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BRITISH HUSBANDRY.

Lord Sommerville's Prize Cattle.

On Monday this shew commenced, under very favorable circumstances. The following may serve to afford a correct description of the general quality of the prizes offered, and the circumstances under which they were to be determined.

I. For pairs of oxen, that have worked together for the space of three years, previous to their being turned up to grass, aged between 5 and 8 years, weighing between 100, 180 stone (of 8lb.) which have worked till some period between the 25th of April and 1st of May last; the state of the oxen as to flesh, on the 1st of January, 1803, and of the number of day's work done by each, between that time and the 25th of April last, to be certified by proper witnesses of the facts; also, that the oxen have eaten no corn of any sort, or potatoes, and that the straw they used was first clean thrashed; the exact weight of oil-cake it any was eaten, is to be stated. The prizes are, for the best pair, thirty pounds, and for the next best pair twenty pounds, to be equally divided between the grazier and farmer who worked them, in case there were different persons. Among the number for these prizes, we noticed two Devon oxen, worked by Mr. Lowman, and fed by Mr. Webber; two Hereford oxen, worked by Mr. Knight and Mr. Skyrme, (owing to one of the original pair having died,) and fed by Mr. Westcar; two Herefordshire oxen and two Glamorganshire oxen, all worked and fed upon his Majesty's Flemish or Cranbourn farm, in Windsor Great Park; two Glamorgan oxen, worked and fed by Mr. Waters; two Sussex oxen, worked and fed by Sir Thomas Carr; two Hereford oxen, worked and fed by Mr. Hudson; two Devons, worked by Lord Somerville, and fed by Mr. King; two short horn oxen, worked by Mr. Harper, and fed by Mr. Higgins; two Herefords, worked by Mr. Smith, and fed by Mr. Drake; a Sussex ox, and a Freemartin, or barrow cow (twins) worked and fed by the Earl of Egremont, &c. The successful pairs of oxen are to be slaughtered on Friday evening next, not knocked down by the repeated strokes of the pole axe, but by the more humane mode of pricking them in the spiral marrow behind the head.

II. For sheep in pens, of five ewes, each, not in lamb, in a fine store state, that have not been taken from the flock more than ten days, before the commencement of their journey to town, or forced beyond the average keep of the flock; the ages of the ewes to be not less than 10, or more than 13 months; the keep and ages to be particularly certified; a prize of 30 pounds to the breeder of the best pen, also for pens of five fat wether sheep of any short wooled breed, with or without horns, four or six toothed; the exact age, duration of work in the fold, period of fatting, and quality of food to be certified; a prize of 20 pounds to the breeder of the best pen. Among the candidates for these prizes were five ewe hogs, of the Merino and Ryland breed, 12 months old, bred and belonging to Lord Somerville; five South Down ewes, eleven months old, bred by Sir Thomas Carr; 5 South Down ewes, 12 months old, bred by Mr. Coke; five South Down ewes, 12 months old, bred by Mr. Hill; 5 South Down ewes, 10 months old, bred by Mr. Westerne; five South Down ewes, eleven months old, bred on his Grace of Bedford's Maulden Farm; five South Down ewes, 11 months old, bred on his Grace of Bedford's Woburn Farm; five Dorset ewes, 13 months old, bred by Mr. Bridge, &c. Also five South Down wethers, 4 toothed, 24 months old, bred by Mr. Ellman, and fed by Mr. King, jun. 5 South Down wethers, 4 toothed, 35 months old, bred by Sir Thomas Carr, &c.

III. For the best fat pig of any age or breed, a premium and a piece of plate. The candidates here were Mr. M. Duckitt's white sow, two years and a quarter old; Mr. Whittle's large pig; Mr. Wakefield's two small pigs; Mr. Pickford's two large fat pigs; Mr. Smith's pigs, 5 months old; Mr. Hudson's two small pigs; Sir Thomas Carr's black pig; Mr. Clayton's fat pig, &c.

Besides the candidates for prizes, Mr. Ellman shewed a very fine Sussex cow; Mr. Coke, two South Down sheep, 3-shears, and a new Leicester three-shear-sheep; the Duke of Bedford also shewed a South Down sheep; Lord Somerville a fine ewe, of the Merino and South Down breed; and Mr. Wakefield, a stallion and mare of the Suffolk breed, very fine made handsome animals.

Sir John Honeywood, Mr. Ashley, Mr. Carlton, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. Garment, were appointed the five judges.

The exhibition continued yesterday to attract great numbers of persons of distinction, and of farmers, graziers, butchers, &c.

