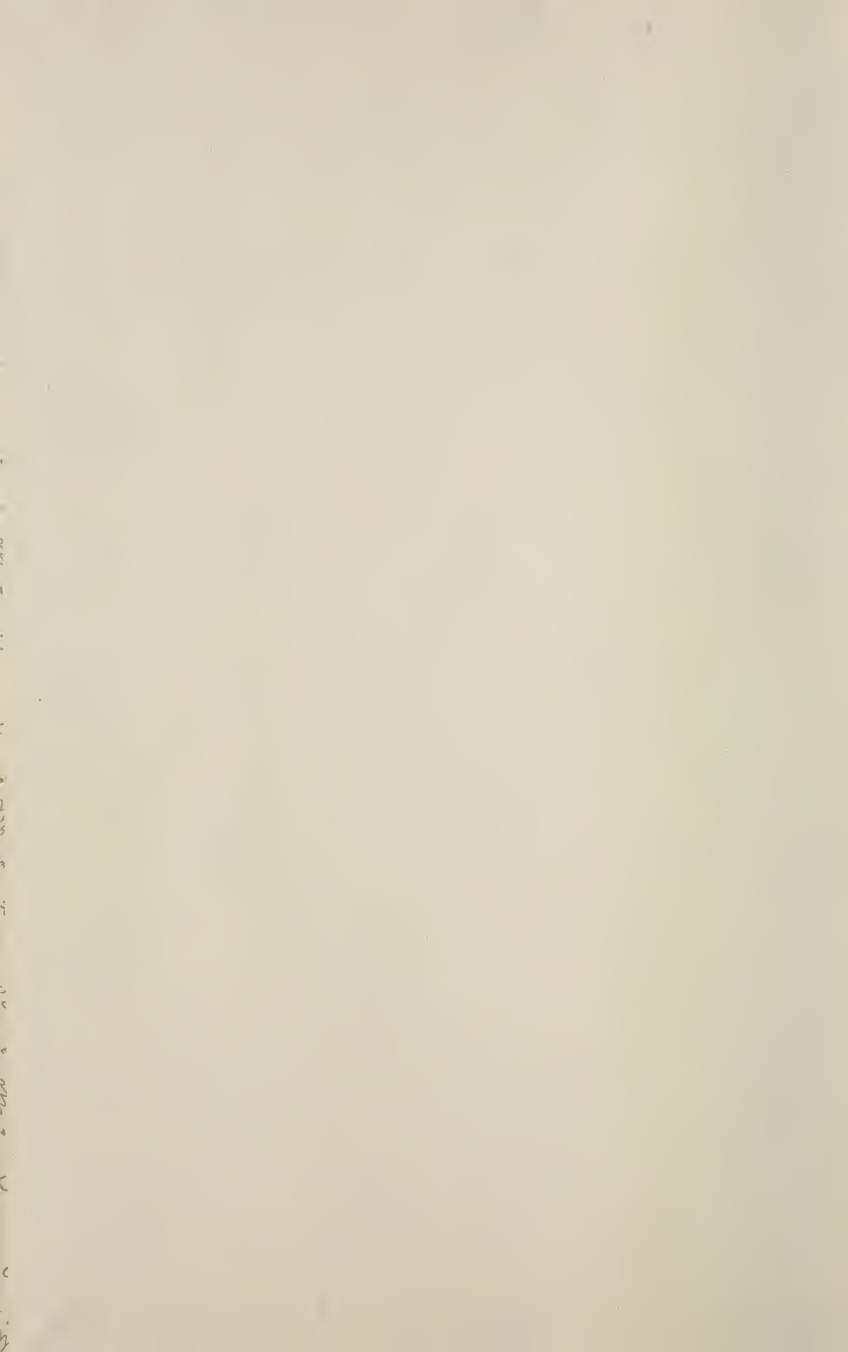


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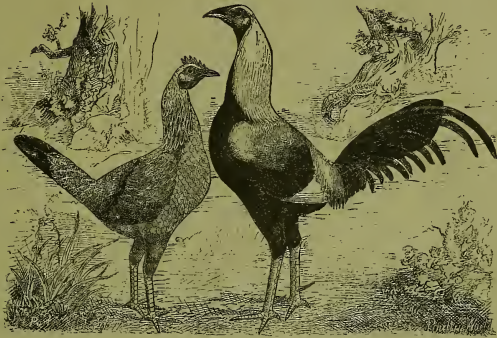






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THE
BOOK OF THE GAMES.



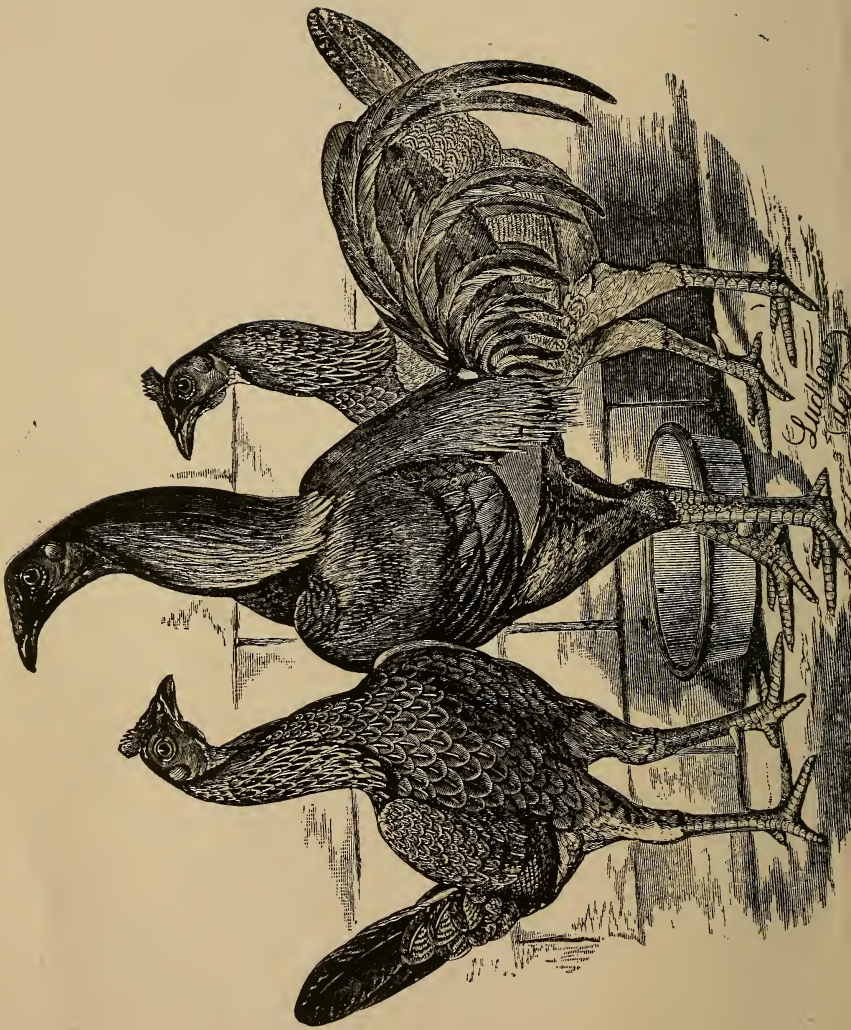
A BRIEF TREATISE
UPON THE
Mating, Rearing and Management
OF THE
DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF GAMES.

