

EXPORTING FOWLS TO AMERICA.

We are induced to say a few words to English breeders on the above subject. There seems to be considerable misconception as to how poultry should be forwarded to this country. Some are of the opinion that a special messenger should be sent in charge of the fowls, to feed and tend them on their voyage: and instances of this have come within our knowledge; others seem to think if the coops with the birds are placed on board a vessel bound for Quebec or New York, that is quite sufficient. And one instance has come to our knowledge, of a breeder who, having received a Post Office order for the price his birds were advertised for, actually returned it to the sender, stating that he was wholly unaware of how fowls could be shipped to America.

Poultry ought always to be forwarded from Liverpool in a mail steam-ship, and, unless otherwise specially ordered, given in charge of the express agent on board, who will feed and tend them on the way, and also supply the food consumed by the birds. The breeder should take a receipt from the agent stating the number of coops of fowls shipped, and birds in each coop, and the person to whom consigned. This receipt should be enclosed to the purchaser, with the seller's letter of advice, and relieves the latter of further responsibility.

In cases where the express charges are not paid in advance, but on delivery, the purchaser would do well to arrange with the Canadian or American express agent for their payment on the arrival of the fowls, before ordering them, and procure from him a letter to the English express agent, guaranteeing payment of all charges. This letter should be enclosed to the seller, with the order for the fowls, and by the latter handed to the English express agent at the railroad station where they are shipped. This

greatly facilitates matters, and in all such cases ought never to be omitted.

We have also a word to say about the coops in which fowls are shipped. They ought not to be unnecessarily large or heavy, neither ought they to be too small. In a recent case we saw 12 birds packed into one coop so closely that they had scarcely room to stand; the result was, one bird died on the way, a second the night after its arrival, and the remainder took some weeks to recover the effects of the journey.

It would be to the interest of parties in England who are favored with orders from this country, to be more careful how they forward birds; carelessness in this respect often prevents the repetition of an order.

THE ROUEN DUCK.

Of all the varieties of the duck tribe, the Rouens are the most profitable. They are more lethargic, and consequently more easily fed, than any others. Their eggs are large, and they lay great numbers of them. They should never be less than three ounces in weight, and three-and-half is the usual weight. The colour of the egg is a blue green, the shell being considerably thicker than in the eggs of the Aylesbury breed. The flesh is of the highest possible flavour, and in first-rate specimens is abundant in quantity. Young drakes of only nine or ten weeks old, when killed, weigh twelve pounds the pair, and in some instances even more. They do not consume more food than other varieties. They are as hardy as any of the other kinds, and rarely evince any disposition to wander from the neighborhood of the homestead, and appear to care less for exercise on the water than any other variety.

In colour, the plumage should closely approximate to that of the common wild duck. The eyes, however, are deeply sunk in the head, and these ducks es-