

443
HISTORY

OF THE

CLYDESDALE HORSE.

GLASGOW: WILLIAM LOVE.

1884.

2-H-6

HISTORY

OF THE

CLYDESDALE HORSE.



GLASGOW: WILLIAM LOVE.

1884.

100013
JAN 29 1948

RTKW
H 62

SF
293
C65
H5

PREFACE.

ASN 0490

IN the following pages will be found the articles, reports, and correspondence which have appeared from time to time in the public press, during the last decade, on the important question of the improvement of the breed of horses of the Clydesdale type.

The Introductory matter, which is taken from the *Dumfries and Galloway Courier*, first appeared in the month of July, 1866. It gives forth the ideas of an advanced breeder (whoever he may be) of that most useful type of horse. The remainder of the volume has been culled from the public press.

It contains all that can be called interesting or instructive of the many things which have been spoken and written on the subject. Some of the letters, moreover, particularly those of "Farmer Wiseman," are very amusing. They have been collected, and are now given to the public in the form of a handy volume. They thrash out a subject deeply interesting to the agriculturist, and it is to be hoped that, if its perusal do not instruct or amuse, it will at least give offence to none.

CONTENTS.

| | PAGE. |
|---|--------|
| INTRODUCTORY, | vii |
| Agricultural Exhibitions, by a Correspondent of <i>Glasgow Herald</i> , ... | i |
| The Clydesdale Stud-Book, correspondence between Mr. Lawrence Drew, Merryton Home Farm, and Mr. Thomas Dykes, Secy., Clydesdale Horse Society, | 7-25 |
| Clydesdale Breeding and the Stud-Book, letter from "Ignoramus" to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 26 |
| The Clydesdale Stud-Book Controversy, a reply to Mr. L. Drew, by Mr. T. Dykes, | 27 |
| Clydesdale Horses, by D. M'Eachran, F.R.C.V.S., from <i>Illustrated Journal of Agriculture</i> , Montreal, Canada, | 29 |
| The Clydesdale Stud-Book, letter from "Farmer" to <i>Glasgow Herald</i> , | 35 |
| " " " "Observer" " | 38 |
| " " " "Farmer" " | 39 |
| The Clydesdale Stud-Book, letter from Archd. M'Neilage, Jun., Secretary, Clydesdale Horse Society, to <i>Glasgow Herald</i> , ... | 4 |
| Clydesdale Horses, letters from "Roderick Dhu," to <i>Ayr Observer</i> , | 43, 54 |
| The Clydesdale Breed, letter from A. A. Macfarlane, M.R.C.V.S., &c., to <i>Greenock Advertiser</i> , | 48 |
| Clydesdale Horse Breeding and the Stud-Book, from <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | |
| The Breeding of High-class Clydesdale Horses, from <i>Dunfermline Saturday Press</i> , | 57 |
| The Breeding of High-class Clydesdale Horses, letters from Mr. Jas. Drummond, Jun., to <i>Dunfermline Saturday Press</i> , ... | 59, 64 |
| Breeding of Clydesdale Horses, letters from "St. Andrew" to <i>Dunfermline Saturday Press</i> , | 61, 68 |
| The Clydesdale Horse Question, letters from an American Importer to <i>Dunfermline Saturday Press</i> , | 72, 76 |
| The Clydesdale Horse Question, letter from Mr. Archd. M'Neilage, Jun., Secy., Clydesdale Horse Society, to <i>Dunfermline S.P.</i> , ... | 74 |
| Clydesdales and English Horses, from <i>N.B. Agriculturist</i> , ... | 80, 81 |

| | PAGE. |
|---|------------------|
| Clydesdales and English Cart-Horses, letters from Mr. H. Chandos Pole-Gell, Hopton Hall, Wirksworth, to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 85, 95, 116, 126 |
| Clydesdales and English Cart-Horses, letters from Mr. J. M. Martin, Dumbartonshire, to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 88, 110 |
| The Clydesdale Horse Question, letter from "A. S." to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 93 |
| The Clydesdale Horse Question, letter from "An American Importer" to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 98 |
| Clydesdales and English Horses, letters from Mr. Geo. Rodger to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 101, 125 |
| Clydesdales and English Horses, letter from Mr. J. Green to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 105 |
| Mr. Pole-Gell's Proposed Amalgamation, letter from "A Shire-Horse Breeder" to <i>The Live Stock Journal</i> , | 107 |
| Clydesdale and English Shire Horses, letter from "Gleniffer" to <i>The Live Stock Journal</i> , | 109 |
| Clydesdale and English Horses, letter from "A. S." to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 114 |
| The Clydesdale Horse Question, letter from "S. A." to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 116 |
| Clydesdale and English Horses, letter from "A Lanarkshire Clydesdale Breeder" to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 122 |
| Clydesdale and English Horses, letter from "Pedigree" to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 124 |
| Clydesdale <i>versus</i> Shire Horses, letter from Mr. Wm. Clark to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 129 |
| Produce of "Lincolnshire Lad", | 131 |
| "A Genuine Clydesdale," from <i>Agricultural Gazette</i> , | 132 |
| Horse Breeding in England, | 133 |
| Meeting of Glasgow Agricultural Society, from <i>Glasgow Herald</i> , | 134 |
| The Proposed Stud-Book Amalgamation, letter from Mr. T. Dykes to <i>The Live Stock Journal</i> , | 138 |
| The Clydesdale <i>versus</i> The Shire Horse, letter from Mr. Archd. M'Neillage, Jun., Secretary, Clydesdale Horse Society, to the <i>Glasgow Herald</i> , | 144 |
| The Merryton Clydesdales, from <i>Glasgow Herald</i> , | 148 |
| The Clydesdale <i>versus</i> The Shire Horse, from <i>Glasgow Herald</i> , | 150 |
| Clydesdale <i>v.</i> Shire Horse, letter from Mr. T. Dykes to <i>Glasgow Herald</i> , | 152 |

| | PAGE. |
|--|----------|
| The Clydesdale Stud-Book, letter from "An American Importer" to <i>Dunfermline Press</i> , | 156 |
| The Clydesdale Stud-Book, letter from "Farmer Wiseman" to <i>Dunfermline Press</i> , | 158 |
| The Clydesdale Horse Society at York, letter from "Farmer Wiseman" to <i>Dunfermline Press</i> , | 160 |
| The Clydesdale Stud-Book, letter from Mr. Archd. M'Neilage, Jun., to <i>Hamilton Advertiser</i> , | 164 |
| The Clydesdale Stud-Book, letter from "Outsider" to <i>Hamilton Advertiser</i> , | 166 |
| REPORTS OF EXHIBITIONS, etc.— | |
| General Meeting of the Glasgow Agricultural Society, | 169 |
| Pedigree <i>versus</i> Non-Pedigree, extract of letter from "Blackwood" to <i>North British Agriculturist</i> , | 177 |
| Bristol Show, from <i>Mark Lane Express</i> , | 179 |
| Highland and Agricultural Society's Show at Stirling, | 181 |
| " " " at Glasgow, | 182 |
| " " " at Inverness, | 185, 188 |
| The Highland Society and Clydesdales, | 189 |
| Disgusted Exhibitors, from <i>The Live Stock Journal</i> , | 191 |
| Glasgow Stallion Show, 1884, | 193 |
| Pedigree of "Queen" and "Prince of Avondale," | 204, 205 |
| Auction Sales, | 206 |



INTRODUCTORY.

IT appears to me that there is no branch of agriculture more interesting, or of which a more extensive and thorough knowledge would do more for the benefit of the farmer and agriculturist, than that part of it which belongs to the breeding and improving of that important animal, the draught horse. Nevertheless, it is amazing to hear and see the great amount of ignorance that prevails about the origin and national character of the different kinds of breeds of these most useful animals, by farmers—those who should have the greatest interest in the subject.

The first kind of breed that we shall notice is the much esteemed Clydesdale. Perhaps it may not be generally known that this celebrated breed of horses have for their progenitor the Flemish horse, which was brought over here from Flanders by one of the Dukes of Hamilton, and on his estates in Clydesdale serving the then small native mares. Thus we have the foundation for the superiority of Clydesdale stock produced by the crossing of these different breeds, which stock soon became common to the whole district, and gave to this breed its celebrated name of Clydesdale, thus showing that this breed is not indigenous to the vale of Clydesdale. And, to all who observe passing events with attention, it would not be too much to say that the present breed they have in Clydesdale would be again much regenerated by some other new, or more of the Flemish, blood

being brought into the district, as there has been far too much breeding within too close degrees of consanguinity, or, as it is technically termed, breeding in and in, amongst them in that district.

This mode of proceeding on the part of the breeders is decidedly pernicious, and has had a great tendency to create and increase hereditary disease amongst the animals, which is by far too much the case with them. Of this so-called Clydesdale breed, power, more than beauty, is the prevailing characteristic. They have often large heads, ill-defined jaws, and round, sour-looking muzzles. They are somewhat flat in their sides, and plain and low in their quarters. The neck is long, and so are the legs, and flat in their feet ; but the barrel is light. The temper is tractable and docile, and they are useful animals for the plough and the cart ; but they eat a large amount of food, and are not by any means the cheapest kind of horses for the farmer,—and the most of our Scottish farmers, who have paid attention to this subject, confess that their horse-keep exceeds that of their brethren in England, unwilling as they are to admit of any superiority over them in matters of this kind.

The next breed that comes under our notice is the English draught horse, said to be first imported into that country by the Saxons ; and, subsequently, gradually improved in size and power by crossing with the Flemish horses introduced by the followers of William of Normandy. It is recorded of King John that he imported one hundred choice stallions from Flanders, which, at that time, must have been an important step in the way of improvement, and eminently calculated to raise the agricultural horses to a standard of power and vigour for field labour and for draught then before unknown.

Edward II in his reign gave a commission for twenty war

horses, and twelve draught stallions, to be purchased in Lombardy; requiring all his loving subjects to assist in carrying the commission into effect, which bears strong testimony to his zeal for their improvement. Henry VIII enacted a law that every brood mare should be at least fourteen hands high; and prohibited all parties from breeding with inferior descriptions of horses, or with diseased and infected ones, which raised the general character of the horses in the country, and brought in a race of large and serviceable animals. Other Acts of Parliament were passed by the English Government, all with an evident view to the attainment of a large and powerful breed. For example, every Archbishop and Duke was obliged, under heavy penalties, to keep seven entire horses, each above three years old, and not less than fourteen hands high. The plain reason for enjoining entire horses to be so kept was for the promotion of breeding and improving the stock of horses; and, with a consideration that was worthy of a king, the rich and noble were alone compelled to keep stallions, because of their keep being so much more expensive, while the other classes might keep such mares and geldings as they thought proper.

No man who has the improvement of that noble animal, the horse, at heart, can doubt but that these prohibitions and regulations are as sound as they are politic. The English cart horse, as bred chiefly in the Midland counties—Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire—is a powerful animal. The whole form is so constructed as to possess great power; and the gentle, willing, obedient nature of the animal renders him one of the most valuable slaves of man. His head is finely formed; his neck a little arched; the shoulder thick; the breast very deep, broad, and capacious; the shoulders but slightly

slanting ; the legs, especially the fore ones, very muscular ; broad hocks ; broad short back, with great rotundity of form and well ribbed home ; short fetlocks and round hoofs complete the picture of one of the most noble and massive animals, combining with amazing strength the gentleness and docility of a pet. One of these fine animals, bred in Northamptonshire, appropriately styled the Mammoth horse, was twenty hands (six feet eight inches) at the withers ; his weight twenty-five cwt. (a ton and a quarter). This horse was not clumsy, but on the contrary, he was a grand, graceful, and noble-looking creature, quite free from vice, and as playful as a lamb. He is said to have been produced by a cross between the English and Flanders stock.

Of these two breeds we derive this fact from their history, that the origin of the Clydesdale and the English cart horse is substantially from the same root on the male side, viz., the Flemish stallion, with this difference, that the present breed of English draught horse has had far more attention paid to his improvement by the frequent introduction of new and fresh blood from different sources, and that greater care has been taken to guard against the introduction and spread of all diseases that have a hereditary tendency ; and it surely will not be disputed by any one acquainted with the subject, that the original native English mare was equal, if not superior, to the original small breed in the vale of Clyde previous to the introduction of the Flemish stallion into that district.

I may be allowed a few words on the points and qualifications of a good horse for breeding. A sound constitution stands at the head of the list. He should possess this quality not only himself, but all his progenitors ; and likewise a wide chest as a first desideratum, and as being the most strictly indicative of this peculiarity,—not only wide in

the front, however, but continuing the width behind the forearms, further indicated by fulness behind the elbows. A masculine appearance is also another of the indications of constitutional power. Large well-developed muscles are also an indispensable quality. He must have muscular forearms, strong flat legs, broad hocks, elbows not too close to the chest, deep and broad chest, straight short back, round ribs and ribbed home, with a round body and broad loins, long quarters, full and muscular; the neck rather thick and a little arched; and the tail set on in a line with the back; head not too acute, with good broad hoofs. And as polygamy is the rule that is followed in the breeding of horses, the stallion has by far the greatest influence on the horses of a country; therefore it is within the power of breeders, by a judicious selection, to ensure a good offspring with few exceptions. Few things are more certain than horse-breeding, for the rule (like produces like) in most cases holds good from generation to generation, and nothing is so unsatisfactory, or so likely to turn out an unprofitable speculation, as breeding with a stallion affected with hereditary disease, such as roaring, spavin, in all its multifarious forms, boggy hocks, with their distressing and weakening effect on that important part, thoroughpin, ringbone, side bones, splints, shivering or diseased nerves, with their deteriorating consequences, and many others which the horse is peculiarly liable to; and there is scarcely a malady to which the horse is subject that is not hereditary, and increases with every new generation, slowly but surely, in their virulence, until the progeny becomes utterly useless. Therefore the first symptom of any kind of disease of that nature should be enough to condemn the stallion as a breeding horse with all who wish to maintain and improve the breed of our much prized horses.

Having endeavoured to draw an outline of the rise and progress of the Scotch and English draught horse, I leave the reader to draw from what has been written his own conclusions. But there is another very important argument in favour of the great benefit which arises to the farmer from crossing his breeding mares with a stallion of pure blood, which the following facts go far to establish : that at all the shows of horses that have taken place around Glasgow this year—at Kilbride, which is open to all Scotland; at Bishopbriggs and at Kirkintilloch, where in these districts the very cream of the Clydesdale is said to be bred—that at every one of these shows the first prize year-old is the foal of a real English stallion horse, direct from Cambridgeshire; and in several instances one hundred pounds sterling has been offered for year-old colts and fillies of his stock, bred in the famed district of Clydesdale, and been refused by their owners, which speaks volumes in favour of the English breed for crossing with; and I am not aware of it, if such be on record, that any of the Glasgow Clydesdale prize stallions have produced stock, of the same age, for which any such sums of money were offered.



CLYDESDALE HORSES.

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

BY A CORRESPONDENT OF THE *Glasgow Herald*, December 25, 1875.

NO ordinary interest is taken now-a-days in the rearing and exhibition of live stock—by the breeder, in particular, as a source of profit, and by the public in general, as a source of information or pleasure. The increased demand for certain classes of horses and cattle both for home use and exportation, and the consequently high prices they command, have given a powerful impetus to their production, and occupied the attention of not a few intelligent gentlemen, either practically engaged in agriculture or interested in its progress and development; while the question formed a subject of consideration to our legislators during the past session, mainly from the circumstance that, although the supply of agricultural horses had been largely increased, it was still far short of the demand, this state of matters resulting to some extent from the exportation of many valuable animals to Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and

other foreign parts, where the best English and Scotch breeds of horses and cattle are well known and highly appreciated. Indeed, the fame of the shorthorn of England, and the Ayrshire of the Lowlands of Scotland, as well as of the Clydesdale horse, is as wide-spread as that of the British lion itself. The question of our horse supply, examined from an economic point of view, is, no doubt, of considerable importance, but we can see nothing in it to justify legislative interference with the free course of trade, for an increased demand, come from what quarter it may, will inevitably be met by an increased supply; and thus we find from the latest authoritative statistics that the stock of agricultural horses in Great Britain was increased in 1874 by no fewer than 35,295 over the previous year. With the producer the question of profit will form, as it ought, the basis of his calculations; and it is consequently of importance that he should decide correctly on the class of stock for which the climate and soil of his district are best adapted, and whether he will find a ready market for his produce. A correct conclusion on these heads can be arrived at only from practical experience and mature consideration, and instances are not rare of loss and disappointment resulting from ignorance, or want of due attention to these essential elements of success.

It is an established fact that the agricultural resources of a country constitute the foundation of its wealth, and the proprietor who reclaims his waste land and renders it capable of carrying crop or an increased stock of cattle, is deserving of commendation, while the tenant who cultivates his farm with skill, and increases its productive power, is entitled to encouragement. It unfortunately happens, however, that in many instances the farmer labours under serious drawbacks from circumstances connected with the nature of his tenure, as well as from considerations more immediately dependent

upon the personal relation to the proprietor ; but these it is not our object at present to discuss.

Among the appliances organised ostensibly for the improvement of farming may be noticed agricultural societies. From the constitution of not a few of them, however, and the manner in which they are conducted, it appears that the directors imagine it their mission to draw upon the good nature of the farmer, by persuading him that it is for his interest to entrust them with valuable stock, and take the burden of transit, attendance, and risk upon his shoulders, that they may offer an attraction to the public at so much per head, and have a "successful" show, with the usual gastronomic addendum and mutual congratulations that a handsome surplus has been added to the funds of the society ; but no mention is made of the fact that the exhibitors, whether successful or not, have suffered pecuniary loss. The honour of gaining a prize may be considered by some an important advantage in a business point of view, but how few can possibly attain that position, and how often does it happen that judges make mistakes, and put the right beast in the wrong place. The Highland and Agricultural Society, for example, has accumulated, we believe, a fund of about £70,000, and added to it several thousand pounds from the last Glasgow exhibition, while we can hardly imagine that even the successful exhibitors derived an equivalent benefit for time and money expended in contributing their quota to the collection ; and this would be no small item in the case of those from a great distance, considering the fact that the show extended over a period of four days. To one-day local shows, so far as the question of convenience is concerned, fewer objections can be made, but in some instances their management is virtually in the hands of gentlemen endowed, it may be, with fair adminis-

trative talent, but not directly engaged in agriculture, and deficient in a knowledge of the best means of promoting the interests of the practical farmer.

The march of intellect has raised farming from mere empirical routine to the position of a science as well as an art, and it may be conceded that agricultural societies have exerted a beneficial influence in bringing about improvements in husbandry; but it cannot be denied that the tenant-farmer has borne his full share of the cost, while the proprietor of the soil is the principal gainer. Every year furnishes new evidence that the growing intelligence of the tenant-farmer is more and more preparing him for looking to his own interests, and placing less dependence upon extraneous aid in the form of patronising advice from well-meaning individuals, or the dogmatic dictation of managing bodies, who are either ill-informed, or regard his benefit as a secondary consideration. Take the Glasgow Agricultural Society for an example. According to its constitution, three-fourths of the directorate must consist of landed proprietors, merchants, and factors, who may be all men of honour and intelligence in their several spheres but yet not necessarily qualified to deliberate on measures affecting the interests of the tenant-farmer. We have not forgotten the discussions that took place in that society, and the effort made by the mercantile element of its management and membership to carry the intermission of the show this year from mere sentiment, to the serious loss and detriment of the exhibitors who, in many instances, had put themselves to much trouble and expense in anticipation of it. So much, indeed, was at stake, that although the mercantile mind prevailed, the owners of high-class stock could not afford to miss the exhibition of it at the most appropriate season, and seeing no obstacle in the way, they organised the "Glasgow

Farmers' Society," held a show as usual, and proved that the predicted injury it would do to the Highland and Agricultural Society's Exhibition was mere moonshine. The fact that the mercantile and proprietary element predominated in the Glasgow Agricultural Society was felt by the tenant-farmers to be detrimental to their interests, and they were reluctantly driven to unite in forming a society under the management of gentlemen whose interests were identified with their own, and whose experience enabled them to judge correctly of agricultural questions in their practical bearings. Since the formation of this new society, the Glasgow Agricultural has, we think, given additional proof of a mistaken view, or disregard of the interests of the stock breeder, in offering a premium of £150 for a thorough-bred horse, and one-third of that sum was contributed by the Highland and Agricultural Society. It is well known that stock from such a source cannot be profitably reared on the high-rented farms in the agricultural district of which Glasgow forms the centre, and that, reared under any circumstances, they are of little commercial value unless up to a certain mark; and even when they are, it is all but impossible to find a market for them till they are three years of age. In the district referred to, a youngster of that age, according to good authority, will cost, in ordinary circumstances, £50, to which may be added four years' keep of the mare, estimated at £100, and she is at the same time of little or no use for farm work, while not more than an average of two foals in four years can be calculated upon. The produce in that time consists of a three-year-old and a yearling, the former worth probably not over £60, and the latter next to unmarketable, but which may be valued at £20. The case is very different with the Clydesdale, which can be sold at any age, while the mare works for her keep, and the value of her pro-

duce in the same time may be estimated at £120, showing a loss of £75 in the one case, and a gain of £75 in the other.

It is but natural to expect that mercantile gentlemen should appreciate a good hunter or roadster, even although sold at a loss to the breeder; but that they should be backed by landed proprietors, and also encouraged by a society supposed to have the prosperity of the tenant-farmer at heart, is surely short-sighted on the part of the former, and inexplicable on the part of the latter. The iron by continued hammering becomes hot, and the tenant-farmers appear to be coming alive to their own interests, and cannot be blamed for uniting to promote them.



THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

To the Editor of "The Glasgow News."

SIR,—In some reports of the last sale at Merryton, it is remarked that I have no sympathy with the Clydesdale Stud-Book movement. I think this movement is so formed on wrong principles that it can be of no benefit in improving the breed of cart horses, since it admits all animals, however inferior, which have been bred in Scotland, or are of Scotch descent, while others from England, which really show more of the old Clydesdale type or character, are rejected. The committee are specially averse to any English strain, when it is well known how much good has resulted from such infusion of blood. They also encourage in-breeding, which by all means ought to be avoided with the cart horse. The most noted sires of the present day are "Prince of Wales," "Lord Lyon," and "Topsman;" while for many years the majority of mares which have won first prizes in Scotland have been either English or have had an English strain. Nearly a hundred years ago a horse named "Blaze" travelled the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire, and is well known to have greatly improved the Clydesdales. I have authentic data for asserting that his sire was a Lincolnshire horse, and his dam a Lanarkshire mare. About fifty years after, there was a great demand for the best Clydesdales, chiefly for England, and as the Upper Ward was famed for that class of stock the tops were mostly sold, and since that time the district has not had the same renown for first-class horses. For thirty years past, Scotch buyers have been selecting some of the best animals in the midland counties of England. Amongst others were two mares. Both were first-prize winners at some of the principal shows in Scotland—one gained the

Highland and Agricultural Society's prize at Glasgow in 1857. The latter was the dam of "General;" the other the dam of "Darling." Both the "General" and "Darling" gained first prizes at the Highland Society's show in 1865, and are respectively the sire and dam of "Prince of Wales." The "Prince of Wales" was a winner at the Kelso meeting of the Highland Society in 1872; and "Luck's All," whose sire he is, gained first prize at the Highland Society's show held in Perth this year. This surely ought to confute the statement that a mixture of Scotch and English blood can succeed with the immediate offspring only, but not with successive generations. A further instance may confirm the argument. Not only in Scotland, and by "General," has the progeny of the mare "Darling" been successful, but three of her produce by other sires have taken the lead in New Zealand and Australia, producing the best stock in these colonies.

I am at a loss to understand why such sires as "Prince of Wales," "Lord Lyon," and "Topsman," which are half English, are admitted into the Stud-Book, while entrance is now refused to any animals, however good, with an English strain. This appears to me inconsistent, when it is known what improvements have been made up to the present time by the proper blending of the Scotch and English breeds.—I am, &c.,

LAWRENCE DREW.

Merryton Home Farm, *April 28, 1879.*

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

To the Editor of the "Glasgow News."

SIR,—In the *Glasgow News* of 29th ult., there is a letter from Mr. Lawrence Drew, of Merryton, Hamilton, the substance of which is that an English horse was used to improve the Clydesdale breed one hundred years ago; that English blood is still being introduced with good effect; and that the Stud-Book movement, in checking the latter beneficial practice, is unworthy of support. Mr. Drew says that "nearly a hundred years ago a horse named 'Blaze' travelled the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire, and is well known to have greatly improved the breed." Had Mr. Drew really had as much sympathy with the Stud-Book movement as to read the history embodied in the retrospective volume, he would not have troubled you with this gratuitous information, as full particulars of "Blaze"—which was purchased by Mr. Scott, Brounhill, Carnwath, when a two-year-old, in Ayrshire, about the year 1780—are, with other facts about the horse, given in that work. Last summer, I made personal inquiries into the history of horse-breeding in the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire, and Mr. Weir, formerly of Brounhill, but now residing at Sandilands Cottage, Lanark—the grandson of Mr. Scott, who was owner and original purchaser of "Blaze"—then gave me the foregoing information in conversation with him and Mr. Muir, brother of the late Mr. Muir of Lochfergus, Kirkcudbright, at the farm of the latter, Bowes, in the parish of Carmichael. Mr. Muir said that a story to the following effect was prevalent among the Upper Ward folks—namely, that a mare owned by Mr. Scott was stolen into England, and when subsequently recovered it was found that she was in foal, and that the

foal when born was named "Blaze." This story, Mr. Weir said, his grandfather habitually ridiculed, as he purchased the colt on one of his visits to Ayrshire, where he had seen him grazing behind a churchyard wall. Mr. Weir's memory is still fresh, and I feel inclined to take his version of "Blaze's" history in preference to that founded on Mr. Drew's "authentic data" as to the mare having been stolen into England, and there served by what he terms a "Lincolnshire horse." That the farmers of the Upper Ward raised such a story in order to prejudice the horse I can quite understand, as Mr. Stevenson of Rakerfield, Beith, still alive, and close upon 90 years of age—and whose recollections of Clydesdales carry him back to the Lanark Spring Stallion Show of 1817 or 1818, when he led the winning horse—says that he has a distinct remembrance of a number of Upper Ward breeders asserting over the customary dram, with allusion to certain stock, that it would have paid them to have shot the first English horse introduced into the Upper Ward.

Mr. Drew makes the "wrong principles" of the movement his excuse for want of sympathy with it; but this excuse can scarcely be accepted, as a glance at a few facts will show. In 1872, at the annual general meeting of the Glasgow Agricultural Society, in reference to a motion of Mr. T. D. Findlay wishing the society to establish a Clydesdale Stud-Book, Mr. Lawrence Drew is reported in one of the Glasgow newspapers to have said that it was the general wish that such a book should be got up, "and the sooner it was done the better." In 1875, Mr. Drew held his first sale at Merryton, and the mares at that time—which, if not English, could not be classed as Clydesdales—were his big chestnut mare "Mary," dam of "Lord Harry," and "Jessie Brown." All the rest were of well-known Clydesdale lineage.

In 1876, Mr. Drew exhibited successfully in the English classes at the Liverpool Show with mares not eligible to compete in the Clydesdale section : and in his catalogue for 1877, out of thirteen brood mares, the sires of two only are given ; whilst seven three-year-old fillies are without the slightest clue as to pedigree. In the latter year, the Stud-Book movement took form, the first meeting being held on the 26th February ; and Mr. Drew, who was favourable to a Stud-Book in 1872, should, if his interests had still been the same, have done his best to further it. Instead of this, however, he withheld from the movement all countenance and support. Notwithstanding this, the book made its appearance in due course, and the principles of the Clydesdale Horse Society have been declared to be adverse to the wholesale introduction of English blood amongst the Clydesdales, which has been in vogue for the past few years. This, in its turn, was succeeded by a dull sale at Merryton, and on the 29th April, 1879, Mr. Drew comes forward as the champion of judicious crossing with English blood. Had Mr. Drew, in either advertisement or catalogue, ever used the word "English" in reference to his stock, I should not now deprecate his letter and the opinions therein contained ; but both advertisements and catalogues have invariably announced the Merryton stud as pure Clydesdales. In his letter mention is made of "English horses which show more of the old Clydesdale type or character," so that Mr. Drew admits, and most are ready to acknowledge, that there is a recognised Clydesdale breed. His letter in vindication of English crosses comes rather late in the day to prove an adequate apology to the many who have purchased at Merryton, and who, from catalogue and advertisement, thought they were getting pure Clydesdale horses.

Mr. Drew states that the committee are specially adverse

to English blood. Now, that is not the case. The rules laid down by the committee are very lax in this respect, and it is unnecessary to say that if horses were entered in future got by Clydesdale sires out of English mares without pedigree or particulars, the Clydesdale Stud-Book would have as much right to be called the English Stud-Book. The committee have little more in view than the registration of pedigrees and the obviation of mistakes. Mr. Drew and Mr. David Riddell, of Blackhall, should well appreciate the advantages of the Stud-Book, for until the issue of the first volume they laboured under the impression that "Time of Day" (875) was got by "Prince of Wales" (673). According to Mr. Drew, the three most successful sires of the day are "Prince of Wales" (673), "Lord Lyon" (489), and "Topsman" (886). Now, "Prince of Wales," through the in-breeding of "Samson" (741), is more Clydesdale than English; and it is to "Samson" (which was a most impressive breeding horse, as any—a student of the propagation of Clydesdales—can see) and "Sir Walter Scott" (797) that he owes his impressive power. Considering his chances at the stud, however, he has not yet earned for himself anything like the reputation of "Victor" (892) or his nephew "Lochfergus Champion" (449)—the former of which only served in this country four seasons. As to "Lord Lyon," what can Mr. Drew prove he has done in the way of prize-taking, except when his stock are out of "Victor," or other mares well saturated with Clydesdale blood? I am sorry that Mr. Drew's efforts to support his argument should have led him to class "Topsman" third as a breeder, thereby placing him before "Darnley" (222), and other sires of greater note, so far as produce is concerned.

On the subject of in-breeding, Mr. Drew's dictum is, that "by all means it ought to be avoided with the cart-horse."

In 1874 he entertained a different opinion. By turning to page 11 of the catalogue of last stallion show a strong case of remarkable in-breeding will be discovered—"a horse by 'Prince of Wales' (673) out of 'Young London Maggie,' by 'Prince of Wales' (673), and bred by Lawrence Drew, Merryton, Hamilton." The breeder thought so much of in-breeding and the coming foal at his 1875 sale that he said he would give £100 for the foal, whatever was the price of the mare. The foal, however, proved anything but a success, and so Mr. Drew concludes that in-breeding ought carefully to be avoided. Anyone who knows "London Maggie" and her pedigree and progeny would never choose her or hers as likely animals to in-breed with from the "Prince of Wales." It is, no doubt, the case that English buyers purchased largely from us fifty years ago. The history to the Clydesdale Stud-Book makes full mention of this, as also of the fact that the Upper Ward lost its high reputation as a breeding district through the farmers parting with their best stock. Because, however, English buyers have taken from this country some of our best breeding horses, it does not necessarily follow that everything brought back from Lincoln Fair retains Clydesdale character; indeed, many of those brought back—strawberry roans, iron greys, chestnuts, &c., with upright shoulders and round bones, recently introduced into our show-yards—look as if they belonged to a different *genus* altogether. Had Mr. Drew and others really supported the Clydesdale Stud-Book, and saved themselves hard work in other quarters, instead of fostering opposition, they would have been able to assist in tracing out the effect of our Clydesdales on the English "shires" with a tolerable degree of certainty. Anyone who knows the principle of selecting and mating animals will not depreciate in-breeding in such sweeping terms as Mr. Drew,

as there must always be a certain "in" to get the blood impressive. All our best Clydesdale breeding horses—such as "Logan's Twin," "Salmond's Champion," "Victor," and "Lochfergus Champion"—have been in-bred more or less. Mr. Drew cannot understand how that the Society having admitted "Prince of Wales" (which has two crosses, and would be eligible under the new rule), "Lord Lyon," and "Topsman," should be more restrictive with the mares. Perhaps he and a few others are the cause, for it cannot be expected that, with another society in England, the rules of which are even more restrictive than those of the Clydesdale Horse Society, the latter could admit mares with the sole explanation that they were purchased in Lincoln Fair, and were of "great bone and substance." To Mr. Drew this appears inconsistent when it is known "what improvements have been made up to the present time by the proper blending of the Scotch and English breeds." Proper blending certainly: no one will doubt that. But it is hard to believe, as people have been asked to do for the last four years, that a proper blending only means a cross between "Prince of Wales" and a Lincolnshire mare.—I am, &c.,

THOMAS DYKES.

194 St. Vincent Street, May 5, 1879.

CLYDESDALE HORSES.

SIR,—I observed in your columns a letter of the 5th instant, by Mr. Thomas Dykes, on the subject of Clydesdale horses, and as he makes pointed allusion to my letter in *The Glasgow News* of the 29th ult., I now take the liberty of replying to his of the above date. He makes capital out of the horse "Blaze," which, according to his version, was picked

up by Mr. Weir's grandfather "grazing behind a churchyard wall in Ayrshire." This may probably be considered by Mr. Dykes sufficient to settle the horse's pedigree as pure Clydesdale, but I have had a letter from Mr. Weir of Sandilands in my possession for some months, giving details of the history of the horse in question, as I stated in my letter in *The Glasgow News* of the 29th ultimo; and at last Glasgow show Mr. Weir, in presence of several gentlemen, confirmed the correctness of my statement and repudiated that of Mr. Dykes. As to change of opinion since 1872, imputed to me, my views have undergone no change, as I have always held that any combination having for its object or tendency the arbitrary restriction of breeders to stock capable of improvement by an infusion of fresh blood could only lead to a deterioration of bone and stamina, so essential to the draught horse. Such a stud-book as that in which Mr. Dykes puts faith may have the effect contemplated by the concoctors of it; but a long pedigree will only be a small compensation for the want of more substantial qualifications. With regard to the gratuitous information that in 1875 the Merryton mares, which, if not English, could not be classed as Clydesdales, were "Mary" and "Jessie Brown," and that the rest were of well-known Clydesdale lineage, I can only say that Mr. Dykes evidently imagines he knows more of the history of the Merryton stud than I do myself, but he only exposes his ignorance by making this random statement, which is not true. The inference to be drawn is, that at that time I had very little experience of English horses, whereas it is over thirty years since I first purchased horses in England, and gained prizes with them at the principal shows round Glasgow. I sold to Mr. Fleming three mares from the Merryton stud—namely, in 1863, "Rosie," grand-dam of Mr. Knox's famous black mare; in 1864, "Darling," dam of "Prince of Wales;" and

in 1868, "Rosie," a half-English mare, whose success in the show-yard has not been equalled. These three mares were the principal cause of making the Knockdon stud famous both here and abroad. Mr. Dykes would infer that my first success with English mares was at Liverpool show in 1876. I am not aware of having exhibited at Liverpool in 1876, but remember having exhibited there at the Royal Society show in 1877. Long before that, however, I was even more successful as an exhibitor of English mares in England. Mr. Dykes states that both advertisements and catalogues have invariably announced the Merryton stud as pure Clydesdales. I have looked over the catalogue of 1875 sale, and all the succeeding ones, but cannot find the words "pure Clydesdales" in any of them, as the Clydesdales cannot properly be called a pure breed. Surely a horse submitted to judges of Clydesdales, accepted by them as possessed of the peculiar characteristics of the breed, and awarded a prize, is entitled to be called a Clydesdale. As for the horse "Time o' Day," I still maintain on good grounds that his sire was "Prince of Wales." In reference to the assumed in-breeding of "Samson" making him the impressive horse he no doubt was, I may state that, so far from being in-bred, his dam was out of an English mare, and gained first prize at Glasgow about 26 years ago, when I stood second for a filly in the same class. To confirm my statement that the three most noted sires of the present day are "Prince of Wales," "Lord Lyon," and "Topsman," I may state that it appears from the prize list of the last Glasgow show—which was considered at least equal to any former show—that in the twelve classes for Clydesdales, which include the two Derbies and two group classes, the three horses named gained 11 firsts, of which five fell to "the Prince," the same number to "Lord Lyon," and one to "Topsman;" and out of a total of 56

prizes "The Prince" gained 14, "Lord Lyon" 12, and "Topsman" 3, thereby securing over one-half of the prizes awarded. It is also worthy of notice that all the first-prize animals had a strain of English blood. Mr. Dykes also states that I have asked people to believe that proper blending only means a cross between "Prince of Wales" and a Lincolnshire mare. I may mention, as a proof of the advantage of the judicious infusion of fresh blood, that, in the group class, of five yearling colts and fillies by one sire, the prize was awarded to "Prince of Wales," and the same animals were also highly successful as prize-takers in the Derby and open classes, and their dams were all English mares, not one of which was from Lincolnshire. In conclusion, allow me to say that I cannot but think Mr. Dykes shows a decided animus in attempting to disparage horses that have not only been accepted as worthy of a place in the Stud-Book, but have proved themselves superior to any others in the list.—I am, &c.,

LAWRENCE DREW.

Merryton Home Farm, Hamilton, 20th May. 1879.

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

To the Editor of "The Glasgow News."

SIR,—Mr. Drew of Merryton having allowed a full fortnight to elapse before noticing my letter of the 6th, I gave him credit for having the good sense not to continue further a correspondence certain to tell unfavourably against himself. I had no wish to go further, but several misstatements, and statements made without authority or proof, together with twistings of the facts, leave me no alternative but to reply.

As regards "Blaze," Mr. Drew has *no letter* from Mr. Weir

of Brownhill, the grandson of Mr. Scott, the original owner of the horse. The letter he possesses is from Mr. James Weir, son of Mr. Robert Weir, the gentleman to whom I referred, and who is still alive, though 75 years of age, with a memory fresh enough to furnish him with recollections of the conversations he had with his grandfather about the horse. It was from the elder Mr. Weir that I took my information for the Stud-Book about "Blaze," preferring to go to the fountain-head for my facts. Indeed, when I arrived at Sandilands, I found the younger Mr. James Weir at home; but learning that his father was at Bowes Farm eliciting information about other pedigrees from Mr. Muir, I drove over there, and took my information direct from his own lips. As to making "capital" out of the matter, Mr. Drew, and not I, must be accused of that, as he commenced the correspondence by saying that "Blaze" was an English horse, and his letter from Mr. Weir, the younger, was in answer to one asking information about the horse—no doubt with the view of dealing a more deadly blow at the Clydesdale Stud-Book. As to the statement of Mr. James Weir in Glasgow show-yard confirming the correctness of Mr. Drew's version of the story, and repudiating mine (which is that of his father), I do not attach any importance to it, having had some experience of cattle-show meetings, and of the irrelevant conversations thereat. In regard to my remarks about his English mares, Mr. Drew says I wish to infer that he had no experience of English horses up till 1875. I did nothing of the kind. The inference is his own, drawn to suit his own purposes. The three mares mentioned by Mr. Drew were all bred in Scotland, and, with the exception of "Rosie," by "Farmer's Glory," were half-Clydesdale certainly; and till Mr. Drew proves the contrary, the other "Rosie," by "Garibaldi," may safely be considered as pure Clydesdale. These mares

therefore, cannot be classed with such as "Mary" and "Jessie Brown," both bred in England, and concerning whose pedigrees no information has ever yet been vouchsafed. Granting him, however, for the sake of argument, that these five mares were each and all of them English, and allowing him, with mares of lesser note, a full dozen, we thus find that from 1862, when the Merryton stud first acquired celebrity in the show-yard for Clydesdales, down to the period of his first sale, Mr. Drew passed through his hands twelve English mares in as many years, against five times that number during the last four years.

