque for the value of 80gs. was due for each of the forty-two animals sold.

The County of Devonshire has its representatives in shorthorn breeding, known by the names of Messrs. Scratton, Bassett, Baillie and Pollard,

who each hand over to Mr. Thornton a small selection from their herds on the 10th day of September, to be distributed to the best of his ability, and it too frequently requires more than ordinary ability to dispose of selections to the satisfaction of the owners, sometimes for one reason, and at other times for another; but too often the animals do not appear to the buyer in as favourable a light as to the seller; and why is this? Generally for want of practical knowledge, or in other words, for want of experience, the weak points in the animals are not discovered by the seller until figures do it for them, by letting out the truth that there is a deficiency to be seen either in the pedigree, or the animal, by the practical eye; on the other hand, there are bargains to be picked up from these selections by breeders of experience; the animals are not all sold, because they are indifferent either in pedigree or appearance; but that the breeder has too small a quantity to dispose off to draw a company together, but if it can be drawn together at all, it will be accomplished by the ability and influence of Mr. Thornton, for this reason, the Devonshire breeders invited him to attend at Newton Abbot and turn seventy-four head into cash, which he obliged them by doing in handing over a cheque to the amount of £1,856 in exchange for their cattle.



Only two days elapsed until he has again the privilege of using his ability and persuasive powers at Messrs. Horswell's, in the same county, by disposing of sixty-four head at an average of £29 each, not a bad price for animals sold in an unprepared state, without any pretensions to fashion beyond Baron Oxford 2nd (23,376), a 500gs. purchase at Mr. Mackintosh's, and now in his thirteenth year, it can not be said that he was thrown away at 81gs.

On September 18th there was a change in prices to what the selections realized that were offered in Devonshire. The day is a glorious one for Mr. Strafford; he appeared younger, and more energetic than he had done for years; he did not forget to remind the visitors that the animals he was then selling were the property of the Duke of Devonshire, and that they were all descendants of cattle belonging to old Tommy Bates; he exclaimed, buy to-day, as the time will come, that they can not be had either for love or money. The day was bright and cheering, not only to the visitors, but to the noble Duke, who had the honour of being owner of one of the best herds in England, and the same honour remains with him still. This was the sale not only of the year, but the best and highest prices (save one) that were ever obtained since shorthorn breeding existed, and that one was the great sale in Scotland, in the year 1875, the property of the

spirited Lord Dunmore, when his average superseded the Duke of Devonshire by £8, as his selection of thirty-nine head averaged £672, while the Duke's for thirty head amounted to £664 each. Here we had sales of fashionable shorthorns from herds that had been bred for a number of years, by perseverance and prudence through experience, until they had attained a name that echoed from one end of the nation to the other.

On the following day Mr. Thornton sold the small but select herd of Mr. Alexander Brogden, M.P., which consisted of only fifteen animals, from which there were three Oxfords, five Princesses, one Waterloo, four Knightleys, and two doubtful breeders. An Oxford heifer calf realized 955gs. to Mr. Lloyd, and a yearling Princess 780gs. to Lord Bective, which brought the average up to £290 each.

After the dispersion of Mr. Brogden's herd, Mr. Thornton disposed of a selection from Mr. Martin's, of Bardsea, as well as the entire herd of Mr. Kennedy, of Ulverston. The animals, the property of the latter gentleman, were principally descended from the famous Cassandra, by Miracle, and Blanche by Belvedere; the Cassandras had scarcely two crosses alike to follow each other in their breeding, consequently the animals had no distinct character, and naturally sold for a little money. The Blanches were just beginning to regain their

Bates character by returning to breed to Bates sires. Col. Gunter purchased the best of the heifers at about 45gs. each. Mr. Kennedy's average barely amounted to £30, while Mr. Martin's reached £57, through judicious management and experience in using appropriate sires to the different branches of females. On the same day, after the completion of the other sales, two Kirklevingtons, a Duchess Nancy, a Duke bull, and an Oxford were next brought into the ring, being imported from Kansas, U.S.A., by Mr. Beatie, and the property of Mr. Crane and Messrs. Avery and Murphy. The choice females and 27th Duke of Airdrie were all purchased by Mr. Lloyd in Surrey. "Fordham Duke of Oxford 4th," by Mr. Botterill, of Wauldby; although they averaged a trifle over £300 each, it appeared to the writer that the shorthorn days were growing darker in the United States by sending their animals to England to turn into cash.

Mr. Strafford is next engaged by Mr. Ladds, of Ellington, to dispose of fifty-six head, which were not bred according to the old man's taste, but contained fragments of breeding in almost every direction, which ended with the price of £32 for each animal.

The following day being the 25th of September, we find that Mr. Thornton congratulated Mr. Polgell on his successful sale of thirty animals in

realizing over £60 each, evidently they were good cattle as the prices testified something beyond their pedigree.

Another month had at last commenced, and the sale season not yet over. Mr. Thornton is employed, on the third day at Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, in disposing of the herd of the late Mr. Hutton; it is entirely of mixed blood, and the result is £33 each for fifty animals. Mr. Lythall distinguished himself by selling sixty head, the property of Messrs. Canning and Greenway, at Snitterfield; the pedigrees were principally of a local character, and ended in £31 a piece being made for the whole lot. On the 17th of October we again find that Mr. Thornton is engaged, but this time, at Major Conway's, in North Wales, where he disposed of his large herd at creditable prices, which shows the good effect of using good sires upon ordinary pedigrees without launching deeply into fashion, as £34 a piece for seventy-five head cannot help but pay well for breeding.

I have now passed slightly over the principal sales that took place during the year 1878, when fashion still held its own, but animals of mixed blood had a decided falling off. As I stated in my introductory chapter, I had no hopes of my pen being an instrument of information to the practical breeders, but to the young and inexperienced it

---

might be the means of preventing them falling into the idea of becoming a practical shorthorn breeder without experience. On the other hand I can well imagine some old breeders on reading these pages muttering to themselves, why has the author troubled himself in relating to us things that we have long known? What is the use of describing the sales that we bought our animals from, we can remember sufficiently well by the experience gained through purchasing entirely by the advice of Fashion. I shall, therefore, now close my chapter, and wander back to the days before Fashion was the principal ruling member in shorthorn society, but Prejudice was even then stiff with old age.

---

## CHAPTER IX.

GAINING EXPERIENCE THROUGH OTHER BREEDERS,  
FASHION BY INBREEDING INJURIOUS TO THE CON-  
STITUTION OF ANY ANIMAL, THE FATAL RESULT  
OF ADDING DUCHESS BLOOD TO VARIOUS TRIBES  
FOR THE SAKE OF FASHION ALONE.

Having now returned with the explanation of my experience to the year of 1870, when I remember taking a walk upon a hard frosty morning to have a peep at a herd of shorthorns a few days previous to their dispersion by Mr. Strafford. Fancying a heifer calf, I thought she probably might be purchased for about 30gs., but to my astonishment on the day of sale the last sand did not escape from the glass until she had reached 300gs. This was so much to be added to the credit of my experience, after being a shorthorn breeder for ten years on a small scale, and for what I then understood about pedigree cattle, the smaller the better. But only half-a-dozen years more had elapsed before I purchased the same animal that I had previously valued at 30gs. for the sum of 900gs. by private treaty. Is this not a lesson worth reporting upon my early wisdom in shorthorn breeding? It reminds me very forcibly of the son of an old breeder, when

he came into possession of his father's herd, saying that he would be careful not to make a mistake by jumbling his pedigrees together as his father had done, but breed what was most fashionable, and to be sure he was right, he would first use a sire of Bates, then one of Booth, upon the same pedigree, so that it would not matter to him whither of the twain took the lead, as he would be in possession of the blood of both. I need hardly relate in this chapter that animals of his breeding were seldom inquired after. In the same year as I valued the 300gs. calf so minutely, a nobleman had a sale of his first selection from his herd, he was not then young in years, and not far advanced in years of experience in shorthorn breeding, as he had to be content with an average of £30 a piece. What do we find this nobleman doing in the same year, but improving his herd by purchases? What does he purchase? Two animals of a Bates tribe, not with pure Bates crosses, added ever since they left Mr. Bates, but one bull of Sir Charles Knightley's breeding, and one of Mason's, or Earl Spencer's blood, were the last additions made to the dam's pedigree; but the daughter was by a bull containing a considerable dash of Bates blood, and since the year 1870 many magnificent animals have been descended from them by Bates bulls. The writer had the honour not only of offering over 500gs. for a daughter from the old cow as well as receiving a

cheerful reprimand for not purchasing her, even at a higher figure; but what is the value of experience unless it is made a proper use of? After the purchase of these two animals, this nobleman bred from them for a period of fifteen years, by the most fashionable bulls, both in breeding and appearance, but has again resorted to a little admixture in his latest sire, which has a considerable amount of the same blood as the original females contained when he purchased them. This is considered by the writer worthy of being classed as shorthorn breeding, not simply pedigree making to read well in a catalogue, but rather, to make the animals attractive without deteriorating the pedigree in value in the eyes of a practical breeder.

