

is not thick enough, especially for packing down for the men, who would be glad to have their pork all fat, and whom I have seen spread their uncooked salted fat pork, as landmen spread butter, on their bread. The former objection is not made by all persons, as many would prefer for their tables the pork of a hog weighing 300 lbs. to that of hogs weighing 600 lbs. of which I have seen many in our market. With respect to the latter objection I was half disposed at first to consider it a mere caprice, but that E. Phinney of Lexington, a farmer in this matter "not unknown to fame,"—and another most respectable farmer of Franklin county, admit that there is some truth in it; and they as well as many others, prefer a cross to the pure blood. The impression is becoming general, and the butchers in Quincy market are unanimous in their unfavorable opinion of the Berkshire hogs. They admit that their hams and shoulders are good for bacon, but their backs where they most require it have no depth of fatness, and they are therefore unsuitable for salting. They are good breeders and nurses." It is but just, however, to the Berkshires to say that the unfavourable impression in regard to them, though general, is not universal. An intelligent and very exact farmer at Braintree, B. V. French, has found them to answer his expectations. Upon recently killing a number, he was well satisfied with their appearance, and is of opinion that much of the prejudice which exists against them belongs properly to the impure but not to the genuine race.

The introduction of the Chinese hogs into this country and into England seems to have been the foundation of all the extraordinary improvements which have taken place in this race of animals,—improvements which within less than half a century, have doubtless enriched the State of Massachusetts many hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the country by millions. The effects of this cross with other swine have been to give fineness of bone, plumpness and fullness of form, extraordinary thriftiness, and quietness of demeanor. [Seventy years ago we remember seeing numbers of this breed at Newhaven in Connecticut, where they were known by the name of the Guinea breed. It is not improbable that they might have been brought from African Islands, as we have been informed by seamen that they are now raised at the Cape Verde Islands, and also at Tahiti and other islands in the Pacific. They were of quick growth, weighing less than 200 lbs. with small bones, short legs, short heads, broad backs, very thin skin, and pork much superior to that from the large breed.—*Ed. Col. Farmer.*] The old race of hogs seemed to be of the wolf species in temper as well as condition, and were the personification of ugliness and rapacity. The first introduction of one of these animals into a secluded part of Scotland within the last century is matter of comparatively modern history. Having got loose from his sty, he appeared to the terrified imaginations of those simple people as the arch fiend himself, and crowds hovered together through fear—the parish schoolmaster being at their head with an open bible, to endeavour to lay this evil spirit! The animal now in his improved condition, is regarded as one of the farmer's best friends; he eats what nothing else will eat; he is a general scavenger, and an excellent composter of manure. His own manure is one of the most enriching substances which can be supplied to the soil, though not one of the most lasting in its effects; and his flesh is the most frequent dish upon the farmer's table. This county may boast of great improvements in their swine; a Mr. McKay of Boston, owning a farm in Weston, obtained from abroad some years since, a valuable hog, whose natural good qualities by good management he greatly improved. Some

of this breed of swine have been most remarkable for thrift and weight. Besides this, a hog called the Mocho hog, long, round, and thrifty, whose pedigree is not known, has been introduced here. Some of the best hogs that I have seen have been from an admixture of these three bloods. Mr. Phinney emphatically approves this cross; and the weight of his swine when killed, of which I subjoin an account, establishes the soundness of his judgment. In 1840 Mr. Phinney sent the following hogs to market.

February 6.	February 17.	months old.
1st weighed 407 lbs.	1st weighed 763 lbs.	20
2d " 414	2d " 591	15
3d " 413	3d " 476	15
4th " 304	4th " 430	12
5th " 464	5th " 475	12
6th " 366	6th " 465	12
	7th " 430	12
	8th " 454	12

In 1841, the subjoined is a list of fifteen Berkshire and Mackay hogs from the same farm.

February 22, 1841.	1st weighed 528 lbs.
1st weighed 734 lbs.	2d " 523
2d " 655	3d " 517
3d " 579	4th " 503
4th " 574	5th " 501
5th " 556	
	1st weighed 487 lbs.
	2d " 480
	3d " 476
	4th " 441
	5th " 400

The grassed hogs are regaining their popularity. They have been, to a degree, crossed and intermixed with various valuable breeds in the interior, and are now preferred to all others in the Brighton Market. With good care and keeping at 15 and 18 months old they are easily carried to 500 and 600 lbs."

Mr. Phinney's swine establishment at Lexington is among the most extensive in the Country. His number of fattening swine averages about 100, with fifty store hogs, and they are killed in February and March, when from 10 to 18 months old, being of the fall and winter litters of the previous year. His pens are well arranged, seldom occupied by more than three or four in a pen. They have a manureyard attached to each pen, into which bog mud and litter are thrown for their manufacture and compounding, and they have always a dry and comfortable bed. They are fed regularly three times a day. I shall subjoin an account given by himself of his mode of management. "An enquiry is often made at what age it is best to slaughter them. On a large farm where much green herbage is produced, and where the value of the manure is taken into the account, the pigs killed at the age of 15 or 16 months give the greatest profit. When it is intended to kill them at this age, they may be kept on more ordinary and cheaper food for the first 10 or 12 months, or till within four or five months of the time of killing. The manure they make, and the extra weight of pork, more than pay the expense incurred in keeping them the longer time; but the spring pigs that are to be killed the ensuing winter and spring, must be kept upon the best of food from the time they are taken from the sow until they are slaughtered. The older class of pigs, for the first 10 or 12 months, are kept principally upon brewers grains, with a small quantity of Indian or Barley meal, or rice, ruta baga, sugar beets, &c., and in the season of clover, peas, oats, cornstalks, weeds, &c., they are cut green and thrown into the pens; the next four or five months before killing, they have as much Indian meal, or rice, with an equal quantity of potatoes, apples or pumpkins, as they will eat, the