

Feather-Eating.

Editor Canadian Poultry Review,

In reading a recent number of the *Poultry World* I find where, in an article under the above caption, the "august editor" of that sheet puts on his "wisdom cap," and tells the amateur poultry breeder that if any of his fowls acquire the habit of feather-eating he must pay said editor for the same, either by killing his birds and buying others, or by buying quack medicines he sells. He says when they become confirmed in the practice (feather-eating,) the only remedy is the axe and chopping-block, or you can purchase the "Loomis Poultry Bit," "for sale at this office" for a certain sum. Now, Mr. Editor, is not that rather egotistical for him to tell young breeders *he knows* there is no cure for this habit unless he purchase some of his nostrums, and thereby put money into his (the editor's) pocket. Would it not have been far more reasonable for him to tell the amateur through his columns that the bit was the best remedy he knew of, instead of the *only* one?

Last fall I purchased of E. St. John, of this city, breeder of Brown Leghorns exclusively, a trio of very fine birds. When I got them, for want of room, I was obliged to put the birds in very close quarters for the whole winter; in fact their coop was four by six feet, with a run four by twenty-four feet, and no chance to let them out. In a short time the hens began to pluck the feathers of the cock, and to eat his comb. I gave them, as I always make a practice of doing, a great variety of food, including vegetable matter, and plenty of meat, both raw and cooked, and threw grain into straw to keep them busy; but it was no use, they were seemingly bound to eat up the cock. My friends came and looked at them, and all cried, "chop off their heads, or buy Loomis' Poultry Bit, it is the only way." I told them all I was not biting a colt, nor did I have a fractious bull in whose nose I wanted to put a ring, and so I should buy no patent rigs for them. I believed there was something lacking in their diet, and if they did not eat themselves up too soon I would find what it was and supply it. One morning I went out to feed and found both hens busily engaged in plucking feathers from the throat and breast of the cock. I plucked a feather from the same place, put it in my mouth and chewed the warm quill end, and found it to be a little salt. I immediately commenced to feed them a little salt in their soft feed, and in two days they stopped feather-eating. I did not remove them at all from the pen I first put them in until they commenced to moult, but after I begun to feed a little salt I was bothered no more with feather-eating, have no signs of it in any of my yards, and from those Brown Leghorns I raised

a fine flock of nice chicks. So, from my own experience, I believe feather-eating is caused by a lack of salty matter, and to cure it we need no "bit" or other contrivance, only supply what nature demands, and our chicks will be all right.

Yours, &c.,

S. W. KENNEDY.

Saginaw City, Sept. 22nd, 1878.

Pigeon Flying.

In your last issue I see announced that Mr. Chas. Goodechild and Mr. A. W. Bessey are about to fly what they call in England and on the continent a "home and home match." This form of testing homing pigeons has long since died out in England and Belgium among the learned and "knowing" fanciers of Voyageur Pigeons; the reason of which is thorough: That one bird will always have the advantage over the other. Fanciers will say, Can this be so? and the answer is simply, Because one bird will have the wind in its favor, and the other will fly against it. This style of flying does not test who has the best homing birds by any means, and to illustrate my argument I would here ask: Did any person ever see a yacht-race where one boat sailed with the wind in its favor, and the other against it, and both contesting for the same prize? I am quite sure a little child could tell which would be the victorious boat before they started on such an impossible contest.

In 1875, being in England, I paid a visit to my old friend W. B. Tegetmeier, Esq., and who was that year the Director General of the Anglo-Belgian Concourse, at the Alexandria Palace, London. From their mode of management my Canadian friends can, perhaps, learn a wrinkle. First the Belgian birds flew for the prizes given for their birds making the quickest time between London and Brussels, and the English birds competed for prizes given on the same plan as the Belgian. The wind on the day of the race was in favor of the Belgians, in consequence of which, had the English and Belgian birds flown for the same prizes the Belgians would have captured them all.

Wind is, believe me, along with clear weather, most important factors in pigeon flying. For an honest race all pigeons should start from the same point and home to the same city, town or village.

Philadelphia, Sept. 21st.

JAMES GRIST.

An old bachelor says: "When I remember all the girls I've met together, I feel like a rooster in the fall, exposed to every weather. I feel like one who treads alone, some barnyard all deserted; whose oats are fled, whose hens are dead, or all to market started."