

seen to. Take *goose-fat*, rub it over the face, head, comb, and wattles every day for a week, or until the bird is well. Wash the face with warm water and soap, as so much of the fat being upon the face causes a yellow substance to adhere to it, giving it the appearance of scurvy. If the bird requires a quick remedy, take a piece of wood, cut thin at the point, and with it remove the yellow substance; then rub in burnt alum, ground to a powder, with the *goose-fat*, once a day. Feed upon soft food while the mouth is bad.

### ENGLISH BLACKBIRDS ACCLIMATIZED.

(From the *Quebec Chronicle*.)

SIR,—It may be within the recollection of many of your readers that I turned loose in the month of May of last year, amongst other English birds, some Blackbirds, viz.: five Cocks and three Hens; these birds remained about my house for about one month, singing regularly night and morning; they then disappeared, and though I have occasionally heard of Blackbirds having been seen, and one day I fancied I saw one flying from the St. Foy Road to Spencer Wood, yet a certain mystery has hung over their fate. This has, however, been partially cleared up by the capture of a very fine bird, a young cock, in beautiful plumage and quite fleshy.

This bird was caught at Mr. Bursall's, on the St. Foy road, a few days ago, having entered an outshed, where wood was piled. I have seen it myself, so there can be no mistake as to its character. This habit of frequenting houses in winter is common to the Blackbird; it will come regularly to food, especially when berries are difficult to be found, and may be fed on a gallery with crumbs of bread. If so protected it will repay its protector with song, and with the constant presence of a very beautiful bird.

From the above facts we may learn there is nothing in the cold of Canada destructive of Blackbird life; also that this bird retains in America its habit of living in parks or gardens near the habitations of men.

It is, of course, not desirable to deprive any of those birds of their liberty if we wish to succeed in acclimatizing

the species; but this view is difficult for a person to understand whose intentions are excellent, and who may be right in believing that an English Blackbird, in a comfortable cage, will be better off in a warm room than free to roam in an atmosphere of 30 degrees below zero. The bird in question is now caged to await the spring, when he will once more recover his freedom. I communicate with you, Mr. Editor, for the sake of publicity, and in the hope that we may hear something more of the whereabouts of our Blackbird Fellow Colonists. This novel kind of importation is a very interesting one to many persons who admire and love our winged companions of the air, and who would bring us, on their return from Europe, a cage full of birds if they thought they would be doing good; but, hitherto, they have been deterred because everybody said they would die. The sparrows, however, prove Quebec is not an inhospitable place, and this one Blackbird shows he has managed to get through eight weeks of our Canadian winter, with only meeting one misfortune, viz.: that of falling amongst friends, who may kill him with kindness, but who certainly would protect him from his ordinary enemies.

Your obedient servant.

SILLERY.

SILLERY, Jan. 26th, 1871.

If the bird in question is a young cock—and I think it is, from the bill not being entirely red, some of the black remaining in the upper mandible, the original birds must have bred—another very interesting fact.

### THE POULTRY LORE OF 1870.

Under the above heading the *Journal of Horticulture* gives a *resumé* of the progress made in different breeds of poultry during the past year, from which we make some extracts:

"We have no increase to note in Dorkings; indeed, we do not see how it is possible we should have. They have almost attained their limit. Cocks of 12 lbs., and hens of from 8 lbs. to 10 lbs., would almost justify us in thinking the breeders of these birds have been trying to qualify them for becoming joints.

"There is no progress to call for special mention among the Spanish. They are not so numerous as they were some