

or four battles, run; he was nearly pure; the party owning it stated when he fought his first battle that he was not pure, and wanted to try it. The mother was a good hen, but the cock from which he was bred was not pure; he was about three parts game. I think this must have been the case with the birds purchased by R. H., and that he has been rather hasty in condemning the fowls, as one would infer from the latter portion of his letter, which reads as follows:—

“Without going into the origin of the Game Fowls, and committing plagiarisms upon such authors as Tegetmeier, Bement, Dickens, Dixon, etc., etc., I will give my own experience, begging the criticism of any who may read these letters, and feel their ability to correct me. I will take four different colored birds, and call them legitimate strains, from which all sub-varieties are produced by crossing among themselves or by the introduction of different colored birds from the Dunghill varieties. These are the following: *Black Reds, Greys, Blacks, Whites*. I will give you my reasons and proofs at another time.”

That he could take Dunghill birds, and from them produce good Game fowl, or Game birds of the various colors and strains—this would certainly be a novel way of raising good stock. It might do for poultry exhibitions, for these crosses often produce handsome birds—and birds that will take a very clever judge to detect the impurity, if he can. I think it would be well in all poultry exhibitions, especially in the Game fowl class, to have a certificate sent with the fowl when exhibiting, that either the birds themselves have been proved or some of the stock; this would, in a great measure, have a good effect, and prevent impure blood being recognized. And would it not be well if a like certificate, or say a guarantee, should be sent with all Game birds when imported from

England or foreign parts? I know one instance of a bird that was imported from England and was said to be game, and when tested with his own spurs showed his tail; yet this was imported as true Game. Some of the other importations may have done the same. I, with the fowls imported by me from the United States, have a guarantee from the man (and he has a very extensive demand for his fowls) that they are true; if any of them should run when in good health he will refund the amount. I have seen several tried on more than one occasion, and they have sustained the reputation given to them.

If I am wrong in any of the arguments herein contained, or the description of the birds or origin, I hope to be corrected.

Yours truly,

Ottawa, 7th Dec., 1870.

B.

EUROPEAN BIRDS.

SPARROWS, STARLINGS, BLACKBIRDS,
THRUSHES.

SIR,—I think it will be as well to chronicle, now we are approaching the end of the year, what has been done in the importation of European birds.

Of Sparrows, during the past twenty years, I have made three importations; about fifteen years ago, I turned loose three pairs at Portland in Maine, the same year about ten birds were let loose on my farm; on another occasion I sent adrift a few birds; these Sparrows were, however, a good deal injured by the effects of the voyage. They therefore disappeared. The Colony being too weak in numbers, easily became a prey to a Sparrow-Hawk on one occasion and a diminutive Owl on another. The last importation of sparrows was made three years ago. About fifty birds were imported in the spring, and allowed their freedom. On this occasion they were turned loose in the city of Quebec. The birds were not a strong lot; about forty of them were cocks, and of the hens only