CHAPTER XXVII.

MY OWN FAMILY.

"He that is faithful in that which is least,
Is faithful also in much."

The next time Mr. Philips came to see me he said, "Now Queen, I am not going to tell you any more news until after you tell me all about yourself and your family. But first I want to tell you how greatly pleased I am to see you in such good condition and looking so happy and contented and so well cared for. Another thing I want to tell you is that I came here with the firm intention of trying to buy you and take you back home with me, that I might have the pleasure of caring for you the rest of your life. But since I have seen how well you are cared for and how kindly you are treated, and how attached you are to your family here of which you are the head and are so happy in their companionship, I think it would be selfish in me to take you away from them and such a good home. I often think what great pleasure I would have taken in caring for you and your daughter Phrosia had I not sold you, and in starting with you and her another herd of Guernseys, which, with the added experience of raising a good herd and what I have since had, would have excelled my old herd. I made a great mistake in selling it, but I have learned Queen, after many years of experience, some of it quite expensive too, that when you make a mistake don’t spend much time looking back at it; reason the matter over in your mind, then look forward to the future in hope of better things. If anything happens don’t mourn over
it long, but get some lesson out of it and be thankful it is no worse. Mistakes are usually lessons of wisdom, the past cannot be changed. It is a great satisfaction to me to know that Mr. Sagendorph thinks a great deal of you, and will give you the best of care as long as you live. Mr. Philips also told me that Mr. Sagendorph intends to keep me well as long as I am able to eat and enjoy my nice box stall, and when I can no longer do that he will give me a painless death, and not allow a butcher to kill and skin me, as I once saw done with an old cow in my young days, but will give me a nice burial in a pleasant place, as a reward for the good I have done in the world. I was glad to hear this, knowing that I have always tried to do good and do right, and it made me feel that my work had been appreciated.

I told Mr. Philips the best I could of our lives since we had been here. The first great event I had to tell about was sad news and, at the time it occurred, made us at Alta Crest, feel bad. The first Spring we were here, when the blossoms had fallen from the fruit trees and the pastures were luxuriant and a beautiful green, and we cows were doing our best to produce all the milk we could to pay our owner for the care and feed he had bestowed on us and for the kind treatment he and his men had given us the past winter, one of the men came in one beautiful morning and reported that my eldest daughter, Yeksa’s Queen was dead in the pasture. This news was a great shock to all of us and quite a loss to Mr. Sagendorph as she was a valuable cow. Mr. Sagendorph said he was glad it was no worse, and he seemed to be thankful that the rest of us were doing so well.

My little Phrosia, born in the car was growing nicely and was a very pretty heifer. Queen of Salem, my granddaughter, had given birth to a fine heifer calf named Miss Simplicity, No. 14,531. A little later on we discovered another new-comer in Queen Deette’s stall, so I was again a grandmother and great-grandmother. The little stranger was a handsome grandson.
Mr. Sagendorph said he was fit to head any herd. His name is King Dodo, No. 8,257. His sire was a noted animal, called Par Excellence, that had for a dam the noted western cow, Fantine 2d, owned by Charles Solverson, of Nashota, Wis. Par Excellence was also the sire of Queen of Salem’s next calf which being a heifer, was named Phemie, No. 15,437, and we, that are related to her thought she was a very promising young miss. But our joy and happiness was of short duration for another sad event occurred which cast a deeper gloom over Alta Crest than the death of Yeksa’s Queen had done. It was the death by that awful disease so dreaded by owners of good cows, milk fever, of my eldest and favorite granddaughter, the pet and favorite of the farm, Queen of Salem. It was a sorrowful time because everyone, cattle and people loved her and were proud of her. She was so beautiful, gent’le and lovable. Expert veterinarians did all they could for her, but from the very start she seemed doomed. But Mr. Sagendorph, who always seems disposed to make the best of everything, said, “Well, I am glad I have her two handsome and well bred daughters, Miss Simplicity and Phemie left. Both of them now or soon will grace the pages of the advanced Guernsey register.”

All of us cattle here, both old and young, are kindly treated and made just as comfortable as a kind, generous heart, good judgment and wealth can possibly make us. We are so comfortable that it makes me often think of how much truth there is in these lines, which I heard one of the men repeating: “Cow comfort constantly contributes to a continuous current of cash and contentment.” And, I think, there is no animal that receives more benefit in her daily work from contentment than the truly contented cow. Like the man who plants an orchard, she is doing something for posterity, her work is far-reaching. Great records which astonish the world are merely the results of the continuous good work done by the well bred, well fed, contented cow and her intelligent owner.
QUEEN DEETE, No. 9794, A. G. C. C.