In addition to the articles shewn on Monday, Mr. Bridge shewed samples of Mr. Patterson's improved Poland oats, of his remarkably fine oat, called the potatoe oat; also of a white tare, that is coming into use. Mr. Dugale exhibited a straw cutter, whose constant motion of the straw renders it inferior to many which are in use, where the straw remains at rest during the cut. Mr. Plowman exhibited the model of a portable fold for sheep, in which by means of small wheels, a whole side can be moved, or even the whole fold shoved upon fresh ground, daily, without taking it to pieces; it was stated, that Mr. Plowman, of Broom, in Suffolk, has had the fold from which the model was taken, for more than two years in use; it appears also, that a slight alteration in the construction of this useful fold, and making it stronger and heavier, would enable the farmer to pen hogs upon his clover, tares, or other green crops, which is a great desideratum in agriculture.

About 6 o'clock, near 250 persons sat down to a most elegant dinner, provided by the liberality of Lord Somerville, at Freemason's tavern, which, with the wines, did great credit to the host. Lord Somerville was in the chair, supported by the Duke of Bedford; Earl Darnley, Earl of Macclesfield, Lord Sheffield, and a most numerous circle of the nobility and gentry, who patronize and practice agriculture. As soon as the cloth was drawn, his lordship gave, "The King, long life to him and thanks for the honor he has always done us, in sending cattle to our shew."

Which was drank with the most enthusiastic applause.

The nine elegant silver cups intended to be presented were then placed upon the table before his lordship, who, after several toasts, entered on the business of the evening by stating, that it was his intention to continue the shew and premiums as heretofore, with some few alterations expressed in the bills.

His Lordship then proceeded to read the award of the judges, and calling up Mr. H. King, jun. stated to him that the first prize was adjudged to his South Down oxen, which had been worked by himself (Lord Somerville) and desiring him to make his election, either of 15*l.* in money as feeder, or of the third or fourth cup standing before him, he preferred a cup, and bore it off to his seat, amidst the plaudits of the company.

Mr. Webber was next called up, and informed that the second prize was adjudged to his Devon oxen, and he immediately chose a cup instead of 10l. as the feeder.

A friend of Mrs. Lowman was then desired to chuse for her either a cup, or 10l. as the worker of these oxen, and he chose the cup.

His Lordship then called up Mr. Hudson, sen. and stated to him, that the judges thought one of his oxen the very best carcase, and its partner having been ill in December last, when it was viewed, the extra cup was, therefore assigned to him, which was loudly and repeatedly applauded by the company. His lordship, by way of respite, gave "Good Grazing," and, resuming, stated that the judges had awarded the first prize for sheep to Mr. Coke, of Norfolk, for his five South Down ewes; adding that the wool staplers consulted, having stated the value of the Marino and Ryland wool of Lord Somerville's lambs to be worth 3s. 2d. per pound, and the wool of these South Down lambs of Mr. Coke's to be worth 2s. per pound, the same had a great influence on their decision.

Mr. Coke's salesman, Mr. Payne, being called up, preferred for his valuable employer, the handsome and elegant cup set before him, to the 30l. offered in last year's proposal.

His lordship proceeded to inform Sir Thomas Carr, that the second prize was adjudged to his five South Down ewes, and Sir Thomas preferred and received a handsome cup instead of 20l.

His lordship then gave, "Earl Winchelsea"—after which "The Fleece."

And proceeding with the premiums, called up Mr. Mark Duckett, and informed him, that the prize for pigs was assigned to his white sow and presented him with a cup.

His lordship then called on Mr. Frost, his majesty's bailiff, and presented him with a cup, stated his high sense of the exertions he had used on so poor & newly cultivated a soil as the Cranbourn Farm, to bring his Majesty's oxen forward.

Mr. Bridge was then presented with the remaining cup, with an acknowledgement from his lordship of the great expence, on account of the distance, at which he had bro't his five Dorset lambs to the show.

His grace of Bedford then rose and proposed the health of lord Somerville, which was received with great plaudits, and drank with three times three; after which his lordship returned thanks in a neat and short speech.

The chairman having desired John Holland, the Duke of Bedford's shepherd to be called into the room, stated to the company that he had been induced, by the advice of Mr. Smith and Ellman to offer premiums to the shepherds who should raise the greatest number of lambs in a year, in proportion to the ewes of different ages in their flocks, and desired Holland to inform as many as possible of his brother shepherds, that three guineas would be given next year for the most lambs raised as above, and 2 guineas for the next greatest number. The company expressed their high approbation of this encouragement to the preservation of lambs.

Earl Macclesfield then rose and proposed the health of that great patron of Agriculture,

The Duke of Bedford.

