

## Close of Volume IV.

The ceaseless march of time has brought us near the end of another year and the close of the fourth volume of the Review. At this period of the year, when another of old Father Time's numerous progeny is nearing the hour of his dissolution, and the birth of a new year is eagerly anticipated, it is both customary and profitable to take a retrospective view of the past, and make fresh resolves and calculations for the future. As we seldom trouble our readers with matters pertaining to this journal, we trust in availing ourselves of the privilege conferred by well established usage we shall not either violate good taste, or trespass on the patience of our readers.

When, four years ago, we commenced the publication of the REVIEW, the country was suffering from depression in nearly all branches of trade, and the poultry business was at a very low ebb. Local jealousies were rife, and fanciers were very little actuated by that fraternal feeling now so happily prevailing. The principal aim of the managers of the poultry journals then existing seemed to be the personal advantage of their proprietors, and they were consequently without the hearty support which alone could insure their success. Believing that success would certainly attend the publication of a poultry journal, if conducted with the intention of honestly and faithfully laboring for the good of the fancy, and with the will and the power to persevere till this fact should be placed beyond question, we determined to make the experiment. The hearty support we received from the very first, soon made it apparent that the task would be easier than we expected. Now, after four years' trial, we find our most sanguine anticipations more than realized. With one exception, all the Canadian poultry journals, which were published four years ago, or have since been started, have ceased to exist. We have always avoided any controversy with our contemporaries, leaving the poultry fraternity to be the arbiters between us, and never in any way interfered with them, except when we judged it necessary in the interest of our patrons to expose their statements or mode of doing business. When we had good reason to believe that they were in danger of becoming the victims of fraud or deception, we always fearlessly sounded the note of warning.

The contrast between the past and the present is alike gratifying and encouraging. Now we have well organized societies, judiciously and energetically managed, paying their premiums in full, and working in harmony with each other. Local jealousies, which in past years were so annoying and baneful in their influence, are dead or nearly so, and kindness and good feeling are almost univer-

sal. The poultry business is now more than ever an important branch of industry, and one of the most distinctive elements in our national prosperity. We cannot claim that all this has been accomplished by the REVIEW, but we can, without egotism, claim that this journal has been largely instrumental in producing these results, and we therefore feel no small degree of satisfaction in reviewing the fruits of our labors, aided as they have been by the hearty co-operation of fanciers generally. In saying so much, we would certainly be guilty of a culpable omission did we not acknowledge our deep obligations to our contributors, and the extent to which we are indebted for our success to their valuable assistance. We are sure we are expressing the universal sentiment of all our readers as well as our own, when we tender them, one and all, this expression of gratitude and cordial appreciation.

We cannot overlook the fact that the success we have achieved increases our responsibility. With a sense of our obligations, and a remembrance of promises made in the past, we have resolved to make great improvement in the REVIEW during the coming year. This improvement will not consist in any change in the mechanical get-up of our journal, as this would involve the serious expense of entirely new plant, and the present form we believe to be quite satisfactory to our patrons. We purpose adding largely to our staff of contributors, and when necessary adding extra pages. The illustrations will also receive a great deal of care of selection. But in order that these and other contemplated improvements may be carried out, it is necessary that arrears due for subscription and advertising should be "paid up." Now at the close of the year many accounts have to be settled, and we hope all indebted to us will remit at once, and so wipe out old scores, commence the year with a clean sheet; and resolve to keep it so. To those who have been prompt in their payments we return our grateful acknowledgments.

We would ask our friends to assist us in extending our circulation. A little exertion on the part of each one, would, in the aggregate, make a great increase in our list of subscribers, and this result would be beneficial, not to ourselves only, but to fanciers generally.

Finally, we feel like taking courage, and going on with renewed vigor into the work of another year. Ere another issue of the REVIEW another festive season shall have come and gone forever. May all our readers find in its pleasant associations, its cheering reminiscences and innocent enjoyments, food for thought as well as pleasure, and may a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR, not only furnish relaxation, and recreation, but also a better preparation for the untried future's labors and responsibilities.