BY H. H. STODDARD,

EDITOR OF "THE POULTRY WORLD," "THE AMERICAN POULTRY YARD," AND "THE CO-OPERATIVE POULTRY POST." AUTHOR OF "AN EGG FARM," "POULTRY DISEASES," "POULTRY ARCHITECTURE," "LIGHT BRAHMAS," "WHITE LEGHORNS," "BROWN LEGHORNS," "PLYMOUTH ROCKS," "WYANDOTTES," "THE BOOK OF THE BANTAMS," "THE BOOK OF THE DORKING," "DOMESTIC WATER FOWL," "HOW TO FEED FOWLS," "HOW TO WIN POULTRY PRIZES," "HOW TO PRESERVE EGGS," "INCUBATION; NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL," "HOW TO RAISE PIGEONS," ETC. PUBLISHER OF "HOW TO RAISE POULTRY ON A LARGE SCALE," "A POULTRY COMPENDIUM," "THE BOOK OF THE HAMBURGS," ETC.

HARTFORD, CONN.

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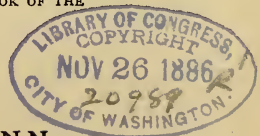
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PROF AND THE KINGS

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THE BOOK OF THE GAMES

OF all the prominent questions that have arisen and been freely discussed in poultry literature, from the first establishment of that branch of literature to the present time, probably none has taken a wider range, nor been treated of from a greater number of different standpoints, than the origin of the Game fowl.

Nearly every section of the world has been selected as its birth-place by enthusiastic advocates of this justly celebrated fowl. Writers of every age, and clime, and of greater or less ability, have rushed into type, claiming the honor, in most cases, for their respective countries. The various theories promulgated have apparently caused a greater degree of confusion in regard to this question, instead of elucidating it. There seems to be no unanimity among writers upon this point, scarcely two agreeing as to the facts, much less as to the conclusions deducible from those facts.

The brief space allotted to this work will not permit us to give the subject that full and searching consideration which perhaps it deserves. We shall therefore merely glance at a few of the theories advanced, together

with the main facts supporting them, and determine if it is possible at the present time to arrive at any satisfactory and practical conclusion regarding this question.

Many writers refer the origin of the Game fowl to the wild jungles of India, partly on the ground of the known length of time the Game has existed, partly on that of present habitation, and partly on the similarity of all Game stock as to certain characteristics. Others deny this claim, contending that it cannot be proven that the Game originated in the wild jungle of India or any other jungle. They further claim that there are a great number of varieties, possessing individual characteristics which could not be obtained from any one parent stock. The pheasant-dunghill combination theory so strongly urged by many is ably treated by Dr. Cooper and its evident fallacies exposed. After a careful consideration of the subject, we are led to the conclusion that the theory that India is the only or sole place of origin of the Game cannot be substantiated, for, although the *Gallus Bankiva* is very nearly a counterpart of our Black-breasted Game in external appearance, apart from the carriage of the tail, still our modern Games are the product of artificial breeding carried on for great periods of time, and precisely the crosses and experiments that have been made during all these ages will never be known. The principal source of the difficulty has been that those who have discussed the subject do not seem to have been fully aware of the extent of the changes which domestication and selection may make in a species. It has been said, for instance, that one species of wild fowl (*Gallus Bankiva*) is too small and too timid to

have been the original stock ; that another (*Gallus Sonneratii*) has horny feathers ; and still another (*Gallus Furcatus*) has a comb that is neither serrated nor lobed, and that these differences prevent us from tracing the origin of the Game fowl to any one of them. No one pretends that the fully-developed breed sprang ready-feathered from the egg of any wild stock, but it is to be kept in view that any variety *may* spring from any other, no matter how great the minor differences ; and the further question of the connection of any two is simply one of approximate probability.

From a careful survey of all existing species of wild fowl, there seems to be good reason to conclude that all domesticated breeds, including the one of which we are treating, sprang originally from the *Gallus Bankiva*. This is not the place to enter into a discussion of the evidence. It depends, however, mainly on the fact that individuals of each and every breed occasionally present the features belonging to that stock. Furthermore, whatever may be said of the other breeds of tame fowls, there is still stronger reason for asserting this of the Game, which very closely resembles in every point the *Bankiva* ; and the superior strength and fighting qualities should certainly be expected to result from such a long series of breeding to these characteristics. A *Bankiva* fowl has a greater resemblance to the Black-breasted Reds than to any other variety of Games, and a similar plumage often shows itself on individuals of certain other breeds.

What was the period of the first domestication of the Game we do not at all know. It was not probably

any very difficult process, as the *Bankiva* of to-day is very easily tamed, and produces fertile crosses with common fowls.

As already said, it must have been in very remote times, and the locality was probably the present habitat of the wild *Bankiva*, just as all the other possessions of the Occident seemed to have journeyed from the East. The breed once introduced, its courage and endurance gave it a popularity now as strong as ever, and one that it does not seem likely ever to lose.

While, however, the origin of this most excellent and, in many respects, desirable variety of fowls is, in the opinion of many persons, involved in hopeless obscurity, its existence, or that of its prototype, from time immemorial is very clearly shown. That it flourished throughout Asia in very early ages is an unquestioned fact. The inhabitants of Greece, especially those of Athens, were enthusiastic lovers of cock fighting; while those of Delos, Rhodes and Media were scarcely less so. Here the sport had probably a religious or semi-religious origin, and, by means of its influence, the courage and patriotism of the young men of the country was supposed to be strengthened and increased. That this would be the effect upon men having the natural disposition of the Greeks is manifest, and the Grecian historians and writers upon nearly all subjects mention this pastime so frequently that we are led to regard it as almost a national amusement. The fact that one day in each year was set apart for this purpose shows clearly what a hold it had upon the predilections of the people at large.

