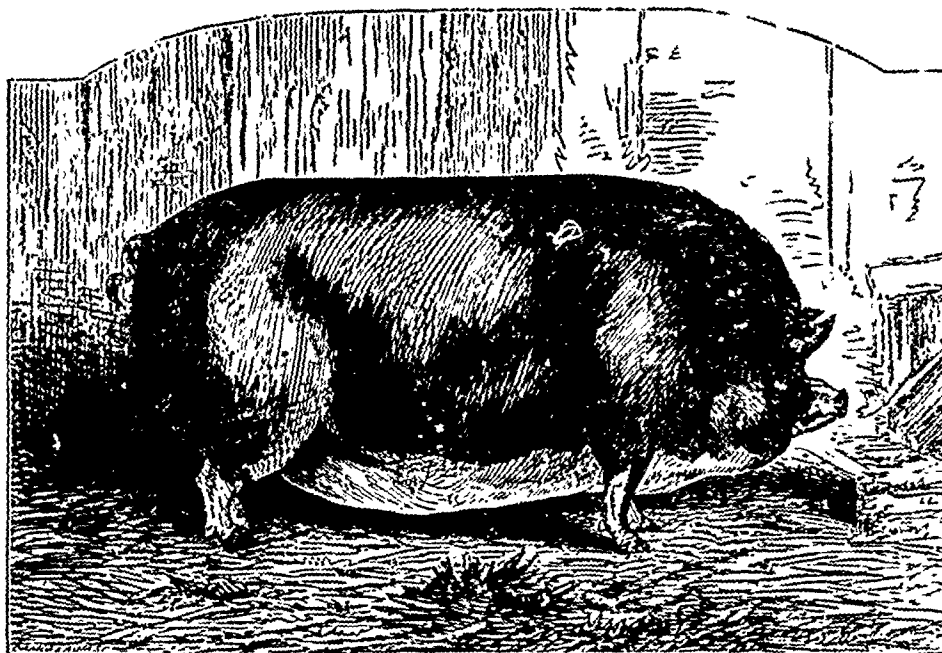


We now present an illustration of a medium or middle-sized breed of hogs—the Berkshires. There are two classes of Berkshires, the large and small breeds. The small-bred Berkshires are about the same size as the Essex and Suffolk. The large Berkshires are without question the most valuable variety of medium-sized pigs we have. The improved Berkshire is traced back to the herd of Lord Barrington, who died in 1829. Since his day, Mr. Sadler, of Bentham, Mr. Hower, of Southampton, and others have become eminent as improvers of this breed. A first-class Berkshire pig should be well covered with long, black silky hair, so fine and soft that the impossibility of making a silk purse out of sow's ear might be regarded as contradicted by it. There should be some spots and patches of white upon the carcase, the rule being "four white feet, a white spot between the eyes and a few white hairs behind each shoulder." Berkshires have been made upwards of 800 lbs. weight, but the usual average is about 400 lbs. The general opinion of feeders is that they pay best at moderate weights. The Berkshire does not fatten so quickly as the Essex, but he is of peculiarly vigorous constitution, and is justly celebrated as a bacon hog. He is very valuable as a cross with coarser breeds.



Among breeders of this variety in this country we may mention F. W. Stone, of Guelph. R. L. Denison, of Dover Court, Toronto, and T. Penton, of Paris. All these gentlemen have distinguished themselves as prize-takers for pure-bred Berkshires, and some of the specimens exhibited by them would be hard to beat.

The large Yorkshires are said to be equally valuable for making large or small bacon, that being only a matter of age. As porkers of a few weeks old they are unsurpassed, their flesh being very tender, rich and well-flavoured, though not so fat as the smaller breeds. Their skin is fair and white, and Yorkshire

pork is much esteemed on this account for holling. Mr. Harrison, of Heatland Norris, and Mr. Wainman, of Carhead Farm, stand high among the Yorkshire breeders. This variety is very widely diffused, has attained a permanent character, and is deservedly celebrated. The medium and large Yorkshires reach weights of from 400 to 800, or even 1,000 lbs. As remarked in reference to the Berkshires, however, these pay best at moderate weights. Among those who keep this variety in Canada we may mention Geo. Miller, of Markham, C. A. Jordison, Sidney, and J. P. Wheeler, Scarboro'.

Other good breeds of pigs might be described did our space permit, but we have specified the leading, and

as we believe, the best varieties, and trust all our readers who keep swine will seek from one or other of these sources to improve their herds. Whatever excuse there may have been heretofore for neglecting this description of farm stock, it is now removed by the brightening prospects of the pork trade in Canada.



AD We clip the following from the *Scientific American*.—We do not generally find room to record all the achievements of our agricultural friends, in the way of huge vegetables, prize animals, &c.; but, for once, we are compelled to confess ourselves unable to do justice in type to the most enormous hog we ever set eyes upon. This beast looked (he is dead now) more like a polar bear than a pig, his live

weight being 1,355 pounds, and his age four years, his back was waist high to an ordinary man, and his length nearly six feet. His ham would not go into a barrel, and must have been a heavier load than any ordinary person could stagger under. Two tusks curved gracefully outward from the under jaw of this hog, and would have been very long, no doubt, if they had not been broken off. The hide and hair of

this ponderous animal alone remains for mankind to gaze upon, his flesh is scattered among the "gentles." In the *American Agriculturist* office his swine-ship's stuffed effigy may be seen, at morning and at evening, gazing at the California pear, a fit companion in size for him. This big pig was raised by Mr. Benham, of McLane County, N. Y., and is part Berkshire and part Ryfield stock.