breath of relief and begin the new year with the old leaf fluttering to the wind as ever before. Because corn costs 32 cents to produce it, it is no evidence that 32 cents is all it is worth. You buy a watch of “A” for $5 and “B” at once offers you $10, you attempt to hand it to “B” and drop the thing on a stone walk, how much do you lose. Buy corn, if cash and credit don’t blush to meet you, buy corn until you get a start and when you get a start sell your hay and stay started. Manure your land with some one’s grain who don’t see as you see, and the more grain of any man’s raise that you feed the more cattle you can keep on your pasture. Some one says, “cattle don’t bring anything in the fall, generally speaking right. They do not command a high price, that is, such cattle as are usually turned off. Shy-sighted farmers are appalled when the first snow covers the ground, they have miscalculated, no room, unexpectedly short crops, low exchequer, taxes close at hand, cattle unfitted for market, no preparation for this emergency, they must go, feeders, stockers, sea’aways, old cows are sold to third rate butchers or hurried to the stock yard.

Bargain drivers are anxious to minister to your wants. But our steer is not a competitor to this class of cattle, neither is he a competitor to the great flood of western cattle. The local respectable butcher must have good beef to sandwich with the great fall clearing out. He is willing to pay something near a fair figure for that which justifies his pretentions. He wants something good to hang on the first peg next the door, turn to a summary of the market reports for the past eleven years and as a rule you will find the November and December quotations low. But near the top you will find good cattle bringing good prices. Many of us make a great mistake in fitting cattle for the block, not big cattle but fat cattle. Don’t keep a steer three or four years to make him big. If you can combine size and finish so much the better, but by all means have them fat if you want to get the top price, 1200 lb. steers often outsake those which weigh three quarters of a ton. For this class of cattle the November and December markets rarely fall behind that of March and June and often outrank it. Will the plan work! try it, any plan that has in view the hanging of a good quality of meat on Chicago and New York hooks at a fair profit is worth the trying, you have the theory, what do you think of it.

Shorthorns, Past, Present and Future.
[By Fred. Hatch, Spring Grove, Ill]

When a man begins to advocate the merits of any particular breed of cattle he is not called upon to prove that those who keep some other breed are a little short of fools.

In preparing a paper on Shorthorns we find we have to do with a breed that has been more petted and exotalled and yet more abused than any other. In days gone by they were the cattle of the aristocracy and among cattle the aristocrats, but as numbers increased and fashion changed they have gradually shifted off to good farmers until over two thousand breeders are recording Shorthorns in the Herd books of today. They were the pioneer pedigree cattle that gained a foot-hold in this country and their records were first commenced in the United States by Lewis F. Allen of Buffalo, N. Y., as early as 1846.

It may be worthy of note that no less a personage assisted in compiling their early records than our present president of the United States: we find in the preface of Vol. V published in 1861 the statement that in the compilation of the 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th Vol. of this work “I take much pleasure in expressing my acknowledgments to the kindness, industry and ability of my young friend and kinsman Grover Cleveland Esq. of Buffalo, N. Y., a gentleman of the legal profession who has kindly assisted my labors in correcting and arranging the pedigrees for publication, and to him is a portion of the credit due for the very creditable display, which our American Shorthorns make before the agricultural public”.

With the advent of hard times came naturally a falling off in prices and a general dispersion of herds at public auction till the Shorthorns are no longer owned by companies and moneymed individuals, but by the farmer. Being then, as Warfield of Kentucky says, somewhat down there is generally a disposition to kick the long time champions of the bovine race. Doughty cavaliers that once were unheard of are now eager to break a lance with the petted and abused Durham. We are told by many that in large part they have departed.
from their former excellence that there are few or no good Shorthorns in America today and even that they never were all that they were trumped up to be: a few summers back even the poet sang something about bringing up “Shorthorn Calves on Jersey cream.” Let us see if they are really as black as they are painted or if they are the same grand red, white and roan of our fathers.

Though the Shorthorn has the oldest and most authentic history of any of the improved breeds yet its first origin is lost in obscurity.

We have, in the Princess tribe a clear line down to the dam of tribes bred by Mr. Stephenson, of Katton, Eng., in 1739 and suggestive evidence beyond that she was but one fair sample of the local herds at that date. And from facts obtained from history we are forced to the conclusion that really this cosmopolitan breed which adapts itself over the world so readily in successful amalgamation with the cattle of any country it may invade, is but a relic of the huts of the Benedictine monks the best pioneers of agriculture as far back as the Seventh century who could from their many connections over the world combine from all countries what was found to be the best in the native cattle and was originally imported in their hands across the North Sea; being a gradually grown up conglomerate of the best of all breeds with which these monks became acquainted during the course of accumulated centuries.

