

will supply crosses enough to go on for a long while without injury.

Next year's breeding will show a *marked advance*, the proportion of pullets well marked up to the throat being very good; so good, that out of them, if ordinary judgment has been employed, we can now have little difficulty in finding the few we want to breed which are also good in combs, size, leg-feather, and other matters. And here will be seen the advantage of the plan we have insisted on, of fixing upon the one most important point, whatever that may be, and *never* dropping it. If this plan has been followed, it will be found that we have now—imperfectly it is true, but still to a very great extent—made it *certain* already in our new "strain," and can, to a moderate degree, without dropping it, already begin to select our birds for other points as well. The next season the proportion of finely-marked pullets will be very large indeed (we still suppose *only* the perfectly-marked to be bred from), and there will probably be no difficulty whatever in selecting those which show also the other points required; but we hardly need pursue this part of the matter further, for what we mean will be readily seen.

"So much—" to borrow again words written a year ago for the *American Poultry Bulletin*—"So much for Dark Brahmas; but the same principles will apply to other breeds. Every variety has *some* point or points which demand long breeding and patience to acquire, and on these should attention *first* be fixed, and kept there, gradually giving attention to others, *not by turns*, but just as fast, and no faster, as the increased number of birds good in the first point, and therefore admissible to breed from, enables selection for the second and subsequent points to be made. In this way every year will show a sure and steady improvement in the proportion of birds fit for exhibition; and after the first two seasons that improvement will be so rapid as to be almost beyond belief. One thing, however, is obvious. The best birds from the breeding point of view must never be sold, but kept for the breeding-yard; for a man cannot reasonably expect to make any marked progress who is constantly selling what represents nearly all the ground he has gained. And on the average this will not be found to sacrifice anything even in the shape of sales, since it will frequently happen that the birds nearest to a show standard, and therefore the most saleable and valuable merely for show or sale, are *not* those to be kept for breeding during the early stages. For instance, going again to our Brahmas, we have seen that the birds to be kept are the best pencilled, even if at first these birds want feather and some other points. But the best birds for show, at this stage, will probably be those which are rather worse in colour, but better in the general average of points. Later on, when a higher degree of perfection is secured, the best for breeding will also be best to show; but by this time the amateur will have plenty both to breed from and to sell also."

A few more remarks on this subject, chiefly relating to the different points required for breeding the different sexes, we must defer to next week, when we hope to conclude what we have to say upon Pedigree Breeding *Fanciers' Gazette*.

Farms and Farming.

LOGAN'S FARM.

There is a very worn out Latin quotation, which, had I not the fear of Lord Beaconsfield's censure as expressed in *Tancred* before my eyes, I might possibly be tempted to cite as a heading to this article. But the late Premier forbid all such trite sayings, including *Ouses*, *Phœnices*, and such like.

His injunctions, however, shall not hinder me from expressing my opinion that the Tenant of Logan's Farm must, or,

at least, ought to be, in such a season as this, a very happy man. A very courteous man Mr. Irving certainly is, for he gave up his time in a very obliging manner to show me over his land, and I did not leave him without learning something: the way to destroy thistles, for example.

With two adjuncts, the farm consists of about 300 acres. The soil is light, on the south and north sides, but heavier in the middle. When I arrived, the men and teams were busy spreading manure, and splitting drills for turnips. Mr. Irving tells me he has never found any difficulty in securing a plant; upon which I observed, that I presumed he sowed plenty of seed: his reply was. "Yes, 4 lbs an acre"! As this is about three times the amount generally sown, there is little to wonder at if the gormandizing *hullia* can't get it all; but it should teach a lesson to those who, as is usually the case, grudge even 2 lbs. Of course, as I have said before, a great deal depends upon the state of the land; but as a general rule there is little danger of giving too much seed to any of the root crops, the thicker they are sown, too, the sooner they are fit to hoe, as they nurse one another up. (1)

A fine piece of young seeds (Red Clover, Trefoil, and Timothy,) which had been begun for *green meat* some days, attracted my attention on account of the number of *ox-eyed daisies* in it. As the land was evidently in first rate heart I could not account for their presence, this plant being an almost unerring sign of poverty. Mr. Irving informed me that the foulness of the seed was the cause, adding, "I am often obliged to cut my first year's grass before it is fit, to prevent the weeds which I buy with the seed from ripening; however, there is no great loss," he added, to my great delight, "as clover can't well be mowed for hay too young." This agrees exactly with what I mentioned of our English practice, in the *Journal* for June (in my article on hay) and I was glad to have my opinion confirmed by a man so thoroughly up to his work as my companion.

I need hardly say that, drawing as he does enormous quantities of stable-dung from Montreal, the use of artificial manure on Mr. Irving's farm is very trifling. But there is one thing I should like to call my reader's attention to. The horse and hand-hoeing are both thoroughly attended to, and, in spite of it all, the root crops are not clean—they will be clean a fortnight hence, but they will cost twice what they ought to cost to make them what they should be. Why? The reason is simple enough. The Montreal manure is as full of the seeds of all kinds of rubbish as ever it can stick! Other people *don't* cut their hay green, but let it and the weeds ripen before mowing; the stable-keepers buy the hay, the horses, &c., reject the weeds, and in consequence the dung-heap is full of trash. A sad drawback, but it must be endured until a better and a brighter light be diffused over the country. It is very sad to see though, and many non-practical passers by would doubtless be inclined to attribute it to slovenly farming, but a glance at the early potatoes and the beans (the latter are just going to flower) would correct the error, they, as well as the corn crops, are *perfectly clean*.

I don't wonder Mr. Irving feels sore on the subject; but that is a trifle, there is a compensation in the increased yield of the crops; worse remains behind: the sheep on this farm have to be shut up every night on account of the dogs which regularly maraud round the country, killing everything that comes in their way, even heifers. I cannot conceive it possible that, in a long settled district like the Island of Montreal, it will be necessary to expatiate on this aggravating injury. In the Western wilds, where no authority prevails, I can fancy some difficulty might attend the suppression of such a

(1) Always within bounds. If the nursing produces *rickety* children with *twisted* limbs, the seed has been too good, or too liberally sown. A. R. J. F.