

Station, Farm, and Garden.

THIS is a special department of the QUEENSLANDER, and Contributions are invited from all quarters upon Stock and Station affairs, the Management of Cattle, general Farming and Gardening pursuits. A numerous body of practical men write for this page.

WE this week present our readers with a portrait of Mr. Joshua P. Bell's handsome young shorthorn bull, Rapid III. In our Christmas number we noticed the arrival of this fine animal from Melbourne, where he was purchased by Mr. William Kellett, at auction, for Mr. Bell, for 410 guineas. Rapid III, now 14 months old, is by Rapid, dam Double Daisy. Rapid was bred by Lady Pigot in 1871, sire Bythis (25,700), dam Dame Swift. His sire and dam were thus pure "Booths, the former through the "Bliss" and the latter through the "Farwell" tribe. Rapid was imported to Melbourne by Mr. McCulloch, having cost 1000 guineas in England, where he was placed first whenever exhibited, and carried off some of the best prizes offered in the United Kingdom. He was frequently referred to as one of the most perfect bulls of modern times. At the '74 Show of the National Society of Victoria, Rapid was placed first, not only by the judges, but by the unanimous opinion of all the visitors. Having met with an accident he had to be destroyed some six months ago, and Mr. Bell's bull is one of only three bulls of his got in Australia. Rapid III. presents a beautiful outline. He is a beautifully marked rich roan, good in all points, with massive though neat hind quarter, fine spring of rib, and great girth at heart. His horn—a point about which Australians are considered somewhat fastidious—is simply perfect.

MR. ANOUS MACKAY, the special Commissioner to Philadelphia, has forwarded from California to the Chief Inspector of Sheep here, two samples of fellmonger's wool from one of the establishments there. The samples are merino clothing, and classed as "superfine" and "extra" respectively. They are very far from being equal to our Australian ideas of "superfine" or "extra;" but the samples are of great value to us, nevertheless, as showing the quality of wool worked up into the finest fabrics of the manufactures of California. Taking them to be fair average samples, as no doubt they are, of the class of fine wool in demand at California, they afford us the best practical proof that we have in that port a market where many of our inland wools which are placed in the English markets as "medium" and "inferior," can be disposed of as extra superior. This may be considered the first practical proof of the wisdom of selecting Mr. Mackay to represent us in America. The samples are now in Mr. Gordon's office, and no doubt many who are interested in wool-growing will avail themselves of the opportunity of examining them.

WE have received from Mr. A. J. Hockings some of the fruit of his excellent mango, known as the "Daphne" of the Mauritius. The fruit is in perfection; is well grown, fully ripe, and of delicious flavor. He informs us that of many sorts of mangoes imported by him nearly twenty years ago, this kind is conspicuous for its early fruitfulness; layered trees blooming well the first year, and bearing the second. In a very few years we may expect to see this luscious fruit sent freely to market in all our northern coast towns and in Brisbane. Planting mangoes in this district requires some care and judgment, that they may not be exposed to risk of injury from frost; but if due regard be paid to this particular, and the planting become at all general, the fruit will soon become plentiful.

THE following report of the South Australian judges of wines, cordials, &c., made in Queensland, has been handed to us for publication by Mr. S. Webster, the exhibitor:—Rum, exhibited by Geo. Raff, Esq.—Commendable article, that of 1868 being the best. Bitters, exhibited by Medhurst and Co.—All three creditable productions, the champagne bitters being especially commendable. Cordials, exhibited by Medhurst and Co.—Are good colonial productions, the ginger wine, orange bitters, and raspberry vinegar, being of superior quality. Wines, exhibited by Jacob Kircher, G. Lambert, and J. R. and D. J. Childs, were much admired, the Assmanhausen red being a very superior claret, much better than the majority imported. Assmanhausen white, a good dry wine of a hock character. The whole well got up.—(Signed) A. HUBBLE, W. CRAWFORD, A. M'KENZIE, Judges.

VEGETABLES of all kinds thrive admirably in the Rosewood Scrub, and despite the unfavorable weather of the past season cauliflowers were grown to great perfection, and in large quantities, although from the want of a market and dearth and difficulty of carriage they could not be profitably disposed of. The broad Windsor bean, too, which in many places in Queensland loses its blossom without podding, grows here nearly as well as in England. The stems grow very strong, and being enarched, or turned down, the crop is very productive. This process seems to send the growth of the plant to the young pods when just forming, which is the critical time for the crop. Turnips, beet-root, and carrots, are successfully grown.



The Vineyards of the Downs.

(BY OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.)

SILBERBURG.

SILBERBURG, the property of Mr. Mauch, is situated at a short distance from Swan Creek, about eight miles from Warwick, and occupies a prominent position among the neighboring properties. Independent of the acreage formed for maize, hay, &c., there are nine acres of vines, seven of which are in full bearing, the remainder being vines of two-years old.

The principal varieties of White grapes grown are Reising and Sweet Water, and of Red Black Spanish (a variety of Mataro) and Hermitage. Mr. Mauch also grows, as table varieties, the Black Prince and Black Hamburg in great perfection.

