

ber of points at the late exhibition (a pair of black African Bantams) were the property of this gentleman.

JAMES E. DEWOLFE

has but lately been added to the fraternity, but he seems determined to take a front place in the ranks of our fanciers. His specialty is Brown Leghorns, although he breeds Light Brahmas as well. His house is very neatly constructed and kept thoroughly clean, which no doubt, aids greatly in keeping his hens hard at work laying. Mr. DeWolfe informed me that he had very poor luck this season, the only encouragement so far being *early chickens for Easter breakfast*.

J. A. CRICHTON,

of Dartmouth, has a large run for his fowls, of which he breeds quite a variety, Houdans, Light Brahmas, Games, and Bantams. It is his intention to raise a number of chicks this season.

P. COCK.

Halifax, May 20th, 1880.

### To Beginners.

Editor Review,

DEAR SIR,—Just at the last moment I have decided to send in a few lines to REVIEW, and shall say a few words to beginners, basing my remarks, to a certain extent, upon my own observations and experience. Like many others I have been a long time in setting down to steady work, and have incurred unnecessary expense and loss of time in consequence. Now, I would say to any, and I might say every, beginner who intends raising poultry for the pleasure there is in it, rather than the profit (of course the mere huckster or poultier will only have to consider which will produce the largest return,) in the first place, make up your mind which variety pleases your eye, which you can admire day after day without any diminution of admiration; you will then take a pleasure in attending to your birds. You may say at first, I will soon tire of a bird which has this or the other failing, but you will sooner tire of a bird which your eye cannot rest upon with delight. Who can take pleasure in caring for a thing in which he takes no further interest or pleasure than as a mere means of securing that which is more highly esteemed than they. Again, take into careful consideration what variety will suit your accommodations best. But I am really of the opinion that even here you must not be influenced to take up a variety which you do not admire, because it is generally admitted that they are not suited to just the conditions under which you mean to please them. I am sure I am safe in saying that you will be more successful with the former than the latter. I am confident that any variety can be naturalized to any conditions, care being all that is needed;

and there is no fear but that a favorite variety will be cared for. If not, buy a pig in the place of your poultry to eat your odds and ends.

Every variety is doubtless capable of improvement in any direction or in any function which they perform, so you can set about moulding your own variety to suit your own peculiar notions, which affords a never-ending source of pleasure. One cannot get a variety perfect in all respects, and I think one great mistake made by beginners is that they think there is a perfect variety, if they could only be so fortunate as to get possession of it, and the consequence is one variety after another is tried, till utter disgust is the result, or at least a great deal of expense or disappointment. After thinking over the matter carefully, and experimenting with a number of varieties, and reading regularly about all the poultry articles written on the continent, I have come to the conclusion that no variety is as perfect as it may be made, and that when compared, there is not the difference in the utility of the different varieties which various fanciers would lead you to infer. It is only another evidence that you will be safe in taking up any variety, for there is no doubt but the fancier who asserts that he would not have a Brahma about his place is perfectly truthful; again the Brahma man tells you that his Brahmas lay right through the winter, and have size into the bargain. So on through the piece.

So when you have consulted your taste, if you cannot decide which of two varieties to choose, go into one, for a time at least, and afterwards add the second; but I am confident you will derive more pleasure from one, or at most two, varieties, than from a dozen. The reasons are evident: you cannot, without making a business of it, keep them as admirably; nor can you take much pleasure in performing what necessarily becomes hard work—most of people do not like too much of the latter in their pleasures. Of course if this part of poultry-keeping is too manual for you to undertake, then you had better not keep them at all yourself, but buy a few and present them to some farmer, who will, in return for the start you gave him, and the eggs, &c., allow you the pleasure of looking at them occasionally.

But you have not yet come to your first real difficulty. You want a first-class start, that is, A 1 birds of their kind. From whom am I to get them? is the question. I see by poultry journals that everybody has taken all the first prizes. From whom shall I buy? I am really afraid I shall get too much of a good thing, so it would appear. Well, in my opinion, the more wind you find the less rain. You will be as likely to get a good specimen from a breeder who says he has good birds for sale, and if they are not good he will