

feet wide; it can also be made portable by any handy carpenter, if so required, and by putting a false pitched roof to the top, it would do against a wall as well as inside a loft. You will say, "We know all this, you have told us so before." Admitted, but an ounce of experience is worth pounds of theory, certainly in pigeon keeping, so I am going to give my reasons for sending it.

I used to construct them all as in the top or centre rows, whichever place suited best, one over the other, so that except in the distance from the floor, they would be exactly alike, whichever arrangement you followed, top or centre. The consequence of this was, that a bird making a mistake in flight, found itself in the wrong box, and being somewhat dull of persuasion of that fact, caused fights, smashed eggs, etc. I know this to my loss, lately, and to obviate it I have placed the nesting places alternately, thus causing a difference in appearance, so that they are not so likely to go wrong. Besides, it is easier to construct it on this plan, as the cross partitions can be nailed in better.

The bar across each nest is for the birds to roost on at night, and to fasten a door on to, as shown in bottom compartments. I do not approve of any shelf running along the front outside; it forms a neutral ground for fights; and to prevent this, on top flat on plan the centre partition projects a little.

This is by far the best plan of box I have tried or seen. If others have a better plan I should be glad to have it.

F. C. HASSARD.

CURRAGH CAMP, IRELAND, }
7th March, 1871. }

"Vulture hocks" is the name given to stiff feathers that project below the knees of the fowl. They occur in all the Asiatic breeds, and are unsightly and objectionable.

POULTRY IMPORTATIONS.

MALAY FOWLS. — Mr. A. McLean Howard, of this city, has just imported a very superior pair of these fowls, the first of their variety, we believe, ever brought into Canada. They were purchased for him by Col. Hassard, from the Hon. Mr. Massey, in Ireland. The cock took a highly commended at the last Birmingham Poultry Show, and the hen a prize at the Torquay Exhibition. They are both young birds, and have not yet nearly attained their full size. They arrived in excellent condition, and apparently uninjured by the voyage.

It may not be uninteresting to some of our readers to give a short description of this variety of fowl.

Malays, like all others of our domestic poultry, are of unknown origin, but are supposed to be descended from the *Kulm* fowl or *Gallus giganteus*. A full-grown cock will weigh from nine to eleven pounds, and stand from two feet nine inches to three feet high, and be able to peck off an ordinary table with ease. The hens should weigh seven and seven and a half pounds each, and good specimens even more. The neck and legs of the cock are exceedingly long, the carriage particularly upright, the back being almost at an angle of 45° except when they are eating; the wings are carried very high and firmly closed, they are very bulky across the shoulders, but narrow rapidly towards the tail, which is very small, and droops in the cock so as nearly to form a straight line with the back; plumage short and close, but exceedingly brilliant and glossy, and lies as closely as do scales on one another; the head long and snaky, the brow projecting over the eye, which gives a peculiarly hard expression to the face; eyes bright and red, beak strong and hooked, comb very small, low and flat, closely attached to the head.

In colour Malays vary considerably; those usually exhibited partake of the colour of the black and brown-breasted red Game. Malays are unusually hardy fowls, and the quality of their eggs is very superior, but small in comparison to the size of the bird itself. Malay chickens are very long in attaining their first feathers, from which cause they are somewhat easily chilled, and consequently are apt to become stunted and deformed, more particularly in the feet and legs.