Now, when it is considered that these English or "shire" mares, could be purchased at much smaller prices than Clydesdales—more especially those disposed of at fashionable stud sales, such as Merryton—the public will be able to draw their own inference.

Mr. Drew makes a quibble about the word "pure Clydesdales," and from his remarks one would infer that he had all along let it be known that he was selling English mares catalogued as Clydesdales, instead of studiously keeping it secret. In 1877 (I stand corrected as to the year he showed at the Royal) he complained to me very bitterly in the Highland Society's show-yard because I had remarked in my report of the show in the *Glasgow News* that some of his horses were apparently English-bred. Again, in reference to the remarks made by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on his visit to Merryton in January of last year, that "a good number of the horses were evidently 'shire' horses," and which was admitted by Mr. Drew, the tenant of Merryton complained to me about this being reported, while admitting the truth of the statement. Surely this did not look like the action of one who was careless of its being known that he was breeding with animals other than Clydesdales.

To be brief, Mr. Drew is not in favour of the Stud-Book movement, because its principles are inimical to his interests, which are as much those of a dealer as of a breeder. Indeed, the obscurity attached to the Merryton stud was the first cause of the Stud-Book movement—"King of the Princes" having been stated to be out of a *full sister* to Mr. Drew's "Mary," the pedigree of which was known to nobody.

As to "Time o' Day," I defy him to produce his good grounds (knowing what and how untenable they are) of proof that that horse was got by "Prince of Wales," and not by "Ivanhoe II," as entered in Stud-Book in due form by Mr. John Craig, of Genoch, the breeder of the horse.

After the specimen of his own "in-breeding," which I commended to his consideration last time, I am astonished to find that he ignores the meaning of the word. Allowing that the dam of "Samson" was out of an English mare, her sire was "Hilton Charlie," great-grandson of "Broomfield Champion," while "Hilton Charlie's" mother was by a half-brother of "Broomfield Champion." Again, "Lofty," "Samson's" sire, was a great-grandson of "Broomfield Champion," while other strains of the same blood also combined to strengthen his Clydesdale character. Mr. Drew surely would not argue that it was the cross with the English mare which made him impressive.

Mr. Drew has been singularly successful with his "three best sires" at Glasgow; but as he says I have an animus against them, and I should have to deal very broadly with the question, I am precluded from further entering on the argument here. I, however, adhere to the opinions declared in my former letter, as I do not hold that the success of young stock at a show is the best test of a successful sire. "Samson" and "Victor" were horses very insignificant in

the show-ring; the former never won a prize, and the latter had to "poach" his home district at £1 per mare. And now, in the third generation, all our best and most successful breeding stock are off "Samson," "Victor," or "Lochfergus" mares—"Lochfergus" being a nephew of "Victor." In concluding this, my last letter on the subject, I have to express the hope that Mr. Drew will, now that he has declared his principles, join the English Cart-Horse Society, and let the Clydesdale Stud-Book alone. His original excuse for not joining in the movement was that he would have to make common very valuable information which he possessed, and which was worth a great deal of money to him, in order to complete the first volume. I hope his information, as yet all his own, is worth as much to him now; but the Stud-Book having been completed without his assistance, and in spite of his opposition, and proved the pioneer of similar works in course of preparation in New Zealand, in Australia, and the United States of America, I am of opinion that his remarks against it on the score of the wrong principles of its promoters, come too late to do it serious injury.—I am, &c.,

THOMAS DYKES.

194 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, *May 26, 1879.*

CLYDESDALE HORSES.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Thomas Dykes' letter in the newspapers of the 26th ult., I have to say that I quite understand that gentleman's disappointment on discovering that I had not the "good sense" to discontinue a correspondence

certain, in his opinion, to tell unfavourably against me ; for had his statements and the inferences he deduces from them been allowed to pass unchallenged, they might have been accepted by the public as unanswerable, and I am not surprised that he should express an intention of cutting short a correspondence which he has probably the "good sense" to see may tell unfavourably against himself when a little more light is thrown on the subject. To return to the horse "Blaze," Mr. Dykes emphatically states that I have no letter from Mr. Weir, of Brounhill, but from his son. True, the letter was written by the son from information derived from his father, and is at least as trustworthy as the "facts" served up through the medium of Mr. Dykes. It was from the lips of the elder Mr. Weir, however, that I received the corroborative statement at last Glasgow Show ; but Mr. Dykes does not attach much importance to the "irrelevant conversation at cattle show meetings," unless, perhaps, it be "over the customary dram," and when it answers his purpose.

Since the publication of that gentleman's story about his going to the fountain-head for facts, I have received a letter from the veritable Mr. Robert Weir, formerly of Brounhill, now residing at Sandilands, and another from his son, from both of which Mr. Dykes' facts appear in a somewhat doubtful light. He will surely not charge the old gentleman of seventy-five with a desire to deal "a deadly blow at the Stud-Book," seeing that he found him at the Bowes farm eliciting information about other pedigrees ; and I submit his letter sent to me for publication, premising that I have other written documents in my possession which furnish even stronger evidence that the history embodied in the retrospective volume of the Stud-Book is not so infallible as Mr. Dykes would have it believed.

"SANDILANDS COTTAGE, *June 2, 1879.*

"SIR,—A great deal has been written in the newspapers of late about the various breeds of horses; amongst the number, "Blaze" has been brought a good deal before the public.

"This horse was the property of my grandfather, James Scott, at that time of Liberton, Townhead, Carnwath.

"Its dam, the property of Mr. Wilson, Guildhouse, was stolen into England and there served with the horse. She was afterwards recovered and brought back to Guildhouse, where she produced a colt foal, which Mr. Wilson sold to a west country dealer, Mr. Scott going into Ayrshire and buying it when it was two years old. This colt was the famous horse "Blaze." Owing to people at that time having a prejudice against English horses, his pedigree was never made public. Mr. Scott died at Brounhill in 1839. I have heard him repeatedly say that the great style the horse possessed (and which he imparted to all his stock), he got from his English sire, the breed of Scotch horses at that time being sadly deficient. "Blaze" died in Mr. Scott's possession, twenty-two years old.—I am, &c.,

"ROBERT WEIR."

Mr. Dykes runs glibly over the names and pedigrees of several of my stud mares, as only the hired champion of the Stud-Book could do, but neither his facts nor his inferences are to be relied on. He remarks that I am a dealer as much as a breeder. I am not at all offended by being called a "dealer," as I respect dealers as much as any other business men, and am of the opinion that they have done more for the improvement of our Clydesdales than any other class in Scotland.

I may also state that I have not sold a horse privately for the past two years, and at my annual sales during that time all the mares and fillies were at least one season in the farm, and had been carefully selected for the Merryton breeding stud; and if there was an increase of such stock, I may tell Mr. Dykes, what is well-known to others, that of late I have

considerably extended the stud, and have not scrupled to use my own discretion in selecting mares of the proper stamp wherever I could find them, whether in England or Scotland; and if they could be got cheap, so much the better. Of course Mr. Dykes would have been better pleased had I given him a commission to select "pure" Clydesdales with cabalistic numbers in brackets against their names, and warranted to breed according to rule; but although Mr. Dykes makes no secret that the Stud-Book is levelled mainly at me, and his interests are identified with the accomplishment of its object, his misstatements and distortion of facts, together with his insinuation and impertinent advice, may have an effect he has failed to contemplate. He states that in 1877 I complained to him very bitterly in the Highland Society's showyard, because he had remarked in his report of the show in the *Glasgow News*, that some of my horses were apparently English bred. I cannot account for such a statement unless by assuming that either his veracity or his memory is at fault, for the absurdity of it will be made evident by reference to the printed catalogue of the same show, where, in the classes for mares and fillies, I have eight entries of animals which were all bred in England, and the names and addresses of the breeders of all of them are given.

When I exhibited so many English mares at such a show as the Highland Society's, giving the breeders' addresses in full, so far as I knew, is surely sufficient to prove that my complaint of his remarks in the report of the show is a pure invention of his fertile imagination. As to "King of the Princes," he was got before "The Prince" came into my possession, and his dam did not belong to me. How the latter was bred is a matter I have consequently nothing to do with. Mr. Dykes shies at the prize "three best sires,"

strikes out wildly at the principle of judging sires by their young stock—a principle of which it is worth knowing he disapproves—gives a parting kick at “Samson” and “Victor,” which, according to his verdict, were very insignificant in the show-ring. The fact is, the latter horse stood second at the Highland Society’s show. First, “Samson” was a twin, which may account for his small size. I must not trespass further on your valuable space; and, in conclusion, let me say that Mr. Dykes finishes his letter with a bit of braggadocio, which I would have allowed to pass unnoticed had it not happened that I lately received the first volume of the “New Zealand Draught Horse Stud-Book,” published in September last, two months *previous* to the Clydesdale; so that the latter can hardly be correctly called the pioneer of the former. The discrepancy between this fact and Mr. Dykes’ statement may arise from the peculiar talent that gentleman appears to possess for putting the cart before the horse. Besides, the New Zealand Stud-Book is based on entirely different principles from those of the Clydesdale. Draught horses from any country approved of by a committee of judges being admitted with pedigree if possible, but not as an indispensable qualification. The subject of the history and improvement of our Scottish draught horses is one of so much interest and importance that it can hardly be dealt with as it deserves, in connection with statements necessarily isolated, and to a great extent with a personal bearing; but I have to thank you for allowing me, in self-defence, to reply to Mr. Dykes’ letter.—I am., &c.,

LAWRENCE DREW

CLYDESDALE BREEDING AND THE STUD-BOOK.

SIR,—From the last two numbers of the *N. B. Agriculturist*, I observe there has been some correspondence between Mr. Drew and Mr. Dykes on the above subject. The former having made some objections to the principles on which the Stud-Book had been established, Mr. Dykes replies; but instead of defending the Stud-Book he makes an elaborate personal attack on Mr. Drew. Without wishing to enter into the various points of dispute between these two gentlemen, I may be allowed to say that that style of discussing an important public question cannot be too much discouraged.

My purpose in writing you at present is to call attention to some statements which Mr. Dykes makes in his two communications. The first thing I wish to notice is his reference to the history of the Clydesdales given in the Stud-Book. I suppose he is the compiler of these historical notes, and I have no doubt whatever that they have been drawn up with great research, and as much care as possible; but, after all, Mr. Dykes must be aware that a great deal of what is therein stated is simply traditional. I therefore think he is making too heavy a call on our credulity when he asks us to accept that history as absolutely correct.

The next thing I would call attention to is Mr. Dykes' idea of in-breeding. Taking the pedigree of "Samson," as given by Mr. Dykes, it is astonishing that any man can hold that he is an in-bred horse; he has only two crosses of Clydesdale blood, and is only a three-parts-bred horse. Of course Mr. Dykes shows that "Samson's" sire and his dam's sire were related and in-bred; but as "Samson's" dam is only half-bred, surely the idea of his being in-bred is utterly

out of the question. Allow Mr. Dykes, or any other person, to run back on the sire's side alone, and he would easily prove any half-bred animal not only pure, but in-and-in-bred. Now that will not do, and cannot be allowed. Mr. Dykes thinks that it could not be on account of the English cross that "Samson" was such an impressive sire, and states distinctly that his belief is that it was on account of his in-breeding; but, as he was not in-bred, that could not be the cause. That he was an impressive sire, and had a heavy dash of English blood in him, are apparently the only two *facts* connected with his history, and all other speculations as to the cause of his impressiveness must be taken for what they are worth.—I am, &c.,

IGNORAMUS.

June 2, 1879.

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK CONTROVERSY.

THE following is Mr. Thomas Dykes' reply to the letter of Mr. Lawrence Drew, published in the *Agriculturist* two weeks ago :—

I stated in my last letter, in reply to Mr. Drew, that I would not return to this subject, and I will not, so far as the personal controversy is concerned. Indeed, it would be hardly fair to Mr. Drew to hold him responsible for all that is said in a correspondence which he carries on by deputy. But I have something to say on the question of the pedigree of "Blaze." Mr. Weir having equivocated, I have sought further information on the question; and in a large volume published in Edinburgh in 1830, and dedicated to the members of the Highland Society, I find the following letter

embodied in the remarks made regarding the portrait of "Meg," winner of first prize at Glasgow Show in 1828, and descendant of "Blaze." In this letter the reader will find no reference to the alleged theft into England.

"Lampits, *November 24, 1828.*

"I went to Mr. Scott, a man now 87 years of age, and read over your letter. He seemed happy to afford me the information you desire. 'Blaze' was in his possession for 18 years. He gained the first prize at an exhibition of stallions at Edinburgh in 1784: this was the earliest premium given in Scotland for the improvement of the breed of horses used for agriculture. You gave his descendants all very correct. *His sire was an English draught horse, and his dam a Clydesdale mare.* Mr. Scott purchased him in Ayrshire, when two years old, at £21—a great price in those days. The horses at that period in the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire were all rough-legged and short in the neck, and had not the show of 'Blaze' or his descendants."

The volume from which I quote states that the foregoing is the "extract of a letter from Mr. John French, farmer on the estate of Sir Charles Lockhart, of Lee, Bart.," a gentleman to whom reference is made in the introductory history to the Clydesdale Stud-Book, section "The Kintyre Clydesdales."

The English draught horse of the period was an animal entirely lacking in style, and the peculiar features of "Blaze" and his descendants were style and action—"Meg," by the portrait, which is the work of the eminent animal artist, Howe, is very marked in regard to the former quality. I claim that the entry in the Clydesdale Stud-Book which follows, was, and is, a very proper one:—"Another horse which is said to have greatly improved the breed in the Upper Ward was one 'Blaze,' so called from a white mark on his face. He was purchased by a Mr. Scott of Brounhill, Carstairs, as a two-year-old colt in Ayrshire about the year 1780. He was taken to Edinburgh when four years old, to

a show held in the Grassmarket there, and was successful in gaining first prize. This horse, which served mares for many years in the district round Lanark, was black in colour, and stood 16 hands 1 inch high. Nothing was known of his pedigree, but from his stylish shape and fine action—qualities he is said to have imparted to his stock—it was generally supposed that he had a good share of the blood of the coach-horse in his veins.”—Clydesdale Stud Book—Introductory History, p. xi.

It does not seem safe to quote Mr. Weir after the misunderstanding evidently made, but I shall leave it to him to say whether he did not tell me that his grandfather said he thought “Blaze” had possessed some of the blood alluded to.

CLYDESDALE HORSES.

By D. M'EACHRAN, F.R.C.V.S., Principal of the Montreal Veterinary College, and Inspector of Stock for the Canadian Government.

The interest which has been attached to the improvement of horse-breeding in this province, and especially in the different breeds of heavy draught horses, induces us to believe that a short historical and descriptive account of these breeds may prove interesting to our readers. The engraving which we give of a Clydesdale in this number is taken from Sidney's Book of the Horse, and is an excellent representation of the stallion and mare of the breed. They take their name from the valley of the River Clyde, in Lanarkshire, Scotland. The early history of the breed is traced by nearly all writers to six coach stallions, imported from Flanders towards the close of the seventeenth century, by the Duke of Hamilton. The correctness of this tradition is, however, strongly denied by a writer in the *Paisley Advertiser*, dated March, 9th, 1827. This breed is not now confined to

Lanarkshire or Clydesdale. In fact, the best Clydes are not bred in that county, but are to be found in nearly all the well-cultivated counties in Scotland. It may be said, however, that it is only within the past thirty years that any special attention has been paid to the breeding of them, and even to-day it is impossible to get a pedigree, of a mare especially, for more than two or three generations; for the simple reason that, while the mares have always been selected to breed from, yet they have been selected for individual merits and points of excellence more than for pedigree, and even yet, a good individual mare, or horse, will command the highest price irrespective of pedigree.

Within the past thirty years, more attention has been paid to the selection of the stallion, but individual points invariably determined the selection; nor could it well be otherwise, where no register was kept, and where the introduction of foreign blood not only was not objected to, but was considered an advantage. It is a well-known fact that some of the best Clyde-horses in Scotland, to-day, derive many of their good points from the blood of the English draught or shire mares.

It is also well known that some of the most noted breeders in Scotland are in the habit of importing shire-mares and crossing them with the best horses in the country, and in this way produce horses which in many respects are improvements on what may be considered as pure Clydes. If we compare the Clyde as described by Brown in 1830, with the same breed of the present day, we shall better understand the transformation which new blood and better care have produced. He says: "The Clydesdale horse is lighter in body than the Suffolk Punch, and more elegantly formed in every respect, with an equal proportion of bone. His neck is also longer; his head of a finer form, and more corresponding to the bulk of the animal; he has a sparkling and animated eye

and evinces a greater degree of lively playfulness in his general manners than either the Cleveland or Suffolk horses. His limbs are clean, straight, sinewy; the head of this horse is firm and nimble; he is capable of great muscular exertion, and in a hilly country is extremely valuable; he is a very hardy animal, and can subsist on almost any kind of food.

The equanimity of his temper and steadiness of his movements particularly adapt him for the plough. Not being too unwieldy in his size, he is no burden to the soil, while a pair are equal to the task of drawing a plough through a full furrow with great ease. The horses of Clydesdale are not only celebrated on account of their value for agricultural purposes, but are also adapted for the saddle, and useful as carriage horses."

Few who are familiar with the Clydesdales of the present day would recognise the breed in the "fine head," "clean, straight, sinewy limbs" and his adaptability for the saddle and carriage," in the animal above described. It is scarcely necessary to say that the fine head has given way to one of rather large if not heavy proportions as compared with the Percheron, although a small clean head is occasionally met with in some families, as, for instance, in the produce of the "Prince of Wales," and in their progeny. While the mare still retains the neck long and somewhat fine, as a rule, the stallion's neck is thick and the crest heavy. The length of body and legs ascribed to the breed by several authors has given way to remarkably short, strong, hairy legs, and to compact backs with wide chest and quarters. He still retains his light, free action, and is often found to trot with great speed, when his weight is considered, as stated in the Book of the Horse: "At a local show held some years ago on Clifton Downs, near Bristol, a Clydesdale stallion exhibited by the Duke of

Beaufort, weighing nearly a ton, out-trotted all the hacks in the show in a course of a few hundred yards."

It will thus be seen that the Clydesdale horse of 1830 was a very different animal from the so-called Clydesdale of to-day. This change has been brought about, not by the importation of stallions of larger breeds, but by the importation of large shire mares, from England, which, being crossed with the hardy-constituted, free-actioned Scotch horse, produced stallions retaining the good qualities of the native with the increase in size and shorter bodies of the English cart horse.

The Clydesdale of to-day may be described as a powerful draught horse, of a bay, brown, black, grey or chesnut colour, (excellent specimens of the breed are found in all of these colours) with a disposition to white, especially on the face and legs, usually about sixteen to seventeen and a half hands high, weighing from 1600 lbs. to 2200 lbs. The head proportionate to the size and weight of the body; usually well set on, sometimes long and often roman-nosed, with long hairs hanging from under the jaws, which are usually wide. The forehead is wide, and the eyes large and prominent. The neck is of medium length, and in the stallion the crest is heavy. The back, in good specimens, is short, compact, and the barrel round and "well ribbed up." The withers high, but the shoulder thick. The chest broad and deep; the quarters wide; sometimes sloping and the tail set on low down compared with lighter breeds. The thighs are muscular, hocks large, legs straight and short, muscles of the thighs and fore arms well developed. The legs wide, flat, the tendons hard and clean: the legs covered by long fine hair, very thick and long from below the knee and hock, forming a large tuft at the fetlock, and long and thick, round and overhanging the coronet. The feet medium, inclining to large, quality of horn good. The action usually high, bending

the knee well and bringing the foot firmly down in the manner usually admired by horsemen. They are invariably intelligent and active, but with a spice of temper and determination of character that renders them invaluable in heavy draught. They will usually bring their load with them, unless something gives way. Jibbers are seldom met with in Clydes.

They are usually good feeders, and readily fatten if well fed; are hardy and long-lived, sure breeders, and will produce an average of six foals per mare. The stallions are easily managed, and are sure foal-getters. They readily accommodate themselves to any climate or circumstances, and no horses show a better return for extra care and food.

Within a few years, an abortive attempt has been made to start a stud-book for Clyde horses in Scotland. From what has been explained above, it will be seen that, of necessity, many worthless pedigrees had to be admitted, and many of the best horses in Scotland were not eligible. The fact is, that two of the most extensive breeders and owners of Clydes in Scotland, who usually carry all before them in the showing for horses and mares of all ages, do not recognise the stud-book, as they do not believe that the breed is incapable of improvement, and they know, too, that many of the best horses in Scotland have shire blood in their veins, and although they own and breed large numbers of colts and fillies eligible for entry in the Stud-Book, yet they do not enter them. It will thus be seen that while many animals of comparatively little value are found in the Stud-Book of Clydes, many of the best bred horses are not entered; and thus, under the existing state of affairs, the Clyde Stud-Book is of hardly any value as a guide for purchasers of Clydesdales in Scotland, and we have had some sorry illustrations of this

fact in some worthless animals which have been imported into this province, the only recommendation they possessed being their being registered in the Stud-Book.

It must not be inferred from this that we undervalue registration and pedigree: far from it. We regret exceedingly that the starting of this Stud-Book, which was very much needed, was not done more judiciously, so as to include all the breeders, and prevent what is so much to be deplored, a division and want of co-operation, which are injurious to its success and usefulness—and, while we would recommend any society or individual who propose to import Clydesdale horses, to secure, if possible, horses registered, or eligible for registration, yet we would not advise them to reject a good animal of good pedigree, even if he is not in the Stud-Book: many such are to be found in Scotland.

We would strongly recommend that a standard of pedigree of some kind be laid down by the committees of agricultural exhibitions, so as to avoid the disputes on this subject, so common at both local and provincial shows.

The value of Clyde blood as a cross with the Lower Canadian mares is now so well known that we need scarcely refer to it. The increase in size and in bone, without lessening their activity or hardiness, is well known to the carrying companies of both Canada and the United States, and has created a demand for horses bred in this way such that our farmers cannot attempt to supply: a demand that is yearly increasing. The experience of the counties of Chateauguay and Huntingdon in breeding from Clydesdale stallions was, that the ready sale and large prices which they obtained for their horses made the farmers independent, and their experiments with thoroughbred and coaching horses for a few years seriously injured them; lessened the value of the horses in these counties, by many thousands of dollars; and,

fortunately, led them to return to the Clydesdales, for which the district is once more justly famed.

We are daily accustomed to see horses bred in the above county sold in Montreal for \$200 and \$275 each; and we know that it has cost the farmer no more to bring them to market as four and five year-olds than it costs to bring horses which sell for \$80 and \$100.—“*Illustrated Journal of Agriculture*,” Montreal, Canada.

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

(“*Glasgow Herald*,” May 3, 1882.)

SIR,—The advantage of the Clydesdale Stud-Book may justly be questioned, in view of the fact that the principal prize takers in the Clydesdale class at our leading agricultural exhibitions are not considered worthy of a place in its pages. The reason is indirectly brought out in your report of the Ayr show, the writer of which professes to think it strange that “Pansy” and “Queen,” the first and second prize brood mares, have English blood in them. It is a remarkable circumstance, which the Stud-Book votaries may well lay to heart, that the first and second prize-takers in the Clydesdale class at Kilmarnock and Maryhill had also English blood. It is well known that the Clydesdales owe their origin to Belgian blood, directly through the stallions imported into Scotland by a Duke of Hamilton about 120 years ago, and they have been improved indirectly from the same source, through mares from the Midland Counties of England, that owe their origin to the ingrafting of Belgian blood upon the original native stock, which was of a superior stamp to that of Scotland. Little or no attention was paid to the improvement of horses in Scotland till

after the English law, making it felony to send horses from England into Scotland, was repealed. Strange to say, if all the horses entered in the Stud-Book that are known to have English blood in their veins were withdrawn from its pages it would find a fitting resting-place in the waste basket.

Drew's "Prince of Wales," a horse of world-wide reputation, has English blood in him; and a mare whose portrait was painted to represent what was considered by the best judges to be the *beau ideal* of a Clydesdale was bred in England. That mare was "Netty," and, if I mistake not, her portrait is in possession of the Highland and Agricultural Society; and other mares, distinguished as prize-takers, and accepted as models for Clydesdale breeders, have been indebted to southern blood; and it should be kept in mind that the English have long devoted careful attention to the breeding of agricultural horses. It became necessary, about 40 years ago, to select English brood mares to prevent the Clydesdales from being reduced to insignificance, and the judicious infusion of fresh blood has produced highly satisfactory results. It is rather late in the day for a writer on Clydesdales to express surprise that they should possess English blood. The subject is a comprehensive one, involving an inquiry into the history of the aboriginal horses of Britain, and the influx of different breeds along with successive invaders of England. From these invasions, Scotland, or, at least, a great part of it, was exempt, and there was consequently less fusion of different races, both in the case of men and of domestic animals, than in the South; and when friendly intercourse was established between the two countries, it was found that Scotland had much to gain in the improvement of draught horses. Operations in this direction do not appear to have been reduced to system till a comparatively recent date, owing to the prejudice of the Scotch

against everything English, and there is perhaps no breeder who has done more to keep up and improve the Clydesdale horse than Mr. Drew, of the Duke of Hamilton's Home Farm. The independent position that he and others have taken up in reference to the stud-book, entitles them to the respect of all interested in the improvement of the agricultural horses of our country; for, had it not been for such breeders as Mr. Drew, the Clydesdales would, by this time, have dwindled into insignificance. The writer of the report in question is happy to find that all the good Clydesdales have not left the country for foreign parts. He may keep his mind easy on that score. Foreigners are content with horses that can sport the cabalistic number of the Stud-Book, and dealers in the country will always be glad to make capital out of a "lang pedigree," so long as the foreigner is willing to pay for it. One benefit the Stud-Book will confer is to enable dealers to get rid of weeds at a good price, but no one need be surprised to find that there are better horses out of the Stud-Book than in it; and although it may meet the mercenary views of some for the time being, it will in the long-run tend to the deterioration of the breed, by limiting the choice of breeders to a narrow area, or influencing the purchaser of stock in his selection. It would be well to have a meeting of gentlemen interested in maintaining a superior stamp of draught horse in Scotland, call it by what name you like. At such a meeting the subject could be freely discussed, and a committee appointed to report. Something should be done to counteract the evil influences at work; and the sooner it is done the better. A new register, in which no horse could be entered unless passed by competent judges, and certified by a "vét." as free from constitutional disease, would probably meet the case.—I am, &c.,

FARMER.

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

(*"Glasgow Herald," May 9, 1882.*)

SIR,—In the *Herald* of to-day "Farmer" has a fling at this now firmly established and recognisedly useful work. To the initiated his arguments answer themselves, but as there are always some who, from defective information or otherwise, are liable to be carried away by the annual cry that "English blood" is overbearing that of the old "Clydesdales," I beg leave to say a word to such. To breeders of any class of stock it is a well-understood law of nature that putting two good animals of different but pure breeds together, the produce is generally a good specimen—in some cases, and for certain purposes, superior to either of its progenitors. But (and here the shoe pinches) again breed with the animal so raised, and the result is more than disappointing; and the further you go down the line breeding from this impure strain, you find the results more economically disastrous. Foreign buyers have discovered this, and hence their determination to have nothing to do with animals not eligible for the Stud-Book. Many exported Clydesdales are doubtless necessarily put to mares of other breeds, and the produce must often be hybrids relatively as great an improvement on their female parents as are "Pansy" and "Queen" on theirs. Did it never occur to "Farmer" that, for their very excellence, the mares he names are indebted to the infusion of Clydesdale blood? Here, experienced breeders draw the line, for they know by experience that breeding with "crosses" is a dangerous game. No doubt certain breeders have set themselves against the Stud-Book, and argue for the "crossing," as practised by them. As "Farmer" has brought forward Mr. Drew by name, perhaps he will pardon my taking his case. From

circumstances upon which it is not necessary to enter, Mr. Drew became possessed of a moderately-sized stud of pure Clydesdales, and he became the first Scotch farmer who kept horses for breeding and showing alone. His annual sales gave wonderful results so long as he could call his stock Clydesdales, and so long only as English and foreign buyers were got to believe that they were purchasing the pure Clydesdale blood. The Stud-Book gave such buyers a reliable means of testing this, to them, most important matter—hence its value, and hence also the oft-repeated attempts from various quarters to cripple its usefulness. The studs of its opponents, grown large in hybrids, hang on their owners' hands, and foreign, and even English, buyers will have none of them. "Farmer" and his friends will in time gather wisdom, but they are now "getting the baby to hold," and are not "taking their physic like men." Upon the historical part of "Farmer's" letter I do not enter, beyond expressing my surprise that one who writes so well should scarcely have got beyond the A B C of his subject.—I am, &c.,

OBSERVER.

3rd May, 1882

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

(*"Glasgow Herald," May 15, 1882.*)

SIR,—Allow me a few words in reply to "Observer's" letter in your paper of Tuesday on the subject of the Clydesdale Stud-Book. He informs us that it is a firmly established and recognised useful work. How firmly it is established may be tested sooner than its votaries expect. Its "usefulness" I do not call in question, in the sense of its serving some purpose; but that it will do anything to improve and keep up a superior breed of draught horse I emphatically

deny. Indeed, of the originators of it, who ought to know something of the foundation on which it rests, one, I am told, is now convinced of its unsoundness; and another only lately was awarded, at one of our leading shows, the highest distinction for a mare not eligible for the Stud-Book. The other has gone to his rest. "Observer's" ideas of breeding are hazy enough. I should like to know what he means by a "pure" breed. I presume he would not admit that the "pure" Clydesdales were derived from animals of impure breed, because that would make his position worse. He appears to hold that the English shire horses and the Clydesdales are different breeds; but there is really less difference between them than there was between the Belgian and Scotch breeds, from which the original Clydesdales sprung, for although the old Scotch breed was as well defined as the others, it was inferior in not a few respects. From these considerations it would appear that, according to the law of nature, which "Observer" presses into his service, the "pure" Clydesdales should have gone to the dogs long ago: and so they would, had not a few intelligent horse-breeders taken the hint from the late Mr. Wallace, M.P., and other gentlemen interested in the agricultural horses of Scotland, and made them what they are by the infusion of kindred blood. In doing so they were aware that Scotch prejudice would be evoked, and "Observer" will consequently understand why the process has been carried on so quietly. By putting "two good animals of different breeds together," I presume he refers to the breeding of hunters, coach horses, &c. To cross a heavy draught horse with a racer would certainly be putting two different breeds together—different, although of one species, because bred on diverging lines—the one for speed, the other for draught; but the shire horse of England and the Clydesdale of Scotland, have both been bred for the

same purpose, and the former purer, because longer established, and not only so, but possessing in some points a structural superiority to the Scotch breed. The judicious mating of the two has given to our modern Clydesdales the well-sprung rib and compact and powerful frame of the southern horse; while the good limbs and lively action of the old Clydesdale have not been lost, and the constitution has been benefited. It would be "a wild goose chase" to follow "Observer's" confused remarks about horse-breeding. My idea is that what a horse-breeder has to keep most in mind is, to quote the popular adage, that "like breeds like," or, to be more explicit, that the good or bad qualities of the animal are hereditary. Well-formed horses produce well-formed descendants, and the converse is also true. There may be exceptions, but these merely prove the rule. We don't breed racers from heavy cart horses, and we would not expect to get good produce from two ill-formed animals of any sort. In the case of "crossing"—that is, interbreeding with two distinct varieties of horse—the produce, as a rule, partakes of the properties of both sire and dam. This is very different from breeding between parents exhibiting a close resemblance, and both possessed of qualities desiderated in their produce. I don't call this crossing. Sometimes a foal will partake most of the mare and sometimes of the horse, but rarely of its grandsire or grandam. Of course, "Observer," to be a consistent supporter of the Stud-Book, would breed from any "squibs" if they figured in its pages as pure "Clydesdales," and descended, it may be, according to the veracious record, in an unbroken line from the famous horse "Blaze," "found grazing at the back of an old wall" long, long ago. "Observer's" remark about "hybrids" requires explanation. Mules are bred mostly in Spain and France, but I was not aware that Clydesdales

were used in breeding them. Australia and America are the foreign countries to which most of the Clydesdales go, and they are used simply for the purpose of improving the native stock, by the infusion of fresh blood of a superior stamp. The "hybrids" of the opponents of the Stud-Book stick in "Observer's" gizzard. The aiders and abettors of the Stud-Book cannot get over the fact that these so-called "hybrids," of which not a few have made for themselves a cosmopolitan reputation, are a standing evidence of the fallacious principles upon which the record in question is founded. Of "Observer's" slang I give him the full benefit. He prudently shirks the historical part of my letter, and in reference to his estimate of the extent of my knowledge on the subject on which we write, I should despair of making much progress by the perusal of his bewildering effusions; and if the Stud-Book have no more able champion to support it, we may reasonably conclude that its uses are at least worth investigating.—I am, &c.,

FARMER.

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

GLASGOW, 15th May, 1882.

SIR,—Into the merits of the discussion being carried on in your columns between "Farmer" and "Observer" I am not qualified to enter. As the object of "Farmer" is clearly to damage the Stud-Book, I simply ask your readers to consider the following facts and judge whether the Stud-Book movement is on its last legs, and about to die a natural death. The Clydesdale breeders of Scotland and England are surely the best judges of the usefulness or success of the Stud-Book, and the measure of their support to the society may safely be taken as a test of the worth of

its labours. For the four months ending 30th April, the income of the society in each of the following years has been :—

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|---|
| 1880 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £155 | 11 | 6 |
| 1881 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 176 | 18 | 2 |
| 1882 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 294 | 13 | 5 |

Not one of the original members of the Society has ever expressed a wish to resign, and of the 205 annual members on its roll, only a very few are at this moment in arrears. I am not quite sure whether the “originator of the Stud-Book, who is now convinced of its unsoundness” and “the other who has gone to his rest” are one and the same person, but if they are, the only member to whom I can think the words refer is the late highly-esteemed Mr. Shennan of Balig, Dalbeattie. From many conversations which I had with that worthy old gentleman, I am convinced that his conviction of the unsoundness of the basis of the Stud-Book was derived from the consideration that it was too broad, and not that it was too narrow. This I conceive to be the direct opposite of “Farmer’s” theory.—I am, &c.,

ARCHD. McNEILAGE, JR.,

Secretary.

(“*Glasgow Herald*,” May 17, 1882.)

CLYDESDALE HORSES.

(“*Ayr Observer*,” May 30, 1882.)

SIR,—I noticed lately in a contemporary some reference to the Clydesdale Stud-Book by a correspondent, “Farmer.” Knowing something of the motives of the originators of the publication in question, in common with “Farmer” and others, I am convinced that its effect will be to ruin the breed of

draught horses for which Scotland has become famous, unless something be done at once to counteract its pernicious influence. A vast amount of wilful ignorance exists in connection with the subject, and the information contained in "Farmer's" letter is worthy of attention. I am accustomed to hear people talk about "pure Clydesdales." The purest horse is believed to be the Arabian, and may be accepted as the type of the first horses—that is, the horse in its originally wild state; but the so-called Clydesdale has been made up of converging varieties of the horse, produced by the difference of what in scientific language may be called "*a la* Darwin," their environment. The source from which the British horses more immediately sprang was necessarily the Continent of Europe; but, like the aboriginal inhabitants themselves, the original horses of Scotland appear to have come not directly like those of England. The ungenial climate of Scotland cannot be considered so favourable to the horse as that of England; and we need not be astonished to find that, when special attention was directed in Scotland to the breeding of draught horses, it was found that the English were far advanced, having early directed their attention to the cultivation of the fields, and the improvement of their draught horses; while the Scotch were pasturing large herds of cattle, and living mostly by hunting and fishing. Even assuming that the first horses of England and Scotland were of the same stock, and that both were debarred from the advantage of fresh blood, it can hardly be doubted that, in a given time, the genial climate of England would have made its horses superior, at least in size and condition; and to this natural advantage was superadded the attention paid to the breeding of horses adapted for particular uses. It is interesting to study the relation of the British horses to the continental breeds. At a com-

paratively early period, English horses were as much appreciated on the European Continent as the Clydesdale is now in foreign countries; for Julius Cæsar, in his account of the Roman invasion of Britain, 44 B.C., gives a lively description of the wonderful activity of the hardy British horses, and he admired them so much that he took many of them to Rome, and long afterwards the breed was in great request in various parts of the Roman Empire. These were undersized, compact animals, with good action and great endurance; and while it is likely that their peculiarities were incorporated with certain breeds in the Roman Empire, the same blood, in a mixed or modified form, has probably found its way back to Britain, and was used in improving the old original race. The invasion of the Roman Empire brought together vast hordes of half-civilised men from all parts. Their horses were, like themselves, as hardy as they were varied; and after the partition of the Roman Empire, the diversity of the horses of the new settlers rendered it possible, by different combinations, to breed up to particular standards; and when the Saxons took possession of England, a powerful impulse was given to the improvement of the horses of the country by the introduction of fresh continental blood. It has been pointed out by "Farmier" that Scotland did not participate in this influx of new blood, on account of the hostility of the two countries, which were unfavourable to commercial intercourse; and a royal decree was actually issued in A.D. 930 prohibiting the sending of English horses out of the country. After Elizabeth's reign, a better international feeling arose; but the demand for agricultural horses was so limited in Scotland that no regular attention was paid to the rearing of them, oxen being considered fitter for the plough; and so they were, for the native breed of horses, although active and hardy enough, was deficient in

weight. A desultory and unsystematic interchange of breeds appears to have taken place between England and Scotland up to the reign of George II., when, by a mere accidental circumstance, Flemish blood was introduced into Scotland; and so decided was the improvement that the new breed, which was superior in some respects to the old Scotch breed, took a distinctive name from the district in which it originated, and became celebrated, first in Scotland, and subsequently in the southern counties of England. These original Clydesdales, or what some call "pure" Clydesdales, differed to a considerable extent from the modern horses of that name, for these are at least as much superior to the old breed as the Flanders horse was to the original Scotch variety. Youatt, who is considered a good authority on the horse, quoting Mr. Low, says the Clydesdales are longer in the body than the black "shire" horse, and less weighty, compact, and muscular; but they step and move freely, and have a more useful action for ordinary labour. He also states that the Clydesdale horses, although inferior in weight and physical strength to the "black" horse, and in figure and showy action to the better class of draught horses of Northumberland and Durham, yet possesses properties which render them exceedingly valuable for all ordinary uses. This, of course, is applicable to the old-fashioned style of horse. "Farmer," with whose letter in the *Glasgow Herald* I have been much pleased, correctly states that the most recent improvement has been effected by selecting the finest specimens of "black" shire mares, and mating them with Scotch stallions, and *vice versa*. I remember, about forty years ago, two such mares having been brought to Scotland by a breeder of Clydesdales, who set himself the task of improving them, but was so well aware of the ignorant Scotch prejudice against England and the English, that he

was afraid he would frustrate his intentions by divulging the nationality of these mares, and, judged as Scotch, they were pronounced splendid animals. The fact is, the Clydesdales are indebted to this latest cross for the reputation they have gained in America and Australia; and the Stud-Book is directly calculated to encourage a retrograde movement by conferring a false value on animals that can be shown to have derived no benefit from the recent improvements. We may well ask how it is that intelligent farmers select two horses, not eligible for the Stud-Book, to travel the Glasgow district, and these horses are so well patronised by breeders? How does it happen that animals in the same category establish their superiority at our principal shows? Both "Pansy" and "Queen" are improved Clydesdales, and the brood mare which in their absence took first prize at the recent Glasgow Show is of southern extraction. Some people talk of "pure" Clydesdales as if they had originally fallen from the clouds, or sprung from the ground; and they ignorantly prate of cross breeds, never considering that all our best breeds of domestic animals are a wide departure from the original wild species, and have been produced by crossing. Certainly not crossing species, and thus producing hybrids; but by taking advantage of an accidental type, and perpetuating it. Man's superior intelligence can do much to mould even the organic kingdoms of nature to his uses, but there are certain laws he may not infringe with impunity. There is a limit beyond which he is not permitted to range, and if he study and apprehend these laws, he will steer clear of inbreeding, and also learn that the nearer to a state of nature an animal is maintained, the more will its health and vigour be promoted. The evils of inbreeding are so well known that I shall not enter on the subject, but merely, in conclusion, endorse "Farmer's" opinion, that the sooner

the evil influence of the Stud-Book is counteracted the better, for I believe it is really calculated to undo all that has been done in the last forty years for the improvement of the Clydesdale horse. Since writing the above, I see another letter by "Farmer" in the *Glasgow Herald*, which proves the writer's intimate acquaintance with his subject, and still further confirms my belief that the Stud-Book rests on a false foundation.—I am, &c.,

RODERICK DHU.

