

thus lost. At an average you will get more out of nine eggs than thirteen.

The writer does not consider four or five a brood. Well, that depends on the time of year. Late or early in the season, I never wish to see more than four birds with any hen. They cannot cover more at four weeks old, and then they get lung disease and die. You must hatch early if you wish to do anything at chicken shows, and the cold will not hurt them if they have the mother to run under, and at the commencement of the year a hen cannot shelter properly more than four chicks. In May, June and July, it is different, as they then do not require so much care.

Notwithstanding these criticisms, I consider the communication a very valuable one to many, and trust that no one will expose their ignorance of an important subject by a laugh or sneer, as I can certify that many birds I have raised owed their existence to my having extricated them from the shell; but let the eggs be fresh, and wet them daily, and they will be on the 21st day, before you are up.

F. C. HASSARD.

HOLDANS.—A subscriber wishes to know where he can obtain any Holdan fowls in Canada. We believe that Mr. Varley, of the 13th Hussars, now stationed in Toronto, has some imported birds of this variety yet to dispose of.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.—We frequently have enquiries as to where eggs of a pure breed may be procured. We have pleasure in referring parties in quest of such articles to the advertisements of Mr. T. McLean, the Secretary of the Poultry Association, and of Mr. Acres, also a member of the same society.

Fowls exposed to dampness are apt to be troubled with catarrh, which will run to roup if not attended to. Red pepper mixed with soft feed, fed several times a week, will remove the cold. Pulverized charcoal, given occasionally, is a preventive of putrid affections, to which fowls are very subject.

Chickens hatched in the early spring, where properly protected and tended, are generally more vigorous and healthy, grow more rapidly through the summer months, and make larger fowls than those arriving in later portions of the breeding season. And, furthermore, pullets which come in the early spring are so well matured that they will commence laying in the ensuing fall and lay through the winter, if they are duly fed and protected.

GOLDEN PHEASANT.—Mr. Whitehead, of Bradford, enquires, "where he can procure a setting of 'golden pheasant' eggs, also a setting of game of the blue kind. We are not quite sure whether our correspondent means golden pheasant fowls, golden pheasants, or gold spangled Hamburgs, which sometimes go by that name. If either of the former is meant, we are not aware that they could be procured in Canada. Hamburgs could no doubt be supplied by Mr. McLean Howard, of Toronto, who would also, probably, furnish the game fowls.

Entomology.

Ravages of a Grape Insect in New York.

That a man should desire to raise his own Isabellas is laudable and praiseworthy, and is no reason why such desire should exist exclusively in the breasts of our bucolic friends. The inhabitants of New York, as a general thing, clearly, are of the same opinion, as is evidenced by the number of grape vines ornamenting the doors and trellis-work of the houses of our citizens; not, of course, in the benighted regions of Wall Street, but up town, say from 16th street northward. A friend of mine, residing in 31st Street, showed me, in March last, a very fine vine, which he calculated would produce him sundry pounds of very choice grapes; and in the pride of his heart, he invited me to "call along," occasionally, and feast my eyes on the gradual development of the incipient bunches. Thinking that August would be a good month for my visit, I "called along," wondering in my mind whether my friend would, when the time of ripe grapes came, desire me to help myself out of his abundance, or whether he intended to surprise me with a little basketful of nice bunches, garnished with crisp green leaves. The first glance at the grape-vine banished all doubts on this point. There was an abundance of bunches on the vine, in a rather miniature condition, of course, but of foliage there was not a trace. Of course, I expressed my surprise, though, for certain reasons, I felt none, and asked my friend why he selected a species of vine for shelter, ornament and use, which produced no foliage. He rebuked my ignorance pretty sharply, and told me that a few weeks before the vine was covered with leaves; but, for some inexplicable reason, they had all disappeared—eaten, he guessed, by something. He guessed right. There were at least a hundred of the larvae of *Alypia octomaculata* [a rare insect in Canada. Ed.] the rear-guard of a mighty host, wandering about the branches, apparently for the purpose of making sure that no particle of a leaf was left undevoured. Pretty little things they were, with harmoniously blended colours of black, yellow and blue; but so terribly destructive. I had the curiosity to walk through all the streets of the rest of Third Avenue, as low as 23rd Street, and every one was in the same predicament. If grape leaves, instead of fig leaves, had been in request for making aprons, and our *Alypia* had been in existence at the time, I doubt if in the whole of the garden of Eden enough material would have been found to make a garment of decent size. The destruction of the crop for 1868 was complete.

This was bad; but it was not half so bad as the helpless ignorance which possessed nearly all the unfortunate owners of vines. Scarcely one that I conversed with had the remotest idea of the cause of the disaster; and

when I explained that it was the caterpillar of a beautiful little black moth, with eight whitish yellow spots on its wings, which had eaten up the foliage, my assertion was received with such a smile of incredulity as convinced me that there is no use in trying to humbug such very sharp fellows as are the New York grape-growers.

It is a little remarkable, however, that the destruction was confined to the eastern part of the city. I saw several luxuriant vines on the western side; and across the river at Hoboken, and Hudson City, not a trace of the insect was discernible.

The insect, then, is very local in its habits, and it is a day-flier; and from these facts, I infer that its ravages may be very materially checked. A little poisoned molasses, exposed in the neighbourhood of the vine, would operate on the perfect insect, while a good syringing with soft soap and water would bring down the caterpillars effectually. I should like some one to try these remedies; and if their gratitude for my good advice should be so exuberant as to require an outlet, why, I have no objection to receiving a few bunches of their first ripe grapes, if such a step would afford them any relief.—W. V. Andrews, in the *American Naturalist*.

Ravages of the Midge in 1868.

The following is the official account of the ravages of the wheat-midge in this Province during the past year, compiled from the "Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Arts of the Province of Ontario, for the year 1868." It is contained in the analysis of crop returns furnished by the Secretaries of the various Electoral Division Agricultural Societies.

ALGOMA.—The midge has not made its appearance.

BRUCE, SOUTH RIDING.—First season of appearance of the midge. Damage supposed 20 per cent.

BRUCE, NORTH RIDING.—Effects of midge considerable.

BORNWELL.—25 per cent. damage by the midge.

BRANT, SOUTH RIDING.—Not much damage by the midge.

CORNWALL.—No mention of the midge.

DUHAM, EAST RIDING.—From 5 to 10 per cent. damage by the midge.

ESSEX.—Damage by the midge 25 per cent.

ELGIN, EAST RIDING.—Very little damage done by the midge.

FRONTENAC.—Damage by the midge considerable.

HASTINGS, WEST.—Damage by the midge trifling.

HASTINGS, NORTH.—No damage reported by the midge.

HASTINGS, EAST.—No mention of the midge.