sale), describes the Wild cattle, and continues: A cross has recently been made, for the second time, with a bull of these Wild cattle on a pure short-horn cow, with the result that the first cross marks of the Wild animal were partially obliterated, while the second cross marks of the female parent were preserved, and all being what should be required in a pure short-horn breed; in the first cross marks of the Wild animal was more prepotent than the former, and would be an argument for the power to impart a very majestic outward character, which we may take to be the visible sign of robust constitution, and improved vital powers in general. Adam, not in frame, looked meagre, almost mean, and was rather the second-cross Short-horn bull at Kilburn. His brother-sow is described as all richness and masculine beauty, with ample weight. A Short-horn breed of long-established reputation, the cattle of the breed, three years or more in age, of a high class, bred, headed by a costly bull, attended the Kilburn sale, and, on May 4th, the week after his return from Northumberland, wrote to me (his letter is at this moment before me), describing that second-cross animal as "the grandest white bull I ever saw." What a breed, massive, yet active, the bull's descendants should make for American ranchers! What travelling powers they should inherit! Does it not seem a pity that hard book rules prevent the free use of such a bull, by excluding his progeny for five or four generations? It is to be hoped that the experiment may be continued upon a larger scale, perhaps repeated by fifteen between the two breeds, so as to fairly try whether permanent improvement may be got out of the union of the Short-horn with the Wild breed of Chillingham. 

FEEDING STEERS IN ENGLAND.

To the Editor of the Journal:

I note in your last issues some shrewd remarks on the "Early Feeding of Steers." This is a system I have ever strongly advocated, with pen and in practice. It is certainly a noble sight to see, as we do, on the borders of Herefordshire, the round, black, and white, two and three years old, turned out upon the meadows for final feeding. A grand lot, filling the eye of the proud owner, they will be; but consider how much it has cost him already to bring them to that site, and what a hole in the profit would the death of one make. It is a far more paying plan to keep the calf's flesh on from the beginning, the milk it takes cannot be surrendered, at more or less, from commencement to end of the year. Digital means drain the udder of its milk (in Essex each cow is reared to such a purchased calve), but can afford to spare the dairyman only one side. It should be kept in box, and allowed to run out with its dam; a very small meal suffices, with nice picking of hay, roots and grass, to keep it on the course of steady growth. As much change as possible of daily feeding, perfect cleanliness, the bed of straw, laid on closely-packed faggots, or paved boards, frequently renewed, an occasional washing all over with carbolic soap—a process that wonderfully supplies the skin—will bring your beast out at 16 months of age, at a regular profit of £35, but £24 is the usual run of ripe, kind, well-bred and carefully-fattened steers. And this may assuredly be looked upon as good pay. Wonderful, too, is the difference in the effect of manure and other manures employed. For instance, por upon manifold instances, unless we out upon manure as "the grandest white bull I ever saw." What a breed, massive, yet active, the bull's descendants should make for American ranchers! What travelling powers they should inherit! Does it not seem a pity that hard book rules prevent the free use of such a bull, by excluding his progeny for five or four generations? It is to be hoped that the experiment may be continued upon a larger scale, perhaps repeated by fifteen between the two breeds, so as to fairly try whether permanent improvement may be got out of the union of the Short-horn with the Wild breed of Chillingham.

EDINBURGH.
WM. HOUSMAN.

POULLED ABERDEEN OR ANGUS CATTLE.

ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY.

I have been privileged with the perusal of an unpublished letter from Mr. Darwin, dated Jan. 23, 1888—three months before his death—in which, responding to an inquiry as to the probable cause of the loss of horns, this distinguished naturalist wrote:

I have not bad time, during several years, to attend to the origin of the interesting subject of domestic animals. No one can give any explanation—although, no doubt, there is something more than the loss of hair, both loose strongly tending to be inherited, and probably that has occurred often since cattle were domesticated, though I can call to mind no one who has been in Paradise ages. Is there not a sub-breed of the so-called Wild Park cattle which is hornless? Dr. John Alexander Smith, Vice-President of the
Society of Antiquities of Scotland, and author of a series of valuable "Notes on the Ancient Cattle of Scotland," has expressed the belief that the absence of horns in certain breeds of cattle "is an accidental variety or peculiarity, which might occur in any domesticated herd." Professor Low, in his well known work on the Domesticated Animals of Great Britain, also expresses the opinion that the absence of horns is an accidental variety, which, although they may be found in small numbers, is not an inherent characteristic of the breed.

There is, however, a belief that the absence of horns is an inherent characteristic of the Polled breed. In the case of the Polled breed, the horns are rudimentary, and do not grow to any considerable size. The horns of the Polled breed are usually small and slender, and do not extend beyond the length of the head. They are usually present in the young of the breed, but they are usually shed by the age of one year.

In the case of the Polled breed, the absence of horns is an inherent characteristic. It is believed that the absence of horns is due to a specific gene, which is inherited from the ancient breed of cattle, the Friesian. The Friesian breed is believed to have been introduced into Scotland by the Romans, and it is believed that the Polled breed is a direct descendant of the Friesian breed.

The discovery of the Polled breed has been a great boon to the farmers of Scotland, as it is believed to be more hardy and resistant to disease than the horned breeds. It is also believed to be more efficient in milk production and meat yield.

In recent years, the Polled breed has become increasingly popular in Scotland, and it is now the most common breed of cattle in the country. It is believed that the Polled breed will continue to be an important part of the agricultural industry in Scotland for many years to come.