

LESSON IV.-JAN. 26, 1913.

Cain and Abel.-Gen. 4: 1-15.

Commentary.-I. Two offerings (vs. 1 L a man from the Lord—Eve gladly scknowledged the hand of the Lord in the gift to her of a son. By many it is ight that her joy was great because che hoped that the promised Redeemer en born. The name "Cain" means offspring. 2. Abel—The name means breath, or vapor. The name may have been given to prophecy of his early death or, as some think, given after his death, denoting the brevity of his life. Keeper of sheep-A common and honorsble calling in the Orient. Tiller of the ground Cain devoted himself to the raising of grains and other products of the soil. It is very evident that primitive man was not a savage. He was possecond of intelligence of a high order. 3. In process of time-The expression deindefinite period, although md of days," has reference to brought .... an offering unto the Lord This is the first direct reference to any system of sacrifices. It is reasonable to suppose that Jehovah had taught mankind the need and nature of offer be appreciated to beings possessed of a us nature. Cain brought as an ofsering that which suited his convenience and omitted the bleeding sacrifice. He fought a thank-offering, but not a sin-offering. 4. Abel . brought of the firstlings offering to the Lord, and he may also have brought a thank-offering. The firstlings may have been the firstborn of the flock or the choicest, and of the fat thereof Abel bought the very best he had. He made an effort to bring to God an offering that would be accept able to him. The Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering-We are not informed in what way Jehovah showed that Abel's offering was acceptable to im. It may have been that fore came from heaven to consume the sacrifice. Numerous instances of fires being sent from heaven are on record in the scriptures. See Lev. 9: 24; Judg. 6: 21; 1 Kings 18: 38. 5. Unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect-"The difference did not lie in the offerings. but in the men, and in the offerings only so far as they represented the

6. Why art thou wroth-The charac ter of Cain was shown by his sudden and fierce anger. His actions proved that he stood in sore need of a sin-offering, although he in no way acknowledged it. is worship was vain, because it lacked art and conscience. Had he been earnsand sincere, his first inquiry would been for the reason why his offerwas not accepted, and what he could to make himself and his offering acble to God. Anger, hatred, jealand murder couched in Cain's soul, to spring forth when opportunity orded. Countenance fallen-When or sullen, men are apt to ith their heads bowed. 7. ... accepted The fact that lere were rejected was he had not done well. Not t lay at his own door. He had ion for anger, but rather, for ce. Unto thee shall be his ded thou shalt rule over him-Cain ler than Abel and therefore had to rule over him.

The first murder (vs. 8-10). 8. Cain with Abel The subject of the ersation is not given, but it was bly about the acceptance of Abel's ng and the rejection of his own. him Coin found an opportunity, bly of his own seeking, to make ek upon Abel. It may be that n did not intend to commit murder, at in his hot anger used more violence on he was aware of, but this account the reference to it in 1. John, 3. 12, indicate that the deed was intentional. 9. Where is Abel-The Lord's interest in Cain's act had not ceased. He virtually charged home upon him responsibility for Abel's death. I know not To murder, Cain added the sin of lying. Am I upted to shift responsibility in cain's fallure with respect to the ing which he made was followed by a long train of grievous eins, and me hopelessly entangled in his of-

fort to cover his sinful past. Cain was responsible for his brother's welfare, as we are all responsible for those whose lives we may influence for good or ill. 10. What hast thou done The Lord corly showed Cain that he knew about me and that it was no use for him my to hide it. III. Cain's punishment (ve. 11-15). 11.

red art thou from the ground (R. V.) compare the curse pronounced upon am (Gen. 3. 17-19 with this. The md which had received Abel's blood uld not contribute to Cain's sustene. 12. When thou tillest the groundhad been successful as a tiller of soil before his grievous sin, but no success was to attend his efforts. still remained in the ground, him. How much has righteman to do in securing abunsts, and averting pestilence Terry. A fugitive and V.)-Shunning the habien and wandering over the buld be without comfort and ons. 13. My punishment is greatan I can bear—The word "punish-includes both the sin and the ent of it. Cain expresses no confor his sin, but deplores the punit imposed upon him. "He thought than of pardon and deliverance his sinful nature." 14. Thou hast me out-Cain cays nothing of his sibility for his condition. He forth to failure, to loneliness, to of conscience and to despair. w me He carried with him a earth by this time. 15. Ver taken on him sevenfold Ged ment of Cain into Ris not because he was not de of death, but because in that

