

THE PROGENITOR OF OUR HORNED STOCK.

An interesting book was lately published in England, entitled "The History of the Wild White Cattle," written by Rev. J. Storer, of which the special purpose was to trace back the ancestry of ancient herds of white cattle in Great Britain, of which there are still remaining bands which have been kept free from admixture of other blood. With this special design of the writer we have nothing particular to do at this time. It is rather from the fact that his researches led him to a race of cattle, the blood of which probably was a factor in the establishment of our best known domestic breeds, that we give his conclusions and a drawing which presents the outlines of the original type as nearly as they can be portrayed.

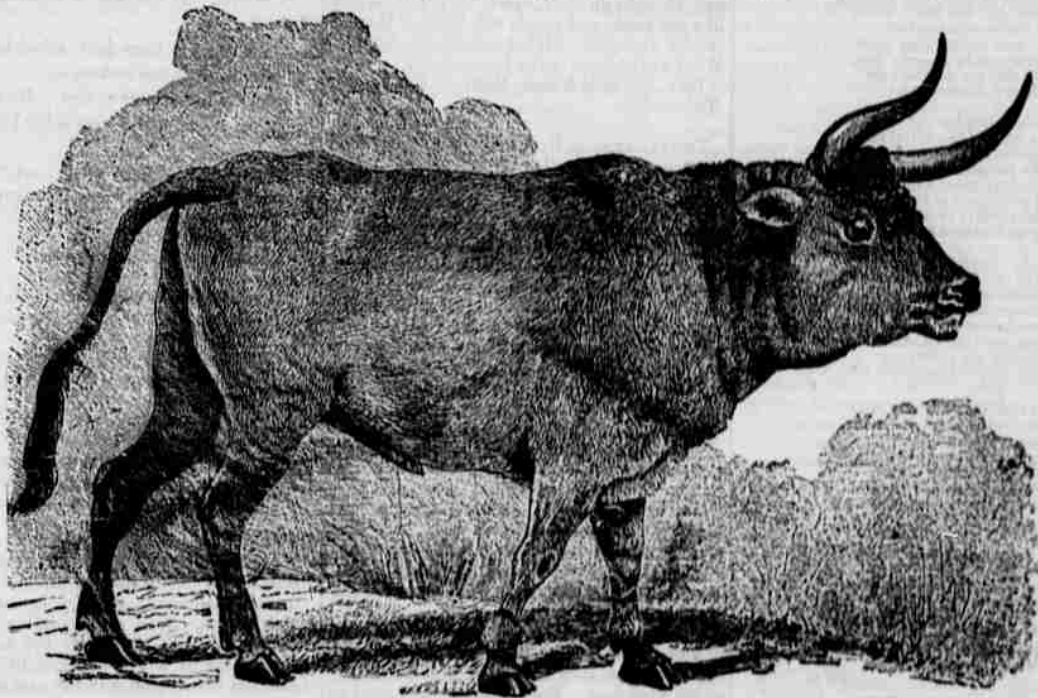
Mr. Storer believes that the *Bos Urus* was first introduced into Europe during the Pleistocene age, which includes the Drift epoch and cave deposits and bones, which are a part of

low parts of many Swiss lakes, there are those of the wild bull." It is also "beyond question that towards the close of the stone and beginning of the bronze period the lake dwellers had succeeded in taming that formidable brute the *Bos primigenius*, the *Urus* of Caesar." "In a tame state its bones were somewhat less massive and heavy, and its horns somewhat smaller than in wild individuals. Still, in its domesticated form it rivaled in dimensions the largest living cattle, those of Friesland in North Holland for example. When most abundant it had nearly superseded the smaller race." (The above quotations are all taken from Sir C. Lyell's "Antiquities of Man," fourth edition, 1873, chap. ii., where will be found fuller information on this interesting subject.) Readers will not fail to observe the speedy change which in some respects was produced in the wild bull by domestication.