His grace returned his thanks and professing his determination to persevere in this great national object, drank

The health of the company.

His lordship than gave,

Sir Joseph Banks.

And lamented his absence on account of ill health. Then followed,

Improved husbandry and increasing commerce, and long may they be inseparable.

Lord Somerville then spoke in commendation of a remedy for scowering of cattle, discovered by Mr. Bellamy of Bath.—The proposals for his grace of Bedford's sheep shearing and shew of cattle, at Woburn, on the 18th to the 21st of June next were circulated, and the evening was spent with the most lively sense of the patriotic efforts of lord Somerville for the promotion of agriculture.

A letter on the supposed Fortifications of the Western country, from bishop Madison of Virginia to Dr. Barton, from the American Philosophical transactions.

Concluded.

2dly. Because, near to these imaginary fortifications and I think I may say near to every one, which is formed upon the plan first mentioned, in a direct line with the gateway, you will find a mound, of an easy ascent, and from 10 to 20 feet in height. These mounds effectually command the whole enclosure There is not a missil weapon, which would not, from the height and distance of the mound, fall within the fortification; nor would they fall in vain. But to rear a fortification, and then build a castle or mound without, at the distance of 40 or 50 yards, which would give to an enemy the entire command of such a fortification, would be as little recommended by an Esquimaux as by a Bonaparte. The truth is, no such blunder has been committed; there is no such discordancy of means to be here found. On the contrary, we may trace a perfect harmony of parts. Those mounds are universally cemeteries. Wherever they have been opened, we find human bones and Indian relics. They have grown up gradually, as death robbed a family of its relatives, or a tribe of its warriors. Alternate strata of bones and earth, mingled with stones and Indian relics, establish this position. And hence it is, that we find near the summit of those mounds articles of European manufacture, such as the tomahawk and knife; but never are they seen at any depth in the mound. Besides, it is well known, that among many of the Indian tribes, the bones of the deceased are annually collected and deposited in one place; that funeral rites are then solemnized with the warmest expressions of love and friendship; and that this untutored race urged by the feelings of nature, consign to the bosom of the earth along with the remains of their deceased relatives and friends, food, weapons of war and often those articles which they possessed and most highly valued, when alive. This custom has reared beyond doubt those numerous mounds. Thus instead of having any relation to military arrangements, or involving the absurdity before mentioned, they furnish on the contrary, strong evidence, that the enclosures themselves were not destined for defensive works: because, reared as these mounds have been by small but successive annual increments, they plainly evince that the enclosures, which are to near to them, have been, not the temporary stations of a retiring or weakened army, but the fixed habitation of a family, and a long line of descendants.

That these mounds or repositories of the dead, sometimes also called barrows, were formed by deposition of bones and earth, at different periods, is now rendered certain by the perfect examination to which one of them, situated on the Rivanna, was subjected by the author of the Notes on Virginia. His penetrating genius seldom touches a subject without throwing upon it new light; upon this he has shewn all that can be desired. The manner in which the barrow was opened, afforded an opportunity of viewing its interior with accuracy.—"Appearances, says he, certainly indicate that it has derived both origin and growth from the accustomary collection of bones and deposition of them together; that the first collection had been deposited on the common surface of the earth, a few stones put over it and then a covering of earth; that the second had been laid on this, had covered more or less of it in proportion to the number of bones, and was then also covered with earth, and so on. The following are the particular circumstances which give it this aspect. 1. The number of bones. 2. Their confused position. 3. Their being in different strata. 4. The strata in one part having no correspondence with those in another. 5. The different states of decay in these strata, which seem to indicate a difference in the time of inhumation. 6. The existence of infant bones among them." p. 178. First Paris ed. The number of bones in this barrow or mound, which was only 40 feet in diameter at the base, and above 12 in height, authorized the conjecture that it contained a thousand skeletons. Now, as all those numerous mounds or barrows have the most obvious similarity, we may conclude, that what is true of one of them, ceteris paribus, is applicable to all. The only difference consists in their dimensions. I visited one, situated on the low grounds of the Kanhawa, which might be almost called the pyramid of the west. Its base measured 140 yards in circumference; its altitude is very nearly 40 feet. It resembles a truncated cone; upon the top there is a level of 12 or 13 feet in diameter. A tall oak, of two feet and a half in diameter, which had grown on the top, and had long looked down upon the humbler forresters below, had experienced a revolutionary breeze, which swept it from its majestic station, apparently, above 6 or 7 years before my visit. Within a few miles of this, stands another, which is said to be higher. No marks of excavation, near the mound, are to be seen. On the contrary, it is probable, from the examination which was made, that the earth composing the mound was brought from some distance; it is also highly probable, that this was done at different periods, for we cannot believe, that savages would submit to the patient exertion of labor requisite to accomplish such a work, at any one undertaking. Near to this large one are several upon much a smaller scale. But, if that upon the Rivanna, which was so accurately examined, contained the bones of a thousand persons, this upon the Kanhawa would contain forty times that number, estimating their capacities as cones. But who will believe, that war has ever been glutted with so many Indian victims by any one battle? The probability seems to be, that those mounds, formed upon so large a scale, were national burying places; especially as they are not connected with any particular enclosure; whilst those upon a smaller scale, and which are immediately connected with such a work, were the repositories of those, who had there once enjoyed a fixed habitation. But whether this conjecture be admitted or not, the inference, from what has been said under this head, that those enclosures could not be designed as fortifications, will, I think, be obvious to every one.