Cain a living monument of the curse of blood-guiltiness.-Whedon. Punishment of the severest kind would be visited upon the slayer of Cain. The Lord set a mark upon Cain-The scriptures do not tell us what this mark was and we have therefore no means of know-

Questions.-Who were Cain and Abel: What was the business of each? What was the nature of Cain's offering to the Lord? How did Abel's offering differ from Cain's?. How did each offering appear to the Lord? Why did each offering appear to the Lord? Why did Cain become angry? What did the Lord say to Cain about his anger? Why did Cain slay Abel? What did the Lord say to Cain about Abel? In what sense was Cain his brother's keeper? What punishment did Cain receive?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—God's estimate of character. I. Was verified in the conduct of ain

II. Was measured in the curse upon Cain.

Was verified in the conduct of

Cain. Our last lesson described the origin of sin. This lesson portrays its progress. The first sin was against God, the second against God and a brother. The source of both was the covetous desire of the heart. Eve obeyed God in the hope of attaining a high intellectual boon. Her son sinned merely to destroy the happiness of another without thereby increasing his own. Eve marked the period when the innocence of childhood is endangered by the consciousness of good and evil. Cain's deed illustrates the more advanced epoch of manhood, when the strife and struggle of practical life is most intense, when the welfare of competition taxes and stimulates all the energies of man. The resemblance between Cain and Abel at this time was outwardly very close, yet in character there was a vast difference between them. They manifested their difference in the spirit of their worship. God looked to the heart of the worshipper and estimated the intent of the giver. Abel's sacrifice was accepted because he was acceptable. Cain's offering was rejected because he was unrighteous. The fundamental contrast between Cain and Abel was that Abel had faith while Cain had not. They represent the true and false worshiper, one looking to the blood of atonement, the other deponding upon good works. Abel's sacrifice was the expression of helplessness, dependence and confidence; ('ain's offering expressed no need of the blood of sacrifice. That Abel fell by the hand of his brother proved that the first sin had corrupted human nature to the core. Where could Eve find hope again with Cain a murderer and Abel dead? This history presents a melancholy instance of the disappointhopes. Cain excused himself on the ground of ignorance. He further charged God with unreasonableness, yet the gracious design of God was to afford the criminal an opportunity to confess his sin. Cain's answer implied his defiance of God and his disregard for humanity. His was the answer of the first deist, the first infidel, the first murderer. His first example has been wickedly followed.

II. Was measured in the curse upon Cain. The cruel deed of murder would not have been committee, in Cain had claimed that thus is a suite that not first east off the fear of God. He annoying and destructive habit. stood unconvinced of sin and impenilieth at the door-Cain alone tent ,when God in mercy showed his guilt. His defiant answer shows how he had hardened himself against God's voice. Though bold in crime and hard ened against entreaty, the murderer was cowardly in the presence of punishment. "Now art thou cursed." Fearful words, coming from God to the ear of man standing in his presence! Very little ides can be formed of the sufferings of Cain, when we read that God visited him with lifelong remorse, the bitter curse of unrequited toil and the doom of homeless wandering. Cain saw it to be Jehovah's own doing to send him forth with the memories of wrong doing within his soul . His lamentations prove the bitterness of his pangs. ('ain's sin was but the development of the first great sin of disobedience against the authority of God. "My punishment." Here Cain presents an finished picture of misery. Instead of a bold tone of insolence as at first, we see him sinking into the depths of depravity in suflen desperation. As in the expulsion of Adam from Eden, so was there in the expulsion of Cain from society, mercy mingled with judgment. Though Cain carried the mark of rejection, he carried the mark of protection. Whatever might be the mark which Cain carried on his person, after his murderous deed, the mark on his conscience was deeper, more tormenting and certainly irremovable. T.R.A.



