Dear Spedan Lewis,

Last year, when I was discarding some pure-bred wild jungle fowl from my experiment, I understood that you had ceased to keep them and did not want the surplus I was then disposing of.

In consequence a number of cocks were presented to the Zoo, who were, I understood, quite glad to have them.

I have now three cocks and nine hens, all bred without intermixture from the stock you originally gave me, and I am writing to you to ascertain whether you have any use for them, as, if not, I propose to send these also to the Zoo. In the latter event I should like, with your permission, to present them in your name, since it was only by your generosity that my experiment was made possible.

You will be glad to hear that, in spite of the difficulty of breeding adequate numbers, the experiment shows every sign of succeeding in what was undertaken, namely in ascertaining the reaction of wild stock to a number of the so-called dominant genes
found in domesticated breeds. Even last year I had evidence that two of the mutants used, causing feathered feet and polydactyly, respectively, are at most incompletely dominant in the wild stock, and I hope this year to examine those causing white plumage, barred plumage, rose comb and crest, besides confirming last year's observations.

The Natural History museum have been skimming representative birds of each generation, and after I have learnt what I can from them the skins will be added to the museum collection, so that they will have specimens, which I think they have not in any other species, showing, singly, the effect of the different mutants out of which the fancy characters of the domesticated breeds have been built up.

I expect to carry on the experiment for two or perhaps three years more, so as to complete the evidence, which will not, I fear, be too readily accepted in some quarters; but I think the outcome, even so far, is sufficient to show that the experiment was well worth while carrying out.

Yours sincerely,