

of it, they also pick worms out of the ground and sometimes catch flies or gnats, which are very great dainties to them. It has been my study that those which are detained in the chicken houses should not be deprived of all these comforts, that they might have the same variety of dainty bits as those that lead a freer life—and in order to this I caused a plot of very green turf to be put at the end of each chicken house. The little chickens came thither to pick up the grass and scrape the ground, out of which they now and then have the good luck to fetch some worms.

(To be continued)

### The Emu.

(Continued.)

In my last letter I referred to the large bird called the Emu, and hinted that it might become acclimatized to other latitudes than those of the interior of Australia, where it lives and breeds undisturbed by the incursions of European people. The first question suggested by an introduction of the bird to our country involves the principle of utility. Why is it worth while to raise a bird whose weight is that of a large marketable lamb? In reply it can be asked, why is it worth while to have a spring lamb weigh one hundred pounds instead of fifty? The question is just as applicable in the one case as in the other.

Although the Emu can comfortably take its food from a ledge six or seven feet in height from the ground, and can outstrip a race-horse in speed, and whose kick, if fairly given, will equal that of a three-year-old colt, its meat is as white, and palatable, and tender as that of a capon; and who, for a christmas dinner would not select the larger bird instead of a turkey weighing ten twelve or fourteen pounds? Its feathers, in the hands of a well trained artizan, could be subject to the process given to an ostrich feather, and made subservient to ornamentation, or converted into articles of daily use. And altogether, upon a sufficient number being hatched and raised, the same result could be experienced by the owners of this kind of poultry as are enjoyed over the raising and selling of birds of an inferior order. Only this difference would be noticeable, instead of dividing attention and labor over a great number of the lesser birds, the same amount of care could be concentrated more effectively on a smaller number of birds; that is to say, four or five hundred pounds of beautiful Emu meat would, for the same labor, stand in place of fifty or sixty pounds of chicken, or turkey, or goose meat. Should the producer seek another object, that of placing upon gentlemen's grounds an unusual bird to satisfy the curious, it could easily be done.

The bird is adapted by size and manners for occupying a position of gentility on the lawn or upon any of the grounds of a gentleman. They are innocent in disposition and playful,—often resembling the running of a dog before horses as they are starting from home on a pleasure drive. At times they gambol with the agility of "Sanks," assuming great dignity at one moment, and the very next taking the counter-part of gravity and falling into the most ridiculous of all gyrations.

In color the Emu is a blending of brown and grey—some being lighter and others darker. Naturally they are shy—occasionally one will become so tractable as to permit a visitor to caress him in an open field. They have been known to domesticate themselves and to follow a master about a homestead like a dog.

It is difficult to distinguish the sexes, but a little familiarity with their peculiarities will soon enable one to pair them off. Their eggs are heavy, and in handling they resemble the touch of a stone or a piece of metal. They are green in color, of an equal surface, and resemble what is termed pebbled morocco leather. They are often mounted whole or cut in twain and set for cream cups or sugar bowls, or otherwise converted into decorative articles for a tea table or a drawingroom what-not.

The probability is, that during the next year or two it will become a demonstrable fact that the bird has taken a first rank at all of our poultry shows, and that it has assumed a commercial value on our farms. At present each bird is worth from \$250 to \$300, and an egg cannot be valued at less than \$100.

Yours truly,

F. G.

Brantford, July 4th, 1882

### Our Summer Birds.

Nothing is more interesting to me than to note the coming in the spring of our beautiful summer birds. I am always sorry to see them leave us in the fall. I say see them leave us. We do not see them leave us; we miss them, they are gone, but we do not see them go. They disappear unseen just as they reappear in the spring. We do not see them come, but the first thing we know of them they are here.

Very little in this country is said or written about the migration of our birds; very little, in my opinion, except to a very few, is known about it at all, although it is something that should interest everybody. What would our summers be without our birds? What would a walk in May or June in our woods and fields be if there were no summer feathered visitors? To me, and to any lover