THE CLYDESDALE BREED.

(*"Greenock Advertiser," June 6, 1882.*)

SIR,—I take the liberty of enclosing a letter on Clydesdale horses from the *Ayr Observer*, hoping you will consider it worthy of a place in your columns, in which the subject has already been ventilated. It throws light on the history of the breed in question, and may tend to some modification of the views on the utility of the Stud-Book, which is in effect a bar to improvement. I am inclined to think that the principles on which the Stud-Book is based are erroneous, from the circumstance that the founders of it knew or cared little about the history of the Clydesdales, or at all events, in their haste to accomplish some end best known to themselves, ignored the successful efforts that have been made within the last 30 years to rescue a good and improvable breed of draught horses from extinction, and raise it to a higher platform by following the course dictated by knowledge and experience. Foreigners begin to see through the Stud-Book fallacy, and the question now appears to be whether the Stud-Book or the Clydesdales are to go to the wall. I do not see any objection to the registration of good horses, but too much

importance may be attached to pedigree. The horse throws back less, perhaps, than any other of our domestic animals, and it would be a doubtful recommendation to a Clydesdale even if it could be reliably traced back to the first cross between the Belgian and Scotch breeds, for that was neither *purser* nor *better* than the modern or improved stamp produced by the infusion of English blood. The matter cannot be allowed to rest where it is, and I am glad to learn that it is under the consideration of a number of intelligent horse-breeders and owners, who are weighing the opinions of authorities on both sides of the Atlantic, with the view of establishing a Register that will encourage improvement and give confidence to the foreign purchaser, by excluding all animals with transmissible defects as draught horses, whatever be their pedigree. No doubt, a certain class of dealers who use the Stud-Book as a convenient stalking horse will oppose such a course, but that matters little.—Yours, &c.,

A. A. MACFARLANE, M.R.C.V.S., &c.

CLYDESDALE HORSE BREEDING AND THE STUD-BOOK.

(*"The North British Agriculturist"* June 21, 1882.)

EVER ready to open our columns to the statement of both sides of a question, and desirous of giving a disappointed and even misguided minority an opportunity of setting themselves, if possible, right with the public, we complied with a request from the west of Scotland to transfer to the *North British*

Agriculturist an article which recently appeared in a Montreal paper on Agricultural or Clydesdale horse breeding. The writer of the article evidently knows something of his subject, but on certain rather important points he has been grievously misinformed.

It is a pity that an article containing not a little good sense and fair statement should have been tainted with, for example, such a remark as the following:—"Within a few years an abortive attempt has been made to start a Stud-Book for Clyde horses in Scotland." Anything more incorrect or unfair than the introduction of the phrase, "abortive attempt," in the above connection happily does not often find its way into public print. The Clydesdale Stud-Book "an abortive attempt!" Very far from it. The facts are—and they are well known in this country, and admitted by all but two or three "horsey men"—that the Clydesdale Stud-Book movement, started so enthusiastically five years ago, has been a decided success. Steadily the Clydesdale Horse Society has, since its formation, increased in membership and funds, and grown in influence over the country. Instead of signs of abortion in the Clydesdale Stud-Book movement, it is within the mark to say that there have been few, if any, more prosperous agricultural organizations in the kingdom.

In at least one particular it differed in its start and first year or two's career from such modern institutions as the Shorthorn Society, the Galloway Cattle Society, the Ayrshire Cattle Society, the Polled Cattle Society, and the Suffolk Horse Association, whose main objects were, as in the case of the Clydesdale Horse Society, pedigree registration and the propagation of purity of breed. We refer to the opposition offered to the Clydesdale Stud-Book by the horse dealers of the west of Scotland, who in some instances were also breeders, and had in their possession a considerable number

of the better class of horses. It was thus not smooth sailing at the outset with the projectors of the Stud-Book. They, however, had a good cause, and being confident of its merits, persevered against strong though happily circumscribed resistance. The result has, as already indicated, surpassed even the most sanguine expectations. The dealers or breeders who "deal a bit," and there are a considerable number in the west of Scotland, have, it is understood, all caved in with two notable exceptions. Messrs. Drew and Riddell, unfortunately, as many of their friends and well-wishers consider, still hold aloof from pedigree registration. They are energetic, enterprising men, possessed of a thorough knowledge of their business, but in their battle against the Stud-Book they are hopelessly handicapped. Public opinion in Scotland and England, too, is against them. Every endeavour has been made to convince these gentlemen that the Stud-Book movement deserved their support. All such attempts, however, appear to have been "abortive," but that is the only sense in which the word quoted can be applied to the Clydesdale Horse Society's career.

It possibly would serve no purpose to try by anything that could be argued in these columns to persuade Messrs. Drew and Riddell that their best interests lie in the direction of co-operation with the Stud-Book. They may be supposed to know their own interests. The signal success of the Clydesdale Horse Society, however, in spite of their powerful opposition, should afford food for their reflection. They have had through their hands many of the best horses of their day, and still own several excellent showyard specimens—some eligible and some not, for registration in the Stud-Book—but they have not been able, especially this year, to carry everything before them in the showyard to the extent that the author of the Montreal article represents. At the recent Glasgow and

Ayr Shows the Stud-Book horses carried nearly all the honours.

The writer of the Montreal article is in error as to the number of mares to be found with pedigree, or with two or more crosses of recognised Clydesdale blood. Evidently he never had the opportunity of studying the composition of, say, the Keir stud. There are many mares with two or more crosses of Clydesdale material. It cannot, of course, be gainsaid that a large infusion of English shire or cart-horse blood, in the shape of mares and fillies, had for many years been introduced into Scotch Clydesdale quarters. Whether or not that infusion improved the breed known by the name of Clydesdale is a point on which opinion differs, but there is no doubt of the fact, and of the unfairness of individuals importing outside blood and selling the result of the admixture as if it had been pure Clydesdale. It is an open secret that that practice was carried on very successfully in a monetary sense for several years, and possibly nothing precipitated the Stud-Book movement so much as the spread of that fact among those interested in the Clydesdale horse. Once the agitation for the Stud-Book took formal shape, nothing, probably, stimulated the movers so much as the stout resistance of a few dealers, some, if not all, of whom were well known to draw largely on English blood on the female side.

In some quarters it was doubtless felt that too much outside material was being brought into Clydesdale circles. The fine old breed was threatened with the comparative obliteration of its salient features. There was a natural desire to prevent that, and with the originators of the Stud-Book there was also the laudable wish to place within the reach of the buyers of Clydesdales some reliable means of judging of the breeding of the animals which they might purchase.

The aim of the Stud-Book, as we take it, was not to shut

out all English blood from Scotland, but to let breeders and buyers know when they were getting pure Clydesdales, or animals of that breed more or less mixed with the English varieties. If any foreign or home buyer wishes to secure a pure Clydesdale, or prefers a cross between that breed and the English shire, the Stud-Book lends assistance to him which he could not previously have obtained. We are not one of those who fear the downfall, or even substantial deterioration, of the breed by the operations of the Stud-Book. If, however, the predictions of some anti-Stud-Book men should ever show the faintest appearance of realization, corrective material should not then be unattainable; but let it be introduced if required—which it is not likely to be for many a day at least—openly, yet sparingly and judiciously. It never was contended that pedigree registration would in itself be sufficient evidence of the merits of an animal, though some of the opponents of the Stud-Book argue as if that had been asserted.

Every experienced breeder knows to his cost that “weeds” or inferior sorts will present themselves now and again even in good pedigreed strains, and are by no means uncommon in all varieties of stock which boast of Herd or Stud-Book registration. It will be observed that the Montreal writer alludes to this aspect in terms which rather reflect on the Clydesdale Stud-Book. To blame it for the inferiority of some of the Clydesdales that have been sent across the Atlantic during last two or three years is unfair and unjust. We all know that not a few animals of good pedigree, or at all events eligible pedigree, are not much to look at. Some beasts of that description, however, breed well; others do not. Of the latter it is well known a considerable number have been exported to America since 1878. That was not the Stud-Book’s fault. It was due to the stupidity of the foreign

buyer, or to the lightness of his purse. Scores of horses, chiefly entires, have in recent years crossed the Atlantic which were scarcely worth coming so far for though they had been got for nothing. They were not missed at home, but many practical men felt that their departure to a comparatively new country was nevertheless an indirect loss to those interested in the Clydesdale breed. It was calculated to create an unfavourable and misleading impression abroad of the real and unquestionably high merits of the *bona fide* first-class Clydesdale.

CLYDESDALE HORSES.

(*"Ayr Observer," July 4, 1882*).

SIR,—My attention has been called to a quasi-editorial in a late number of the *North British Agriculturist* on Clydesdale horses. The writer's knowledge of the subject is evidently limited, and it would be but "thrashing chaff" to enter into an argument with him. He affects to pity Mr. Drew and Mr. Riddell because they cannot see that they should support the Stud-Book. It is a strong, but nonsensical statement, and pretty wide of the mark, that the Stud-Book is approved by all in this country, except by two or three "horsey" men; and that in the west they have all "caved in" but Mr. Drew and Mr. Riddell. Such a statement must be founded either on ignorance or dishonesty; and I am convinced that a large proportion of subscribers to the Stud-Book have given their names without much consideration, simply because they were solicited. The late Lord Drumore, who had a craze on the Stud-Book question,

exerted his influence with the nobility and gentry, many of whom had no practical knowledge of Clydesdales; and, as it was not their knowledge, but their money that was wanted, the Stud-Book was inaugurated—the names of 50 noblemen and 50 land proprietors being on the list of original subscribers. The book was projected partly on personal grounds, partly on prejudice, and partly on ignorance. Its abettors are continually raising the cuckoo cry of “pure” Clydesdales, by which they mean (if they attach any meaning to it at all), animals that have no admixture of English blood; or, in other words, that can be traced back in an unbroken line to a “cross” with the Strathavon Belgians and the old Scotch mares, and have providentially escaped any improvement.

The inconsistency of the concoctors of the Stud-Book may be found out by reference to the fact that they entered in its pages, without the consent of the owners, the names of horses known to be of English extraction. These they could not well do without. “Lord Lyon,” for example, was out of an English mare, and “General,” the sire of “Prince of Wales,” was so too.

The number of prizes the descendants of these horses have taken since the Stud-Book was started will show a large proportion at the principal shows.

For years back they have carried nearly all the group prizes at Glasgow for 5 yearlings and 5 two-year-olds. “Darnley” has come in for a share, but the English blood in that horse is the reason of his breeding so well. At last Glasgow show, in the two-year-old filly class, the first, second, third, and fourth prizes were all gets of “Lord Lyon,” and I understand the first and second have since been sold at higher prices than have ever been got for fillies in Scotland.

Your contemporary refers to the Keir stud in support of his views. He may not know that there are few studs that owe so much to English blood. Two English mares from Keir were awarded first prizes by the Highland and Agricultural Society, and by a judicious selection of brood mares the Keir stud has produced the best stock in the country.

What we want is good horses. An exhibitor remarked at one of our recent cattle shows, "I would rather have a good horse without a pedigree, than a bad one, although he had a pedigree back to the flood." There is really sound, practical sense in the remark, for it is well known to horse breeders that a foal takes very much after its immediate parents. Your contemporary attempts to give the subject a personal complexion by singling out two gentlemen who will not support the Stud-Book as it stands, but I may take the liberty of informing him that there are not a few experienced horse breeders and other gentlemen taking an intelligent interest in the subject, who are convinced of the unsound basis on which the Stud-Book rests. It is well known that Mr. Drew has to a great extent given up showing, but no unimportant proportion of prize-takers owes success to Merryton blood.

Notwithstanding the profession of impartiality of your contemporary, I am not inclined to put much confidence in it, and prefer to ask you to favour me with a corner for these few remarks on a subject that must be interesting to some of your readers.—I am, &c.,

RODERICK DHU.

THE BREEDING OF HIGH-CLASS CLYDESDALE HORSES.

("Dunfermline Saturday Press," February 24th, 1883.)

A MEETING for such a purpose was held last week by the farmers and others interested in this cause in Dunfermline, to consider the propriety of still further advancing it, and the best means of doing so. Every one admitted the importance of the object in view, and were quite unanimous that means should be taken to procure a horse or horses of this class to travel in the district. A Committee was appointed to attend the Glasgow Show of stallions, held this week, and select a horse for the purpose—only that it was to be one duly registered in the Stud-Book. We understand, however, that on this point there were a number of dissenting voices—several being of the opinion that, whether registered or unregistered, the best horse should be selected. On referring to the report of the Glasgow Show of stallions this week, we find one prominent horse's (the Prince of Wales) stock figuring with the largest entry, 13, and out of these were placed the two first premiums for the Glasgow district. Neither the Highland Society, we understand, nor the Glasgow Society confine themselves to the so-called register book; the best breeding horse is their aim. No man has wrought harder, we believe, for this object than Mr. Drew, who figures very prominently this year in the show list; and, as will be seen from the report, for the last five years, the "Prince of Wales" has bred six of the premium horses of this Society, and the stock, it is said, commands the highest prices that are going at home or abroad. Last year, some of the stock of this horse was exhibited at

our own local show, and which was purchased by the Earl of Elgin (at a Merryton sale), and the same class of stock is, we understand, working its way in our own district—which, of course, must be to the advantage of the farmers and breeders in the West of Fife. During the last two seasons, “sons” of the “Prince,” from Merryton stud, have been travelling in the district; and, as will be seen from our advertising columns, Mr. Drew intends sending along another three-year-old colt, reported to be equally as good as the Glasgow three-year-old chosen horse. The importance of having such stock in our midst must be apparent to every one, and must surely be considered safe to breed from. The “Prince of Wales” stands at Merryton, and is put to the best mares Mr. Drew can purchase in the country; and there can be no doubt it is to this that the Merryton stock figures so prominently in the show list as it has done this week in Glasgow and former years. Mr. Drew, it appears, has none of his horses entered in the register, not eligible, according to the terms of the book; he purchases and selects his mares in England principally. As it ought to be the aim of every farmer and breeder, whether in England or Scotland, to get the right cross, and go on improving the breed, it is important that those in the western district of Fife should be able to hold their own, both as to numbers and quality, against all comers at their annual Show; and this can only be done by securing the services of such horses as the two which are to travel in the district.

THE BREEDING OF HIGH-CLASS CLYDESDALE HORSES.

(*"Dunfermline Saturday Press," March 3, 1883.*)

SIR,—In reference to the article in your last week's issue under the above heading—an article which I had great pleasure in perusing—allow me to say that I consider this subject to be one of very great importance to the agriculturists—not only of the Western District of Fife, but everywhere else. I was present at the meeting of farmers you refer to, and I may mention that there were forty farmers present; and when the motion relating to the Society's Horse being entered in the Stud-Book of Scotland was proposed and seconded, there was not one in the room offered to make an amendment; and, of course, the motion was unanimously agreed to. Ultimately, when the clerk of the meeting was enrolling members and supporters, there were four gentlemen against such on the ground of the foregoing motion.

It is mentioned that Mr. Lawrence Drew, Merryton, has not any of his horses entered in the Stud-Book. This is incorrect, as the noted horse, "Prince of Wales" is (Vol. I., 673); as also his sire, "General" (322); his grandsire, "Sir Walter Scott" (797); his great-grandsire, "Old Clyde" (574); and his great-great-grandsire, "Scotsman" (754); and such a strain of blood accounts, undoubtedly, for "Prince of Wales" being so successful a breeder. With all due praise, therefore, to the spirited owner of the aforementioned horse, who has, I believe, carried this subject of breeding as far as any one in the country, I would venture to state that the action he has all along taken, in reference to the Stud-Book of Scotland, has not always been in his favour. As to

crossing of different breeds, the establishment of the Stud-Book, and the preservation in a clear condition of certain well-recognised fountains of Clydesdale blood, will be of great assistance to those who have confidence in themselves to experiment ; and every breeder should establish a system of registration, as the buyers of their produce will not now-a-days accept a mere verbal guarantee as to blood constituents. No breeder should work towards any combination of horse-flesh without knowing the ingredients which he wishes to put together ; and, as the horse is one of the slowest animals as regards propagation, so, without registration, experiments are lost sight of. With registration, however, such breeders, working with well-defined material, and possessing full knowledge of their subject, may raise animals superior to what are now recognised amongst shorthorns.

But I cannot claim your space to enter into minute details regarding the advantage of the Stud-Book to breeders of "High-class Clydesdales," and to the advantage which will accrue to the Clydesdale breed by its establishment. Suffice it to say, that if we look at the recent sales, both public and private, of the pedigree horses, we find that day after day they are becoming less popular, and prices, consequently, are not so remunerative as previously. Now, considering what I have mentioned about the Stud-Book, and looking back for twenty years or so, it is not to be wondered at the steps which the Western District of Fife Clydesdale Entire Horse Society took anent having a Stud-Book horse ; for during that period the district has had the services of such horses as "Lord Lyon" (489), who was commended at the Highland Society's Show in 1869, and was well known as a breeder ; "Wonderful" (915), who was the sire of the famous horse, "Topsman," "Sir Colin Campbell" (778), who was sire of the dam of "Time of

Day;" "Donald Dinnie" (237), whose fame as a breeder is well known in Canada and the United States; "Surprise" (845); "Scotsman" (760); "Garibaldi," Salmond's (312); and "Prince Edward of Wales" (1255). And if we go back as far as 1836, the district had the services for three years of the famous horse, "Napoleon," who was winner of the Highland Society Prize that year; and many other Clydesdale horses, all of which were eligible, and are duly entered in the Stud-Book, and which Clydesdale breeders are glad to claim kin to.

But at the period when these horses were in this district, breeding did not get the attention it is apparently getting now. Horses were not so valuable, and breeders were not offered the guide, in the shape of registration, which we have at our disposal now; and I would just say, in conclusion, that in this district, where there are now a good number of mares that are entered in the Stud-Book, their owners should be careful to serve such only with *Pedigree Horses* for the sake of—firstly, their produce; and, secondly, the purity of the Clydesdale breed. Trusting you will excuse me occupying so much of your valuable space, I am, &c.,

JAMES DRUMMOND, JUN.

Blacklaw, Dunfermline.

BREEDING OF CLYDESDALE HORSES.

(*"Dunfermline Saturday Press," March 10th, 1883.*)

SIR,—I have read with some interest the articles in your columns on the subject of Clydesdale horses, and beg you will allow me to put Mr. Drummond right on matters of fact.

He states that Mr. Drew's "Prince of Wales" is entered in the Stud-Book. That may be, but I can vouch for the fact that Mr. Drew's consent to enter his horse was neither asked nor given; and that, with others who have studied the different breeds of draught horses, he is thoroughly convinced of the pernicious tendency of the Stud-Book in its present form, and will lend it no countenance. I wonder Mr. Drummond, when he quotes from the Stud-Book, does not bring out the whole truth; and he may, perhaps, allow me to call his attention to the facts brought out in the Stud-Book, that the dam of "General," sire of "Prince of Wales," was an English mare; that the dam of "Lord Lyon" was English; and that the sire of "Topsman's" dam was an English horse. The inherent defects of the original Clydesdales rendered it necessary, many years ago, to infuse into the breed superior blood, and that has been selected from English prize stock. In common with others, I had, at one time, a prejudice against English stock, but I have now no hesitation in saying, that had it not been for the judicious use made of it, the breed by this time would have been reduced to insignificance. Is it not a fact that the three horses I have named, and "Darnley" (also of English extraction), have produced more prize-winners at the principal shows than any other stud horse; and is it not evident that such a result is due to the infusion of fresh blood of a superior stamp? It is a well-known fact, that Glasgow and Cantyre districts have held the premier position for breeding high-class Clydesdales for many years, and this year the four horses chosen to travel these districts have been selected on their own merits from the Merryton stables without reference to the Stud-Book. Mr. Drummond says truly, that horse breeding did not get the attention formerly that it does now, and that day after day "pedigree horses"—by which I presume he means

Stud-Book horses—are becoming less popular, and prices, consequently, are not so remunerative as formerly. I am not at all surprised at this. The great attention now paid to breeding has produced a horse of superior mould, tabooed by the Stud-Book, which admits to its columns the veriest weeds, if they can be certified *pure*—or, as Mr. Drummond puts it, derived from “well recognised fountains of Clydesdale blood.” The fountain-head of “Clydesdale blood” is the produce of the black Belgian horse and the old Scotch agricultural mare; and some of the horses that gained a reputation in former times on which a stress is laid, would cut but a sorry figure in the show ring alongside of the splendid animals of the present day, that owe their superiority to a judicious blending of the best blood of Britain. The fact should not be lost sight of, that the Merryton horses, although not entered in the Stud-Book, whether eligible or not, are not without pedigree. Mr. Drummond makes a valuable suggestion, that “every breeder should establish a system of registration.” I would go a step further, and say that all interested in good draught horses should combine and publish a select register containing the names of prize stock with their line of descent—back, say, two generations. The fact that such animals had been judged worthy of distinction would be more valuable than the Stud-Book numbers, which tell nothing of individual merits.

I am glad to know that, although the Stud-Book appeals strongly to mercenary motives, its use in improving or even keeping up the Clydesdale breed, is considered by many at least doubtful.—I am, &c.,

ST. ANDREW.

THE BREEDING OF HIGH-CLASS CLYDESDALE HORSES.

A CORRECTION.

SIR,—In my letter relating to “The Breeding of High-Class Clydesdale Horses,” which appeared in your last issue of the *Dunfermline Press*, there is a mistake in one of the sentences which I would take as a great favour if you would kindly correct in your issue of Saturday first. The sentence, as it appears in the *Press*, reads—“Suffice it to say, that if we look at recent sales, both public and private, of the *pedigree* horses, we find that day after day they are becoming less popular, and prizes, consequently, are not so remunerative as previously.” It should read—“Suffice it to say, that if we look at the recent sales, both public and private, of the *unpedigree* horses, we find that, day after day, they are becoming less popular, and prizes, consequently, are not so remunerative as previously.” The mistake is simply in the word “pedigree;” it should have been *unpedigree*.—I am, &c.,

JAMES DRUMMOND, JUN.

Blacklaw, 7th March, 1883.

THE CLYDESDALE HORSE QUESTION.

(“*Dunfermline Saturday Press*,” March 17, 1883.)

SIR,—In a recent issue of your valuable journal, an article appeared on “The Breeding of High-class Clydesdale Horses.” As this article bore evident marks of inspiration from interested parties, I deemed it my duty to reply to

some of its statements, and this called forth a further rejoinder from "St. Andrew." With your kind permission, I would now endeavour calmly to review the whole correspondence; and, in the first place, thank you for inserting the correction of my first letter, which renders inoperative many of the remarks of "St. Andrew."

The intention of the inspired article is obviously to "write up" the stock of Mr. Drew's "Prince of Wales" (673), and to this end a few statements were made, which are in the main true, but, as stated, convey an erroneous impression. Now, it is the fact, that neither the Highland Society nor the Glasgow Society instruct their judges to select Stud-Book horses only, but the Highland Society have only once selected a non-pedigree horse—namely "Zulu" for the Kelso district in 1880; and I question very much the satisfaction that such a selection gave to the farmers resident in that district. Although it is true that six of the Glasgow Premium Horses for the last five years have been bred by Mr. Drew, and got by "Prince of Wales" (673), one of these horses—"Prince of Altyre" (653)—is a registered horse, although out of an English mare—(and that wont do "St. Andrew" much good, as foals in the Glasgow district by "Altyre" are conspicuous by their absence in the show-yard); and the winner of the senior premium in 1882 and 1883 is "St. Lawrence," a horse whose pedigree may be recorded at any time by those interested, as he is known to be quite eligible. The only other horses to be accounted for are, "Hawkhead" and "Lord Douglas"—winners of the Glasgow Premiums in 1881; and "Premier Prince," winner of the junior premium in 1883. All these horses are out of English mares, and were selected, I suppose "St. Andrew" would affirm, "on their merits." If so, the farmers round Glasgow had a very different notion of the merits of the two first from the judges

who selected them, because Mr. Mark Marshall, Secretary, stated at the Annual General Meeting of the Glasgow Society in December 1881, that the number of mares served by the aged horse during the season was 46, and the number served by "Lord Douglas" is now known on the best authority to have been 26. The show-yard record of "Lord Douglas" was certainly not inferior to that of "Premier Prince;" and it remains to be seen whether the members of the Glasgow Agricultural Society will endorse the action of their judges at the Stallion Show of 1883.

The statement that the stock of these "Prince of Wales" horses command the highest prices that are going at home or abroad is misleading, as the only thing connected with "Prince of Altyre" that is known to have gone abroad was himself; and no reports have been published of prices realized for stock of the other horses. The foals got by "St. Lawrence" in the Lesmahagow district in 1881 are known to have realized good prices, but "St. Lawrence" is to all intents and purposes a Stud-Book horse, and the majority of the mares in Lesmahagow are pedigree Clydesdale mares.

"Hawkhead" was foaled in 1877, he therefore served mares as a three-year-old in 1880, and there ought to have been foals off him shown in 1882 as yearlings. There were one or two, but they did not take a leading position in the show-yard, and only one sale is reported of a colt by him, and that has been bought by his owner. Another horse got by "Prince of Wales" (673) out of an English mare was "Lord Harry." He created a tremendous sensation when exhibited, but what stock is there off him, and where are the high prices realised for his stock either at home or abroad? Words like "weed" come very badly from one who advocates the use of this breed of horses in the West of Fife.

I must now turn more particularly to the letter of "St. Andrew." "Prince of Wales" (673) was not entered in the Stud-Book by his owner, but by his breeder, Mr. James Nicol Fleming. His sire, "General" (322), was out of a splendid English mare which gained first prize at the Highland and Agricultural Show in 1857; and more than that, his dam, "Darling," is said to have been out of an English mare; and the dam of the sire of his dam—that is of "Samson" (741)—is also believed to have been out of an English mare. The defects of the Clydesdale were such that English mares had to be brought in to remedy them (!) So says the oracle. Have they done so? The great difficulty in horse breeding is to maintain strength along with quality. The Clydesdale has, and had, plenty of quality; the point was to get strength. Have we got that in the "Prince of Wales" family? The answer is, no. I am of the opinion that "Prince of Wales," unless crossed to strong mares, would breed a race of splendid van horses. Glasgow and Cantyre have not held the premier position for breeding high-class Clydesdales for many years, and in it, until last year, a "Prince of Wales" horse never travelled. The leading prize-winners of recent years which came from Cantyre were "Ivanhoe" (396) and "Strathclyde" (1538); and these were not got by the prize horses at all, but by a local horse named "Lorne" (499). Two sons of "Prince of Wales"—viz., "Prince David" (643) and "Luck's All" (510)—travelled in Cantyre, and I should like to hear what high-class Clydesdales were got by them in the peninsula.

The English blood in "Darnley" is like "one of the straws at which drowning men catch." He is not of English extraction. The dam of the sire of his dam—that is of "Samson" (741)—is said by Mr. Riddell to have been got out of an English mare; all his progenitors otherwise were

admittedly Clydesdale. "St. Andrew" might find out how much English blood that leaves in "Darnley's" veins.

Let the farmers of the West of Fife stick to the pedigreed Stud-Book horse. There's money in his stock, and they always "come again." At a sale of Clydesdales in America, an imported mare, without a Stud-Book pedigree, was put up, and nobody would bid for her. Two "Topsman's" yearlings were offered for sale in Wigtownshire; one was a Stud-Book horse, the other was not. The price of the certified horse was £80; the price of the other £44.

Mr. Drew has no confidence in his own system. He merely does what anyone can do—breeds young cross bred stock and sells them. If he wants people to believe that he is making an improved breed, let him keep the young fillies and breed from them again. English mares suit "Prince of Wales," and "Prince of Wales" suits English mares. When "Prince of Wales" dies where will the Merryton Clydesdales be?—Yours very truly,

JAMES DRUMMOND, JUN.

BLACKLAW.

THE CLYDESDALE HORSE QUESTION.

("Dunfermline Saturday Press," March 24, 1883.)

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Drummond, let me say that "marks of inspiration from interested parties" are at least as evident in his letter in your columns as in the article on "The Breeding of High-class Clydesdale Horses;" but his remark

may be allowed to pass, as affecting the question in discussion only to a small extent; for, like most other questions, it may be viewed from different standpoints. In taking Mr. Drummond at his word, I unwittingly did him an injustice, which I regret; but even after his correction, I do not feel one whit more convinced of the utility of the Stud-Book as a means of improving our breed of draught horses—call them by what name you will. It may be that the Stud-Book certificate, independently of the quality of the horse himself, adds a fictitious value to the animal; but it is a pity that the Stud-Book is so constituted as to give encouragement to mercenary motives, bound in the long-run prejudicially to affect the reputation of the breed. The general question, however, is too wide for discussion within reasonable limits, and I shall content myself with replying to some points in Mr. Drummond's letter, involving plain matters of fact, and I do so, hoping he will absolve me from any desire to "write up" or "write down" the stock of any particular horse. He states that "Prince of Altyre," "Hawkhead," and "Lord Douglas," all winners at the Glasgow Stallion Shows, have not produced winning stock, or brought big prices. We sometimes erroneously assign an effect to a cause, and Mr. Drummond, I think, does so in this instance, as he evidently holds that these horses did not gain a reputation as breeders, because they were not, according to his views, "pure" Clydesdales. If this be true, the converse should also be true; but let us look at the facts. Take the Stud-Book—Glasgow prize stallions—about the same period, viz.:—"Ivanhoe," "Bonny Breastnot," and "Champion of the North." What reputation did they gain as sires of winners? and to what cause does Mr. Drummond attribute their failure? He gives a statement of the number of mares served by "Hawkhead" and "Lord Douglas," as 46 and 26

respectively, whereas the official returns show 78 and 56, making a difference in the aggregate against Mr. Drummond's figures of 62. How does he explain this discrepancy? and how does he make out that these two horses were less acceptable to the members than the two horses of 1880 and 1882, when the former, "Champion of the North" and "Top Gallant" respectively served only 41 and 64 mares; and the latter, "St. Lawrence" and "Lord Erskine," served respectively 73 and 57? These figures surely prove that the members had more confidence in the horses of 1881 than in those of the preceding and following seasons; and Mr. Drummond will excuse me if I say that his statement bears "evident marks of inspiration from interested parties." Take another horse, "Druid," lauded as a "pure" Clydesdale. He stood in the neighbourhood of Glasgow about the same time, and served selected Stud-Book mares from various districts, and I am not aware that any of his progeny have ever been successful in gaining a prize at a Glasgow show, although they are considered good enough for the American market; and no one interested in our draught horses grudges their exportation. I may take the liberty of correcting Mr. Drummond's statement that no horse by "Prince of Wales" travelled the Cantyre district till last year. It is well known that in 1881 "Rosebery," by "Prince of Wales," out of an English mare, travelled that district, and 13 last year's foals by him sold at good prices, ranging as high as £130. It may be worth while stating the fact, that "Prince of Wales" had the reputation justly conceded to him ten years ago of being the most successful horse in the country in getting prize-winners, and these were nearly all out of Scotch-bred mares. At the same time, it cannot be denied that his produce out of carefully-selected English mares has exhibited many points of superior excellence, brought out less by any

exclusive peculiarities on the part of the horse himself than by judicious mating, and the same result might be effected by any breeder who has studied his business. For example, three yearlings by "Darnley"—a colt gained first prize at Glasgow last year; another was first at Hamilton; and a filly was first both at Ayr and Hamilton, and these were out of English mares. In reference to the pedigree of "Samson," *alias* "Logan's twin," Mr. Drummond appears to be rather at sea. He says that he was not of English extraction, but it can be proved that his dam was bred by Mr. Jack out of an English mare, and it is a well-known fact that, in a competition at Glasgow, "Samson's" dam gained the first prize as a filly, and the second was awarded to Mr. Drew for an animal in the same class. The horse is a native of a warm country, which renders the infusion of fresh blood necessary in the ungenial climate of Scotland, of itself calculated to produce a deterioration of his size and strength, and the benefit arising from such a process has not only an immediate effect, but manifests itself even after several generations, if the blood introduced be of a superior quality, and the improvements that have been effected on the different breeds may be traced to a southern source. In conclusion, allow me to say, that Glasgow is so generally acknowledged as one of the best horse-breeding districts, that I wonder Mr. Drummond disputes it.—I am, &c.,

ST. ANDREW.

[Both sides having had their say, this discussion must close here.—ED. S. P.]

THE CLYDESDALE HORSE QUESTION.

[Although the discussion on the "Clydesdale Horse Question" was virtually closed in our columns on the 24th ult., we have since, in consideration of the importance of the question at issue, been induced, by a correspondent from America, to give the following letter a place in our to-day's issue. Of course, the other party who took part in the discussion will be entitled to a reply.—ED. S. P.]

"Round-hoof'd, short-jointed, fetlocks shag and long;
Broad breast, full eye, small head, and nostril wide;
High crest, short ears, straight legs, and passing strong;
Thin mane, thick tail, broad buttock, tender hide—
Look, what a horse should have, he did not lack,
Save a proud rider, on so proud a back."

Shakspeare's "Venus and Adonis."

SIR,—I have read, with great interest, the correspondence which has appeared of late in your columns, relative to the breeding of high-class Clydesdale horses; and as this is a very important matter, not only to exporters of these animals, but to breeders and farmers at large, I crave the liberty of a small portion of your valuable space, to give expression to my views on the subject. I think it will be generally admitted that, for agricultural purposes and heavy lorry work, the leading qualities required in a horse are weight, substance, strength, and durability; and, if that be so, the question remains, How are these to be attained?

I assume, as a matter about which there can be but one opinion, that if these qualities are once found in a horse, no one need cavil about the question of blood or pedigree; for I hold that these qualities cannot exist without blood

and pedigree sufficient, to produce them, and that is all that is required. The pure Clydesdale—for feet, legs, pasterns, and general beauty of symmetry—is preferable to the English shire horse; but the latter possesses weight, substance, and strength, to which the Clydesdale cannot pretend. The offspring of a blend between a Clydesdale sire and an English dam, however, has been found, by the most experienced breeders, to possess not only beauty of symmetry, but action, substance, strength, and durability in a higher degree than any animal which has yet been bred. It is likewise asserted—and I have no reason to doubt it—that such offspring, when not too “sib,” propagate stock which sustain the character of their authors in every respect. This fact was most successfully demonstrated at the last Glasgow Stallion Show, when two horses, which are ineligible for the Stud-Book—viz., “Prince of Avondale” and “St. Lawrence,” the property of Mr. Lawrence Drew, of Merryton, and Mr. David Riddell, of Blackhall, respectively—were placed, by most experienced judges, first in their respective classes. The last-mentioned fact is one of the very greatest significance, when we consider that it occurred in Glasgow, where the Clydesdale Stud-Book is compiled and published; and, I guess, it deals a blow at that publication, from the effects of which it is not likely soon to recover.

It is a remarkable circumstance that these gentlemen, in bringing their stock to such perfection, have adopted an independent course for themselves, and have refused to give the Stud-Book any countenance—believing, as it is reported, that the rules of admission to that publication are wrong in principle, and do not in the least tend to improve the breed, or to produce stock possessing the qualities required in a horse for agricultural purposes and other heavy

work. But the reason is now quite apparent. They have, by a long course of experiment, in carrying out their own pet ideas, produced, I take leave to say, the finest breed of horses for these purposes which the world has yet seen. I think, therefore, that the time has come for adopting the suggestion made by your correspondent, "St. Andrew," that "a select register be kept, containing the names of prize stock, with their line of descent, back, say, two generations;" and if Messrs. Drew and Riddell could be induced to countenance such a scheme, they could, out of their own stock and its offspring, lay the foundation of a Stud-Book which would not only throw all others into the shade, but, in the phraseology of my own country, would "lick creation." I write as an American importer of considerable experience—knowing what is required in the great agricultural districts of the Far West, where, to cultivate the soil with success, horses of the stamp of the "Prince of Avondale" and "St. Lawrence" are in great demand.—I am, &c.,

JOSIAH WILLIAMS.

GRAND HOTEL, GLASGOW, *April 4, 1883.*

THE CLYDESDALE HORSE QUESTION.

