

has gained by that family good citizens, who serve her in the most useful and brilliant manner.

“Barthelemy at length felt that the period of his dissolution was approaching: yet, although exhausted with fatigue, and bending beneath the weight of eighty years, his sensibility was still vigorous, and your just decrees made the closing scene of his life happy.

“When he heard that you were endeavouring to repair the ills under which so many thousands of innocent men laboured, he lifted up his hands towards heaven, and exclaimed—“Glory to God—honour to the national convention—I have lived long enough!”

“In the present posture of affairs, the country demands all your attention. I shall, therefore, confine myself to request a favour due to the *manes* of Barthelemy. One of his nephews, I do not mean your respectable ambassador at Basle, but the citizen Courçay, has for twenty-five years discharged the duties of a son to his uncle, and for a long time fulfilled all the functions of keeper of the medals and antiquities of the national cabinet. I move, therefore, that the citizen Courçay be appointed to that office, which he has already proved himself so able to fill!”

This motion was referred to the committee of public instruction, and a report soon after made, in consequence of which Barthelemy Courçay was appointed successor to his uncle.

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## ROBERT BAKEWELL.

ROBERT BAKEWELL, a yeoman of considerable property, and author of a new system relative to the breed of domestic animals, was born, in 1726, at Dishley, in Liecestershire, on the paternal farm which afterwards became his constant residence, and the scene of all his improvements. His education was such as is generally bestowed on people of his rank in life, and extended

no further than to writing and arithmetic; but he enjoyed the advantage of an early professional initiation in husbandry, under the auspices of a father, who was a man of a strong and inquisitive mind, and the orderly excellence of whose agricultural labours had long distinguished him as the ablest cultivator of his district. The elder Bakewell died in 1760, but the management of the farm was committed to the son many years before, and at his father's death he had witnessed a series of successful experimental practice, both in stock-breeding and husbandry.

That the younger Bakewell was actuated by that strong mental *stimulus* which is the certain indication of original genius, is evinced by a constant eccentric activity, from which resulted discoveries and improvements in his profession, and a decided superiority, both of plan and execution, over his contemporaries; who, indeed, far from aiming at rivalry and competition, implicitly submitted to his decisions. Eminently fitted as he was by natural disposition, and even personal appearance, for the precise character in life in which he chanced to be placed, there is no doubt but he would have soared far above the common level, had fate allotted him a post of much higher distinction; and the writer of this memoir has been assured by a man of science, in the habits of intimacy with him, that although illiterate, and appertaining to a class proverbially devoid of curiosity, he would listen to a philosophical problem with that eager curiosity and ardent desire of information peculiar to original minds alone.

The grand principles adopted by Bakewell in stock-breeding and tillage, namely, that "Like will produce its like," and that "Animal manure is the main science of husbandry," are allowed to be just, but his application of these leading maxims was far from being incontrovertible. Those peculiar notions, to which it is difficult to subscribe, are, that the quintessence alone of manures (which he supposed to reside in the dried and exhausted ashes) is of any benefit to the land; and that the barrel-shape, which presents rotundity in the centre, with a gradual tapering towards either extremity, is the most advantageous form for domestic animals. In pursuance of the first notion, he suffered his dung heap to lie so long (perhaps two years and upwards), and

to go through such a continued process of fermentation, that it was fairly reduced to the consistence of a stercoreary snuff, and in this state he laid it upon his land; which surely would not have been the worse for that fat and incrassating substance, inhaled by the atmosphere during so long a period. Granting even, for form's sake, that the real essence of manure had been thus procured, yet the extreme difficulty of obtaining an adequate quantity, joined to its unavoidable waste in the application, form an insuperable bar to the utility of the practice. The barrel shape of cattle, a mere factitious form, and perhaps not natural to any of the indigenous breeds of this island, is liable to the solid objections of producing in animals intended for slaughter a disproportion of fat to the quantity of lean, which is a public loss; and in those destined for labour the waddling gait of a duck, in the place of a firm, facile, and rectilinear mode of progression.

He, however, adhered to his favourite ideas, with a full share of that paternal prejudice and pertinacity which is said to distinguish the founders of systems. His cattle, selected and reared with immense care and cost, assumed that stately and beautiful appearance which charmed a whole country where such a sight was perfectly novel; and the cultivators, being admitted in the critical moment of the animals' bite, were equally ready either to be duped or instructed. The idea was new, and the *rationale* of it centred in the invention and judgment of a single enterprising individual. It could not be supposed that his purchasers and disciples were first-rate judges of the true lines of animal proportion, or that they could artfully and scientifically combine the ideas of beauty and utility; for it is well known that these are still extremely variable and uncertain among our cattle-fanciers. The truth is, a large quantity of beautiful and valuable stock was distributed about the country from Dishley, and of this there was no small share, the sole value of which consisted in a sleek and bulky appearance, conferred solely by the great care and expence of the breeder. These animals having cost the purchasers, or those who hired them, considerable sums, it was a necessary consequence that their produce would

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be valuable in proportion; and Bakewell shrewdly observed, "that the only way to have capital stock is to keep the price high."

