

WHY NOT?

[WRITTEN FOR APRIL REVIEW.]

Editor Review:—

The *Review* came to hand to-day and I am pleased to see it out so early in the month, and to learn from it that the Bowmanville Show was such an unqualified success. It seems that the arrangements were excellent all through, and no doubt had the intention of the directors been more widely known, in respect of meeting exhibitors at the trains with conveyances, there would have been many more birds on exhibition. It certainly was a very courteous and thoughtful proceeding.

I rec'd a communication from W. L. Ball in the January number, which mentions the Crystal Palace Show; about which I beg space to make a few remarks. I know our season for breeding is too late for sending *young* birds to compete with those bred in England, but I fancy some of the old birds would take a lot of beating. By this I mean the high class birds that I have seen on exhibition this season;—and some of the most promising of the young ones, many of which bid fair to be, something extraordinary. The score-cards of such judges as Messrs. Felch and Bicknell, showing birds so well up in the nineties are conclusive proof of the excellence of the stock in the hands of Canadian fanciers. And this leads me to suggest that our fanciers combine to send an exhibit to the Crystal Palace this year. Any among your readers who know the Palace will remember what an excellent place it is for such a purpose, and the many, many thousands of visitors these shows always attract. (It would be interesting to know the total number of visitors at the last show.) And I feel sure the fanciers in England would be only too willing to extend a warm welcome to us, should we decide to show at their great National Poultry Exhibition. I know every foot of ground in the Palace, and I can assure those

who may not be so fortunate as to have this knowledge, that it is *the* place of all others to show birds to the best advantage. I know nothing of the rules of the society under whose auspices the show is held nor anything relating to coops, etc., I only know it is *the* poultry show, of England, and a grand place for such an exhibition, such as no one can imagine that has not seen it. I received a clipping from a paper from a friend in England with an account of the last show, (which I have mislaid), and in it is mentioned the intention of the society to offer a prize for the *best design in feathers* at their next show. It mentions the sum but I forget what it was.

Now here is a chance for the Canadian fanciers. I feel sure we could do something extra good in this line, and it is not too soon to begin working, if this suggestion meets the approval of Canadian breeders. If it does we must begin at once, so that there will be no hurry about it. Of course it cannot be done without expense, but if all combine and share the outlay we might send at least a design which both for beauty of feathers and as a work of art would be a credit to the fanciers of our great Dominion. I only wish it were possible to send such a work to the Colonial Exhibition, but it is too late, as if hurried in the process, it is probable it would not be so well executed. We can place no estimate on the value of such a work as an advertising medium for our fanciers, but there is one law we must keep before us pre-eminently, that *the work must be first-class in every respect*. I shall be happy to give any information that I can, and answer any questions. I really think our fanciers would do well to show, and if it is decided early, intending specimens could have special care for the season, to fit them up in first-class condition, special attention being given to legs, which through being housed so closely during our long winter are liable to become rough. If possible birds should arrive in England two weeks before

time of exhibition and a careful attendant can then get them in good shape. Hoping this suggestion may meet the approval of all fanciers and that they will unite to make a Canadian exhibit worthy of our Country. Thanking you Mr. Editor for your valuable space.

Yours Respectfully,

W. C. G. PETER.

Angus, Ont., March 15th, 1886.

CARE OF THE SETTING HEN.

Editor Review:—

As the breeding season is now right upon us, a few words on behalf of our motherly pets may not be amiss.

I suppose more young chicks are killed in the nest, than by any other mishap, or even perhaps disease itself; at all events it is always more or less a source of annoyance to many fanciers, and especially if the chicks are more than usually valuable. The management of setting hens is almost an art. As I have been always very fortunate in this respect, I will give my views on it. In the first place; in early spring the nests should *not* be on the ground. A cheese box cut down a few inches makes a nice nest, (if thoroughly free from the odor of cheese); into it put a sod which has been previously kept a few days in the house to get all the chill off and also to dry up a little, on this put oat straw about two inches deep, sprinkle with sulphur as this will not hurt the chicks. Make the sod and straw fill the box completely, leaving no room for an egg to get down between the filling and the box. As soon as you have a hen show signs of brooding, dust her thoroughly with insect powder or sulphur; if she has no lice do it just the same, and it will make her free all the time she is setting. Let at least one day elapse after the dusting before she is put on the nest, and here a word on dusting fowls, very few do this properly, simple as it seems. Some use so much powder or whatever it may be, that it really makes the