Many years later we find the Romans indulging in

the same sport, but not to the same degree nor for the same purpose. That people being semi-barbarous, having but little knowledge of the arts and sciences, nor, in point of fact, of anything except what pertained to war, were accustomed to bring back from their conquests more or less of the customs of the particular people most recently conquered, and, in this manner, cock fighting was introduced into Rome, although it never rose, in that country, to a higher level than a simple brutal fight for the mere amusement of the spectators, and it does not seem to have even achieved the distinction of a national amusement in any sense.

The Romans, without doubt, introduced this custom into England, though the date of its introduction is unknown and perhaps immaterial. At all events it grew rapidly and flourished to such an extent that at the time of Henry the Second we find it to be the sport of school-boys on certain occasions, and in this they had the presence and support of their masters and friends. It was afterwards prohibited by law, but was revived by Henry the Eighth and James the First. At this period five celebrated cock pits were upon English soil, the most noted of which was the one in Drury-lane. These furnished a rendezvous for all cockers and handlers in the kingdom and disseminated both the love and practice of this amusement throughout the land. New-castle-on-the-Tyne, however, claims to have been the most important place in England, judging from a cocker's and handler's point of view, and this claim is made with a great show of reason, hundreds of birds having been handled and fought there at a single meeting.

Mexico has also furnished a goodly supply of finely bred Game stock, and many writers claim that the cradle of the Game was rocked in that country. However that may be, it is certainly true that fine Games were found there at the time of the conquering of that country by Spain, Montezuma being said to have had a passion for that amusement. It seems also that the love of this pastime was deeply implanted in the hearts of all the people without distinction of race or position. Priests and laymen, nobles and plebeians, soldiers and citizens, old and young, in fact all classes of every race, sex and station in life seemed imbued with this feeling.

It will be noticed that thus far the Game has had apparently but one destiny—that one the pit. In the future it is destined to be the object of a two-fold destiny and to have its beauties and excellencies contrasted and determined in a more peaceful and humane manner than has formerly been the case. The show room is about to become the arena where most of its peaceful contests will be held and decided; and men are about to have the privilege of rearing Games for an objective point other than that of war.

There is probably no field in which man can labor that will yield him more pleasure as well as profit (that is if he has a taste for it) than is found in breeding what is termed "fancy poultry." If a man has not the taste for the vocation he had better let the business severely alone—for what a certain writer said of the poet is paralleled in his case, viz.:

'A man can no more *make himself a Poet,*
Than a *sheep* can make *herself a Go-at.*'

The breeder of improved poultry will find that it requires much patience and care, yet the occupation is one that will prove full of pleasure. Although there may be, and without doubt there is, fully as much profit in raising some of the larger varieties of fowls, yet to the man who can afford to gratify his tastes as well as to consult his pocket no breed will compare with the Game. History and poetry have united in doing him honor. The fact is there is something in this bird that man admires—aye, loves. Pass all the laws you may in regard to him and still the Game cock stands true to his name, (in a chicken sense at least) the idol of humanity. His erect and noble bearing; his elegant plumage; his perfect symmetry of form; his brilliant eye; his broad and handsome breast; his perfect self-control; his docility when not attacked by an adversary; his courage; his patience in suffering; his love for his own flock—showing almost human affection in its highest type, in the providing for and protecting them and proving to the enemy that dares to intrude or assail his favorites a foeman ready to do and die if necessary to protect and preserve his family; all these combine to render the Game cock the most interesting as well as the most distinguished of all domestic fowls.

What we have said of the cock is equally true of the hen when applied to her sphere. She is a true mother—none of your *foster* mothers. She does not follow the fashionable mother of the present day, who seems to think it is only necessary for her to see her offspring twice in twenty-four hours, say “what a jewel my darling is,” and then pass it over to the *tender*

mercy of some "other biddy," seeming to think that she is fulfilling all the duties that the laws of nature and humanity demand. Not so with the Game mother. She is ever on the alert, discovering danger and protecting her young from that danger, providing for their daily needs and teaching them by her example how they may best meet their future wants and preparing them as best she can to meet and overcome all of the difficulties that they will be likely to encounter in life. As gallant sons spring from noble mothers, so we may expect nothing less from the devoted, heroic, Game hen, than that her sons should ever do her honor. Place the Game where you may, among his own breed or among the common dunghill fowls or even among the choicest fancy breeds, and he shows by his attention and care of those put in his charge that among all the numberless breeds in existence, in his veins alone courses only royal blood.

The man that sees nothing good or grand in a Game cock but as he sees him in the pit is brutish; or the one that sees nothing beautiful or chivalric in him because perchance he is sometimes debased by being fought in the pit—such a man is to be *pit-ied*.

Being a native of no particular country, the home of the Game is the world. In city or country, in torrid or frigid zones, anywhere, everywhere, he stands cock of the walk. No nation or clime can claim him as its own, and few, very few, over this broad earth but recognize in him that true nobility that stamps him king of the poultry world.

That he is brave and true all must admit; that he descends from the most ancient as well as the most

illustrious of all varieties in the chicken kingdom is a fact in regard to which all agree, and while a countless number of other breeds have flourished in their day and then "stepped down and out," giving place to something new, the Game has more than held its own, and has today more friends and admirers than ever before in its history. Its flesh is particularly tender and delicate, rendering it a sweet morsel for the epicure, and bringing a greater price per pound than that of any other fowl, while in the matter of egg production this variety excels many and will produce more than the average of fancy breeds, thus establishing it as a profitable as well as a pleasurable variety. With so many excellencies and so few defects, is it strange that this breed compels our admiration?

Games are generally acknowledged to be fine layers, the most delicious of table fowls, and the best of mothers; yet, in spite of these qualities of greatest utility, the majority of those who breed poultry for strictly practical purposes look with suspicion upon them, as merely a fancier's fowl.

The pugnacity of the Game has, without doubt, been the great drawback to his universal adoption. True, he is a brave spirited bird that will admit of no invasion of right or domain; yet, admitting this pugnacity, with the ordinary care exerted to preserve the combs and ear-lobes of our Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks or Leghorns from the disastrous results of combat, all trouble may be avoided. Where but a single yard is kept, its champion may as well be game as craven; on the plantation and farm there is room enough for all.

