

season by considering what points are indispensable in both sexes, and what faults, though fatal in a show pen, are capable of being compensated by mating them with defects of an opposite character, and thus by carefully mating, it is a pleasure in seeing year after year the chief faults disappear and their beauties become more developed, and the proportion of exhibition chickens steadily increasing. To win a prize with a bought bird affords but little satisfaction; but to create a new strain and carry off the first prizes with birds bred from it, is not only a real benefit, but a gratification and pleasure which only a real poultry fancier can thoroughly appreciate. It is one's own work, and not the result of a money investment, but that of knowledge, skill and patience

G. H. PUGSLEY.

Brantford, Aug. 11th, 1882.

Our Lefroy Letter.

Editor Review,

As intimated in my last letter I am convinced that the quality of fancy poultry in general would be improved by the sale of "eggs for hatching" becoming a thing of the past. The reasons for this conclusion are: in the first place, the beginner is led by the apparent cheapness to commence by eggs, which, in my opinion, is the very worst course he can pursue. The worst because he will not in all probability get as good stock to start with as if he had bought a pair or trio, as many a fancier who would not sell or ship a poor bird at any price would not find it convenient to spare many of the eggs from the same specimens that his own stock was hatched from, especially is this necessarily the case where eggs are sold cheap. I do not think this is invariably the case, for I am aware there are many who conscientiously do as they would be done by, and yet if a man has a few special pets, and does not lead the public to believe he is selling eggs from these very birds by calling attention to prizes won, &c., he may not be, nor can I say he is doing wrong. Again, suppose the beginner gets some pretty good birds from a setting of eggs; without experience and without any thing tangible as a guide, he is thrown upon his own resources in mating these for next season's operations, and he cannot escape failure; and the result will be he will sell some very poor specimens, and in the end will go back to the commencement, if he has not become disgusted altogether, and begin with a pair or trio, but not till he has done a great deal of harm. Now if he had bought a good trio in the first place, his stock had been good, and the trio, mated for breeding of course, would have served as a model to guide his future operations.

But this is not the worst feature of the case. In

the second place, numbers purchase settings of eggs, and by mating the stock thus obtained among themselves year after year, deluge the country with cheap eggs and cheap stock, which do more to ruin the reputation of pure bred poultry than all its enemies could do in a generation. These are the setting Brahmans, &c.

But when we add to this the annoyances, disappointments and loss inseparably connected with the egg trade, the wonder is that any person is found willing to take the responsibility of selling a setting of eggs. The loss and annoyance is not always on the side of the buyer, though it is he who generally does the grumbling. And why is he so ready to grumble? And what does he usually grumble about? we may ask. As answer to the first, just note the necessary condition of the transaction, and the attendant circumstances, and ask are they not calculated to create feelings of distrust in the mind of the would-be purchaser? Cash down before the goods are delivered! The purchaser has never seen either the seller or the goods. A square look into a man's face with whom we are transacting business has a world of power in begetting confidence in him. The impossibility of forming any just opinion of the quality of the goods, even after they are delivered, and last but not least, the number of instances he has known and read of that eggs have been doctored, &c. Now, let any candid man imagine himself trying to give satisfaction under such circumstances. Your patron, especially if he be a beginner, which is very likely, is constantly on the alert to detect the cloven foot, and if he does not succeed in catching a glimpse of a single toe, is none the less certain it was present if he could but have seen it. Several men have spoken to me at different times to write for eggs for them, for, said they, "there would be no use in writing myself, I would get nothing but trash; but you are known, they would not dare send you anything of that kind." The detection of the cloven foot is the answer to the second question, which, in nine cases out of ten is that the thirteen eggs fail to hatch, or in not a few cases only a few of them produce chicks, and in goodly number of cases not a chick is obtained. Surely in the latter case no further evidence is needed; fraud is written on the very face of it. Oh! dishonesty, thy name is hen-men. But after all he has found only what he was looking for from the commencement. Now, Sir, I can name a number of instances in which eggs from the leading fanciers of the United States, packed in the most careful manner, failed completely, and even a second shipment failed as signally as the first. Now was this fraud? It seems to me of all the crimes one man actuated by a pre-conceived and unreasonable suspicion is capable of charg-