

dy and easy to raise, and a few years ago a large percentage of the chicks, when matured, would have been called show birds; but late years, where our birds are judged by the standard, it is not so easy to breed show birds, as the standard calls for Cocks to weigh nine pounds, Cockerels, seven and a half pounds, Hens seven and a half pounds, Pullets six pounds, and if birds are shown under the above weights, they are at once disqualified.

A "Spicy" Letter.

EDITORS JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR:—The teachings of this day and generation, recommend us in spiritual things, to go to our Ministers. In legislation, consult our M. P's or M. P. P's. In legal deceptions go to the Lawyer. If our brain becomes muddled and hazy, with strong tendency to Pip, we have in you and your Journal our panacea: We all must admire your generosity in opening out the columns of the Journal, to the free discussion of all subjects pertaining to the creating, improving, and increasing of the big family of chickendom in Canada.

I hope to see in the management of the Journal, the opening out, and laying bare, the great and important subject of TRUE MATING. This is a subject encircled and protected by the initiated as securely as the M. D's. do their prescriptions, veiled in Latin, and a Chinaman's Hieroglyphics.

How frequently we see and hear the complaints of the Amateur, of hopes deferred, in their having been unfortunate in their selections, or the choice made by parties of whom they made their purchases. True Mating seems a scientific acquirement obtained by close observa-

tion and study, with a never tiring perseverance in breeding with pure Blood. I can't see where this mating comes in. In nature, we do not gather figs from thistles, nor grapes from the thorn. The unalloyed wont miss in a single feather. It is in the cropping, where man's science seems to come in.

There is another very important question, that should be made the subject for general discussion. That of the adoption of some general standard, by which men may be guided on all leading points. It seems desirable that this should be so well understood, that men appointed to award prizes, could not lead off on little side issues and give preferences. There are men whose ears are not quite long enough to denote the true species they belong to, after having committed themselves, will stick, right or wrong. Stubbornness, Selfishness, Interest, with a cock bird thrown in, should be counted out the first time and every time. There is too much of that kind of thing played on the unsuspecting, at all shows. This has become so patent that thousands of dollars are lost, that might have been used in the interest of Exhibitions.

Now that our little chick (the Journal) is fairly out of its shell, with a good vitality; may it in its first featherings, be supplied by a steady and increasing Canadian patronage, that will go to fill the crop, increase, enlarge, and mature, to a full and perfect growth, always protected by the watchful eye of the old Hen, in any and all cunning advances, of the Hawk of malice, envy, or prejudice. May its columns always open out some new, bright, and sunny spot, where its chicks may scratch, and pick out the little seeds of knowledge, and