As the summer advanced, and the days were becoming warmer with the rays of the sun, two profitable and interesting sales were held, principally from two favourite tribes, the Gwynnes and Charmers, the former the property of Mr. Howard, of Biddenham, a genuine shorthorn breeder, not merely a pedigree admirer; the latter gentleman, known by the name of Mr. Tracey, had evidently a will of his own, or he would not have had the courage to have used "The Baron (13,833)" so extensively as he did owing to being a son of Mr. Booth's Baron Warlaby, from a daughter of Syphls, by Sir Walter; here we have male and female,



blended together of one tribe, still differently bred in the latest four generations, followed by Count Leinster (23,638), a son of Mr. Barnes's Duke of Leinster, a Mantalini, and the dam of "The Count," being Sweetheart 6th, by Mameduke; undoubtedly the inbreeding, with the suitable infusion of other pure blood, was the secret of Mr. Tracey's successful sale in obtaining an average of £86 for forty-four animals.

Mr. Howard used freely the 5th Grand Duke upon his Gwynne's, followed by Grand Duke of Lightburne (26,290), both bulls of fashionable Bates tribes, yet far from being what the prejudiced would call pure, but what a practical breeder would deem prudent to use upon any highly-bred animals classed as Bates blood. The Duke was by Grand Duke the 3rd, full of Booth element from Grand Duchess 9th, by "Prince Imperial," an admirable Booth and Bates admixture. The younger male in the herd was from a magnificent daughter of Grand Duke the 4th, by Grand Duke the 16th, grand-dam Red Rose, by Marmaduke, by Englishman, by Paritan, followed by Cambridge Rose the 6th. Here we have a most successful sale of fifty-three animals of the Gwynne, Spencer and Knightley blood, principally by the two sires mentioned, as Mr. Howard had the pleasure of receiving £71 for each animal sold; such prices obtained could not be

murmured at, neither can there be much fault found with the breeding of the sires used by Mr. Howard, although containing blood of so many different breeders in their pedigree; yet it is a composition that will bear examining by the critic, and when such names as Bolden, Tanquary and Webb are included in the additions made, his lips are sealed.

The name of Nunwick Hall, near Penrith, will not easily be forgotten by visitors there on the 23rd of September, 1870, who witnessed the dispersion of that magnificent collection of cattle, by Mr. Thornton, the property of Mr. Saunders. Mr. Saunders's father was a great admirer of good animals well descended, but without being prejudiced to any special pedigree. He selected, in the formation of his herd, the blood of Sir Charles Knightley and Mr. Crofton, and we also find that the memory of Mr. Bates was not forgotten, by the purchases of several Waterloos, as well as Wildeyes 19th, by Lablache (16,453), the dam of "Wildeyes Duchess," by 9th Grand Duke, which was thought not only good enough to purchase for Canada at 275gs., but to re-purchase by Lord Dunmore and travel back into Scotland, where she was sold in the 1875 sale for 480gs., to Mr. Wilson, of Shotley Hall, at ten years of age; her three daughters, all by Duke bulls, Wildeyes Bright, Sparkling Eyes, and Blythsome Eyes, realized the handsome figure of

1,405gs.; they were sold equally as much by their merits as their pedigree; they had but two Duke crosses added since Mr. Bolden's Lablache and the Troutbeck Strawberry bull, Solon (13,766). Is this not a sufficient proof that it is not necessary to breed too closely, to realise paying prices for good animals, well descended, without being strictly line bred? Take, for instance, Waterloo 36th, by Earl of Eglinton (23,832), selling for 475gs., to Lord Bective, while her yearling sister made 300gs., to Mr. Cochrane; and Waterloo 40th, an exceedingly handsome heifer, for the same sum at twelve months old, to the Rev. P. Graham; she was not only white, but by Edgar (19,680), a bull with a pedigree that was not worshipped by the purist; can the writer not say something in favour of Edgar? He was, as an animal, the best we had then in England, an easy winner at the Royal, and descended from Mr. Crofton's Elvira, with an addition of Bates, Booth and Knightley. Earl of Eglinton was a son of 10th Grand Duke, the best of the Grand Dukes I ever remember seeing; his dam, Lady Elvira, a daughter of Lord Oxford (20,214), thought by many good judges the best Oxford bull ever seen at Holker; grand-dam, Countess Emma, which was also the grand-dam of the famed Edgar. How could such an alliance fail to produce good animals, by the service of Earl of Eglinton, upon Edgar's daughters? Altho' Waterloo 37th, which made

500gs., was by Royal Cambridge (25,009), he, like the preceding sires named, had an abundance of personal merit, beyond the aristocratic lineage of his parents; and what were they but Grand Duke the 4th, sire of the 10th, and the elegant Moss Rose, which realized 350gs., in her thirteenth year; she was a daughter of that magnificent bull, Marmaduke (14,897), a son of the 650gs. Duke of Gloucester, from a Gwynne cow, but even if he was only a descendant of one of Mr. Troutbeck's hardy constitutioned animals, Col. Penant thought him equal to 400gs., when he purchased him to mate with his Cherries and Oxfords, the grand-dam of Royal Cambridge, being Cambridge Rose the 6th, bred by Mr. Bates. The pedigree of Waterloo 37th reads without showing any direct change of blood in any of the generations; but without going into its breeding minutely, there is Cleveland Lad, no less than three times, Prince Imperial twice, and Grand Duke the 3rd twice, leaving to one side the mixed blood of the dam of Marmaduke. Waterloo 37th, bred in the hands of Captain Oliver, Grand Duke of Waterloo, the sire of Grand Duke the 31st, which realized 1,550gs., at Sholebroke, to Lord Bective, who purchased him with a view of the compound mixture contained in the Waterloo pedigree having an influential effect upon his in-bred tribes. The result of Mr. Saunders' breeding ended with the proceeds of the day by his thirteen

Waterloos making nearly £200 each, three Wildeyes £153, sixteen Knightleys £70, fourteen Emmas, or Crofter's blood, £66, and six Gwynnes £55, or a general average of £96 for sixty-one animals, speaks volumes in favour of Mr. Saunders' judgment as an experienced breeder free from prejudice.

The herds that I have alluded to, in their style of breeding, in this chapter, were all brought to a successful issue by the owners striking out a course of their own, and pursuing it, they were neither led entirely by fashion or prejudice, but preferred their own judgment in preference to the latter, which enabled them to admit sufficient of the former, to make their breeding both pleasant and profitable. Messrs. Saunders and Tracey each bred their own sires, by sending their choicest females on a visit to other herds; while Mr. Howard pursued another course, by purchasing males of individual merit, of good blood, but throwing aside the prejudice of having them strictly line bred, yet the greatest possible care was taken in their selection.

As the summer advances after the spring, and autumn is sure to follow after the summer, at such a time Mr. Thornton officiated, upon one of these dark autumn days, at Badmington, in disposing of the entire herd of Mr. Butler; but the principal feature in the sale was the ambition to secure a Darlington cow, or heifer, but there were many visitors on the

same errand from different parts of the world, as Mr. Pearce, from California, was a strong rival against the home county, it was evident he would have his way, in taking a couple across the Atlantic, which cost him considerably over 100gs. each; Mr. Davis taking the old Matron when fourteen years old at 65gs., and two of her daughters at more than double the money, but shortly after sold them to Mr. Thompson, who now holds a round number of the family, in addition to his Barringtons, as a select little herd, and crossing them with Bates bulls, yet, not forgetting to bear in mind that a good animal looks quite as well in his pasture as a strictly pure pedigree appears upon paper. The writer remembers well, giving the auctioneer a commission of 35gs. for Darlington 19th, as she had got an extra Bates cross added more than her relations, since the old veteran gave his advice to buy "Pretty Maid," the ancestor of the Darlington tribe; but it was evident there were others besides myself that felt covetous to possess the calf, as she did not leave the ring until she was claimed by Mr. Davis at 85gs.

It was as far back as the days that I am speaking of in the present chapter, when breeders of a certain class began to calculate upon the value of a shorthorn according to the number of either Booth or Bates crosses they had in succession in the latest

generations, it was considered by them as safe an investment as placing their money in the Bank of England, to pay 20gs. for each additional pure cross added to a pedigree, providing that purity was either of Bates or Booth blood; should any other blood be added, after a number of crosses of either of the two former, it was looked upon as losing both principal and interest. What reply does Experience give on the result of such a course of breeding? I will take the Cherry Duchesses as the first experiment. Cherry, by Pirate, was known to be an exceedingly grand cow in her day, as well as many of her descendants in the late Col. Cradock's hands. Brandy Cherry, by Sheldon (8,537), was selected by Mr. Bolden as a good sort to cross with Bates blood; the first calf, by Grand Duke, was named Cherry Duchess, the 2nd, own sister to the first, was considered much better, and from her descends the once popular Cherry Duchess family, Cherry Duchess 2nd, was put by Mr. Bolden to 2nd Grand Duke, the produce being Cherry Duchess 3rd; in due time this young heifer was put to 3rd Grand Duke, which resulted in the birth of the fine cow, Cherry Duchess 6th. Mr. Bolden tries the experiment of a double cross with 3rd Grand Duke, which proves to be Cherry Duchess 8th, by no means as good as her dam; fortunately, before the close of her life, she falls into hands that had a suitable bull named General Napier, by Grand Duke the

