

number of years, in Canada as well as the States. There are but a very few really *first-class* Birds, shown at our Exhibitions. We are glad to see that a few of the Fanciers of the Black Spanish, are improving their stock, by Importing fresh blood from England; and we shall expect to see them improve rapidly for a few years to come, and become a strong class in all our exhibitions.

Pure Breeds.

I have just read an article in your last number, entitled "Will Poultry Pay," and would like to give your readers my experience on that subject. Last Spring I converted an old farmer to my idea of keeping a pure breed, and induced him to try the White Leghorn. He bought eight hens and a cock, from which he raised one hundred and six fine birds, thirteen trios of which, I sold for him at an average of eight dollars per trio. He has sold his dung-hills, and has become a thorough believer in pure breeds. I do not write this for the purpose of advertising my yards of fowls (as I keep none but Light Brahmas and White Dorkings,) but simply to show that it is just as easy to raise fowls that will sell at \$2.50 apiece as to raise those that will bring only 50cts apiece.

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Nature of Premiums.

The practice of awarding silver cups and miscellaneous articles is a very unsatisfactory one. If an exhibitor could be satisfied with one or two premiums, such premiums might be awarded in the

form of a cup; but what would Mr. Williams, or Mr. Thomas say if all their premiums consisted of silver cups? They would be obliged to get a new sideboard every season to accommodate the cups, and an extra girl to clean them. If we get a cup, (humanity forbid it) it must be kept shiney, and these modern silver cups look as if they were struck with a sulphur shower very soon after receiving them. We have heard one man say that he would sell his very cheap. Doubtless many others would do the same. There is one advantage in a silver cup, or rather a *plated* one. If we get one as a premium, since we don't want it, we can donate it to some society as a special; and thus one cup, kept shiney, can be kept moving by a dozen recipients at different times, and each of the dozen men will get the reputation of being liberal? and willing to "do something for his country." and get well advertised on the same page at the same time. In fact cups are useless lumber, not so "handy to have about the house" as Mrs. Toodles' wheel-barrow, or Mr. Toodles' coffin.

Miscellaneous articles for premiums are quite as objectionable as cups in many cases. Among the specials of an exhibition that recently came off in New England were the following: a silver cake basket, (suppose you had four already,) a box of cigars, (suppose you hate the very smell of tobacco,) a powder flask, (suppose you never fired a gun,) a set of waggon wheels, (suppose you can't keep a horse,) a fancy spittoon, (and you are a spinster,) a "Triumph Washer" (and you are a bachelor,) a patent billiard register, (and you are a minister,) an imported Cassimere pants pattern (and you are a single