

replied that it was put up for the convenience of our better half. The lady seemed surprised and finally remarked, "Well Mr. Peter, I have had considerable experience in raising poultry, and seen many other women doing the same work, but under such wretched conditions that it is no wonder women don't like it. I think we like fowls as a rule; and if you could only persuade our husbands, fathers or brothers to fix our place for poultry as nice, and fix them up as conveniently as this, why every woman in Canada would be a poultry woman, as Mrs. Peter is, but I can't help laughing to think how surprised my husband would look if I were to ask for a covered walk; he would think I was crazy." I put my thinker in working order then, it had never occurred to me that I was doing anything unusual, and at supper time I told Mrs. P. of my visitor's remarks, thinking she would be very grateful for my thoughtfulness when brought so forcibly to her mind; but she coolly told me that if I left her such a place as some men do for their poultry, she would let them rip, (I don't believe that is the exact remark, but I won't rub it out,) just as other women do. She told me too, that often people had remarked that "your husband must think a lot of you to do that." Well—I confess I did a great deal of it, on her behalf, but I often have to go through it myself, and it is really much pleasanter than going knee-deep through snow—even for a man. But my "thinker" began to work, and the more it worked the more I wondered, not that women don't all keep fowls but that any of them do. The name of woman is synonymous with all that is neat and nice, and we can hardly wonder, that she prefers her book and her rocking chair to while away her spare time in preference to looking after poultry especially when we think of some of the poultry houses we have seen. Once this spring we were told not to go in the poultry house because it had not been cleaned since fall, and when we saw the mistress of the house put a plank in to go and gather her eggs, because the house was too dirty for her to step into without that to stand upon, we felt—well our feelings were of that peculiar order styled "beyond description by tongue or pen." Some time since we

were informed by the sister of a poultry keeper that she had to keep an old dress for the sole purpose of putting on when she must of necessity go into the house for eggs, because the "nasty little things that chickens all have had got really awful." Well my "thinker" got all this in my mind together and then "I said to myself I says" No! I will never again say that every woman *ought* to be a poultry keeper—but only when the conditions are favorable; and proper attention is given to cleanliness and comfort while doing so, by those of the masculine persuasion, who consider themselves the head of the family. Don't expect your wife to think much of fowls if you keep them in dirty vermin infested houses, nor if she expects to get all her skirts smothered in snow, every time she feeds them. I once heard a fellow say "I am so glad he didn't ask to see the chickens, for that house is fearful, and I was just on thorns because he is such a chap for chickens." This was after a purchaser had left who had been buying some choice yearling cattle, and anything cleaner than their place of habitation it would be hard to find. But thus it is that fowls have had to bear the burden of being considered dirty, even too dirty to be thought of. But keep your pigs so, your cows and horses, and confine them as you do the feathered family, and we think you would be as ready to cry out that they, too, are too dirty to be endured. Then keep the birds clean and your wives and visitors will take interest enough in them.

Hens at Hamilton.

THE Poultry department of Hamilton's Great Central Fair was this year one of its best features both as to number of entries and quality of birds shown, but in all Fall Poultry Shows many good birds were at a disadvantage being in such poor feather. Among the different classes Plymouth Rocks, Leghorns and Hamburgs, made a prominent showing, the prize pens in these classes being especially fine, Bantams won a large share.

Appended is the prize list which gave general satisfaction, although the judges in some cases had a hard task. Intending purchasers will do well to note that some of the principal prize winners at this make use of our advertising columns.