

be admitted for the purpose of perpetuation," what is the object sought in giving prizes for cross-breeds? The cross of French Merinos with the Leicester combine important qualities: a fair carcass, with ordinary disposition to take on flesh, and a quality of mutton not to be surpassed, a heavy fleece and superior quality of wool, which is eagerly sought for by our manufacturers will more than compensate for any lack of early maturity, which would be very slight, if any. I am really at a loss to conceive why a preference should be given to the coarse grades over the fine wool, when it is well known much of the long wool is too coarse for our domestic use, and large quantities are exported, while our manufacturers are obliged to import fine wool, with the charges for commission and transportation added to the cost of production.

JACOB RYMAL.

Barton, Feb. 6th, 1861.

In our remarks upon Mr. King's letter in the No. of Dec. 16th, we had more particularly reference to his question "Why give prizes to the grade female animal rather than the male?" rather than to the special subject of the cross of sheep alluded to. So far as our observation goes, most farmers who pay any attention to breeding at all, hold the opinion and act upon it, that in breeding to obtain good grade stock, it is better that the male animal should be as nearly as possible of pure blood. By this arrangement we can count with a greater degree of certainty upon the character of the stock that will be produced. Any farmer of intelligence would probably be found willing, if he could afford it, to obtain the services of a thorough bred Durham or other pure breed bull for his common cows of native breed, so called, and would expect to raise good grade animals from the cross; but no breeder would be willing to pay for a common road-side bull to put to his thorough-bred cows, with the view of obtaining the same result. The producing powers of the female are so slow in comparison to those of the male, that a good grade cow or heifer, representing probably fifty or a hundred similarly improved in a neighborhood, is recognised as a step in the right direction, and as the basis of further improvement, whereas to employ a grade bull to produce a score or fifty inferior animals in a season, instead of obtaining a pure-bred animal so as to ensure an advance upon the progress already made would be justly considered a retrograde step, ex-

cept in a case when the cows are of an inferior character to the bull himself. But it is believed that the country has made sufficient progress, render it unnecessary for the Provincial Association to provide for cases like the latter, however proper it might be for societies in new or remote townships. The judges at the Provincial exhibition have for many years almost unanimously repudiated the idea of giving premiums to grade bulls. And the same principle applies to other classes of animals. Our correspondent goes quite too far in supposing that the reference to W. A. C.'s letter indicates that the latter embodies the views of the Board in reference to the cross of sheep alluded to, shown at the late exhibition. The two things have no connexion. We do not know, in fact, to what decision the Board Mr. King, in his letter, alludes. There was no decision at all, that we know of, or at least no discussion of the subject. The judges reported unfavorably of the cross-bred rams, as the published report will show, and commended the ewes and ewe lambs referred to. The special committee to whom the report was referred do not think proper to attach any money prize to the commendation of the Judges. We believe their view was that if such a direct cross resulted in a good animal, the mode of obtaining it was already encouraged by the Association in giving prizes to the pure breeds from which the cross was produced. Unless it could be shown that such a cross was really important, and that a breed could be established perpetuating its distinctive features with a considerable degree of uniformity and certainty, there would not appear to be any strong ground for expecting a high award from the Association. To give a premium for the mere first result, unless it could be reproduced, would not be productive of any public benefit. And in reply to our esteemed correspondent above, Mr. Rymal, we are inclined to think that the onus of proof as to whether such a cross-breed can be established so as to perpetuate itself as a distinct breed of uniform qualities, should rest with the experimenter rather than upon the Agricultural Association, and should be established to some extent to the public satisfaction, before the sanction of a public reward should be expected. As to the question whether the Board may at future exhibitions