

Poultry and Pigeons.

ODD PLUMAGED PIGEONS.

BY JAMES C. LYELL.

The frizzled pigeon, or Friesland runt, as it was formerly called, is not a runt of the large kind, but a bird of the size and shape of a common pigeon. Moore writes of it as follows: "This pigeon comes from Friesland, and is one of the larger sort of middle-sized runts. Its feathers stand all reverted, and I can't see for what it can be admired, except for its Ugliness." So far, Mr. Moore, whose successors, Mayor and Girton, follow on the same string with variations, both adding that these pigeons were, in their time, very scarce in England. The Friesland runt—which name I merely use because it was formerly so called, and because it matters little what name it goes by so long as it is not that of another pigeon—must have become extinct in England; but of late it has reappeared from abroad. It is known in Germany as the Lockentaube, where it is said to be rare, and Newmeister says it came from Hungary. It is smooth-headed, and usually stocking-legged, without much feathering on the toes. In color it is generally blue or nearly, but I have seen turbit marked ones, with bronzed black shoulders. Its feathering is analogous to that of the frizzled fowls or Sebastopol geese, that is reverted, making it appear to have been out in a cyclone. This appearance is owing to the concave surface of the feathers, more especially those of the wing coverts and back, being outward instead of inward, or next the body as in other pigeons. On its reintroduction into England, where it has not been very uncommon for some years back, and where it has done some winning in the "Any other Variety" classes, it was called by the name of another pigeon, one of an opposite character to it, the frillback. This was the more inexcusable, as the frillback was not extinct in England. If any pigeon requires a new name, it is this one; being neither a runt nor a frillback, it may be appropriately named the frizzled pigeon.

The first mention of the frillback was in the "Treatise on Pigeons," dedicated to John Mayor, published in 1765. As the description is very good, concise and clear, I reproduce it. "The frillback is something less in size than a dragoon, and in shape like the common runt; their color generally (if not always) white; and what is chiefly remarkable in them is the turn of their feathers, which appear as if every one distinctly had been raised at the extremity with a small, round-pointed instrument, in such manner as to form a small cavity in each of them." The frillback, which is the German *Strupp oder Peritaube*, bristle or pearl pigeon, is said to be a native of the Netherlands, and Brent met with it in Saxony. It is of the size of a common field pigeon, and described as always pure white in color, with an orange or gravelly red iris. As far as I can remember, those I have seen were dark in the irides; but a yellow or red eye would look well enough. I believe this variety is always white, and I have never seen it of any other feather. They are turned-crowned and smooth-legged. Their peculiar appearance is caused by the ends of their feathers, more especially those of the wing coverts and secondaries, being crimped as if by a pair of curling tongues, as Brent describes it. This appearance is often seen in a less degree on hard feathered pigeons like dragoons. As Brent says, the frillback must not be confused with the Friesland runt, with which it has nothing whatever in common.

The lace pigeon is another variety, distinguished, like the frizzled and frillback pigeons, by the peculiar formation of its feathers. It has its prototype in the silky fowl of China and Japan, which early travellers called a fowl, bearing hair or wool on its body instead of feathers. This pigeon was unknown to Moore, and was first described in our pigeon literature in the *Treatise*, where a very good plate of it may be seen. It is described as white in color, turn-crowned, and valued on account of its scarcity, and the peculiarity of its feathers.

"the fibres or web of which appear disunited from each other throughout their whole plumage, and not in the least connected, as is common with all other pigeons, where they form a smooth close feathers."

The lace pigeon, which is known in France as the *Pigeon Soie* (silky pigeon), and in Germany as the *Seidenhaartaube* (silken-haired pigeon), is of much the same size and bearing as the common field pigeon. It is almost always pure white in color, and generally smooth-headed. It has its name from its peculiar feathering, the fibres of all its feathers having no adhesion, but being disunited and appearing as if every second one had been cut out. The wing covert, quill and tail feathers, with their long fringed rays, have given it its English name of lace pigeon. It is not so hairy or woolly in appearance as the silky fowl, but more like the produce of that fowl when crossed with a common one. Its legs and feet are either quite smooth or slightly feathered; its irides are dark hazel. Being unable to fly, it must be kept in confinement and under special conditions. However interesting as an object of curiosity, it presents little variation in its form or feather, and consequently it will be always rather uncommon. It has the power of somewhat reproducing its peculiarity when crossed with other pigeons, and the French have a half-breed looking fantail, called the *pigeon trembleur paon de soie*, from which the Scotch lace fantail has been perfected.

The frizzled, frillback and lace pigeons are examples of natural sports perfected by selection. If lost, breeders could not recover them, but would have to wait till nature provided them with a new beginning on which to work. As they exist they can be kept up, in a fair degree of quality, with but little trouble as compared to many kinds that are called mere feather varieties, fine specimens of which are consequently much more valuable than they are. If fancy pigeons were separate creations, and not descended from a common origin, I wonder how the lace pigeon got out till taken in charge by pigeon fanciers?