4th, from a Princess cow; the reunion of the Duchess and Princess blood restored the good qualities (lost by too much repetition of the Bank of England securities) in the birth of a lovely heifer named Cherry Princess; Lord Dunmore takes her into Scotland at 500gs. when a yearling, and returns her to Lord Bective, in calf to Baron Oxford 5th, at 810gs., which resulted in the birth of Cherry Queen, one of the handsomest animals ever bred of the family. Does not realizing 1,200gs. in the Underley sale speak sufficient for her good qualities? I will next point out the different result from her senior sister, with a 5th Grand Duke cross. Being on a visit in the Midland Counties, I passed an interesting hour inspecting a fashionably bred herd of shorthorns, a heifer in the yard taking my fancy beyond where the aristocratic young lady was standing, I speedily moved her out of the way and exclaimed, if she was not an Irish she was good enough to be one; not many months later her pedigree was sold for 410gs; of course, her new owner must put her to a Duke bull to make her a safe investment, as the produce would then be exceedingly valuable; fancy, six Duke crosses upon the inbred Cherry pedigree; the calf proved to be a heifer, but I will not commit myself by saying she was as good as her dam, but at any rate, with the idea of breeding a good one at the last, she was also mated with a Duke of no mean repute; the calf,



again a heifer, with seven Duke crosses in succession, surely must be hard to surpass in merit. For some reason, that I am not able to explain, the breeder sold her, shortly after this highly descended animal was disposed of by Mr. Thornton, when her late owner was quietly looking on as the last sand departed from the glass at the price of 41gs., apparently not showing the least signs of regret that he had seen the last result by the union of the seven Dukes; although he had lost sight of them, he had found a lesson by experience, that even seven could not restore the constitution that one had shattered. When a building of any kind is fast mouldering to decay, is it not much wiser to rebuild from the foundation than attempt to repair the decayed material? May I ask my readers if it would be far out of place to adopt the same course in restoring the weakened constitution? Has not the disease been creeping stealthily along for years past, either by prejudice or fashion, into many that are called fashionable tribes? Will not the day soon arrive that it will be too late for repairing, and the constitution destroyed from the foundation? Some might say that Grand Duke 3rd had sufficient change of blood in his sire, 2nd Duke of Bolton, it is quite true that it would be so, in an ordinary case; but suppose a physician mixes his medicine in every way suitable for the disease he is treating, but should he give his patient a double dose, it

might have a poisonous effect. It is the writer's opinion that the double cross of 3rd Grand Duke was injurious to the Cherry Duchesses, although he was by 2nd Duke of Bolton, a son of Grand Duke; the dam of 3rd Grand Duke was also by Grand Duke, from Duchess 51st, by Cleveland Lad, own brother to the sire of Grand Duke; 2nd Grand Duke was by 4th Duke of York, a son of 2nd Duke of Oxford, from the sister to Cleveland Lad; the dam of 4th Duke of York was Duchess 51st, by Cleveland Lad, the grand-dam of Grand Duke 3rd. The inbreeding previous, in each of the Grand Duke's pedigrees, has been named fully in my remarks upon early breeders. Allow me to pass on and make a few observations upon the other descendants of Cherry Duchess 6th with only one cross of 3rd Grand Duke, in the hands of the late Lord Penryhn; the first calf is by Marmaduke, the 400gs. bull, from a Gwynne cow, by Duke of Gloucester, and named Cherry Duchess 9th, the dam of the 13th, by 3rd Duke of Wharfdale, which cost the writer 555gs.; she was truly a grand cow, with a constitution unpenetrable by either wind or storm, her daughter, Cherry Duchess 21st, by 11th Grand Duke, bred in the hands of Mr. Sharpley, Cherry Arch Duchess, by 27th Grand Duke, she is now as grand a cow as any breeder would desire to look upon, the constitution has been saved through Marmaduke, so that it requires no immediate restora-

tive. There are also descendants from Cherry Duchess 6th, bred in two other different ways; firstly, her daughter, the 11th, is by that splendid bull Duke of Geneva (19,614); two daughters of the 11th are by 11th Grand Duke and 2nd Duke of Grafton (25,968), a Duchess Nancy Bull, from the produce of the latter; the only descendants remain at Penryhn; Cherry Duchess 9th., own sister to the 6th, went to Sholebroke, at the same time as the latter went to Penryhn, and very little was left to her credit at the winding up of the Sholebroke herd, beyond one good cow with the mixture of Cherry Butterfly (23,550), son of Romulus Butterfly (18,741), the Best of Townley's composition; while there remains but a single remnant from Cherry Duchess 22nd, bred in the direct line with Duke crosses, which is Grand Cherry Duchess of Brailes 3rd, by Duke of Rothesay (36,534), she has the honour of being the dam of two daughters, also by Duke bulls, which I trust may have strength to keep up the family name of Cherry Duchess.

What family made more rapid strides than the Florentia's after they left the hands of Mr. Rich. Duke upon Duke was the directory for a Bates breeder to make a great name. But what tribe fell away more quickly than the descendants of the beautiful Lady Maynard, although bred according to the direction of fashion? The Gazelles, once so

popular, owing to being related through their sires to the Duchesses, have they not gradually but surely fallen to pieces? Was their value not fictitious, simply because they claimed relationship to several Dukes? Were they valued according to their personal excellence, or purity of descent? I am afraid that the Bank of England investment was no better either in the Florentias or the Gazelles, than it was with the Cherry Duchesses. Were they not all esteemed far beyond their value in the commercial market, which is in reality the only place to find the true value of Fashion? Were there not several other tribes that suffered either by Fashion or Prejudice? for instance, the Princesses, were once thought good enough to improve the constitution of the Duchesses, but at last they were bred in and in, until there were but half-a-dozen left in England, and supposed to be valuable, because their numbers were so reduced by inbreeding. Are they the kind of animals England requires for her posterity? The writer might venture to say that the Gwynnes, from same foundation, yet held neither by fashion's favour, nor bound by prejudice, are more what our thickly populated nation admires as staunch against the bitter easterly winds, and more liberal suppliers of milk and butter, in addition to being strong supporters of the demand required for the roast beef of old England. Is this not what the present generation boasts of in the

---

shorthorns? Is it not what our forefathers cultivated them for? Ought it not to be for the same reason that the present and rising generation should cultivate the shorthorn in all its usefulness, and not to destroy it by being bred as a slave to Fashion?

---

## CHAPTER X.

THE DATES OF THE RISE AND FALL IN SHORTHORNS, COMPARING THEM TO TRAVELLING OVER A MOUNTAIN, VARIOUS TRIBES OF CATTLE WORTHY OF SELECTION TO BREED FROM, NOT NECESSARY TO BREED GOOD CATTLE FOR THE SAKE OF FASHION, BUT FOR SAME REASON AS THEY WERE ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY EARLY BREEDERS, A GOOD HERD CAN BE PROFITABLY BRED BY CAREFUL SELECTION FROM DAIRY COWS, ANIMALS TO BE KEPT IN A NATURAL STATE TO BE PRODUCTIVE AS BREEDERS AND MILKERS.

The last four chapters that I have written contain a short account of the experience witnessed during the rise and fall of fashionable shorthorns in price and popularity. In the present chapter I shall endeavour to compare the difference in value during the last eighteen years, by showing how, and when they rose, and in what years they fell. In the year 1868, through the scarcity of food, the prices of shorthorns became exceedingly low, but the following spring brought a considerable revival, and when the writer looks back to that date, it reminds him very forcibly of travelling over an exceedingly high mountain, which was very

difficult to ascend to the highest point, but when it was once reached was comparatively level for some distance before beginning to descend into the valley, a part of the journey that was apparently accomplished with the greatest ease, but descending so rapidly from such a lofty position, left upon the writer the impression that even ascending with difficulty gave a larger amount of pleasure than the rapid descent.

Can I not compare travelling over that mountain in some degree to shorthorn breeding during the period spoken of, as it certainly has been to many breeders a source of trial, the rapid fall in prices after so many expensive purchases have been made? In the years 1869, 1870, 1871 and 1872, there was a gradual rise in the shorthorn market, especially for such animals as were in Fashion's favour; 1873, 1874, 1875 and 1876, brought them to the highest point ever attained since the days of the Brothers Colling; 1877 and 1878 realized some miraculous prices, but here the buyer and seller halted between two opinions, when all appeared to be stationary, there was no ascending higher, not even by Fashion's favour; in 1879 and 1880 it was evident there was a downward tendency which caused many a heavy heart to the extensive purchaser; many sold out rather than risk holding on to see the end of the downfall, others purchased and said, surely they cannot fall

much lower; in 81 and 82 sales were frequently held which brought many new beginners into the market, who said certainly we have secured great bargains, as the prices of our animals are fully one-third less than they were two years ago; we cannot be wrong in purchasing fashionable pedigrees, but men of experience were more weary and soon found that the years 1883 and 1884 would still carry them lower and lower; yet there were new beginners in young noblemen, the squires, and the spirited tenant farmers to purchase the most fashionable tribes, as they imagined they were sure to pay; but some doubt then arose as to which were fashionable; in 1883 and 1884 fashion had changed, and will change again, as many familiar tribes once so fashionable and popular to the public. The years 1885 and 1886 brought them to the bottom of the hill of Temptation, there many of them will be gathered up and restored to their former position as a tribe by breeders of experience, and are there not many besides the writer, who have witnessed the eight years of ascendancy in the value of shorthorns, also the two stationary ones, as well as the eight years of descendancy which have taught many valuable lessons that will be remembered, that shorthorns are not to be bred for the sake of pedigree alone, but for the same purpose as they were a century back by breeders of that date, in trying to gain experience by breeding such animals as deservedly won the name of "The



