year 1850, and were received with much more favor than upon their first. Since then continued importations have been made, both from England and Canada, and no race has been so rapidly diffused in so short a period; in fact they have found their way into almost every part of the Union, and it is remarkable, that while they have been subjected to every grade of climate, they have lost none of the peculiarities which alone belong to the race. The hypothesis on which this may reasonably be based, is the great persistency of breeding in one direction, giving to them such a distinctiveness of character and constitution which may enable them to resist the detrimental influences of diverse climates. The great power of distinct and properly established breeds, to resist and ward off diseases, has, in many cases, been fully exemplified; and is, to a large extent, attributed to a peculiar constitution or conformation which ordinary breeds rarely ever possess. The Berkshire and Essex have long been regarded as the best breeds for improving the common stock, and have been much used for this purpose, and in many cases the result of such crossing has been so satisfactory and the improvement so great that the general reasoning among many farmers who have practised such breeding, is, that the produce of such crossing is better than either breed thus crossed. Such reasoning, however, would not be admissible in a theoretical point of view; neither do we think that any general practical results—properly considered—would justify such conclusions. Nevertheless, many remarkable improvements have been thus effected, and such crossing under general circumstances may be both profitable and advisable, especially if hogs for store and feeding purposes only are desired.

There have been many other distinct breeds cultivated besides those we have here enumerated, but owing to the great mania among American farmers for crossing and mingling of different breeds, they have become merged into the common breeds, and in this way have lost their distinctive identity and have become forever obsolete. Many of them were valuable breeds which no doubt required the skill and judgment of the wisest breeders a half lifetime to perfect and establish.

This prevailing practice of indiscriminate crossing or commingling of different breeds, without any definite aim or end in view, has had a very baneful effect upon the progress of improvement, and rendered great and continued expenditures for foreign importations necessary, which could have—by a proper system of propagation of the distinct breeds when once obtained—been retained within our own borders.

While in time past it may have been both necessary and expedient, to make foreign importations of proper breeds, it is not now, owing to a sufficient supply of all the best and most approved which should, by a proper system of breeding, be cultivated and improved in their purity, with the blood and material we now have, and lessen our dependence upon foreign countries. Such a course is rendered doubly necessary when in view of any contemplated improvements upon established breeds; for past ages of experience have taught us the necessity and great value of being able to trace ancestral lines, and to rely more implicitly upon the principles and tendencies of blood. Therefore, when improvements are proposed, it is necessary first to understand, and be well acquainted with the qualities, as well as the natural tendencies of the blood which is to be used to effect the improvement. In short, a breeder should exactly know the material with which he expects to build the structure, and be able to trace the pedigrees back to all the different branches from which they spring. With this view of the matter, success in improvements can rarely be attained by a continued addition of doubtful or unknown blood. It is true this subject has claimed the earnest consideration of some of the greatest minds, and while scarcely two opinions agree as to the origin of certain specific results, yet all agree to the one great fact, that the highest and most perfect types are preserved by a proper coalescence of pure and vigorous blood. And as there is always a natural tendency to decadence, it is necessary to understand those principles and tendencies even when we wish only to preserve the tenure of the different types when once established. For we may, in one decade, possibly sacrifice what it has required the skill of ages to establish, and by a reckless and unsystematic commingling of different strains or races, we may wreck and bring into utter confusion the most noble ancestral lineage or lines. Such has already been the fate of some most valuable breeds, sacrificed upon the altar of reckless chance.

In conclusion, let us appeal to those who are engaged in the cultivation and propagation of the hog, to observe critically every instructive fact bearing on the subject, and apply them faithfully and systematically; as well for private benefit as for public good, as it is by this course of breeding that improvements are made and perfected by systematic generalizations, critically drawn and deduced from well authenticated facts.

We have the best climate, the best facilities, and have now the best material to proceed with which ever existed on the globe, and for proper development, our country has no equal in the world.

We should let practical skill and scientific knowledge take the place of prevalent recklessness or ignorance, and improvement and progress will go rapidly on with the most beneficial results.

CHOLERA.

As our allotted space is already filled, and perhaps overrun, we ask an excuse for reluctantly offering some observations on this fearful and most fatal disease; a disease which continues to fill the minds of hog breeders with alarm and apprehension, and has thus far baffled the skill of many of our most eminent men. The very word "cholera" has terrible sickening associations that are alone appalling. And we may safely assume, that millions of hogs annually die from the effects of this disease. So fearful have been its ravages for several years past, that a great many farmers have abandoned the pursuit, or at least are disinclined to make investments, especially in the finer breeds.

We do not anticipate that justice can be done to a subject of such extent and importance as the one before us, in the space of a few short pages; and our views, as regards the origin, progress and termination of the disease, are so much at variance with those of many of the most scientific men who have investigated it, that it would be viewed as only absurd in us to extend our observations farther as to the main or important facts that have been revealed. However, we assume the responsibility of saying that the word "cholera," has only been employed to designate a disease of great fatility, and not that its real symptoms, or the indications accompanying its progress and termination, are at all allied to what was manifested in the disease of that name which has decimated the human race; and as all the preparations which have been made have been prepared in view of curing epidemic "cholera," we have no doubt but they have hastened the death of more hogs than have ever been relieved by their use. To favor this view, we have only to refer to the generally acknowledged fact, that while hundreds of preparations purporting to cure this disease, have emanated from the best sources and have been extensively distributed and used in all the sections where the disease has prevailed, NOT ONE has yet proved a specific, or has even effected a single cure when the disease was fairly developed. These facts seems to us to prove, that either the origin or nature of the disease has been misunderstood, or that the disease when fully developed, is incurable. We suspect both to be true, and that the causes which engender the disease, are entirely foreign to those which induce epidemic "cholera." The many *post mortem* examinations which have been made by our scientific men, upon hogs of different ages, and in all stages of disease, connected with microscopic views of all the different affected parts, plainly reveal to us the fact, that the disease is not epi-