THE SNOW STORM.

Last night, when the lights of the village
Fast twinkled along the hill,
And the teams that were late with their meal-grist
Came toiling up from the mill;
Slowly drifting and falling,
Like dust from the miller's fan,
On the fields, and the roads, and the fences,
The winter's storm began.

The boy looked out from the window
Away o'er the dusky plain;
"It snows," he cried to his sister,
"Come listen against the pane,"
Drifting it fell, and whirling
Like foam where the mill wheel goes,
And the boy went off with his sister,
And shouted, "It snows, it snows!"

Out through the half-opened doorway
They peered forth into the night;
It dashed its breath in their faces,
And darkened the flickering light;
In the dusk they shouted, "Oh, mother,
The valley is white below,
And teams that go by from the miller's
We scarcely can see, for the snow."

Then the voice of their gray haired grand-dame
Was heard through the whispering gloom,
While the dancing flame of the fire-light
Flecked shadows along the room:
"Come hither," she spoke, "my darlings;"
The fire at our hearth is warm:
Let us think while the snows are drifting
Of the shelterless lambs in the storm."

All night on the house-tops falling
The soft flakes fluttered down,
And the church-bell's voice grew husky,
From the weight of his frosty crown;
But when the first gleam of daylight
Through darkness began to steal,
He shook it down from his forehead,
And shouted a gladsome peal.

But the hosts of the mail-clad storm-king
Had triumphed throughout the night,
And the banners and blades of autumn
Were crushed in the bitter fight;
But when the red glory of sunrise
Was unfurled in the east again,
There was smoke on the edge of the hill-top,
And a glimmer of spears on the plain,

And the children, the merry children,
Who saw the lights on the hill,
When the teams that were late with their meal-grist
Came toiling up from the mill,
When the winter snows are falling,
And the fire on the hearth is warm,
May they think of their grand-dame
"For the shelterless lambs in the storm."

Cross-breeding of Animals.

The following remarks on the much mooted point, upon which a great deal of ink has been wasted, are from the pen of an Englisn writer, well posted up, and candid and fearless in the expression of his opinions:

We cannot do better, in concluding our paper, than gather and arrange in a collected form, the various points of our subject, which appear to be of sufficient importance to be again presented to the attention of our readers. We think, therefore, we are justified in coming to the conclusions:

1st. That there is a direct pecuniary advantage in judicious cross breeding: that increased size, disposition to fatten, and early maturity, are thereby induced.

2d. That while this may be caused for the most part by the very fact of crossing, yet it is principally due to the superior influence of the male over the size and external appearance of the offspring; so that it is desirable, for the butcher, that the male should be of larger frame than the female, and should excel in those peculiarities we are desirous of reproducing. Let it be here, however, repeated, as an exceptional truth, that as a rule the male parent influences mostly the size and external form, and the female parent the constitution, general health and vital powers, yet that the opposite result sometimes takes place.

3d. certain peculiarities may be imparted to a breed by a single cross. Thus, the ponies of the New-Forest exhibit characteristics of blood, although it is many years since that a thorough bred horse was turned into the forest for the purpose. So, likewise, we observe in the Hampshire sheep the Roman nose and large heads, which formed so strong a feature in their maternal ancestors, although successive crosses of the Southdown were employed to change the character of the breed.

It has been asserted, by some observers, that when a female breeds successively from several different males, the offspring often bears a strong resmblance to the first male, which is supposed to arise from certain impressions made on the imagination or nervous system of the female. Although this is sometimes or often the case, we doubt very much whether it is so frequent as to be considered as a rule.

4th. Although in the crossing of sheep for the purpose of the butcher, it is generally advisable to use males of a larger breed, provided they possess a disposition to fatten; yet in such cases, it is of importance that the pelvis of the female should be wide and capacious, so that no injury should arise in lambing, in consequence of the increased size of the heads of the lambs. The shape of the ram's head should be studied for the same reason. In crossing, however, for the purpose of establishing a new breed, the size of the male must give way to other more important considerations; although it will still be desirable to use a large female of the breed we seek to improve. Thus the Southdowns have vastly improved the larger Hampshires, and the Liecester, the huge Lincolns and the Costswolds.

