

Now, Sir, a great deal has been said about inducing farmers to improve their poultry, and I think it is an important matter, and one that will affect the fancier quite as much as the farmer, yet the two works are distinct from each other. The fancier will still continue in his place of improving and preparing for the farmer, who has neither the time nor inclination for such work, but is willing to take advantage of it just as soon as he is persuaded it is an improvement. Now, I unhesitatingly assert that this custom is at present the chief obstacle in the way of this improvement of farm fowls. Suppose apples to be sold by number, and who would go to the expense of grafting and buying improved varieties, which, though they surpass common in size can not approach them in numbers, and any change that would be made would be to increase the number regardless of size or quality. Any new blood introduced is sure to be Hamburg or Leghorn, a cross of which on the larger varieties would be good, but crossing them upon a lot of runts the result is that things are made worse than before—a lot of birds not larger than pigeons, and as ugly as ever, are produced. Now it only needs “a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether” to get rid of this evil, and for the sake of your reputation as intelligent men let it be done.

A writer in an American journal says that his Brahmas lay ‘ridiculously small eggs, while his Leghorns lay the large ones. Well, I don’t want any of his Brahmas, and he did well to get rid of them, for I fear they were part Leghorn, and his Leghorns had some Brahma in them.

In conversing with farmers upon this subject, when the superior size of the eggs of the thoroughbred was pointed out, I have been invariably met with this unanswerable argument: “A dozen small eggs brings as much as a dozen large ones.” Just once let a farmer see a neighbor get double the price for a dozen of eggs that he receives and he will soon become interested.

Before closing let me say to my farming friends, do stop this crossing your flock with every improved variety that comes within reach of you. Begin with Cochin or Brahma; you may again use Leghorn, but to mix a dozen varieties together does make an awful mess of it. A Cochin or Brahma, in my opinion, on the common is best, and what you begin with stick to it.

In conclusion I might state that I took a run a few days ago to look up a fancier or two which I had been informed existed in this county—for indeed they are scarce here. Well, I found several, and had the pleasure of looking over their stocks. One, Mr. R. E. Bingham, of Bradford, is an enthusiastic admirer and breeder of Black Spanish, McMillan’s strain. He has some fine birds, and is

bound to have them, having just the requirements for developing good stock. The Spanish with him are the grandest birds under the sun, and this, in my opinion, is the first requisite to success. His yards are large and furnish abundance of green food. He had just received a trio of Buff Cochins from Charlesworth; the cock is indeed a fine bird, and ought to produce some fine stock. He has some early Black Spanish chicks which he intends exhibiting at Toronto, and it will take fine birds to beat them.

Hoping that this Standard ball, &c., will be kept rolling,

I am yours fraternally,

GALLINÆ.

Lefroy, July 31st, 1880.

Keeping Pets.

How many people keep pets, and how few make pets of them. Nothing is so disagreeable to me as to see one keeping pets which are neglected and uncared for. Much better not keep them at all. Take cage birds, for instance; the keeping of a bird in a cage as a pet, and not taking the very best of care of it, is simply the worst kind of cruelty. You are, in the first place, depriving the bird of his liberty, where nature has provided him with all the wants and luxuries of bird life; you have imprisoned him for your own pleasure and to gratify your tastes for bird pets, and to forget his wants and necessities any more than you would your own, is in no way excusable.

There is as much pleasure to be derived from pets as from any other form of recreation or amusement, but to reap the full benefits from it one should be sure they like the animals they make pets of. The mere fancying at sight a pet of any kind because you see your neighbor enjoying many hours of pleasure in the possession of it, is no guarantee that you will derive as much pleasure from its possession as he does, unless you, like him, really like the animals which he makes pets of. This taking up a fancy on the spur of the moment, and dropping it again just as quick, is no way to make or have pets.

It must be remembered that keeping pets is one thing, and making pets of them is another, some people, no matter what animal they keep as their pets, and fancy, seem to have no trouble in making pets of them; a sort of mutual confidence seems to commence growing up between them from the first moment they meet; there seems to be no difficulty in the fancier so indentifying himself with his pet that, to a looker on one would almost think he possessed some of the nature of the petted one himself. If it is a dog, there is no running away at sight; if pigeons, no sooner does he enter the lofts than they are flying on and around him;