

and be closed at both ends and back, and the front should face the south. The floor should be of earth. In such quarters as these fowls will be profitable stock.

In addition to the grain and meal fed, they should also have plenty of green food. A cabbage suspended in the centre of the fowl-house by a string attached to the ceiling, will be greatly relished by the birds. It should be about a foot from the floor. A small wire basket of about two quarts capacity should be hung against the wall, and be filled each morning with steamed clover hay. The clover can be steamed by setting the basket on top of a kettle of boiling water. The basket should be made of galvanized wire to prevent rust. Fine gravel, charcoal broken up to the size of corn, plaster or broken oyster shells should also be provided, and, most important of all, a constant supply of pure water. In feeding laying hens it is best to heat the grain in very cold weather by putting it in shallow tin trays and setting in the oven for a few minutes.

A variety of grain should be fed. The best time to seed corn is at the evening meal before going to the perch, as it will last longer in the crop than anything else.

Those who care well for their fowls at this season of the year will be amply repaid for their trouble by a generous yield of eggs, and there is every reason to suppose that prices will be as good this winter as last, when fifty cents per dozen was paid in Toronto. There is lots of money in eggs at thirty cents, and when forty and fifty cents are offered it shows most conclusively that the supply is not equal to the demand.

I have heard of several parties going into the poultry-farming business on rather an extensive scale, and I should be glad to hear their experience through the columns of the Review.

Wishing you, Mr. Editor, and all your readers, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

I remain dear sir,

Yours very truly,

T. A. WILLIAMS.

Toronto, Dec. 6th, 1884.

### Plymouth Rocks.

Editor Review,

This family or variety of the feathered tribes are having the attention of the fancy turned towards them in a very striking manner by the unusually long and practical controversies by prominent breeders, now going on in some of the poultry journals and papers of the neighboring republic, as to the requirements of the *American Standard* concerning them.

One prominent point—in fact the most prominent—under discussion is the call of the *Standard*

for matching in the show pen, which most of the prominent breeders class as being a great blunder of the committee of A. P. A. who had the Plymouth Rock variety under their consideration; they claiming that as nature always clothes the male in a lighter-colored garment than his companion, the female the clause "matching in the show pen" should be left out as far as he is concerned. Others declaring that they will never become exhibitors until they can show them just as they would breed them to obtain good and desirable results.

While the defenders of the make-up of the *Standard* admit, in a great measure, that it is not quite correct—there was a mistake on the part of some of the committee, or the printer, or somebody else—we who are looking on and are trying to pick up something, are learning a good deal about the history and make-up of our pets, and I think the fraternity—that is the "green ones"—are greatly indebted to those old, practical breeders for all the information they have given in their discussions upon this subject in the American poultry journals.

Now, Mr. Editor, it must be patent to most of your readers that the Plymouth Rocks of the present day are not yet a perfected fowl. It will take probably another ten years of careful breeding on the part of those fanciers who have selected this breed as their choice to present a bird to the fraternity with the perfection to which the Light Brahma, for instance, can lay claim—a nearer similarity in color of the sexes. Getting rid of the bronzed leg of the female (inherited from her ancestors on her own side), the white in ear-lobe, the horn-colored beak, &c.; these will all disappear, no doubt, in time under careful selection and proper attention given to mating.

There is one thing very clear to my mind—as the colors of the male stand to-day you cannot procure pullets and cockerels of the desired colors from the same matings. The breeder is compelled to have two or more pens of different matings to obtain birds of the different sexes of standard colors—the light-colored hens mated with a light colored cock to procure standard pullets will give you cockerels too light in color for anything except for the pot, and the dark-colored (or now) exhibition colored cock, mated with the same colored hens as the light cock, will give you cockerels all right, but pullets will be almost too dark for anything. Thus the breeding of Plymouth Rocks at the present time is more difficult and expensive than most other breeds from the one mating of which you can procure both sexes of standard merit. Nevertheless there is enough in the Plymouth Rocks to warrant breeders in taking this extra expense and trouble, with the additional prospect in the near future of increasing the value