Much thought should be given to a good erop rotation suited to the circumstances of the individual farmer. A leguminous crop should be a part of the rotation; land liable to wash should be put into grass and kept there; the farm should be made to carry all the stock of which it is capable, the crops grown on it should be as far as possible consumed on the land; the farmer should see how much manure he can make, how well he can save it and how advantage ously he can apply it; the renter's crop system should be abolished, and where farm lands may be leased it should be for long terms and with covenants in the lease looking toward the care of the land. The landlord who for a couple of relief from the consequences of of dollars an acre permits a tenant to do as he pleases with a farm for a year might just as well allow him, for a like eration, to draw on his bank ascount for a year. The one is just as much an eating up of the landlord's engital as the other.

There are methods to which a high of guilt and a fearfulness that degree of fertility can be attained and would be visited upon him. There maintained, and they should be carefully degree of fertility can be attained and ly a considerable population studied by everyone fortunate enough to be the owner of a piece of land. One of the principles lying at the bottom of these methods is that raw prode chould not be sold from the farm, but of each individual cow, of her dis that the process of manufacture should it were better to preserve be carried on to the utmost possible ex-

tent. It makes every difference in the world to the farm and the fertility whether the owner takes away from it and sells a bushel of corn for a quarter or a pound of butter for a quarter, although in either case he gets the same amount of money for what he has pro-

Dressed poultry that is considered first class in market is well fattened so that the breast bone does not stick out like the keel of a boat), yellow flesh, not only well dressed and cleanly picked-not roughd up or torn-clear of pin feathers, and no dirt on legs or feet.

FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.

Hogs of different ages and sizes will not do well in one herd. They should be separated into small herds, according to their ages and conditions. Sows and growing pige should not be allowed to be in the same lot with fattening hogs. The excessive corn diet is not so good for their growth and production, and with large fattening hogs the smaller ones will be crowded and injured.

Oats as a hog food have never been very popular for two reasons. First, the price is usually too high; and, second, the feeding value is not so great per pound for hogs as that of corn. When the price declines so that the cost per pound is less than eorn, the attention of hog raisers is mmediately attracted to its feeding value.

Ground oats with the halls sifted out make almost ideal food for young pigs. While oats scattered on the ground in a dry place make an excellent feed for brood sows. Crushed or ground oats as a slop may form one-third the ration for brood sows or growing pigs until they reach the period of fattening, but oats are not profitable as a feed for fattening

Professor J. H. Sheppard, dean of agriulture, North Dakota Agricultural Colege, says the amount of dry matter in a corn field increases at almost a regular rate from the time of tasseling until ripe. In round numbers it is as follows: When in eilk it has twice as much dry matter as when in tassel, when in milk three times, when glazed four times, and when ripe five times as much as when in tassel. The digestible matter also increases as the corn matures, so that the increase in dry matter is even less than the increase in digestible matter per acre. With these facts in mind, one cannot be left in doubt as to the importance of allowing corn to become as near ripe as possible before it is cut for fodder. It should not be left, however, after it is ripe, for the leaves to be broken off by the wind and the digestible matter bleached out by rain and dews. The common mistake, howment which sometimes follows parental ever, is for the grower to cut it too

> Calves should be fed milk regularly three times a day until they are from three to four months old. Do not skim the milk for young calves. As with the infant, it is de the whole milk to develop the strong growth and constitution.

An English method to prevent horses from gnawing mangers and feed troughs is to give the wood a coat of tar, put not have been committed, if Cain had not first east off the feer of Cod H.

> long time before the colt quits suckng it should be petted and handled, so hat you will not be a stranger to it when the time comes to break it to driving. The value of many a promising horse is reduced materially because this job of handling is put off until the colt gets set in its ways.

Drive slowly when the horse is full of food and water but after the muscles are limbered and the system emptied increase the speed. Never keep the same gait and speed for a long time ,for a change of gait is equivalent to a rest.

The barrel churn is build upon the principle of making good butter. When this type of church is used the globules of fat in the cream are forced out by concusion. That is, the cream is forced against the side of the churn and the fat separated in a granular condition.

