

Here follows the evidence of an English gardener:⁵⁰ "I have this summer met with better success in my cultivation of melons, in an unprotected state, from the seeds of hybrids (*i.e.* mongrels) obtained by cross impregnation, than with old varieties. The offspring of three different hybridisations (one more especially, of which the parents were the two most dissimilar varieties I could select) each yielded more ample and finer produce than any one of between twenty and thirty established varieties."

Andrew Knight⁵¹ believed that his seedlings from crossed varieties of the apple exhibited increased vigour and luxuriance; and M. Chevreul⁵² alludes to the extreme vigour of some of the crossed fruit-trees raised by Sageret.

By crossing reciprocally the tallest and shortest peas, Knight⁵³ says: "I had in this experiment a striking instance of the stimulative effects of crossing the breeds; for the smallest variety, whose height rarely exceeded two feet, was increased to six feet; whilst the height of the large and luxuriant kind was very little diminished." Mr. Laxton gave me seed-peas produced from crosses between four distinct kinds; and the plants thus raised were extraordinarily vigorous, being in each case from one to two or three feet taller than the parent-forms growing close alongside them.

Wiegmann⁵⁴ made many crosses between several varieties of cabbage; and he speaks with astonishment of the vigour and height of the mongrels, which excited the amazement of all the gardeners who beheld them. Mr. Chaundy raised a great number of mongrels by planting together six distinct varieties of cabbage. These mongrels displayed an infinite diversity of character; "But the most remarkable circumstance was, that, while all the other cabbages and borecoles in the nursery were destroyed by a severe winter, these hybrids were little injured, and supplied the kitchen when there was no other cabbage to be had."

Mr. Maund exhibited before the Royal Agricultural Society⁵⁵ specimens of crossed wheat, together with their parent varieties; and the editor states that they were intermediate in character, "united with that greater vigour of growth, which it appears, in the vegetable as in the animal world, is the result of a first cross." Knight also crossed several varieties of wheat,⁵⁶ and he says "that in the years 1795 and 1796, when almost the whole crop of corn in the island was blighted, the varieties thus obtained, and these only, escaped in this neighbourhood, though sown in several different soils and situations."

⁵⁰ Loudon's 'Gard. Mag.,' vol. viii., 1832, p. 52.

⁵¹ 'Transact. Hort. Soc.,' vol. i. p. 25.

⁵² 'Annal. des Sc. Nat.,' 3rd series, Bot., tom. vi. p. 189.

⁵³ 'Philosophical Transactions,' 1799, p. 200.

⁵⁴ 'Ueber die Bastarderzeugung,' 1828, s. 32, 33. For Mr. Chaundy's case, see Loudon's 'Gard. Mag.' vol. vii. 1831, p. 696.

⁵⁵ 'Gardener's Chron.,' 1846, p. 601.

⁵⁶ 'Philosoph. Transact.,' 1799, p. 201.