SIR,—My attention having been directed to the letter in your issue of Saturday, signed by "Josiah Williams," and purporting to hail from the Grand Hotel, Glasgow, on the subject of "The Clydesdale Horse Question," I must ask you to be kind enough to grant me space to state the

following facts connected with the enquiries I have made regarding this letter and its authorship. I know the great majority of American importers personally, and have frequent correspondence with many of them. The file of the *National Live Stock Journal*, published in Chicago, is kept in this office regularly, and many other American agricultural journals are sent here. I do not remember ever having seen an advertisement in the name of the gentleman who writes in your paper, and this seems to me a most extraordinary circumstance, especially as the importance of advertising is well understood in all departments of trade in America. However, this does not prove that "Josiah Williams" has no existence. A visitor from America, however, is usually well-known in a Scotch hotel. Being desirous of having a conversation with "Mr. Williams," I went yesterday afternoon and called for a gentleman of that name at the Grand Hotel, and asked the hall-porter if Mr. Josiah Williams, an American gentleman, who was in the house on April 4th, had gone. The porter had no recollection of any such individual being in the house on the date specified, and on referring to the visitors' book, no such name was found in it. I then asked if all visitors inscribed their names, and was informed that they did so—especially in the case of foreigners who might be residing for a few days. Now, sir, all this gives rise to painful misgivings, and these are not allayed when the internal structure of the letter is submitted to critical examination. Americans, it is generally believed, are in the habit of using, in conversation, the phrase, "I guess," but I have never found that phrase in print (unless in a novel), or in a business communication. And again, the lines—"A Stud-Book, which would not only throw all others into the shade, but, in the phraseology of my own country, would 'lick creation.'" Americans are not

usually so particular in pointing out the peculiarities of their native colloquial dialect.

I do not say that the letter in your issue of Saturday last is not the product of the pen of an American importer, but I do say that there are facts connected with its ostensible authorship, which render this very doubtful; and no one who knows anything of American opinion on the subject under discussion will, for one moment, venture to affirm that the sentiments contained in the letter are, with the exception of those in the first paragraph, in any way related to those entertained by the great majority of American importers. I would only point out in conclusion, that to speak of "St. Lawrence" as being an ineligible horse, after the letter of Mr. John M. Martin, of Auchendennan, the Vice-President of this Society, in the *North British Agriculturist* of March 27, is, to say the least, not ingenuous; and for the refutation of the fallacies contained in the letter of "Josiah Williams," I would respectfully refer your readers to Mr. Martin's letter, and the three letters of Mr. James Drummond, Jun., in your columns, which, I take leave to say, have not been answered.—Yours very truly,

ARCHD. M'NEILAGE, JUN.

Secretary.

Clydesdale Horse Society.

Glasgow, 10th April, 1883.

THE CLYDESDALE HORSE QUESTION.

SIR,—I am indebted to you, for your courtesy in having given me space in your issue of the 7th inst. for my former letter on this very important agricultural question, notwithstanding that your columns were virtually closed on

the subject, and I was pleased to see from the editorial note prefixed that you were generous enough to afford the other party an opportunity to reply. No reply has appeared, however, except that of the Secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society; but that reply does not in the least shake any of the propositions laid down by me in my former communication. On the contrary, it clumsily evades the whole question, and parades before your readers the prowess of the Secretary in his unsuccessful escapade as an amateur detective.

To save Mr. M'Neilage the trouble and anxiety of attempting to fish out my present hotel, I shall suppress its name altogether. He refers me for a refutation of the "fallacies" contained in my letter—not one of which he has ventured to point out—to several letters which appeared in your columns, and which, he asserts, have not been answered. I have perused the letters to which he refers, and I can only say, that though I do not pretend to have the shrewdness of even an amateur detective, I could have no difficulty in naming their "sire." They contain a series of statements which have been year after year, and show after show, dissipated to the winds by the awards of the judges. Still, there are a class of people who have more than once talked the public into the most absurd errors, notwithstanding the irresistible logic of facts. That no contradiction has appeared to the propositions enunciated by me in my last letter relative to the qualities and form required in the best horses for agricultural purposes is, I venture to think, the best evidence of the soundness of these propositions, and of their general acceptance by the agricultural public. The first proposition in my former communication was, "that the leading qualities required in a horse for agricultural purposes, and heavy lorry work, are weight, substance, strength, and durability."

This is a statement which no one who knows anything about the subject will venture to deny. Even Mr. M'Neilage, in his letter, frankly admits it, although, for a profound knowledge of the good qualities of a horse, I have never heard him blamed. This is descriptive of a good horse for agricultural purposes in its matter or substance, apart from its form. The form of a good horse, apart from its substance, I gave from the works of the greatest master of description which the world has ever seen, written more than 300 years ago; and who can deny that it is the very pattern of a horse, up to which the most celebrated agriculturists of the present day have been breeding? So exquisitely exhaustive and replete is this description that I take the liberty of repeating it:

“Round-hoof'd, short-jointed, fetlocks shag and long;
Broad breast, full eye, small head, and nostril wide;
High crest, short ears, straight legs, and passing strong;
Thin mane, thick tail, broad buttock, tender hide—
Look what a horse should have.”

These are the points of a good horse, which ought invariably to be kept in view by all jockeys at agricultural shows, in discharging the duties of the office to which they are appointed. And I must say that, from my own observation and experience in this country, I have no reason to doubt that, as a rule, these characteristics are strictly attended to. To produce horses possessing these qualities, therefore, should be the aim of all breeders; and the aim of a Stud-Book should be to preserve a record of horses like these, for in this must consist its greatest intrinsic value. But, it may be asked, how are we to discover the best horses for agricultural purposes? I answer, by exhibiting them in the show-ring, and subjecting them to the scrutiny of the judges; and their verdict on the matter is the most approved method

which has yet been devised for discovering the best horses. Assuming, then, that these principles of judging have been applied and brought into operation at the majority of agricultural exhibitions held north of the Tweed during the last quarter of a century—and of this there can be no reason to doubt—what do we find? Why, they are these—that the two gentlemen, Messrs. Drew and Riddell, who have stood aloof from the Stud-Book, have been awarded, for horses and stock (which are almost invariably ineligible for the Stud-Book), more first prizes than any two men in Scotland, or elsewhere. In fact, if I mistake not, it is not so long ago since one of these gentlemen netted five first prizes at the Highland and Agricultural Society's Show. What, then, does all this prove? It proves, beyond doubt, that the stock of these gentlemen is, in the opinion of the best judges—gentlemen selected, not by them, but by the principal societies all over the country—entitled to the first place wherever it is exhibited. They can afford, therefore, to look with ineffable scorn on the insinuation of Mr. James Drummond, and the “sire” of his letter, that articles are inspired to “write up” the stock of the Merryton and Blackhall sires. That the majority of American importers think highly of the Glasgow Stud-Book is quite true, but this arises from ignorance of the fact, that many of the very best horses for agricultural purposes and lorry work are excluded from its pages, and it is high time that the delusions under which they labour are swept away. What does the Secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society say to the fact, that at Kilmarnock Horse Show on Friday last week, Messrs. Drew and Riddell carried off the principal honours, in several classes of Clydesdales, by horses which were nearly Anglican pure?

I shall not stoop to join issue with Mr. M'Neilage in his

detective exploit. This is out of the question, and is a striking instance of the proverbial method of a man with a bad case abusing his opponent. If he finds that, in the argument, which I have endeavoured to conduct with the best of feeling, he has been rolled in the mud, he has himself to blame. I shall now leave the subject to the judgment of my agricultural friends, and when I again return to this country, I hope I shall find a Stud-Book in existence which will contain a record of horses which are, in the opinion of the best judges, entitled to the first place. Thanking you for your indulgence, I still subscribe myself,

JOSIAH WILLIAMS.

17th April, 1883.

CLYDESDALES AND ENGLISH HORSES.

(*"North British Agriculturist,"* March 7, 1883.)

At the annual meeting of the English Cart-Horse Society, held in London on Thursday—the Earl of Powis presiding—Mr. Pole-Gell suggested that steps should be taken to get the Scotch breeders to unite with them in getting one Stud-Book for the whole of Great Britain. (Hear, hear.) Our country had been drained of its best mares to go to Scotland, and he would find one English horse which had got more prize-winning Clydesdales than any other horse in the kingdom, namely, old "Lincolnshire Lad." (Laughter and applause.) He believed the Scotch breeders would be quite ready to unite with them, and he hoped some steps would be taken to carry out his suggestion. If the Scotch breeders would not amalgamate with them, he thought he could possibly bring something forward which would compel them.

The President thought the question mooted by Mr. Pole-Gell might very well be discussed at the next meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society at York, which was sure to attract a number of Scotch breeders.

Mr. Thomas Brown fully concurred with the suggestion made by Mr. Pole-Gell. It had always been his opinion that there should be one Stud-Book for all cart-horses.

Mr. Anthony Hamond—Would you include Suffolks?

Mr. Brown—Oh, I care nothing about Suffolks. I scarcely class them amongst cart-horses. (Laughter.)

Mr. Fredk. Street thought it would be a sign of weakness on their part to ask the Scotch breeders to unite with them. The members of the English Cart-Horse Society believed they had got the best animal in the world—(hear, hear)—and that being so, they ought to stick to it. He was quite willing to acknowledge that there were good qualities in the Scotch horse; they had taught the English breeders a lesson—good feet, legs, and pasterns; but their weight, substance, strength, and character they had derived from the English horse. The time had gone by for asking the Scotch breeders to unite with them, and he should most strongly oppose anything of the sort.

The discussion then dropped.

CLYDESDALE AND ENGLISH CART- HORSES.

(*"North British Agriculturist," March 14th, 1883.*)

By a short report in our issue of last week it would have been observed that the amalgamation of the Clydesdale Horse Stud-Book with the English Cart-Horse Stud-Book

was proposed at the annual meeting of the society which compiles and publishes the latter. The amalgamation was suggested by Mr. Chandos-Pole-Gell, of Hopton Hall, Derbyshire, who knows a great deal about both breeds, and is a high authority on pedigree-stock matters. He was a keen supporter of the movement that resulted in the establishment of the Clydesdale Stud-Book a few years ago, and he was a member of the original council of the Clydesdale Horse Society. He is still an admirer of the Clydesdale, though he seems to lean a little more to the cross between the English and Scotch agricultural horses than he did several years ago.

We should be astonished if his views, as reported the other day, in favour of Stud-Book amalgamation, are shared by a large number of "Clydesdale men." Mr. Thomas Brown, a well-known Norfolk agriculturist, supported the genial owner of Hopton Hall at the English Cart-Horse Society meeting, but Mr. Frederick Street raised strong opposition. If we mistake not, many other shire horse-breeders would follow Mr. Street's example. At any rate, we are confident that many Scotch breeders would object, and, as we think, with good reason. The Clydesdale Horse Society has been successful, even beyond anticipation. The recent issue of the Stud-Book is highly creditable, alike for the width of country it covers, and the extent of details or information it embodies.

Mr. Pole-Gell alluded to the drain of England's best mares and fillies away to Scotland for breeding purposes. It has, no doubt, been considerable, and has imparted size and substance to many Scotch-bred horses; but, we imagine, it is not now so great as it was. At least the produce of shire mares and Clydesdale stallions, not being eligible for entry in the Stud-Book, is not, however good-looking, so valuable as was the case half-a-dozen or more years ago.

It was stated, with some amusement, at the London meeting, that an English horse—"Lincolnshire Lad"—was the sire of many of the best prize-winning Clydesdales in Scotland. That is not quite the case. It is true that "Lincolnshire Lad" is credited with the parentage of not a few of the prize-winners in the Scotch agricultural horse classes of last half-score years; but these animals do not, in the Stud-Book sense, rank as Clydesdales.

Having seen so many really fine animals, claiming "Lincolnshire Lad" as either sire or grand-sire, exhibited in Scotland, some people north of the Tweed have naturally become anxious to see such a marvellously good getter and grand wearer as that horse must be. If they knew exactly where the fine old horse was to be seen, they would go a little "out of their way" to inspect him. His stock, however, good as many of them are, do not possess the qualifications for entry in the Clydesdale Stud-Book. It is, therefore, a mistake to speak of them as Clydesdales in the same breath almost as reference is made to Stud-Books.

The benefits of Stud-Book amalgamation are so obscure and uncertain that the subject is not likely to be seriously entertained by the owners of the pedigree Clydesdale studs. The only parties who would gain by the union, so far as we can see, are those who make it part of their business to cross English mares with Clydesdale sires. They doubtless deserve encouragement, but they can hardly look for it from a society started for the purpose of maintaining, as far as possible, the purity of a certain distinct breed of stock; they may expect it from those who make, in Scotch phraseology, "their eye their merchant"—who depend more upon what they can see about an animal than upon pedigree registration.

It may be that the intention was to have the English horse pedigrees recorded in one part of the British Cart-Horse

Stud-Book and the Clydesdales in another. That would not simplify matters or lessen expense. It would rather increase the latter to breeders. Clydesdale men could not obtain the record of their breed without paying for that of the English breed, while the English shire horse breeders would be in the same position as regards the Clydesdales. The probability is, that both breeds and the crosses therefrom are, or were meant to be, mixed at the pleasure of breeders, and to be all on the same footing, in the talked-of British Cart-Horse Stud-Book. The qualifications for entry would likely be the same for all—for pure breeds as well as crosses. In that case it does not appear to us that pedigree registration for agricultural horses would be of very great service. If the cross-bred is to be elevated to the same platform with the pure-bred, what is the use of pedigree publication?

Though union is not at present likely to captivate many of the pedigree Clydesdale breeders, it might be interesting to learn the contemplated basis on which the new society would proceed with registration. What might be the minimum qualifications for entry in the united Stud-Book? Would any horse big enough and good enough to work properly in a cart be eligible? That reminds us of the mistake which, in our opinion, the promoters of the English Agricultural Horse Society committed in the selection of its title. By a majority it was agreed to call it the "English Cart-Horse Society." The Stud-Book published by the Society is, of course, similarly designated. The term "cart-horse" is not definite enough. The views of the minority in favour of "shire horse" should have prevailed. It is possibly not too late yet to make this alteration, but we fancy it is needless to attempt an amalgamation of the English and Clydesdale societies, with a view to the publication of only one Stud-Book, and the inclusion therein of all sorts of cross-breeds.

MR. POLE-GELL ON CLYDESDALES AND ENGLISH CART-HORSES.

(*"North British Agriculturist," March 21, 1883.*)

SIR,—In the last number of the *N. B. Agriculturist* there is an editorial, commenting on certain remarks which I made at the general meeting of the "English Cart-Horse Society," which I feel bound to answer, and must crave space in your valuable journal for that purpose.

I advocate a fusion of the Stud-Books of the "Clydesdale Horse-Breeding Society" and of the "English Cart-Horse Society" (I place the older society the first), on the ground that in fact the two breeds are now virtually the same, whatever differences there may have been many years ago, before the general improvement in Scotch cart-horses had commenced. This improvement has been most wisely and judiciously carried out, principally, I believe, by using the best stallions to be found in Scotland on to well-selected English mares, the result being, as I claim, the very many fine animals of the draught kind now to be found in Scotland.

Although I had known for many years that a great number of horses, both stallions and mares, had been taken from England to Scotland, I had no idea to what extent it had been the case until I began to purchase "Clydesdales" with *pedigrees*. Often, when my fancy "lighted" on a good animal, have I met with the remark, "That one will not do for you, she is an English mare;" or, "she is out of an English mare." Further, I soon learned how well all the leading breeders and dealers from Scotland were known in our principal fairs and markets, and how well the style of animal that suited

their requirements was understood. As far as I know, this drain of English horses still continues; and I am quite confident that, without these importations, even the present size and substance of the Scotch horses cannot be maintained, much less increased. For ordinary agricultural purposes, they are all that can be desired; but for heavy town work, an animal of larger and more massive type is required. These are what pay the breeder, and for which there is always a ready sale. As all practical men know, for one customer in a fair for a good "little 'un," there are ten to buy a good "big 'un," and in trying to breed the big ones we shall always have plenty of the little ones.

With regard to my views in favour of "Stud-Book amalgamation" not being shared by "Clydesdale men," I can only say that, for the last two or three years, I have frequently heard it regretted by impartial and independent breeders in Scotland, that there was not one Stud-Book only for the whole of Great Britain; and that many influential breeders in England hold the same opinion, was proved by the hearty manner in which my proposition was received at the meeting in London, the only opponent of it, who spoke to me personally, being my friend, Mr. F. Street.

There is one word in connection with this subject at which I take exception, namely, applying the term "cross-bred" to the progeny of Scotch horses and English mares, or *vice versa*. It seems too indefinite, and gives the idea of a union between animals of different races, as between a "shorthorn" and an "Angus," or between a "cart-horse" and a "pony." If the possession of English blood causes an animal to be a "cross-bred," I am at a loss to know where the purity of blood in the Clydesdale Stud-Book is to be found.

I think it must be allowed that no studs have done so

much to raise the character, and spread the reputation of the Clydesdale throughout the world, as those of Keir, Knockdon, and Merryton; and how have the greater part of those horses been bred? At Glasgow, two years ago, all three horses selected by the Glasgow and by the Highland Societies were these so-called "cross-breds"—viz., "Hawk-head," "Lord Douglas," and "Topsman;" last year "St. Lawrence," then ineligible for the Stud-Book, was chosen; this year he has again been selected, having, however, in the meantime "grown a pedigree;" and "Prince of Avondale" gains the three-year-old premium. In mentioning these horses, I have no wish to exalt any particular line of blood; all I wish to point out is, that they have been considered the first of their class, by the best judges that can be found, at the most important show of stallions in Scotland.

No one knows better than yourself, sir, the interest I took in starting the Clydesdale Stud-Book, which interest is in no way diminished; but I have seen the mistake of having a "house divided against itself," and have been further convinced of it by the opinion of men of better judgment and far wider experience than myself. I dread a root of "Booth and Bates" feeling springing up between the rival breeders. My wish is that both countries would own their mutual indebtedness if we were to unite and take the best of both sides. I am confident that we could produce such horses as the world has never seen, both for beauty and excellence.

There are a great many more points in your article that I should wish to answer, and am prepared to do so in future letters, if the subject is continued. Whether or not my proposal will meet with sufficient support to attain my object, remains to be seen; but, in any case, I trust the

question will be thoroughly "thrashed out," and in as kindly a spirit as it has been entered upon; and I hope the result may be beneficial to my brother breeders, both north and south of the Tweed.—Yours, &c.,

H. CHANDOS-POLE-GELL.

HOPTON HALL, WIRKSWORTH,
March 16, 1883.

CLYDESDALE AND ENGLISH CART- HORSES.

("North British Agriculturist," March 28th, 1883.)

SIR,—All who are acquainted with the genial squire who owns Hopton Hall are aware that in any correspondence of a public character in which he takes part, one side at least will be conducted in the kindly and pleasant tone recommended and evinced in his letter appearing in your last issue. Though, therefore, I venture to trespass upon the attention of your readers in noticing one or two points in said letter, and the subject it refers to, I must not be held committed to continue a correspondence with anonymous writers, especially if they indulge in the personalities into which live-stock discussions too frequently degenerate.

Before discussing the general question, let me set Mr. Pole-Gell right upon one point. He writes: "Last year 'St. Lawrence,' then ineligible for the Stud-Book, was chosen; this year he has again been selected, having, however, in the meantime, grown a pedigree." Those unaware of Mr. Pole-

Gell's thorough acquaintance with, and position in, the Clydesdale Horse Society, might, from the above quotation, infer an implied charge against the society of manufacturing pedigrees. That such a charge should come from Mr. Pole-Gell, however, is impossible, knowing, as he does, the men responsible for Stud-Book pedigrees, and the care they devote to their examination. The explanation of his meaning must therefore be looked for elsewhere. What, however, are the facts regarding "St. Lawrence"? Simply that he was from his birth as eligible for the Stud-Book as any horse in it, and so soon as his identity was established, this was apparent to all. True, at the 1882 stallion show, many did not know his breeding, and Mr. Pole-Gell well knows the difficulties that would arise in attempting to trace it for Stud-Book purposes. I have before me, however, a Merryton catalogue of 1879, wherein "St. Lawrence" is entered as follows, among the yearling colts:—"39. Brown colt, entire. Sire, 'Prince of Wales' (673), dam 'Jemima,' sire of dam, 'Young Lord Lyon' (994). 'Jemima' gained first prize in 1877 as a two-year-old (where?); was first at the Hamilton open show last year; and has gained other prizes. This colt, foaled in June, is certain from his good shape and style to become a valuable horse for breeding purposes." This, I am glad to learn, he has already proved himself, and some of us will be inclined to give pedigree a share of the credit ascribed in the above quotation entirely to "shape and style." His dam was well known to frequenters of Scotch shows some years ago, and a very good filly she then was. [The Stud-Book numbers given above were not in the Merryton catalogue, but are inserted as explanatory.]

The sum of the complaints against the Clydesdale Stud-Book seems to be that it ought to have been started long

ago, and that as this was not done, English cart-horse blood is now very largely intermixed with nearly every Clydesdale strain. So far, all who know anything of the question must be at one. From this point, however, divergence begins. Opponents of the society say: "You are so late in the field, and your breed is so crossed, that it is useless to try to keep it distinct any longer." Promoters of the society reply: "If we have been tardy in recognising the value of what we had, and careless in protecting it, let us, now that we see our folly, be doubly careful in conserving what remains; and by registration, selection, and careful study, strive to replace our breed of horses in the special position it formerly enjoyed." For, I fancy, no one will deny that the Clydesdale did, in past years, occupy a special and prominent position among draught horses. No class of men are more cautious and more difficult to "take in" than those connected with horses; and we cannot believe that the notoriety and popularity of the Clydesdale all over the world was based upon no solid facts or experience, but simply arose from the laudations of their owners being held as true, without investigation. If, then, there was a breed with special valuable qualities, we say, "let us stick to what of it is left to us, and try to restore and improve upon the old form." I am far from regarding the English admixture as always in the past an evil to be regretted. Judiciously used, it has doubtless added size and bone to our horses; and, I fancy, selection alone cannot be credited with the present perfection of almost any of our leading breeds of domestic animals. Crossing must, for example, have assisted with Border Leicesters and thorough-bred horses. In the latter case, we know Barbs, Arabs, English Hunters, &c., all contributed to make up what is now regarded as one of the purest and most exclusive breeds in existence. In the

Clydesdale Stud-Book, on starting, we were in the position the older book was in the early years of this century, when it had to be satisfied with pedigrees springing from "Read's Horse," "Place's White Turk," "Hartley's Blind Horse," and so on.

Further, I do not say that when we succeed in drawing our lines more strictly, and have the Clydesdale horse more clearly apart than at present, he will be a better horse for showing or working than the cross, any more than for showing or butcher's purposes. Mr. Pole-Gell's "Booth and Bates" favourites excel more plebian, or even cross-bred, cattle. But if you have not the pure-bred shorthorn or Clydesdale, how are you to set about getting your cross? Our aim is to get a breed of Clydesdales that will breed true, and reproduce their special characteristics with pure-bred certainty. Results, so far as we can trace them, encourage us in the attempt; for, without wishing to disparage any one strain, I hold that our most successful sires have been those most purely bred. I do not now refer to sires of winning youngsters, valuable as they undoubtedly are, but to horses that have got horses, who in their turn have proved valuable sires. If space permitted, I might instance several, but I shall here be satisfied with quoting one, viz., "Darnley" (222). He, I think, has eclipsed all his compeers, cross-bred or otherwise, as a sire of true-breeding stallions, with his own share of valuable daughters too. I am quite aware that "Darnley" is said to be a cross-bred horse; but, even admitting that the reported cross can be fully established, what does it amount to? The granddam of "Samson" (741), the grandsire of "Darnley," was reputed English, and therefore our most successful sire of the day has one-sixteenth part of English blood in his veins!

You say, sir, that the benefits of an amalgamation of the Clydesdale and English Cart-Horse Stud-Books are obscure and uncertain, and ask on what basis the (proposed) new society would proceed with registration. We have had no answer to this query; nor can I see what particular benefit could be derived from a Stud-Book open to all comers. Why should any change be desired? The Clydesdale Horse Society is more prosperous than ever; its membership and funds larger; its book and breed more popular. I am glad to understand that the English Society is in an equally fortunate position. As to crosses (I use the term simply as the briefest designation for ineligible horses, though I observe Mr. Pole-Gell does not consider the description a happy one), we do not object to them, admire many of them, and some of our members breed them successfully—as horses, however, not as Clydesdales. Why, then, make a change? Is it because there seems to be some charm for the foreign or colonial ear in the word “Clydesdale” to draw from the buyer’s pocket fancy prices, which neither shires nor crosses tempt him to pay, and do our friends in the south hope by amalgamation of pedigrees to amalgamate profits? I know this is not the motive with Mr. Pole-Gell, who is a true horse lover from inclination, not for any sordid reason, but I fear all his backers may not be so disinterested, even those “impartial and independent breeders in Scotland.” Putting the case on no higher grounds even, I would say, if we here in the north have a goose whose eggs appear golden, either from their intrinsic value or from some optical illusion on the part of the purchaser, in either case we would be foolish to kill the goose! This may not be what is called public spirit, but I think it is common sense.

There is another class who naturally oppose registration, or, in fact, anything on black and white. I recollect, a

number of years ago, my friend, Mr. Pole-Gell, told me of a Derbyshire neighbour of his who sold two fillies to a horse-breeder and seller in Scotland. After a time, another Derbyshire man went north to get hold of some of these noted Clydesdales. He returned home with either one or two of the very fillies which he could have secured for about a third of their price before they left his and their native country. Of course, in the interim they had become Clydesdales, and, therefore, worth all the extra money. Gentlemen in Scotland, who in the past have profited by the manufacture of Clydesdales by this easy and expeditious process, are more likely to sympathise with the remarks of "a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith," as detailed in Acts xix, 25 and 27, than with the Clydesdale Horse Society. Apologising for the length of this letter,—Yours, &c.,

JNO. M. MARTIN.

Bloomhill, Cardross, Dumbartonshire,
27th March, 1883.

THE CLYDESDALE HORSE QUESTION.

(*"North British Agriculturist," March 28th, 1883.*)

SIR,—Referring to Mr. Pole-Gell's letter in your last week's issue, as well as to some remarks passed at the late meeting of the English Cart-Horse Society, I beg leave, through your valuable medium, to make a few explanations of what has been said lately about the character of the Clydesdale. Mr. F. Street says the Clydesdale has attained its size, strength, and substance from the English horse. Mr. Pole-Gell advocates a fusion of the Stud-Books, on the ground that the two breeds are now virtually the same, and

that without keeping up the importation of English horses, the qualifications Mr. F. Street speaks of cannot be maintained. Now, they would lead one to believe that the Clydesdale derives its origin, and has attained the high standard of excellence, from English blood, which I will prove not to be correct. First, I will give a brief history of the native breeds of the two countries. About two hundred years ago, a Duke of Hamilton brought from Flanders six coaching stallions, and these were crossed with the common Scotch horses, after which, an Earl of Hopetoun, who at that time took a great interest in selecting and improving the best breeds of different kinds of live stock, introduced into Scotland a stallion and a few mares of this breed, then called Clydesdales; hence the name. The English black horses of the shire were improved in a similar way. One of the Earls of Huntingdon brought home with him from the Continent a lot of coach horses of the black breed, most of them being stallions, and with some difficulty got his tenants by the Trentside to put their mares to them, which cross answered so well that a Mr. Blakewell and a Mr. Salisbury were induced to cross the German Ocean in search of horses to improve the English breed, and returned with half-a-dozen Dutch or Flanders mares. If we follow closely the two breeds up to the present time, it is noticeable the Clydesdale has always taken the lead; and how has it been raised to the present standard of excellence? Certainly not by crossing. I admit there has been cross breeding going on to a certain extent, but this applies only to one or two breeders in Scotland, who no doubt do so to benefit their own interests more than the interests of the breed. Of late years, the drain upon the Clydesdales has been enormous for all parts of the world, and will continue, most likely, for some time to come; and, to satisfy these two gentlemen, it would be worth their while

to cross the borders at the present time, and inspect the best breeding districts in Scotland. There they would find horses of quality and substance not to be found in any other country, and I challenge them if they find one in a hundred where its pedigree is mixed with the English blood. I think it would be a great mistake were the two breeds to unite in having one Stud-Book, as both are breeds peculiar to themselves, and of what has been seen already from the results of crossing, I am in the belief that it would soon cause a deterioration on both sides. Only let the Scotchman go on as he has hitherto done, and he will show to the world that the Clydesdale is the king of cart-horses.—Yours, &c.,

A. S.

London, *26th March, 1883.*

CLYDESDALE AND ENGLISH HORSES.

SIR,—Mr. Martin is quite right in acquitting me of any desire to insinuate that the members of the committee of the Clydesdale Horse Society could “manufacture pedigrees;” the bare idea of such a thing appears to me simply impossible.

Until I read Mr. Martin’s letter this morning, all I knew of “St Lawrence’s” breeding is to be found on page 9 of the Glasgow Stallion Show catalogue, where he is stated to be by “Prince of Wales,” dam by “Young Lyon,” a horse whose name does not appear in the C.H.S.B. After the show was over, I casually heard that “St. Lawrence’s” pedigree was proved, but was never told on what grounds. With respect to this horse, Mr. Martin makes a quotation from a Merryton catalogue, adding: “This, I am glad to learn, he has already proved himself” (a valuable horse for breeding

purposes), "and some of us will be inclined to give pedigree a share of the credit ascribed in the above quotation to shape and style." I should like to ask which portion of the pedigree is to have the credit? What Mr. Martin says about complaints against the "Stud-Book" cannot apply to me, as I never *have* complained of it, and am sure that nothing I have said can bear such a construction; on the contrary, I consider it a most valuable record, and one that ought to be universally supported by horse breeders; in fact, it appears to me that I want a more comprehensive Stud-Book than Mr. Martin quite approves of—one that would represent all the "Clydesdale" horses in Scotland, and not merely a section of them. However, none of this is to the point, and does not affect the cause I advocate, viz., an amalgamation of the English and Scotch Stud-Books. At present my statement that the Scotch horses are so mixed with English blood that they are virtually one race, has not been answered; neither has any valid reason been assigned why the fusion I propose should not take place. As we all know, till a few years ago, no pedigree was required with horses bought in a fair; the animals were purchased on their merits, and few questions were asked as to how they were "come;" and thus English mares could be continually taken to Scotland, and spread broadcast over the country in the ordinary way of business. The leading Scotch dealers are as well known in the English horse markets as in their own; and the remark, "That is a 'Scotch horse,' Mr. So-and-so will buy that," may be heard any day by those going amongst the farmers and dealers of the Midland counties. It is a noteworthy fact, in support of my argument, that nearly all the animals they purchase are *mares*. A few stallions are occasionally taken away, but not so many as before the establishment of the C.H.S.B. As I said in my previous letter, I do not think that the

Scotch horses can be kept up to their present excellence without this importation continues, and in this view I am, I believe, supported by many practical men in Scotland. Judging by what has taken place within my own knowledge, I feel convinced that, as long as the Clydesdale Stud-Book restrictions are not accepted by the leading agricultural societies, so long will the horses containing an infusion of English blood take more than an average share of prizes. Mr. Martin mentions "Darnley" as "eclipsing all his compeers, cross-bred or otherwise," as a sire. No one who knows this grand horse and his produce can refuse to acknowledge their excellence; but I do not think "Darnley" will help him very much to prove his case, unless he can tell us how much Clydesdale blood is to found in his grand-dam, the mother of "Peggy," by "Samson." Whilst writing of a "Keir" horse, I may remark that I have had no answer to my question as to how the Keir or Knockdon horses were bred. These studs certainly produced the largest and most powerful Clydesdales I have ever seen, and I should much like to be informed whence this increased substance was derived. There are many side issues raised in Mr. Martin's letter, which neither time nor space will allow me to answer. I should, however, much like to discuss them with him "over a pipe," though I fear our sitting would break into "the wee hours ayont the twal." I must beg to be excused replying to "A. S." and "Clydeside," as I decline entering on a "semi-anonymous" correspondence. I may add that when I used the words "*impartial and independent breeders*" in my former letter, I did so "*advisedly*."—Yours, &c.,

H. CHANDOS-POLE-GELL.

Hopton Hall, Wirksworth, *March 30, 1883.*

THE CLYDESDALE HORSE QUESTION.

("North British Agriculturist," April 4, 1883.)

SIR,—The discussions which have been taking place of late, and the letters which have appeared in your columns, as well as in those of several provincial newspapers, relative to the propriety of amalgamating the English and the Clydesdale Stud-Books, raise a question of very great importance indeed to breeders and farmers at large. I take the liberty, therefore, of asking a small portion of your valuable space, in order to give expression to my views on the subject. I speak as one who has come from the New World, and who has at least some little knowledge of the qualities required in horses for cultivating the soil of the great and growing agricultural stretches of the United States; and having in my time imported not a few of what were represented to me as pure Clydesdales, and for which I paid a great price, I venture to give your readers what has been my experience of what is required there. I may say that we on the other side of the Atlantic look to Britain for our best horses for agricultural purposes, and I was very much pleased to have an opportunity of seeing, at the last Glasgow Stallion Show, some of the finest horses any one could wish to see.

What, then, are the qualities required in a horse for general agricultural purposes? My experience on the continent of America has led me to come to the conclusion that the three leading qualities required in such horses are strength, action, and durability. These cannot be obtained, however, without what I shall call their co-relative qualities, viz., size and weight. The latter two, I grant, may some-

times be found in the horse without the former ; but, as a rule, you cannot have both strength and durability in perfection without both size and weight. When these five qualities are combined, coupled with beauty of figure and compactness of build, then, I say, you have as perfect a horse for agricultural purposes as need be. I do not stay to discuss the question of blood or pedigree. I hold that these precede the other, as cause precedes effect. The main object, therefore, which breeders ought to keep in view, is to produce stock which possess these qualities in the highest degree. When this result has been attained, it will then be a move in the right direction to form a new Register or Stud-Book of horses for agricultural purposes.

I do not approve of the amalgamation of the Stud-Books. Such a result could only lead to confusion, and it might have the effect of excluding some of the best-known breeds. Better far to have a new Stud-Book, distinct from the presently-existing Stud-Books, and let it be under royal patronage, and give it a happier name than either. The English Cart-Horse Society's Stud-Book is an unfortunate name, inasmuch as the idea it conveys is too commonplace and narrow ; whereas the Clydesdale Horse Stud-Book, on the other hand, is too limited as a class. The latter publication might be continued for the purpose of not letting that most useful class of horses become extinct ; and, for the same reason, the Stud-Book applicable to the English shire horse may be continued also ; but there is ample room for another Stud-Book for the best horses for agricultural purposes and other heavy work. I would venture to suggest that, if the patronage of the Prince of Wales should be obtained, the new Stud-Book should be named, "The Royal British Agricultural Stud-Book."

What, then, have British breeders hitherto done with a

view to producing stock possessing the qualities which I have described above? Splendid horses of the English shire class have been bred, I admit, which possess nearly all that is necessary in strength, weight, and substance; but, as a rule, they are not generally so compactly put together about the feet, pasterns, and legs as the Clydesdales; whereas in the latter, on the other hand, while the feet, pasterns, and legs may be said to be all that one could wish, they do not possess the strength, weight, or size of the English horse. Some of the most eminent breeders, in Scotland at least, as I understand, and notably Mr. Lawrence Drew, of Merryton, and Mr. David Riddell, of Blackhall, have for a long series of years argued that the best horse for agricultural purposes which can be produced is to be obtained by a blending of the blood of a Clydesdale sire with that of an English dam. The progeny of such an amalgamation has been found by experience almost invariably to possess in its unity all the good points which the sire and dam possess separately, just as certain well-known whiskies, when consumed separately, are coarse, raw, and biting; but, when properly blended, the amalgamation is fine, mellow, and agreeable to the taste, and has all the strength required.

I was pleased to see that Messrs. Riddell and Drew gave a striking practical proof of the soundness of these views on the subject at the Glasgow Stallion Show, when two horses were exhibited, the "Prince of Avondale" and "St. Lawrence," the property of these gentlemen respectively, and were awarded the first honours in their respective classes. These horses, I am informed, are the result of the blending process for which their owners have all along contended; and they unquestionably possess all the qualities required in a horse for agricultural purposes and lorry work, and that

in a higher degree than any horses I have yet seen. I was astonished, however, to find that these splendid horses are both ineligible for admission to the Glasgow Stud-Book; and, if that is so, I am not surprised that their owners stand aloof from such a publication. If ineligible for the Glasgow Stud-Book, I presume these horses are also ineligible for the English Stud-Book. Since this is the case, and since these horses have been pronounced, by judges of great experience and sterling integrity, to be the foremost among some hundreds of the best blood to be found in the country, the time has surely come when a new Register or Stud-Book should be inaugurated, which will preserve a record of the breed which has thus been brought to such perfection. I venture further to suggest that Messrs. Drew and Riddell should be asked to lend their countenance to such a scheme, and aid in its immediate issue.—I am, &c.,

AN AMERICAN IMPORTER.

31st March, 1883.

[Our correspondent does not seem to be aware that "St. Lawrence" is eligible for the Stud-Book.]

CLYDESDALES AND ENGLISH HORSES.

(*"North British Agriculturist," April, 4, 1883.*)

SIR,—Would you kindly allow me space in your valuable paper for a few words on the above subject? After perusing with attention Mr. Pole-Gell's remarks at the late meeting of the English Cart-Horse Society, and also his letter in your

columns of March 21st, I find myself asking the questions: If the Clydesdale and the English cart-horse are so much alike in every respect, why do Mr. Pole-Gell and others (men who have the management of the largest cart-horse studs in England) wish so much to have the use of the Clydesdale horse, and to this end the amalgamation of the two Stud-Books? If they have a horse in the Cart-Horse Stud-Book which "has got more prize-winning Clydesdales than any other horse in the kingdom," why want to go to Scotland for horses? Why disturb present arrangements? The Clydesdale Horse Society, I feel sure, is quite satisfied with its present very satisfactory position; it can have no wish to have its expenses lightened by being shared with the Cart-Horse Society.

But what is the reason that this amalgamation is wanted, other than that suggested by Mr. J. M. Martin in his letter in your last issue? It is this—The Clydesdale (notwithstanding what Mr. Pole-Gell says regarding the admixture of English blood) is a *breed* in the true sense of the word, and the cart or shire horse is *not*. The former, like the thoroughbred, has been carefully inbred for generations, and, like it, has the prepotency or power to impress its own characteristics on its progeny; the latter has not. If this is the case, surely it cannot be said "the two breeds are virtually the same;" and that it is the case, will only be gainsaid by those who either have no experience of the breeding powers or impressiveness of the two; or, having the experience, have not the candour to acknowledge it. The action, courage, flatness of bone, &c., in the Clydesdale are, of course, duly appreciated, but these would be of slight value if the breed was incapable of reproducing them. It is the certainty of this power that makes the Clydesdale so valuable, so appreciated abroad, and for which, as I have before stated, the managers of the

largest shire horse breeding establishments have told me they wish to use him.

