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### LETTER POSTAGE.

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## PROFITABLE FOWLS.

A very erroneous opinion prevails, respecting the age to which fowls ought to be kept with due regard to profit. In a former issue we have stated that, for the mere production of eggs, no fowls should be kept after arriving at the age of three years, and we see no cause yet to change our opinion; after that time the annual moult comes on later in the season, rendering the birds more unfit for the severity of the winter weather. Chickens, when hatched early, will begin to lay in the fall of the same year, and if properly cared for will con-

tinue to do so during the winter, except in very severe weather. The second season these birds will moult early, and before the cold weather sets in will have on their new coat, and consequently be better able to stand the severity of the winter. With proper care they will commence laying early in the spring. Next season they moult later, and as a natural consequence their laying period is prolonged till late in the following spring, and necessarily their value as laying fowls much reduced. Mr. Wright in his new book on poultry says "The chief breeds of poultry may, for economic purposes, be classified as follows, the order of naming, representing as nearly as possible their average comparative value, though this will vary somewhat according to different circumstances. As layers: Hamburgs, Minorcas or Andalusians, Houdans, Brahmas, Leghorns, Spanish, Polish, Dominiques, Game, Cochins, La Flèche. For quality of meat; Game, La Flèche, Dorkings, Crève Cœurs, Houdans, Polish, Brahmas, Dominiques. For size and weight: Brahmas, Cochins, Dorkings, Crève Cœurs, La Flèche, Malays. For hardiness: Houdans, Brahmas, Dominiques, Cochins, Minorcas or Andalusians, Leghorns, Game. As sitters and mothers, Dorkings, Game, Dumpies, Silkies, Dominiques, Brahmas, Cochins. We might, perhaps, add, that for combination of useful qualities generally, we would name Brahmas, Houdans, and Dominiques as most worthy of attention."