

female that when mother and daughter were placed side by side it was difficult to tell one from the other. Prepotency exists in females as well as in males. Still I am inclined to allow to the male the power of affecting the shape in a greater degree than to the female, or at least to state that the progeny in shape, so far as I have observed, is more likely to resemble the male than the female. Yet I do not regard it as safe to lay down any rule upon this subject.

It is worth while, however, in practicing breeding to select a male as perfect in color and shape as can be obtained, if in hope to produce the best results, even if such a male represents a large sum of money. I refused fifty dollars for a male bird not long ago, not because I did not wish the money, but because I thought, rightly or wrongly, that the bird would produce in results more value to me. I shall know in October, if I live till then, whether I acted wisely or not, but I do not regret the action as yet.

POULTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

“VICTORIA,” writing to the *Feathered World*, London, some time ago, thus speaks of poultry in British Columbia:—

A few words about poultry keeping in far off British Columbia might prove interesting to your readers, especially as the fuss the American and British Governments have made over the seals has directed more or less attention to our province. I write from Victoria, the capital city, and headquarters for the great lumber, coal, and salmon industries of the Canadian Pacific coast, also for the seal catching fleet whose so-called depredations have caused the American Eagle to bluster in its most approved style. As a

matter of fact, the major portion of our catch was taken off the west coast of this island; and although it is not yet settled whether there are two distinct herds, instead of every seal going to the American islands in Behring Sea for the purpose of breeding, it is a well-ascertained fact that the sea cows will commence to bring forth their young when they are still in the ocean in the latitude of the Straights of Fuca.

But enough of fur, and now for feathers. To begin with, our climate is almost perfection, the birds during almost the entire year requiring only what shelter is afforded by common wooden sheds, which may be open at one side. This is of great advantage, especially to the large breeds, as it is highly conducive to a strong and steady growth. Although we are situated 49 degs. north, it is neither too hot in summer (being cooled by ocean breezes) nor too cold in winter, owing to the warm Japanese current striking our shores. At the present writing, an overcoat is uncomfortable, and roses, japonicas, violets, &c., are blooming in our gardens. Towards the end of January we generally get about a week or two of frosty weather. I first commenced fancy poultry at the age of sixteen by investing 20 dols. in a trio of white-crested black Polish. Then came white Polish, black-crested black Polish, Wyandottes, white and partridge Cochins, Japanese and Game Bantams. Polish are my favorites, though at present I keep a pen of whites and blacks, among which are two eight-year-old hens which put many pullets to shame for laying, just for old acquaintance sake. I give all my attention now to partridge Cochins, in which breed I have a dozen competitors, so I need good birds to win. I enclose a feather from my best hen, plucked right against the tail coverts, so as to give you an idea how our birds compare with Crystal Palace winners.

When it is taken into consideration that the freight charges on half-a-dozen birds from England are from seventy-five to one hundred dollars, it can be easily understood that we are somewhat handicapped in selecting breeding stock.

However, in Langshans it is different. A large number of sailing ships are engaged in carrying lumber from this port to Tient-Tsien, a seaport on the northern coast of China, where a large black fowl is common. These ships often carry a coop of fowls for eating purposes, and we are thus able to obtain a change of blood at little expense. The birds are very uniform as to type which is very stout, shanks scanty feathered, thighs prominent and standing upright, breast deep and prominent, head large and carried well back, tail ample with long and graceful sickles, plumage very hard and close feathered, with a rich gloss which would make a Spanish take a back seat. The hens do not have such a leggy appearance as the cocks, being very long in body and deep in breast. Many of the imported birds are more or less marked with red on hackle and wing, and even pure black birds will breed a percentage of cockerels showing red on hackles and wings, but this is a matter to be remedied by selection. A brother fancier, Mr. Merritt, is an enthusiastic admirer of the breed, and cannot speak too highly of them. He finds them very prolific and hardy, and very quick growers. Last season he had six months cockerels weighing 9 lb. and 10 lb. without any extra fattening, and pullets laying at five months. Plymouth Rocks in the same brood took eight months to make 9 lb., which is about their limit, and a Langshan has not finished growing at six months. This makes me think that if your correspondent “Jan,” in No. 78. had some of this stock he might change