

would prefer quicker measures. The immediate purpose answered, the hock must of course be carefully kept down, which gives no difficulty whatever if proper judgment in mating be exercised. But I have certainly not asserted as you infer that "unless this course be pursued scanty feathering will become still more general"—more general in fact it could not be.

All this you will find is exactly in conformity with what I have advised in "The Brahma Fowl," when I advocate breeding vulture-hocked cocks to bare legged hens in exactly the same way, and for exactly the same reason, afterwards of course taking care to breed the hock out.

Had you been acquainted with the state of leg-feathering in nearly all the English Light Brahmas, you would probably have understood the bearing of my remarks, which were simply intended as pointing out a temporary remedy for a glaring and general evil. I may however add that after all the years of experience of our English breeders, it is even yet found far easier to breed heavy leg-feather with soft curling hocks—just what they ought to be in fact—from a hocked cock with a badly-feathered hen, than from perfect parents: and the greater part of our most perfectly-feathered birds are so produced by the chief exhibitors. I do not however like this plan, which for a *continuance* is certainly bad breeding, and any one with judgment may do without it.

Faithfully yours,

LEWIS WRIGHT.

London, England, 13th April, 1872.

We willingly make place for the above remarks, and on the same subject the following from Mr. Fred. Wragg, poultry manager to Lady Gwydyr, being an extract from a private letter to ourselves, recently received—"Vulture-hocks in Brahmas is a vexed question, I myself would sooner tolerate vulture-hocks than thinly feathered shanks, the latter fault is a great eyesore with me. I always breed from one side vulture-hocked; if the stock cock be vulture, then the hens mated with him must be quite clear about the knee joint—then I should have a yard made

up of slightly hocked hens mated with a clear kneed cock. Understand what I mean, the hock must not project more than a couple of inches and must be soft and compact, not those with a spur on the thigh, and broad stiff projecting feathers half a foot long. From crossing such as above described you will get very few hocked birds, you are also in a position, having those two stock yards, to cross with your own breeding and thus avoid the risk of getting a bird for crossing from a strange yard, and perhaps find when too late that a vast amount of injury to your stock has been done. Once having got possession of a winning strain of Brahmas, you cannot be too careful about the introduction of fresh blood, nor will you require it. With such selecting and crossing as above stated, you will always be in a position to select heavy feathered shanks, and quite free from the hock."

Poultry Items.

IMPORTATIONS.

MR. JOHN FORSYTH, TORONTO, received on 1st April, per steamship *Peruvian*, the following fowls: 1 trio Aylesbury Ducks, Sir John Massy and Fowler strain; 1 trio Silver Grey Duckwing, Game Bantams, Shewman strain; 1 pair Golden Selbright Bantams; 1 trio White Crested Black Polands, Panten Edwards strain; 2 Dark Brahma cocks, Black-breasted, and of great size; 4 White Cochin hens; 1 cock and 6 Partridge Cochins, hens average 10 lbs. each,—the cock bird of this lot won 1st prize at Newport, 2nd at Cambridge, and 2nd at Edinburgh—taken together they are a very fine lot of birds.

MR. SHELDON STEPHENS, Montreal, P.Q., has received per steamer *Prussia* a trio of Dark Brahmas from Mr. Fred. Wragg, poultry manager to Lady Gwydyr, Ipswich, England. The cockerel, brother to the winners of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes, was highly commended at the Birmingham show of 1871, and the pullets are prize birds, selected by Mr. Wragg for his own breeding hens.