Is proof required of the difference in the breeding powers of the two? Let us take two breeding establishments where shire mares are used, say those of the Earl of Ellesmere and Mr. Drew. The former puts them to his prize shire horses, the latter to "The Prince of Wales." Lord Ellesmere has taken more prizes with the mares and horses he breeds from than those of any other stud, and yet, out of all he annually rears, how many come to the front in the show-ring? And yet the manager is one of the smartest as well as most thoughtful men in England. The fault is not his; it lies in the want of impressiveness in the horses. Turn to Mr. Drew's stud, and you find that not a year passes, but he turns out some of the best youngsters in the country.

But some may adduce from this a good reason for the amalgamation; and if the production of prize animals without any ulterior object was the important point, I would agree with them (as I have before advocated the cross as being the easiest way of producing prize animals, for this reason, the shire mare having NO impressiveness, the Clydesdale horse MUCH, he would reproduce himself, and therefore, if a prize horse, get prize foals). But there is an ulterior object—and that is, to uphold, and indeed add to, *the impressiveness*, and this can only be done by keeping the breed pure, or at least as pure as it is at present; and that is very much purer than the admirers of the shire horse give it (the Clydesdale) credit for.

From the above it will be apparent, that I am by no means prepared to allow that "the two breeds are virtually the same;" but that there are large numbers of what *are called* shire or English cart-horses that do *appear* like Clydesdales, but want their impressiveness, there can be no doubt; and if we only

knew how they were really come, we would find Clydesdale blood at the bottom of it, and it is surprising how little is sufficient for this purpose. But no one would say Mr. Gilbey's "Spark" is like a Clydesdale; and there are large numbers of both horses and mares after his type, of which type Youatt wrote something to the effect that "it is a pity there is such a breed in England." I cannot but think Clydesdale breeders will think twice before throwing open their Stud-Book to such blood.

Further, Mr. Pole-Gell seems of opinion that if English cart-horse blood is not introduced, the Clydesdale will dwindle away in size. I should then be glad to know why it is more likely to do this than the cart-horse. There are as large animals registered in the Clydesdale Stud-Book as there are in the Cart-Horse Stud-Book. Mr. Pole-Gell saw the two sets of animals paraded together at Kilburn. Did not the comparative sizes of them there free him from the fear of such a catastrophe? The Clydesdales were certainly the largest animals and finest, as I heard the English judges themselves state.

As to the cross-bred horses that have come to the front at Glasgow, I have stated before the reason for this; and both Mr. Martin and "Clydeside," in their letters, back up what I have written regarding their want of impressiveness.

For the above reasons, I cannot but think it would be a matter of great regret to all true lovers of the Clydesdale if the proposed amalgamation was carried out.—I am, &c.,

GEO. RODGER.

Newton Bank,
Preston Brook, *31st March, 1883.*

CLYDESDALES AND ENGLISH HORSES.

(*"North British Agriculturist," April 4, 1883.*)

SIR,—To all who are interested in the production of the most useful type of draught horses, it must be apparent that the subject brought forward by Mr. Pole-Gell at a recent meeting of the members of the English Cart-Horse Society, and also through the medium of the *North British Agriculturist*, relating to the advisability of the amalgamation of the Clydesdale Horse Society with the English Cart-Horse Society, is one worthy of the consideration, not only of breeders, but also of all users of draught horses. It will probably be admitted that by the adoption of the course suggested, each society will gain some advantage not at present possessed. By having one Stud-Book for both societies, the Clydesdale men may still breed to the type they are so justly proud of, and through being able to introduce an admixture of English blood, add weight and substance to the quality and action they already possess; whilst on the other hand, the English cart-horse men would, by the aid of the Clydesdale, add to the weight and substance they now possess, those beautiful feet and pasterns, hard, flat, clean bone, quality, and action, in the production of which points the Scotchmen certainly excel. It is generally admitted, and is undoubtedly a fact, that for many years past a great number of mares have been taken from England to cross with the Clydesdale. Since the establishment of the Stud-Book this has been the case, but to a much less extent, owing to the ineligibility of so-called cross-breds. From this it would appear that much of the excellence of the Clydesdale of the present day is due to the admixture of English blood; and the question arises, can this excellence

be maintained without resorting to extraneous blood from England? On the other hand, Clydesdale entires have for years been sent south, but to a less extent compared with the number of English mares which have gone north. If a show-yard record, or a successful career at the stud, are any indication of excellence, some of the very best animals that either England or Scotland can produce are what (whilst the two societies remain on their present basis) must be termed cross-breeds; but surely this is not as it ought to be! At present there appears to be a great divergence of opinion as to the cardinal points of a good draught horse, and this is noticeable amongst even the best-known judges. The contradictory decisions at the principal shows during recent years must do much to impede the breeding of really high-class draught horses. At present there is no recognised type on which our show-yard judges base their decisions, but exhibitors are obliged to be content to accept the awards based entirely on the individual opinions or fancies of the judges. Hence, many exhibitors resort to the practice of entering two or more animals of dissimilar type in the same class, as they say, "to suit either kind of judge."

It is desirable that a recognised type, or standard of excellence, be adopted, and that judges be instructed to make their awards according to this standard. Let the breeder who wishes to produce the best be unfettered by any restrictions as to what strain of blood he may or may not use. Set him up a type with the assurance that in breeding to that type he is producing an animal which will be recognised by the society, and I am sure there is sufficient enterprise and intelligence amongst our breeders (both north and south of the Tweed) to enable them to take the shortest road to this desirable end.—Yours, &c.,

J. GREEN.

MR. POLE-GELL'S PROPOSED AMALGAMATION.

(*"The Live Stock Journal," April 6th, 1883.*)

SIR,—You invite discussion on this most important and almost vital subject to shire horse-breeders. As silence is often taken to mean consent, Mr. Pole-Gell and his Clydesdale friends will probably think he had only one opponent in Mr. F. Street. At the general meeting of the English Cart-horse Society, at the London show, the feeling of the meeting was not taken; had it been, I feel sure Mr. Street would have had a large majority to support him.

The more the subject is ventilated, the more suicidal it will be seen would be the policy of the breeders of the shire horse to entertain for a moment such an idea as amalgamation. What have they to gain by it? It is quite plain what the Clydesdale men would get by it. Mr. Pole-Gell plainly says, that until he began to purchase Clydesdales with pedigrees, he had no idea of the extent to which English stallions and mares had been imported into Scotland, that this drain still continues, and that he is confident, without these importations, even the present size and substance of Scotch horses cannot be maintained, much less increased; and he evidently wishes it should continue, at the expense of the English breeder. I suppose he wants these cross-bred animals called Clydesdales, although he takes exception to the word "cross-bred;" for, if cross-bred, he says he is at a loss to know "where the purity of the blood of the Clydesdale is to be found."

And this is not to be wondered at. If we compare what

the now-called Clydesdale is with the Clydesdale of half-a-century ago, as depicted in Mr. F. Street's "History of the Shire Horse," he is more like a Cleveland bay, a clean-legged, active harness-horse, useful, no doubt, for military purposes; whilst the shire horse of the same date compares favourably with the shire horse in the same work, dated 1792. This shows purity of breed bearing the same style and type, which is still the character, with improved appearances, obtained by careful selection and breeding for a number of years.

Mr. Pole-Gell says also that the studs of Keir, Knockdon, and Merryton have done most to spread the reputation of Clydesdales, and that the greater part of them are cross-breds. Some of this particular cross have been selected for breeding purposes in the very nursery of the Clydesdale, by the Glasgow and Highland Societies. Last year, "St. Lawrence" was selected, although ineligible for the Stud-Book; again, this year he is selected, but is fortunate enough to have "grown a pedigree" in the meantime.

See, also, what the Americans are doing, as reported in *The National Live Stock Journal* last January. The writer signing himself "Gleniffer" says: "Breeder of the English shire horse have, for many years, been crossing with Clydesdales, and that their best-looking and heaviest are those that have been bred from pure Clydesdale stallions and shire mares, the latter having a previous sprinkling of Clydesdale blood;" and further goes on to say, that the Clydesdale, among horses, occupies a position corresponding with the shorthorn among cattle. Now this writer must have Clydesdale on the brain, and, therefore, not know the least what he is writing about, for a grosser misrepresentation of facts (as shown even by Mr. Pole-Gell's remarks) could not be made.

This alone should put shire-horse breeders on their mettle, and induce them to hold together, as they know full well that they have a pure breed, and that most of the best horses of the day can be traced back for upwards of a hundred years.

A SHIRE-HORSE BREEDER.

CLYDESDALE AND ENGLISH SHIRE HORSES.

(*"The Live Stock Journal," April 13, 1883*).

SIR,—I must protest against the inaccurate quotation made by a Shire Horse-Breeder in your last issue from an article of mine on Clydesdale horses, which appeared in *The National Live Stock Journal*. He places within inverted commas a sentence which I never wrote, and introduces words which utterly misrepresent my meaning. The full quotation is as follows:—"The mixture [of Clydesdale and English blood] has been greatly assisted by the fact that breeders of English shire horses have for many years been crossing with Clydesdale strains. It is, therefore, possible to find in England many horses with a large dash of Clydesdale blood in their veins. Perhaps the best-looking and heaviest, and also the most powerful, draught-horses that are now reared are those which have been bred from pure Clydesdale stallions and shire mares, the latter having a previous sprinkling of Clydesdale blood." From the turn given to the quotation by a Shire-Horse Breeder, I am represented as saying that the best-looking and heaviest English shire horses

are those that have been bred from pure Clydesdale stallions and shire mares, the latter having a previous sprinkling of Clydesdale blood. What I did say was that Clydesdales had been crossed with English blood; that breeders of English horses had also used Clydesdale blood, and that "perhaps the best-looking and heaviest, and also the most powerful draught horses that are now reared" are those bred in this manner. I never alleged that the draught horses I referred to were owned by English breeders, or were known as English shire horses. In fact, I had more in my mind horses owned by Scotch breeders, and particularly the grand animals exhibited by Mr. Drew, of Merryton, and others. So far as my remark goes, it is corroborative of the opinion of Mr. Pole-Gell as to the superiority of the produce of the union of Clydesdale and shire blood. It is well known that Mr. Drew has always maintained that the cross between the Clydesdale horse and shire-bred mare has been so successful in his case on account of the mares he selected for the purpose having had a dilution of Clydesdale blood in their veins.

GLENIFFER.

CLYDESDALES AND ENGLISH CART- HORSES.

("North British Agriculturist," April 11, 1883.)

SIR,—Commencing at the end of Mr. Pole-Gell's last letter, I may, with reference to his remark about side issues, point out that my letter did not purport to be a reply to his former one alone. I intended to go into the general

subject, and I fear your readers may have fancied I carried out my intention rather fully. As to continuing discussions into the small hours, if this is ever done, the fault lies with my friend himself, whose visits to the north are so few that, when they do occur, we have to lengthen the day by stealing part of the night to enjoy his genial companionship.

Taking, then, Mr. Pole-Gell's last letter in detail. As regards the blood in "St. Lawrence's" pedigree entitled to the "credit" of his proving a good breeder, I gave this credit to his Clydesdale blood generally; but, if particular strains are desired, I would choose "Victor" (892) and "Samson" (741), two of the most fortunate and impressive breeders we have had.

Mr. Pole-Gell, doubtless, has never complained of the Clydesdale Stud-Book; but I venture to suggest, that the views advocated in his previous letter are not calculated to extend either its popularity or its usefulness, however much they may be in favour of some *register* or Stud-Book quite different from ours.

Mr. Pole-Gell now wishes to include "all the Clydesdale" horses in Scotland, and not merely "a section of them." So far we are quite at one. We cannot, however, compel all Clydesdales to come in, and we do not want those that are known to be something else. Even in these days of progress, we do not believe in the process which puts an English horse into a horse-box at one end of a journey, and brings out a Clydesdale at the other. This is such rapid conversion as to leave us a little sceptical of its permanent character. Mr. Pole-Gell states that the remark may frequently be heard in the midland counties, "That is a Scotch horse; Mr. So-and-so will buy that." Does not that go far to prove my contention that there *is* a Scotch or Clydesdale type of draught horse not in all respects the same as the

English or shire cart-horse? It is evident, from the above quotation, that those buying in England for our northern markets find it pay better to try to bring in imitations of our native breed than those *bona-fide* English stamps which we are told are to save us from extinction. Mr. Pole-Gell cannot understand why shrewd Scotch dealers went south to buy mares, if they could find as good, or better, at home. The reason is obvious. They found they could buy in England at about one-half of the price they had to pay at home. If the proposed amalgamation is carried out, I fancy one probable and anticipated result will be the equalising of prices in the two countries. I would have Clydesdale breeders consider whether this is more likely to be brought about by levelling up or levelling down. English horses are, of course, much more numerous; and, I expect, we would have to sell at the prices their owners are quite willing to accept. Mr. Pole-Gell is of opinion that, "so long as Clydesdale Stud-Book restrictions are not accepted by the leading agricultural societies, so long will horses containing an infusion of English blood take more than an average share of prizes." Is not this arguing in a circle, seeing that in my last letter I freely admitted that most strains of Clydesdales did contain an infusion of English blood, varying in extent, and also that cross-bred animals might be very successful in the show-yard?

For the amount of Clydesdale blood in the dam of "Peggy" (187), "Darnley's" dam, I cannot speak with certainty. Reference to vol. ii., page 249, will show that she was, at least, one-half Clydesdale, being got by "Farmer's Fancy" (298); while, so far as I am aware, there is no reason to believe her dam was *not* Clydesdale also, though, at so remote a distance of time, probably no one can trace the pedigree.

Mr. Pole-Gell's question as to the breeding of the Keir and Knockdon Clydesdales is one which it is impossible to answer off-hand; it involves the whole question now being discussed. These horses were bred very much on the same lines as other Clydesdales throughout the country (though certainly with great skill and judgment in mating), neither more nor less "purely," so far as I am aware. I cannot admit, much as I admired both studs, that, in proportion to the numbers bred, they produced larger or more powerful stock than was to be found elsewhere.

I think I have now taken up most of the points raised in Mr. Pole-Gell's last letter, and I return to the question: What are *we* to gain by an amalgamation of breeds and Stud-Books? The only answer I have yet seen is, SIZE. I am not convinced. I do not concede that we cannot breed as large horses as in England, nor that our largest are our best, nor that our best would be improved in many cases by being larger. I hold that an average Clydesdale horse of recognised type and size is, with his stride and activity, large enough for the work he has to do, either in a Glasgow lorry or on a heavy carse farm. Further, I think that most Scotch breeders will admit that the English mares from which we have benefited most have not been the largest.

Mr. Green asks, "Can this excellence (of the Clydesdale breed) be maintained without resorting to extraneous blood from England?" This is, virtually, Mr. Pole-Gell's doubt also, and is the kernel of the nut we have all been trying to crack. We believe it *can* be maintained, and all we ask is time to try. Our friends are so solicitous for our welfare, that they remind one of those gentlemen who urge disestablishment "in the best interests of the church itself." We neither want "disestablishment" nor "mutual eligibility." We believe there is a sphere of usefulness for each society,

and ample room for both. All we ask is to be allowed to go quietly on our own prosperous way.

When we find our breed dwindle to weeds, and buyers desert us, we shall go south for a new infusion of English blood. Our going will, in itself, be a confession of past errors. Meantime we are blindly egotistical enough to fancy we can get on capitally by ourselves.—Yours, &c.,

JNO. M. MARTIN.

Bloomhill, Cardross, Dumbartonshire,
10th April, 1883.

CLYDESDALE AND ENGLISH HORSES.

SIR,—There are one or two points in several of the letters in your last week's number which I beg to remark upon, and trust you will find space for another anonymous letter. Of what has already been said in this interesting discussion, I think Mr. Pole-Gell should own that his statements have been answered so far. His statement that the Scotch horses are so mixed with the English blood that they are virtually one race, has been answered by myself and Mr. Rodger on one side of the question, and that gentleman explained more fully than I did that they are a distinct race, so that it needs no further comment on that point. On the other side of the question, as to how far the crossing extends, that is easily explained. If we take a look at the Clydesdales and the cross-breds, and compare them together, how is it they differ so much in character and style? Simply because the one is pure-bred, and the

ther not. If they are so mixed up with the English blood, why don't they show the same characteristics in breeding? The truth speaks for itself. We all know that a good many English horses change hands just the same as the Scotch horses do; but this has never affected the pedigree of the Clydesdale in the least, or where would the impressiveness Mr. Rodger speaks of have been to-day?

"Importer" asks what are the qualities required in an agricultural horse? He will find all the qualities he speaks of in the Clydesdale, which no other breed of horses possesses, if he has not failed to notice. No improvement could be effected by a fusion of the two breeds, for the reasons I stated in my last letter. To obtain success in breeding horses is to breed from pure strains only, and never allow them to be contaminated by crossing with others. The same rule holds good through every species of domestic animals. "Importer" must not think, because "Prince of Avondale" and "St. Lawrence" have come to the front, that his arguments are strengthened. That is due to the many hundreds of Clydesdales which have left our shores for abroad; and I would advise you Scotchmen to be most careful on this point, and not be tempted by fancy prices.

It would be a great help to breeders of pure Clydesdales if agricultural societies were to take the question up, namely, not to allow any horse to be shown in the show-yard unless its pedigree were eligible for the Stud-Book. This would be another means of proving, to those who think otherwise, that the Clydesdale has been raised entirely from its own merits.—Yours, &c.,

A. S.

London, 7th April, 1883.

THE CLYDESDALE HORSE QUESTION.

SIR,—With reference to the breeding of Clydesdale horses, I think there are fewer people who really know them than a good many persons suppose; and it would assist many who, like myself, have a good deal to learn, if those registered animals were distinguished in some way or other. To let you understand what I mean—if all those who could stand on their own legs up to at least 90 per cent. of what is considered right, were to get first class added to their number; and those who were only half of what is considered right (judging with the eye, of course), had a “pure weed” added to their number, seeing that pure-bred sires are very impressive, it might be the means of helping us to avoid the inferior ones, and consequently improve the breed.

“Clydeside,” in your edition of the 28th ult., makes a mistake when he mentions “Rosebery” as having gained the Glasgow premium. He never had that honour, although many thought he should have gained it when a three-year-old. For the information of “Clydeside,” I may mention I had a foal by “Rosebery,” with which I gained 1st prize at two shows, one of them being an open show.—Yours, &c.,

S. A.

CLYDESDALE *versus* SHIRE HORSES.

SIR,—Owing to my having been away from home all last week, I had no time to reply to Mr. Rodger's letter, and now answer both his and Mr. Martin's at the same time.

I think it will be my best plan to take Mr. Martin's letter as it comes, though at the risk of making mine somewhat disjointed.

First, then, as to "St. Lawrence." Mr. Martin gives the credit of his being a good sire to his "Clydesdale" blood in general, and to that of "Victor" and "Samson" in particular. This is, I think, hardly fair. Mr. Martin must take the horse as a "whole," and not chop him up into little bits, and select the parts which suit his purpose. Surely the English blood he contains through "Samson," "Prince of Wales," and "Young Lord Lyon" is as worthy of the credit as the Scotch blood he possesses, derived from the same sources. So far "St. Lawrence."

Mr. Martin allows that I have not complained of the C.H.S.B., but suggests that my views "are not calculated to extend either its popularity or its usefulness, however much they may add," etc., etc. Now I, on the contrary, claim that my views, as set forth in the letter alluded to, would both *add* to the popularity and *increase* the usefulness of the Stud-Book. Moreover,—and to this I attach great importance,—they tend to *prevent* another Register or Stud-Book different from ours.

Mr. Martin tries to make capital out of my saying that some horses in the midland counties are spoken of as "Scotch horses," and says that it "proves his contention that there is a 'Scotch type,' not in all respects the same as the English cart-horses." Here Mr. Martin would make me draw general conclusions from particular premises; and, little as I know of logic, I am not to be induced to do that. I acknowledge that what we call the "Clydesdale" or Scotch type of horse does differ in certain respects from *some* English horses, but I entirely deny that this type is only to be found in "Clydesdales." The Scotch breeders have,

for many years, had a "guiding star" before them, and have endeavoured, by any means in their power, to bring their horses up to that standard, in which they have succeeded to a marvellous extent ; but when English breeders have worked on the same lines, a similar result has been obtained. That Scotch dealers would come to England and only take away horses that suited them and their customers, and not animals of a different class, "goes without saying."

Mr. Martin then says that "Mr. Pole-Gell cannot understand why shrewd Scotch dealers went south to buy mares, when they could find as good or better at home." I have read through all that I have written on this subject, and, finding no ground for Mr. Martin's statement, conclude that he has "evolved it out of his own consciousness," as the French professor did the camel. As it happens, I know quite well why the Scotch dealers went south, and also why they continue to do so. There is a large demand for mares in Scotland, both for working and breeding purposes, and of these there is an excellent supply to be found in England of the right type and quality to suit the Scotch market.

Now, as to the *argumentum ad crumenam*, which evidently weighs a good deal on Mr. Martin's mind. If he or any other gentleman came to England to purchase horses for ordinary purposes, they would find they had to give about the same prices as in Scotland for horses of *equal merit*; if they wished to purchase stallions or horses for exhibition, I think they would also have to give much the same money as at home. No doubt we occasionally hear exceptionally large figures named ; but I think neither Mr. Martin nor I would accept some of these accounts unless *cum grano salis*. Whether for ordinary work (the principal object for which we breed draught horses) or for exhibition purposes, both

Clydesdale and shire-horse breeders can obtain such prices as ought to satisfy the veriest glutton for money. I do not think amalgamation of the Stud-Books would affect prices by "levelling down;" I think that, as the general quality of horses improved, the prices would improve with them; but this is mere matter of opinion.

Mr. Martin then accuses me of "arguing in a circle." I was not aware that I had done so. He says, "in my last letter I freely admitted that most strains of Clydesdales did contain an infusion of English blood, varying in extent," &c. I had not observed that Mr. Martin had made this free admission, and am much obliged to him for doing so. He next says that my question as to the breeding of the Keir and Knockdon Clydesdales "involves the whole question now being discussed." Of this I am perfectly aware, and for that reason have so pertinaciously stuck to my point, and mean to continue to do so, being quite sure that the answer can only be in favour of my argument. Mr. Martin now asks, "What are *we* to gain by an amalgamation of breeds and Stud-Books? The only answer I have seen is, size." I will proceed to give another answer. The amalgamation of breeds he owns to having already, so that I need not touch on that point. Then what can you gain besides size? You can gain a shorter back, with better "back ribs," a heavier "middle piece," a better set-on tail, more powerful hind-quarters, including better formed hocks and stronger "second thighs." Mr. Martin does not concede that "we cannot breed as large horses as in England." My only answer is, "You don't do it." Next, he "does not concede that our largest horses are our best." With that I quite agree. Nor that in "many cases our *best* (the italics are mine) would be improved by being larger." With this also I mostly agree, though there may be two opinions on the

subject. I am speaking of the general run of horses in Scotland, and not of the "pick of the basket," which are selected for exhibition.

I cannot say whether the English mares that you have most benefited from in Scotland have been the largest. Probably not, though most of those which I have seen have been what we may term "full sized." I myself prefer moderate-sized animals of all kinds, and think them the best; but, unhappily, the public taste of the day is not with me.

I must now "bracket" Messrs. Martin and Rodger. I do not think either of those gentlemen can construe anything I have said into such an exaggeration as the word "dwindle" conveys. What I said was that in "my opinion, if the importation of English blood did not continue, the present size and substance of the Scotch horses could not be maintained, much less increased." This opinion I still hold, and am backed up in it by many others. It is possible that improvement may be carried on *sub rosa* by means of the animals which Mr. Martin has told us are bred by members of the society as "horses," and not as "Clydesdales." Perhaps when these animals "graduate," and are eligible for the "Inner Circle," they in their turn may become the parents of "Clydesdales," their English ancestry quietly vanishing into the regions of the "unknown."

I am surprised to find that Mr. Rodger opposes my proposition, as I should have thought it chimed in with his own views. He had a motion on the "agenda" paper at the sixth annual meeting of the Clydesdale Horse Society couched in these terms—"Motion by Mr. George Rodger, Newton Bank, Preston Brook, regarding the *necessity of maintaining the size of the draught horse, and the advisability of the society offering premiums for heavy horses.*" (The italics

are mine.) This motion Mr. Rodger was requested to withdraw, on the ground that he either was, or was about to be, elected a member of Council, and could then bring the matter forward at their private meetings. It appeared to me that no plan could have been better devised to stop an unwelcome public discussion. With regard to some of the statements in Mr. Rodger's letter, I could better understand them if he would *accurately define* what he means by the word "breed."

Having now answered Mr. Martin's last letter pretty fully, I shall bring my say to an end; but, before concluding, must repeat my first statement, viz., that whatever difference may have formerly existed, the two breeds of horses about which I have been writing are now virtually the same. Under these circumstances, I think it would be advantageous to the general body of horse-breeders in the United Kingdom if there were only one Stud-Book. I see no more reason for two Stud-Books for draught horses than for two Herd-Books for shorthorns.

How the amalgamation should take place, and all details connected with it, would come within the sphere of the working bodies of the respective societies; but there should be no great difficulty in carrying it out, if the subject were once faced.

I have now, sir, to thank you for your courtesy in admitting my letters into your columns, and shall not trespass any further on your forbearance unless forced to do so.—
Yours, &c.,

H. CHANDOS POLE-GELL.

Hopton Hall, Wirksworth,
April 16, 1883.

CLYDESDALE AND ENGLISH HORSES.

SIR,—I have read with much interest the several letters bearing on this subject which have lately appeared in the columns of your valuable journal, and feel greatly surprised at a few of the statements made. With your leave, I would direct attention to one of these only, viz., the alleged similarity of the two breeds of horses. As one who has been brought up amongst those well versed in the breeding and rearing of horses, and who has spent a life-time in the study of the different breeds, I cannot at all admit that there is a grain of truth in this allegation. The difference between the breeds seems to me to be as marked as that between polled cattle and West Highlanders. Doubtless many of the mares that have been brought down from England exhibit strong Clydesdale character, and in some cases, it may be, all the points of a good Clydesdale. But this may be easily accounted for by the well-known fact, that very many of the best mares and colts bred in Lanarkshire and sold in the fairs fifty or a hundred years ago were drafted to the south, and could not possibly fail to make a strong impression on the native breed. Let any practised horse judge take a tour through the leading horse-breeding counties of England, and what does he find the general type of cart-horse to be? An animal with a long thin head, narrow between the eyes, with upright pasterns, very "wide" hocks, wide haunches, and quarters miserably short; not unfrequently "rat-tailed;" the feet often out of shape, with side-bones; the only redeeming features about the animal being a fine big heart, round ribs, and good back. Fine specimens of this sort may be seen in the travelling showman's or gipsy's vans which occasionally wander into our Scottish domain.

Contrast this lumbering carcass with our active, short-legged Clydesdale. In him you have a broad head, big eye, strong forearm, and sloping pasterns; a short back, well-shaped haunches, hocks placed evenly below him, with grand, evenly-balanced action, and firm, sure step.

It is thus easy to understand why our cross bred ones don't breed true, when we consider the difference between the essential and uniform characteristics of the breeds from which they have sprung. With one mare a stallion bred in this fashion will leave a coarse, big-boned foal; while with another he will leave a foal which might, from its appearance, be judged to be the produce of a thoroughbred. Those who advocate the amalgamation of the Stud-Books must prove two things at least:—

(1) An essential similarity and general common tendency of character in the horses bred in the two countries; and

(2) That the well-known and generally recognised rule of breeding—viz., that in order to have impressiveness, or the power to reproduce their strong characteristics in their progeny, brood animals, be they stallions or mares, must be themselves bred in "line," or bred into certain well-defined strains of blood—does not hold good in regard to the breeding of draught horses.

That the best draught gelding or mare—the best horse for heavy lorry work—is a cross, the get of a Clydesdale sire and a shire dam, may be admitted, just as the best combined milker and beef-producer is a cow, the progeny of an Ayrshire cow and a shorthorn bull; but no one will venture to affirm that a bull bred in this fashion would be a safe animal to use in a herd of pure-bred Ayrshires. That this contention is a just one, was finely illustrated last year in the case of the magnificent gelding exhibited at the leading shows by Mr. Colin Campbell, which was the produce of an English

mare by the pure Clydesdale horse "Farmer" (286); and I am not sure that any one with capital and will to begin breeding horses of this description, for draught purposes only, would not realize a splendid profit on his capital. The experiment seems to me to be worth making.—Yours &c.,

A LANARKSHIRE CLYDESDALE BREEDER.

Glasgow, 13th April, 1883.

CLYDESDALE AND ENGLISH HORSES.

SIR,—Referring to the correspondence in your paper on this subject, it may be interesting to horse fanciers who have faith in Clydesdales as a breed to call their attention to the following:—Lord Dunmore, I believe, laid the foundation stone (if he did not do a great deal more) of the Clydesdale Horse Stud-Book, and not only did he take such a theoretical interest in the breed, but he himself gathered together in a short time what has often been considered one of the purest and best-bred studs of Clydesdales in Scotland. Unfortunately, his Lordship did not keep his stud together long; but, it is an interesting fact that the two grand fillies which were placed first and second in the excellent class of two-year-olds at Ayr last week, viz., Mr. M'Cowan's "Moss Rose" and Mr. Matthews' "Eugenie," were the produce of "Rosebud" (1814) and "Crinoline" (586), both well-bred Clydesdales, and both sold in one day at his Lordship's dispersion sale; and, in addition, it may be stated that "Moss Rose" was got by "Prince Charlie" (634), the high-bred stud horse at Dunmore.—I am, &c.,

PEDIGREE.

CLYDESDALE versus SHIRE HORSES.

SIR,—May I trouble you to insert the following, in answer to Mr. Pole-Gell's letter of the 16th inst.? Leaving Mr. Martin to answer that portion relating to his letters, I shall confine myself to the two paragraphs in which I am "bracketed" with that gentleman, and in which Mr. Pole-Gell refers more particularly to my letter of the 31st March.

In the first place, permit me to point out that Mr. Pole-Gell does not even make an attempt to answer the gist of my letter, and, therefore, that portion of it which states that, as the Clydesdale has great impressiveness, and the shire horse none, the two are *not* "virtually the same." Until he shows that this is a mistake, and also that all the types of the shire horse are the same as that of the Clydesdale, his argument in favour of amalgamation must fall to the ground.

Mr. Pole-Gell states that he still holds that, "without the importation of English blood, the present size and substance of Scotch horses could not be maintained, much less increased" (I observe he objects to the word "dwindle" being used to express this, although I labour under the impression that this is just what the word means), and yet he ignores the paragraph in my letter, pointing out that there are as large, if not larger, animals registered in the Clydesdale Stud-Book as in that of the Cart-Horse Society. Does he contradict this as well as the proof I gave of it? And, as I do not think he can, does he maintain that the art of breeding has lost the power of reproducing, or even advancing in the direction of, that which has already been produced, and is still in existence?

Because I had a motion on the agenda paper of the Clydesdale Horse Society, regarding "the necessity of

maintaining the size of the draught horse, and the advisability of the society offering premiums for heavy horses," I cannot see it follows I should be in favour of amalgamation of the two Stud-Books. All I wished to do by my motion was to encourage the most being made of the large-sized horses registered in its Stud-Book. I trust to bring on this motion at the next council meeting, and as I feel sure nothing can be said against the Clydesdale in its discussion, I cannot understand how Mr. Pole-Gell arrives at the conclusion, that because the council wished to discuss the subject *first* in private, this "was devised to stop an unwelcome public discussion."

Mr. Pole-Gell asks me to "accurately define" my meaning of the term "breed." It seems to me this is very clearly explained in my letter. However, I mean a race of animals which, through in-breeding, have acquired certain characteristics which it is capable of transmitting to its progeny.

Until Mr. Pole-Gell answers much more fully my former letter, I shall be content to subscribe myself—Yours, &c.,

GEO. RODGER.

Newton Bank, Preston Brook,
21st April, 1883.

CLYDESDALE versus SHIRE HORSES.

SIR,—As Mr Rodger wishes me to answer his letters more fully, I must again ask you to insert a few lines from my pen in your valuable journal.

I did not attempt to answer the "gist" of Mr. Rodger's letter, not thinking that what he wrote required refutation.

It appeared to me that he made an assertion unsupported by any *proof*, that "the Clydesdale is a 'breed,' and the shire horse is 'not;'" the statement as to the impressiveness or non-impressiveness of the two classes of horses being merely the expression of his own opinion, with which I, for one, do not agree. Impressiveness, so far as I know, seems to be an attribute of individual animals, and not of any special race as a whole. If it were of any use doing so, I think that for every "impressive" Clydesdale stallion Mr. Rodger named, I would name an equally impressive shire horse. I should, of course, "bar" Mr. Rodger naming horses which could be proved to contain *any English blood*. Mr. Rodger takes his stand on the "Clydesdale" "pure and simple," and I could not allow him any advantage arising from the mixture of blood, to which he so strongly objects.

I cannot see that my argument in favour of a fusion of the two Stud-Books falls to the ground, unless I show "that all types of the shire horse are the same as that of the Clydesdale." My contention is that, so much of their blood being the same, and the truest received type of the animal being the same, they are virtually one race.

Having already spoken about the size of Clydesdales in answering Mr. Martin, I thought it unnecessary to repeat my remarks in answering Mr. Rodger. I have no wish to "contradict" this gentleman. He may know horses registered in the C.H.S.B. which are larger than any to be found in the E.C.H.S.B. If such is the case, I am sorry to hear it, and must doubt their being good specimens of their kind, or well adapted to give the increased size to the Clydesdale which Mr. Rodger, like myself, thinks desirable. I only call to mind three very large Clydesdale stallions, two of which were "impressive" enough, but certainly not in the

reproduction of *good* qualities. Both of these horses were great prize winners. In answer to Mr. Rodger's next sentence, I reply that, if the "art of breeding" Clydesdales continues to be carried on by the same means that have hitherto been used, I think these horses will go on improving. There is no means of arriving at a state of perfection, and stopping at that point—"non progredi est regredi." I do not think the increased size and weight in the Clydesdale which Mr. Rodger advocates can come from "inside," but must be obtained by the continued use of English blood.

I shall look forward with great interest to the result of Mr. Rodger's motion on this subject; and trust that after it has been *first* discussed in private, it may also be discussed in public, which, judging from its appearance on the "agenda" paper of the Clydesdale Horse Society, was originally intended.

No doubt Mr. Rodger had a clear idea of what he meant when he said "the Clydesdale is a 'breed,' and the shire horse is 'not;'" but he could hardly expect me to have an intuitive perception of the process of reasoning going on in his brain—hence my request that he would define *his meaning* of the word "breed." I am much obliged to him for having done so, as it has better enabled me to reply to him.

If you, Sir, think that I have answered Mr. Rodger as fairly and fully as his letter requires, I shall decline any further correspondence on this subject, as, in my opinion, nothing is to be gained by constant repetition of the same arguments.—Yours, &c.,

H. CHANDOS POLE-GELL.

Hopton Hall, Wirksworth,
April 30, 1883.

CLYDESDALE *versus* SHIRE HORSES.

SIR,—With many of your readers, I have perused with much interest the good-natured and able discussion on the above subject in your valuable journal. I now ask you to allow me space for a few remarks.

From Mr. Pole-Gell's last production in your paper, it seems that the Clydesdale horse is indebted to English blood for almost everything that is essential in what we would describe as a good cart-horse. He has enumerated eight indispensable qualities, without which I am at a great loss to know what kind of an animal a Clydesdale horse would become. Only suppose for one moment that Mr. Pole-Gell is correct in his opinion, and the members of the Clydesdale Horse Society refuse to amalgamate with the English Cart-Horse Society, the calamity must be great. We have warning enough, and, from Mr. Pole-Gell's letters, I am certain we will have his sympathy. I ask those interested to call upon their imagination, and think for themselves what their horses will be without Mr. Pole-Gell's enumerated qualities. If some predictions be realised, where can we look for relief and consolation when we examine the progeny of our favourites, and fail to see the smallest resemblance? It will remind us of the lost tribes. We can mourn over the grand sorts of our forefathers, as the breeders on this side of the Border do about the almost extinct dear old "Vardy" breed.

But this calamity may be prevented. It is true we have all the best "sires" of the present and past described and claimed as of English blood. "Darnley" and "Samson"

are two that I would be much indebted to Mr. Pole-Gell, if he would kindly explain how it is managed to claim them as of English blood and descent. This part of the discussion I fail to understand, as I am able to show that no man can prove "Samson's" granddam to have been an English mare, or to have any shire blood in her veins. She was bought in the Falkirk Tryst, with filly foal at foot, and not in foal. The following season she was put to "Hilton Charley." The produce was the dam of "Samson." If there is any doubt about her being Scotch, how can she be claimed as English? I think this a very good example of what is described as English breed and blood. But facts are not forthcoming. It has suited the purposes of a few prominent breeders and successful exhibitors to bring mares and fillies from the south, and put them to fashionable sires. If I understand aright, the Clydesdale Stud-Book was compiled for the purpose of preventing such being sold as Clydesdales. As to size, can Mr. Pole-Gell assure us that the rich pastures and good climate of England have nothing to do with that? Compare these with the poor pastures, severe winters, and the small number, compared with England's produce; also the large exportation of both sexes of many of the best, and it is no wonder that Scotsmen go south for horses for town purposes, &c. When the breeds are so much alike, what advantage could be gained by either of the societies through amalgamating? I fail to see any. We may as well have no Stud-Book.—I am, &c.,

WM. CLARK.

MOUSEN HALL, BELFORD,

24th April, 1883.

PRODUCE OF "LINCOLNSHIRE LAD."

THE following statement, taken from the Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society, proves that Mr. Poll-Gell was correct in stating that mares got by "Lincolnshire Lad" had gained more first prizes in Scotland than mares got by any other horse.

| | | OWNER. |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| First Prize at Glasgow 1875 | Brood Mare, "Mary." English. Mare in foal, "Jess." English. | L. Drew. J. Gardner. |
| First Prize at Aberdeen 1876 | Brood Mare, "Maggie." Sire, "General Williams." Mare in foal, "Princess." Sire, "Prince of Wales." | A. Buchanan. J. M'Nab. |
| First Prize at Edinburgh 1877 | Brood Mare, "Ranee." Sire, "Black Prince." Mare in foal, "Netty." Sire, "Lincolnshire Lad" (English) | W. Hardie. Sir William Stirling-Maxwell |
| First Prize at Dumfries 1878 | Brood Mare, "Sheba." English. Mare in foal, "Jess." Sire, "Prince Charlie." | L. Drew. A. Baird. |
| First Prize at Perth 1879 | Brood Mare, "Young Darling." Sire, "Lord Lyon." "Lord Lyon's" dam was got by "Iron Duke" (English). Mare in foal, "Damsel." Sire, "Crown Prince." "Damsel's" dam was got by "Tintock" (English). | J. Picken J. Martin. |
| First Prize at Kelso 1880 | Brood Mare, "Mystery." Sire, "Craigie Lea." Mare in foal, "Adela." Sire, "Warrior." | G. Rodger. R. Murdoch. |
| First Prize at Stirling 1881 | Brood Mare, "Evelyn." Sire, "Time o' Day." Mare in foal, "Mary Gray." Sire, "Topsman." "Topsman's" dam was got by "Sampson" (English). | J. Waddell. J. Waddell. |
| First Prize at Glasgow 1882 | Brood Mare, "Queen." Sire, "Lincolnshire Lad" (English). Mare in foal, "Louisa." Sire, "Darnley." | L. Drew. J. Waddell. |

A GENUINE CLYDESDALE.