In aid of these natural and legitimate causes of the high prices of the Dishley breed, others were superadded, which, although but too common in all matters of bargain and sale, are not considered as being so candid. A sort of monopoly was created among the fraternity of improvers, who adopted all the arts, and put in practice all the tricks, of jockies and horse-dealers. Sham contracts and purchases were made at wonderful high prices; puffers were regularly engaged to spirit up the buyers at auctions; and a young lord or gentleman, with his pockets well lined, and his senses intoxicated by the fumes of improvement, was as sure to be imposed upon by these as by the gentry at Newmarket. The pens of itinerant agriculturists, whose knowledge of live stock originated merely in their writing about it, now took up the cause, and blazoned forth the transcendent qualities of the "new Leicesters." In consequence of this the country began to consider these oracular decisions as orthodox. Not so the town. The sages of Smithfield, before whom the fatted animals of all counties pass in hebdomadal review, and who try the merits of all by the unerring standard of the balance, although they were compelled to purchase the commodity, never approved the *barrel-shape*, or the Dishley improvements. They pretend at this hour that the original breed of Leicester sheep was more advantageous, in point of public utility, than the new one; and that the Lincoln, a branch of the ancient family of Teeswater, is, in respect to form, superior to all. They do not even scruple to assert that the feeding of Dishley stock has never fairly repaid the cultivator.

It is certain that Mr. Bakewell was not enriched, notwithstanding his unremitting exertions, the admirable œconomy of his farms, and the vast sums which he obtained for his cattle. But this is to be attributed entirely to the generous style of hospitality which he constantly maintained at Dishley, where every inquisitive stranger was received and entertained with the most frank

frank and liberal attention. The expanded heart of this man demanded more capacious means for the gratification of its generous desires; and it is evident, from his conduct, that he was ambitious rather of the honour than the profit of his calling.

After what has been so freely asserted respecting the errors of the *Bakewellian system*, the mind of the reader may well be supposed anxious to inquire wherein consisted the merit of this famous breeder, and in what mode can he be said to have served his country. Notwithstanding his practical failure, Bakewell was a greater friend to improvement than any other man, either before or since his time; by promulgating to the nation the true principle of all excellence in breeding, in the axiom that "like produces its like," and proving it by his practice; by exciting activity and emulation in a class of society perhaps the most indolent and prejudiced of all others; by making cattle-breeding depend on principle, in opposition to the old *lazy cock and hen*\* system of the little farmer, which would absolutely have starved our increased population; in fine, by opening, and rendering passable, a road which will in the end lead to perfection. His system has been sedulously pursued; models of the larger horned cattle have been produced, in point of form absolutely bordering on perfection; and the business of rearing live stock is, at this instant, followed with enthusiasm by the most illustrious characters in the kingdom.

The instructive conversation of his father, and a perusal of the farming and cattle treatises of Ellis of Gaddeſden, were the first incentives to improvement experienced by our rural philosopher. Looking around him he beheld nothing worthy of remark, but a stupid and indolent adherence to old customs; a farming practice without order or economy; the land foul and starved for want of stock, or stocked with shabby and ill-sorted animals; and a bare living obtained where, with an enlightened and

\* By the *cock and hen* system is intended an allusion to those Cockney cultivators who write with such raptures about the *little farmers of former days*, and the *vast flocks of poultry* they sent to market. Poultry, always an expensive luxury, will probably appear, on a fair calculation, to be invariably a loss to a small farmer.

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Spirited improvement, fortune might have been acquired. Having now conceived certain theoretic notions, with a characteristic spirit of sagacity and enterprize, he determined to submit them to the test of experiment, previously to their adoption as fixed principles. He accordingly made occasional tours through the best cultivated parts of the island, especially those most celebrated for their respective breeds of cattle; he also visited Ireland, more than once, for the same purpose. He viewed on the spot the use and commencement of that cheap, expeditious, and effective mode of husbandry practised in Norfolk, which has since become so deservedly famous; and on that model, and the neat and orderly systems of Holland and Flanders, which he afterwards surveyed, he founded his own, in no respect inferior, and in many far superior to the celebrated originals.

