

and I for one did not receive a single circular or cut that was dark; as this promises to put the Wyandottes back, at least one year in Canada, I am sorry to see such *extremes* in the cuts representing this useful and exceedingly beautiful variety. We have already "White Wyandottes," surely we can or shall soon have black ones. Seeing the great difference in them at shows this winter, I have imported some of the darker markings, their useful qualities are the same. The only question affecting us Canadian breeders is, which will prove most attractive to our breeders, the light or the dark birds. I have a predilection for the medium light deep laced birds. They certainly command more attention from visitors, and are very beautiful. I hope all those interested will not let this sudden fancy dampen their ardour, but try the breed on its merits and choose that shade of color which will please more generally, whichever it may be. It will take another season to find this out. I will mention an instance that came under my own observation this winter. A gentleman in the Toronto exhibition told me, that he was intending investing largely in Wyandottes, but seeing the change that was made, and not liking it at all, could not buy them, at least, not for another two seasons; I was called away before I had the opportunity to get the gentleman's name. If we breed the Wyandotte carefully and show good birds to get the people interested in them, they will do their own booming. They will win, nay, they will command the favor of every fancier, who may give them a trial. I never had so much satisfaction in trying a new breed, as I have had from these noble birds. I am too young in experience to give advice, but am making trial matings, having three very handsome male birds; having imported a beautiful dark male and two females from W. O. Dakin, Toledo, Ohio, last fall or rather winter, and yesterday received from Mr. Irving

Crocker, New York, two splendid pull-ets; these with my own stock, which is also from Mr. Dakin, will enable me to make a good trial, and I can no doubt, find out a good many things relative to breeding this variety, which I can give your readers in the fall. I will cheerfully answer any questions that I can, if stamp is sent for reply.

I notice Mr. Kennedy has a few words to say on the stamp question. I may say that I think no breeder wants his postage paid, but I often receive inquiries such as this:—"Please tell me where I can get the Spanish, (or some other) variety of fowl," also, "can you tell me how to mate P. Rocks," also "can I raise chickens from an incubator without a brooder," another, "I hear you have a brooder, please send me directions." Now, all these and many other questions do not relate to my business; and though I never refuse to answer, surely those seeking information for their own benefit might enclose stamp; and this I think is the object of most of the "stamp men," to deter a host of unbusiness like inquirers from taxing their purse as well as their time to reply for their benefit. I think it is but fair any way. I should esteem it a favor if any one of your readers can tell me what is the best dog to have around that will keep thieves out, and not frighten visitors out of their lives. Are there any dogs that will help to keep hawks away? and are "Guinea fowl" good for that purpose? Please forgive this lengthy epistle.

Respectfully,

W. C. G. PETER.

Angus, April 8, '86.

#### Editor Review:

Your excellent May number duly to hand, and it is more interesting than ever.

I find others are noticing the Wyandotte cuts so I am not alone. I think with Mr. Price that the Standard calls for a medium between the two cuts referred to. Perhaps I too shall be

among the rush of fools, but I am entirely of the opinion of Mr. Price that a medium between the two (such as I mentioned in a former letter on this subject) is a far more handsome bird than either very light or dark specimens. Re Wyandottes not breeding true, I think some persons come hurriedly to that conclusion because the chicks do not hatch out so uniform as some other breeds; and besides they change considerably with each moult. I have now a cockerel bred from Mr. Dakin's stock; last year, when a chick, he was very dark, but acting on Mr. D.'s advice I kept him, he is magnificent in form, and the last two or three months has so changed in breast plumage, that few would believe he is the same bird, I should think his breast plumage will be almost perfect; in all other parts but breast he was always good in plumage and though a dark Wyandotte he is perfectly free from straw or yellow shading on the silver color. I mention this for the benefit of breeders of these noble birds, who have not had much experience, that they may not be in a hurry to consign to the pot any promising birds if they fail a little in breast plumage when young. The bird referred to was hatched on the 10th of last June, last fall his breast was almost black, and when the white did show it was uneven. I intend to keep him until he is fully matured, and have not yet used him as a breeder but intend doing so shortly, and shall mark the chicks.

I am exceedingly pleased to note the temperate language of Mr. McKay's letter; no doubt the Londoners were a little elated over their success, and did not mean all that was said, but like the member of the Celebrated Club, made the remarks in a "Pickwickian sense." They are hard to bear however, these knocks by members of the same society, but friend McKay is in the right not to be caught using hard words, but serenely relying on his stock. I am not personally acquainted