In ancient times the cow was kept more for her labor and milk and the production of beef did not so fully enter into the calculations of the agriculturalist, that impulse came with the increased demand for animal food among the manufacturing population, so when England became the leading manufacturing nation of the globe she also led all other nations in the line of beef cattle.

We shall scarcely be in danger of contradiction then when we say that the Shorthorn was first brought into notice in England by its compound character, its usefulness for any purpose and for all purposes rather than by its special and supreme usefulness for one purpose. Not alone its early maturity, not alone its extraordinary power of improving other breeds, not alone its sometimes enormous yield directly of milk, or indirectly of butter, brought the Shorthorn to the front: but it was the rare combination of these and other properties (such as easy adaptability to change of climate, small consumption of food in proportion to produce and a constitution strong and hearty) that gained for the Shorthorn its early and wide distribution over the British Islands and subsequently commended it to the favorable notice of our own stock breeders.

No breed is more elastic in its adaptation to the objects of its breeder and the circumstances of its life than the Shorthorn.

The type then which first came into prominence was a milk and beef animal in which the balance between dairy and grazing was more or less even.

Such a type was highly artificial, and therefore the tendency was to revert to one or the other of the simple types, to produce a dairy cow at the cost of the weight and rapid growth of flesh, or to produce a beef animal at the cost of the loss of milk.

Such cattle were bred by the pioneers of Shorthorn history. Bates, the Collings, Mason and others.

Such cattle were first imported to this country, cows with great udders, broad backs, prominent hips, tapering necks and inclined to be long faced. They were brought into the eastern and middle states from 1796 to 1830 where they have been kept quite true to the original type; but when the great companies for importing cattle were formed in Ohio and Kentucky in 1834 to 1854 and the cattle were brought to those great grazing districts, the change for fancy beef cattle began with us and soon turned many of our milk and beef animals on the beef side.

So many varieties, however, by this time had been imported, that by the year 1856, the United States possessed according to their number, as valuable a selection of Shorthorns as could be found in England itself.

From the earliest importations to the present time, the Shorthorn has increased in popularity, and prices have sometimes reached fabulous figures, many thousand dollars having been paid for an individual animal.

Up to within a few years the Shorthorn had the field to itself and a glorious work it did, then came its would-be rivals, the Hereford and Polled Angus for beef and the Holstein as a milker, they had been here before, but could
not stay, they were one purpose breeds and had to wait their time for accumulated wealth to handle them.

This, then, is the present of the Shorthorn, numbered by many thousands, valued at millions, scattered from Maine to Oregon, and from Wisconsin to Florida, between 6,000 and 7,000 of them thrown upon the public markets annually when times are dull with new and promising rivals in the hands of moneyed individuals and corporations, what shall their future be?

Three classes of breeders want cattle, those who look to beef alone, those who look to milk alone, and those who want both.

The Shorthorn has strong rivals in appealing to the first two classes, but is unsurpassed in claims to favor by the third; this third class outnumbers both the others.

The average good farmer in the West wants cattle both for beef and milk, he cannot afford to keep a cow a year simply to raise a calf; he cannot afford to disregard size and form for beef making.

The best specimens of the breed are unsurpassed as beef animals, and naturally the breed has good dairy qualities.

It always has been, and still is, the chief dairy breed of England in practice and at the dairy shows, taking more prizes than all other breeds combined.

There is a great home market among our own farmers not yet supplied, many thousands of pure bred bulls could be used, and nine out of ten have none.

The general farmer’s aim is to possess a cow, that at her best will fill the pail, and when dried off will rapidly pad her ribs with meal; for this purpose, no breed has ever been found that affords the requisite better than the improved Shorthorn, they have taken more prizes for beef than all other breeds combined, and many hundreds of cows have records of milk from 50 to 75 lbs per day for long periods; yet a cow that will milk abundantly and fatten heavily at the same time, will be broad over the crops and loaded with rounds when in full yield of butter and cheese, remains a desideratum—yet dances “Wil-o’ the Wisp” like in the distance.

Shrewd speculators have, from time to time, rushed different breeds as they saw their chance, and prices went up in accordance with the demand; but these booms no more last than does the tempest. When the air clears and we come to quiet times again the placid Short-