

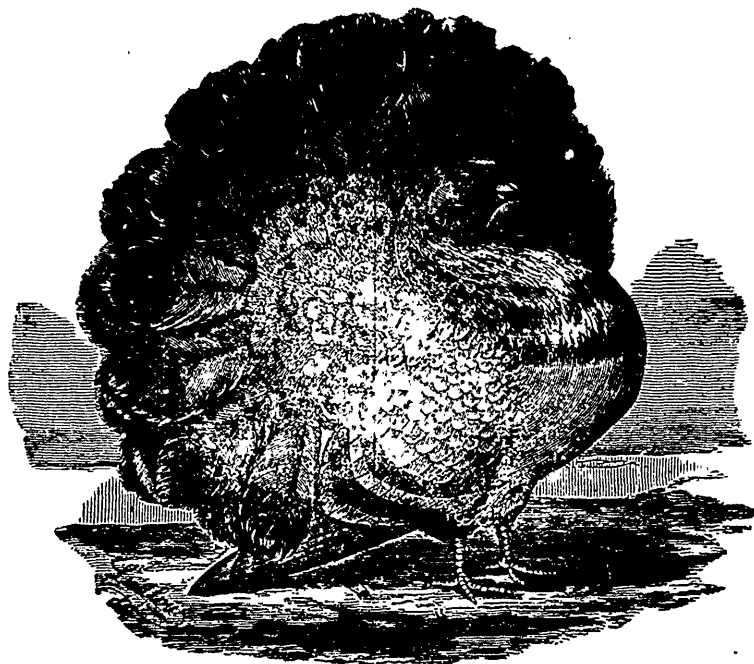
Canadian Poultry Review.

DEVOTED TO POULTRY AND PET STOCK.

VOL. I.

STRATHROY, ONTARIO, OCTOBER, 1878.

No. 11.



THE FANTAIL.

Fantail Pigeons are so named in consequence of having their tail furnished with so great a number of additional feathers as to give it the appearance of an outspread fan, nearly bent double into a hollow form. The more feathers the bird has in its tail, the more valuable a specimen it is. The number varies from twenty to as many as thirty-six. The French call the fantail the *Pigeon Paon*, or Peacock Pigeon; but the comparison is unfortunate, and is founded on an error. "It is so named," says M. Temminck, "because it has the faculty of erecting and displaying its tail nearly in the same way in which the Peacock raises and expands his dorsal feathers. This race might also be called *Pigeons Dindons*, or Turkey Pigeons, their caudal feathers being also placed on an *erector* muscle capable of contraction and extension at pleasure." M. Temminck is mistaken here. The tail of the Fantail is a *rays* expanded and displayed; and when other domestic pigeons do spread their tail in the actions of courtship, it is brought downwards, so as to sweep the ground like a stiff train, not upwards like the Turkey or the Peafowl.

"These pigeons," he adds, "are not much sought by amateurs; they seldom quit the precincts of their aviary; apparently the fear of being carried away by the wind (which, acting forcibly upon the broad tail, would infallibly upset them), is the reason why they do not venture far from their domestic, or undertake long journeys. Lastly, these pigeons, which cannot by their own powers travel far, have been transported to a great distance by man; perhaps, even, they are not natives of our climate, for many doubts arise against their specific identity with the wild Rock Dove. Striking characters, such as the number of tail-feathers, do not