Letter, December 7, 1840, from George Patterson to Thomas Green Clemson

George Patterson

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Ykesville
Dec 25
Thos J. Blenison Esq.
Fort Hill
Pendleton
S Carolina
Springfield, Dec. 7th 1840—

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 29 Oct. was received some time since. The Devon cattle, I think, are fully equal to any other breed for milk, taking into consideration the quantity as well as the quality. I saw a cow in England, belonging to Mr. Denry, which made 13½ lbs. of butter p. week, the mother of a bull I bought of the late Henry Thompson of Sutton gave twenty-three quarts of milk a day. I have cows that produce twenty quarts upwards with proper management. The milking property runs in families, a great deal depends on feed and management, and still greater effect is produced by pusses. This breed of cattle is undoubtedly better adapted to the Southern county, than any other, it is a pure breed, they are of medium size, with fine constitutions, more easily kept than any other. (I used to keep the best ones and stand the heat) I have none for sale. I bought the past summer, a lot of Berkshire pigs, black with white spots or white feet, they are better formed than any I had before, their fattening propensity about equal. My wheat crop was a bad one, part of it in new land [not lined]
Was nearly destroyed by the storm, my principal field was affected with the rust. My corn was very heavy, but not measured. I recollect romanced about my average yield of wheat and corn.

It will give me pleasure to see you at any time but I have a great aversion to writing.

Yours very respectfully,

George Patterson
Dear Sir,

Your letter of 29 Oct. was received some time since. The Devon Cattle, I think, are fully equal to any other breed for milk, taking into consideration the quality, as well as the quantity. I saw a cow in England, belonging to a Mr. Denny, which made 13 1/2 lbs. of butter per week; the mother, of a bull I bought of the late Henry Thompson of Balt, gave twenty three quarts of milk a day - I have cows that produce twenty quarts upwards with negro management - The milking property runs in families, a great deal depends on feed and management, and still greater effect is produced by pulling - This breed of cattle is undoubtedly better adapted to the Southern country, than any other, it is a pure breed, they are of medium size, with fine constitutions, more easily kept than any other, of good dispositions, make the best oxen, and stand the heat - I have none for sale I bought the past summer, a lot of Berkshire pigs, black with white spots & white feet, they are better formed, than any I had before, their fattening propensity about equal. My wheat crop was a bad one, part of it in new land (not limed) was nearly destroyed, by the sorrel, my principal field was affected with the rust. My corn was very heavy, but not measured - Ducatel romanced about my average yield of wheat and corn - It will give me pleasure to see you at any time; but I have a great aversion to writing.

Yours very respectfully,

George Patterson