Silage is a successent and bulky feed and is, therefore, not adapted to feeding pigs and hogs. Swine will eat a small amount of silage, but it cannot be considered a very nutritious feed for them. Their stomachs are so small that they require a concentrated feed rather than a bulky one.

Susphur is said to be good to cure the habit of eating pigs and o'vokens which hogs sometimes acquire. It is said to be good for ridding hogs on lice. A tablespoonful to each hog in the slop for a few days will do the business.

Experiments at the Michigan station show that there is little if any difference in the amount of butterfat in the milk of a heifer and of a mature cow. Somebody's imagination would seem to have afforded the only foundation for the popular belief to the contrary.

The argument is sometimes made that pure bred stock are adapted to rich people who have plenty of money, but not the poor farmer who has limited capital. If it be true that pure heed stock are not adapted to the poor farmer it follows that there is no stock suitable for him, for certainly the serub is not. The scrub might do for rich peo-ple who wanted to find some way to lose their money. These men could certainly have no other motive in raising ecrubs. The fact is that purchrods are the animals for the poor farmer because they will help make him independent, if the proper care is given them. The scrub has no place.

The future of many a promising cow has been ruined by improper making soon after calving. The dairy cow has developed to produce large quantities of milk, consequently certain of its organs, such as the mon mary glands, have become greatly larged and weakened just before after calving, due probably to the seret ing of large quantities of milk. The art. science, whichever we may call it of milking may be attained by only these who are willing to make a study temperament and phy



## TORONTO MARKETS

PARMERS MARKET.	
Dressed hogs\$11 50	\$12 00
Dutter, dairy a 20	0 34
Eggs, new laid	0.00
Chiekens, Ib. A 19	0 20
Ducks, lb 0 17	0 21
Geese, lb. 0 15	
Turkeys, lb. 0 23	0 18
Apples winter 133	0 25
Apples, winter, bbl 1 50	3 00
Potatoes, bag 0 90	0 95
Celery, dozen	0 40
Cappage, dozen. A 40	9 45
Beef, forequarters, cwt 7 50	8 25
Do., hindquarters, cwt. 11 00	12 00
Do., choice sides, cwt. 10 00	11 00
Do., medium, cwt 8 00	9 00
Do common int	
Do., common, icwt 6 50	7 50
Mutton, light, cwt 8 00	10 00
Veal, common, cwt 8 00	10 00
Do., prime, cwt 11 00	13 00
Lamb 14 50	16 00
SUGAR MARKET	-

Beaver granulated ...... 4 55 5c less.

### LIVE STOCK.

kets to-day. The run at the Union Stock Yards was divided about equally between good and common cattle, and the former went rapidly, while the inferior sorts were hard to get rid of. Receipts: Union Stock Yards—842 cattle, 71 calves, 2,249 hogs. 398 short. hogs. 398 sheep. City Cattle Market. 77 cattle. 95 sheep. 3 caives, 35 hogs.

Butchers' cows, choice 4 75
Do. medium 350
Do. canners 2 60
Do. bulls 3 06
Feeding steers 5 25
Stockers, choice 5 06
Do., light. 4 00
Milkers, choice, each 40 00
Springers. 40 00
Sheep, ewes 4 75
Bucks and culls 3 00
Lambs 8 50 

## OTHER MARKETS.

Open. High. Low. Close Wheat-Oats-

July .. .. ... MINNEAPOLIS WHEAT.

86 7-8c; July, 90 5-8 to 90 3-4c; cash-No. 1 hard, 89 3-8c; No. 1 northern, 87 3-8 to 98 7-8c; No. 2 northern, 85 3-8 to 86 7-8c. Corn-No. 3 yellow, 44 to 44 1-2e: Oats-No. 3 white, 31 1-2c. Rye-No. 2, 57e to 60c. Bran-\$19.50. Flour, in wood, f.o.b. Minneapolis-First patents, \$4.40 to \$4.75: second patents, \$4.25 to \$4.60; first clears, \$3.20 \$3.50; second clears, \$2.40 to \$2.70

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET. Duluth.-Closing: Wheat No hard, 85 1-4e; No. 1 northern, 87 3-4e No. 2 do., 85 1-4c; July, 90 3-4c asked; May, 89 1-4c to 89 3-8c asked.