5th. Although the benefits are most evident in the first cross, after which, from pairing the cross bred animals, the chief effect of one breed or the other, or the incongruities of both, are perpetually breaking out—yet, unless the characteristics and conformation of the two breeds are altogether averse to each other, nature opposes no barrier to their successful admixture; so that in the course of time, by the aid of selection and careful weeding, it is practicable to establish a new breed altogether. This, in fact, has been the history of our principal breeds.

We confess that we cannot entirely admit either of the antagonistic doctrines held by the rival advocates of crossing and pure breeding. The public have reason to be grateful to the exertions of either party; and still more have they respectively reason to be grateful to each other.

Let us conclude by repeating the advice that, when equal advantages can be attained by keeping a pure breed of sheep, such pure breed should unquestionably be preferred; and that, although crossing for the purpose of the butcher may be practiced with impunity, and even with advantage, yet no one should do so for the purpose of establishing a new breed, unless he has clear and well-defined views of the object he seeks to accomplish, and has duly studied the principles on which it can be carried out, and is determined to bestow for the space of half a lifetime his constant and unremitting attention to the discovery and removal of defects.

[From the Germantown Telegraph.

The Best Place to Plant Orchards.

Like in every other branch of pomology, it has long been a mooted question as to what location or exposure should be selected for an apple orchard. Some prefer one, some another and frequently good success will attend them on whatever part of a farm may have been selected. Indeed we have encountered apple orchards upon all kinds of exposures and soils, bending under their burden of fruit. We noticed especially during a trip through some of the Northern counties of this State in August last, that in certain regions, every orchard was laden with fruit, no matter where they stood. All kinds of exposures and soils seemed this year to be placed on the same footing—fruit was everywhere. Old trees which looked as though they had not borne for years, "groaned" under its pomological abundance.

Nevertheless, it cannot be doubted that care in selecting the position for the orchard, will well repay the trouble. For instance, there are sometimes hillsides upon a farm which are very difficult, laborious and expensive in cultivating, and then yielding but poor crops. We have often seen these occupied with apple orchards and seemed to be as productive as any other. A little more attention must be paid in transplanting, giving them a solid footing and a slight inclination up hill.

Mr. C. B. Ott communicates his experience and views on steep hillside orchards, in the last *Gardener's Monthly*, from which we make an extract:

"I would always prefer a sheltered situation behind a hill or wood for my orchards Steep hillsides are generally objected to for planting an apple orchard; but I think a steep hillside is not the worst place, by any means.—My hillside orchard is doing quite as well as any I have. It is in the form of a half circle, with a southeastern exposure. I planted my trees in a half circle to suit the hill, in order to make it more pleasant to work, and also to keep it from washing. I think that trees can be placed much closer on a steep hillside than elsewhere to advantage. My method of cultivation has been to plow down from the upper side to within four or five feet of the next row. I plow the first furrow close to the row with one horse; I then plow the balance with two horses.

"In four or five plowings, it will form a terrace that answers a very good purpose. I had also planted a row of nursery trees with each row of orchard trees, which did very well. By merely working from the upper side, the spaces are now level, or rather inclining a little back, which causes it to retain moisture much longer than it did before it was plowed into terraces. The spaces between the terraces I use for strawberries, blackberries, seedbeds, &c. It is also a firstrate place to raise early vegetables.

"This side-hill used to be a regular eye-sore, but now it is the prettiest part of my farm. I think we can make no better use of our steep side-hills than to plant them with trees, if it were for nothing else than for the appearance. The grass growing on the terraces we used, when the trees were young, for mulching, drawing mellow ground on them from the upper side."

Bone Dust.—The proprietor of a bone mill advertises that those sending their *own* bones to be ground will be attended to with punctuality and dispatch.

A Hint to Farmers.

The following which is derived from an anonymcus source may give a useful hint to many:

'Nathan, where is the shovel? here I've been hunting long enough, to do my work twice and cannot find the shovel.'

The farmer was wroth.

'I don,t know where 'tis, father, somewheres about I s'pose.

The two joined in the search.

'Nathan, you have left the shovel where you have worked, I know. Why don't you ever put the tools in their places?'

'Where is the place for the shovel, I should like to know, father?'

