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**On Cross-Breeding.**

There are few subjects, perhaps, connected with practical husbandry in which more misapprehension prevails, than in that which is usually designated cross breeding; yet the true principles which this practice is or should be conducted, extremely simple, and ought to be familiar to every breeder who seeks to obtain a useful and profitable result. The great object of cross-breeding is to produce an animal that shall afford a large amount of prime meat in a shorter space of time than in the ordinary way with pure breeds; and consequently such animals are mainly bred for the butcher. They should not be perpetuated. It is a well-known fact among practical men that you cannot go on breeding from a cross-breed stock without obtaining a gradual, and in most cases, a rapid deterioration. Successful cross-breeding is essentially dependent on the previous existence of pure breeds, and can only be carried on with beneficial results, after those breeds have been thoroughly established and have made considerable progress. In crossing animals no ordinary amount of care and judgment is necessary in making suitable selections. Those of the most opposite natural or acquired characteristics will not be found generally unsatisfactory. Certain natural affinities or alliances should be sought for in cross-breeding will in a great measure be rewarded by improvement or profit. In case

where both parents are really good of their kind, their offspring will almost always possess advantages, especially for the butcher. But it is an error of the gravest kind, as all experience shows, that you can continue breeding from such a cross without suffering certain deterioration, both as regards weight and quality of flesh, and, in case of sheep, of wool, also. In case of dairy stock the foregoing observations will likewise apply, although perhaps in not so marked a degree. The first cross is usually the best for milking purposes, and it is found that the process cannot be carried on indefinitely with impunity.

Entertaining these views, which are now endorsed by the most enlightened breeders of all countries, we are happy to observe that our venerable friend the Hon. Adam Fergusson, who, as most of our readers know, has spent a long life in Scotland and in Canada, in promoting the improvement of agriculture, particularly stock-raising, has offered through the Board of Agriculture a very handsome premium for the best grade heifer, the produce of a pure Durlam bull, from a cow of any breed, not more than one remove from thorough breed. The prize is in the shape of a silver cup, which Mr Fergusson intends to present annually at the Provincial Exhibitions; also two silver medals for poultry; particulars will be found stated in the Prize List of the Association for the present year. We say that we are glad to see this, because it will