While eggs are sold by number, number, not size, is the objective point. Here, again, the Game will bear comparison with any variety not non-sitting. This is particularly true when entire freedom is allowed, yet in confinement their record will pass close inspection. A lot of Red Piles, bred side by side with an equal number of Plymouth Rocks, excelled the latter in egg production. The quality of the eggs was richer beyond dispute, and the size little if any below the average. It is the testimony of all who have had the pleasure of testing Games upon the table, that in delicacy of flesh they are unequalled. The chief point, then, to be urged against them, is on account of size. It has been an annual custom to dispose of superfluous stock of old fowls to the village butcher. On one occasion, having been sent some Plymouth Rock hens, he said—"Have you nothing smaller to send me? My customers say that one is not quite enough and two are as much as a turkey, a little more old hen than they wish at once." He was sent some Games that filled the order to the letter. Now as it is estimated that two Games may be kept at the cost of one Plymouth Rock, if one had two Games for every Rock, nothing would have been lost in expense or weight and more attractive birds could have been offered.

There is yet another feature less generally considered. The cock of no other variety stamps the good qualities of his blood upon his progeny in such a marked degree. He is then especially valuable to improve inferior stock; indeed it is no exaggeration to compare the effect thus produced to that resulting from the introduction of Hereford or Shorthorn bulls among the coarse cattle of the West.

The beauty and general attractiveness of the Game forbid that he should ever suffer from lack of friends; were his practical qualities as generally appreciated we believe that he would be universally acknowledged the flower of his race. In the foregoing we have viewed this noble breed from the dress circle and not from the pit.

BREEDING.

In breeding Games the objective point should be carefully considered, the different elements to be brought together and harmonized closely looked after, and such measures taken and methods of breeding adopted as will command success. We do not mean to be understood as saying that, as a matter of theory, two entirely different systems of breeding must of necessity be practiced—one for the show pen and one for the pit,—but as a matter of practice the two methods usually adopted differ to such an extent that Pit Games bred by an experienced cocker are seldom fit for the show room. And here let us observe that for feather and all external appearances the standard Game is the more difficult to breed, and therefore that branch of the subject will be treated of at greater length, simply indicating in the proper place where the other method differs from this.

This is the rock upon which the bark of so many enthusiastic admirers founders. A majority are able to manage their stock during the remainder of the year (certainly with the aid of a little advice), but when they arrive at that period where birds must be selected, mated and bred, they utterly fail to achieve any satisfactory result. Most of these ill results follow from the fact that

the breeder seeks to *control*, not *guide*, nature. Now the laws of nature are as immovable and immutable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, and any one who endeavors to wrest the control of these immutable laws from nature and render them entirely subservient to the will of man will find that confusion worse confounded reigns in all his borders, and that his cherished schemes laid with so much care will be frustrated.

The kindred subjects—selection of breeding stock, mating and breeding—are so nearly allied that it seems impossible to separate them, and we prefer to treat of them in connection with each other. The first step to be taken is the selection of breeding stock, and this is an operation that requires all the skill, knowledge and experience of the most veteran breeder, since it is the key-stone upon which the results of the year (and perhaps a score of years) rest. The first and principal requisite in selecting birds for the breeding pen is perfect hardiness. To breed from weak and debilitated stock, with the expectation that their progeny will be fine birds, is in effect *crying for the moon*. The law that "like produces like" is nowhere more strongly shown than in this very matter. It is by carefully observing this law and seeking to guide it in the moulding and formation of all classes and forms of animal life that the greatest and best results are obtained. That the best and fittest do actually survive and perpetuate their kind in a state of nature is such a fixed fact that it may well be regarded as an axiom. This fact must be taken advantage of and skillfully used by the breeder if he desires success. Select stock, then, famous for its health and stamina and you

have the first element of success. Inquiry should also be made as to the progenitors of this stock, since, if some of them were weak and debilitated, the law of reversion may assert itself and wreck the good effects already obtained, though nature works in a kindly manner in this respect, and the ancestry are, broadly speaking, more apt to perpetuate their strength than their weakness. If this were not so, the task of producing a new variety or strain of fowls would be an even much greater undertaking than it is at present.

It is a well known fact that, in this variety, pullets produce the greater number of eggs and consequently the more chicks, while hens give those that are larger and stronger. It is with birds as with all other animals. The first colt is always expected to be smaller than its successors, and the same is true of the calf, pig, etc. The principal reason for this state of facts, in the case of fowls at least, is that pullets are in an immature condition, so to speak, while hens are fully matured and their muscles and procreative organs are fully developed. Now, like begets like, and therefore the more matured and perfect birds you breed from the more perfect will be the chicks. This applies to males as well as females, and, consequently, in making up breeding pens it is better to have both sexes fully developed; that is, about two years of age if possible. Where this is not convenient or it is desirable, for any reason, to test the qualities of younger birds as breeders, it is always far more advantageous to have at least one sex more than one year of age; that is, mate cocks with pullets and stags with hens.

MATING GAMES.

Perfect constitutions and well-matured stock are the two chief considerations in the mating of Games, whether for the pit or the exhibition room. The breeder of Pit Games further desires to secure courage that will not fail, rapid and sure fighting qualities, and a figure that is best adapted to attain his special ends. He selects, therefore, for his breeding stock only tested birds, those that have felt the steel, and have proved their spirit. A rather short-legged, broad shouldered, long snaky-necked cock, with a proud, erect carriage and a sharp, clear crow, like the crack of a rifle, is chosen to head his breeding pen. With him are mated from two to six hens of like characteristics, having well developed spurs. Color is immaterial. He wishes to produce the bird that will win, one that ends the battle either as victor or in death, and he cares not what color he bears so that it leads to victory. Like the ancient warriors, his cock must bring home his shield or be brought home upon it.

The breeder of Exhibition Games, however, has a very different purpose in view. His birds are to win not in the pit but in the show room. For him

“Peace hath her victories no less glorious than war,”
and station, color and markings count much in the struggle. The exhibition cock has longer legs, a proud and lofty carriage, markings evenly arranged, and a plumage of glistening sheen and radiant colors. The hens are like their lord in style and symmetry, and, although clothed in less gaudy colors, have a beautifully arranged plumage. No breed known to the fancier offers a better or more inviting field for the exercise of skill in the production

of color and symmetry, than the *beau ideal* of beauty, the ever popular Game fowl.