Nothing, either of great or inferior consequence, in rural economics, escaped his indefatigable research; and, from repeated observation of that most beneficial practice, he at length formed a very complete plan of irrigation, or conducting of water over meadow land, calculated for his own situation at Dishley. As a striking proof of the inventive and useful turn of this man's mind, it is recorded, that a stream, brought for the purpose of irrigation from the upper grounds, was applied to the conveyance of floats of turneps to the homestead for the use of the cattle. Thus labour and cartage were saved, and the attendants in the yards received from the favourable tide of this canal, of various uses, whole cargoes of the needful commodity ready washed to their hand. Another singularity, worthy of notice, attended Bakewell's plan of irrigation: his unenlightened neighbours, farmers of the old school, who, whilst they looked over his hedge and saw him ploughing up his grounds, in the most complete and advantageous manner, with only two horses and a driver, were at the instant employing four, or perhaps six, with two attendants, upon precisely the same soil, affected to be much alarmed lest the water, which Bakewell collected upon his land to such an immense profit, might, by an accidental inundation, poison theirs; and they even threatened, nay, it is said, actually commenced, a prosecution against him on this account.

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The Lancashire long-horned cattle, the Teeswater and Lincoln sheep, the Berkshire pigs, in short all the original and best breeds of the island, now supplied Dishley with well selected individuals, in order to mix and produce a variety, according to the precise ideas of this systematic projector, and thus attain a profitable superiority both in respect to figure and quality. He accordingly went to work to diminish bone and length, or, in his own pithy phrase, "to substitute profitable flesh for useless bone." Fineness of bone, he argued, and reduction of frame, would produce fineness of flesh, aptitude to fatten, and diminution of offal. The spontaneous tendency to pinguetion would also conduce to quietude of disposition in the animal, and to the more economical and easy satisfaction of the appetite.

The Dishley breed of horses originated in that of Flanders, where Mr. Bakewell selected the most valuable stock of this kind he could meet with at a very considerable price; and he was often accustomed to relate, with great good-humour, that he had once met with a Dutchman who refused any money for a favourite mare. His partiality for large horses and inattention to the racing kind, of such indispensable use in this country, are matters of sufficient notoriety; while his offer, some years since, of a huge black cart horse, which was exhibited to the king and at Tattersal's, as a proper stallion for the produce of saddle-horses, was justly considered as one of the most prominent errors of his judgment\*.

The father lived long enough to observe the dawning success of his son, and is said to have expressed the most heart-felt satisfaction, and sanguine hopes, at the prospect. Some time previously to the old gentleman's death, the *new Leicester sheep* were sold, by private contract, at two, three, and some few at four guineas each. Bakewell then, with truly public spirited views, began to let out his rams among his neighbours at the low price of fifteen or twenty shillings apiece for the season. But so sudden and conspicuous was the improvement of the neighbouring flocks, both in substance and elegance of form, that the fame of the Dishley rams was rapidly diffused

\* His own stallions, however, were usually let by the season, at the rate of one hundred guineas and upwards.

around, and extended even to foreign countries. Their price, therefore, both for hire and purchase, augmented in a proportionate degree. The sum paid for the use of one of these for a season was soon increased to twenty-five guineas, and from that rate (so great had now become the fame of his stock) experienced a gradual rise to the amount of near five hundred pounds! But, as an instance of singularly great emolument in this way, the ram named the *two-pounder* earned his proprietor, in one season, eight hundred guineas, exclusive of his duty to his own seraglio; the reward of which, being reckoned in proportion, would have produced the enormous total of twelve hundred guineas.

In the mean time the character of the *new Leicester oxen* held even pace with that of the sheep, and commanded prices proportionally great. They were imported by the cultivators of Ireland, with a view to improvement; and some found their way to the continent, even as far as Russia, where they were much admired for their stateliness and beauty. A considerable number of the Dishley bulls and heifers were exposed to sale at the horse auction at Tatterfal's, where those of the finest form obtained high prices.

As an additional proof to foreigners of the wealth and spirit of improvement in this fortunate country, and with the view of handing down to posterity the remembrance of such extraordinary events, it will be proper to adduce some more facts respecting the prices obtained for this famous breed of cattle. Mr. Fowler, of Rollright in Oxfordshire, began his improvements by hiring a few cows and a bull from Dishley. At the sale of his effects, after his death, his stock of large horned cattle alone raised a sum of money equal in value to the fee simple of his farm: fifteen head of them were sold at an average price of one hundred and sixty-four pounds each, making a gross amount of two thousand four hundred and sixty-four pounds.

At the sale by auction of the flock of Mr. Paget of Ibstock (for many years a breeding confederate of Bakewell's), one bull produced four hundred guineas, and a sixth share of the same was, some time after, disposed of for one hundred. A two year old heifer fetched 84 guineas; two hundred and eleven ewes and theave sheep brought three thousand three hundred and fifteen guineas,  
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at an average price of seventeen guineas each; while one particular lot of ewes, in number five, was sold by themselves for three hundred and ten pounds. Many readers will readily presuppose a great deal of risk and uncertainty, and no little of the inveigling power of imagination, in speculative purchases like these; for real *bona fide* purchasers they were: and to prove such are not singular in their judgment, a certain high-bred Dishley heifer, which cost the fortunate buyer fourscore pounds, was actually valued on her journey homewards, by a jury of common farmers, at eight.