On three acres the vines are ten years old, and these are planted at similar distances as the remainder of the vines, viz., five feet square. On four acres the vines are six years old. The other two acres, which will be in good bearing next year, are situated at a little distance from the older vineyard, but on a fine slope, and are the nucleus of eighteen acres, to be formed by degrees into a complete vineyard, as Mr. Mauch thoroughly believes in the progress and success of the wine interest at Warwick.

The soil of the vineyard is a sandy loam, the aspect easterly, and altogether admirably adapted for the purpose in view.

About two acres of the older vines are wired, which area it is proposed to increase next year.

At Silberburg may be noticed the system of topping the vine short at an early stage, and the consequent increase of fruit, whilst the vines themselves have the appearance of being well protected from external influences of both sun and rain, the lateral shoots being forced into growth by the sudden check to the otherwise rapid upward growth. The system is widely adopted in the southern vineyards, but the true "gooseberry bush" method has not yet obtained a place in our Queensland operations.

The crop of grapes this year at Mr. Mauch's has been abundant, and especial reference must be made to the three acres of old vines, bearing in a degree as to create astonishment even in the minds of those accustomed to see heavy crops in favorable seasons. The bunches were mostly hanging in an unbroken circle, the vine stem being literally obscured, and the foliage scarcely visible. From 10 lbs. to 15 lbs. of grapes on each vine would be a moderate calculation.

The bulk of the red wine made at Silberburg is from the Black Spanish, which gives a rough but rather thin wine by itself. The proprietor, however, intends to cultivate the Hermitage more extensively, and thereby produce a stronger wine.

The white wine may be pronounced a very fine hock, and bids fair—if it can be supplied in quantity—to supply a decided want at the present time. The Silberburg hock possesses both strength and bouquet, but at the same time is not beyond the requirements of the dinner table, for which indeed it is eminently suited. The wine is only just beginning to work itself into favor but is well worthy of a trial by those who incline to the German vintages.

The total yield this year is calculated to be about 62 hogheads, and the wine will be of superior quality on account of the dry season. Mr. Mauch does not fortify his wines, nor consider he has occasion to do so.

As on other vineyards, the grapes are passed through the press, the juice for white wine being fermented *per se*, but for red with both stalks and skins.

Mr. Mauch purposes commencing distilling operations this year.

A LARGELY attended meeting of the committee of the National Agricultural and Industrial Association was held on Monday in the lecture-room of the Museum, Sir Maurice O'Connell in the chair. Reports from the various collectors were handed in, showing that £800 had been already collected and promised, making with the amount previously in hand about £1150. It was agreed on the resolution of Mr. Palmer, that the names of the subscribers be advertised. It was resolved that the Park Committee be authorized to proceed with the erection of the building, as nearly as possible in accordance with the plan already submitted. Mr. Lukin laid before the meeting a plan for canvassing for country subscribers, which was adopted. The next meeting was fixed for Monday, 20th instant.

On Shorthorns, their General Utility.—No. I.

WE reproduce from the *Agricultural Gazette* of September 25 last, Mr. E. A. Fawcett's paper on the above subject, read before a meeting of the North-east Somerset Farmers' Club. Mr. Fawcett is one of the oldest shorthorn breeders of the present day, and his paper has caused no little consternation amongst the fancy shorthorn breeders in England. We shall have occasion to offer a few remarks on this paper in a future issue:—

Mr. E. A. Fawcett said he was not there to suggest, or for a moment to suppose that he could teach them their business, or advise them to place any kind of stock upon any of their farms without taking very carefully into consideration the character of the soil, the character of the herbage, the character of the water, and various other circumstances, the difficulties of which they had to contend with. He was not there to attempt for a moment to advocate any particular breed of cattle, or to say that shorthorns were right here, there, or everywhere, for it was very important to stock a farm correctly; it was, perhaps, the very act that must lead either to their success or to their failure, whether they stocked it rightly or wrongly, and no one could so well judge of the character of the stock suitable to a particular farm as the persons who resided in the immediate neighborhood, and who knew the climate and the various circumstances that had to be contended with. They must not, therefore, suppose he was there for a moment to attempt to induce anyone to sell or part with the stock that he might happen to have upon any particular farm which he had carried on successfully, and say to him, "Place shorthorns there instead," because he knew the stock must be adapted to the place, or the farmer could not possibly be successful. Having said so much to them, he would now tell them as briefly as he possibly could what little he knew of shorthorns, and in what he said he would say nothing but what he believed to be strictly true, and so keep them from running after these animals with that degree of madness—for he might call it madness—which had lately been adopted.

ORIGIN OF SHORTHORNS.

