

cently visited live-stock men, was that which fell upon Messrs. T. F. B. Sotham, Geo. Harding & Sons, and others, who exhibited cattle at the Charleston, S. C., Exposition last month. With commendable enterprise these men exhibited the flower of their herds at this Exposition, in order to advertise the merits of pure-bred beef cattle in the South. While there the very best of these cattle contracted the deadly tick-fever which has been such a curse to the Southern cattle trade. As a result, animals which stood without peer, both as show and breeding stock, died on their way home on the train. Mr. Southam fared particularly badly, having lost such world-famed bulls as Improver, Chickmate, and Thickflesh, bulls which it is beyond his power to re-

place; for they have been the culmination of many years breeding, feeding and selection; in fact, money could not have tempted Mr. Sotham to part with them. A piece of destroyed machinery or a building can be replaced, but it is a different matter in the case of breeding animals. In the live stock world, as elsewhere, one cannot tell what a day may bring forth, and one's brightest ideals and the culmination of years of work may be dashed to the ground in a moment. However, these are the exceptions, and as one compares the losses recorded in live stock with those recorded in business and other enterprises, they certainly seem very insignificant.

M. C. ——— G.

Importance of Seed Selection.

With the return of the robin we are reminded that spring is approaching, and to those engaged in agricultural pursuits this means much. It is during this season that the farmer must prepare his land for another season's crops, and sow the seed for those crops that he wishes to obtain.

To secure a bountiful harvest it is essential that the young plants receive a good start, and one of the best means of accomplishing this is to sow good seed. In the past, too little attention has been given to the quality of the seed sown. It was considered that each grain contained a germ that was capable of producing a plant similar to that from which it had come, and that the size and maturity of the kernel sown was of

secondary importance. Though the laws of breeding are not considered to be of as great importance in the growing of plants as in the rearing of live stock, yet the law that "Like begets like" applies as directly to the vegetable kingdom as it does to the animal. In the breeding of live stock the breeder places much importance on the selection of the breeding types, as he knows that it is only in this way that he can improve his herd and keep abreast with the times. If, then, the breeder of stock recognizes the importance of selection, why should not the same care be exercised by those who are breeding grain? It would be absurd to expect to raise strong healthy stock from weak or unhealthy parents; just as unreasonable would