Improved Shorthorn?" It is true, they at last bred them in and in beyond what was either profitable or good for the improvement of the animal; but are they not lessons of experience recorded for our advantage? Did not the eight years of ascendancy in the value of shorthorns teach us many a bitter lesson? The two stationary ones, were they not a warning to the experienced; and the eight years of descendancy, have they not taught lessons that few want repeating? Purchases were made during that period that changed the inexperienced to be experienced. Have not too many purchased and bred by Fashion and Prejudice that caused them some difficulty in climbing the mountain of ambition in hopes of reaching its summit by Fashion's favour? They had heard that there was a rich valley beyond, for those that carried out shorthorn breeding in its strictest purity, but the writer has seen by experience that the rich portions of the valley are only to be obtained by the breeders of the present fashion, and can only be secured by breeding so near a precipice as to be in continual danger of losing constitution and being prolific; then why venture to climb the mountain of ambition in anticipation of reaching so uncertain a point, by inbreeding too closely allied to Prejudice and Fashion? Although the writer has been a successful fashionable breeder, it was not attained without years of perseverance, by experience through lessons

gained by the humble Buttercup he then possessed, and the despised Princess Helena. Has he not spoken of the rising and falling of the once popular Cherry Duchesses, Gazelles, Florentias and Princesses that were bred entirely by Fashion, and their owners being somewhat prejudiced against any other blood being admitted, which was to a certain extent the cause of their fall. Are there not now various other tribes which are bred so near the precipice as to be in continual danger of falling over, simply by being prejudiced against other breeders for fear of displeasing Fashion? Has not the constitution been weakened? Does it not show the visible signs by its diminutiveness? Surely many other families of shorthorns will be lost sight of in future years if they are not allied with alien blood. Why be so prejudiced after seeing the fatal effect of too close breeding by the experience of others?

Are not there still many good animals descended from Hartforth Cherries, which have not been bred in danger of the precipice to fall over and receive internal injuries? Are not there yet many meritorious animals descended from "Princess," by Favourite, which have not been a slave to Fashion? Are not there descendants of the once famed "Lady Maynard" worthy of cultivation? Have we not many representatives of the once popular Gazelles, which took the late Mr. Bowley the best

part of his shorthorn career to bring to perfection? Surely there must be some remnant of this once fashionable tribe that is desirable for a new beginner to breed from. Have we not yet some branch of the once esteemed Daisies that are tempting to give a prominent position? Certainly there are still many branches of the various families of the late Sir Charles Knightley's worthy of remembrance. Are not there also several old tribes, once so popular at Studley, Killerby and Warlaby, that can be restored to their former prosperity, even if they do contain a little admixture? Where are the descendants of the late Mr. Maynard's fine cattle that produced such wonderful steers? Are they not worth seeking? Have we no remnants from many other breeders of the past? Yes! far too numerous to particularize in so small a volume. By an experienced hand there are those able to breed such animals that are deserving the name of "The Improved Shorthorn." They may not stand in the first ranks in the sale ring, but are capable of breeding good animals by a prudent selection of sires; it is true, they will require carefully cultivating through having such a compound mixture of blood descended from so many different types; the breeder must fix the character of the animal he wishes to produce by the sires he selects, as it is undoubtedly a fact that like begets like. The next cross is even more

difficult than the first; to improve upon an old tribe that contains so many varieties of blood, the second sire must be sure to possess all the good qualities of the first, in addition to an improvement upon his deficiencies; then there is little fear of the result in the second generation being of one uniform character. I have often noticed in ordinary dairy herds bred for generations upon the same farm, that the animals of each age are frequently like sisters; and why is this? because they are all bred in a similar way, and the only difference to pedigreed cattle they are not registered, but are of one blood, and the whole herd related to each other. It was but yesterday I glanced over a class of cattle of this description; in speaking to the owner, and asking him how they were bred, the reply was in his county brogue, "tha's all bred one way; I buys my bulls with pedigree but never a cow, cos' I often notice pedigree men never get rich." I could not but smile, although talking to a comparative stranger, and on turning away, thought his name surely must be Mr. Prejudice, as his wisdom appeared to be wrapped up in himself and his riches. But I must now move northwards with my experiences, and leave the Midlands and its cattle behind me, to speak of one, not only a nobleman by birth, but by nature; even in his youthful days he had an acquired taste for short-horns, but like others of his years that were in-

experienced, frequently purchased the best animal, irrespective of pedigree, at each sale, and by such purchases built up a herd only to throw it down again. It has been re-built by the hand of Experience, and is now not only one of the finest herds in England, but in the world. It is not built up entirely by pedigree or Fashion, but by the practical art of shorthorn breeding in producing good animals well descended to meet the present market. I have often conversed and even expressed my opinion freely upon paper to its owner, and the name of that owner is no less a personage than the Right Hon. Earl Bective, of Underley Hall, who has ultimately selected his families from the Grand Duchesses, Princesses, Red Roses, Darlington's and Underley Darlings descended from Mr. Langston's Turk's Darling by Royal Turk 16875. The Grand Duchesses are bred on the lines of fashion, Bates upon Princess, or Bates and Princess upon Bates. The Red Roses were somewhat bred away from fashion before coming to Underley, but are one of the tribes that may, at a future day, be brought into the first ranks. The Darlington's are, as a rule, heavy fleshed good animals, and have long been favourites at Underley; but the Underley Darlings, strictly speaking, are a family that his lordship has kept entirely for its usefulness, both in the dairy and as breeding animals without any pretence whatever as to

fashion beyond breeding a male that will realize 100gs. as a yearling; not a bad sort of fashion as the result of the union with high class bulls, but it is not necessary for the union to be always with a Duke, as the male produce from this family are sold entirely upon their personal excellences. Was this not also why Mr. Charles Colling stored his Duchess tribe above others? and also why Mr. Bates purchased Young Duchess at his sale? Was it not also for the same reason that Mr. Bates used sires from this tribe in preference to any others? By valuing this family beyond its personal merit, did his herd not deteriorate? Have not various breeders, during the eighteen years of the rising and falling in the value of shorthorns, improved many old tribes by Duke crosses; yet, by seeing that marked improvement, did some of them not become a little prejudiced against any other sires but a Duke intermingling with them? I have received but the shake of the head for an answer, when asking an old breeder if he did not think it high time for a little change in his herd, after four or five successive crosses from Duke bulls had been admitted. It is true, Fashion rose in value during the eight years of ascendancy, but after their expiration was not there a halt between two opinions? When it had gradually but surely to give way in the eight years of descendency in a great measure to personal

merit; but the next question that arises is how are we not only to obtain, but keep it in our possession, only by practical experience in breeding highly descended shorthorns that have been for years, and have still, a superiority in their personal appearance? It is not absolutely necessary that they should have passed through the hands of either Booth or Bates, or any other renowned breeder of the past, to be good animals, then why venture to attempt to travel over the mountain of Ambition to reach the valley of extreme Fashion, which can be only obtained by travelling so near a precipice as to be in danger of shattering the constitution and running the risk of losing the dairy and breeding propensities?

Some strict admirers of Fashion may say we have passed through a long period of agricultural depression, and the demand for all productions are at ruinous prices. True, things are, and have been, exceedingly low, but what meets the market better than a good article, especially in a good shorthorn, that can be manufactured at very little more cost than the ordinary dairy cow, even by the smallest capitalist; they are within the reach of any enlightened tenant farmer, but too far away for the prejudiced to see that there is an opportunity before them to improve their cattle, for fear they should have to alter their mode of breeding; but perhaps

what is more important still, their way of thinking that pedigree men never get rich, and dare not venture to go out of their ordinary course. But there is still another way open for them, that might help to gather riches rather than scatter, by following the example of the late Mr. Richard Stratton who persevered in breeding from dairy cows by pedigree bulls, until they became eligible for the herd book, and in 1868 sold one hundred head of this description when cattle were far from being in high request; yet a bull calf at four months old reached 30gs., descended from Moss Rose, by Phoenix 6290, a pair of animals as highly appreciated by the Stratton family as Hubback and Young Duchess were by Mr. Bates. A second selection was again offered for competition in 1871, when fifty-five animals were disposed of by Mr. Thornton, all descended from the selected Dairymaid, when forty-four females averaged £32 19s. 4d., and eleven bulls £37 19s. 9d.; surely such prices are tempting to turn the most prejudiced in favour of the improved registered shorthorn. In such a course of breeding as Mr. Stratton pursued, there is no danger of falling over the precipice and injuring either constitution or their dairy properties, as the weak and inferior animals, as well as the bad milk producers, would naturally be discarded; three important points to bear in mind in breeding either fashionable or animals of lower degree, as the mean looking



beast is liable to a weak constitution, and moderate milkers, as a rule, are slow breeders ; three things not desirable in any case, and to avoid them all it requires the strictest attention being paid in selection of sires from robust well developed animals with all the milking propensities required in a shorthorn, and above all shun the animals that have been fed unnaturally, as natural food and shelter is what they require for both health, milk, and breeding ; they ought not to be kept as hot-house plants for nine months in the year, but allowed to roam over the distant pastures for at least that period, except such as are in milk, and young calves, as a quantity of milk cannot be produced without sufficient warmth, neither is the growth of the suckling to be obtained without it.

