

are those written under the influence of their feelings, while the strong and reasonable and therefore pleasant parts represent their convictions. Others, among the rest the present writer, have been induced to write upon the question, and each, probably, supposed they gave some light to enquirers on the subject about which two of our most able men seemed to differ. If the question had been one of numbers many persons could have settled it for themselves by the use of arithmetic. There are but few breeders of Light Brahma fowls who are sufficiently acquainted with the peculiarities of the original Chamberlain, Tees, and Autocrat fowls to know how they may mate by mixing their blood to secure results claimed as possible by Mr. Magrane; nor have many modern breeders had the experience in mating these very different families which Henry and I. K. Felch have had in their long experience. Of those breeders who have had experience, such as P. Williams and E. Comay, we do not hear from; they breed and sell, but do not write for the press; they are courteous gentlemen who can give a reason for things when properly inquired after, but think controversy confuses instead of clearing the minds of inexperienced breeders.

Among those who have taken up this question but few have made stronger assertions than are found in "Notes from Waterloo." I am an Englishman, and like my countrymen, am apt to consider the word Waterloo as indicative of something decisive. Well, he forms his lines of battle like one of some experience. He considers the positions of those he intends to oppose and launches his forces against the weak points of the opposing line. Like the rest of us, however, he fails to make his battle a Waterloo; like others, he advances and retreats, using tactics, as others have done, such as indicate what he prefers and what he wishes to do, but how to accomplish that we so much desire he fails to illustrate by example.

He admits that "there is a growing desire for pure white under-color," also, that judges at the leading exhibitions in the United States and in Canada have favored such as were white. He admits that it is best to set up a "high standard as a model," but not to the neglect of other points than color; but all his opinions resolves itself into this: "Can Light Brahmas be bred uniform, or a reasonable portion of them, with clear, distinct, dark hackle, black tail and wings, and pure white under-color; or will the result of our matings only produce an occasional bird with these desired qualities?" "If the former, then no matter how difficult, it will be valuable, and should be tried."

This admission is in the right direction, but "black tail and wings" are so seldom seen on the best of birds that we must ask for a little modifi-

cation, and venture the supposition that J. L. means very dark tail and wings, the standard being so very high that perfection has been seldom reached. With this modification we believe the "desired result" can be attained.

"J. L." seems to take it for granted that the result cannot be attained. He says, "There can be no permanent improvement of the race or variety unless the best birds, the prize winners at the exhibitions, are selected and mated for breeding." Again, "If we have to breed two distinct classes, one for breeding and one for exhibition, there is something wrong in the Standard or somewhere else." To me, the fault does not appear to be in the Standard, nor in the fowls, but in the breeders. If the breeder be intelligent, is posted as to what Light Brahmas were made of, understands nature's law of "like begetting like" only when other things are favorable, sees that in nature likeness never exact is produced, that offspring is ever falling back to ancestral parentage, he will conclude that all the variations of under-color seen are results of the compounded blood used, and will, under the most skillful matings, be fixed beforehand by the breeder only in a comparative sense—the proportion of such birds light or dark depending upon a line of similar birds for many successive generations of the same blood, if not parentage, until the preponderance is absolute. Then only would "J. L.'s" position be tenable, that "a really first-class pair of birds, from a straight line of pure and first-class ancestors should produce a majority of first-class chicks." We must be content with a "majority," even when the breeder is skillful and knows his material; his success will be comparative under the most favorable conditions, and in this, as in all man has ever accomplished, his work will vary with conditions which influence, until, as in the use of steam and electricity, he, by continuity of action, fixes absolute preponderance in using the elements of nature.

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High Prices or Low?

Now, as the time approaches when our pets begin to lay and make us some return for the long months of care during the past winter, and all breeders are looking for a rich harvest from the settings of eggs they will sell to their less fortunate friends who own no hens, but have made up their mind they will have some the present season, we must all fix upon our list of prices. This is a matter that requires much care and good judgment, as trifling a matter as it may seem, to say how much you will charge for thirteen eggs. And I believe a radical change can be made for the