("Agricultural Gazette," February 19, 1883.)

"You know Mr. Drew, of Merryton," he said, "he has been, as you well know, one of the most successful breeders and exhibitors of Clydesdale horses in the world. Let me tell you an example of it. One of his stud, a mare, eventually won the Champion prize for Clydesdales before the judges of the Agricultural Society of Scotland. She had been shown at all ages, and had been put first almost everywhere, so that at length she could only be entered for competition with other first-prize winners, and then she beat them all, and was the Champion mare of the breed. Not only so, but the judges made a special report to the directors of the Society that here was the very ideal of the Clydesdale breed, and it behoved them to have her portrait taken and hung up on the walls of their hall as a picture of the true Clydesdale stamp for the instruction of coming generations. Well, sir, she was not a Clydesdale at all—she had never been in Scotland till brought there by her purchaser. She came from a midland county, and was a true shire-bred horse; and notwithstanding all the judgments and verdicts in her favour, and the crowning testimony to her merits by a bench of Clydesdale judges, neither the mare nor any of her predecessors, for I don't know how many generations, is eligible for the Clydesdale Herd Book. Aye, I could relate rare specimens of swallowing camels while they thus strain at gnats. There is that to be said of more than one 'pure' breed which will more than match the story of the share of the Galloway in the early excellence of the Shorthorn."

HORSE BREEDING IN ENGLAND.

For the amusement of Scotch breeders, we reprint an exact copy of a card circulated in one of the Midland Counties of England :

CART STALLION

1877

YOUNG LINCOLN

Will serve a limited number of Mares this season, 1877, at £1 1/ each mare, if in foal, and 6/ to be paid at the time of covering, to keep old raffrees away; the remainder 16/ to be paid at Xmas. If not paid then or before the end of February, without asking or going after, 5/ will be charged for collecting.

YOUNG LINCOLN, the property of Mr. W. HARRIMAN, of Wilsthorp, Derbyshire, is a superior-bred Dapple-Grey Cart-Horse, 5 years old, by Lincolnshire Lad, which there is so much fuss about (see pedigree); dam by Old Matchless, which weighed over a ton; grand-dam, the same mare that bred Crown Prince, thus proving that the breed is good enough.

N.B.—All Mares sold must be paid for, foal or no foal. I have no need to mention any more excuses, or anything else.

GLASGOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

("Glasgow Herald," May 3, 1883.)

CLYDESDALES.

IN this department the show was looked upon as being very fine. The number of animals present was larger than at any previous show, and the quality as a whole was excellent. Indeed, the most of the best animals were present, and notwithstanding that many farmers in different parts of the country have taken to breeding Clydesdales, and are succeeding admirably, the fact remains that our western breeders are still at the head of the list. Yesterday the most successful man was Mr. Lawrence Drew, of Merryton, who carried off both the handsome silver cups given for the best Clydesdale colt and the best Clydesdale mare in the yard. There are others who are close on his heels, and before another year is over these may outstrip him and walk to the front.

A most interesting event was the decision of the cup given by Mr. Pearce for the best mare in the yard. This led to the appearance of eight animals, the first prize-takers in all the classes with the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prize three-year-old mares. It was rather unusual to have other than first-prize mares competing for the cup, but as the three judges were to award the prize, it was looked upon as an opportunity for another verdict. It so happened, however, that with "Queen," "Louisa," and "Pansy," all there, there was little chance for the younger mares, and all were satisfied when the red ticket was handed to the groom of Mr. Drew's "Queen."

It may be added that the silver cup for the best Clydesdale horse, presented by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, was won by Mr. L. Drew's "Prince of Avondale," so that this year

Mr. Drew has carried off the principal honours in the Clydesdales—a fact of which, at the luncheon, he expressed himself proud and gave it as an instance of the success which had attended his style of breeding.

THE LUNCHEON.

In the afternoon the directors entertained a large company of gentlemen to luncheon, which was served in a large marquee on the ground. Sir Michael R. Shaw Stewart, in the absence of the Lord Provost, President of the Society, occupied the chair. The toasts of “The Queen” and “The Prince and Princess of Wales” having been proposed and enthusiastically pledged,

The CHAIRMAN stated that he regretted the absence of the Lord Provost, who was in London on business connected with the city. In his Lordship’s absence it fell to him to present the cup which had been given by his Lordship for the best Clydesdale horse in the show. The cup had been gained by his friend, Mr. Drew, to whom he now handed it over, with hearty good wishes for his prosperity. (Applause.)

Mr. DREW, in accepting the cup, said he felt very pleased indeed that he had got into the position of becoming the winner of such a valuable cup. No person could value such a gift from the Lord Provost of Glasgow more than he did, and the circumstance that he had attained to so proud a position that day would encourage him to go on with increased energy in the lines he had so long followed. (Applause.) As they were all aware, he had paid great attention to horse breeding, and his receipt of this cup, and the words from Sir Michael which had accompanied it, would be a remembrance to him which he could never forget. (Applause) He begged to thank the Lord Provost and Sir Michael for their kindness. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said they were not done with Mr. Drew yet. (Laughter.) He had now to call upon Mr. Pearce to present the cup which he had given to be competed for.

Mr. PEARCE said the directors had afforded him the privilege of presenting a cup to the owner of the best Clydesdale mare, and he had now the pleasure of handing it over to Mr. Drew. (Applause.) He need not tell the gentlemen present, who knew much more about the breeding of Clydesdales than he did, that there had been a very great improvement in the breed of that class of stock. That improvement had been greatly brought about by societies of that kind. (Applause.) They were very much indebted to the breeders of Clydesdales, who had given great attention to the subject with such gratifying results. The Clydesdale breed of horses was known all over the world and it was likely to become still more celebrated than it was at present. There was a growing demand for Clydesdales even in this country. Notwithstanding that they had road locomotives in the shape of traction engines, and that probably they would very soon have road locomotives in the shape of electric engines, there was no doubt that the demand for Clydesdales would continue to increase. (Applause.) It gave him peculiar pleasure to present the cup to Mr. Drew, a gentleman who had done so much for the breeding of Clydesdale horses. (Applause.)

Mr. DREW said he felt very grateful for the compliment Mr. Pearce had paid him. He had not been ambitious enough to think that he could have gained both cups—in fact, he thought to do so would be almost impossible. He had been introduced to Mr. Pearce only that day, and he was pleased to find the interest that gentleman took in the breeding of horses. He felt very proud at finding himself the winner of both these magnificent cups, and he could

assure the meeting that they would stimulate him to endeavour to win another one. (Laughter and applause.) He was more pleased that he had won the cup with the animal which had carried off the honour than if it had been by a younger animal, though he was more interested in the younger ones. The animal that had won the cup was an extraordinary mare, though he brought her down from England. (Laughter.) She had beat a great many cup winners that day, and had earned for him one of the greatest victories he had ever had in his life. (Applause.) It just proved that if a person had a right good animal when he went to compete, he did not need to care whether he was acquainted with the judges or not. (Laughter and applause.) With such an animal no one need be afraid of the pedigree. There was no fear that the winner on this occasion would not produce stock like herself. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN presented Mr. John Wallace with the cup given by Mr. J. B. Fleming for the best mare or gelding shown in harness.

Mr. WALLACE, in acknowledging the gift, mentioned that it was the first cup he had taken with a gelding, though he had been showing geldings for twenty years. This prize gave him greater pleasure than any other cup he had ever gained, and he hoped it would stimulate him, like Mr. Drew, to go on in the same lines as he had been doing. (Applause.)



THE PROPOSED STUD-BOOK AMALGAMATION.

(*"Live Stock Journal," May 4, 1884.*)

IT is not without considerable reluctance on my part that I have taken up my pen for the purpose of contributing to the above controversy now raging in the North ; but as Mr. Pole-Gell has expressed a wish to see the matter thrashed out fairly, and as I have been asked for my opinion on the subject privately, I think it best to say what I have to say on the matter in your columns, and have done with it so far as I am concerned.

To begin with, the idea that there should be only one General Stud-Book for draught horses is not a new one ; it was suggested in the North long before any of the present volumes of the existing Stud-Book for Clydesdales and cart-horses had passed through the press. "It is a mistake," said some of these Scotch breeders who were partial to a dash of English blood, "to divide the breeds." Possibly, according to Mr. Pole-Gell's opinions at present, this was the case ; but at the time, I have no hesitation in saying that it would have been all but impossible to have carried out one single Stud-Book for Clydesdales and Shires, owing in the first place to the lack of information on the subject, and the increased difficulty of compilation ; and in the second place, to the jealousy which existed between the breeders of draught horses on both sides of the border. Some of the Clydesdale men, not having printed records before them, had no opportunities of finding out the amount

of good which had been done to their breed by an infusion of Shire blood, and the Shire men had not learned that the Clydesdale horses were far superior to their own in the essential points—good clean legs, good pasterns, and sound durable hoofs. The sun has risen in the shape of volumes of registered pedigrees, histories of different breeds and families, and much useful matter, which has all tended to remove the darkness which had previously hung over heavy-horse breeding. The Clydesdale men see what is wanted, so also do the men of the Shires ; and that is a superior draught horse, no matter how he is bred. In order to arrive at this, however, there must be some free and independent system of registration, a system by which a scientific breeder may be allowed to put the best to the best of any breed, with a view to procuring better. Some may say that this is cross-breeding, but I quite agree with the Squire of Hopton Hall in the opinion that there is an affinity between the Clydesdales and the Shires which precludes the use of the word cross-bred. Mr. Martin, of Auchendennan, says he prefers the word “crosses” to “ineligibles,” but it is a word which it is obvious is dangerously misleading. The accident of time makes “Hawkhead,” according to Mr. M. and the Clydesdale rules, a cross, and his full brother, a couple of years older, a Clydesdale. Surely the word cross-bred can never be so widely applied as this. Again, Mr. Martin says that the cross between a Clydesdale horse and a Shire horse would only be superior to either, in the same sense as a cross bred between a Shorthorn and, say, a West Highlander is superior for butchers’ purposes. The analogy, so far, again is false, for were we using oxen for working purposes as in the days of old, we would readily use the unsteered cross animal which we thought would breed well in a line for work. Breeding for beef, and breeding for bone and

muscle, are objects so widely different, that we cannot make use of parallel arguments between cattle raising and horse raising, and this opinion I have previously expressed when writing on in-breeding as regards Clydesdales.

Now to return to the subject of amalgamation. At the very outset I may say that I do not believe it practicable. America has founded a stud-book on Clydesdale lines; New Zealand has a draught horse stud-book, in which all draught animals are registered (this is the kind of book which I fancy Mr. Pole-Gell and his followers desire); and the ramifications which would ensue would be very perplexing. An American importer, writing to the *North British Agriculturist*, seems to hold the same idea as myself on the subject, and one which the readers of *Live Stock Journal* know I expressed in your columns more than a year ago, viz., that the time has now come for a third register or stud-book. Such a stud-book, indeed, I tried to establish last year, but met with the same meagre encouragement that I did when I tried to start the Clydesdale Stud-book single-handed ten years ago, and was forced to abandon it after drafting all the forms of entry and expending money in advertising. The necessity for such an independent register I had foreseen long before the retrospective volume had been through the press, having learned that in my labours which Mr. Pole-Gell has apparently just now found out, viz., that the Clydesdale, to have size and strength, must have an occasional infusion of English blood. In regard to that and the proposed third volume, I can do no better than quote my own words from "The History of Horse-breeding in Scotland," which forms the introduction to the second volume of the Clydesdale Stud-book.

As to "crossing," the establishment of stud-books, and the preservation in a clear condition of well-recognised

fountains of Clydesdale blood will be of great assistance to those who have confidence in themselves to experiment. They should, however, establish a system of registration, as the buyers of their produce will not now-a-days accept a mere verbal guarantee as to its blood constituents. With registration, however, such men, working with well-defined material, and possessing full knowledge of their subject, may raise animals superior to what are now recognised by the individual stud-book societies as pure and established families, similar to those recognised as Bates and Booths amongst Shorthorns. Let such men weigh out the ingredients carefully. Nature will supply the mortar and pestle, and, working slowly but surely, the result will be a general improvement in the draught horse. Since these words were written, however, the nucleus of Clydesdales has been thinned down to almost nothing at all, the best mares, fillies, and colts having been shipped to America, and scattered over the whole of that vast continent. It is true that the last volume of the Stud-Book contains more than any of the previous ones ; but, from my knowledge of Clydesdales and Clydesdale studs, I am slow to believe that they represent good draught horses. The daughter of a gig pony and a Clydesdale stallion is eligible for entry in the volume, if she be of a certain age, and I think I am not far wrong in saying that Clydesdale breeders are now entering everything on the farm that is eligible, in order to suit the American demand for registration. The Shire mares which they took away to the north are therefore wanted much more than ever they were ; and, indeed, if Southern blood is not made use of judiciously, the Clydesdale will come gradually down in size and strength, and Scotland will lose her market for draught horses. Already, I believe, the contractors for city firms are lessening their visits to the north of the Tweed on account

of the scarcity of good heavy geldings, many of the animals which would have been castrated a year ago having been bought and shipped to America as stallions ; and not only that—numerous good sires, together with first-class show-yard mares and superior fillies, have also gone with them. Possibly the shire-horse men may argue from this that the Clydesdale men want a separate stud-book because they are sold out : while, according to Mr. Truman, the Shire market is only beginning. There is some reason in this, but I hold that, just as the Clydesdale is improved as regards size and substance by using a dash of Shire blood, so might the Shire be improved in style, quality and activity, by using a dash of Clydesdale. Moreover, I am of opinion they have been so improved, though their stud-book avoids mention of the Scottish horses which crossed the border. Both breeds can be used together with advantage, and should be ; but in order to allow of this there should be a third stud-book (that is, if amalgamation is, as I think, impracticable). This I would call the Clyde-Shire or Clydeshire, as euphonious and fully expressive, while avoiding jealousy. I give you below a specimen of an actual entry, the letters C and E standing for Clydesdale and English, the numbers being taken from the respective stud-books:—

ST. LAWRENCE (Clyde Shire), C., 1878.

Bred by Lawrence Drew, Merryton, Hamilton, N.B.

Owned by David Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley, N.B.

Sire, Prince of Wales 673.

Dam Jemima, by Young Lord Lyon 994.

Tabulated, this pedigree—whether true or grafted on to Young Lord Lyon, as some have suggested, to make him an “eligible;” if the sire of Jemima is known, then her breeder must be known also, and should speak out—shows his mixed origin as follows :—

ST. LAWRENCE, brown, C., 1878, winner 1st Prize Glasgow Stallion Show, 1883.

ST. LAWRENCE, brown, C., 1878, winner 1st Prize Glasgow Stallion Show, 1883.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------------------------|--------|---|------------------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|---------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------|---|-----------------------|---|----------|---|---------------|---|--------------------|---|---------------|---|-------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---------------------|---|---------|---|--------------------|---|--|
| Jemima. | Unknown. | Young Lord Lyon (994), C. | Flora. | { | Victor (892), C. | { | Match, by Defiance (225), C., by Clyde (155), C. | { | Unknown. | { | Iron Duke (1,151), E., by Bellerophon (118), E., dam Great Britain (966), E. | { | Darling, by Biggar (45), C. | { | Rob Roy (714), C. | { | Hercules(378) C. | { | Lord Lyon (489), C. | { | Puppet | { | P. of Wales (673), C. | { | Darling. | { | A Shire Mare. | { | Samson(741), C. | { | A Shire Mare. | { | General (322), C. | { | Sir W. Scott (797), C. | { | Old Clyde (574). | { | Lillie. | { | Scotsman (574), C. | { | Dam of Scotsman, by Glancer II., and de- scended in direct male line from Blaze; sire of Blaze, an English draught horse. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

From the above it will be seen that the champion Clydesdale of the year has the very best of Clydesdale blood in his veins, the whole of his top line running along a record of prizes, while on the dam's side he has also some good Clydesdale blood, and through Iron Duke, Bellerophon, Great Britain, Luck's All, and the dam of the latter, he has the very-best of blood in the English Cart-horse Stud-Book.

There are numerous other cases I could give of a similar class to the above, in which the kinship of the champion mares and horses of Scotland could be traced far back into the English record, and I have no doubt, if I had leisure to go into the breeding districts of England, and the country where Sir Walter Scott and other good Clydesdales travelled, I could do the same for the breeders of the Shire.

St. Lawrence is the champion horse of Glasgow, entered in, or declared eligible for, the Clydesdale Stud-Book, and serving mares just now in the district round that city. His history and breeding must be a matter of interest to every one, and therefore should be given in full, as above. This cannot be the case, however, so long as the dead-lock exists in regard to registration, and there is no neutral volume.

T. DYKES,

Formerly Secretary, Clydesdale Horse Society.

THE CLYDESDALE versus THE SHIRE HORSE.

(*"Glasgow Herald," 28th May, 1883.*)

SIR,—Kindly allow me space to make a few remarks on the paragraph in the *Herald* of Monday, copied from the *Live Stock Journal*, London. The first sentence I would remark on is as follows:—"In Scotland there has arisen a demand for a joint Stud-Book for Clydesdale and Shire horses." This is not true, because the idea of the amalgamation of the two Stud-Books was first mooted at the annual meeting

of the English Cart-Horse Society in London, by Mr. H. Chandos Pole-Gell, Hopton Hall, Wirksworth, and it was at once opposed by the leading Scotch agricultural journal, the *North British Agriculturist*, and by Mr. John M. Martin, vice-president of the Clydesdale Horse Society; and Mr. George Rodger, a breeder of Clydesdales resident in England. In the discussion which followed, the advocates of the amalgamation were Messrs. Pole-Gell and Richard Thornton, Gibstick Hall, Winmarleigh, near Garstang; the opponents of the amalgamation were Messrs. Martin, William Clark, Mousen Hall, Belford; George Rodger, and two anonymous writers, signing themselves respectively "Lanarkshire Clydesdale Breeder" and "Clydeside." Another anonymous writer advocated a third Stud-Book, and he styled himself an "American Importer." The anonymous writers who opposed the amalgamation are well known, the "Lanarkshire Breeder" being one of the most popular and experienced judges of horses in Scotland. The second sentence on which I would remark is represented to be a digest of the views of the late secretary of this society, and according to him the best Clydesdale mares, fillies, and colts have been shipped to America, and although "the last volume of the Stud-Book contains more entries than any previous one, from his knowledge of Clydesdale studs, he is slow to believe that they represent good draught horses. *The daughter of a gig pony and a Clydesdale stallion is eligible for entry in the volume if she is of a certain age.*" (The italics are mine.) The remarkable thing connected with the American exportation of Clydesdales is the comparative paucity of females exported, and the Scotch farmers have not been selling "the geese that lay the golden eggs." That there is no lack of excellence in the Clydesdale stock remaining in the country was abundantly manifest at the last Glasgow show, where the sire of the most

purely bred young stock exhibited was awarded the first prize in the yearling family section. The sting of the paragraph, however, lies in the sentence in *italics*. Although it is true that an animal, bred as the paragraph points out, would be eligible for registration if of a certain age, it may very safely be questioned if there be many animals so bred in the country and used for breeding mares; and out of 924 mares registered in volume fifth there are only 257 the breeding of whose dams is not known, and in the majority of these cases the dams were mares purchased in open markets and fairs. Of the remaining 667 mares, it can be demonstrated that their sires are registered horses, and their dams at least got by registered horses, or animals bred by gentlemen well known, and possessing all the characteristics of the Clydesdale horse. Another important fact in regard to the fifth volume is that a very large proportion of the entries in it are entries of Galloway mares, and no district in Scotland possesses better draught horses than the Stewartry and Wigtownshire. We are further informed that Mr. Dykes foretells that the "Clydesdale will come down in size and strength, and that Scotland will lose her market for draught horses." This is a statement which will not bear examination—first, because it may be met with Artemus Ward's sagacious axiom, "Don't prophesy until you know;" and, second, because it admits of demonstration that Clydesdale sires with most English blood in their veins produce the weakest progeny, and are not able to impart additional strength to the progeny of mares already weak enough. An extra roughness of hair on the legs does not necessarily indicate a corresponding increase in the weight of bone. According to the published catalogue of one of the most extensive importing firms in America, the reason why the Clydesdale is preferred to other breeds of draught horses is because he possesses prepotency to stamp his stock with

his own characteristics; in other words, he possesses the power of improving other breeds. Your readers will agree with me, I think, that it ill becomes an English writer to cast reflections on the rules adopted by the council of this society for the admission of pedigrees, seeing that the third alternative rule of the English Cart-Horse Society for the admission of the pedigree of a mare, three-years-old or upwards, into the fifth volume is as follows:—"That she, or her progeny, have gained a prize as an English cart-horse at one of the chief agricultural shows of the kingdom."—*Preface to the English Cart-Horse Stud-Book, vol. 4.*

Scotch breeders know what and how much Clydesdale blood will be got into the "Shire-Horse Stud-Book" through the operation of this rule.

In conclusion, I cannot forego the opportunity of calling the attention of your readers to the extraordinary efforts that have periodically been put forth by certain parties to weaken the organisation and impair the usefulness of this society. Four years ago the principles on which its Stud-Book was conducted were attacked. There was a lull in the storm of opposition for a year or more, and then it burst out anew when the character of the American and colonial demand began to develop itself. An article appeared in a Montreal agricultural journal about a year ago, stating that an "abortive attempt" had been made to found a Stud-Book in Scotland, and somewhat similar statements were made by an anonymous writer in your own columns. At the suggestion of interested parties, the Montreal article was copied into the leading British agricultural journals, and again this year the storm has been raging all round, extending in its circuit even to the remote kingdom of Fife, and the services of an unknown "American Importer" have been utilised to a great extent. In the midst of all

this, the Clydesdale Horse Society has gone on prosperously. The American importers who have most capital in the business are more determined than ever to have only registered stock, and Australian buyers are following suit. Since the beginning of January, 1883, forty-five new members have joined the society, and its income for the four months ending 30th April in each year is shown in the following table:—Income—1880, £155 11s 6d; 1881, £176 18s 2d; 1882, £294 13s 5d; 1883, £334 19s 6d. Apologising for trespassing so far on your valuable space, I am, &c.,

ARCHD. McNEILAGE, JUN.,

Secretary.

Clydesdale Horse Society,
194 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, May, 1883.

THE MERRYTON CLYDESDALES.

("Glasgow Herald," 12th May, 1883.)

MR. LAWRENCE DREW has just issued a private register of horse-breeding stock now at Merryton Home Farm, and an appendix containing the names of others which have been disposed of within the last five or six years. The Merryton stud contains no fewer than seventy-four animals, and the appendix gives particulars of an additional thirty-six. In an introduction, Mr. Drew points out that "his aim has been for many years to improve the Scotch draught horse, not only by the infusion of fresh blood—necessary to

maintain his size and strength, so liable to deterioration under the influences of our ungenial climate—but by the careful selection of breeding stock, possessing, in a marked degree, the qualities calculated to improve our breed known as the ‘Clydesdale,’ and from the fact that the draught horses in certain counties of England appeared to him specially adapted for this purpose by their superior strength and substance, as well as by their historical association with the Scotch breed, and their similarity of origin, Mr. Drew has not scrupled to avail himself of this source to effect the object contemplated.” Like others, Mr. Drew places little reliance upon the story of the six Flemish stallions imported by a Duke of Hamilton as the origin of the present breed. He puts more faith in information derived from Mr. R. Burns, a respected and trusted servant of the present Duke of Hamilton, who states that the sixth Duke, who succeeded to the title in 1742, and died in 1758, imported a dark-brown Flemish stallion for the use of his tenantry, with a view to improve the breed of horses. This horse was led through the districts of Strathaven, Lesmahagow, Dalserf, Cambuslang, and Shotts, by James Davidson, one of the Duke’s grooms. It was named “Clyde,” and the progeny were called the “Clyde breed.” James Davidson died when Mr. Burns was a boy, yet he remembers him, and has a distinct recollection of the reputation which the progeny of “Clyde” obtained. Mr. Drew also gives a quotation from the report of the minister of Rutherglen in 1792, who, after stating that the farmers in the upper part of Lanarkshire paid great attention to the breeding of horses, says that these animals were sold to farmers in the counties of Renfrew and Ayr, who in turn disposed of them to others, who took them to the Lothians, England, &c., where they excelled in the plough, the cart, and the waggon. From all

these facts; Mr. Drew argues that there is evidence that the Clydesdales are made up of an admixture of Flemish, English, and Scotch blood, and that the reputation of not a few of the more noted horses of recent times was due to a fortunate combination of these strains. He instances Keir, "Samson;" "Prince of Wales;" "Tintock," the grandsire of Mr. Martin's "Damsel;" the dam of "Lord Lyon;" and the grandsire of "Topsman," as all having English blood in their veins. Mr. Drew denies that the amalgamation of selected Scotch and English breeds, so closely allied, can be called crossing, for the reason that both have many points of resemblance, while defects in either breed might be modified or altogether got rid of by judicious care; and contends that, in many of our best horses there are to be found the fine feet and pasterns to which the Lanarkshire breeders devoted their attention, combined with the weight and symmetry to which the English breeders attached more importance.

THE CLYDESDALE versus THE SHIRE HORSE.

("Glasgow Herald," 21st May, 1883).

It is said that good breeding mares are getting scarce, and many of those most suitable for breeding hunters and carriage horses have been shipped abroad. We ought to be able to keep at home good brood mares, for on them we depend for an increase in the studs; to sell them, even at tempting prices, is like "killing the goose which laid the golden eggs." The English Cart-Horse Society is likely to change its name to

that of the "Shire Horse Society." It is thought that the former title embraces too wide a field, and that foreign buyers hold aloof, being suspicious that entries on the Stud-Book may represent shire horses or anything else which is "English." The Royal Agricultural Society also recognises the "shire horse" as a distinct breed, but ignores the English cart-horse. At the present time nearly every animal registered is a shire horse, so the future title will agree with the actual and distinct character of the entries. In Scotland there has arisen a demand for a joint Stud-Book for Clydesdale and Shire horses. By some this is deemed impracticable, and if we are to take the opinion of the late secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society, such an amalgamation would be a decided disadvantage to breeders of the shire horse. Writing in reference to the Clydesdales, he says that the best mares, fillies, and colts have been shipped to America, and although the last volume of the Stud-Book contains more entries than any previous one, from his knowledge of Clydesdale studs he is slow to believe that they represent good draught horses. The daughter of a gig pony and a Clydesdale stallion is eligible for entry in the volume, if she is of a certain age. He further informs us that Clydesdale breeders are now entering everything on their farms that is eligible, in order to suit the American demand for registration; and he therefore foretells that the Clydesdale will come down in size and in strength, and that Scotland will lose her market for draught horses. This information is certainly a warning for England and America too; and the former should avoid amalgamation with a breed which is already on the wane, while the latter should beware lest, in depending so much on the registration, it obtains the shadow and loses the substance—*Live Stock Journal*.

CLYDESDALE v. SHIRE HORSE.

(*"Glasgow Herald."*)

SIR,—Having been kept very busy of late with other work, I had little leisure to answer the letter of Mr. M'Neilage, Secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society, which appeared in your columns some time ago, on the above subject, and, indeed, had abandoned the idea of replying to it altogether, had I not received two marked copies of the *Herald* from parties unknown, who are evidently of opinion that I have not seen it. I have little time at my disposal for entering upon a newspaper correspondence, which can neither be profitable to myself, nor fruitful of good to any one; and had my article, as it appeared in the *Live Stock Journal*, been fully quoted, and not a badly-gathered *résumé* which *never appeared*, I would not have lifted my pen again upon the subject, but would have left it to be discussed at the meeting convened by Mr. Pole-Gell, at the Royal Agricultural Society's annual gathering at York, next month.

On looking into Mr. M'Neilage's letter a second time, I find that a slight hint is thrown out that a writer, who signs his letters, "An American Importer," and myself are one and the same person, and that "American Importer's" services have been made much use of of late. No doubt this arises from the fact that "An American Importer" and myself believe in the necessity of a third, or independent, Stud-Book—I having long advocated the function of the latter. Now, I may tell the secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society that I am as ignorant as to who "An American Importer" is as Mr. M'Neilage is aware of who is the anonymous correspondent who is a Lanarkshire breeder, who is well known; and, I daresay, the editor of

the *North British Agriculturist* would be glad to inform him as to this. Moreover, I never wrote an anonymous letter in my life, as regards Clydesdales or anything else, and never shall; nor does Mr. M'Neilage, since the day he entered the Clydesdale Horse Society's office, recollect of my doing anything, as regards my writings, that I was afraid to adhibit my name to. I feel all the more sure on the subject of anonymity from the fact that, on my return from London, three years ago, I found some of the Clydesdale breeders, who had been warm supporters of mine in the past, very cold to me. On inquiring the reason, I was told that I had been running down Clydesdales in the English agricultural papers, and praising up the shire breed. This charge I could not account for, but I was handed a copy of a contemporary, in which I had worked hard in the cause of Clydesdales and agriculture generally, containing a leading article directly against myself, then the paid secretary of the society, stating this to be the case. I was not mentioned by name; but the article said that a suspicious significance was to be attached to certain articles appearing in the *County Gentleman* and *Live Stock Journal*—journals to which I was then contributing. The two were linked together to show the writers to be the same person, and it would be hard to make the Clydesdale breeders believe yet, I dare say, that the "double-quilled" individual was not myself. As regards the *County Gentleman* article, I was the writer, and the article, or rather, I might say, the paragraph, was written in the interests of Clydesdales, and was prompted by one of the most respected members of the Clydesdale council, who, in the course of a conversation, told me that the miserable animals which the American exporters had, at that time, shipped at the Broomielaw, would give buyers and breeders there, who were hesitating between Percherons and

Clydesdales, an erroneous opinion of the breed. The *Live Stock Journal* article was certainly a dead attack on Clydesdales at Carlisle, by some one signing himself, "Shire," but of whom I am as ignorant as I am of the man in the moon. Indeed, I can truthfully say that, although I have shown how Clydesdales and draught horses generally may be improved, I have never written a line, that I am aware of, against Clydesdales in my life. The article I wrote to the *Live Stock Journal* was the first of the kind I had written to an agricultural newspaper for twelve months; it was done because I had taken a strong position hitherto in draught-horse breeding, and it was signed, in order that there might be no misunderstanding as to my views, and no danger of their being confounded with those of any other individual.

As regards the using of English blood, I hold that, if it has been useful in raising the standard of the breed in the past, I cannot see how it cannot be used with advantage in the future; and the argument for its employment is much stronger now on account of the recent thinning of the, at no time thick, nucleus of the Clydesdale breed. The argument of prepotency, I daresay, I was the first to use; but, as regards it, I have somewhat moderated my opinions. This I have been largely led to do through reading a strong article on the subject in the leading agricultural journal of America, the *National Live Stock Journal of Chicago*, in which it is laid down, as Mr. Pole-Gell argues, that it is a matter more of individuality than of breed. If, however, the English blood lessens prepotency, why do you go on using animals containing it? The Auchendennan stud is a fairly representative Stud-Book one; but the Auchendennan stud horse has the largest and, by far, the most honourable part of his pedigree recorded and numbered in the English Cart-Horse Stud-Book. It is the same, too, with "St:

Lawrence," the champion horse of Glasgow, and many others.

It may be asked by some why I did not advance such arguments when I had that fierce correspondence with Mr. Drew five years ago. The reason is, that I fought hard for the life of the Stud-Book, knowing that, without registration, we never could have any scientific system of breeding, let alone that great American market, which I saw looming ahead, and which the shire men might have been the first to catch, as they had already formed their society, and were busy at work getting ready their own volume. The quarrel at the time was possibly somewhat embittered by the fact that Messrs. Drew and Riddell, who held at least one-third of the information connected with Clydesdales, withheld everything, and so my work was rendered doubly heavy and doubly disagreeable, through having to spend a great part of my time in the by no means elevating company of stallion grooms, tracing pedigrees which could not otherwise be obtained. As regards the number of under-sized Clydesdale mares with pedigrees, I am not inclined to give in to Mr. M'Neilage. It is not more than ten years since the Glasgow Agricultural Society gave prizes for under-sized animals, suitable for drawing buttermilk carts.

In conclusion, I may say that, whether the amalgamation is brought about or not, the draught horse of the future will, like the thorough-bred (or the shorthorn among cattle), be moulded by judicious mating and selection, which, however, just now, cannot be carried out, owing to the deadlocks existing in regard to the present Stud-Book rules.—I am, &c.,

T. DYKES.

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

(*"Dunfermline Press."*)

SIR,—The interest which you have taken in ventilating the views of breeders of horses for agricultural purposes through your influential columns, has induced me to address you on this important agricultural question. The new light which has been thrown upon the method adopted by the promoters of the Clydesdale Stud-Book, in registering horses in that publication—as shown in a recent letter, written in his official capacity, by the Secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society, and which appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* of the 28th ult.—calls for some explanation; and the fact that the influence which that Society and their officials have with the Glasgow Press, in suppressing from publication speeches adverse to its interests, delivered at agricultural meetings—notably that of Colonel Williamson of Lawers, at the Renfrewshire Agricultural Society's luncheon, on Thursday last—is also matter of considerable significance. In the letter referred to, the secretary of that society frankly admits that "the daughter of a gig pony and a Clydesdale stallion is eligible for entry in the 5th volume, if she is of a certain age;" and that "out of 924 mares registered in volume 5th, there are only 257 the breeding of whose dams is not known." These statements are important in one point of view, in respect of their being made under the sign manual of the secretary in his official capacity, and with a candour which is perfectly surprising; but they are also important from another point of view—inasmuch as they at once stamp the Clydesdale Stud-Book, in so far as it pretends to be a regis-

ter of a pure breed of horses for agricultural purposes, as at once false and misleading. I have always entertained a strong opinion, and in this I am supported by the most celebrated breeders in the country, that the shire horse and the Clydesdale are descended from one and the same common origin; and I object to the principles upon which the Clydesdale Stud-Book is founded, as being unsound in argument and misleading in fact. If anything were wanting to demonstrate this statement, the fact that an enormous proportion—little short of a third of the whole of the breeding mares registered in that volume—are such about the breeding of which nothing is known, is surely sufficient to convince the most obtuse mind that the Clydesdale Stud-Book is not a well-founded register, but much more resembles the organ of a species of trades-union. Distinguished country gentlemen, breeders of long experience, I am glad to say, are becoming alive to this. The noble and manly utterances of Colonel Williamson, at the luncheon of the Renfrewshire society, spoken in the presence and hearing of the president of the Clydesdale Horse Society, sufficiently show this. The Colonel, in proposing the toast of the exhibitors at that meeting, and in coupling with that toast the name of Mr. David Riddell, in effect said—"People talk about a certain book as containing a register of pure Clydesdales, but I take leave to say that I will back the opinions of twelve men in Scotland, and I speak as a breeder of seven-and-twenty years' experience, against the opinions of a few men who have only been engaged in breeding horses for five or six years, and who, when they commenced, didn't know a horse from a cow." The injury which this book is doing to the breeding of high-class horses for agricultural purposes and heavy lorry work in cities is incalculable; and it surprises me that some of those very influential breeders who repudiate the Stud-

Book do not issue a manifesto against it. I know well the difficulties one has to contend with on the other side of the Atlantic in disposing of even the best horses profitably which are not entered in this spurious register, and it would be well in the interest of breeders and importers generally that its method of registration should be exposed.—I am, &c.,

AN AMERICAN IMPORTER.

Glasgow, 12th June, 1883.

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

(*"Dunfermline Press," 30th June, 1883.*)

SIR,—As a supporter of the Stud-Book, I feel not a little indignant with your correspondent, "American Importer," in exposing the method of registration adopted by what he calls the "promoters of that publication." What right has an American importer to complain of our method of registration? If he gets a registered horse, whether it be the daughter of a gig pony or an unknown dam, ought he not to be content? While I cannot deny the truth of the statements contained in "American Importer's" letter—indeed every one who knows anything about the Stud-Book only knows them to be too true—and, although its falling prestige has of late scared away many of its most aristocratic supporters, so much so that the very President has not been at a meeting of the Company for no one knows so long, and although it is under the most trying circumstances that a quorum of members can be got together, yet I am glad

to say that the Stud-Book has still the real and true support of the principal members of the Clydesdale Horse Breeding and Exporting Company, and having these gentlemen as its remaining pillars, the Stud-Book is safe! If your Yankee correspondent wishes to know who these gentlemen are, and what is their worth, I refer him to a leading article in a newspaper published in his own country—to wit, *The Iowa Farmer* of 15th May last—from which I give the following extract:—

“Glasgow Clydesdale Horse-Breeding and Exporting Co. Purchase of Rockfort Stock Farm, consisting of about 690 acres, at the price of 33,000 dols. cash.—The gentlemen composing the Company are all men of the very highest reputation, both in this country and Scotland—men who have spent the best years of their lives in the breeding and exporting to this country of thorough-bred Clydesdale horses. Take as an example Mr. James Johnston, who is in years perhaps amongst the youngest members of the firm, and yet has crossed the Atlantic Ocean fourteen times, personally superintending shipments of stock. Together with their long years of experience and mature judgment, they command almost unlimited capital—up among the millions if need be. The six principal men in the company are—William Buchanan, James Johnston, James Park, Robert M’Kean, William Craig, and William Ure. They own in Scotland over 4000 acres of land, all of which is devoted to the raising of thorough-bred farm stock—principally Clydesdale horses.”

Although we, on this side of the Atlantic, know that the above description savours largely of the burlesque, what of that? It is not known in the New World. The lashing which they report they administered to Colonel Holloway in the American Law Courts, shows that they know what they are doing. The Colonel might have guessed that the courts of law were not new to some of them. Indeed, it is not so long since one of their number was plaintiff in one action for slander, and another was defendant in another

action for slander, both in the Court of Session—one well-known Scottish agriculturist being the opposing party in each case. Although the latter gentleman was successful in each action, and the former were worsted in both, the experience which these members of the Clydesdale Exporting Company gained enabled them to teach, as they report, Colonel Holloway a lesson which he is not likely soon to forget. But to return to the Stud-Book. Whatever your “American Importer” may say, that book is doing a power of good to the farmers and breeders in this country, for, although a horse may have even the two faults which the Laird of Logan discovered, viz.:—First, when it was let loose in a park, it was very ill to catch; and second, when it was caught, it wasn’t worth a d——! If only you get it entered in the Stud-Book—and there is no difficulty about that—there is then no fear of a purchaser being obtained. Apologising for trespassing on your space, but thinking it to be my duty to contribute my mite in support of this Standard-Book, by stemming the tide of Yankee invective, I am, &c.,

FARMER WISEMAN.

26th June, 1883.

