

## DOMINIKES, ETC.

BY BLACK WYANDOT.

MUCH as we may feel disposed to despise the old mongrels in this advanced day of pure breeds, it is indisputable that there are among them many extraordinary specimens as layers, table fowls, sitters and mothers.

It is reasonable to suppose that from superior specimens of "hawk-colored" mongrels, the American Dominique was originated and gradually improved.

They are probably the oldest purely American breed. Originating in New England it is not strange that they possess great points of practical utility rather than more purely fancy points. They can hardly be called a fancy fowl, rather they are the embodiment of the best qualities that characterized the old-fashioned mongrel fowls that were once the source from which the New England farmer's wife extracted her much-needed "pin money."

Although not the most beautiful of fowls, their grayish-white plumage with blue-black barrings is by no means homely, and the bright red, rather large rose combs and wattles, bright yellow shanks and sprightly carriage are pleasing to the eye. The hens (averaging about six pounds) are of the very best size to make satisfactory sitters and mothers, not being so likely to break eggs or kill chicks by awkwardness as weightier hens are. They equal any American breed for the table and as layers of good sized brownish colored eggs. To the Dominique blood in their make-up the Plymouth Rocks probably owe not only their plumage but many of the splendid traits that make them favorites.

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Of course the egg-trade is a nuisance, we are assured of that each summer by dissatisfied buyers and sellers, but as long as somebody sells eggs all must sell eggs or be out of the swim.

The buyer will have a bad hatch and "cuss" orally and by mail, and the seller finds his fine eggs gone for a little more than the expenses of the season and few chicks for the fall trade. The purchaser who thinks buying eggs the cheapest way to get a start is deluded. Buy chicks or fowl and you will know what you are getting for your cash.

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Some writers question what they are pleased to call the "sport theory." The existence of sports is a well-proven fact and well-known to breeders of experience. There is no disputing the fact that white Wyandots, white Plymouth Rocks, black Wyandots, white Holland Turkeys, etc., came from sports. I have seen these sport chicks quite often from parentage of undoubted purity. This year I have noticed two pure white chicks from a pen of pure black Wyandots, and all other chicks from the yard are solid black.

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The Plymouth Rock illustrations we see, in which the male and female match so perfectly in shade of plumage are often misleading to the beginner. Nature seems to be very persistent in her intention that the males shall be a distinct shade or two lighter in color than the females. Take a flock of Plymouth Rock chicks of gilt-edge breeding and a large percentage of pullets will be much darker than the males, even at this late day in Plymouth Rock culture. Extreme matings do not overcome this fault. Are the *Standard*-makers wrong in demanding matched plumage?

## RED CAPS.

BY MR. C. J. DANIELS, TORONTO.

I READ with interest Mr. Wraggs, (England), article on Red Caps and thought it would interest your readers to have a Canuck's experience with them. I have kept them three years and find them what some people term them, *viz.*, "everlasting layers." I have been keeping a record of the laying of four pullets hatched early in June, 1889, but can only give you the result for seven months as I shall be sending some of them to the show room next month.

Commenced laying Jan. 15th, eggs in Jan. 16, Feb. 11, March 35, April 81, May 102, June 95, July 96, and up to Aug 15th 48 making a total of 484, I am still getting 3 and 4 eggs per day. The old dage is don't count your chickens before they are hatched and it may be some of your readers will think the same when I say I think I'm safe in saying these birds will lay at least 60 eggs per month in the remaining five months which would make a total of 784 eggs, or just about 200 eggs for each bird. Would say these birds have had no extra feed or care but have been used just the same as the rest of the stock.

I have raised thirty chicks out of which I have twenty-nine. I was not able to rise many this year as I was late in getting back from England and I have no faith in late hatches. I find April and May hatches do the best.

Some people object to Red Caps on account of their large combs, thinking they will not stand our cold winters, my experience with them is I have kept Minorcas, Scotch Greys and Red Caps all in one house, the Minorcas and Scotch Greys combs were badly frozen but the Red Caps were not touched.

The Red Cap as Mr. Wragg says,