While objection is made to the beeding of fowls for the pit, and an odium has become attached to this once popular sport, as brutalizing and degrading, while the laws in many states prohibit it under severe penalties, to the breeding of the really more beautiful bird, the Exhibition Game, there can be no reasonable objection. Every admirer of this noble fowl may select and breed the variety which meets his tastes with the approval of every right-minded man, and in the mating of the several varieties for the production of the highest degree of excellence he will find enough to employ all his skill and knowledge.

VARIETIES

The *American Standard of Excellence* recognizes eight varieties of Exhibition Games, with which it is of course alone concerned. These are

1. Black-breasted Red.
2. Brown Red.
3. Red Pile.
4. Silver Duckwing.
5. Yellow Duckwing.
6. Black.
7. White.
8. Black Sumatras.

We think the Black Sumatras are erroneously included in the list of Games: at least their title to be recognized as Games is no stronger than that of the Black-breasted Red Malay. Both varieties possess many qualities in common with the Games, but the very best authorities

reject them as Game fowls, or degrade them to a list of bad Games. We shall therefore consider only the first seven varieties as making up our list of Exhibition Games.

THE BLACK-BREASTED RED GAME

is perhaps the most popular of all the varieties. His admirer's name is legion. And, although in our own estimation he is hardly so beautiful as the Duckwings, we cannot say that this popularity is misplaced. He is, in truth, a noble bird, beautiful alike in plumage and symmetry, and in size exceeding all the other varieties.

The neck of the cock is long and nicely arched, and covered with a light red hackle. The back is short, broad at the shoulders, and in plumage of a rich red. The breast is broad and full and jet black in color. The wings are of medium length, dark red in color, with a wide black glistening bar. The tail is of medium length, carried rather low, is of a jet black color, and is denominated a "whip tail." The shanks are long and strong, and in color, willow, olive, yellow, white or blue, according to the strain.

The hen has a long slender neck clad in a hackle of a bright brownish yellow, striped with black. Her back is of a light brown color, penciled with black. Her breast is of a light salmon hue shading off to ashy brown. Her wings are brown, penciled with black. The tail is dark brown, nearly black, in color. In shape the hen has the general characteristics of the breed, rather slender and graceful.

While no weights are given in the *Standard*, it is no uncommon thing for a cock of this variety to weigh seven

BLACK-BREASTED RED GAMES.



or eight pounds, although very heavy weights lead to the suspicion of a more or less liberal infusion of Malay blood.

Such birds as we have described when mated together produce a fair proportion of exhibition chicks. Sometimes the hackle of the cock is penciled underneath, and such birds often produce beautiful pullets. Hens of a lighter color are also used whose hackle is of light golden color, very slightly striped with black, breast of an ashy yellow hue, and back plentifully interfused with gold. From such hens very beautiful cockerels are often bred, especially fine in hackle.

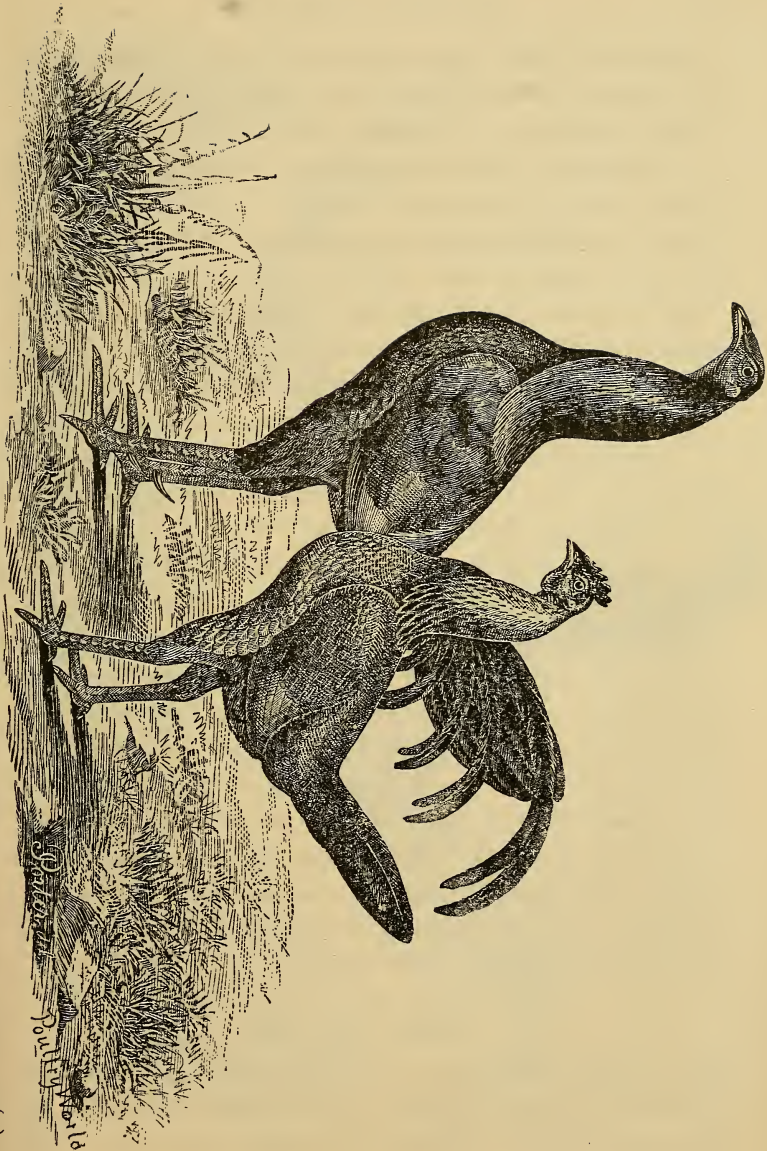
To avoid repetition we state, once for all, that for the minor points of description, for the many little details that make a high scoring bird, we must refer the reader to the *Standard of Excellence*, a book that no breeder of fowls, who hopes to win success, can afford to be without.

THE BROWN RED GAME

has many admirers. In general style the fowl is like the previously described variety, but in plumage is darker. The hackle of the cock is of a red color, shading off to lemon, striped with black. The back is of a dark crimson color. The saddle feathers resemble those of the hackle. The breast is black, the shafts and margins of the feathers being reddish brown in hue and growing darker as they approach the thighs. The wing-bows are dark crimson, the wing-butts black or a very dark brown, and the wing-coverts glossy black. The tail is black, the coverts and sickles having a greenish sheen. The shanks are dark willow, olive or black with a bronze hue.

