

HISTORY OF RED POLLED CATTLE.

From the writings of H. F. Euren, editor of the English Red Polled Herd-Book, the following extracts are made in regard to this breed of cattle:

“‘Polled’ signifies without horns. In the absence of recorded facts, various theories have been put forward to account for the origin of the breed of Norfolk and Suffolk Red Polled cattle. It has been asserted that this is but a branch of the Galloway breed naturalized here. There is, however, no reliable evidence on which to base such an opinion, and it is admitted that the ordinary Suffolk cattle are, as milkers, superior to the best Galloways. The probability is that in the several varieties of Red Polled cattle we have the descendants of an ancient breed, valued by our ancestors for *their large yield of milk.*”

“The History of Red Polled cattle can be carried back well into the last century. Suffolk had from time immemorial its breed of Polled cattle producing butter which, one hundred and fifty years ago was asserted to be ‘justly esteemed the pleasantest and best in England.’ Arthur Young, in his ‘Survey’ (A.D. 1794), defines the area—‘a tract of country twenty miles by twelve, * * the seat of the dairies of Suffolk’—which, he said, must be peculiarly considered the headquarters of the Suffolk Polled stock, though he found the breed spread over the whole county. In this ‘Survey’ we get the first accurate description of the breed. Though Arthur Young makes no note of Norfolk Polled cattle, yet advertisements of sales held in and from the year 1778 prove that dairies of such animals were numerous in the county, and that they extended from the northern boundaries of the Suffolk ‘headquarters’ well into the center of Norfolk.”

DIVERSITY OF TYPE.

“Many of the old Suffolk Polled cattle were much more massive beasts than the Norfolk; and this characteristic is yet in evidence. They could easily be picked out from a collection by the comparative coarseness of the head—a difference which is now but seldom manifest. In other points there were few divergences in character between the two varieties.

“The Powell cattle have more especially been noteworthy for fineness of bone, shortness of leg, round barrels, good hind-quarters, and general neatness of outline; so that, though small, they have always won the favor of breeders. Through Norfolk Duke, a bull of Mr. Powell’s breeding, his stock have influenced almost every herd in the two counties. The bull, Davyson 3d, illustrates the Powell type admirably”

WEIGHT.

"A 4 year 1 month 1 week old cow sired by Davyson 3d, Blossom 1327, had a live weight of 1822 lbs. Another cow from Troston, also sired by Davyson 3d, weighed 1423 lbs. at 4 years 4 months old."

"Slasher 577, bred by Mr. Lofft—combining Norfolk and Suffolk blood—had a live weight of 27 cwt. [3024 lbs.] at the age of 4 years 7 months; girth, 8 ft. 2 in. His son, Rollick 558, of the same tribe as Dolly—N 2, weighed, at the age of 2 years 8 months 18 weeks, 19 cwt. 3 qrs. 14 lbs. [2226 lbs.], and its dead weight was 100 stones of 14 lbs. The bull, Cortes 645, weighed, when 1 year 8 months old, 12 cwt. 20 lbs. [1364 lbs.]"

"For beef the Red Polls have ever been favorites with the butchers, because they die well and the meat is equal to the best Polled Scot or Highlander."

For milk and butter they occupy the front rank among the very best English dairy cows. They are peaceable and quiet in disposition and should one ever become vicious they have no horns for mischief.

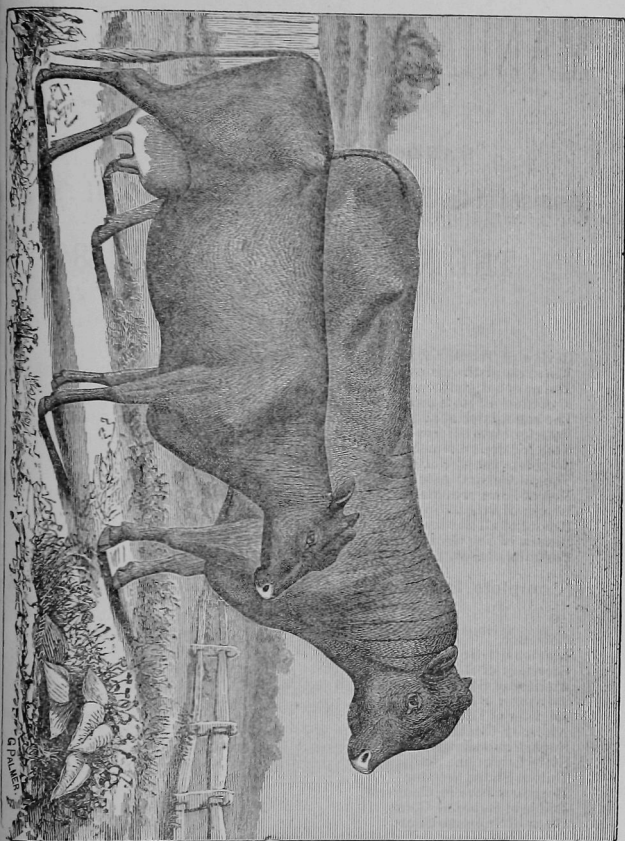
The first importation of these cattle in any number into the United States was made in 1873, by G. F. Taber, of Patterson, New York. The bull and cow shown on opposite page were among the first importations. The imported bull, Ravinewood Beau 160, and his calf Dexter 654, out of imported Ravinewood Belle 454, and Bouncer 459 have all been used by me in building up my herd.

The present season, 1884, I am using imported Prime Minister 545, and Prospero 732; the former is a Powell bull of the most perfect type and the latter was bred by Mr. Lofft, is a son of the celebrated Rollick 558 and grandson of the more distinguished Slasher 577.

When I brought my herd of Red Polled cattle to Iowa in 1882, they were so far as I know the first cattle of that breed ever brought to the State. My herd now numbers 17 head of imported and thorough-bred Red Polls and about 50 head of one-half and three-fourth bloods. It is claimed for these cattle that they are better adapted to general use than any other breed. Combining extra beef with good rich milk, without vicious horns, they commend themselves to the general farmer, the dairyman, and for family use.

L. F. ROSS,

Iowa City, Iowa.



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