He couldn't tell. It had no place. Sometimes it was laid in the wagon, and occasionally accompanied that vehicle when harnessed in a hurry. Sometimes it was hung up with the harness, to fall down when not wanted, or get covered up when it was. A great deal of shoe leather had come to naught by that shovel. It had at times more than the obliviousness of Sir John Franklin, and defied discovery. So it was with all other tools. They would seem to vanish at times, and then come to light as rusty as old anchors.

The farmer's barn was crowded. He had no "spare room" there. There were several in his dwelling. But the barn was always crammed—it was a kind of a mammoth sausage—Stuffed every year. So there was no room for a special room for tools. In his imagination he never saw his hoes hung on a long cleat, his chains all regular in a row, his rakes and his forks overhead; certainly he was never anxious for such a convenient room.

Why?

His father never had a tool-house, and his father was called a good farmer.

So he was, then—in his day—but there are better husbandmen now, let me say, and I desire to shock no one's veneration.

Did they find the shovel? No! they might as well have searcbed for the philospher's stone seemingly. Nathan started for Mr. Goodman's to borrow one. Their work must be done, and borrow he must.

'I don't know as you can find one in my tool-house,' replied Mr. Goodman.

Nathan noticed that he bore down on some of his words like a man on a plowbeam, Didn't he mean something? Nathan went to he tool-room thoughtfully. A wide door on wheels opened with a slight push, and there were Goodman's tools, enough, Nathan thought, to equip a company of Sappers and miners! Hatchets, axes, saws, tree-scrapers, grafting tools, hoes, diggers, shovels, spades, pickaxes, crow-bars plows, harrows, cultivators, seed sowers, cieves, trowels, arkes, pitchforks, flails, chains, yokes, muzzles, ropes, crow-twine, baskets, measures,—all were there neatly and compactly arranged. It was Goodman's ark—to save him from the deluge of unthrift! Here every night the tools were brought in and wiped clean and hung up in their places. The next morning a job could be commenced at once. Goodman knew. He partitioned off a large room in his new barn for tools. It was central and easy of access. It was a pleasant place for a visitor; the tools were the best of the kind. Every new shovel or rake, or fork, before used, was well oiled with linsed oil, which left the wood smooth and impervious to water. Goodman frequently says, "I had rather have the few hundred dollars I have spent for tools so invested than the same in railroad stock. It pays better." Now there is no patent on Goodman's plan, and I hope many will go into it—the more "successful imitations," the better.

Proverbs for the Orchard.

William D. Gallagher, Esq., formerly an editor as well as poet, but now a farmer and horticulturist, stirs up his brother farmers of Ohio, on the subject of fruit culture, by laying before them in the *Ohio Valley Farmer*, the following twelve Proverbs:

1st. Every farmer's family ought to have a good supply of pleasant and wholesome fruits.

2d. Every good farmer ought to have a good orchard upon it, bearing fruit for home use and market purposes.

3d. It costs no more to raise fruit of the best quality than ordinary fruit.

4th. A careful selection of varieties should hence be made, and the best trees purchased at a reliable nursery.

5th. Acre for acre, one year with another, a good bearing orchard pays better than any other crop,

6th. This being admitted, at least much favor should be shown to fruit as to corn, potatoes, or any other product that enters into the crop of a mixed husbandry.

7th. As all the land planted in corn and potatoes, as a general rule, is given up to the exclusive use of corn and potatoes, for the time being, so the land planted in apples, peaches, and other fruits, should be given up to the exclusive use of such several fruits, while they continue to occupy it, and a crop is expected to be produced.

8th. As the ground is carefully and thoroughly prepared for the reception of the seeds which are to yield corn, potatoes, wheat and other crops, so the ground should be carefully and thoroughly prepared for the reception of the trees that are to bear apples, peaches, pears and other fruits.

9th. As the stalk which yields corn, and the vine which yields potatoes, are well cultivated and regularly cared for during their early growth—the plow, the harrow, the cultivator and the hoe, being all put in requisition—so should the tree that yields apples, and the tree that yields peaches and other fruit be well cu tivated and regularly cared for during the period of their early growth—like implements, with others necessary and appropriate, being used to promote their progress, and productiveness.

10th. As fruit pays better than the ordinary run of field crops, for labor bestowed and money invested, it is entitled to the best and most suitable land upon a farm for its use.

