Large White Pigs.

The distribution of the different classes of pigs, both as regards color and size, would be a curious and interesting study. When the main object is pork, bacon, or hams, and their most economical

production, it would seem that there must of necessity be one class of pigs that would meet these Wants most completely, and which would oust all others from the competition. But instead of this being the case, we have, on the contrary, a seemingly most varied opinion as to which is the most profitable size of pig, and a most inconstant fashion as to color. It has long been cousidered that the black pigs were the best for the Southern States, as they most easily resisted the ill effects of the hot sun, and if it is true, as has been authoritatively stated, that they can forage with impunity upon some of the common wild plants, which are fatal to the white pigs, we have a still more satisfactory reason for this popular preference. But in the north

the taste has very largely run to the white breeds, and we have many excellent varieties so nearly related in character, that it would be entirely safe to abandon all distinctions between them, excepting as to size, and to chase them, as is now done in Bagiand, as the large and small white breeds. It would puzzle the most acute judge of swine to distinguish some small Yorkshires from some Suffolks, or to state so clearly that the wayfaring man could not be misled, wherein they differ; or to distinguish in the same way between the large Yorkshire, the improved Cheshire, the Jefferson County, one has to hunt up the show cards or the catalogue foldance.

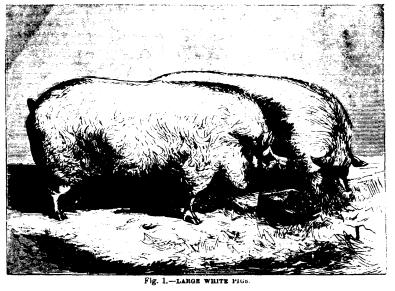
to discover the name given to the different animals, and it is not always cerin to be one that meets the approbation of an expert in swine. The snub, retroitese nose of the Yorkshire is at home in the pen of the well fattened Cheshire, and the Chester White has the drooping cars as frequently as otherwise. Whether or hot it would not both simply expedite and justily matters for the com-Dittees at the fairs to abolish all other distinctions than that here sug-Sested, is a question we think Worth attention.

"Large white breed." is significant enough, and it the good points of cach of the different varieties were summed up, it would be hard to find one that them, nor one fault that was not claimed by all of them, nor one fault that must the publicated. Our

unitation represents model large white pigs, and we would be content to leave those of our special variety of this class of pigs, to say if this is favorite breed to be. Without doubt, the large white breeds are profitable pigs. They are profife and good nurses, good feeders, hardy, and if they do not arrive at profitable maturity as soon as the small breeds, yet they will make an amazing quantity of pork from a bountiful supply of corn. As a manufacturer of bulky corn into readily movable and merchantable product, there is nothing briter, and perlaps nothing

The Berkshire Swine.

Decidedly the most popular breed of swine of the present day, is the Berkstire. That it is black in color, is only an objection to those who form their options from prejudice rather than from knowl-



equal to them, unless it be the deservedly popular Poland-China of the Western States. What was the origin of the larger white breeds, is lost in obscurity. Probably the "old English hog," which, being found most numerously in the two larger counties of England, Yorkshire and Lancashire, became more especially identified with these names, and were in later years known as either or both the Yorkshire and Lancashire hogs, was the original progenitor of all our large white breeds. At any rate, what is known as the large Yorkshire, is so much like the pigs here illustrated, that if they be not in fact the same, they may well be accepted as very near relatives. They are, in fact, portraits of



Fig. 2.-THE IMPROVED BERESHIRE PIG.

a pair of "large white pigs," only so designated, bred by the Earl of Elismere, Worsley, England. And in this age of improvement, when a "dash of new blood" is considered useful or necessary to make certain desired points to perfect a hog, and breeds become rather mixed, this designation would seem to be sufficient for all purposes.

edge, as the color is not even "skin deep," and a Berkshire ham, or side of bacon, when freed from hair, is not to be distinguished from the same parts of a white pig. The Berkshire is not classed amongst the large breeds, nor can it be placed amongst the small breeds. In this respect it holds an intermediate place, though specimens occasionally reach a very respectable size, and compete favorably with the heaviest swine. No breed has undergone a more elaborate process of improvement than the Berkshire. Originally of a tawny or reddish sandy color, spotted with black, with large lop cars, hanging down over the eyes, and coarse in form and feature, the breed has been brought to a nearly entirely black color, the face, tail, and

feet only, being in small part spotted with white. The form has been reflued and filled out, the bone also refined, the shoulders and ham rounded and broadened, and the sloes deepened, until no more handsome bacon swine now exist than these. The ears are pricked and much lessened in size, as may be seen by our illustration (fig. 2), which is from the London Field, and represents a choice specimen of the modern highly improved Berkshire pig. This animal leaves nothing to be desired in the way of a profitable pig, either for a farmer, or a feeder who keeps but one or two animals for his home supply of hams and bacon. The most conspicious remnant of the old fashlowed Berkshire, left in its

modern relative, is the pinkish hue of the skin, which distinguishes ft readily from the other black breeds, such as the Essex or the black Suffolk. Originally there were two distinct varieties of this breed, that which was wholly white, and that which was principally black. The white Berkshires we have not seen of late, nor at all in the United States, having seen but a few of them some years ago in the vards of a Canadian breeder, who imported them. These were known as the Windsor breed, and, with the Coleshill, another white variety, still exist in England. It is, as a black breed only, that we know the Berkshire. The chief points of the breed are as follows: a moderately short head, dished face, nose straight

and not turned up, as in some small breeds, ears generally pricked, arthough drooping ears, while not desirable, are not incompatible with purity of blood; color black, with purplish tinge, and not a dead black like that of the Essex, sometimes the color shows a sisty-bluish tinge, doubtiess derived from crossing with the Nespolitan. The eyes