

placed at a disadvantage. The severity of our North American climate debar our chickens that out-door privilege which they have in Great Britain until a much later period in the season. The long continuance of frost and snow, frequently extending into the month of April, renders it necessary to keep chickens confined within a warm and well sheltered building, else they may get chilled and die or get stunted in their growth, and never attain to either size or perfection. These are disadvantages which the American breeder of early chickens has to combat, but which may be done much more readily than might be expected when houses for poultry are properly constructed. We will not now enter into any discussion of the relative benefits one class of houses are possessed of over another, nor of the success or non-success of raising chickens under glass, although we have seen it stated in respect to the latter that chickens cannot be successfully raised under glass. Our own experience, however, leads to a contrary belief. We once raised as fine a brood of chicks in this way as we ever saw; not, however, without considerable care and attention. Let it be sufficient for our present purpose to say that a brood or two of early hatched chickens will in the fall of the year well repay the breeder for his pains; and urge upon him the desirability of doing so, as well to obtain excellent exhibition birds, at least in size, as breeding stock.

Notwithstanding the disadvantages we have alluded to, we have many advantages in our favour. Once our snows are melted, the genial warmth of our climate causes an almost immediate change in Nature's appearance, and our little feathered pets are no longer compelled to be housed up; they may then be allowed their liberty to roam about if sufficient range is obtainable, and the rapidity with which they grow

is truly amazing. The growth and maturity of chickens in Canada is, we firmly believe, much more rapid than in European countries, and this we conceive to be in a great measure attributable to our clear dry atmosphere and warm sunny days, in contra-distinction to the heavy damp atmosphere and rainy weather so very prevalent in the countries alluded to. The gain then we feel assured, in the rapidity and growth of our chickens, owing to climatic influences, fully, if not more than equals the loss in not being able to hatch out chickens so soon as they do in England, and ought to inspire breeders with confidence, that ere long we may yet be able to send over our birds to compete with those of English breeders at their best shows.

The season of the year has now fully arrived when breeders ought to have their stock mated and placed in their breeding pens, and whenever a hen shows signs of incubation no time should be lost in placing eggs under her. The early hatched chicken has, as we have already stated, many advantages over those of later birth; it should be borne in mind that it is in early chickenhood the frame is made that will hereafter place it in the rank of the large birds of its breed. And although feeding has much to do in the production of size and maturity, other things being equal, the early chicken is sure to be the best. It behoves breeders, then, who wish to excel in this respect, to produce early chickens, although at the cost of considerably more care and attention than is necessary in the raising of those at a later period in the season.

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SINCE COL. HASSARD'S return to Great Britain, he has succeeded in taking several prizes with Carrier Pigeons raised in Canada. He recently refused 12 guineas for a pigeon he offered for as many dollars in Toronto, and could not, even at that price, find a purchaser.