The hen has a hackle of gold or lemon color striped

BROWN RED GAMES.



with black, a very dark brown back, a black breast, wings of black or a very dark brown, and a black tail. Her shanks should be of the same color as those of the cock.

The Brown Red Games are very difficult to breed to feather, but a comparatively few of the chicks being suitable for exhibition purposes, but those that are obtained are very beautiful birds. This may be one of the reasons that has given the Black-breasted Red Games so much greater popularity, as they breed reasonably true, and produce a fair percentage of standard chicks.

Many rules are given for the mating of this variety, but the underlying principle of the matings is to mate the sexes so that the light colors of the cock may be set against the dark colors of the hen, or in other words the lightest cocks are mated to the darkest hens and *vice versa*. To the true fancier there is a certain fascination in the difficulty of breeding exhibition birds, something akin to the feeling of the born florist who produces seedling flowers. He knows that many of his specimens will be worthless, but feels well repaid for his time and labor by the few perfect ones which he produces. This feeling has preserved to us the beautiful Brown Red Game, for in spite of the many difficulties in the way of producing perfect specimens the fowl has never lacked for ardent admirers, many of whom honestly feel that there is no more beautiful fowl in the world.

THE RED PILE GAME

has its own select class of devotees, who grow enthusiastic over its good qualities. It is certain that the chestnut red head and hackle, the crimson back, the white



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breast slightly laced with chestnut, the wings with their crimson bars, the white tail, and yellow, willow or white shanks of the cock, make a bird worthy of admiration, especially when it is added that no variety of Games is finer in symmetry or nobler in station.

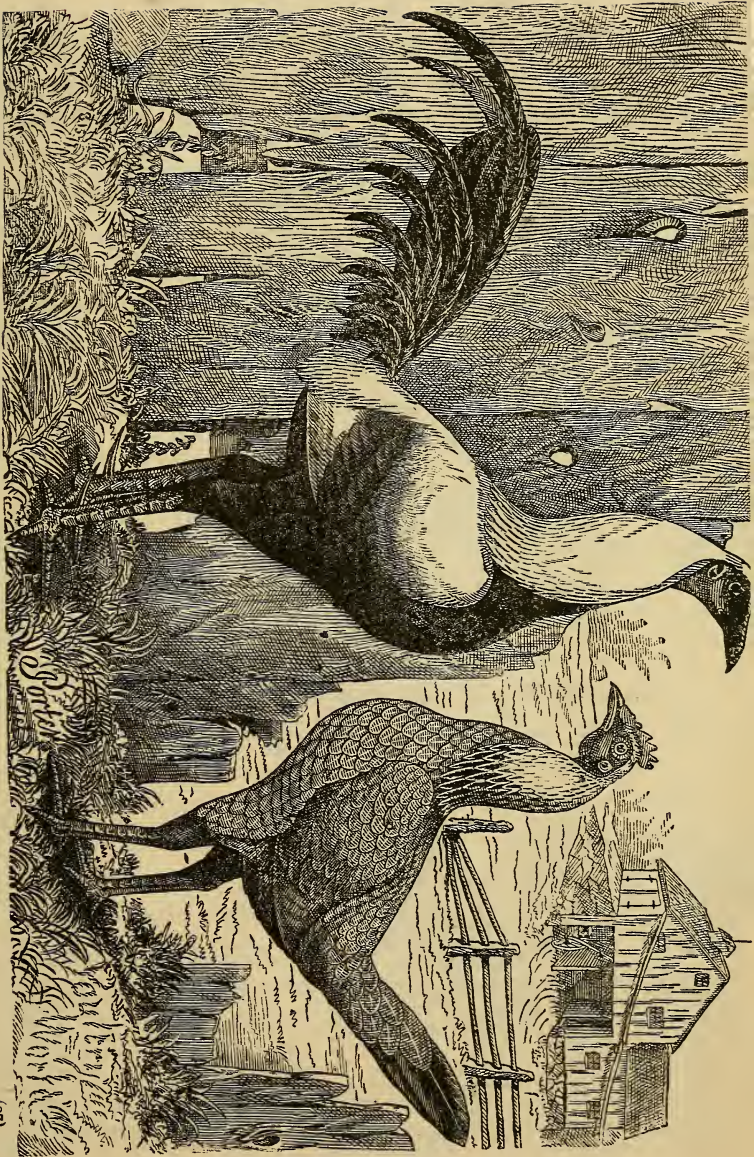
The hen is equally beautiful with her white hackle laced with gold, white back, dark salmon breast, white wings slightly tinged with light chestnut, and white tail.

In breeding Piles little difficulty is experienced, as they breed very true to color. To give hardness to feather an occasional cross with the Black-breasted Red Game is resorted to. Fine Piles are also bred by matching a Weedon hen—a Black-breasted Red hen with partridge-colored back—to a White or Pile cock.

THE SILVER DUCKWING GAME,

by many regarded as the Exhibition Game *par excellence*, and certainly from the vivid contrast of colors, and the richness of the wing-bars, from which it derives its name, one of the most beautiful, if not the most beautiful, of all the varieties, has a host of admirers and never fails to elicit expressions of admiration, when on exhibition, from all classes of people. It would be difficult to conceive of a more wonderful union of colors than this bird possesses. In the cock the head, hackle, back and saddle are of a clear silvery white color, the breast of a rich glossy black hue, the wing-bows silvery white, the wing-butts black, and the wing-coverts a steely blue, forming a broad glistening bar across the wings, the tail with coverts and sickles deep black, and the shanks willow, olive, bronze or blue.

SILVER DUCKWING GAMES.



The hen has a silvery gray head, silvery gray hackle striped with black, ashy gray back, light salmon breast, ashy gray wings, and a dark gray, nearly black, tail. Both sexes are very handsome.

Duckwings are quite difficult to breed, although less so than was formerly felt to be the case. Bred together they produce some very good chicks, but the way in vogue with many breeders is to cross a Silver Duckwing hen with a Black-breasted Red cock and *vice versa* to produce cockerels; for pullets Duckwing cocks and hens bred together, or a Duckwing cock and a partridge-colored Black-breasted Red hen are preferred.

THE YELLOW DUCKWING GAME

cock has a straw colored neck—often striped, but this is objectionable,—a bright copper or golden colored back, a jet black breast, wings the butts of which are black, the bows copper or golden colored, and the coverts blue or black, forming a wide and beautiful bar, a black tail, and willow, olive-yellow, or blue shanks.