Again in purchasing highly descended or fashionably bred animals I have found by experience that the constitution suffers considerably by the removal from a southern to a northern or eastern climate, where the bitterness of the winds is sure to search out their weak points ; on the contrary the removal of animals from a northern to a southern one has usually a beneficial effect. It behoves every breeder to produce such animals as are best adapted for where he resides and the farm he occupies ; but few will take heed and understand until they have learned a costly lesson from the book of Experience. There

is nothing so ruinous to the milking properties as high feeding in youth, even from the best of dairy cows and by a sire from a good milker, as I have myself entirely destroyed the milking capacities of several such animals simply by feeding for exhibition, which is sure to be fatal in the second generation of riotous living, if fortunate enough to escape it in the first. Some years ago I had a shorthorn cow that gave her twenty quarts of milk daily after calving a pretty heifer calf, which of course must be exhibited as she was pretty, not pretty enough to be any more than commended, and not pretty enough even for the dairy, as I cannot remember her ever giving more than eight quarts per day, and not any length of time so large a quantity. About the same time I was also in possession of another excellent dairy shorthorn, at least a good cow and fair milker, that gave her sixteen quarts per day after giving birth to a calf, and a reasonable quantity for the following nine months; she also calved a pretty heifer, which of course in due time must be exhibited and made fat too! or it would be useless for that purpose; she managed also to get a commendation at two or three exhibitions, besides giving her owner considerable trouble in getting her to breed, but at last produced a nice roan heifer, which he contrived to kill at a few days old through giving her milk from another cow, for the only reason that her dam did not even give the colour of

milk, but naturally she gave a few drops of nutritious food for the calf, which I did not then understand, for want of experience, that it was the proper food to sustain life in the new-born animal, but it taught me a two-fold lesson, firstly in feeding the heifer two years for exhibition, and only having the honour of receiving commendation tickets as the reward; I also remember very correctly that I imagined she ought to have had something more, but supposed the Committee had not selected very good judges that season, as they left both myself and the heifer out in the cold; secondly, I found by losing the calf that my early wisdom could not supersede nature, so in the future I did not try to dictate to her how to feed a newly-born animal, but contented myself in pocketing the loss, though gaining a lesson by the experience. A third shorthorn that I procured gave me a similar quantity to the last. She also bred a heifer which I thought rather a good one and unfortunately a winner for calves, which was an inducement to go on pampering and feeding until she herself produced a calf, but not milk; to save the calf I allowed it to have nature's food and persevered day by day in drawing at the dam until she gave nearly two quarts per day. She bred but three calves and was afterwards hopeless as a breeder; I had previously sold the constitution and milk of two of the animals to Fashion, I then sold the last of the three and their produce, as I

began to learn, by paying dearly for lessons, that bad milkers were slow breeders, which made me begin to consider if I was acting wisely by exhibiting at Agricultural Shows, after purchasing highly descended animals at long prices for breeding purposes, as I had certainly destroyed both the milking and breeding capabilities of many that I had exhibited or their produce, and even more, their health in many instances by over feeding in loose boxes, or stalls, and afterwards exposing them to the inclemency of the weather; not recklessly, nor even in a careless manner, but reducing the artificial food by degrees until their diet became the ordinary produce of the farm, one lesson after another taught me that all breeding animals should be kept in a natural state, so I determined that for the future I would leave the losses by injudicious feeding for exhibitions to parties who could better afford to receive them.

As there are various points of merit in the animals and the pedigrees, so there are in the breeders, but the same point is not always equally prominent. The names of Warlaby, Dereham Abbey, Holker, Berkeley, Underley, Kingscote, Lathom, or Tortworth, are not stamped upon every herd, but each owner must prepare his own stamp or type to bring him into a prominent position as a

---

breeder, and this can only be done step by step as he gains experience. A prominent position as a purchaser may be obtained for money, but as a breeder—  
Never!

---

## CHAPTER XI.

DIFFERENT DEGREES IN WRITERS COMPARED TO SHORTHORN BREEDERS, GENERAL REMARKS UPON THE PAST AND PRESENT.

As I am now fast drawing to a close with my experiences upon shorthorns, it is only natural to have a desire to oblige as many of my readers as I possibly can, especially the friendly advisers mentioned in an earlier chapter; but I am afraid that I have already displeased the first by deviating from them in the second part of my history, and the demand of the last that I should write a sensible one is of so gigantic a nature that I dare not promise to grant his request; but that of two others, one of which desires that it should not all be upon shorthorns, but intermixed with other experiences, and his friend, who asked to give it a jovial turn, I will try to oblige in the concluding chapter; but the fourth and fifth are so contradictory to each other in their advice that I really cannot comply with the wishes of both, as one tells me to put things seriously before them, and his opponent says, if you do, the people will never read them! The remembrance of these remarks teaches me a lesson of experience, that even a writer has

difficulties to contend with as he passes through life, which makes him pause for a few moments with pen in hand, before proceeding further, and ponder over the beauties of nature as he observed in the rustic oak that has stood for ages, the stately elm that has sprung up more quickly and even superseding it in grandeur, beyond them both stands the graceful lime, adored by every true lover of nature, they are all in equal possession of the much admired tinted leaf which shall so soon fall from the lofty branches and be looked upon as no more than an encumbrance to the ground, which reminds the writer that his experiences may be interesting and instructive to some, but to others will be held in no higher estimation than the fallen leaves. This is the only reward that can be hoped for by an inexperienced writer, then why should the inexperienced breeder anticipate the same success for his labours as the man of experience. Can I not compare a practical writer of fifty years standing to the matured oak which is naturally possessed of great solidity, and a fashionable one of somewhat more recent date to the stately elm, and are there not other authors of still more refined taste, whose works are looked upon to be as perfect as the graceful lime? Do they not teach me to ask the question—What am I in comparison to any of the three as a writer?—Simply a scholar under the guidance of Experience.

But I must return to shorthorn lore,  
And speak of Nature's charms no more ;  
And write upon them only at my leisure,  
For fear of provoking shorthorn displeasure.

As there are different degrees in writers, so there are in shorthorn breeders, but the same breeder cannot attain perfection in every degree, but must content himself by being successful in that line of breeding he has mapped out for himself. It is not necessary that he should attain the celebrity of a Collings, Bates, or a Booth to be a successful breeder, but to move prudently along by perseverance until he gains the knowledge through experience, how to build up a herd judiciously upon the foundation he has selected, no matter whether that foundation has been in existence for a century, or that it cannot boast of any descent beyond personal appearance. Have we not examples before us of breeders of the past, how they founded our popular tribes. Did not the late Mr. Richard Booth after his sale at Studley in 1834, exclaim to a well-known visitor, in speaking of the famous Isabella, by Pilot (496), "upon that single thread of a calf the future of my herd depends"; how was she bred beyond to make her so attractive to the eye of the veteran breeder? Simply by Agamemnon (9), grand-dam by a bull of Mr. Burrell's, of Burdon. When Mr. Thos. Bell could not find a customer for the ancestors of the Oxfords,



did not Mr. Bates come to the rescue, and declare that from her he would breed a Royal winner. She had then but two registered crosses, Matchem, and Young Wynyard. When we see such things that were predicted fifty years back carried out so successfully in our day, is not there still room for new tribes to be founded. When Mr. Bates purchased the original heifers from which the Kirklevingtons and the Craggs are descended, they were nothing more than two ordinary beasts, selected in Northallerton market for their good looks, from the herd of the famed Anthony Maynard; but do not their descendants rank as animals of fashion? What were the Hecubas and the Paulines in the days of the late Messrs. Richard and John Booth in comparison to what they are to day? They were then simply classed as dairy cows, and the Christon were barely recognized as shorthorns, but are at the present time one of the most popular families at Warlaby, surpassing many in merit of the old established and inbred tribes. The writer paid several visits there in the days of the late Mr. Thomas Booth, and had frequent conversations with him respecting the rising and falling of which were most popular families at Studley, Killerby and Warlaby, how they rose by their purity in the eyes of the public, and how they were sacrificed to in-breeding by being unfruitful, which left no other course open to him but to replenish his herd by purchases from

the original families allied with other blood, or to prepare new tribes for Coates' from the dairy cows. The former course being adopted in preference to the latter has to some extent restored Warlaby to its former fame and numbers. It is not Warlaby or Kirklevington alone that has allowed various tribes to diminish, but every breeder who has sold himself to be prejudiced against the admittance of the necessary change required.