LONDON WOOL SALES.

London.-There were 10,945 bales of fered at the wool auction sales to-day Vigorous buying advanced good wools out inferior grades remained in buyers favor. Fine Geelong scoured sold at 2s 7 1-2d and greasy at 1s 5d. Americans bought greasy merinos and light crossbreds at hardening rates. The sales follow: New South Wales, 3,000 bales; scoured, is 4d to is il 1-2d; greasy, 8s to 1s 2d. Queensland, 1.800 bales; secured. Is 6 1-2d to 2s 2d; greasy 6 34d to 1s ld. Victoria, 3.500 bales; scoured, Is 2d to 2s 7 1-2d; greasy, 7d to Is 5d. South Australia. 800 bales; scoured, Is 7d to Is 10d; greasy, 7 112d. West Australia, 700 bales; greasy, 7 1-4d to is 2d. Tasmania, 100 bales; greasy, is 2d to is 3d. New Zeniand, 500 bales; greasy, 7d to 1s 1 1-2d. Cape of Good Hope and Natal, 500 bales; scoured, mil; gressy, 6 1-2d to 11 1-2d.

GLASGOW CATTLE MARKET. Glasgow-Messrs. Watson & Batchelor reported short offerings and brisk demand for cattle here at 14 1-2c to 15c for the best Irish steers; secondary bringing 13 1-2c to 14c.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK

Market-Weak, at Wednesd	a	V'*	close.
Beeves	5	80	\$ 9 20
Tevas steers	4	70	5 70
Wastern steers	õ	40	7 15
Stockers and feeders	4	90	7 60
Cows and heifers			7 40
Calves		(30)	10 50
Hogs-Receipts 24,900.		- 0	20 30
Market-Slow; steady to 5c	h	gh	er than
Wednesday's average.			or -ment
	7	20	7 45
Mixed			7 4734
Heavy			7 50
Rough		00	7 15
Pigs	- 6	85	7 45
Bulk of sales	-	30	
Sheep Receipts 15,900.	•	30	7 45
Market-Dull and weak at	ERT.		
average.	**	eu n	esnay's
Native	4		
Western	4	75	6 15

East Buffalo, N. Y., Despatch-Cattle Receipts, 50; steady. Veals—Receipts, 25; active,25 to 50 cents

10 cents higher: heavy, \$7.5 to \$7.5; mixed and yorkers, \$7.5 to \$7.9; roughs, \$6.75 to \$7; stags, \$6.50 to \$6.25; dairies, \$7.60 to

Sheep and lambs-Receipts, 4,000 head slow: wethers. 10 cents lower; lambs, \$5 cents lower; lambs, \$5 to \$6.6; yearlings, \$6 to \$6.25; wethers, \$6 to \$6.35; ewes, \$2.50 to \$6.75; sheep, mixed, \$6.80 to \$6. LIVERPOOL PRODUCE

No. 2 Manitoba—7s 7d. No. 3 Manitoba—7s 5d. Putures—Steady: March, 7s 6 3-8d; May. 7s 4d; July, 7s 3 5-2d. Corn Spot, quiet; America numbers, 5s 6d. American mixed, old, vis. Galve

Flour-Winter patents, 29s 6d.

