

equal to the thoroughbred, taking everything into consideration. It is quite true that some crosses excel in some special feature, but I have yet to find the cross-bred fowl that will surpass the white Leghorn in egg-production, and what cross can compare as a general purpose fowl with Plymouth Rocks. As spring chickens for market I have never found any fowl, crossed or pure, as satisfactory as barred Plymouth Rocks.

If I were equipping a poultry farm on a moderate scale, such as one active man could take care of, with the assistance of a boy, or better still, his wife, during the chicken raising season, I would have 300 S. C. white Leghorns and 100 barred Plymouth Rocks, single comb variety. I don't like pea-comb Plymouth Rocks. The Leghorns would give me a constant supply of eggs all the year round, for which I would have regular customers, but I should have no use for such Leghorns as generally appear in the show-room—those pretty little midgets that have been bred for generations for comb, lobes, and wattles, would be useless for my purpose. Give me a big, coarse, long-legged Leghorn, with a big comb, the number of serrations does not matter a particle, but I am exceedingly particular that there is nothing but pure Leghorn blood in them, and I am a stickler for yellow legs and beaks.

I have kept the little show birds and also the latter kind, and for eggs commend me to the latter.

The S. C. barred Plymouth Rocks would give me all the eggs I should require for hatching spring chickens for market, and any that they produced out of the hatching season would always find a ready sale.

Next month we will consider the best way of housing and yarding the laying and breeding stock.

(To be Continued.)

#### MR. JOHN GRAY AND HIS ACCUSERS.

NUMEROUS letters have reached us regarding the matters referred to in last REVIEW in reference to alleged dishonest dealings of Mr. John Gray. The Toronto Poultry Association also discussed it at length at the last meeting of that body, Mr. Gray being present at his own request. We have no desire to blacken any man's character unduly, but have nothing to retract of what we said in last issue. The correspondence received is too large and too rambling for us to print, enough is to hand to fill a whole issue of REVIEW. We give below, however, under separate heads, the evidence now with us, and leave it to the good sense of our readers to decide this issue

for themselves. We do this without any comment of our own:

#### Irving Crocker vs. Jno. Gray.

Mr. Irving Crocker sent me, I believe it is four years ago last December, a silver Wyandotte cockerel, and after some correspondence he wrote me some months after saying he would like the amount at once. Within two weeks from the receipt of that card I sent him a \$5 bill, and from that day to this I have never heard from him. *Extract from Gray's letter, dated April 6th, 1896.*

In regard to my transaction with this man Gray will say that it was brought about through my friend, Mr. W. C. G. Peter. Mr. P. wrote me that Gray wanted a golden Wyandotte cockerel and that he had advised him to write me, and added that he hoped I could do well by him. In a few days I received a letter of inquiry from Gray, to which I replied describing a cockerel that I considered a good fair breeder and quoted him at \$5. On receipt of my letter he wired me to "Ship bird, wanted to show him at Bowmanville. Money would follow by mail." I shipped the bird at once and after a week or two got a letter from Gray saying that he was not quite satisfied with his lacing on lower part of breast. I immediately wrote him to return the bird. This was followed by another letter saying that he had decided to keep the cockerel, but that he had the grip and besides was very hard up. Replying to this letter I told him not to distress himself, but to pay me when he could do so without too great inconvenience. From this time on I received letters periodically, full of apologies and full of promises, but always the same cry, "no funds." This went on for perhaps two years, and after I had charged it up to "profit and loss" I one day received a line from him saying he was connected with a poultry paper at that time and soliciting an ad. to apply on his indebtedness. I had no confidence in this scheme and paid no attention to it. This was the last communication which I have had from the man. I sincerely hope you will be able to drive this "modern Ananias" to his hole and to keep him there, but a man with such unlimited resources for lying always has the advantage. Since writing the foregoing I have been reading this fellow's reply to your's and my statements concerning his shortcomings, in the *American Fancier* of this date. It is barely possible that I said nothing about his returning cockerel at my expense, but think I am not mistaken. But that cuts no figure. It goes without saying that I would have to pay return charges since nothing had been paid on the bird. His claim that he had paid me is too thin to deceive anyone. Had he done so he would not have stopped with the bare assertion, but would have told when he paid it and how he paid it. Furthermore, on learning that I had never received the remittance he would have written me explaining the matter and offering some proof, instead of rushing into print with the plea "you're another," leaving his claim unsupported. I do not take the paper you mention, but shall see the letter spoken of when it appears in the *American Fancier*.

Yours truly, IRVING CROCKER.

*Letter to Mr. C. J. Daniels, dated April 18th, 1896.*

#### J. P. Brisbin vs. Jno. Gray.

Brandon, Man., April 15th, 1896.

H. B. Donovan, 124 Victoria St., Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your favor of 10th this a.m. and in reply would say that all correspondence that passed between Mr. Gray and myself was sent to Mr. Duff with a view of effecting a settlement. All I have received of late from Mr. Duff is a message dated April 7th, asking me if I had received the birds, as Gray claimed he had shipped