Now, for some of our achievements since coming to Alta Crest. Beside my record, which I have already told you about, there are several others which I am very proud of. First, of course, is the record of my second daughter, Queen Deette.

Queen Deette, No. 9,794, was the first Guernsey cow in Wisconsin to enter the advanced register on a seven days test, she being No. 11. She stands second in both milk and butter production in advanced register to date for cows of the Yeksa family. She also stands third in milk production and sixth in butter production in the advanced register to date in a twelve months test.

There is, I think, something singular, even marvelous in the similarity of the records of these two cousins. Queen Deette is two years younger than Yeksa Sunbeam, there is only five pounds difference in their weights, Queen Deette being the heavier, she weighing eleven hundred and eighty-five pounds. What is the reason for this similarity? It is not from similarity of locality, environment, breeding, feed and water, because Yeksa Sunbeam was bred by a Minnesota man on the high banks of the Minnesota river and fed on the grass natural to that soil, with hard water to drink, and Queen Deette was bred by a Wisconsin man on the high wooded hills of La Crosse county and pastured on blue grass and clover and watered from a living spring of soft water, even the atmosphere was dissimilar. It was not a freak of nature for freaks are not sure transmitters; therefore there can be but the one true cause, that of blood; the blood of the Sir Champions which courses through their veins and which was transmitted to them by my brother and me, of which we received a double portion from our father and mother, Puck and Yeksa, who were the son and daughter of Sir Champion XVI.

The more I see the results of such breeding and the more I think about it the more I am convinced that Mrs. Foster was right when she said that an animal cannot have too much of
one kind of blood, providing it is good blood. I think too it is a
good lesson to the doubting, timid breeders and will teach them
that “nothing ventured, nothing won,” and that a faint heart
never won the greatest success. But, there is one thing I
know; that is, if my breeder had not been fearless and had the
courage of her convictions which she followed, instead of fol-
lowing the advice of old breeders who were following the old
beaten track, there would have been no noted Yeksa family
founded, with a trio of us, that have done our best to per-
petuate it and to fulfill the prophecy of its founder.

Queen Deb was a daughter of Sammy’s Sampson and said
to be one of my handsomest granddaughters, which she could
not help but be, as her mother is Queen Deette, who is noted
for her great beauty; her great individuality and remarkable
power of transmitting her excellent characteristics. Queen
Deb in an official test, when twenty months old, made eleven
pounds of butter in seven days.

I then showed him, in another near-by stall, my daughter
Phrosia, No. 14,532, advanced register No. 190, that was born
in the car on my way to Massachusetts, who is now a cow. In
a twelve month’s test, when two years old, she gave seven
thousand seven hundred and eighty-six and fifty one-hundredths
pounds of milk, yielding four hundred and three and eighty-
nine one-hundredths pounds of butter fat, equal to four
hundred and seventy-one pounds of butter. Mr. Philips said
she was a fine cow that Mr. Sagendorph ought to be proud of.

Then there is Ferndale, No. 13,868, a daughter of Woodfern
and Lord Yeksa, that at two years and three months old was
given No. 185 in the advanced register, having given during her
test six thousand three hundred and six pounds of milk which
yielded three hundred and fifty-nine and thirty one-hundredths
pounds of butter fat, equal to four hundred and eighteen and
fifty one-hundredths pounds of butter.

Next is Miss Simplicity, No. 14,531, a daughter of Queen of
Salem. She won first prize as a two-year-old heifer at the
New England fair in 1904. She is No. 215 in the advanced register. Next is Phemie, No. 15,437. She is now being tested for the advanced register and will grace its pages when her year is up. Her dam, Queen of Salem, was bred by A. J. Philips. She was a granddaughter of Hill’s Benjamin. (See

MISS SIMPLICITY No. 14531, A. G. C. C.
Daughter of Queen of Salem. At 2 years and 2 months gave 8659 lbs. of milk which made 380.30 lbs. of butter fat, equivalent to 444 lbs. of butter. Bred and owned by A. H. Sagendorph.

her cut page 186 and his cut page 160.) She was tested for the advanced register by her owner, A. H. Sagendorph, and entered it with 8,696 pounds of milk, which made 393.67 pounds of fat, equal to 495 pounds of butter.

Then, there is my granddaughter, Alta Crest Yeksa, No.
19,206, Queen Deette’s daughter, a beautiful heifer that has Primitive for a sire. We are all proud of her and all visitors who come to the barn admire her. She is one of the herd that Mr. Sagendorph will not put a price on.

