

agree pretty much to the sum and substance of the list as published last week, but in two or three material points I differ, perhaps considerably.

"In the club's proposal, legs are described as 'rather short;' whereas, in point of fact, they are *rather long*. The Plymouth rock is by nature a decidedly leggy bird—'tis a distinct feature in the breed, whether desirable or not (?) I don't say I would advocate *long* legs, lest the too-long lean and lanky-skinned rickety ones should be by some mistaken for the thick-set sturdy 'happy medium.' Yet I *do* decidedly object to *short-legged* Plymouth Rocks—'tis in fact, not in the breed, not in accord with its other general characteristics, nor yet even consistent with the club's proposed standard, which states the 'carriage and appearance' as 'upright,' 'noble,' and 'grand!' The extra length of leg of those Americans shows one of the little differences which exist between the bare-legged Cuckoo Cochins or the crossed or imperfect Cuckoo Dorking. The line of difference between the true and the spurious should be kept as clear as possible, and in the length of leg there is a difference; and little though it be, it should be recognised.

"The proposed standard also says, "Tail like a Cochins." 'Tis not so; if it were, the Plymouth Rock, with his alleged short legs and Cochins tail, may straight away be regarded as bare-legged Cuckoo Cochins, as of yore; and who dare question the insinuation? But the Plymouth Rock—to a degree like the Langshan—although somewhat akin to the Cochins family, have by careful selection throughout a number of years become more fairly established as a good, useful, hardy, and handsome variety; and being so judiciously severed, I would now keep them asunder, and this in my opinion can best be accomplished by fairly recognising in the standard the distinctive features of the Plymouth Rock *as he is*.

"There seems to me apparent in this, as in other cases, too much of a desire to get rid of the bone in some of our large breeds. 'Tis, however, unwise to go far on these lines; 'twill do for a time for cooks and epicurean tastes, but 'tis not well for fanciers to batter and bang at the very foundation—the framework—upon and around which nature has grown her largest and finest specimens. If we are to preserve our large fowls, and even increase size, we must, at least, tolerate a good frame, sufficiently large to carry the desired bulky forms, and quantity as well as "quality" of meat thereon.

"The tail of the Plymouth Rock is not Cochins, not at all in accord with the now approved British form of Cochins; it is, in shape of tail, more of the new Chinese (the Langshan) high and upright and flowing-plume-like in its fulness, and not as a mere cone or fluffy mound of soft drooping tail covert as the Cochins proper. No! In the matter of legs

and tail, I would urge the members of the club to give full consideration to the two points to which I have more especially alluded. My only aim in this subject is to know that in this comparatively new breed the fancy will run on right lines and have a good and well considered standard of this breed for their guidance."

Our Halifax Letter.

DOMINION EXHIBITION.

In view of the Dominion Exhibition for 1881 being held in Halifax, the Nova Scotia poultry association have decided to postpone their annual winter show, and have it in connection with the above exhibition.

Without touching upon the correctness of the association giving up their winter show (which I think was a mistake), I wish to say a few words to the Ontario fanciers in reference to this exhibition. As the show is a Dominion one, and held for the purpose of judging of the merits of the exhibits of the different Provinces, there can be no excuse offered on your part of its being a provincial affair; and as the rates over the Intercolonial and by other means of transit will be very much reduced, neither can you claim the great expense of transportation as a reason for not exhibiting. Again, the committee will make every exertion to arrange matters that even the most fastidious and exacting will be unable to complain of any mismanagement. But in order to do this, and make this, the poultry department of the exhibition, a complete success, it will be necessary to have the hearty co-operation of all Canadian fanciers. For that purpose I would suggest the advantage of publishing in the REVIEW short, sensible articles bearing upon this subject, and containing practical ideas which may be put into operation and conduce to a better feeling among the fraternity.

EXPRESS CHARGES.

In the December number of REVIEW I called attention to the above subject, and gave an instance of the imposition to which I had to submit when settling my bill for two coops of fowls imported from one of the upper provinces. I noticed in the January number that you copy an article from the *Poultry Bulletin* bearing upon this subject, and to which you add a few editorial remarks much to the point. Every breeder of fancy poultry in Canada who has had occasion at any time to import or ship fowls from or to parts of the Dominion, has been impressed with the conviction that a reform in this direction is sadly required, but I venture to say that few if any of them have ever exerted themselves in order to bring about a change, but have paid the price demanded, possibly under protest, but afterwards forgotten all about it until obliged