

green, dazzling with resplendent lustre as the bird constantly changes position. Even in a dim light this lustre displays itself to a remarkable extent in a well bred bird. We do not now see a good jet black, which, thought not so striking as the green, is not a bad color, but can rarely be had in connection with fine points.

The purple color is the English breeder's bane. Otherwise good birds are rendered utterly useless by a strong purple plumage, for let the breeder be ever so careful and patient he can never breed it out. Another objection to it also is that it is usually accompanied by a soft, spongy comb, immoderate ear-love, and white face.

Referring to the comb, it should be close and firm, a moderate size in the cock; a hollow or scooped appearance in front to be always rejected, as it perpetuates itself, and is often a sign of lack of vigor. In the hen it should be very small, and fit close to the head, with a dainty spike. A face with a blackish hue, or what is termed a gipsy face, is not desirable, as it gives the fowl a vicious expression, and becomes hereditary.

A good sized body is valuable, but no other point should be sacrificed to it, for a small sized bird rarely has a great deal to commend it. The carriage is bold and graceful in the cock, while the hen follows him as close as is consistent with female delicacy.

About Poultry.

Editor Review,

DEAR SIR.—As all your readers do not take the *Scientific American*, I thought it would be well to send you a couple of letters that appeared in the issue of Dec. 2nd. The one letter is headed "About Poultry," and is copied from the *New York Sun*, in answer to an inquiry as to raising poultry for market. It reads as follows:—

Among the multifarious letters which we receive daily, the following appeals peculiarly to our sympathies:

Sir: Having several times noticed in your columns advice given to young men who are about to embark in some business enterprise, and having always appreciated the good and sound judgment you have evinced, we apply to you in our own behalf.

Having sufficient capital to go into the business of the produce nature, we come to you for counsel concerning the raising of poultry. Which, in your judgment, would be better adapted for the poultry business on a good sized scale—New Jersey or Long Island? Also, what part of either would be best to start in?

Our aim is to raise poultry and send it to this market ready for sale by city dealers.

Yours respectfully,

POULTRY.

New York, November 10.

No doubt the poultry business is capable of being made a source of profit, though for our own part we confess we have not found it so. We embarked in it on a pretty large scale five or six years ago, and having made careful preparations, we raised the first year about 1,000 first-class White Brahma fowls. But just as they had gained perfection, and while the eye was delighted with their beauty and the financial mind calculated that they would sell promptly for about \$3 apiece, egotistic wretch or wretches broke into our yard, took off the hinges and hasps of the great gate, and when the sun rose in the morning, shedding his glorious light over the whole face of nature, some 500 or 600 of our choicest pullets had disappeared, whither we knew not; and thus the profits of the year was much reduced.

All this happened on Long Island, and therefore our advice to our correspondents would be either to avoid that locality altogether, or at any rate not to plant their poultry breeding establishment too near the Sound, where a swift sail boat or a steam launch may afford facility for the escape of plunderers with their booty.

And yet the soil, the air, the sunshine, the grass, and the water of Long Island are exceedingly favorable to the production of good poultry; and our advice to our friends would be rather to take Plymouth Rocks instead of Brahmas, Langshans, Crevecoeurs, or any other fancy variety. Game fowls are very good to eat, but there is not much flesh on their slender and steely bones, and at the same time Mr. Bergh, with his vigilant care of the public morals, will not tolerate any of the profits which might be derived from cock fighting. Leghorns are very productive of eggs; but the mischief of it is they do not lay their eggs at times when eggs are most wanted, and some of our friends who have been led into the cultivation of Leghorns through mistaken faith in their ovarian capacities, have been sadly disappointed and have got neither eggs nor chicken. Alas, alas!

The feeding of poultry is an important matter, requiring both scientific knowledge and artistic skill. The main thing in a proper gallinaceous diet is undoubtedly grain; and cracked corn, wheat screenings, Indian meal, and wheaten bran are eminently useful. But there must also be a supply of green food, and in summer, grass, and in winter, boiled potatoes and other vegetables, are indispensable to the health of fowls. At the same time they must have a due proportion of flesh meat suitably cooked; and in this way pork scraps are convenient. Their drinking water must be good and clean, not icy cold in winter, nor heated by the direct rays of the sun in summer. It is dangerous to give them drink on which the sun has shed its full force in July or August.