11th. As springy hill sides are detrimental to fruit trees, and low situtions are hazardous to the fruit on account of the more common prevalence and greater severity of late spring frosts in such localities, the most elevated sites, that are not too far from the farm house, should be unhesitatingly and ungrudgingly assigned for the orchard.

12th, and finally. Farmers, as a class, are clear headed, common-sensed people, as these are clear headed, common-sensed propositions, and hence that it is but reasonable for us to expect the reception and adoption throughout our entire agricultural parish, of the twelve points which we have thus presented.

The Taylor Grape.

Mr. Garber of Columbia, Pa., in a late communication to the *Germantown Telegraph*, in relation to the Taylor grape, says:

This grape created somewhat of a sensation at the meeting of the United States Pomological Society, in Philadelphia, last September. As I have a much higher opinion of its merits than some persons, who then and there gave the "public the benefit of their thoughts," I have for some time felt an inclination to say a few words in its favor.

I suppose the name "Bullit," is now dropped by general consent, as it would be unjust to retain the name of a person who had so little regard for the only plant in existance, as to let his cattle browse it down; and that had it not been for the Hon. Judge Taylor, who fortunately rescued the plant,—and nobly has he disseminated it to all who applied, "free gratis"—and only for his keen appreciation of the variety, it would have been lost to pomologists.

At the United States Pomological meeting at Philadelphia, last September, this grape, among many others, was on exhibition, and created some talk. It was by no means in a condition to show; and I strongly urged friend S. Miller, who had it there, to hold it back until good specimens could be had, to give an idea of its condition. I will state that Judge Taylor, of Kentucky, sent the fruit to Mr. Miller, packed in damp grass, and thus, while half of the grass had rotted, and the mass all mouldy, and berries decayed, the result was anything but a fine "aroma" to those not decayed or rotten. Besides, the Judge stated in his letter, that these were the second crop, which accounted for their lateness in ripening, and want of flavor, as the first crop had been destroyed by frost:—such casualties have happened to my own vines more than once—the effect of which is, that the vine will push all the dormant buds, and frequently produce a second crop; but the fruit will be late and flavorless. Such was the condition of these grapes on exhibition, after coming six or eight hundred miles by express in a close box, among mouldy and rotten grass, and the thermometer from 75° to 85° in the open air! What grape would bear such treatment and be still in good condition.

One of the Judges (?) on fruit, remarked, "There are specimens of the Taylor grape here, which have every appearance of being ripe, and yet are quite indifferent!" I should say this is judging fruit with a vengeance! and he "thinks by the appearance of the wood it is especially adapted to the South!"

It was found growing wild on the Cumberland mountains in Kentucky, perhaps a degree and a half further South than Philadelphia, but has not Catawba and Isabella and many others originated still further South? and yet the gentleman supposed this to be especially adapted to the South! Save me from my friends!

A graft of this grape I stuck on a strong Fox grape root, the last week in May, 1859,—it made over 60 feet of wood the first season, and ripened to within a few joints of the ends of the shoots, and last season, 1860, set some two dozen or more bunches, which the great hail storm in June last, smashed up, and left about as many crippled berries as there were bunches. Had it not been for this accident, I could have shown the grapes, as growing in Pennsylvania. It is quite as vigorous a grower—has as clean and healthy wood and smooth leaves, and free from mildew as any grape on my "patch," and there are no less than one hundred varieties at least,—not excepting Concord, Clinton, etc. It is a greenish-white grape—bunches not large—berries size of Delaware, or a little larger, round, transparent, a soft pulp, and in my judgment (which I give for what it is worth,) the most promising white grape yet in cultivation. One plant is worth a dozen of your foreign Claras, doubtful Cassadas, or unthrifty Annas and Rebeccas. This fall the wood ripened to the terminal bud on all the shoots and cuttings planted last year; have made six to eight feet of wood this season, and will bear fruit next. As to the hardiness of the vine, I am not prepared as yet to give an opinion, as I give all my vines, at least while young, a covering of coarse litter, during the winter. Covering is a benefit to all vines.

Thus you will see, friend Feas, that in planting the Taylor grape, "a very young man need not wait till his hair becomes gray," before he may enjoy the fruits of his labor.