Some might argue that families have gone down in public estimation through the prices realized at the present day, but this is no criterion to be based upon, as the writer remembers having a cow that cost him 500 gs.; her first calf realized 610 gs. before three months of age, two years later her yearling son made 52 gs., and his own sister, equally as well bred and superior as an animal to the previous one sold, realized but 170 gs., at a little over six months; thirdly, her next yearling heifer made but 54 gs., and her bull calf 20 gs.; the old dam herself went at 53 gs., on the same day. It is an old story that what an article brings by auction is its value, but this argument will not hold good in all cases, as the 610 gs. calf was not worth half the sum obtained, the 170 gs. and the 54 gs. heifers were really worth more, and have since made grand cows and continued to breed good animals, while their sister was purchased by a fit of excite-

ment alone, leaving her value as to breed and personal appearance in the background, she has departed without leaving any issue in return. Such purchases were often made not only by myself but by others, but Experience has since been consulted and the answer is, touch not without personal merit; on the other hand pay not a long price for animals that are not well descended; purchase not such as are merely puffed up for exhibition purposes by a mass of fat, but buy in a natural state and keep them in a natural way—

And breed only from the best

That will stand the blast from east and west.

Through the depressed times Fashion has still held its position where personal merit has not been absent, but where it has been united with Prejudice and depending entirely upon pedigree, it has fallen to an extremely low ebb, from where it will not rise without the aid of Prudence by judicious breeding, in having not only good blood but personal excellences blended together which is the only sure way to a successful issue either in old tribes or the newly founded families. The writer knows that in the eyes of many his ideas are travelling upon forbidden ground, yet feels that his Experiences will not be complete without making a few remarks upon the tribes that Mr. Bates left us. Have the Duchesses retained their former celebrity by their breeders adhering strictly to Duchess or Oxford

blood? Have they not been frequently on the very brink of falling over the dreaded precipice by clinging to Fashion and Prejudice? But have not some of their owners seen their dangerous position and wisely adopted a safer course to preserve their purity? Are the Oxfords a better class of animal by being constantly allied with the Duchesses than they were when Mr. Bates left them? Do the Barringtons possess the same grandeur as they did after the immediate alliance with Grand Turk and Grand Duke 3rd by the continuation of Dukes, Grand Dukes, or Oxfords? I can safely answer no, except where the introduction of Marmaduke 14897, was brought in through the blood of Duke of Brailes; here we have not only personal merit and purity blended together, but preserved. May I not ask do the Lady Bates branch of this popular family continue to improve by their long continuation of strictly pure crosses after the despised addition of Mr. Harvey Coombe's The Buck? I am afraid not. Are the descendants of Wild Eyes 23rd better than she was herself? They were good cattle when they left Mr. Maynard's, also when they left Winterfold, but the all-important question is, are they as good to day? Do they possess the same amount of individual merit as they did before the long continuation of in-bred sires? If not, why be so slow to make a change in the system of breeding? Deterioration in the animal deteriorates

the prices equally as much if not more than the depressed times. Neither can it be expected however superior they may be in merit to realize what they did in the palmy days of ten years back. A certain per centage must be allowed for the difference in business between 1887 and 1877, also an equal per centage in the difference between pedigree breeding and shorthorn breeding, as the prices of the former were entirely guided by the printing machine, the latter by purity of blood and personal merit blended together.

I have noticed during recent years many herds that are entirely built up from dairy cows, and now eligible for the Herd Book. Many males are sent from them to Bingley Hall for dispersion, and others are purchased for abroad. There are two reasons why this class of animals meet with a ready sale. Firstly, the price is not high, but still remunerative to the breeder; secondly, they are well grown for their age, generally good colours (the whites being steered) full of hair and taking to the eye. Being sent from the shorthorn herds of England is enough for many breeders in our distant lands. Perhaps I may not be out of place by giving a third reason why this class of animals are often more pleasing in appearance. Their breeders are generally practical men, often attending, and most frequently

superintending their own cattle and noticing their small ailments in due time, which prevents the veterinary being called in, or a disease from laying hold of a vital part, and even more, the defective points in the sire used in the latest generation is avoided in the present one, as well as the weakest constitutioned and ill-framed females being despatched to the shambles in their youth. On the other hand fashionable herds are too often gathered together wholesale, regardless of expense and personal merit. All the bull calves they produce must of course be reared for sires, no matter how bad a colour or how mean looking he may be, he is highly bred and his dam was a costly purchase from Lord ———, and his sire was bred by the Duke of ———. If such breeding won't do, I don't know what will! has frequently been the remark to the writer from inexperienced breeders, and especially from inexperienced agents, who have been diverted from a gardener or a coolmaster, to be the manager of a farm or small estate. The owner or occupier of such a holding has frequently been tempted into shorthorn breeding as a hobby, and sometimes under the idea of gaining a large percentage; so the manager is sent to purchase a shorthorn or two at the first sale that takes place; the agent returns and informs his employer that he has bought the best heifer in the sale, one that gained the prize at the exhibition last year; of course she was

the fattest animal sold and a beautiful roan too; but neither the agent nor his employer understood any more how the animal was bred than she did herself. How can such a course of breeding succeed or prosper? It requires the practical eye of experience not only to purchase but to know how to breed, and cultivate their produce from calfhood to avoid delicacy in the following generation, as a sound constitution is the first point to be considered in laying the foundation of a herd of any description. If the purchaser be possessed of ample means, lay hold of well tried sorts for generations, as their offspring by prudent cultivation are more reliable than some of the new founded tribes that are now eligible as shorthorns for the only reason that they have a sufficient number of registered crosses. Such a herd I observed only a few weeks ago that had been bred for thirty-six years, from cattle purchased in Darlington Market. Not many days intervened before I had the opportunity of inspecting another herd, bred in a similar manner from animals selected about twenty-five years ago; but by a different style of owner, although both were tenant farmers, the former boasted of what his animals were thirty-six years back; the latter put before me the results of twenty-five years practical work in a herd of a good sort and of one type, the females prepared for the dairy and the males for the market. The former had no shorthorn type of any

description, neither any special signs for the dairy, nor immediate profit for the market. I admired the extensive pastures they were grazing upon, but could not, on turning away, be prevented saying—Alas! the poor shorthorn has to take the blame for it all! I travelled on for some miles distance where I found an extensive herd, either purchased by chance or which had been under the supervision of the same master; here there were many useful cattle, but of every sort imaginable. The owner of this extensive herd was a thoroughly practical farmer with the exception of this one point, and a very important one in the eyes of the writer, as the breeding of good live stock is the key to prosperity in agriculture. Sires had been used for no other reason than that they were bred by such a person, and not that they were possessed of individual merit or suitable for the females gathered together, consequently many of the dams were condemned unjustly as bad breeders. Another day brings me a little further north, where my eyes are intently fixed upon a different class of cattle, yet of one style, still different families; they are short-legged, well-fleshed dairy cattle, and their produce showing a similarity to themselves they have been bred carefully for the last twenty years upon the same farm, and from old families even then. I also observed new ones that were springing up, some of which will at a future day make their mark in shorthorn



history. Because an animal has the sufficient number of registered crosses it does not always become entitled to have the shorthorn character, as character or type is important for the production of good animals, and to procure them, the writer would say, begin with that type even if it be only from a dairy cow; he has himself had animals become eligible by the required number of crosses that were never fit to be classed as shorthorns. The backs of the original cow, its daughters and grand-daughters, were more like a fish set upon edge than a shorthorn; others that he possessed were from a grand beast with one registered cross, that had the true character of a shorthorn, but there was something beyond that assisted him to produce the good animals, it was the work of others before, and not his own. Are there not such animals even to day that are worthy of selection by small capitalists or new beginners? Many would say with the writer that it is safer—

For small boats to sail near shore,  
To cling to dairy shorthorns and nothing more.

---

## CHAPTER XII.

THINGS AS THEY WERE, THE STORY OF THREE COMPANIONS, THE THREE DRAWINGS, EXPERIENCES INTERMIXED, THINGS AS THEY ARE, CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The writer must not forget the promise that he has previously made not to allow his readers to fall asleep; to carry this out practically there is no other course open for him but to intermix his experiences in the concluding chapter, that it may enable him to oblige all who kindly offered their advice as to the contents of this work that he is now about completing. To arrive at this clearly he thinks it better for his thoughts to wander back once more to the days of youth, when it was scarcely thought respectable to attend either church or chapel without being adorned in a long crowned hat and swallow-tailed coat; it was in these days that he remembers seeing the parson (as he was then called) milking his own cow and repairing his own hedge; his church, or probably known better by the name of a chapel, was divided more like a building for cattle than a place of Divine worship; such as could afford, or had an interest in their church had their portions partitioned off, while others allowed their seats to be divided by a single

rail and to remain an earthen floor to be bestrewed over with bent from the banks of the river Duddon. It is also still fresh in his memory seeing the choir master stand up alone—how interesting such a sight would be in the year 1887!