The author of this article himself, a thorough paced amateur, has bought new Leicester heifers at ten pounds each, which, comparatively, were not worth half that sum, either as milkers or for any other purpose. But the following anecdote will evince the opinion of the law in this case: Mr. Bakewell let a bull for the season to a certain gentleman who desired to improve his stock. The gentleman died in the interim; and so little account was made of this high-bred animal, that he was actually sold, with the rest of the effects, and obtained no more than eight pounds, having been purchased by a butcher, who slaughtered and sold his flesh at two-pence halfpenny per pound. Bakewell laid his action, and recovered two hundred pounds for this same bull, and fifty for the use of him during the season.

We have already mentioned the cheering old English hospitalities of Dishley. Every thing about the farm was arranged with admirable order, and at the same time so calculated as to satisfy curiosity. Even the shew of the cattle was conducted with the most pleasing and interesting regularity. The sheep were exhibited singly in a small house, adapted to that purpose, having two opposite doors, one for admission, the other for retreat; and the inferior were always introduced first, that the imagination of the inspector might be raised by degrees to the utmost pitch at the exhibition of the last and finest. The policy of Bakewell also induced him to conceal those rams, which were already engaged, from the view, and ineffectual coveting, of those who were desirous to hire. Among his curiosities he

shewed a visitor the rump and sirloin of a cow more than twenty years of age, which were four inches thick of fat; and yet the animal did not die completely fat. Also two pieces of bacon; one of a large boned hog, the other of his improved breed of very small bone: the latter was eleven inches thick to the bone, the former not half that thickness.

The kindly quietness and docility of the animals at Dishley have been fancifully attributed to the happy conformation of their bodies; but, whatever weight may subsist in such reasoning, an adequate cause is immediately to be found, for the effect, in the simple diet and orderly management of the beasts, added to the amiable tenderness and humanity of their master. If the position laid down by our last veterinary writer\*, who has taken great pains to elucidate and determine the rights of brute animals, and to inculcate the duties of benevolence, be just, we need look no further to appreciate the moral excellence of Bakewell's character. His tenderness for the feelings of animals was deserving of much praise: he corrected with the utmost severity of rebuke, and, at the same time, with the most applicable, short, and convincing arguments, the savage and unfeeling wantonness of butchers and drovers. But his own example was a living volume of precepts, daily read and followed by all around him; and the effect, both upon men and brutes, was most grateful to the eye of philosophy. It was pleasing to behold an animal of elephantic bulk conducted, from one end of the farm to the other, with a packthread held by a boy of seven years of age; the animal gleaming content from his countenance, and exhibiting a seeming conviction that nothing but good was intended him.

Robert Bakewell, having nearly completed his seventieth year, died on the 1st day of October, 1795, after a tedious sickness, to which he submitted with a constitutional and philosophical fortitude. He was never married. In person he was tall, broad in the chest and shoulders, and in his general figure exactly tallying with our ideas of the respectable old English

\* "Humanity and benevolence to helpless beasts, is (in general) a certain indication of generosity of soul, and a natural love of justice." Lawrence on Horses, Vol. I. p. 164.

yeoman.

yeoman. His countenance, which was benevolent, exhibited, at the same time, intelligence and sagacity. His manners had a rustic, yet polite and pleasing frankness, which rendered him acceptable to all ranks. He delivered himself on every occasion neatly, in few words, and always to the purpose; and his anecdotes and stories, of which he possessed a considerable fund, were listened to with much pleasure.

It will not be expected that a man of this cast had made many or profound political reflections; but the native strength and instructive sagacity of his mind had set him far above the sophistry of either religious or political superstition; and Bakewell lived and died one of the warmest supporters and staunchest defenders of liberty.

Need we observe that he had defects, since he was human? The most prominent one for which he was remarked was a considerable share of that quality usually designated by the name of cunning; and even this, perhaps, was acquired, being the vice of his profession. Would to heaven that many of those immortal heroes, on whose memory we lavish such high-flown eulogiums, had possessed half the virtues, and been degraded by as few vices, as this breeder of cattle!

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THE LIFE OF

THE REV. ANDREW KIPPIS, D. D.

THIS very respectable and learned divine was born at Nottingham, on the 28th of March 1725. Both by the father's and the mother's side he was descended from ejected ministers. His father, Robert Kippis, who was a hosier at Nottingham, died when he was only five years of age; after which event he was placed under the care of his grandfather, Andrew Kippis, of Sleaford, in the county of Lincoln, who died in 1748, at the age of eighty-four. At an early period, pains were taken to

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