THE CLYDESDALE HORSE SOCIETY
AT YORK.

RESUSCITATION OF THE STUD-BOOK.

(“*Dunfermline Press*,” July 28, 1883.)

SIR,—As you did me the honour of giving a place in your columns to my last letter in aid of the Stud-Book, I think it right to keep you posted up in regard to the Herculean

efforts which we are making to raise its fallen prestige ; but I fear the task will be more difficult of accomplishment than the raising of the "Daphne" has proved to be. There is nothing, however, beats a trial. As a keen supporter of the Stud-Book, I was solicited to attend a meeting of the Clydesdale Horse Society, to be held at York, on the occasion of the Royal Agricultural Show in that ancient city this week. I was informed that the Society's meeting was to be under the presidency of H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, who had consented to appear in person, and to lend his Royal influence in putting to silence the anonymous detractors, whose shafts have of late been playing such havoc with the Stud-Book. So impressed was I with the importance of the subject, and of the immediate necessity of again bringing back to life and influence this publication, which has been smitten into utter uselessness by blows which have proved to be irresistible from all sides, that I determined, at considerable loss of energy to myself, to attend, in order that I might, at least, give my voice against its assailants. I knew, from what I have seen behind the scenes, that the Stud-Book men would have difficulty in rebutting the charges made against that work—more especially after the admissions in the public prints by our devoted secretary—for, as Solomon said, "Who can withstand the truth?" and that the charges are true—viz., that the Stud-Book, to a large extent, is a record of mongrels, nobody who knows anything about it could for a moment deny. Still, as I am an unswerving Conservative, and have always had great faith in the influence of Royalty, I fully expected, from the incessant fuss and confident assurances of my fellow Stud-Book supporters, that the meeting would be a great success, and that a nod or a wink from his Royal Highness would again set our darling publication on its feet. I there-

fore set about raising the wind for the journey, which, in consequence of severe losses through bad harvests for several years, I with great difficulty accomplished. Nevertheless, my heart was in the work ; and although living at a considerable distance from the nearest railway station, I resolved to proceed thither on foot, in order to catch the last train for the south, as I had decided to travel by night. I had not proceeded far in my walk until I was overtaken by a downpour of rain ; and it might have with truth been said of me, as it was said of Tam o'Shanter of old, that

“Sic a nicht he'd taen the road in
As ne'er poor sinner was abroad in.”

After a long and fatiguing journey, I arrived in York, and felt as tired and wearied as Dick Turpin must have felt in his famous ride to that city. I paid a hurried visit to the show-ground, and was pleased to see some well-known Scotch horses at the head of the poll in the Clydesdale classes. I was surprised, however, to find that the judges had awarded champion honours to “Auld Reekie,” a horse which, as compared with the excellent points of “St. Lawrence,” was nowhere.

There is no accounting for the awards of some judges. But to return to the Stud-Book meeting. I and my fellow-supporters were on the tip-toe of expectation. The Prince was in the show-yard, and it was next to a certainty that he would preside at the meeting. But the best laid schemes gang aft alee. It was whispered abroad in the early part of the day that his Royal Highness was satisfied that the prestige of the book was gone beyond recall, and he wisely felt that, if he presided at a meeting for the purpose of resuscitating a book which had been, by the unanimous voice of a large number of influential breeders, virtually

trodden under foot, he might be doing positive violence to the feelings of very many of his Royal Mother's most devoted subjects, many of whom were present at the show, and who look on the Stud-Book with as little respect as if it was a register of mules. His Royal Highness therefore remained away, but he was represented in the chair by the Earl of Galloway, a nobleman of great influence and experience, who has done much to improve the breed of horses for agricultural purposes, and who is reported to be a sound supporter of the Stud-Book. Nevertheless, the meeting turned out to be about the tamest affair I ever had the misfortune to see. The noble chairman did much to soothe the feelings of those present, but, notwithstanding, disappointment was written on every countenance, except on the faces of a number of English yeoman farmers, who seemed to think that, for the "cheek" of us officials of the Clydesdale Horse Society in attempting to hold a meeting in England, we were well served. I lifted up my eyes and beheld in the vicinity of the chair several Stud-Book men—a motley group, with heads apparently as hard and as well shaped as so many cocoa-nuts—who had undertaken to aid me in the good work in which I had gone there to take part; but their anxious look and woebegone appearance did little to help me. Some of them were chewing the cud of bitter disappointment, others of them chewing tobacco; while prominent among that disconsolate band stood one who hailed from the neighbourhood of Inchinan, all the way, whose snuff-mull in dimensions resembled an ordinary band-box, while his handkerchief was like unto a web of variegated calico, and on whose shoulders the burden of the whole meeting seemed to rest; his eagle eye and dilated nostrils indicated a face of character which might have snuffed up the east wind. The appearance of some of these

distinguished individuals recalled to my mind the exclamation of Banquo, when he met the three witches :—

“What are these,
So withered and so wild in their attire,
That look not like the inhabitants o’ the earth,
And yet are on’t?”

Despite an utmost endeavour, it is only fair to add, the meeting virtually ended in smoke, and after a good deal of confusion, broke up. The only definite thing which was done was to leave the Clydesdale Stud-Book where it was—fast in the mud. I need hardly say that I trembled with indignation at the heartless support accorded to me in my well-meant endeavours, and I bundled up my traps, and, resolving to “gang nae mair to yon toun,” I returned to Scotland a wiser, but a poorer man.—I am, &c.,

FARMER WISEMAN.

21st July, 1883.

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

(“Hamilton Advertiser,” August 11, 1883.)

SIR,—My attention having been directed to a letter in your issue of Saturday week, commenting on certain things connected with this society, I trust you will grant me space to state a few facts by way of answer to what of feasible matter that letter may contain. (1) On July 12th I received a letter from the secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, in which the following sentence occurs:—“Since my last telegram to you I am informed that in consequence of the numerous engagements of the Prince of Wales, His Royal Highness will not be able to preside at your meeting in the show-yard on Tuesday next.” (2) The

opposition to the Stud-Book has, since March last, assumed a portentous magnitude in so far as letter-writing to newspapers is concerned. The following statistics may be food for reflection to those who have been wasting such an abundance of printer's ink. The number of new members added to the roll of this society in January, 1883, was 5; in February, 15; in March, 6; in April, 6; in May, 10; in June, 15; in July, 21; in August, up to date, 50; total increase of membership in $7\frac{1}{2}$ months, 128. The total for the twelve months preceding 1st January, 1883, was 121. Apparently, the printer's ink has been spilt to little purpose. (3) Here is another set of statistics of considerable value in determining the credit to be attached to such effusions as those which have appeared in your columns of late—income of the society:

| | <i>In 1882.</i> | | | <i>In 1883.</i> | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----|------------|-----------------|----|---|
| January, | £68 | 2 | 6 | £91 | 15 | 0 |
| February, | 95 | 15 | 0 | 90 | 13 | 6 |
| March, | 91 | 1 | 0 | 100 | 19 | 6 |
| April, | 26 | 4 | 0 | 51 | 11 | 6 |
| May, | 59 | 0 | 4 | 95 | 10 | 3 |
| June, | 84 | 12 | 0 | 67 | 15 | 6 |
| July, | 92 | 18 | 0 | 240 | 8 | 0 |
| Total for 7 months, | | | £517 12 10 | £738 13 3 | | |

Increase on income for seven months in 1883, £221 os 5d, or, to put it otherwise, the income of the Society for six months in 1883 is within £20 of being equal to the income for seven months in 1882. This society being so very hard up and about to perish, would some kindly-disposed person, perhaps "Farmer Wiseman," be good enough to post copies of your paper containing this letter to all the gentlemen to whom your issue of July 28th was sent.—Yours faithfully,

ARCHD. McNEILAGE, JUN.,
Secretary.

THE CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

(*"Hamilton Advertiser," August 11, 1883.*)

SIR,—I have seen in your several issues of the *Advertiser* two letters from "Farmer Wiseman" and one from "Clydesdale" on this important matter. Farmer Wiseman is both amusing and instructive in his description of the meeting of this noted society at York. Of the meeting itself I say nothing, only it was something more than cheeky to arrange and ask His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to preside at the meeting in the Royal Show-yard. If the Shire-Horse Society had arranged to meet with some lord or duke to preside at a meeting in the Highland Society's Show-yard in Scotland, I have little doubt the party with the big snuff-mull, who took such a prominent part in the York meeting, would be the first to denounce the importance of such a meeting being held on Scottish ground. It is, however, some consolation to Stud-Book supporters to know that their meeting was held in the same land where the Prince of Wales had been taking part in the meeting of the Royal Show. I am afraid "Farmer Wiseman's" description of the Stud-Book, as being a register of mongrels, is too true, and "Clydesdale" gives no proof to rebut this, but contents himself by stating the Stud-Book is the only way of this famous breed keeping its reputation. I am at a loss to know where and what is the pure Clydesdale at the present time. I have been told, and have seen it often in print, that the "Farmer" is the purest of the Clydesdale breed. It is now over forty years since I had the pleasure of seeing the "Speculator" horse and the "Lampits" mare, with three or four of their progeny, on the late Mr. Anderson's farm at

Dunmore. They were, to my mind, the true type of the Clydesdale, having fine feet and legs, with beautiful hair, well-sprung ribs, gun-barrel body, hind legs standing well together, and first-rate action. The "Farmers" are said to be descended from this breed, and "Farmer" himself is the sire of "Sir Colin," "Disraeli," "Druid," about all of which there has been no end of puffing, and are put as the model horses of their day. If they were the pure Clydesdale, I would ask, where are their offspring? Few or none of them are making their mark in the show-yard, which is clearly seen in the Druid stock when meeting good company are nowhere; and, taking into account the class of mares put to him when in this country, his progeny show the reverse of the good points mentioned in the Dunmore breed. This shows that what is now said to be the pure Clydesdale has degenerated during the last forty years, and that an infusion of new blood is what is wanted to successfully compete with the Clydesdale of the present day; and, in further proof of this, what was called the sensation gelding of 1882, said to be the best specimen of the Clydesdale ever seen, and the "Knight of Snowdon," first prize at the Glasgow Show in May last, are both sired by "Farmer," the former being out of a full English or shire mare, and the latter having "Land-seer," a full English horse, for his grandsire. In looking over the lists of animals who are taking prizes in the show-yards, there are few, if any, but have less or more of English blood in them, and in not a few it can be traced down to the third and fourth generation. With such facts that cannot be gainsaid, it is all bosh for the supporters of the Stud-Book to say that English blood is of no use after the first cross. There is no doubt the Stud-Book has been of great service to those who were fortunate in getting registered at its starting. It has given them the chance of getting big prices

for animals which are no credit to any breeder; and has cleared the country of what were little better than weeds, and would have been of little use either for breeding or work. I do not say that all who have gone away are of this class. Some good animals have been taken away, and will be heard of again, but our American cousins are beginning to find out there is something wrong, as I saw the other day in a letter from an importer. Amongst other faults found with the Stud-Book, he said it was spurious, which so far confirms what is so well put by "Farmer Wiseman" as being a register of mongrels.—I am, &c.,

OUTSIDER.



REPORTS OF EXHIBITIONS,

ETC.



GENERAL MEETING OF THE GLASGOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.



PEDIGREE *versus* NON-PEDIGREE HORSES.



(*"Glasgow Herald," 19th Dec., 1883.*)

MR. JAMES JOHNSTON, Lochburnie, moved—"That the premiums offered by the Glasgow Agricultural Society, at the stallion show in February, be hereafter awarded only to horses whose pedigrees are registered in the Clydesdale Stud-Book of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland." In supporting his motion, Mr. Johnston said that two years ago, when he first brought forward that motion, it was objected, even by some who were personally favourable to the principle, that it was premature to decide the question at that meeting. That objection could not be urged now. All the arguments that were good then were good now, and many new arguments might be adduced. They had now before them the results of the breeding of the two cross-bred horses to which the prizes were awarded in 1881. They knew that their stock during last summer

made little or no appearance in the show-ring as yearlings, and, as owner of one of these horses, he could not be accused of any bias against them. It was found that in the competition, at the summer show, for the sire of the five best yearlings exhibited, the pure-bred stock led, and the cross-bred stock were nowhere. The foreign demand still continued for pure-bred Clydesdales, and although there were many animals of fair merit in the country otherwise bred, they rarely heard of foreign buyers purchasing them. In America, where he had some little experience in connection with selling horses, it was almost impossible to sell non-pedigreed stock at a fair profit; and although the most extensive Australian buyer of last season was in Scotland during the very week of the Merryton sale, and was within a few miles of the place of sale the day preceding it, he declined to waste time going near to it, as he did not wish that class of stock. He wanted Clydesdales. The supporters of the shire breed of horses cried down the Clydesdale for not being a pure breed, and pointed to the fact that at the stallion show in Glasgow, cross-bred animals were awarded the premiums offered for Clydesdales, and he said, unhesitatingly, that unless that was put an end to, Scotchmen had no right to expect a continuation of the unprecedented demand for their favourite breed of horses. (Applause.) Did it not seem a most ridiculous state of matters that the Glasgow Society, in the very heart of the Clydesdale district, should award premiums to horses called Clydesdales, which were not recognised as such by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the vast majority of buyers from America and Australia, no inconsiderable number of the agricultural associations in the United States and Canada, and by the great majority of their own district societies? (Applause.) All the horses that had already been engaged

for districts for 1884 were pedigreed horses, and the instructions to deputations had been—"We don't restrict you in terms, but bring nothing but a pedigreed horse." No doubt some of these cross-bred horses had been sires of superior stock, but never in any single instance save when put to a pure-bred mare. They could not have pure-bred mares unless they had pure-bred sires to begin with, and while there was room in the world for all sorts of horses, there was not room for a society such as this, having as its object the advancement of agriculture, to lag behind the age, and place obstacles in the way of its members securing the best results from their breeding of horses. By giving premiums to horses without pedigrees, he said deliberately, the society was debarring its members from securing the trade in pure-bred Clydesdale horses, and conserving the interests of the few, in preference to the more important interests of the many. He confidently appealed to the meeting to support his motion, which he now formally moved, and put an end to the present state of matters. (Applause.)

Mr. WILSON, of Langfaulds, seconded the motion.

Mr. LAWRENCE DREW, Merryton, moved as an amendment that the present rule be maintained. He was aware that was a question which had been very well discussed among the members of the society. He had had thirty years' experience in horse-breeding. Long before there was any talk of the Stud-Book, horses from Merryton competed very largely. At the Highland Society Show at Kelso in 1863 he had an English mare—"London Maggie"—which got the first prize premium for the mare in foal, and a mare got by an English horse obtained the first prize as a yeld mare. That mare was sold to Mr. Fleming, of Knockdon, who bred "Young Rosie," and "Young Rosie" bred Knox's black mare, an animal which must be familiar to every one

present. That black mare bred Lord Dunmore's stud-horse "Prince Charlie," and "Prince Charlie" was the sire of Mr. M'Cowan's filly, which was a credit to Scotland, and a proof that the so-called cross-breed of horses was as pure as the purest Clydesdale. The other "Young Rosie" also got a prize that year at Kelso. If they followed up to 1867, the same mare that was first for the yearling was out of one of the best mares in Renfrewshire, and gained the first prize as a yeld mare at Glasgow; "London Maggie" the same year getting the gold medal. That showed that for a long time he was pretty successful with that class of horses. Again, a mare of English blood produced the "Prince of Wales," and out of another English dam was obtained "Lord Lyon;" and therefore he did not know what the Clydesdale breed would have been but for the English blood that had been infused into it. (Applause.) He saw that so clearly at that time that he went to England and selected mares which he was inclined to think had done credit to Scotland, for had it not been for other gentlemen and himself bringing such mares, the Clydesdale breed would have been nowhere at the present time. (Applause.) That meeting, however, was not a place for disputing about that. They all knew the American trade had been talked of by Mr. Johnston, but he believed that the Americans were finding out that they required better horses. Those people had never had the best horses sent to them, for this reason—that the dealers who came here wished to buy the horses cheap, because, as they said, they could not get the price for them out there. It was to Australia and New Zealand that the best class of horses was sent, and they all knew that a winner at Glasgow was, as a rule, worth two of the Clydesdale horses in the Stud-Book, or that ever had been in it. (Applause.) He was more convinced than ever that if they shut the door of

the Glasgow Society against horses that were not in the Stud-Book it would ruin their show. There would not be above one-third of the horses shown. As a practical man, he was convinced that they required more blood from the south country. The animals were so like each other that they could not tell the difference between an English mare and a Scotch horse. To be a cross the two must be different from each other; but they were so much alike that when placed side by side the best judges could not tell which was the English and which was the Scotch. He had proof of that. It was a very strange thing that such gentlemen as the merchants of Glasgow, and a few farmers whom he would call weak-kneed brothers—(a laugh)—should go on with that Stud-Book business and dictate to those men who had been in the business and had stood at the top of the tree for so many years. That had been more apparent during the past two years than ever it had been before. In his opinion, time only was required to prove that the Stud-Book would go to the wall, and he told that to Sir Michael Shaw Stewart when it was commenced, for what was wanted was plenty of substance, strength of bone, and quality in their breed of horses. (Applause.) It would be a pity if America should be the only outlet for horses. He had sold horses to Americans, and there were plenty of merchants for horses, if only they could be got good enough. What was wrong with the Stud-Book class was that they were not good enough. (Applause.) If the members wished the society to prosper they should adopt the straight course, for he considered it would be one of the biggest mistakes ever made in Scotland to say that only one class of horses was to be allowed to compete at its shows, and if a few merchants of Glasgow—West India merchants and such like—(hisses)—were to come and teach practical men. (Applause, and cries of

"Order, order.") He wished to speak in order, but he thought he had a right to speak. He was the breeder of the aged horses that took the prizes in Glasgow for the last three years. (Applause.) Mr. Johnston referred to these horses not breeding. He wondered how any person could make such a statement. The horses had not had time to show their produce. The quality of the stock of a good animal did not always begin to show itself the first year. The stock of "Prince of Wales" got better as they grew older; while the stock of "Lord Lyon" came to the front when they were young. It was well known to every one if there was a good mare and a good stamp of a horse they were sure of good produce. Thirty or forty years ago some of the best mares in this country went to a certain district in England, and there was a class of horses there even superior to the animals they had in Scotland. It was their duty, he thought, to take advantage of that improvement, and, if possible, keep at the top of the tree as long as they could. He hoped they would consider it right in the meantime to keep the Glasgow show an open one. At Edinburgh a week ago, the directors of the Highland Society agreed to give the usual grant of £50 to the Glasgow Society, and that, he had no doubt, was done on the understanding that the show would, as formerly, be an open one. The Highland Society had the first choice at the stallion show, and it would make a material difference to them if they were limited in their choice to one class of stock supported by those amateurs. (Laughter and hisses.) Mr. Drew further said, that the Stud-Book Society had not the interest of the Glasgow Society at heart, because at the last meeting in Edinburgh their secretary actually went there and voted against the Glasgow Society getting the £50, which was obtained only by a small majority. That proved that the members of the

Clydesdale Stud-Book Society had no great interest in the prosperity of the Glasgow Agricultural Society, else they never would have brought forward such a motion. He hoped they would always do what they could to maintain the character they had got by having the very best horses that could be obtained. (Applause.)

Mr. JOHN YOUNG asked whether at any of the agricultural shows in the district, such as Renfrewshire, Hamilton, &c., there had been any such restrictions as those proposed that day.

The CHAIRMAN—We are not aware of any.

Mr. JOHN YOUNG—Then I beg to second Mr. Drew's amendment.

Mr. M'NEILAGE, Secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society, wished to make a few remarks regarding Mr. Drew's statements about certain pedigrees. The pedigree of "Knox Rosie" was not correctly stated by Mr. Drew. Her sire was "Prince of Wales," her dam "Young Rosie," lately in the shed of Mr. Cross at Knockdon, and the sire of "Young Rosie" was another "Prince of Wales," bred by Mr. Findlay, out at Tollcross, and the gr.-dam was the mare to which Mr. Drew referred. Consequently, Knox's black mare had two full crosses of Clydesdale blood, and the English blood in her veins was infinitesimal. Then "London Maggie" was spoken of by Mr. Drew as being an English mare, whereas her sire was "Sir Colin," a horse bred in Kintyre, but her dam was understood to be English, consequently half the reputation of that mare was due to her Clydesdale breeding, and a good deal more than half. Finally, they were told something about the gr.-dams of "Prince of Wales," Mr. Drew's own horse, being both English mares. Now the facts of the case were that the old mare "Kate," owned by Mr. Knox, Foreside, was purchased in open market from the

late Mr. Andrew Giffen, horse dealer, and no question was asked regarding her pedigree, and no information was given. Her appearance, therefore, was all they had to go by in deciding what she was, and that certainly did not show her to be English. This mare was dam of the Knockdon mare "Darling," the dam of Mr. Drew's "Prince of Wales."

Mr. DREW remarked that Mr. M'Neilage had not seen all the horses referred to, whereas he knew them all well, and was satisfied of the correctness of his statement.

Mr. J. M. MARTIN said he thought he knew as much about Clydesdales as the gentleman who had seconded the amendment. He did not know if Mr. M'Neilage had seen any or all of the Clydesdales to which Mr. Drew referred, but he had seen the great majority of them, and could speak from personal knowledge that every word to which Mr. M'Neilage had given utterance was correct, and he was prepared to stake his reputation on it. With reference to the pedigree of "Moss Rose," the filly belonging to Mr. M'Gowan, to which Mr. Drew had alluded, he had traced it from Knox's mare, and his calculation showed that there was only one-thirty-second part of English blood in her. As to the statement that a few merchants should not be allowed to dictate to the agricultural public, he asked whether it was likely that the farmers of the West of Scotland would be led by the nose by a lot of West India merchants as to the breeding of animals. The farmers went into what would pay them. Whatever their opinions might be, the great bulk of the farmers were excluded from using the Glasgow premium horse, because they wished to breed horses for America and Australia. These members of the society wished to have a horse which they could use. For himself, he had dealt with American and Australian buyers, and the invariable question was whether the animal

was eligible. These buyers would not be persuaded to purchase if the animals were ineligible—they peremptorily declined to have anything to do with them.

Mr. JOHN YOUNG said that Mr. Martin was entirely mistaken as to his pedigree. (Laughter.) He said that the party who seconded the amendment had very little knowledge of the Clydesdale horse.

Mr. MARTIN—I said I don't think he had more knowledge than I had.

Mr. JOHN YOUNG—For the first eighteen years of my life, I lived on a farm continually among horses, and for the last thirty years I have been the owner of horses myself.

The CHAIRMAN said it was quite evident that there is a difference of opinion, and they would now take a show of hands.

A division was then taken, when 134 voted for the amendment and 84 for the motion. The amendment was therefore declared carried.

Mr. JOHNSTON said he was not thoroughly satisfied with the show of hands.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought it would be difficult to do away with the majority of 50. The amendment would therefore be carried.

PEDIGREE versus NON-PEDIGREE.

("North British Agriculturist," 26th December, 1883.)

BUT unfortunate for the interests of the society as the carrying of the resolution of Mr. Martin may be, its effects could in no case be so immediately disastrous to the society as would the resolution of Mr. Johnstone of Lochburnie,

relative to the Clydesdale Stud-Book, have been, had it also been carried. That resolution was as follows:—"That the premiums offered by the Glasgow Agricultural Society at the Stallion Show in February be hereafter awarded only to horses whose pedigrees are registered in the Clydesdale Stud-Book of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland." Mr. Johnston, in supporting the resolution, so far as I could hear him, urged that it was for the benefit of the society that he had brought it forward, and that it was in order to prevent cross-bred horses from taking in the future, as they have generally done in the past, the premiums which should have gone to pure-bred Clydesdales with pedigrees eligible for the Stud-Book. The reasons he urged in support of the resolution—especially when we consider that out of a membership of nearly 1500 in the Agricultural Society, there are not more than 100 of these connected with the Stud-Book—were selfish and ridiculous in the extreme. He stated that from his experience in America, which was now considerable, a horse which was entered in the Stud-Book fetched a price nearly a third greater than a horse which was not so entered. This is a remarkable statement, and shows how blind to their own interest the Americans must be when they can be cajoled into the belief that a horse which is entered in the Stud-Book is better than any other. It is admitted on all hands that the only test of admission of horses to the Clydesdale Stud-Book is pedigree. If a horse have a pedigree, no matter whether he be a shiverer, or suffer from tuberculosis, or any hereditary disease which impairs its usefulness, nay, even a horse suffering from glanders, if he have pedigree, will get admission to this Stud-Book. The close intimacy which exists between the Clydesdale Horse Exporting Company, of which Mr. Johnston is a member, and the Stud-Book accounts satisfactorily to

most minds for his anxiety to have the resolution passed, and it showed an amount of arrogance on the part of Mr. Johnston in attempting to foist upon the society a resolution which, if passed, would have had the effect of tacking on to the society a Stud-Book which would have proved like a mill-stone about its neck.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Drew, in the statesmanlike speech which he made against this resolution, gave utterance to some personal abuse of his opponents. This unhappy circumstance weakened Mr. Drew's case, and must have alienated from him at least fifty votes, which would have been given in support of his amendment. It is well, notwithstanding, that Mr. Johnston's resolution was negatived by so pronounced a majority, and I hope he will not venture to disturb the society with such a resolution for some time to come.—I am, &c.,

BLACKWOOD.

25th December, 1883.

* * * The following extracts are from newspaper reports on agricultural shows. Although rather amusing, they may also possibly prove useful.

BRISTOL SHOW.

("Mark Lane Express," July 15, 1878.)

The owners of agricultural horses represent three parties—the English, Clydesdale, and Suffolk—and some are quite as much infatuated with their sort as the noble youth was with his Columbine. Scot swears by Scot, Shire by Shire, and Suffolk by Suffolk, and who, like the Conservatives,

Liberals, and Whigs, we can trust to their probity, but not to their prejudices. Therefore the Royal Society, instead of maintaining three distinct parties in power, make up one party of the three—Mr. Plowright to watch over the interests of the Shire men, Mr. Crisp for the Suffolk, and Mr. Montgomery for the Clydesdales, who in the sequel proved he came too far north for the other two, by persuading them to agree to a verdict which was received with cries of shame, when the winning colours were placed on the head of about one of the commonest looking animals that has been awarded a prize in a showyard, while good looking nags like Mr. Miller's Princess Dagmar, Lord Ellesmere's Empress, Miss Muir, and Topsy, Mr. Slatter's Bonny, Mr. Robinson's Ginger Brandy, and others stood in the ring. She is a bay of no character, and in top like a narrow donkey, but a neck and shoulders that would disfigure an ass, and quarters set on as if they wish to dissolve partnership with the trunk. The only things good about her are her head, and a set of big limbs, which she cannot use. *Æsop* tells us it is the belly that carries the legs, and she has no middle. It was in the mixed two-year-old class for fillies, and she figures in the catalogue with this pedigree : *sire, Topsman ; breeder unknown*, which makes us think that she must be an Irish Clydesdale, and that it was a sympathetic verdict, and nothing more. It is a pity Mr. Plowright and Mr. Crisp were not shown the list of judges before they entered the ring, as at the end of Mr. Montgomery's address they would have seen N.B. (*nota bene*). They were an unpardonable long time in coming to a verdict.

[The filly criticised as above was the famous "Mary Gray." She was sold at Merryton in April, 1879, when three years old, for £315. She gained first prizes at Glasgow, and all the principal shows in the West of Scotland ; as well as first at the Highland and Agricultural Society held at Stirling in 1881, in the class for aged mares.]

HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW AT STIRLING.

("Glasgow Herald," 27th July, 1881.)

To the female class of the Clydesdales there was at first little attention paid, not that the quality of the animals produced did not warrant it, but that the chief interest was centered in the aged stallions, and till that class was decided the judges in the female classes were allowed to go on with their work in a quiet and business-like manner. The first class drawn up in the centre of the ring were the mares with foal at foot. Of these there were ten entered, but only five were presented to the judges. For the absence of two a reason can unfortunately be assigned, and that arose out of the appointment of two of the judges being unsatisfactory to the exhibitors. Another unfortunate thing in connection with this class was freely talked over and lamented; and that was, that in the case of one of the animals shown one judge had been the breeder and another the late owner. No one felt inclined to doubt the quality of the animal so produced, but an opinion was expressed that it would have been more satisfactory, and would have tended to allay any feeling, if these gentlemen had requested some of the other judges to perform the work in reference to this section. This, however, was not done, and although this was remarked upon outside the ring, it was to be remembered that judges had difficult and onerous duties to perform, and that they cannot be expected to please all parties. It was evident, however, that they were in no mood to hasten over their work, but rather to give all due care to the performance of the duties imposed on them. The red ticket was placed on

"Evelyn," a bay five years old, bred by Mr. William Brock, Barns of Clyde, and owned by Mr. Waddell, of Inch, who purchased her from Mr. Cunningham Buchanan, who exhibited her at Ayr in the early summer. This same animal was second at Glasgow, and again second at Edinburgh last week, and the prevalent opinion seemed to be that she needed all the spring she had in her fore pasterns, but that she is splendid in the hind legs. She was also considered a little heavy about the head, and, curious enough, the mare has a brown nose and a white face. Second place was awarded to Mr. Lawrence Drew's "Queen," a roan, nine years old, bred in England, and a daughter of "Lincolnshire Lad." Some did not relish the colour of this mare, but this did not seem to be any fault with the judges at Edinburgh last week, for they preferred her to Mr. Waddell's "Evelyn." "Queen" is a little faulty about the hind legs, but then she is uncommonly sweet about the fore legs. She is also the mother of the colt which was purchased by Mr. Riddell at Mr. Drew's sale for 300 guineas. It would not have displeased a number although the latter had been placed first. Third place was awarded to "Jessie," a bay, seven years old, owned by Mr. Thomas Muirhead, Townhill, Dunfermline, and bred by Mr. Drew, the sire being "Prince of Wales" (673).

HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW AT GLASGOW.

(*"Glasgow Herald," July, 1882.*)

In the class of aged stallions there were no fewer than 20 entries, and of these 14 made their appearance in the ring. After a walk round each animal was taken in detail, and

when it is known that the lot included "Topgallant," "St. Lawrence," "Belted Knight," "Hawkhead," "Corsewall," and "The Macgregor," it may easily be imagined that the judges had no easy task before them. In this class of stock it was somewhat unfortunate that two of the judges were from the same locality, and there were not a few who thought that a director, who, from his position, was acquainted with all the preliminary arrangements for the show—such as the appointment of judges for the various classes of stock, &c.—should not have been a judge. Be this as it may, an unusual amount of attention was bestowed on this department, and the work of the judges was narrowly scanned. After a very careful examination of the horses led before them, the judges set aside the following as a short leet:—Mr. James Dunlop's "King of the Forest" (1170), Mr. Peter Ferguson's "Strathleven" (1539), Mr. John Hodge's "Lucky Getter" (1483), Mr. T. N. M'Dowell's "Belted Knight" (1395), Mr. James M'Nab's "Cadder Chief" (1601), Mr. Andrew Montgomery's "The Macgregor" (1487), and "Corsewall" (1420), and Sir Michael Shaw Stewart's "Topgallant" (1850). Among those left out was Mr. M'Kay's "Hawkhead," a horse which was drawn in the short leet of the Glasgow Spring Show, and was the horse selected for the Glasgow District in 1881. He, however, was not up to the mark yesterday. The eight selected horses were again submitted to an exhaustive examination, and the red ticket handed to the groom of "The Macgregor," a son of Darnley (222), and bred by Mr. Craig, Flashwood, while the blue ticket was given to "Corsewall," a son of the Prince of Kelvin (656), and bred by Mr. Fraser, Barndorly, Ringford. Mr. Riddell's Glasgow horse "St. Lawrence," a son of "Prince of Wales" (673), was placed third, while "Topgallant," for which Sir Michael paid £1,500, was not even placed. While every

credit must be given to the judges for doing their duty, and who on all occasions have a most difficult and delicate duty to perform, it must also be admitted that a considerable amount of surprise was manifested at the selection made. There were some who remembered that "The Macgregor" was absent from last year's Highland Show at Stirling, and that the position he was awarded at Glasgow in May, 1881, had been freely canvassed, and putting this and that together the sentiments expressed were the reverse of complimentary. Yesterday he was not a popular first. He wants size and substance, and in the opinion of many when placed alongside of such horses as "Corsewall," "Topgallant," and "Belted Knight" he does not stand favourable comparison. "The Macgregor" has taken a number of prizes—ever since he was a yearling—at Glasgow, Dalbeattie, Royal Show, Highland Show at Kelso, &c. There can be no doubt that his stable companion, "Corsewall," would have been a popular first. This horse, it will be recollected, was unexpectedly produced at the Highland Show at Stirling last year, and so manifest was his merit that he at once stepped into first place. He is strong-boned, and with grand feet and legs; and last year Mr. Montgomery was congratulated on bringing forward an animal of whose existence few were aware to carry away the chief prize. This year he was selected to travel the Clackmannan district. On that occasion "Belted Knight" was placed third, and there were some who would have hoped to have seen him placed higher than he was yesterday. He is scarcely so strong about his forepart as some would like, but notwithstanding he is a beautiful type of the Clydesdale breed, and there were many who admired his hind quarters and splendid ribs. He was apparently disqualified for going a little short; but this defect, if such it can be called, is only temporary, having been caused by the

jag of a nail during shoeing. "Belted Knight" was a favourite when a two-year-old, and the Dumbarton people were reckoned fortunate when they received his services this year. Mr. Riddell's "St. Lawrence," which was the selected of the Glasgow Society in February, was placed third, but this is accounted for by his not being in so good condition as he was then. Early in the season he caught a cold, which rather reduced him, and he has not been able thoroughly to reach the excellent appearance he had when he captivated the Glasgow judges. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart's "Topgallant" was never shown to better advantage, and had he been placed higher on the list it would have pleased many west country breeders.

HIGHLAND SOCIETY SHOW AT INVERNESS.

HORSES—CLYDESDALES.

(*"Glasgow News," July 25, 1883.*)

A LARGE show of Clydesdales are never looked for so far north as Inverness, the probable prize-takers being pretty well known, as all the best south and south-west country animals appeared and competed against each other several times already throughout the season. The number of Clydesdales shown at Glasgow last year was 331 of all classes, the entries this year only numbering 134. Glasgow and the west country generally being the home of the breed, a large show is always expected there; and, taking this into account, the disparity in the number of entries, and the

out-of-the-way situation of Inverness being also considered, the show is, all things considered, quite as good as was anticipated. Before noticing the local prize-takers, it may be as well to mention that the decision in several of the classes, and more particularly the two-year-old filly awards, caused great dissatisfaction. The complaints made by the Dumfries-shire men were both loud and bitter, and if former decisions this season are worth anything, it must be said they had some reason for grumbling. The directors of the Highland Society, no doubt, exercise the greatest care and judgment in selecting gentlemen to act as judges at their shows, but the general opinion expressed yesterday was that they had not been so successful in choosing the proper men this year as they have formerly been. There have been a good many quiet mutterings on the subject for the past six weeks, and several south-west country breeders did not hesitate to say in the morning what the result of the judging would be, and, as things turned out, they were not very wide of the mark in their prognostication. Single judging, no doubt, has some disadvantages, as was seen in one of the classes at the Glasgow May Show ; but the one opinion expressed to-day is that, if only a single judge had been in the ring, who, of course, would be directly responsible for his decisions, the position of several animals in the prize-list would have been altered. There has always been, and there will no doubt continue to be, a certain amount of jealousy between the Clydesdale and the south-west country breeders ; and the directors of the Highland Society knowing this, have always endeavoured, as far as possible, to poise the balance evenly between them. There were only nine entries of aged stallions yesterday, as against twenty last year, and two or three were absent. Mr. Riddell had entered "St. Lawrence," the first prize horse at the Glasgow

Spring Show for the past two seasons, and which was fortunate enough to be first also at the Royal Show, York, last week. "St. Lawrence" has had a hard season's work, and Mr. Riddell probably did not care to fatigue him over much, as would have been the case by exhibiting him for two weeks running, in addition to the long journey from York to Inverness. It is a pity, however, that he was not shown, as he would have had a chance of changing places with "Corsewall," which beat him at Glasgow last year. It was not long till it became apparent that there was some difference of opinion among the judges as to which horse should get the first place. Mr. Riddell's "Tip-Top," and Mr. Drew's "Bold Briton," are both after "Prince of Wales," and are pretty much alike in character, weight, and substance, Mr. Drew's being, perhaps, the best of the two. It was for some time thought the latter horse was to be placed first, as they were walked round and round several times, Mr. Riddell's coming second, and "Corsewall" third. After some consultation, they were made to change places, Mr. Riddell's getting the first place, and after another long talk "Corsewall" was taken up, and got the red ticket. This horse is so well known to Clydesdale men that any further notice of him is unnecessary. He was selected early in the season by the Duke of Buccleuch's tenantry in Dumfriesshire, as they were afraid that, if he appeared at Glasgow, they would not get a chance of securing him. Mr. Riddell's horse travelled in the Cupar-Fife district, and Mr. Drew's horse travelled in Easter Ross last year, and in the western district of Fife this season. They are both excellent types of the kind of horse gradually growing in favour with breeders, being good in the middle piece, standing low on the ground, and fair good legs and feet. Mr. Drew's horse was thought to be the best one, as his legs were shorter and

thicker, but there was a sort of staleness in their appearance which probably accounted for him being put third. Mr. Wylie's horse had a good many admirers, and had the judges acted on the same principle as they adopted in placing "Corsewall" first, he might have been rather higher up in the prize list.

INVERNESS SHOW.

(*"Glasgow Herald," July 26, 1883.*)

As remarked yesterday, there seemed to be a strong difference of opinion as to the awards made by the judges in the male classes of Clydesdales. Of course there are always exhibitors who feel aggrieved at the action of judges, though it is admitted on all hands that these gentlemen have a very difficult task to perform. To-day, however, the feeling seems to be deeper than has ever been manifested on previous occasions. As was stated yesterday, one exhibitor showed his dissatisfaction by withdrawing his yearling colt from the ring just as it was on the point of being placed by the judges. The action thus taken was in itself sufficiently significant of that exhibitor's opinion; but this morning it transpired that another exhibitor in the aged and three-year-old stallion classes, in which he received a fourth and a third prize, withdrew all his five animals last night, and sent them home by the ten o'clock train, thus forfeiting to the society his deposit of £10 for their re-appearance this morning. The adoption of such a course was to-day matter of comment in the yard; and, while some deprecated the action taken, others looked upon it as a

protest against the method in which the judges for the show are selected. On this point, however, there seems to be some misapprehension. There is a pretty general feeling that the directors appoint judges without regard to the opinion of the members of the society, whereas, we understand, the directors have frequently asked members to submit to them a list of gentlemen whom they would request to act as judges at the ensuing show. Whenever there seems to be a consensus of opinion in favour of any one man, or set of men, it is given effect to by the committee and the directors. It is said, however, that there have been so few recommendations lately that the committee and the directors have been left very much to their own judgment, and they have always endeavoured to do the best they could in the circumstances. It is never expected that the selection will give universal satisfaction, and should the present agitation lead to the majority of the members using the privilege which they already possess of suggesting names to the directors, it will be productive of great good, so that out of seeming ultimate evil benefit may arise.

THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY AND CLYDESDALES.

(*"Glasgow Herald," 28th July, 1883.*)

SIR,—As a member of the Highland and Agricultural Society I take exception to the observations appearing in the article in your issue of to-day relative to the supposed cause of one of the exhibitors at the Inverness Show having, as you state, "showed his dissatisfaction by withdrawing his yearling colt from the ring just as it was on the point of

being placed by the judges," and that "this morning it transpired that another exhibitor in the aged and three-year-old classes (of Clydesdale stallions), in which he received a fourth and a third prize, withdrew all his five animals last night, and sent them home by the 10 o'clock train, thus forfeiting to the society his deposit of £10 for their re-appearance this morning." Your observations, I take leave to say, cast, it may be unintentionally, a reflection on the judges as men of incapacity for the post, either from ignorance of the good points of a Clydesdale, or from wilful blindness to them, which is worse; and it is necessary, in order that the public may be in a position to form their opinion of the matter, that the facts of the case be put before them. The judges in the Clydesdale classes were the unanimous choice of the directors. Some of them have filled the same post to the Highland Society before, and all of them have acted as judges with great acceptance at the leading shows in the country. They are gentlemen who, as agriculturists, are of great experience, good social position, and of unsullied probity, chosen from districts wide apart, and where it is well known the best Clydesdales are to be found, viz., Lanarkshire, Dumbartonshire, Kintyre, Galloway, and the north of England. They have bred valuable Clydesdale stock of their own, and have repeatedly taken first honours by stock of their own rearing at the principal shows in the country. Their knowledge of the good points and qualities of horses of the Clydesdale breed is therefore unquestionable. These are the facts so far as the judges are concerned. On the other side of the case the facts are these:—At the Inverness Show the exhibitor who so abruptly withdrew his horses adopted the remarkable and suspicious course of concealing from view several of his horses by hanging canvas or other similar material round the stalls or

boxes in which the horses should remain in order to be seen by visitors when not in the show-ring. This, to say the least of it, was very ill-advised, for it is well-known that some defects in horses, which are hereditary and most objectionable, are more apparent in the stall than out of it. The judges were unanimously of opinion that one of the horses, viz., "Lord Blantyre," which was sailing under canvas, was not entitled to a place, and he was accordingly shelved. One of the directors remonstrated with the exhibitor about the canvas, and intimated that it would require to be removed to-morrow, but the exhibitor preferred his own way, and removed his horses from the show-yard as you state. The exhibitors who thus acted are well known, and it will be for the society to deal with them in an exemplary manner at the proper time. I cannot help remarking, however, on the fragrance of the canvas trick. The exhibitor who had this recourse to canvas had two horses other than "Lord Blantyre" standing alongside, which were concealed by canvas as well, and for which there was no reason whatever except for the sake of uniformity. I wonder if he thought the judges were such youghals as not to know that no steamer sails under canvas unless there is a screw loose. —I am, &c.,

A MEMBER OF THE H. & A. SOCIETY.

Glasgow, 26th July, 1883.

DISGUSTED EXHIBITORS.

(*"Live Stock Journal," 10th August, 1883.*)

"ONE of the grooms went so far, indeed, as to shake his fist in one of the judges' face;" "language by no means complimentary was used, and a director created considerable

amusement amongst the onlookers, on being appealed to by a judge for protection, by asking how long he (the judge) considered himself entitled to his (the director's) protection." I find these words used, and used truthfully, in *The Field's* description of the Highland and Agricultural Society's Show at Inverness. Can such things really be? A gentleman is asked, by the council of the oldest agricultural society in the kingdom, to go one or two hundred miles out of his way to adjudicate on horses at their annual exhibition. He is presumably, therefore, an honourable man; and the very fact that he was asked to perform such duties argues that he had a knowledge of them. Yet, while carrying them out, a disappointed groom—a man neither his equal socially nor educationally—because he disagrees with him, is allowed with impunity to shake his fist in his face, and to use bad language towards him; while a director, who is responsible for the judge's presence in the ring, as one of the inviting parties, raises a laugh against him by a remark when asked for his protection. If this is to be allowed, will any kind reader inform me where it is likely to end, and how far I may be allowed to go in threatening and using bad language towards judges on any occasion in which I should feel myself aggrieved? In a bull-dog show in the black country, I might know what to expect betimes; but, in the show-yard of the Highland and Agricultural Society, I should expect, if I acted as a judge, to be treated as a gentleman, no matter what were my opinions regarding the merits of the animals under my notice. The moment a judge puts on his official badge and enters the ring, he is entitled to be respected, as he has indeed to be obeyed; and it is the duty of every director to afford him protection so long as the badge is on his breast.

GLASGOW STALLION SHOW.

("Glasgow News," February 27, 1884.)

THE annual show of Clydesdale stallions, in connection with the Glasgow Agricultural Society, took place yesterday in the Cattle Market.

The show, taken overhead, was one of the most extensive and successful ever held in connection with the Glasgow Society. So far as numbers were concerned, the show was over last year, the entries in the aged class being 55, in the three-year-old class 102, with 7 extras—in all, 164; as against 119 in 1883, 99 in 1882, 107 in 1881, 162 in 1880, 211 in 1879, and 229 in 1878.

Opinions were pretty evenly divided on Monday evening and yesterday morning regarding Mr. Riddell's "Sir Wyndham," the first-prize horse in the three-year-old class at Inverness in July, and Drew's "Prince of Avondale," the premium horse in the three-year-old class last year. The "Prince of Avondale" was also the winner of the cup at the May show, and was first at the Highland Show in Glasgow the previous year. "Bold Briton" and the "Gallant Lad" had also their admirers, and the selection was watched with great interest by nearly every breeder of horses in the country. The judges certainly took plenty of time in inspecting the different horses, and no exhibitor can find fault with them for passing his horse without giving him all the attention he deserved. When the fifty-five had passed through the ring, the judges compared notes, with the result that twenty were again taken back to go through another inspection. Onlookers were rather surprised at the large number ordered in, but the explanation may be that the

judges were desirous of marking, in so far as it lay with them, their opinion that the horses taken in again were all worthy of the attention of the numerous deputations around the ring. After a five-minutes' conversation, ten of them were turned out, leaving only ten in what has been usually known in Glasgow as the short leet. These were—

Bold Briton, brown, aged 4 years and 7 months ; bred by exhibitor ; sire, Prince of Wales ; dam, Justine ; sire of dam, Lincolnshire Lad—Lawrence Drew, Merryton Home Farm, Hamilton.

Royal Scot, brown, aged 3 years and 8 months ; bred by Mr. Wm. Hamilton, High Motherwell Farm, Motherwell ; sire, Prince of Wales ; dam, Martha ; sire of dam, Lincolnshire Lad—Lawrence Drew, Merryton Home Farm, Hamilton.

Prince of Avondale, brown, aged 3 years and 9 months ; bred by Mr. Robert Hamilton, Brackenridge, Strathaven ; sire, Prince of Wales ; dam, Juno ; sire of dam, Ploughboy, by Lincoln—Lawrence Drew, Merryton Home Farm, Hamilton.

General Neil, dark brown, aged 8 years and 8 months ; bred by Mr. David Arthur, Carlton Mains, Girvan ; sire, Doncaster ; dam, Nannie ; sire of dam, Vanquisher—Peter Ferguson, Rock Cottage, Renfrew.

Commander, dark brown, aged 3 years and 8 months ; bred by Mr. Charles M'Clymont, Balsaggart, Maybole ; sire, Druid ; dam, Balsaggart Jess ; sire of dam, Glancer—Allan M'Kay, Cross Arthurlie, Barrhead.

Gilderoy, bay, aged 5 years ; bred by Mr. Duncan, Kirktown, Deskford ; sire, Garibaldi III. ; dam, May ; sire of dam, Comet—A. M'Robbie, Sunnyside, Aberdeen.

Gallant Lad, brown, aged 3 years and 9 months ; bred by Mr. Robert Spittal, Kenmuir, Tollcross ; sire, Druid ; dam, Mature ; sire of dam, Time o' Day—John Pollock, Greenlaw, Newton-Mearns.

Romany Rye, brown, aged 4 years ; bred by exhibitor ; sire, Luck's All ; dam, Jess—David Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley.

Sir Wyndham, bay, aged 4 years ; bred by Mr. James Smellie, Stravenhouse ; sire, Prince of Wales ; sire of dam, Old Campsie—David Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley.

Farmer's Boy, brown, aged 4 years and 9 months ; bred by Mr. Peter M'Aulay, Craigs Farm, Greenock ; sire, Druid ; dam, Nancy ; sire of dam, Lofty—Alexander Wilson, Longfaulds, Duntocher.

Some surprise was shown that the last-named horse should have been left among such good company, but the judges, no doubt, had good enough reasons for retaining him. After a short inspection, "Sir Wyndham" was turned aside, and the others were passed over until "Bold Briton" was reached. He was taken out and carefully looked over, and run out, and again examined before being sent back to his place. "Prince of Avondale," the premium horse in the three-year-old class last year, was next taken out, and his fine action and stylish appearance evidently impressed the judges considerably in his favour. "Sir Wyndham" afterwards underwent a particularly searching inspection, especially in the legs; and, when the judges left him, it was evident that he was to get the red ticket, or to be left out altogether. The latter assumption was placed beyond a doubt when "Bold Briton" was again taken out, and the selection then lay between him and the "Prince of Avondale." The former is what is known as a big little horse, and the exact type of animal suitable for drawing a lorry. The parties who said that he was undersized did not take into account his immense girth at the heart, or his nearness to the ground; and, taking him all in all, he is the stamp of animal yearly becoming more fashionable among breeders. He was only third at the Highland Society's Show at Inverness, but the decision was commented on rather freely at the time. The judges apparently, however, could not get over the stylish appearance and action of "Prince of Avondale," and, after a minute or two, the red ticket was given him. This horse underwent a good deal of criticism by breeders and others round the ring. Some persons said that he was too dry in the coat, others that there was too much daylight visible under him; while one or two thought that he was narrow enough at the chest. There has prob-

ably never been a horse exhibited without some fault or deficiencies, and the few weak points in the "Prince of Avondale" were certainly made the most of. Horses from the Merryton stable have been most successful at Glasgow, as this is the sixth or seventh time that a horse of Mr. Drew's breeding has been selected by the Glasgow Society. "Hawkhead," "Lord Douglas," and "Roderick Dhu" were premium horses. "St. Lawrence" was selected two years in succession, and yesterday the "Prince of Avondale" has been selected for the second time. The last-named is almost a pure English-bred horse, and it says a good deal for Mr. Drew's judgment in mating the right animals, when he is thus able to beat all the combined Stud-Book Clydesdales in the country. How far it may be profitable for farmers to breed from these horses is a difficult question, which may be left to each man to consider for himself; but, in the meantime, the fact is only too evident that what the Clydesdale Stud-Book men call cross-bred horses beat their best pure-bred animals in the showyard. Mr. Riddell relied on winning with "Sir Wyndham," as he considers him one of the best horses in the Blackhall stable; but, as things turned out, it was fortunate that the judges passed him over. The Glasgow terms are £100 premium, with no guarantee of any number of mares, and the charge for these is also low—that is, comparing them with what is paid by less pretentious societies. "Sir Wyndham" was selected by the Dumfries Horse Society at £120 premium, and a guaranteed number of mares at a fee of ten guineas to non-members, and five guineas to members of the association. These are exceptionally high terms, and "Sir Wyndham" is by no means a perfect animal; his hocks are too fleshy, and he is a trifle hollow in the back, even for a Clydesdale, and, if anything, rather too high on the quarter; but he is after the

"Prince of Wales," and this fact perhaps helped to account for the high terms given for him. The next best horses among the remaining seven were—"The Gallant Lad," "Gilderoy," and "General Neil," the last-named being a thick, massive eight-year-old horse, which attracted a good deal of notice during the day. The "Gallant Lad" is a Druid. He has fine clean legs and flat bones, unexceptionable feet and pasterns, and his owner, Mr. Pollock, was perhaps justified in supposing that he stood a good chance of being selected. He looks to be what is called an improving horse, and is certain to be heard of again. "Gilderoy," the second selection by the Highland Society deputation last year, has now been in the short leet for three seasons, and, from the great attention always paid him by the judges, it looked as though he came very near being the premium Glasgow horse. He was looking as fresh and sound yesterday as he did two years ago, and altogether he is perhaps as good a specimen of a Clydesdale as was in the ring. He was foaled on an upland small glen farm in the centre of Banffshire, and his owner probably did not know the value of the youngster which he was lucky enough to own. Like "Sir Wyndham," it was fortunate for his owner that the judges passed him, as he was afterwards taken up by the Glenkens and Balmaghie district deputation at £140. In the light of these facts, except for the honour and glory of winning the Glasgow premium, the owners of the two selected horses only "gain a loss," and the directors of the society will have to double their terms by next year if they wish to retain the privilege of choosing the best horses.

The turn-out of three-year-olds was exceptionally large, 102 being catalogued. Rather more than one-half, or perhaps three-fourths, of the number were fairly good promising horses, but the remainder were lanky, badly-put-

together animals, with too much daylight below them, and showing a great lack of Clydesdale character. The interest in the selection was a good deal discounted beforehand, the prevailing opinion being that either Mr. Crawford's "Peter the Great," or Mr. Riddell's "Bloomsberry" would be selected. Both horses are pretty well known, the latter having been first at Ayr last year, second at Glasgow, and first at Inverness. The former was also a prize-taker at all the shows, but he never got very far up in the prize list. The judges took over three hours to go over the lot, and, after comparing notes, 28 were ordered back again to the ring. Besides the two already mentioned, there were other five or six really very superior three-year-olds, the best of which were owned by Mr. James Johnston, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Drew, and Mr. Wylie. The remaining 20 were mostly good, serviceable-looking horses, and as the greater part of them did not appear to have had much forcing, they will show to better advantage by another year. The object of the judges in bringing back so many was, no doubt, to show the deputations that there were plenty of really good horses to pick and choose from. Exhibitors also like their horses to be brought back, as it gives them a sort of "hall-mark," especially when they are mentioned in the newspapers as being in the short leet; and although the leet in this case was anything but short, considering the number of the entries, the numbers, perhaps, could not very well have been reduced. The horses brought back were the following:—

Ready Penny, dark brown, aged 2 years and 8 months; bred by Mr. James Ralston, Barronbrock, Strathblane; sire, His Royal Highness; dam, Jess; sire of dam, Young Scotsman—James Alexander, Westfield, Torrance.

Lord Marmion, *alias* Bonnet of Blue, aged 2 years, 8 months, and 20 days; bred by Mr. D. Young, Rintochoer; sire, Blue Ribbon, by

Darnley ; dam, Maule of Rintoher ; sire of dam, Black Prince—James Blyth, Leckiebank, Auchtermuchty.

Hanlan, brown, rising three years ; bred by Mr. Isaac Beard, Whitteale, Peterborough ; sire, Sutton ; dam, Whitefoot, by Prince of the Isle—Joseph Bulloch, Cockmuir, Springburn.

Royal Standard, bay, aged 2 years and 9 months ; bred by Mr. John Taylor, Warrickdale, Dreghorn ; sire, Old Times—John Cochrane, Mains, Dunlop.

Clan Mackenzie, bay, aged 2 years and 9 months ; bred by exhibitor ; sire, King William ; dam, Tibbie of Airdrie ; sire of dam, Lofty—Robert Craig, Airdrie, Dumfries.

Peter the Great, bay, aged 2 years and 9 months ; bred by Mr. James Dunlop, Campbeltown Farm, West Kilbride ; sire, King of the Forest ; dam, Maggie ; sire of dam, Largs Jock—Peter Crawford, Burnfoot, Strathblane.

Brave Wallace, brown, aged 2 years and 8 months ; bred by exhibitor ; sire, Prince of Wales ; dam, Madeline ; sire of dam, Lincolnshire Lad—Lawrence Drew, Merryton Home Farm, Hamilton.

Black Douglas, black, aged 2 years and 10 months ; bred by exhibitor ; sire, Prince of Wales ; dam, Lizzie—Lawrence Drew, Merryton Home Farm, Hamilton.

Queensbery, bay, aged 2 years and 10 months ; bred by exhibitor ; sire, Rosebery ; dam, Jean ; sire of dam, Topsman—John Fleming, Woodside, Rutherglen.

Obedience, dark bay, aged 2 years and 8 months, bred by Mr. Alex. M'Laughlan, Carleith, Duntocher ; sire, Topgallant ; dam, Jean ; sire of dam, Prince Charlie ; grand-dam, Rob Roy—James Johnston, Lochburn, Maryhill.

Prince George, bay, aged 2 years and 8 months ; bred by Mr. Wm. Sanders, Rosebank, Dumfriesshire ; sire, Kintyre (Crawford's) ; dam, Darling ; sire of dam, Young Pope—John Kerr, Redhall, Wigton.

Endrick, brown, aged 2 years and 8 months ; bred by Mr. David Porter, Guffogland, Castle-Douglas ; sire, Lochlibo ; dam, Jess ; sire of dam, Lochfergus Champion—John Leckie, Blaressan, Killearn.

Coming King, bay, aged 2 years and 6 months ; bred by Mr. Paisley, Bannerbank, Newton-Mearns ; sire, Hawkhead, by Prince of Wales ; dam, Jean : sire of dam, Campsie ; grand-dam, Maggie, by Lofty III.—Allan Mackay, Cross Arthurlic, Barrhead.

Royalty, bay, aged 2 years, 7 months, and 20 days ; bred by Messrs.

Mather, Balloch ; sire, His Royal Highness ; dam, Jess ; sire of dam, Prince Charlie—John Mather, Cranhill, Shettleston.

Colonel, brown, aged 2 years and 9 months ; bred by Mr. John Fraser, Maxwellfield, Kirkbean, Dumfries ; sire, Creichmore Bob ; dam, Bet ; sire of dam, Montgomery's Farmer—Andrew Montgomery, Netherhall, Castle-Douglas.

Glenree, bay, aged 2 years and 8 months ; bred by Mr. John Cannon, Congeith, Kirkgunzeon ; sire, Prince Frederick ; dam, Jean of Glenree ; sire of dam, The Chief—Andrew Montgomery, Netherhall, Castle-Douglas.

Young Lincoln, black, aged 2 years and 8 months, bred by exhibitor ; sire, Renown ; dam, Young Jessie Brown ; sire of dam, Prince of Wales—Thomas Muirhead, Townhill, Dunfermline.

Laird o' the North Glen, brown, aged 2 years and 9 months ; bred by Mr. John Lochhead, North Glen, Langbank ; sire, The Bishop ; dam, Nancy ; sire of dam, Prince of Renfrew—Walter S. Park, Hatton, Bishopton.

The King, dapple bay, aged 2 years, 9 months, and 14 days ; bred by Mr. Robert M'William, Craichmore, Stranraer ; sire, Prince of Wales ; dam, Celia ; sire of dam, Lincolnshire Lad—Alexander Rankin, Aird, Stranraer.

Bantaskine, brown, aged 3 years ; bred by Mr. James M'Kissock, Earnside, Forres ; sire, Topgallant ; dam, Bell ; sire of dam, Time o' Day—David Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley.

Bloomsberry, bay, aged 3 years ; bred by Mr. Steel, Newtonhead, Douglas ; sire, Sanquhar—David Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley.

The Darnley Prince, dark brown, aged 2 years, 6 months, and 27 days, bred by exhibitor ; sire, Darnley ; dam, Lily ; sire of dam, Campsie III.—William Roy, Longshot, Torrance of Campsie.

Leading Star, dark brown, aged 2 years and 9 months ; bred by Mr. William Kay, Burton, by Ayr ; sire, Young Ivanhoe ; dam, Mary ; sire of dam, Hercules—Alexander Scott, 24 Mearns Street, Greenock.

Ettrick Shepherd, dark brown, aged 2 years, 11 months, and 20 days ; bred by Mr. John Lawrie, Mitchelston, Stow, Mid-Lothian ; sire, Pride of Galloway ; dam, Meg ; sire of dam, Dan—John Skeoch, Todhills, Stevenston.

Stafford, bay, aged 3 years ; bred by Mr. John Wilson, West Freugh, Stranraer ; sire, Lord Lyon ; dam, Trim ; sire of dam, Sir Colin—Wm. Taylor, Park Mains, Paisley.

Here Again, dark brown, aged 2 years, 8 months, and 26 days ; bred by Mr. J. M'Intyre, Kildavanan, Bute ; sire, Lord Colin Campbell ; dam, Darling ; sire of dam, Marquis of Bute—Hugh White, Locherside, Johnstone.

Laird of Lawers, bay, aged 2 years, 9 months, and 6 days ; bred by Colonel Williamson, of Lawers ; sire, Laird of Keil ; dam, Lawers Betty ; sire of dam, Forth ; sire of grand-dam, Lothian Tam—William Wyllie, Prince's Street Cottage, Perth.

The Undaunted, bay, aged 2 years, 9 months, and 3 days ; bred by Mr. Kirkwood, Darnley Mains ; sire, Young Lorn Lyon ; grand-sire, Lord Lyon ; dam, Secret Nell ; sire of dam, Select Davie—William Wyllie, Prince's Street Cottage, Perth.

The judges did not spend much time in looking at the lot a second time, their attention being taken up by the two first-named horses. It seemed pretty evident that there was a difference of opinion as to which of the two should be selected, and the odd man, seeing that there was no hopes of succeeding, gave in, and "Bloomsberry" was given the red ticket. The selection did not appear to give universal satisfaction to the "Stud-Book" men resident in the Glasgow district, as they considered it rather too much of a good thing that the two horses selected were not eligible for registration in the "Stud-Book," and in consequence they were debarred from taking advantage of them. There are about 1,200 members in the Glasgow society, 200 of whom are members of the Clydesdale Horse Society, but about one-half of these are not resident in the Glasgow district. The society, of course, left it open to the judges to select the best horses, irrespective of whether they were eligible for registration or not, and the majority of them no doubt in their opinion fixed upon "Bloomsberry" as the best one, which is not eligible. There certainly was not very much to choose between the two. Mr. Crawford's horse is a splendid mover, and has besides a stylish appearance, but the other one

appears to be thicker at the heart, and, if anything, better knit across the loins. Neither had much to boast of about the hind feet, legs, and pasterns, Riddell's horse being, perhaps, the worst of the two. It was, after all, a question of taste, and nothing could be said against the selection. A great deal can be said both for and against the Stud-Book. In the first place, it may be accepted as a fact that the so-called cross-bred horses and mares beat the registered horses in the show-yard; but, on the other hand, the question arises whether it is wise to breed from horses whose produce is not eligible for registration, as the produce will not sell. A farmer, like any other man in business, breeds horses for profit, and the animals which bring the highest prices are the most profitable to breed from, irrespective of whether they are better or worse than the so-called cross-bred Clydesdales. The Stud-Book has, no doubt, enabled the owners of secondary horses in this country to sell them to the Americans and others at good prices when better horses without the "hall mark" would not be looked at. The Scotch breeders in this case, while improving the breed of horses, have taken a leaf out of the Yankees' book, and are now beating them with their own weapons. Some time ago, when the American watch manufacturers found out that they could not sell their watches in this country, they hit upon the plan of sending over the cases to London and Birmingham, and got the hall mark put on them, after which they took them home, and fitted them with their own movements; and when this was done they sent them over here, where they find a ready market, the general public relying on the hall mark as a guarantee of the genuineness of the quality. So long, therefore, as a Scotch breeder can get from 50 to 100 per cent. more for a horse eligible for registration, he is not very likely to use a horse whose produce will not sell; and although

Mr. Drew has the satisfaction of beating the Stud-Book owners in the show-yard, it might be worth his while to consider whether it would not be more profitable to cast his lot in with the Stud-Book party, and thus be enabled to get his full share of the returns ; and if he only shows the same judgment in mating the different strains of Stud-Book animals as he has done in the mating of Clydesdale sires and English dams, he will not be long in reaping his reward.

[NOTE.—At the English Cart-Horse Society's Show, held at the Agricultural Hall, London, 26th February, 1884, in the class for Aged Stallions, 16·2 hands and upwards, "Commodore" gained second prize ; and in the class for Aged Stallions under 16·2 "Hyperion" gained first prize, and "Lincoln Tom" second in the same class. "Commodore" and "Hyperion" were got by "Hydraulic," whose sire was "Lincolnshire Lad ;" and "Lincoln Tom" was got by "Lincolnshire Lad II," who also had for his sire "Lincolnshire Lad."

At the Glasgow Stallion Show, which took place same day, "Bold Briton," who stood second in the Aged class for Stallions, and "Royal Scot," who was in the short leet of ten in the same class, were both out of mares got by "Lincolnshire Lad ;" and "Brave Wallace," who stood well to the front in the short leet of Three-year-old Stallions, was out of "Madeline," whose sire was "Lincolnshire Lad."]

PEDIGREES OF "QUEEN" AND

The following Card was circulated at the Glasgow Stallion whose pedigrees are given, we think we need offer no ap-

PEDIGREE OF MARE, **"QUEEN,"** Foaled in 1872.

Winner of Cup given at the Glasgow Show, in May, 1883, for

THE BEST ANIMAL IN THE FEMALE CLASSES,

BREEDER, MR. CHAPPLE, NEAR DERBY.

Sire, "LINCOLNSHIRE LAD" (Drew's). Breeder, Mr. J. Bassit, Willoughby, Spilsby, Lincolnshire; and also breeder of his dam.

The following Pedigree of "Lincolnshire Lad" is taken from the English Cart-Horse Stud-Book.

Dam's Sire, "Britain" (Lister's)

g Dam's Sire, K 1195.

g g Dam's Sire, Competitor 514.

Competitor gained First Prizes at Long Sutton in 1840 and 1841; Wisbeach, 1843; and Lincoln, 1845.

COMPETITOR,

by Honest Tom 1071,

by Honest Tom 1066,

by Honest Tom 1061

(This horse was foaled in 1805),

by Honest Tom (Townsend's).

Sire, "Lincoln" 1345,

out of "Diamond."

This Mare gained First Prizes at Grimsby, as a Two-year-old, in 1859, and at Horncastle in 1860; also, at Brigg, as a Mare with foal at foot, in 1861.

DIAMOND,

by Lincoln 1334,

by Lincoln 1328,

by Oxford 1683.

Oxford gained First Prizes at Lincoln, Oakham Allerton, and Retford in 1830, 1835, 1841, and 1842

by Farmers' Glory 816,

by Drayman 607,

by Honest Tom 1060

(This horse was foaled in 1800)

by Milton & Colley's brown horse.

"PRINCE OF AVONDALE."

Show, and considering the celebrity of the two animals
 logy for re-producing it in these pages.

PEDIGREE OF STALLION, "PRINCE OF AVONDALE,"

FOALD IN 1880.

Winner of Cup given at the Glasgow Show, in May, 1883, for

THE BEST ANIMAL IN THE MALE CLASSES,

BREEDER, MR. HAMILTON, BRECKENRIDGE, STRATHAVON.

Dam, "Juno."

Breeder, Mr. Snowden, Stonesby, Leicester-shire, and also breeder of her sire, "Plough-boy" 1741.

Ploughboy gained First Prizes at Loughborough, Leicester, and Sleatford in 1860, 1862, and 1863.

Ploughboy

by Lincoln 1334,

by Lincoln 1328,

by Oxford 1683.

Oxford gained First Prizes at Lincoln, Oakham, Allerton, and Retford in 1830, 1835, 1841, and 1842.

Oxford

by Farmer's Glory 816,

by Drayman 607,

by Honest Tom 1066

(This horse was foaled in 1800).

by Milton & Colley's Brown Horse.

Pedigree of *Ploughboy*, given above, is taken from English Cart-Horse Stud-Book.

Sire, "Prince of Wales" (Drew's).

Dam, "DARLING." Sire, "GENERAL."

Darling gained First Prize at Highland and Agricultural Society, 1865

General gained First Prize at Highland and Agricultural Society Show in 1865.

Darling

by Logan's Twin 741

by Lolly, 455, [298

by Farmer's Fancy

by Clyde 153,

by Broomfield Cham-

pton 95,

by Glancer ii, 337,

by Glancer i, 336,

by Thomson's Black

Horse

(Foaled about 1810).

Pedigree of *Prince of Wales*, given above, is taken from the Clydesdale Stud-Book.

AUCTION SALES.

EXTRACTS from the Reports in *North British Agriculturist* of the principal sales, by public auction, of Clydesdale horses, comparing the prices realised for horses owned by Stud-Book members, with those not entered in the Stud-Book, for four years succeeding its formation.

CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK HORSES.

| | | | <i>Number.</i> | <i>Amount.</i> |
|-------------------------------|-----|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| A. Baird, of Urie, | ... | Oct. 10, 1878 | 19 | £2395 6 |
| Lord Dunmore, | ... | Aug. 27, 1879 | 26 | 2605 1 |
| J. Martin, Auchendennan, | | Aug. 28, 1879 | 17 | 1865 18 |
| J. Hendrie, of Larbert, | | Septr. 2, 1879 | 28 | 1423 9 |
| Col. Williamson, of Lawers, | | Octr. 23, 1879 | 18 | 1556 4 |
| Lord Dunmore, | ... | Feby. 26, 1880 | 18 | 1758 15 |
| Late Mr. Mowbray, Cambus Farm | | July 28, 1881 | 20 | 2110 10 |
| | | | <hr/> 146 | <hr/> £13,715 3 |

Average, £94 each.

HORSES NOT ENTERED IN CLYDESDALE STUD-BOOK.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| L. Drew, Merryton, | ... | April 9, 1878 | 48 | £8160 16 |
| L. Drew, Merryton, | ... | April 8, 1879 | 55 | 6842 17 |
| L. Drew, Merryton, | ... | April 13, 1880 | 31 | 2565 3 |
| L. Drew, Merryton, | ... | April 12, 1881 | 53 | 4952 17 |
| | | | <hr/> 187 | <hr/> £22,521 13 |

Average, £120 9s each.

Note.—It is worthy of notice that the three most noted mares for taking first prizes at agricultural shows, when sold by public auction realised the highest prices going at the time in Scotland.

"Rosie" sold at the Duke of Hamilton's sale, in 1866, for £220, an extraordinary price at that date. Her dam was an English mare, owned by Mr. Barr, Barangry, Renfrewshire.

"Netty" sold at Merryton sale, in 1877, for £624 15s. She was an English mare ; sire, "Lincolnshire Lad."

"Damsel" sold at Auchendennan sale, in 1879, for £525. Her dam was got by "Tintock," an English horse.



Select Clydesdale Horse Society of Scotland

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

Provisional Directors :

LAWRENCE DREW, Esq., Merryton Home Farm, Hamilton, *Chairman*
 DAVID RIDDELL, Esq., of Burnhead, Lanarkshire, Blackhall, Paisley
 PETER BROWN, Esq., Craigton Farm, Bishopton, Renfrewshire
 THOMAS MUIRHEAD, Esq., farmer, Townhill, Dunfermline
 THOMAS BROWN, Esq., farmer, Skellyton, Larkhall
 JAMES SMELLIE, Esq., farmer, Stravenhouse, Carluke
 JOHN WHITE, Esq., farmer, Nether Craighends, Renfrewshire.

Provisional Treasurer :

W. D. WHITE, Esq., banker, 8 George Street, Glasgow.

Provisional Secretary :

JAMES DUNBAR, Esq., solicitor, 191 West George Street, Glasgow.

Bankers :

THE CLYDESDALE BANK, Limited, St. Vincent Place, Glasgow.

Solicitors :

Messrs. DUNBAR & MACKINTOSH, 191 West George Street, Glasgow.

PROSPECTUS.

The demand, both at home and abroad, for superior horses of the Clydesdale Class has become so great during recent years that it is necessary, in order to maintain, and if possible increase, the reputation which the farmers and breeders of Scotland have long enjoyed for the best breed of horses in the world for agricultural purposes and heavy lorry work in cities, that an authentic and popular Stud-Book of select horses of that inestimable class should be compiled.

It is with this view that "The Select Clydesdale Horse Society of Scotland" has been formed. The rules applicable to the enrolment of members, and the tests of admission of horses to the Stud-Book, will be found below. The conditions under which Members may be enrolled are such as to ensure a very large membership, and the tests of ad-

mission of horses to the Stud Book cannot fail to make it a register of select horses of the Clydesdale type. Since no other horses than those which have obtained honours at some of the agricultural shows in Scotland, or have secured a premium at the Glasgow Stallion Show, or have been selected in Scotland to travel in any part of Scotland or elsewhere, or have passed an entrance examination by the judges appointed by the Directors, the Stud-Book will contain none but horses which have gained admission on their own individual merits. While pedigree will be respected, and will be preserved and easily traced in this Stud Book it will be no factor in the tests of admission, for while a horse may have a pedigree whose length is lost in the mists of the past, if it suffer from any hereditary disease which is at all likely to impair its usefulness, if, in short, it be not a good, sound horse of the Clydesdale type, it cannot get admission here. Individual merit alone, therefore, is the sum of the tests.

The Directors would specially call attention to the local examinations of horses proposed to be held throughout Scotland, which will enable every farmer and breeder in the country to get any horse or mare, which may be found qualified on examination, entered in the Stud Book.

The Fees payable for Registration, viz.:—Five Shillings for every Entire Horse, and Two Shillings and Sixpence for every Mare, are such as, it is hoped, will enable every farmer and breeder who possesses horses qualified, to take advantage of the Stud Book. The Society will be self-supporting, and it is expected that from the fees payable on the enrolment of Members and for registration of horses a considerable surplus will remain after paying the working expenses in each year, which will be distributed in prizes to be awarded at such of the Agricultural Shows in Scotland as the Directors may approve. The first volume of the Stud Book, it is expected, will be issued in the course of a few months, notice of which, and of the cost to the members and subscribers, will be duly given.

By Order of the Directors.

LAWRENCE DREW, *Chairman.*

REGISTERED OFFICE:

191 WEST GEORGE STREET, GLASGOW.

30th August, 1883.

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION.

I. The name of the Company is "THE SELECT CLYDESDALE HORSE SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND."

II. The Registered Office of the Company will be situate in Scotland.

III. The objects for which the Company is established are—

- (1.) The collecting of materials for, and the keeping and publishing of, an authentic Register or Stud Book of select horses of a superior class for agricultural purposes and heavy lorry work in cities, and which are commonly denominated "Clydesdales."
- (2.) To induce greater competition in improving the breed, and promoting commerce in the foresaid class of horses, by awarding prizes and certificates of merit, or either, to exhibitors of horses of the Clydesdale class at the Highland and Agricultural Society's Shows, and at any of the local Agricultural Shows in Scotland of which the Directors may from time to time approve.
- (3.) The doing of all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

IV. To apply the whole profits, if any, or other income of the Association, in promoting its objects; no dividend to be paid to the Members of the Association.

EXCERPTS FROM ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

ENROLMENT OF MEMBERS.

The following, and no others, shall be enrolled as Members of this Society :—

- (a) Every Landed Proprietor, Merchant, Manufacturer, or other like person, who shall subscribe to the funds of this Society, in one payment, the sum of One Guinea, shall be entitled to be enrolled, and to enjoy all the privileges of Ordinary Members.
- (b) Every Farmer who shall subscribe to the funds of this Society the sum of Half-a-Guinea shall be entitled to be

enrolled, and to enjoy all the privileges of Ordinary Members.

- (c) All Members of the Society shall be Life Members, and no person who is not a Member shall be entitled to have Horses or Mares entered in the Register or Stud-Book of this Society.

VOTES OF MEMBERS.

Every Member shall have one vote, and no more.

TESTS OF ADMISSION OF HORSES.

The following and no other Horses shall be eligible for Registration in the Stud Book of this Society, viz. :—

- (a.) Every Entire Horse and every Mare of one year old and upwards of the Clydesdale Class, which has been awarded honours at the Highland and Agricultural Society's Show, or at any Local Agricultural Show held in Scotland.
- (b.) Every Entire Horse of the Clydesdale Class which has secured a premium at the Glasgow Stallion Show.
- (c.) Every Entire Horse of the Clydesdale Class which has been selected in Scotland to travel in any season for the purpose of Serving Mares in any district in Scotland or elsewhere.
- (d.) Every Entire Horse and every Mare of one year old and upwards of the Clydesdale Class, which shall have been passed as qualified, after examination, by the judge or judges appointed to conduct the local examinations after-mentioned.

EVIDENCES OF QUALIFICATION OF HORSES FOR ADMISSION TO THE REGISTER.

A Certificate under the hand of the Secretary of the Highland and Agricultural Society, or of any Local Agricultural Society in Scotland, or of any Selecting Committee, that any Entire Horse or Mare has obtained honours, or has satisfied the other Tests of Admission, shall be deemed by the Directors of this Society to be sufficient evidence to authorise their Secretary to register such Horse or Mare in the Stud Book ; and on such certificate being presented, and the dues of Registration paid, every such Horse or Mare shall be registered accordingly.

LOCAL EXAMINATIONS OF HORSES.

The Directors shall have power, if they think fit, to appoint any one or more persons, Members of the Society, and well-known agriculturists, whose opinion on the quality of Horses of the Clydesdale Class is such as to merit the confidence and respect of exhibitors, to act as Judge or Judges for such districts of Scotland and for such periods as the Directors may fix, whose duties shall be to examine and pass, if found qualified, such Horses and Mares as may be presented for examination, with a view to being entered in the Stud Book ; and on such Judge or Judges being satisfied, and granting a certificate to that effect, such Horses or Mares so found qualified shall, on payment of the after-mentioned Registration Fees, be Registered accordingly. All Horses presented for examination must be named, and properly described by colour, age, pedigree, and otherwise.

FEES OF REGISTRATION.

On such Certificate being presented or transmitted by post to the Secretary of the Society, and on payment by the owner of a Registration Fee of Five Shillings in the case of an Entire Horse, and Two Shillings and Sixpence in the case of a Mare, the name of each such Horse or Mare shall be entered in the Stud Book accordingly.

CERTIFICATE OF ENTRY IN THE STUD BOOK.

Whenever a horse or mare has been duly registered in the Stud Book of this Society, the owner thereof shall be entitled to receive from the Secretary of the Society a Certificate that such horse or mare has been duly registered in the Stud Book, and the Secretary shall accordingly deliver to such owner a Certificate signed by him, and impressed with the Society's Seal.

Prospectuses, containing Memorandum of Association, Objects for which Company Established, Rules and Forms applicable to Enrolment of Members, and Tests of Admission of Horses to the Stud Book, may be had at any of the Branches of the Clydesdale Bank (Limited), or at the Society's Registered Office, 191 West George Street, Glasgow.

JAMES DUNBAR, *Secretary*.

89047159439



b89047159439a