

find in a Lower Canada journal, they do well even in the less friendly climate of that Province.

The following is from a late number of the *Montreal Herald*:—

SHANGHAE FOWL.

The following statements, upon which we can rely, may be interesting to the "Fanciers" of this breed of fowl, as it is to those whose more material idea is confined to supplying the "pot". In July, 1852, a friend purchased thirty-one eggs, which were hatched during the remainder of that month. The produce was four hens and a cock. The hens commenced laying the following January, being then five and a half months old. During last spring and summer, and up to this date, they laid five hundred and thirty eggs, hatched twice and reared sixty-two chickens, the greater part of this latter stock have now been killed or otherwise disposed of. The young pullets remaining are now laying and have done so since they reached five and a half months old. The present live weight of the old and young stock is as follows:—The four old hens, now one year and five months old, average $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Two young pullets, just seven months old, weigh each a fraction over eight pounds, and two young cocks of the same eggs, eight pounds four ounces. The remainder are the same average weight as the old stock. He believes them to be a hardy breed of fowls, easily kept, and consuming little more than would be required to keep an equal number of common fowls in good condition, while, as above shown, they are more profitable. The flesh is excellent (?) as is also the flavor of the eggs, when the diet of the birds is attended to. The fowls are kept in a wooden out-house, with good light, packed around the bottom with saw, quite away from any artificial heat, or the heat of animals, and are expected to lay all the winter. Their food is chiefly Oats and Buckwheat mixed, and a little Indian Corn, before going to roost. Clean water they should always have, and some grains or boiled potatoes once or twice a week is found to do much good during winter, besides some broken egg-shells and old lime. Leaves collected in the fall makes capital litter. The perches should be round and of easy access to the birds, and in this severe climate covered with some old woollen stuff or carpet.

The following appeared in a Quebec paper, written by a gentleman of that city, who signs himself "An Amateur":—

SHANGHAE AND COCHIN CHINA FOWL.

Under these names, a variety of the Fowl species has been imported into Great Britain and the United States, and more recently into Canada, which promises soon to change entirely the general breed of fowls in these countries; and, although small, they are good layers, and certainly good on the table. The Shanghae or Cochin China Fowl, I believe, differ in no essential quality, nor the slightest degree in appearance; unless it be that the Shanghae are more feathered

on the legs, than the Cochin China, so called.—The Shanghae is a stately bird, and when well attended is handsomely feathered, although the colors are not so brilliant, as other species of fowl. Indeed the favorite color with fanciers is a pale buff or a very light sulphur color, and this color must not be mixed in any part of the body with any darker shades. It is a hardy bird, of rapid growth, and early maturity; in this respect they are amongst the fowl species, what the improved short-horn Durham is amongst cattle. The pullets, when well fed, generally lay at five months' old, and continue laying with very little intermission during the winter. The result of my experience this present season is this, five hens and four pullets gave me thirteen dozen and two eggs in December, besides dropping about a dozen soft eggs, at the commencement of their laying, from the want of a good supply of mortar and sand, which is absolutely necessary when confined in a stable, as they must be in this climate during the winter. It is not necessary that they should be kept very warm; in cold weather water freezes in my stable, and in moderate weather they are anxious to escape into an adjoining apartment to the stable, where they spend the day with apparent comfort to themselves. They are much less quarrelsome than the common fowl, and less disposed to wander away from any enclosure into which they are first put. They do not scratch about much, and in consequence of the very small wing, scarcely half the size of that of the common fowl, they very seldom attempt to fly; thus attention must be paid that the roosts, of their houses are set near the ground, not higher than fifteen inches, and so rising about a foot, in a slanting direction, until the desired number of roosts is obtained. They have been killed by attempting to fly from a height, to which they had scrambled; thus care should be taken not to tempt them to get up, by leaving boxes or any thing upon which they can jump. The original cock bird of my collection (imported in the *Druid* in 1852, direct to this from Shanghae) was killed in this manner. He weighed fifteen pounds.—The hen died last winter, I believe, from the same cause, falling heavily from the roost. Her weight was eleven pounds. The egg of the Shanghae is not very large, but heavy and rich flavored, and generally of a chocolate color. I have some eggs, however, that are quite white. *I wish I could say something in praise of their flesh for the table.* It is dry, of a yellow color, and by no means pleasant-flavored, and the proportion of white meat, that is the breast, is so small, compared with the weight of the bird, that they cannot replace the small Canadian fowl in that respect, although I have seen some very fine birds, a cross between the Shanghae cock and common hen, larger in every way, flesh better colored, and with good laying propensities; and it is very probable much good might result from a cross in that way.

The new species, in my opinion, is principally of value as layers, and since eggs form an item of considerable value, in exportation to the United States, I would strongly recommend its adoption by farmers generally.