POULTRY FANCIERS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

J. Andrews, of Wilmot, though not a veteran poultry fancier, has been some time in the business, and has a splendid collection of birds. His runs are commodious and well laid. He is, at present, engaged in breeding Bronze Turkeys, Plymouth Rocks, Dark Brahmas, and Sebright Bantams. His Bronze Turkeys are fine birds, and have well repaid the time and money expended upon them. These birds are of a good stock, being of the Mattock and Clift strain, and took first prize at the exhibition in Halifax last October. Mr. Andrews' Plymouth Rocks are exceptionally fine birds, and justly a source of pride to the owner, who intends entering them at the Provincial Exhibition, where they will likely be heard of. The dark Bantams and Sebrights are from Burpee & Co., of Philadelphia.

Mr. John Coulon, foreman of Mrs. Spain's farm, Wilmot, is breeding Bronze Turkeys. His birds are good ones, well up to the standard, and were obtained from the preceding breeder.

W. Gates, of Middleton, is breeding a fine variety of "Grade Bronze Turkeys" and Guinea Fowls; the latter especially are most deserving of notice.

W. H. Blanchard, of Windsor, has a good importation of Mammoth Bronze Turkeys, purchased from the great poultry farm of O. P. Mattock, of Portland, Me. Mr. Blanchard had paid considerable attention for several years past to the breeding of white faced black Spanish fowls, and has some fine birds, a cross between a variety imported from England by Capt. Halcy, and the well known "Gouge" strain.

Aubry Blanchard, of Windsor, has a fine flock of superior light Brahmas, having purchased last spring an imported cock from Mr. Betcher, of Halifax, to cross on some very fine hens.

Edward Blanchard, of Ellerhouse, has some very fine Houdans, also some prize takers in Partridge Cochins. John Jamieson, of Truro, makes a specialty of White

Crested Black Polish and Plymouth Rocks; he raised last year seventy chickens of both varieties. The Polish Pullets were greatly admired at the late exhibition in Halifax, and were awarded second prize. He also breeds pigeons of several varieties, including Antwerps, Tumblers, and White Fantails. These birds may be seen circling and wheeling in the air around the pigeon loft, the Tumblers attracting attention by their peculiar antics, tumbling down twenty or thirty feet then rising in vain endeavors to reach the others that are so strong on the wing. He also breeds Canary Birds.

H. Townsend, of New Glasgow, has a commodious place, situated within the town limits, and breeds, Black Red Game, Red Pile Game, Spanish, Plymouth Rocks, Rouen Ducks, Bremen Geese, Bronze Turkeys, Pekin Ducks, and Toulouse Geese. His buildings are all constructed with a view to comfort, and he has, of course, separate runs for each variety of fowls. Mr. Townsend is an enthusiast in his business, and has made it a fairly successful one, taking many prizes at exhibitions, and always finding a ready sale for his birds.

Frank and Newton Drake, of New Glasgow, are breeders of Light Brahmas, Black Spanish, also, of B. Red Game Bantams. They have a good comfortable building for their stock, and good runs, and although they only began last spring, have commenced the right way, bought good stock to start on, and put up buildings that would compare favourably with those of the older breeders in Halifax and elsewhere.

J. W. Church, is also a fancier at New Glasgow. He is a breeder of Spanish, Light Brahmas, and Hamburgs, has a very cosy place, and a splendid run for his fowls.

Mr. Harry Wolf, of the same place, has some fine Light Brahmas, and some imported White Cochins, very fine birds, and they are kept as fowls should be kept.

Mr. John Macpherson has a fine collection of Silver-Pencilled Hamburgs—he, too, is a new man started last Spring, put up a comfortable house and enclosed a spacious run.

There are a number of persons, in and around New Glasgow that, seeing the great advantage to be derived from so doing, have made necessary arrangements, and this season intend keeping none but thorough bred fowls; so that in the course of not many years Fictou county will be able to take her place alongside counties now far ahead of her in that respect.—*Halifax Herald*.

CANADIAN POULTRY AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

The regular monthly meeting of this Association was held in Agricultural Hall, on Wednesday evening last, when upwards of twenty members attended. Mr. J. McGrath, the President of the Association, occupied the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read, Mr. I. B. Johnson moved a reconsideration and the appointment of gentlemen outside of the Association on the Standard Committees. This motion was lost, and the minutes adopted as read.

Mr. Johnson then proposed that certain named prominent breeders be placed on certain of the Standard Committees. The idea of appointing non-members on club committees was objected to, and finally it was decided that the Committees should consult with prominent before reporting to the Association.

It was further decided that the gentlemen named by Mr. Johnson be communicated with and asked to join the Association in order that they could be placed on the Committees.

Six new members were elected, and after some routine business the meeting was adjourned.

MONTREAL POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly meeting of the Montreal Poultry, Dog and Pet Stock Association was held on last Thursday evening. Mr. I. F. Scriver, in the chair. The Election of Secretary-Treasurer having been left over from the annual meeting, Mr. Thomas Hal proposed, and Mr. Pine seconded, that Mr. James H. Cayford be elected to that office, which was carried unanimously. Owing to the absence of the President, important business had to be left over until Monday, the 21st instant.