

should be small and hidden by the muffling, which should be full and thick, hiding both throat and cheeks, hackles full and sweeping on a neck carried very upright. Body neat, massive, with much fullness of build, back wide and flat across slightly drooping, wings tight to body, breast deep and full; thighs short, shanks as short as possible and free from feathers; toes large and straight. Tail large with broad sweeping sickle feathers; weight from seven to eight and a half pounds. *The hen* in all respects similar to the cock, with the usual difference of sexes. In both sexes black beak, comb and wattles brilliant red. Lyes red, legs dark slate or black; the plumage should be a deep brilliant black all over. The defects are, bad comb, deficiency in crest or muffling, white in crest, want of size, symmetry and condition. The disqualifications are:—Absence of muffling, beard, or crest. Red, brown or straw colored feathers in plumage. Feathered shanks or of any color but black or leaden black, presence of fifth toe, wry-tail, or any other deformity, and any fraudulent getting up. In the *La Fliche* cock, the general appearance of the head and neck should present a slightly coarse and cruel look, beak large and strong, nostrils wide, comb a double spike, standing nearly upright, with very small spikes in front, head quite free from crest, wattles long and pendulous, deaf ears large, neck long and carried very upright, hackle full. Body large and powerful, plumage close and hard, back wide, rather long and slanting to the tail; wings powerful and carried tight to body, breast full and prominent. Thighs and shanks long and powerful, toes straight and large. Tail medium size, carried not too high, sickles full and glossy. A bold prominent appearance, large in frame and weighing between eight and nine pounds. *The Hen* is in all respects similar to the cock, with the usual sexual differences. In both sexes beak black, comb and wattles deep bright red, deaf ears a brilliant white, face red, eyes may be bright red or black, legs very dark slate color, plumage glossy black all over, with bright green reflections. The defects are, bad comb, stained deaf ear, white face, want of size, symmetry, and condition. The disqualifications are, presence of crest, entirely red ear lobes, shanks feathered, or of any other color but black or leaden black colored feathers in plumage, wry-tails or any other bodily deformity, any fraudulent getting up.

(To be continued.)

#### Silver Spangled Polands.

We are requested by a gentleman in Warren, Pa., to give our opinion of Silver Spangled Polands, and state their qualities as a farmer's fowl. In reply we would say that we consider them a very desirable acquisition to any poultry yard. We have bred them for some years and find them hardy, small eaters, and everlasting layers. We have never had one manifest the least desire to incubate, and although there are cases on record of their rearing chicks, such cases are isolated and rare. They are certainly among the most beautiful of all fowls and by some are considered handsomer than the Silver Hamburg.

In lieu of the broad, red comb of the Hamburg, they have a large crest sometimes so large as to almost obstruct their vision; this gives them a kind of serio-comic look not possessed by the Hamburg. They are very tame and quiet for such a small breed, and easy to keep at home, there is no more novel and handsome sight than a fine flock of Silver Spangled Polands with their large crests and beautiful spangles. They rank among the first as egg producers, and although their eggs are not quite as large as some other varieties, as long as eggs are sold by count instead of weight, their eggs will bring as much in the market as any other breed; but as they never sit, no person who could only keep one breed, and desired to raise chicks, could keep them. For the farmer who only keeps one breed for eggs and poultry the Polands have no attractions. He must select from the Asiatics, either Brahmas or Cochins; and although we have bred the Asiatics for some time it would be very hard for us to select the best one variety.

E. O. BORDWELL.

(Penn Yan, N. Y.)

## Entomological Department.

### The Prometheus Emperor Moth.

At this time of year, the careful observer may find feeding upon the leaves of various trees several kinds of large and curiously marked caterpillars. Among these we would specially draw attention now to that of the Prometheus Emperor Moth, (*Attacus, Callosamia, Prometheus, Druryi*). When fully grown, as it usually is at the commencement of September, this caterpillar is a very handsome object—at least in the eyes of those who are sufficiently unprejudiced to see beauty in a worm! It is then about three inches long and half an inch in diameter, of a pale bluish green color, and with the body adorned with a number of rows of tubercles, or small warts of a deep blue color, four large coral-red warts near the head, and one long projecting bright yellow wart near the

smaller figure in our illustration—is of a deep, rich black color, while the female is of a lighter reddish brown. Both have a pale, wavy line across the middle of the wings, a pale outer margin, and a beautiful eye-like spot near the tip of the front pair. The female has also a pale angular spot near the middle of each wing; its antennae, as usual in this family of moths, are very much narrower and less feathered than those of the male.

Soon after emerging from the cocoon, the female Prometheus Moth lays her eggs on the twigs of the tree which is to serve as food for her larvæ, generally in clusters of five or six together. They are of a pale cream color, shaded with brown, oval in shape and slightly depressed above.

Both moth and caterpillar of this insect are so beautiful, and so seldom numerous, that we do not class them for a moment among noxious insects, but regard them as interesting objects, worthy of our study and admiration. Any one unfamiliar with the species, may find its cocoons where ash trees are abundant, hanging on the boughs in winter, and may, without any difficulty, obtain from them the handsome moths in the Spring.

### A Few Notes on the Aphides.

Never within my memory have I observed the Aphides (commonly called Plant-lice) so abundant as this spring; in fact, every tree, plant and flower is covered with them. How hated they are by those who are fond of floriculture and even by the most listless, who in plucking a flower, find the nasty effect of their sticky juices! There is not a plant but that can boast of their company, and can show more or less the evils of it. The aphids most generally

hinder extremity. It feeds upon the leaves of the ash, sassafras, and wild cherry, and occasionally on some other trees.

When it has attained to maturity as a caterpillar, it wanders off to find a suitable tree on which to form its cocoon and spend the winter. In the neighborhood of gardens it very commonly selects the lilac; otherwise we have usually found it upon ash or hickory. Its mode of operation is at this time very curious. After selecting a leaf of suitable size, it securely fastens it to the twig from which it is growing, by a strong cord of twisted silken thread, which passes also down the mid-rib of the leaf; then it draws together the opposite sides of the leaf, and in the hollow space thus formed constructs its tough silken cocoon. The leaf, of course, withers in due time, and becomes separated from the twig, but it is prevented from falling like the rest of the foliage by its silken fastenings. Here it remains all winter, dangling in mid air, and tossed about by every breeze and storm. Its resemblance to a dead leaf is no doubt a great protection to the chrysalis within, and saves it from many an enemy.

In the following June, the Moth comes forth and is a large and handsome insect. The sexes differ from each other to a surprising degree. The male—the

remarked is the one that feeds on roses. It is a bright-green color, has an oval body, and a small head, which is furnished with a pair of bright scarlet eyes. Its antennae are long and fine, and reach almost to the two tube-like appendages on the extremity of its back. It has six legs, which are long and thin, each of which is terminated with two short hooks, with which it can cling in a marvellous manner to whatever plant it happens to get on. When looking at the aphid on a plant, one would think, from its tranquillity, that it was doing no harm; but then, on examining it with a magnifying glass; it will be seen that it has a long proboscis, with which it has pierced the tender shoot, and is feasting on the sap which ought otherwise to nourish the plant. When looking at a large aphid the other day, which was settled on a current leaf, I was much surprised to see the insect very uneasy, but soon the cause was made apparent by the fact of its having given birth to a little one, which clung to its mother in an affectionate manner, and regaled itself on the juice that came from the syrup-tubes of its parent. I disengaged it with some difficulty, as I wished to see if it could crawl. Thus it did, and went and joined the smaller ones of its species on the same leaf. Various are the colors of the aphides that infest lime-

