

"Mr. Burnham, of Melrose" continued the Report, "declined an offer of \$120 for his twelve premium Cochín-China chickens, and subsequently refused \$20 for the choice of the pullets."

"The show was much larger than the first one, and the character of the birds exhibited was altogether finer, though the old fowl were, for the most part, moulting. A deep interest was manifested in this enterprise, and it went off with satisfaction to all concerned," added the report.

In order that the details of this experiment, (which I projected and carried through, myself) may be appreciated and understood, I extract from the "official" Report the following items regarding this show, the expenses, the prize-takers, &c.

The "Committee of Judges," consisting of myself, G. P. Burnham, Esq., and a gentleman of Melrose, made the following statements and "observations," in the Report above referred to.

"The exhibition was visited by full ten thousand persons, during the three days mentioned. The amount of money received for tickets was four hundred and seventy-three dollars and thirty-eight cents; and the following disbursements were made:

Cash paid for rent of hall - - - -	\$175 00
" " amount of premiums and gratuities, - - - -	135 00
" " for lumber and use of tables	17 00
" " lighting hall, advertising, etc	70 40
" " tickets, cards and handbills -	18 21
" " carpenters and attendants -	27 50
" " police and door keepers, -	15 00
" " grain, seed, buckets, pans, etc	25 56
" " coops, cartage and sundries, -	7 37
Total expenses, - - - -	\$491 64
Amount received as stated -	473 38
Deficit, - - - - -	\$18 26"

When the state of the funds was subsequently more particularly enquired into, however, it was found that the amount of money actually received at the door was a little rising *nine* hundred and seventy dollars, instead of "*four* hundred and seventy-three," as above quoted. But this was a trifling matter; since the "Committee of Judges" spoken of above accounted for this sum, duly, in the final settlement.

The "Committee" aforesaid awarded the following premiums at this show, after attending to the examination confided to them—namely:

"First premium, for the best six fowls contributed, to *Geo. P. Burnham*, of Melrose, Mass., \$10.

"For the three best Cochín-China Fows (Royal), to *George P. Burnham*, Melrose, \$5.

"For the twelve best chickens, of this year's growth (Royal Cochín-China), to *George F. Burnham*, Melrose, \$5."

And there were some *other* premiums awarded, I believe, there, but by which I was not particularly benefited; and so I pass by this matter without further remark, entertaining no doubt whatever that all the gentlemen who were awarded premiums (and who obtained the amount of the awards) exhibited at the Fitchburg Hall Show *pure*-bred fowls.

After making these awards, the "Committee of Judges" (consisting, as aforesaid, of myself, Mr. Burnham, and a fancier from Melrose) state that "they find great pleasure"—(mark this!) "they find great pleasure in alluding again to the splendid contributions" of some of the gentlemen who had fowls in this show,—and then the Report continues as follows:

"The magnificent samples of *Cochín-China* fowls, contributed by G. P. Burnham, of Melrose, were the theme of much comment and deserved praise. These birds include his imported fowls and their progeny—of which he exhibited nineteen splendid specimens. To this stock the Committee unanimously awarded the *first* premiums for fowls and chickens; and finer samples of domestic birds will rarely be found in this country. They are bred from the Queen's variety, obtained by Mr. Burnham last winter, at heavy cost, through J. Joseph Nolan, Esq., of Dublin, and are unquestionably, at this time, the finest thoroughbred Cochín-Chinas in America."

My early hen friend, the "Doctor"—alluded to in the opening chapter of this book—exhibited a fowl which the "Committee" thus described in their report:

"The rare and beautiful imported *Wild India Game* hen, contributed by Mr. B. F. Briggs, Columbus, Geo., was a curiosity much admired. This fowl (lately sold by Dr. J. C. Bennett, of Plymouth, to Mr. Briggs, for \$120) is thorough game, without doubt; and her progeny, exhibited by Dr. Bennett, were very beautiful specimens. To this bird, and the 'Yankee Games' of Dr. Bennett, the Committee awarded a gratuity of \$5."

So miserable a *hum* as this, I never met with, in all my long *Shanghai* experience. It outbothered the Doctor's famous "Bother'ems," and really out-Cochined even my noted Cochín-Chinas! But I was content. I was one of the "Committee of Judges." I had forgot!

This Committee's Report was thus closed:

"It has been the aim of the Committee to do justice to all who have taken an interest in the Fowl Exhibition, and they congratulate the gentlemen who have sustained this enterprise upon its success."

They did ample justice to this Wild Bengal Injun Hen, that is certain. The Cochín-China trade received an impulse (after this show concluded) that