When we advance farther, and come to historic times, we find frequent notices of the *Urus*, or wild bull. Herodotus, writing 400 years B. C., tells us that when the army of Xerxes was passing through a part of Paonia

pire, the *Urus* still held his ground, though in decreasing numbers, as a wild animal on the Continent of Europe. The martyr Saturninus was attached to the horns of a wild bull, and dragged to death at Toulouse, on the spot, where afterward one of the most ancient churches of Gaul was built, named *du Taur*. It is said that the Spanish bull-fights took their rise from the chase of this animal in the Pyrenees. The *Urus* is also mentioned as existing in the Vosges mountains, and in the Ardennes; and it was hunted by Charles the Great, near Aachen. Still through the mediæval period the *Bos Urus* lived, but within much circumscribed limits, principally in Poland, Lithuania and Muscovy, whose writers speak of it, till, in the 15th or 16th century, the wild bull became finally extinct in Continental Europe.

A REMEDY MAKING SPECTACLES UNNECESSARY.—Dr. W. Cheatham writes to the *Louisville Medical News*, that he has found that the use of the sulphate of eserin makes it unnecessary to use spectacles in case their use is called

IDEAL SKETCH OF THE ANCIENT WILD BULL OF EUROPE—*Bos Urus*.

the post-tertiary of the geologist. It was everywhere abundant as a wild animal, both on the continent and in the British Isles, and in later, though prehistoric times, still existed in both, as its fossil remains everywhere testify, though perhaps more sparingly in Britain. On the continent the *Urus* was well known during the historic era. Everywhere through what may be called Central Europe we find this gigantic ox wild. Mount Hæmus, the Carpathians running through the middle of Europe, and the Hyrcanian forests, continuing from them almost through Germany, and connecting them with other mountain ranges, were his favorite haunts; from Scythia, Sarmatia, and the Black sea to Denmark and the shores of the Northern ocean—everywhere we find him. During the later stone age, in the shell mounds or *kykhenodding* (kitchen-middens), consisting of immense heaps of refuse shells, thrown up on the shores of nearly all the Danish islands by the Danish aborigines, "the remains of the wild bull (*Bos Urus*, Linn.; *Bos primigenius*, Bojanus) are found in such numbers as to prove that the species was a favorite food of that ancient people." "Prof. Rutimeyer, of Basle, has shown that among the remains of wild animals dredged up from the ancient Swiss lake dwellings, built on piles in the shal-

and *Ætonica*, which lay between Southern Thracæ and Macedonia, and indeed formed part of the latter, the country abounded with wild bulls, which must have been animals of great power, for the same country was infested by lions so ferocious that they attacked at night the camels carrying the provisions of the army. The existence of these wild bulls is confirmed by Hippocrates, a writer who shortly followed; and subsequently, Philip of Macedon is said to have hunted and destroyed on Mount Orbel, in consequence of its devastations, a beast of this description, and to have hung up its spoils in the vestibule of the temple of Hercules. During the time of the Roman Empire, which extended itself to the barbarous regions north of Italy and Greece, the native country of the *Urus* on the Continent, this animal was well known, and is mentioned by various Latin writers, too numerous to quote. Pliny says: "Germany, continuous with Scythia, produces two kinds of wild cattle—one, the Bison, distinguished by his name; the other, of excessive strength and swiftness, the *Urus*, to which the ignorant vulgar gives the name of *Bubalus*;" and he says that "both of these animals were carried to Rome and viewed by the people in the circus."

In the troubled ages which accompanied and followed the decline and fall of the Roman Em-

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for by a flattening of the cornea from old age—a very common ailment, called presbyopia. He states that this drug possesses the property of acting especially on the ciliary muscle, and contracting it, which contraction increases the convexity of the cornea. He recommends dissolving one gram of the sulphate of eserin in one ounce of water, and putting one drop in each eye at bed-time. It produces at first the opposite defect—a too great convexity of the cornea, which is called myopia, or near-sightedness, which, however, soon passes away. He thinks the use of this remedy perfectly safe, and also adapted to cases of glaucoma and other inflammations of the eye, in cases of weakness resulting from overwork, general debility, diphtheria, etc. He says that notwithstanding the use of spectacles in case of presbyopia gives comfort to the eyesight, there is also, however, always some trouble connected with them, which patients are often anxious to dispense with, and thinks they should be humored in this respect. While this may be very true, we advise caution in using this new remedy, because, as the effects are only temporary, a continuous use is of course intended, and experience has not yet shown what secondary effects may result from often repeated applications.