The hen has a dark gray head, ashy gray hackle striped with black, dark salmon breast, slaty gray wings and back, and a dark gray, nearly black, tail.

This variety of Duckwings, like the former, is crossed with the Black-breasted Reds to produce fine exhibition birds. For cockerels a Yellow Duckwing cock, crossed with a Weedon hen, is strongly recommended. Duckwings bred together produce very good pullets.

THE BLACK AND THE WHITE GAMES

possess the same distinctive form and symmetry as the

YELLOW DUCKWING GAMES.



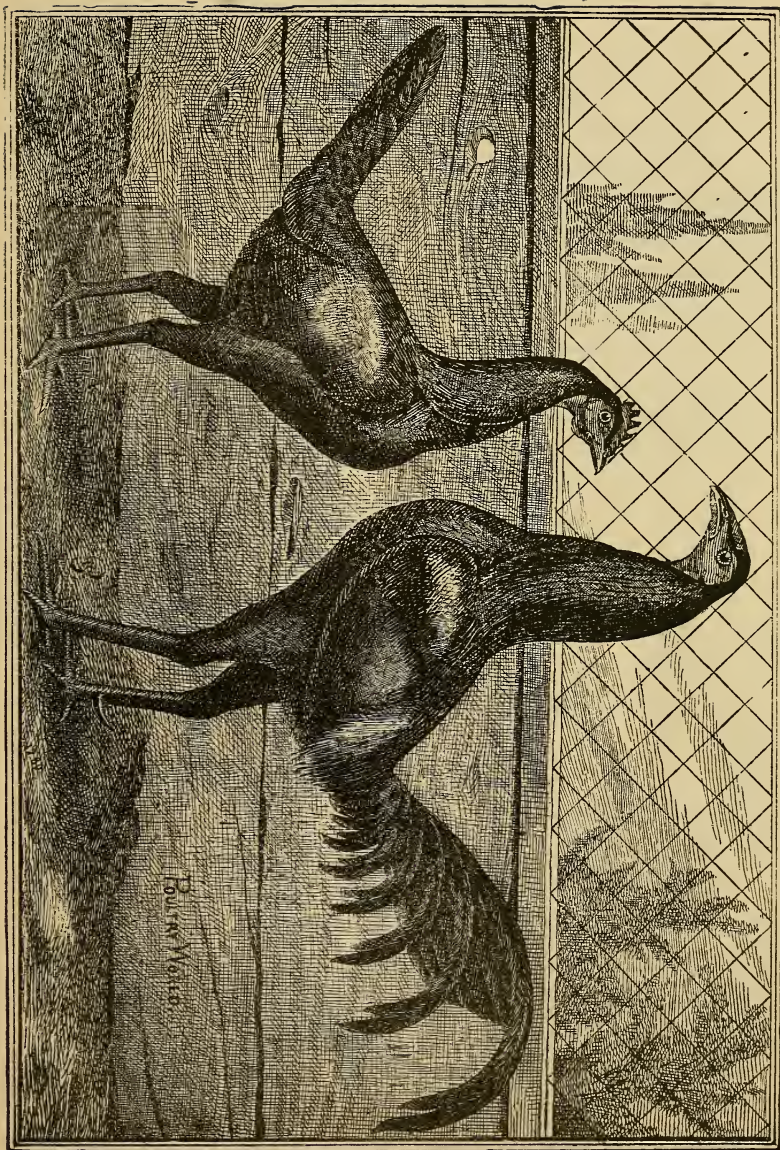
other varieties, but are clad in solid glossy black in the one case and in pure immaculate white in the other. In solid colored birds there is no difficulty in mating for breeding, care needing to be exercised only in selecting standard specimens with rich plumage free from any admixture of other colors.

IN PIT GAMES

there are not less than sixty or seventy varieties mentioned, with the number ever on the increase. Some of the most famous of these are Tartars, Claibornes, Earl Derbys, Red Strychnines, Clippers, Rattlers, The Thompson Whites, Pittsburg Dominic, White Hackles, Bob Mace Shufflers, Belfast Reds, and others. For one who is specially interested in the study of Pit Games we can recommend to him the complete work of Doctor J. W. Cooper, "Game Fowls, Their Origin and History," in which the various strains and their value for pit purposes is quite fully and exhaustively set forth. It would transcend the limits of this work to go into these details. It may suffice us to say that Pit Games are largely of the color of the varieties already described, although there are grays, blues and dominiques, these colors also being combined with reds and browns. There are also Henny Games, so called from having a tail like a hen, without sickle feathers, of various colors, the Whites perhaps being the best known.

DUBBED OR UNDUBBED GAMES.

Game cocks are seldom shown in their natural condition, the comb, wattles and ear-lobes being usually cut



off. This is called dubbing. The age for dubbing is generally from four to five months old. To do it properly requires two persons, one to hold the bird firmly so as to prevent struggling, while the other removes the parts to be cut off. The operation is thus described by Mr. F. W. McDougall: "The operator lays hold of the wattle, inserting the point of his dubbing scissors at the lower mandible, or jaw, and striking straight for the ear, leaving the old skin about half an inch, or hardly so much, between your cut and the eye. When you get to the ear commence again at the under side of the wattle, and run the point of the scissors about half way down, then dissect gradually up to the ear. When the wattles and ears are off, the operator inserts his left thumb across the inside of the beak, placing his forefinger on the back of the head. Care must, however, be taken not to choke the bird. Then setting his scissors close and firmly on the head, straight up from the beak, with one cut, by keeping the scissors well pressed down as he cuts, he will take the comb clean off; then merely a slight cut each side of the beak, to take off a small excrescence that would make the setting in at the beak heavy, and the operation is over. The blood usually stops at once and nothing more is required. He will then be nice and red again in six weeks, and fit to exhibit."