First of all, then, he would touch upon the origin of shorthorns. Their origin would be some hundreds of years before the "Herd Book" was compiled, therefore they would observe at once with him the folly of arguing simply upon the foundation of the "Herd Book." For instance, the Stanwick Park herd was said to have existed at least 200 years before Messrs. Colling purchased the cow called Duchess, and Messrs. Colling's herds were sold some ten or twelve years before the "Herd Book" was established. He mentioned that to show them that no breeder ought to be guided solely by the pedigrees of the "Herd Book." Messrs. Colling, who were probably the first parties who bred the shorthorns in and in, purchased from Messrs. Maynard and others, who had been breeders of shorthorns long before the Messrs. Colling started. No pedigrees were then kept; the "Herd Book" only commenced in the year 1822 or about then, and therefore the early pedigrees, as found entered in the "Herd Book," were necessarily to a very large extent made up from hearsay, or, at best, from very questionable information. People referred to the "Herd Book" as though it related to the beginning of the breed of shorthorns, although it was well known they had been known as the Teeswater, or Dutch cattle, for hundreds of years before, but no exact account existed as to their origin or the process by which they were improved. No doubt the Galloways and the West Highlanders were those which improved the quality of the flesh and the hair, reduced their size, shortened their legs, and increased the valuable proportions as well as the flavor of the flesh. The Durham ox was calved about the year 1796, was got by Favorite (252), and was out of a black and white cow, bought in Durham market for £14, some twenty years before the "Herd Book" existed. Messrs. Maynard, Witham, Charge, Harrison, Millbanks, and many others, were well-known bull breeders long before that period. Hubback, No. 319, was pointed out as the foundation of the shorthorn breed, but no one knew how he was bred. Mr. Wm. Fawcett had him, and used him long before the Collings had him, and he believed that his dam was a black Galloway cow, which went

in the lanes. He was sold for £1 to a Mr. Natrass when a calf (so it was said), but there was great doubt as to this calf being the bull that was afterwards called Hubback. Messrs. Colling and Waistell gave £10 for him, and sold him to Charles Colling for £8, and Mr. Hubback bought him from Charles Colling, hence he got the name of Hubback. This bull died in 1791, some thirty years before the "Herd Book" was compiled, and therefore they might judge how difficult and uncertain it must have been to arrive at anything like the correct pedigree of the animal. There was no positive proof whatever of his breeding. He passed through the hands of various persons who kept no record of the breeding of their animals, who seldom knew what cow they were from, or by what bull they were got—for bulls in those days went, as he was sorry to hear many did in that place, in the fields, and often in the lanes. It was perfectly clear that Hubback did not originate the shorthorns, which it was now generally stated he did. They must have existed before to produce him, and as to his exact breeding, no one knew what was the breeding of his dam or sire, it was mere supposition or imagination. Then, again, Favorite (252), calved 1794, died in 1809. (They would observe again, that was about ten years before the "Herd Book" was established.) He was not from stock of Messrs. Colling's breeding, but descended from a cow bred by Messrs. Maynard. He was by Bolling-broke, No. 86, and bred by Phoenix, by Foljambe from Mr. Maynard's Favorite, sold to Messrs. Colling for something like £30, and Bolling-broke's stock was said by many old breeders to have resembled the Hereford cattle very strongly indeed. They had red bodies and white faces, white legs and white backs; and many of the old breeders believed that the Herefords were used as a cross in some of the early shorthorn cattle. Some of them went so far as to say they remembered some bulls of that breed going with the cows in Stanwick Park. It is well known that Messrs. Colling crossed with the Red Galloways (viz., Scotch cows without horns), and Mr. Richard Booth also used them for a cross; and the longhorns, if not the Herefords and Devons, were also used. Some of the early shorthorn cows were hornless, and some had cock-horns; indeed, some of Messrs. Booth's have cock-horns to this day. Milk, hair, size, and beef were the properties at which the early breeders aimed, and were what they desired and considered necessary. Now-a-days, pedigree appeared to give the value almost entirely. Were gentlemen who gave these enormous sums for particular pedigrees justified in so doing?

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Agriculture around Kelvin Grove and Kedron Brook.

[BY OUR AGRICULTURAL REPORTER.]

FROM Brisbane, ascending and crossing the range in a northerly direction, the traveller finds himself in a narrow, sunny, little valley amongst gardens and vineyards; and as the valley opens out the vineyards are continued on the sides of the slopes for several miles, until cultivation is lost in the bush. Small patches of maize occupy a few odd corners, but it is at once seen that the chief product is the vine and the juice of the grape, for which both soil and climate seem to be admirably adapted.

The entire acreage under vintage must be considerable, but it is much scattered all over the district of Kedron Brook; nor had I any means of ascertaining the quantity of wine made.

The principal wine growers are Messrs. Lade, Fulton, Pullen, &c. A large quantity of the grapes sold in Brisbane are used for the table, and the vignerons say that a good table grape, as a general rule, gives the best wine both in quality and quantity. I had understood that the reverse was nearly the case; but, at all events, by growing the table varieties, the grower has two chances for one. There is always a good demand in Brisbane for fresh picked grapes, and the smaller growers, who hawk their produce from door to door, get their baskets emptied very quickly. The kinds of grape chiefly grown are the Isabella, which, however, ripens somewhat irregularly, the black Hamburg, and muscat.