PARMERS MARKET.						
hogs	\$11 50	\$12 00	I			
dairy	0 30	0 34	ľ			
w laid	0 40	0.00	ł			
, Ib	0 18	0 20	l			
b	0 17	0 21	ŀ			
	0 15		l			
Ib.	6 23	0 25	ŀ			
vinter, bbl	1 50	3 00	l			
, bag	9 90		ŀ			
ozen	0 30	0 40	l			
dozen	0 40	9 45				
equarters, cwt	7 50	8 25				
indquarters, cwt.	11 00	12 00				
hoice sides, cwt.	10 00	11 00				
edium, cwt	8 00	9 00				
mmon ions						
mmon, icwt	0 00	7 50				
light, cwt	8 00	10 00	١.			
mmon, cwt	8 00	10 00				
rime, ewt	11 00	13 00				
••••••	14 50	16 00				
GTTG 47 354			1			

### Sugars are quoted in Toronto, in bags, per ewt., as follows: Extra granulated, St. Lawrence . . \$ 4 70 Do., Redpath's ..... 4 70

changes in prices at the local cattle mar-

77 cattle. \$5 sheep. 3 calves, 35 ho Export cattle, choice ... \$6 75 De. medium ... \$75 Do. bulls. ... \$275 Butchers' cattle, choice ... \$6 50 Do. medium ... \$25 Do. common ... \$00 Butchers' cows, choice ... 4 75 Do. medium ... 3 50

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

May ..... 88% 89 88% July ...  $90\frac{1}{4}$   $90\frac{1}{2}$   $89\frac{7}{8}$ 

Minneapolis.—Close: Wheat—May,

CHICATO IN E SI			
Cattle-Receipts 5,500.			
Market-Weak, at Wedneso			close.
Beeves	5 5	80	\$ 9 30
Tevas steers	4	70	5 70
Western steers			7 15
Stockers and feeders			7 60
Cows and heifers	•	26	7 40
Calves			
Hogs Receipts 24,000.	٠	W	10 50
Market-Slow; steady to 5c	n	gne	er than
Wednesday's average.			
Light			7 45
Mixed			7 4734
Heavy	7	00	7 60
Rough	7	00	7 15
Pigs	5	85	7 45
Buik of sales		30	7 45
Sheep-Receipts 15.000.	-		
Market-Dull and weak at	w	dn.	andow's
average.	•••	eu iii	- way S
Matters			

Yearlings 6 30
Lamba, native 6 76
Western 6 35
BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

lower, at \$5 to \$12.

Home-Receipts 4,600; fairly active, 5 to

What-Spot, steady; No. 1 Man., to

-Basier: Jan., % 2 7-64: B 4 11 7-M

Hops in London (Pacific Coast)-45 5a Hams, short cut, 14 to 16 lbs. 68s.

Short ribs. 16 to 24 lbs.—63s. Clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs.—62s 6d. Long clear middles, light, 28 to 34 lbs.—

Long clear middles, heavy, 35 to 40 lbs. Short clear backs, 16 to 20 lbs.—59s 6d. Shoulders, spare, 11 to 13 lbs.—77s. Lara, prime western, in tierces—50s 9d. American, refined-52s 3d. Cheese. Canadian, finest white—62s 6d. Colored—63s 6d.

Tallew, prime city-31s 6d. MONTREAL LIVE STOCK.

Montreal Despatch-East end market-Cattle—Receipts 1,200; calves, 300; sheep and lambs, 600; milch cows, 75; hogs.

1,406.
There was no really prime beeves on There was no really prime beeves on the market, a few of the best sold at about 6 1-2, and from that down to 4 1-2 for pretty good animals, while the com-mon stock sold at from 3 to 4 1-2. Cows, 330 to 360. Calves, 4 cents to 6 cants. Sheen shout 5 cents. Lambs, Sheep about 5 cents. Hogs. about 9 1-2. a few at 9 3-4.

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# THE POULTRY WORLD

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BREEDERS NEED GOOD STOCK.

If the breeding of thoroughbred poul-largely for the sake of expected profits, we would not hear of so may disgusted or badly-disappointed bree rs. A large proportion of the beginner commence with an enormous amount of self-conceit and false ideas, and a small amount of experience, and, until this is directly and completely reversed, success and profit will never be attained.

When a breeder or farmer starts in with common poultry-common only so far as not being pure bred is concernedhe watches everything carefully, and works every known point to make a good profit. With those who commence with pure-bred fowls, however, most beginners first figure on getting a big price for all the surplus birds they can raise, basing this on what they paid for the stock they commenced with. Many good birds may have been bred, but the orders at good prices come in very slowly, and soon the breeder gets out of heart, and his castles in the air are dispelled, forgetting that it takes time to build up a reputation and trade.

