

for stock purposes; and never before did poultry importations from Europe reach the same magnitude that they have reached in the past year. Bright prospects are in store for poultry breeders, and brighter still for our feathered friends. May it long continue to be so!

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW  
YEAR TO ALL!

### OVERFEEDING FOWLS—SPICED POULTRY FOODS.

Poultry keeping is a healthy and engrossing pursuit, it is a pastime pleasurable as well as profitable, it affords amusement and well repays for the time and labor spent while engaged in it; but it should never be undertaken by any but those who take an interest in it, and find pleasure in the work.

It ought never to be forgotten that to keep poultry well and economically, care and attention must be exercised in feeding. We are generally too prone to overfeeding, and this should be as carefully guarded against as insufficient feeding. Fowls should never have more food given them at one time than they would pick clean up, and with an appetite, nor should they be fed too often; twice, or at most three times a day, is quite sufficient.

We are frequently asked by some fanciers why their fowls do not feed better, and by others what it would cost per day to feed so many fowls, and again we are taunted by the remark, how much fowls *do* eat. We often think if fowls were gifted with speech they would answer as Master Adolphus did the day after Twelfth-night, when the doctor who was called in asked him what he had eaten: "Only supper as usual, and a sailor, and a windmill, and a nigger, and a ship, and an elephant and the queen off the cake." The truth is, everybody likes to own poultry, to look at them, to eat them and their eggs

too, but few care to give themselves the bother of feeding them properly, and otherwise tending to their wants.

A gentleman of our acquaintance once remarked to us, that his fowls—some very fine specimens for which he had paid a very high price—were not thriving, nor did they seem to eat so well as usual, and requested us to have a look at them; we did so, and on entering the small yard in which he had them carefully penned, saw as much food strewed about and trodden down as would supply a dozen fowls over a week. We asked him how often in the day did he feed them. "Oh," said he, "only once a day, every morning: before I go to my office I throw them as much food as will do them all day, and in the evening I can't bother with them." "Just so," we remarked "and your fowls are not thriving. Supposing you had your breakfast, dinner and supper, all served up together every morning, and this course continued for weeks without even a change of plates during that time, do you think you would be likely to sit down to your last triple meal with the same good appetite that you had when you first commenced this mode of living?" Next time we met him he said he had purchased a feeding hopper, and that his fowls were looking better.

Next to proper feeding is to get a proper description of food, and this brings to our mind a subject we see very frequently treated of in several of our exchanges—spiced food for poultry. Some writers in these journals strongly advocate the giving of raw onions, at least two or three times a week, not omitting to supply Cayenne pepper in their soft food; others advocate the use of different condiments, all of which are largely made up of stimulants of various kinds.

There is not the least doubt that all kinds of spiced foods materially tend