3dly. Because those supposed fortifications, not unfrequently lie at the very bottom of a hill, from which stones might be rolled in thousands into every part of them, to the no small annoyance, we may readily conceive, of the besieged.

4thly. Because, in those works which are remote from a river, or creek, you find no certain indications of a well; and yet that water is a very necessary article to a besieged army, will be acknowledged on all hands.

5thly. Because those works are so numerous, that, supposing them to be fortifications, we must believe every inch of that very extensive country in which they are found had been most valiently and obstinately disputed. For, upon the Kanhawa, to the extent of 80 or an 100 miles, and also upon many of the rivers which empty their waters into it, there is scarcely a square mile in which you will not meet with several. Indeed they are as thick, and as irregularly dispersed, as you have seen the habitations of farmers, or planters, in a rich and well settled country, but, notwithstanding their frequency, you no where see such advantageous positions selected, as the nature of the ground, and other circumstances would immediately have recommended to the rudest engineer, either for the purpose of opposing inroads, or of giving protection to an army which was too weak to withstand an invading enemy. The union of Elk and Kanhawa rivers affords a point of defence which could not have escaped the attention of any people; and yet we find no fortification at this place, but many dispersed through the low grounds in its vicinity.

I could add many other reasons: I might observe that some are upon so small a scale, whilst others are upon one so large, as equally to oppose the idea of their being places of defence. If one of 40 or 50 yards, in diameter should be deemed too small for a defensive work, what shall we say to that whose outline embraces 50, or even an 100 acres? What tribe of Indians could furnish men sufficient to defend such a breast work in all its points? But I believe the reasons assigned, when collectively taken, will be deemed conclusive; or, as abundantly establishing a perfect conviction, that these western enclosures were not designed for fortifications. This was my object. What was the real design of them may be left to future enquiry. It is true, that we want here a compass to guide us, and are left to find our way through this night of time, in the best manner we can. I have already said, that those enclosures carried along with them strong evidence of their being fixed habitations. If so, then they were designed merely as lines of demarkation, shewing the particular spot, or portion of ground, which a family wished to appropriate; and indeed, they may be considered as exemplars of the manner in which land limits would be ascertained, previous to that period, when geometry begins to point out a mode more worthy of intelligent beings. This rude mode might, in a sequel of years, have introduced a geometry among the Aborigines of America. Though they had not a Nile to obliterate land marks, still the desire of saving labor would produce in one case, what anxiety to preserve property did in the other. If the same mode has not been continued, it has arisen from the means, which European or American art has supplied, of accomplishing the same end with much more facility.

The people inhabiting this country must have been numerous. The frequency of their burying places is a proof. The traveller finds them in every direction, and often, many in every mile. Under a mild climate, a people will always multiply in proportion to the quantity of food, which they can procure. Here, the waters contain fish in considerable abundance, some weighing not less than 60 or 80 pounds. Not far distant are those extensive and fertile plains, which were crowded with wild animals. The mildness of the climate is also remarkable. It appears to equal that of Richmond or Williamsburg; though the huge range of mountains which attend the Alleghany have not yet disappeared, and though the latitude of the place where Elk and Kanhawa rivers meet, according to an observation which made with an imperfect instrument, is 38° 2 min. All these circumstances were highly favorable to population; and also to permanent residence. Another circumstance, the face of the country, or locality, would serve to prevent this increase of population from diffusing itself on every side, and consequently would condense a tribe; for the Kanhawa and its tributary streams are hemmed in by high and craggy hills, often approaching to mountains and beyond which, to a considerable extent, the country in general is fit only for the habitation of wild beasts.

It is true, that on the N. W. side of the Ohio, there are works, which seem