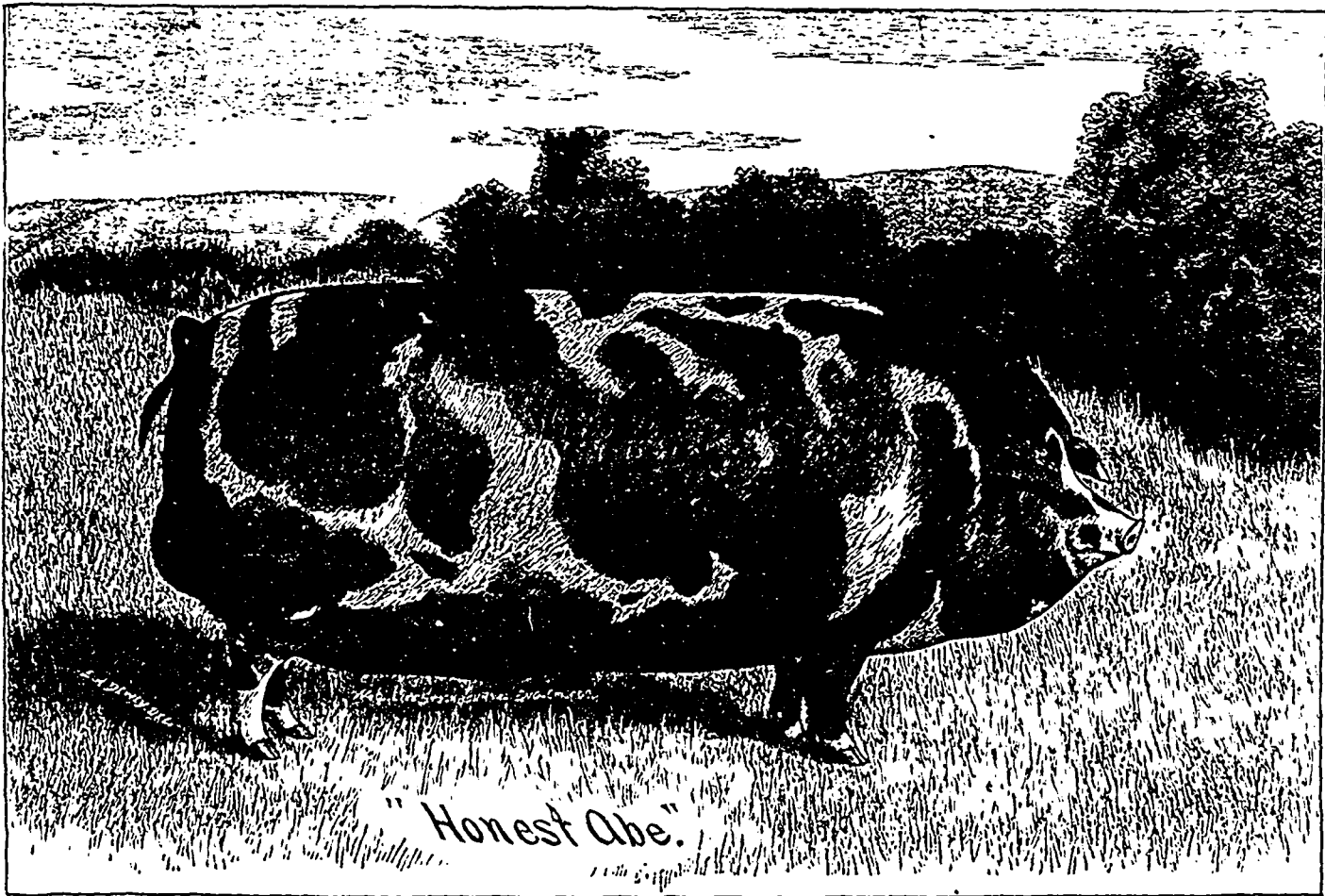


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JUDGING UPON THE FARMS.

From the (Chicago) Breeders' Gazette.

Judging at the shows is a never-failing subject of discussion, and the degree of attention it receives attests the fact that it is a very important matter; but it is a great pity that the questions involved are not more widely appreciated and more attention given to the importance of judging upon the farms. It is here that the influences of good and correct judging are of the very highest practical importance, and yet it is right here that the matter of judging is almost entirely neglected. Of course when the young things come the farmer must take them as they are, and the improvements he can make by subsequent treatment are restricted by the character of the material with which he has to work. But he can determine beforehand what kind of young

things he wants, and produce them substantially to his liking. The time for him to "judge" is before the parents are mated, not after the produce is born. And he should be able to see in one parent or the other—if he could only dissect them and make up from the several parts of each a new animal combining the best points of both—the approach at least to a fair model. Of course all men are not capable of forming and preserving the perfect models which form the ideals of the few and most advanced, but the best models of all men are far superior to their conceptions of the poorest, and each man should labor to produce the best as he understands it, confident that in his success a substantial improvement will be secured. It is proper that the farmer should have his models in his mind at the shows, for there he may be able to improve and exalt his standard, but he should also take

them with him in the fields and pastures, noting to what extent each animal approximates or falls below it, and how it can be brought nearer in the next generation, and whether this improvement can be secured by a combination of elements already upon the farm, or whether it will be necessary to bring in a fresh sire from outside. And if a fresh sire is to be introduced his selection should be determined by his own worth and by the objects sought to be secured from his use, and not by the fact that he can be had a little cheaper than some other animal. The matter of judging should not be considered as one beginning and ending with the production and estimation of show animals. Its real purpose is to encourage the production of animals of the best practical farm qualities. And of all the animals that ever entered a show ring not one was ever better or worse than any other, save as there was a difference in their