Let the breeding of pure-bred poultry be conducted so that it will pay a fair profit, even if all the surplus birds have to be sold for and then whatever number of birds are sold at good figures for breeding stock will be so much clear gain. This is the most businesslike and satisfactory plan to work on.

Forty years ago farmers generally kept mongrel fowls, barnyard fowls, those not produced by crossing two district breeds, but "native," mixed, various in color and size, not uniform in shape or qualities. Heterogenous flocks were the rule, although in some instances there was an infusion of game blood, and later than of the original importations of Shanghain and Chittagong. In writing about farmers' fowle it is not our purpose to give instructions how to task to do it, the lesson would be short cock birds with your neighbor often, choosing the best formed and most vigorous every time. But this is superfluous nowadays. The mongrel, like the Indian, is waning, while thousands of farmers have chosen thoroughbred stock. it is true that before the standard was adopted, and when every man bred fowls on his own hook, we used to hear of Bucks county fowls and the Jersey Blues, and it was said that they possessed some grand distinction over the common flocks. Attempts were made by fanciers, who obtain specimens of these noted birds to make a seperate variety that would breed true to feather, under the treatment commonly accorded to fancy fowle, while retaining the good qualities of the original stock.

These experiments failed signally, the experimenters finding out that they could not obtain a satisfactory type, and at the same time maintain the excellence, as fowls for utility, that had previously distinguished them. They were the common fowls improved somewhat by selection and had been bred for strength and good table qualities. They lived with free range, and not protected from intercourse with the mongrel element around them. A life of almost unrestricted freedom was necessary for them. Under other conditions they would not compare well with Brahmas, Leghorns or other well-known and wellestablished breeds.

## HARDINESS BIG ELEMENT.

Hardihood is a grand element of euccessful breeding. Hunters and backwoods men are said to be hardy; but their strength accords with their condition. Put such folks into the shop, store or manufactory and they wilt and seem not to manifest as much endurance as the slim, pale mechanic, who has been used to indoor life from his youth up, fellowing the footsteps of his father. The domestication of animals seems at first to place them in an abnormal condition, but it by no means follows that this state will continue foreign to the nature of the animals cultivated. We feel sure that any one who has studied chis subject carefully will agree with us whe nwe say that the domesticated fowls kept (preperly kept) in our modern poultry yards are fully as strong in their places, producing more and transmitting their strength as well as their progenitors that had more freedom.

What fewls are best for the farmer? There is plenty of room about the farmer's domicile, and if anybody can keep wild fowls he can. He has also peculiar facilities for keeping a distinct breed. Any farmer having his buildings onefourth of a mile from neighbors can keep an improved breed managed the old fashion, giving the birds free range if he provides suitable buildings for winter and for selected breeding stock in spring. Then why should the farmer choose the best breed for his purpose, doing the thing that may so easily be done? The village poultryman has near neighbors and the confinement of his poultry is a necessity, but the majority of farmers may cultivate one improved breed, under the best condi-

tions and with minimum care. This for the ordinary farmer who does not desire to keep a large number, and would have a general purpose fowl, good for laying. Plymouth Rocks, the Wyandottes or even our old friends with their business suits the American Dominiques.

The truth dawns on many of our farmers that a bushel of grain will net more money, put through the gizzards of poultry, than if fed to any other stock. They put up buildings to accommodate fowls and design to extend this branch of their industry. Such men will not err by cultivating two breeds, say, Brahmas and Leghorns. A good breed for win-ter laying (setting in due season) and table use, with a non-setting variety, may well receive attention on the same farm. Farmers will generally depend on natural incubation as heretofore, so that a breed of setters is indispensable. The non-setters, if considerably more than half the number kept, will materially lessen the burden of breaking up setting hens. Persistent setters, following their instinct out of season when not needed for incubation, try the patience. They seem to be losing time, while the everlasting layers go right on, or at least behave better during vacation.

