

**Bantams.**

There are no more agreeable or profitable pets than a flock of bantams. If treated kindly they are quite tame and will fly on the shoulders, arms, or head of the attendant, and perch there proudly until removed. There are several varieties, all of which have their admirers. We give an illustration of the Japanese and Silver Sebright varieties. This illustration is not like most pictures, made from an imaginary bird, but from life, the birds being owned by Mr. Richard Oke, Brough's Bridge, just outside the limits of this city. There are no varieties more popular at the present time.

On the left are the Japanese. They have clear, short legs, a white body, and a very upright or squirrel tail, which is a dense, bronze black; the sickle feathers and coverts having, however, a sharply defined white edge. The combs are rather large, single and upright. On the right is the Silver Sebright, so called from having been greatly improved by an English gentleman, Sir John Sebright. His carriage, like that of the Japanese, is very conceited, in many instances even more so than is represented by our illustration. His restless, lively motions, wings drooping half-way down the legs, head thrown back until it almost touches the upright tail, he looks as though always in search of an antagonist. The plumage is close and compact, and every feather laced with black, right up to the head, which on account of the smaller feathers seems darker than the rest of the body. The cock must be hen-feathered, as shown in the cut, legs blue and the beak slate-colored, earlobes should be white according to the standard, but pure white ones are seldom seen and most birds have only sufficient white to give them a blue tinge. The comb should be rose with a neat spike behind, pointing rather upward, free from any depression and rather livid in color. The eyes should be a dark red. Bantams are usually fairly prolific layers, and their friends claim they are as profitable in proportion to the food consumed as the larger varieties. They should be hatched in the month of June or early in July, as they do not grow so large and coarse, and the feathering is generally nearer the mark than in earlier hatched birds.

**What to Wear.**

"As a rule plainness in outline at least will be a distinguishing characteristic of the season's styles. Yet so wide is the latitude allowed for the exercise of individual taste, that dresses of the past two seasons, with slight modifications of the draperies, will still be within the pale of fashion."

The Princess of Wales appeared at a State ball without a suspicion of a bustle or "improver" of any sort. So we may safely look upon the bustle as doomed to go. Basques are still worn in preference to waists and all are elaborately trimmed, either in vest form or with revers, some device to cover the buttons. The collars are still worn high. Green is the prevailing color, and is seen on every bonnet, lovely in its soft fresh tints, but not so very becoming to all faces. Wise women, who have a suspicion of sallowness in their complexions, will do well to let green alone and admire it upon somebody's else's bonnet. Small wraps of all materials are seen, and very dressy they are. Made either of velvet,

plush, satin, silk, jetted lace, or less expensive material, they add just the necessary warmth about chest and shoulders, without the weight of a larger mantle. Dress fabrics were never more beautiful from the soft self-colored cashmere to the rustling silks and satins. All-wool goods, in all shades and prices, come in a variety of designs. Printed calicoes appear in lovely colors—dainty white and cream grounds with sprays of buds and leaves, looking equally pretty as China silks. In fact, any taste or purse can be readily suited. The ugly Empire veil with a pleated border has been discarded by ladies of good taste as very disfiguring. Why should we tie up our faces in bags of net? A small veil worn just above or over the eyes is enough to keep the hair tidy.

**"Gentlemen."**

I can scarcely help being amused at an article in your May edition, entitled, "Gentlemen," by "Snowdrop," purporting to be, I suppose, a supplement to "A Manitoba Reader's" letter in April number, but which is, in reality, a severe denunciation upon farmers and their sons. The great cause of complaint in this lady-like epistle is, "utter lack of refinement, courtesy, and thoughtlessness among farmers, as



JAPANESE AND SILVER SEBRIGHT BANTAMS.

regards their treatment of the female sex." Now, Mr. Editor, while I can sympathize with the outraged finer feelings of a young lady under grievances of a character as described in "Reader's" letter, it seems almost incredible that a woman presumably so modest and "refined" as "Snowdrop," should make such a wholesale slaughter of farmers as to set it down as an axiom that, because some are unconsciously thoughtless, the general farmer should be dubbed as "unrefined," etc. In the first place, "Snowdrop" has made an extreme interpretation of "Reader's" letter. "Reader" innocently acknowledged that she wrote it when tired; and, at such times, everyone knows, complaints are invariably unreasonable and extravagant. I am sure she would not wish us to infer from what she has written, that farmers' sons especially are destitute of all true principles of manliness; and yet "Snowdrop" would almost have us believe so. I would like to ask "Reader" if "Burt" never takes her for a drive, or to a picnic? never brings in a pail of water? never milks her cows in wet weather? never fills the wood-box in winter? and performs numberless acts which have become so customary as no longer to be regarded as favors. I am sure she would be benefited by classifying the merits, in-

stead of brooding over the imaginary or real improprieties of her people.

Then, regarding education, "Snowdrop" very properly asks: "Why should farmers be uneducated?" Let me say, they are not. It might be that in the past many of the farmers emigrating from the Old Country, started life in this country as poor men, not having had the opportunities of receiving much education, but who worked hard to lay the foundation for their own and their descendants' present success. These men (all honor to them) may not have had the refined culture and learning so easily obtained in our day, and, possibly, were more accustomed to talk "crops" to shop-keepers than other matters; but the "sons" of these same men have taken advantage of their opportunities for a more liberal education; and, although few may have the benefits of a collegiate training, yet, thanks to our splendid public school system, cheap literature and papers, they are quite equal to conversing intelligently upon most current topics which "shop-keepers" or others may introduce. As a general rule, girls are at liberty to receive a more complete education than the boys; as, where there are several in a family, some can be allowed to attend school without causing any inconvenience, but in the boys' case there is plenty of work on the farm to keep all busy; and, generally, the brothers are pleased that their sisters can have this privilege, and are quite willing to work hard, and make sacrifices if necessary, to provide the extra expense. Then, don't you think it ungracious for sisters to look upon their less privileged brothers as "unrefined," "uneducated," etc. Seems to me, if these complaining women would exercise their functions aright, there would be less cause for this prolonged howl. But, truly, as one of Scotland's great poets inscribed:—

"O woman! in our hours of ease,  
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please."

Since reading "Snowdrop's" article, I have been calling to mind all my acquaintances—not a few—and comparing the daughters with the sons in each family, in intelligence, refinement and courtesy, and I give it as an unprejudiced, actual fact, that the boys, instead of being "selfish, unrefined boors," will in almost all cases equal, and in many surpass, their sisters in these lines; and I further declare that I know of some families where the boys have made connections socially that it would be hopeless for the girls to aspire to. And while they may not in some cases have as finished an education as their sisters, they are still able to so utilize their knowledge as to hold their own in any of their sisters' society. The fact is, a great many girls are getting above farm work, as instanced by so many of them who will sooner form an alliance with the public school teacher, or a third-rate preacher, than accept an honest, hard-working, and, perhaps, less polished but, nevertheless, true-hearted farmer's son.

I hope "Snowdrop," if she has any connection with a farmer or his sons, will calmly reflect upon these few facts; and if she will only take into consideration all the circumstances, and not judge too rashly, she will yet find cause to be proud of farmers.

YOUNG FARMER.

Little Bessie (accustomed to see baby creep)—  
"Oh, mamma, come quick; baby is standing on her hind legs."