Can any be surprised if the history that is written should prove to be a little old fashioned, when I say that style then was scarcely known, and fashion, as it is known now, almost a stranger, but evidently Prejudice was a frequent visitor, or more probably took up his abode there, as I often observed that every building for farm purposes was built upon one plan, with the exception of my father's, which he had recently erected on a more elaborate scale. The rest of the property in the township was divided into fourteen estates, and singular to say each estate had one cattle shed that provided room for twelve animals in every instance but two, which had provision for sixteen, but all were built upon the same principle, with stabling for four horses, and a large barn for hay and corn (in preference to ricks being made), attached to the other building, there not being such a thing as the ordinary one with the open yard, as we have them in the Midland Counties, or in the south of England; the winters there were considered too severe to allow cattle the privilege of the open air, but were confined in the building with the principal

ventilation stopped, and sometimes even the finger hole for the latch carefully patched up with straw, for fear the delicate animal should catch cold after giving birth to a calf, or milking heavily. These were the ideas of my ancestors, and of the people around my native home, how to treat the dumb animals, which are now termed shorthorns. In the spring they were released from the gloomy cell, but had to go forth into the open air in their prison garments, as they had been stripped of their winter coats by close confinement, which prevented nature's assistance in the growth of their natural protection from wind and storm, that frequently resulted by having to call in the veterinary, when the usual spring verdict was given in the following words:—"Caught cold, a chill from exposure. she is rather delicate, give her a little bran followed by these powders, and keep her warm until I call again."—Another visit was made when a second release is granted, and the poor beast once more in the open air, but this time clothed in a thick coat, ordered by the attendant, to prevent her again taking cold. Prejudice or want of experience had not allowed nature to provide the poor animal with hair that was most natural for health and protection against the surgeon's figures. When the vine and the fig-tree could stand the bitter blasts of winter and bear fruit the following season, surely the dumb animals ought not to have required more than ordinary

shelter. My father being a little ahead in the improvement and mauagement of live stock, he informed them he had given £30 for one beast; the villagers exclaimed if he was not mad then, he soon would be, as there was no such thing as one animal being worth that sum of money. This was the opinion of the agriculturalists known in the days of my childhood, which left an impression that made me often wonder and anxious to know who was right, but have since found that it was only by experience that I could have my anxiety relieved. But even then there were various degrees of opinion and especially upon agricultural matters. When Farmer Joe had to place a son upon a farm, he said he found it could not be done liberally for less than £100, as it would take fully £20 to furnish a house respectable in appearance for the young man to bring his bride, and to stock the land sufficiently could not be accomplished for less than £80! How this made the old farmer sigh, another £100 gone and still seven sons and four daughters to give a start in life. He stood aghast with his eyes and ears wide open when he heard that the Squire's son was about to furnish a house that would cost as much to complete one room as the whole of his son's house and farm had done; could such things really be? was the old man's inquiry. Yes! was the reply, but what was fashionable then to Farmer Joe was not to the Squire's son, and what was fashionable

to the latter was useless to the former, and as there was then to a certain extent different degrees in fashion so there are still, but to arrive at my meaning more clearly I shall pass on to speak of another generation, as I well remember three boys that were all born within twenty miles of each other, whom I shall call by the names of Tom, Jim, and Harry. They were companions in their early life, but widely different in disposition which divided their opinions, and caused each youth to choose a separate companion. Harry, always bright, cheerful, and generous, was a general favourite; he selected a gay young fellow known by the name of Fashion as his intimate friend and counsellor, who led him on at a rapid rate, but Harry himself, who was anxious to make his mark in the world, was not behind in perseverance; but sad to say, it was all done by the aid of his friend. He commenced in life, determined to succeed, as a farmer, but in one branch more especially he was anxious not to be left behind, and that was as a shorthorn breeder. He began to build up a herd to his own taste, but soon found that for want of experience it was contrary to the ideas of Fashion, so it was repeatedly built up and thrown down, to rebuild again, as he was ambitious to have the best of blood, at any cost. Harry was undoubtedly clever at his business, and could almost do as he wished in his prosperous days. He was looked upon by the Nobility as one of

the most far-seeing and popular shorthorn breeders in his own county, but being still more ambitious ventured at last a little too far, by attempting to cross the rapids; but his boat was too slightly built to withstand the strong current, and was carried down the river by the stream of Fashion, but fortunately rescued at the last by the strong arm of Experience.

Harry's cousin Jim was not so attractive a youth as himself, so had to be content with a companion naturally not so refined, whose name was Prejudice. Poor Jim had the good fortune not to be carried away by the stream of Fashion, but was sorely beaten upon the rocks by his friend Prejudice, before his eyes were opened by Experience; he too like his cousin was fond of shorthorns, and determined to have the best, but in as much a different way as there were in their characters; he had no desire to build up and throw down, and rebuild again as Harry had done, but when he had once attained the honour of having a good herd, he imagined his work was done, as his friend Prejudice had great influence over him by persuasion that there were few herds equal to his own, and that it required no improvement, but it was rather the judgement of his fellow breeders that was deficient. If he exhibited his cattle without success, the poor judges that distributed the prizes had to be con-

demned for their wrongful distribution. Many years have since then passed away, when an aged friend, known by the name of Experience, called by the way, and bid Prejudice to make a hasty retreat, as the owner of the herd had at last become awake and seen that there were other good herds besides his own, as well as good breeders.

But I must not take up my readers' time any longer respecting Jim and Harry, neither must I omit naming the experiences of their friend Tom as a breeder of shorthorns. As a youth he was naturally slow, and would not be led by Fashion, nor held by Prejudice, but selected "Prudence" as his friend to assist him to persevere in building up a herd of useful shorthorns; he soon found that breeding to please the public was no easy duty to perform, and that it could not be accomplished without time and experience, so he gradually began to build up a herd that would be known by its usefulness in the locality where it was bred; he did not venture to cross the rapids by Fashion, neither did he allow himself to be beaten upon the rocks in being bound to Prejudice, but built up his herd year by year, and step by step, until he had accomplished his object in breeding cattle that would be acceptable both to his pocket and the public. He did not make use of Prejudice as a weapon against Fashion, neither was he bound as a slave to either,



as the two cousins were before they had been taught their bitter lessons by experience. Each young breeder persevered to have the best of herds, but in very different ways,—Harry depending on Fashion alone, Jim prejudiced against Fashion, by thinking he could do without it, Tom not only persevered but annexed Fashion and Prudence to satisfy the demands of the market, both in pedigree and personal appearance, while his two friends, one of which neglected the pedigree by Prejudice, and the other the appearance of the animal by Fashion.

Have we not breeders in the present generation that might be known by the names of Tom, Jim, and Harry, that are prejudiced either for or against fashion, or for their own herds and against others, imagining they have the best of animals and the best of blood, and who are not convinced to the contrary until they have been taught from the book of Experience. The most valuable lessons that the writer has ever been taught was in seeing the deficiency in his own herd by comparing it to those that were superior, that had gradually been built up step by step by men of judgement. Surely I have dwelt sufficiently upon my experiences as well as upon breeders of the past and present. I have spoken of the former from the days of Messrs. Collings up to the year 1880. Respecting what has taken place since that date, I have made but few

observations, either upon shorthorns or breeders, for fear the contents of my work should clash with the history of "The Shorthorn Herds of England," which has recently made its appearance from the publisher's hands; it contains far more general information upon shorthorns than anything I have explained upon these few pages, that are simply written from the experiences gained either by practical observations upon the doings of others, or what the writer has actually had the privilege of doing himself up to middle life. The expressions used in composition are not borrowed from another, neither are they the words of some learned man, written in a fluent language of things that he has seen in different countries, but they are simply words compiled by one who has not had the privilege of learning different languages or seeing different countries, but has had to be content with the education of the village school, beyond what that great master, Experience, has taught him since he left it.

"What a peculiar picture to place in the centre of a book upon shorthorns!" will, I have no doubt, be the exclamation from many a reader at the first sight of the largest drawing that it contains; therefore it is necessary for a few remarks to be made upon them all by the author who designed them, before bringing his history to a close. The first that is placed upon the title page simply contains Exper-

ience (the elder) and his four pupils as named in the introductory chapter; it is unnecessary to point them out individually as the skilful hand of the artist has well defined the expression of their countenances. The companion picture on the opposite page represents five different classes of animals as they are bred by their different style of breeders. The centre piece is a pure bred short-horn, having a combination of the blood of such animals as the experienced, persevering and fashionable breeder would prudently permit. Figure 2, Prudence, her daughter, winner at the Dairy show, is both profitable and highly descended, but passes into the hands of the persevering youth who breeds from her Figure 3, an animal with a table back, and a winner at the Royal, but a loser at the pail in herself and her produce. The owner and breeder of Figure 4 through being prejudiced for years against the blood from the man of experience, has lost substance, constitution and beauty. Figure 5, daughter of Figure 3 is so extremely fashionably bred that her owner deems it not desirable to destroy the purity of her pedigree by admitting the blood admired by Mr. Prudence, therefore the superiority of the animal and pedigree is sacrificed at the shrine of fashion at Smithfield.

The third is an allegory upon every day life, the ten characters it represents are already introduced in the Second Chapter of Part II. According to

the ideas of the designer this drawing has a three-fold meaning, but he does not feel himself bound to give any explanation further than what is relating to shorthorn breeding. Figure 1, Experience (the younger), represents a man gaining knowledge as a breeder by observing the doings of the different characters around him. 2, Spendall, is intended for extreme Fashion in everything, either as a purchaser, breeder or feeder, and even in pedigree. 3, Prejudice, by his countenance has evidently set his face not only against himself, but tries to prevent others being successful in their career. 4, Perseverance, continually climbing onwards and upwards by the aid of Figure 5 his friend Prudence. 6, Thrift, or Enterprise of 1886, one who has risen to his fashionable and profitable position by persevering to avoid prejudice, through prudence and experience. 7, Grumbler, discontented with his success as a breeder, and all others that have surpassed him. 8, Saveall, a perfect miser in all things, not fitted to breed or rear any kind of stock, as through his niggardliness the true shorthorn type would be destroyed. 9, Thrift, or Enterprise of 1846, clever in his day, but too old fashioned to compete with Enterprise of 1886. 10, Whitewash, one who loves self-praise, and promises great things; he perseveres to be a successful breeder, through his friends Saveall, Spendall, Grumbler, and the man out of fashion, by attempting to

travel over the mountain of Ambition to reach the rich valley of Position, but prevented by Experience and Enterprise.

