

largest hogs in the country so marked, after the old original. Windsor Castle has a buff spot on one fore leg, besides a slight flecking of the same on other parts of him; and I noticed that more or less of his stock was thus marked.

The old breed has become nearly extinct, a few specimens only remaining; and these so degenerated in size that they are not now so large even as the present improved race—not comparing at all with Windsor Castle. All assured me that he was the largest animal that had been bred in the country for 20 years; and in the last Number of the *Cultivator* you have rather under than overstated his dimensions. I know from what I saw of the weights of inferior sized Berkshires fattening in England, that he may be made to easily attain 800 pounds. Added to this great size, he is fine in his points, a most excellent conformation, and what is rather remarkable, of soft thin hair and skin. I took unwearied pains with all my other selections; and though I could find none else quite as large as Windsor Castle, they perhaps had a trifle more of fineness of point and fashion.

In regard to the size of hogs, breeders and pork packers in England take the same ground as I informed the public in last July's *Cultivator*, that they had in Cincinnati, the greatest pork mart in America, and upon precisely the same principles; and it would be a waste of time for me to add another word here on the subject. Large animals have consequently become very scarce in Berkshire, and exceedingly difficult to find. I personally perambulated all Berkshire, and the neighbouring counties, and also employed agents who are dealers in pigs, each one of whom annually buys thousands, and knows every man's breeding in the country, to assist me; and I sent over by the London packet ships Mediator and Wellington, and am to receive next season stock from all the different families bred there that are worth possessing. These I shall keep apart in breeding at home, and thus, I trust, save the necessity of further importations for twenty years to come. Stock of all kinds is very high in England now. Pork and mutton sell readily in market at 6½d. to 7½d. sterling; equal to 13 and 14 cents per pound of our money.

White, light spotted, black, blue, gray, and all sorts of colored pigs may occasionally be seen in Berkshire county; but the people there would scout the idea of their being called by their name; they would consider it an imposition, and I might almost add, an insult. And, to my numerous questions, what do you call them? They would give me some specific name, or say, "we don't know, they are not our sort." I do hope now for henceforth and for ever to hear no more about white and other Berkshires than as here described for perhaps the hundredth time as the true and genuine breed, as improved by the Siamese cross. I have full notes of all these things; the discussion of which alone would occupy a long article, which I must defer to some more convenient period.

Failing to find Berkshires as large as I anticipated when leaving home, I immediately set to work with my agents for some other breed; and after a volume of inquiries, and traversing half the kingdom, I found the Kenilworths the very largest breed of swine at present existing in Great Britain. The owner of the sire of one pair of the pigs I purchased, asserted that he would weigh, full fattened, 1,700 lbs.; but I think his maximum would not overgo 1,300 lbs. He stood 4 feet high, was proportionably long, with no bristles but thin hair, and really possessed a fineness of points that absolutely surprised me in so large an animal. Indeed, in general shape and conformation he nearly approached the Berkshire. His color was pure white. The size of the other three pigs was not quite so large, and a trifle coarser, while the sows were still less; but this I was informed was always the case with this breed. I do hope that my friends now will be satisfied; for they have at last in these, a large hog, and, above all, a white one. But if these are not big enough, I shall quite despair, and recommend the importation of a rhinoceros that I saw flourishing along side of an elephant, hardly superior to him in size, at the Zoological Gardens of Regent's Park in London. He was upwards of 4 feet across the buttocks, and might probably weigh some three or four tons.

As I shall not have any of the Kenilworth breed of pigs for sale short of a year, I propose crossing the males upon the large white Yorkshire, and also with a few of my Berkshires. I think the produce of either will be of great size and excellent quality; and

as the number of sows to be stunted in December to farrow to a Kenilworth boar in the spring will be in accordance with the orders of my friends for this cross, they will please to let me know their wishes on this head as quick as possible; for they may be assured, that even with this produce, they may safely compete for gain of flesh, in a given space of time, with Woburns, or any other breed that gentlemen may happen to have on hand for the purpose of a banter.

Nothing can be superior to the South down sheep that I brought over for Mr. Rotch of Otsego county, this state, and our late minister at the Court of St. James, Mr. Stevenson, and Bishop Meade of Virginia. The sire of Mr. R.'s buck won the first prize, 30 sovereigns, as the best of his age, at the Royal agricultural show at Liverpool in July, and was let to the Duke of Newcastle for this season only for 100 guineas. He was considered as near perfection as it is possible for a sheep to be; and I may add that the son I chose is no disgrace to his sire. Though only 6 months old, he weighed when brought on board ship at London 153 pounds. Mr. Stevenson's and Bishop Meade's, about 18 months old, weighed respectively 254 and 248 pounds. And the breeder of these superb animals, Mr. Jonas Webb of Babraham, killed a wether last Christmas that weighed, dressed with the head on, 200 pounds. The bucks of this flock usually shear from 10 to 11½ pounds; and I need not add another word to the readers of the *Cultivator* as to the superiority of South Down mutton, and the hardness and good constitution of the animals making it.

Accompanying the sheep for Mr. Rotch, was the most beautiful shepherd's dog that I ever saw; and of a breed so good, that it requires no instruction to break them into the management and care of flocks. I also brought over for Mr. R. some of the large Durking fowls, that carry an extra toe to their heels, and sometimes attain the great weight, when fattened, of 8 lbs. To these I added a few pheasants, the beautiful game bird of England, and a cross from which on the common barn fowl produced the celebrated game cock breed.

Of Short Horns, I brought nothing, for fear of the disease so prevalent throughout horned stock in England, and because there is but one man's herd there that can improve our own; and his best I cannot have till another year. It really pains me to see any more Durhams of ordinary quality imported into our country. The expense of shipping is enormous; and, after all, they are now so plenty in America that they can be bought for half or two-thirds the price abroad; and throwing two or three stocks out there, New-York, Ohio, and Kentucky alone, might show successfully against all England. This is my deliberate judgment after a very careful examination of the best Short Horns in that country. Ayrshires we can make here by the thousands, by crossing Durham bulls on our best native milkers. The Scotch black cattle without horns make the best beef in England; and he is a capital hardy animal, and probably pays the grazier a better profit than any other; but he is black, which don't happen to be a popular color, so that there is no use in talking of him. Herefords you have already pretty well discussed. The Sussex and South Devon are scarcely inferior to them in size, and of a beautiful blood like symmetry of form that excites universal admiration.

For horses, England ought to come to us. She has nothing that can compare with our famous trotters; and our Dutch Pennsylvania wagon horses are far preferable, in my estimation, to her boasted great cart horses. Our climate and soil, especially in the primitive regions, is much superior to that of England to produce this noble animal in perfection; and we have only to pay a little attention to this department of stock to become large exporters.

There are many other things, especially of seeds, methods of cultivation, and the condition of the people of England, that I would gladly touch upon, but I find my sheet already full and must forbear; and to conclude, I hailed England with delight, and left it with deep regret. It is a charming country, bating its everlasting rain and coal smoke. And the American finds so much in his associations and remembrances there, that after all it is the country that he visits abroad with the most interest and profit. I deprived myself of many a sleep and meal in order to see and learn the more during this short sojourn abroad; and instead of three months, I only wished my stay could have been prolonged to as many years. I am, as ever, sincerely yours,

Albany, October 27, 1841.

A. B. ALLEN.