Mr. Philips then told me that in writing my history he was going to show pictures of three other great cows not of Yeksa

QUEEN NELLIE, No. 13970.
Daughter of Queen Avis. At 2 years and 8 months she gave 7064 lbs. of milk, which made 388 lbs. of butter fat, equivalent to over 450 lbs. of butter. In advanced register. Bred and owned by A. H. Sagendorph.

blood. First, the imported cow Tricksey, the dam of Hill’s great bull Benjamin. Next Mr. Gill’s cow Glenwood Girl 6th, (See page 218) that has produced some excellent young animals, and third, the imported cow Hayes Rosie, that holds second place in milk production in advanced register and fourth in butter production to date in a twelve months test. He said, also, he would have pictures of two great horses and two great apple trees that showed their individuality.
SUFFICIENCY. Son of Queen Vashti and Primitive. Dropped when Vashti was 15 years old.
PRIMITIVE. Sire of Sufficiency.
I then told him about my handsome son Suficiency, No. 9,771, that was in a stall close to mine, and that I heard Mr. Sagendorph say he expected him to make a grand record as a sire. He was nineteen months old at this time, and when Mr. Philips looked at him he said he was as great a young bull as he had ever seen and showed Puck's and my individuality from the ground up, and said he wished Mrs. Foster could feast her eyes on him, and that he never saw an animal as vigorous and full of life. While he was looking at him, when tied in his stall, Suficiency felt so good and jolly that he jumped up off of all four feet at once.

Mr. Philips was, also, greatly pleased with Queen Deette’s eight-months-old calf, Alta Crest Yeksa, and her daughter Queen Deb, and said they were hard to duplicate in any herd, and that Queen Deette was as handsome as any Guernsey cow he had ever seen. He was glad, too, to see Fill Pail again, my old companion in Wisconsin and on my journey to Alta Crest, and when I told him she was still giving eight thousand pounds of milk each year, which sold at six cents a quart, he said it was a good lesson to farmers and ought to encourage them to raise good grade cows, as she was a three-fourths Guernsey and sold for one hundred dollars, and has paid for herself several times over.

Mr. Philips appeared to be very much pleased with the way he found everything here, at Alta Crest, with the fine new barns, kept clean and sweet that we had to live in, and the way we were fed and cared for, and said, "You are surely in a cow paradise on earth. Mrs. Foster will be delighted to hear how well you are cared for and how happy and contented you are, and how grandly all of Yeksa’s descendants have fulfilled her prophesy as to the great name they would make in the world. I tell you what it is, Queen, any man who invests his money in the breeding of good cattle, as Mr. Sagendorph and Mr. Rietbrock have done, is doing more for the good of the public than he, usually, ever gets credit for. He is not only
helping himself, but is helping every man in the community, as such men not only scatter good breeding animals and breed better cows, but bring better milk and cream to the creameries which insures a better output, the result of which is much better prices. Such work sets men to thinking, and it is the thinkers that have always been and always will be the reformers.” I never claimed any relationship to that class of animals now so much despised, called dual purpose cattle.

Our great grandsire, Sir Champion No. 38, was considered by those breeders and importers of Guernseys, S. C. Kent and Mark Hughes, the most valuable bull that ever crossed the Atlantic up to 1883. And that noted veteran breeder Ezra Michenor of Pennsylvania, said that he was to the Guernsey cattle of the United States what Hamiltonian No. 10 was to the trotting horses of America. Our grandsire Sir Champion XVI, was also a grand animal, noted for his prepotent powers, whose blood coursed in the veins of both our parents, Puck and Yeksa, both of whom possessed the same wonderful powers of transmitting their excellent characteristics and great individuality which we, their descendants, have perpetuated by successfully transmitting them to our descendants, as is shown by the records of their wonderful achievements. And Yeksa’s Prince, my mother’s only son, achieved greater success as a sire than any of his ancestors. When he was used to head the valuable herd of Guernseys at the Minnesota Agricultural College, Prof. T. L. Haecker, who is considered a good judge and a good handler of dairy cattle, pronounced him an excellent specimen of his breed and fit to head any herd, and the wonderful achievement of his famous daughter, Yeksa’s Sunbeam, has proved that Professor Haecker’s estimate of him was correct. And had it not been for an accident my daughter Queen Deette might have been second to his daughter’s achievement in milk production.

When I think of what I once heard told about a Minnesota subscriber to Hoard’s Dairyman saying that he lost the best
ten years of his life chasing after and breeding dual purpose
cows which never improved as milkers, and that the men who
recommended it are now ashamed of it, I feel glad that we
belong to a different class of cattle, to the special purpose,
dairy class of the Guernsey breed, and believe, more than I
ever did before, that Mrs. Foster was right when she used to
say, "blood will tell"