Who could have foretold not more than a couple of years ago that a resident in the old Manor House would so soon not only become a contributor to the press, but a designer for the artist of what he has either done or seen on his journey in life? But who can wonder that his experiences are not the most fashionable when he is dwelling in the midst of so many pieces of ancient workmanship? What building looks more stately than Warwick Castle? How can the writer's mind dwell continually upon shorthorns when he is surrounded by history? Have we not Stoneleigh Abbey, with its beautiful grounds, within a pleasant walk from the old Castle, and is not there the town of Warwick close at hand, admired by lovers of nature for its ancient buildings and picturesque scenery? Have we not Kenilworth Castle surrounded by its warlike ruins within an easy drive from where the author is drawing his conclusive remarks? Are we not in the midst of other places of interest? Does not the river Avon—with its graceful willows—flow silently along close to the dwelling of Shakespeare, where visitors are daily going to and fro, charmed with the idea that they have cast their eyes upon the spot where the great poet once resided? Can

any one be surprised that I muse for a time on the works of art achieved by our ancestors? But my attention must next be given to the Manor House which is not void of interest, in the memory of ancient people who lived there in years gone by, who prized the carved mantle-piece and the old-fashioned grate, who also erected a stone in full view from the window in remembrance of their faithful dog, but the writer's eye is fixed upon something more interesting beyond the iron paling than the remembrance of the past. What can the object be he is so intently gazing upon? It is not the grand architecture of the old castles, neither is it the ancient dwelling of Shakespeare, nor even the peaceful river gliding swiftly along, but it is nothing less than a group of shorthorns grazing in the Park. What scene could be more attractive or what picture more beautiful to a writer upon shorthorns. Is it not a work of art and industry that can give both pleasure and profit provided it is painted in its true colours by the hand of Experience.

The writer must not omit naming that his residence is within a day's march from the town of Fashion, where the occupiers are busily intent upon enjoyment, driving here and there in search of nature's charms amidst the aristocratic seats by which their houses are thickly surrounded, as well as the magnificent Town Hall, the Baths, the

Springs, and the Garden of Pleasure. Not many miles distant stands the town of Prejudice, once so famed for its visitors, but now superseded by the town of Fashion, but many of the inhabitants are still blind enough not to see that they are left behind the times by dependence upon what their town was, fifty years back, and not what she is in the year 1887.

Is there not a lesson to be learned from the two towns, one of which was both fashionable and business-like a century ago, but the other is so today. Are there not old breeders that can be compared to the former, who are still thinking that their herds are the best owing to their superiority in times past, but in reality are now surpassed by herds of the present fashion. Although the writer is deeply in love with old tribes it does not signify that they are always the best animals because they descend from aristocratic parents, or from the herds of enterprising men in years gone by, but which of the old families are the best to day is the question to ask ourselves. Have not many of them deteriorated as animals through the fashion of inbreeding and their owner being against the desirable tincture of new blood; such families have fallen in prices, others have been carelessly bred for generations without Fashion, Prejudice or inbreeding; they too have been reduced in value and I am afraid

as animals are not superior to what they were before the obnoxious admixture was added; yet there are many that have been carefully crossed for ages, without that persistency of the idea that my breeding is superior to thine, and where the owner's head has not been lifted too high to see a good animal behind his neighbour's hedge. To such old tribes the writer would say, cling closely, but Experience adds not by either excessive Fashion or Prejudice, but through Perseverance by prudent selection of sires. Certainly we have passed through a number of years of depression, or, as some may term it, depreciation in the value of shorthorns, yet a true-made, robust-constituted, and highly descended animal will always command a ready customer at a paying price; but some may ask how are this class of animals to be produced? First of all it is desirable to have a genial climate, sheltered against storm and heat, a suitable soil, with a regular supply of water, and preferable if it should pass through the farm by a running stream. This is a sufficient foundation to begin to build upon, but as I have already spoken at some length respecting both the foundation and material, I must not conclude without another word in connection with the builder by asking a question. Did ever an inexperienced builder commence to build a Palace? If he unwisely did so, was it ever completed satisfactorily by his own hand? There is

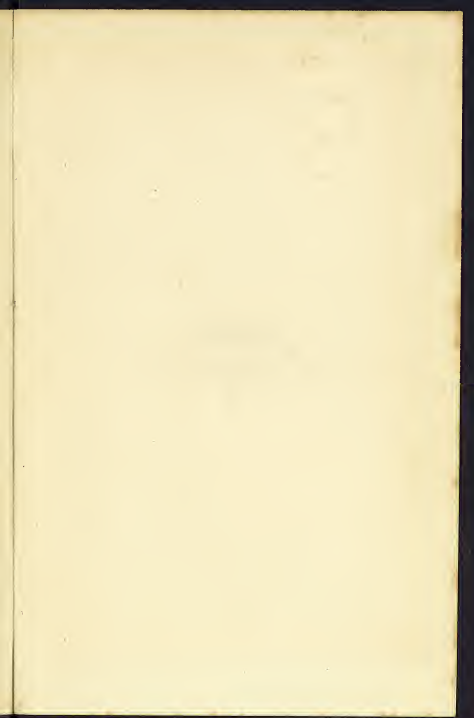


but one answer that can be given either for him or any other inexperienced man of business or profession. How then is it possible for an extensive herd of shorthorns even with a good foundation laid, and costly material, to be built up by an inexperienced owner. Such an important work can only be accomplished step by step, as the builder adds stone to stone to reach the utmost extremity in the completion of a tower. In like manner the successful shorthorn breeder begins to build up his herd from the foundation, studying day by day, and year by year the best course to pursue until he has accomplished his work of art, wrought out only by time and experience.

The author of "Shorthorn Experiences" does not lay down his pen without knowing that his remarks are not the most fashionably expressed, but he trusts they are practicable, and free from prejudice. He has endeavoured by perseverance to bring out his book upon his experiences in as interesting and instructive a manner as possible, but leaves it entirely in the hands of his readers to decide whether his remarks are made with prudence.

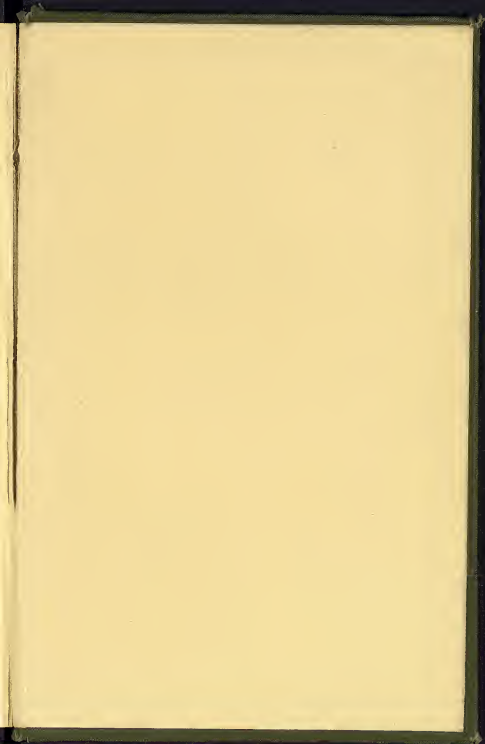
Perseverance moves onward up the hill,  
Prudence assists with all good-will,  
Fashion boasts he holds the sway,  
Experience steps in and says him nay,  
But Prejudice still remains behind,  
Years have roll'd on since he left my mind.

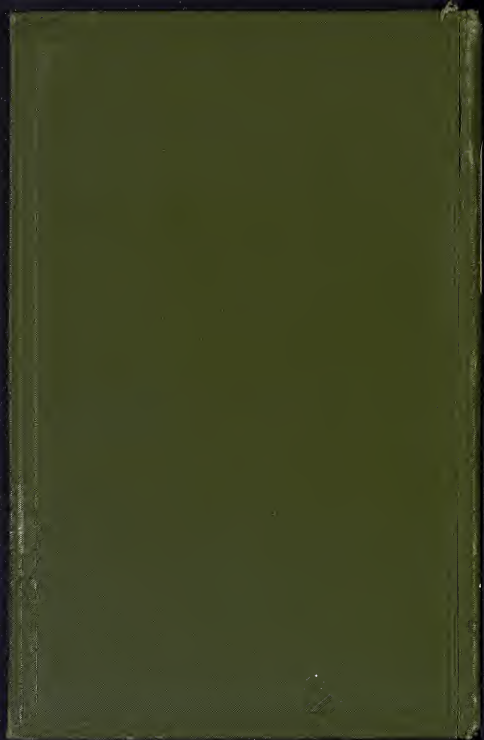




UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON  
THE LIBRARY

*This book is to be returned to the Library on or before the  
last date stamped below*



Perkins

S556

199

SF

Short Notes  
W. A. H. Bennett