

year? No; but years have been spent in the task of making the system practicable; and so practicable has it been made that a whole nation has adopted it, and such foreign authority as Lewis Wright, who was at first opposed to it, has been led to change his mind with respect to it. And to whom is not a little of the credit due for all this success? To I. K. Felch, Esq., the indefatigable worker in the poultry interests in the United States.

But that we may see more clearly the truth of the position taken in this letter, let us for one moment inquire, was it the system or its application that required years to perfect in the U. S.? Now, I think every reader of *Review* will agree that the system of judging by recorded points or marks has undergone no change from its inception, and yet for years it was not used for judging, but, as I. K. F. explains, only as a test to the old method. Now, if this is the truth, it follows that years were spent in qualifying the judges to use the system; and this training consisted in learning to apply the *Standard* accurately and quickly, without which the system is impracticable. And yet we are told that to say that our judges, who have never received this training, can't judge by scoring is unpatriotic, making little of our own men, &c. If I say to a man who knows the whole principles of telegraphy—knows the letters in use, and can read any message slowly, as he has not yet acquired quickness from experience—"You are not qualified for a large office yet," has he any reasonable right to resent it? Do we acknowledge as a nation that we know nothing of gunnery because Howard was brought over here to work the gatling for us? Certainly not.

Another bugbear which is calculated to lessen the value of honest discussion, and serve as a cloak or mantle of false charity, is the cry of "personality." We may discuss and criticise the acts of our law judges even, and our other great men, and even their private acts and habits if they are of a nature to bring discredit upon their employers or the nation, but a poultry judge must be held as above reproach. There is no use trying to fight off this improvement by such arguments as "a judge can score a bird wrong." There is just where a trouble comes in. In every system it can be "wrested," but so can the Bible.

I do admit that we can't make a dishonest man honest. This is the special work of God. He alone can regenerate or produce amends. The object of all law is not to regenerate—though it may at times, happily, be an agent in the accomplishment of it—but to restrain. A thief is none the less a thief because a wholesome dread of the law restrains him from preying upon his fellow. Bad of all kinds, anger, malice, dishonesty, are only injurious to society when expressed. A man may be disloyal, ready to oppose lawful authority, but as long as he is restrained from disseminating this disaffection he brings no injury to the nation. A man who habitually uses profane language is no less wicked because the law forbids swearing, and he is restrained from fear of the consequences, or because society puts a ban upon it. Society has the right to protect itself from both acts and examples which would be hurtful to it, without taking into account the reformation of those restrained.

Yours truly,

August 27th, 1885.

S. SPILLET.

Seasonable Hints.

The fall show season is often more trying to the fowls than the winter season, as in the former the adult birds are generally in the middle of their annual

moult, and not in condition to withstand the hardships and exposure they often have to undergo in travelling to and from the exhibitions, and while on exhibition; while the young birds are yet weak from rapid growth. Many of the birds that will be shown this fall are intended for next season's breeding stock, and the exhibitor must not only have an eye to success in the showroom but must also keep in view the fact that next season's breeding operations will greatly depend on the condition in which the fowls are carried through moult. Every one who has shipped fowls even a short distance has seen evidence that it is a trying ordeal to them, as they seldom look so well and lively for a while after it; but when to this is added the confinement in the show cage, with changes of treatment and often neglect and exposure, it is not to be wondered at that many hesitate to expose valuable birds to such risks as are encountered in showing at this season. The birds should be fed a few days before being shipped. Great benefit will be derived from giving a feed of bread soaked in warm ale, squeezed dry, just before starting on the journey. This will strengthen them, allay excitement, and lessen the danger of taking cold. If this bread and ale can be given them every morning while on exhibition it will go far to keep them in good condition and ward off disease. A little grain should also be placed in the hamper in a trough at a convenient height so that the fowl can get at it when hungry. This is made necessary from the fact that on their arrival at the show the attendants are generally kept so busy cooping the birds as they arrive that no time is found for feeding until all are cooped, and if they are put into the coop hungry and not fed for some time afterwards, they are apt to gorge themselves, perhaps with grain they are not accustomed to, and the result is they are uncomfortable and mope when the judge comes round, and do not make a good impression on his eye. Many fine birds have been found dead in the show cages from the effects of over-feeding after a journey without food, the crop being filled with dry grain and water, becomes distended, and results in death. The day before sending to the show the birds should have access to plenty of sharp gravel, to aid digestion during confinement.

When the birds are returned from the show it will not do to "dump" them into the coop or yard with the fowls that remained at home, nor to allow those that have been shown in different cages to run together without any further attention. Many a young fancier has had cause to regret, when his fowls returned after dark, having put them in the coop or yard with the other stock. He has found, on going out in the morning, that a free fight has been indulged in by his flock, and that a lot of the best birds have been ruined for life as show birds, and others made too filthy from dirt and blood to again make a respectable appearance in the show-room until nature gives them a new coat of feathers. The friendship of fowls will not withstand long absence; a few days absence will cause them to forget all friendly ties, and treat each other as strangers, which, with fowls, male or female, means fight on sight. When the birds come home, and it is necessary to put all together, they should be watched and any attempt to quarrel frustrated. If the fancier will provide himself with a stick eight or ten feet long and on one end fasten a piece of heavy sacking about 2 feet long by 18 inches wide, and when the birds come together with fight intent, give them a slap with the cloth, their pugnacity will soon be quelled. In a very short time, by this means, order can be restored among a flock of any variety of fowls except Games, out with these separation is the only safe plan.