

so injurious as damp, confined air. I might, and should, have known this, but the lessons of experience, though sometimes costly, are best remembered.

No doubt all the readers of the Review will be pleased to know that the wishes expressed in friend Butterfield's last letter are likely to be realized--that we now have an amalgamation of the leading poultry societies in the province, and are promised a government grant; so that, with all the fanciers of Ontario united, (a matter long hoped for, but never before consummated) the show at Guelph must be a success; and if all work together with a will, we may have an association and annual exhibition second to none on the continent.

J. L.

Waterloo, Feb. 1st, 1879.

### In-Breeding.

Editor of Review.

In your interesting little work on poultry for January, there is an article on in-breeding, by X Roads, which to me is an exceedingly interesting subject, as it is, no doubt, to other breeders also. I have been endeavoring to make some advances in this very important subject for the last few years with various success.

My specialty and favorites being the White-faced Black Spanish, which I have kept for the last fifteen years, and still feel disposed to hold on to my old friends, notwithstanding they have been cast aside by so many for new aspirants to favor with the poultry fraternity.

In the first few years of my experience I adopted the universally accepted theory of crossing the flock by the introduction of a male bird from some noted breeder, only to find I had made a mistake. My birds turning out inferior to the previous year's breeding—with white-tipped primaries, red feathers on the back, loss of velvety-white in the face, &c., although none of those blemishes appeared in the parents; evidently showing that in bringing the two new strains of blood together a very radical change had been made, but made the wrong way.

Now all this is very annoying and vexatious, when, after a certain amount of expense and a great deal of labor, you looked for improvement and had deterioration, and had to begin again to endeavor to regain the ground you had lost.

Thus my faith in the theory of "out-crossing" was greatly shaken, as far as my own experience took me; so I thought I would try in-breeding, as my attention had been drawn to an article in an English publication, giving the name of a party who had bred the Malay fowl for thirty years without a single introduction of new blood, and was then the acknowledged champion of that variety.

He evidently believed in in-breeding, or, in other words, keeping pure blood when he had it. I must confess, Mr Editor, that I am beginning to lean that way, and if I succeed for the four years to come as I have in the four years that are past, I shall tumble over altogether. Four years ago I procured a Black Spanish cock from England, and bred him and his sons alternately with my flock since, and I have to-day as fine a lot as I ever possessed. I intend to continue this course as long as I procure first-class specimens. Of course the selection must be wise and judicious, and a good deal of judgement exercised in the matter. There is a growing conviction on my mind that the thing can be done to a much greater extent than it is. It would necessitate the forming of three pens at least, and then breeding alternately from each pen. This method is only open to those who have much room, or keep but few varieties. I would be glad to see this subject ventilated by those who may have some experience in it, and for the benefit of those interested.

Now, Mr. Editor, I do not know if you will deem this, my first attempt to contribute to your columns, worthy of a place or not; if not, give it a place with the rest of the wasted efforts of aspiring scribblers.

PURE BLOOD.

Montreal, Jany. 33rd, 1879.

### Exhibition of Saginaw Valley Poultry Association.

The third annual show of this association was a success; the quality of the stock and the attendance of visitors showed considerable improvement over former years.

The following is the list of awards:

For the choicest and most valuable collection of poultry, entered and owned by one person or firm, \$40 in gold, Wright & Butterfield, Sandwich Ont.; 2nd, \$10 in gold, to Curtis & Clarke, Monroe, Mich.

LIGHT BRAHMAS.—1st, W F George, Laporte In.; 2nd, Wright & Butterfield, Sandwich, Ontario; 3rd, J M Case, Lansing, Mich. CHICKS, 1st, Wright & Butterfield; 2nd, Ashley & Ripley, East Saginaw; 3rd, same. SPECIALS—cock, W F George; hen, same; cockerel, Wright and Butterfield; pullet, Ashley & Ripley.

DARK BRAHMAS.—1st, W I Howard, East Saginaw. CHICKS, 1st, Curtis & Clarke, Munro, Mich.; 2nd, M T North, Pontiac, Mich.; 3rd, Thos Steele, East Saginaw. SPECIALS—cock, W I Howard; hen, S G Lapham, Northville; cockerel, L G Woodman, Grand Rapids; pullet, C Hager, East Saginaw.

PART-INGE COCHINS.—1st, Wright & Butterfield; 2nd, George G Cook, East Saginaw. CHICKS, 1st, W S Jones, Cwosso; 2nd, same; 3rd, Scruggs & McLennan, East Saginaw. SPECIALS—cock, Wright & Butterfield; hen, same; cockerel, W S Jones; pullet, same.

BUFF COCHINS.—1st, J G Lapham; 2nd, Thomas Steele; 3rd, Wright & Butterfield. CHICKS, 1st, D