Now, supposing our farmer has well started with light Brahmas and White Leghorns. If he has a large pasture or grove near the premises, they may all run together during the warm season excepting the breeding stock. It is no great or difficult task to keep the selected fowls, used for breeding each varicty, separate, with suitable house room and yards. The layers of market eggs need not have males among them. It addeds not to the value of the eggs their being fertilized, unless used for hatching. Light Brahmas and White Leghorns look well and are highly esteemed in many localities, yet for the sake of looks we would not recommend them as farm fowl where the soll s red in color. Light ed fowls get their plumage stained by contact with red clay. There are the partridge Cochins and Brown Leghorns, having st the colors for such a locality. Plymouth Rocks also look very much better if they are kept on a light-colored soil.

NEW BLOOD SPURS EGG PRODUC TION.

We prefer to see all breeds of fowls cultivated purely, yet it cannot be denied that, among farmers' flocks, improvement has been effected by the introduction of new blood. There is some carelessness in this matter, but the idea prevails that a cross is the proper thing to increase size or give a spur to egg production. A man desires larger fowls and to effect his purpose procures a Brahma, Cochin or Plymouth cock, or he desires better layers and procures a Leghorn or Spanish cock.

This costs but little, and the improvement is apparent as this practice goes on. Why not have it accord with the best experience? If a cross is made it is far preferable to cross two breeds of improved fowls, and discard the former mongrels altogether. Take, for instance, the Light Brabmas and White Leghorns. This is a good cross, as reported by those who have tried it. Also the Partridge Cochins and Brown Leghorns. One poultryman reports that his success with this combination was very satisfac-

"I have procured the progeny from this union," he writes, "a splendid cross, breed mongrels; though if it were our I assure you. I at that I got goodand comprehensive, to wit: Exchange disposition of the Cochins was done cock birds with your neighbor often, away with almost entirely. The color was very well preserved, both cockerels and pullets coming quite even. In a very large flock last year the laying quality of the Leghorns was retained. and the legs of the progeny were vellow. and but few were feathered on the shanks." As a rule this, as we all know, is very desirable for poultry that we wish to market.

The hens from this cross proved very superior layers. The young cockerels made good growth during the summer and turned out very handsome roosters in the fall. The pullets began to lay in December, and kept on steadily till the following early summer. The few that inclined to "broodiness" were easily broken up, and not over & per cent. of them showed any signs of a desire to six the first year at all.

Now let us follow this enthusiastic on perimenter a little further. He attempted to breed the chicks that came from this cross among themselves the next year, and this was a failure, a grave mistake. In the first instance he brought two diverse strains of blood together, giving a strong vitality and remarkable productiveness; in the latter, near relatives were mated together, and the progeny manifested a lower vitality. did not look as well as the original stock on either side, and manifested no extraordinary reproductive power.

The conclusion was plain that the product of the first cross was very profitable, and that, so far as crossing was concerned, it was advisable to "keep do ing so," and not breed the mongrels of good blood together, but utilize the pullets as layers of market eggs and slaughter the cockerels. In this instance there is no doubt that the admixture of two such strong-blooded varieties as the Leghorns and Cochins will give in the first remove from the parents a superior marketing and laying fowl.

Experiments of this kind seldom am ount to much, and, as they are generally conducted, the products offend good taste. We have so many fine breeds of poultry, thoroughbred, and they are so pleasing and satisfactory in their way. when bred in their purity, that crossing seems to be only the fratification of a wanton curiosity. Farmers, especially, will mix things. We have seen farm flocks with indications of Cochin. Brahma. Leghorn, Polish. Plymouth Rock and barnvard blood; and the report concerning the production of eggs was general favorable.

The theory seemed to be that fancy breeds are superior in one way or another, and that getting all the good blood, well mixed together, a perfect fowl would be the result. Whether this theory is correct or not, the method is cheap, as it involves only the purchase of a cock new and then. This frequent infusion of "fresh blood" is no mistake. But how they look! There is just as much sense in having good-looking fowts on the farmer's premises as fine stock of any other kind.

"The quality of mercy is not strained," quotes the Wise Guy. "How useen itary!" exclaimed the Simple Mug.