Dubbing was first practiced for pit purposes, and for such purposes it is undoubtedly necessary. People have become so accustomed to the appearance of a dubbed Game cock that they have begun to regard it as an addition to his beauty. But it may be questioned whether it does not rather detract from than add to the beauty

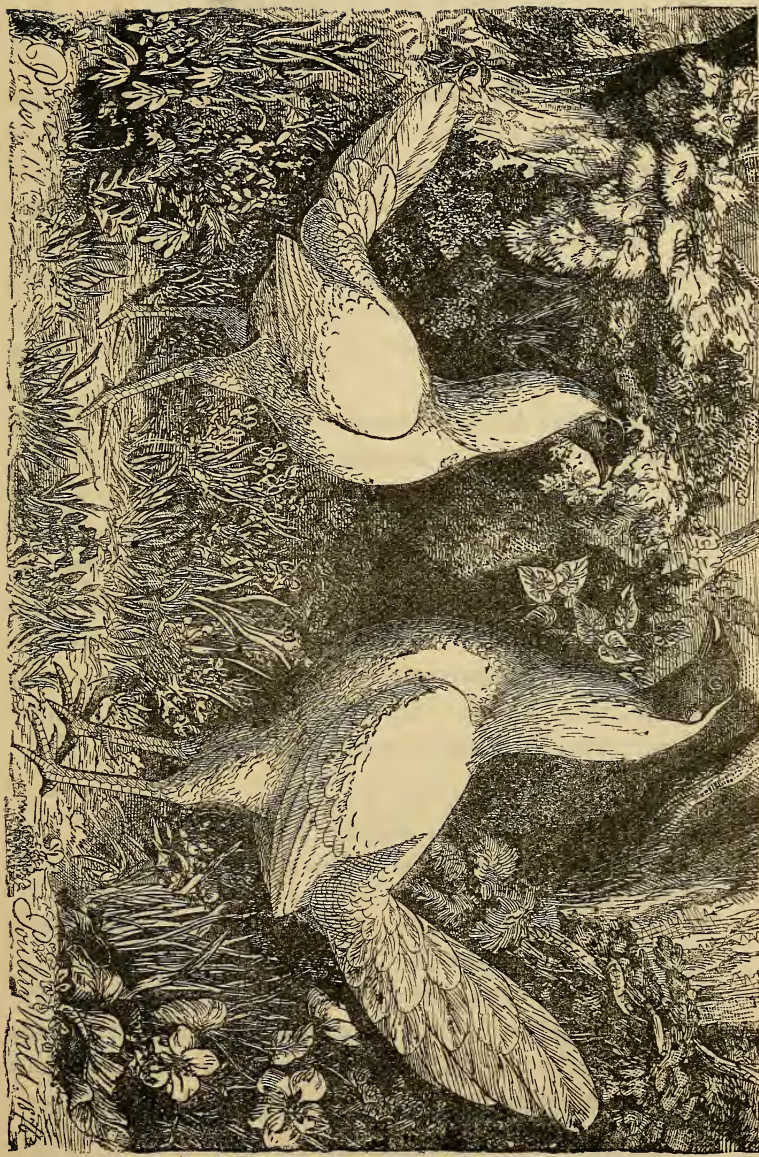


WHITE GAMES.

of the bird. One of the greatest additions to the appearance of most breeds of fowls is the comb. Not only is there a contrast between its color and that of the plumage, but it is an ornament which from its larger development distinguishes the cock from the hen, and gives him his masculine air. Why it should be different in Games is difficult to be seen. We doubt if it is so. We are of the opinion that an evenly serrated comb of moderate size and comely shape would really brighten the beauty of the bird when once our eyes had become accustomed to the sight. Already in England and Scotland they are making classes for undubbed Games at their leading shows.

We hardly think the practice of dubbing Games can be considered cruel, for the birds apparently suffer little pain from the operation and quickly recover from its effects, and they are thus protected from the freezings to which many undubbed birds are exposed. And yet it has been seriously questioned whether a person would not become liable to prosecution by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for dubbing a fowl.

However that may be, on the score of beauty, and to put breeders of Exhibition Games on an equality with the breeders of other fowls, requiring them to show perfect combs instead of no combs at all, it may be quite properly urged that Games shall be shown undubbed, leaving the dubbing of cocks to those who desire to test the mettle of their fowls in the pit and who prefer the test of steel to the highest number of points on the score card. It costs but little to try the experiment and the results of it might be even more favorable than one would dare to predict.



WHITE HENNY GAMES.

PECULIARITIES OF GAMES.

Games are the most pugnacious of all varieties of domestic fowls. Fighting among the stags is as natural as eating. They never seem so well satisfied as when having a regular "Donnybrook Fair." This leads to the practice of early separating the males and putting them out on "walks," which means no more and no less than having each stag—*i. e.*, cockerel—kept by himself where he cannot have the pleasure of indulging in the "manly art of self-defense."

Stags may be kept together until they are dubbed. Even after dubbing a number of stags may be put in a pen with a strong old cock who generally puts a stop to any incipient battle by administering a sharp rebuke with bill or spurs to the over-ambitious combatants. If keeping them together is attempted, one must take pains to keep them out of sight of females, for the attentions of one young gallant will be likely to awaken the rivalry of the others, and a "battle royal" will soon be in progress. This pugnacious spirit, this

" Spirit that can dare
The deadliest form that death can take,
And dare it for the daring's sake,"

has led these birds to do many things that other fowls seldom or never undertake. Games have been known to give battle to hawks, cats, rats and dogs, and to drive off the intruders. They have been known to rival the cat or terrier in mice catching, seizing the incautious vermin with their beaks and making a quick end of them, putting a finale upon the deed by devouring their victim.

CARE OF BREEDERS.

If there is one thing of more importance than all others in poultry breeding, it is the care of the breeding stock. Both cocks and hens should be kept in a vigorous and robust state of health. From weakly and diseased parents, weakly and diseased offspring alone can be expected. Both sexes should be in full feather and well-matured specimens. Care should be taken to prevent them from getting too fat, and at the same time to prevent any diminution of their strength. Their feed should be generous and hearty and furnished in the right quantities. Over-feeding and under-feeding should be guarded against. Oats and wheat with an occasional feed of corn, boiled plucks once or twice a week, fed in a limited quantity, ground oyster shells and granulated bone always before them, and plenty of fresh water with a little Douglass Mixture in it, or a few drops of tincture of iron, make a menu upon which Games or any other variety of fowls will do well.

Should the cock show an aversion to any one of his mates, she should be removed from the pen, as keeping her there will do no good and may result in her death. From three to ten hens are usually placed with one cock, perhaps five or six being about the average number. From so few hens almost every egg will be fertilized, and if the stock is of sound constitution and has been fed as recommended, the chicks will be likely to be vigorous and satisfactory.

BREEDING IN-AND-IN.

In Games as in every other breed this vexed question arises, and we find advocates both for and against the

practice. Inbreeding seems a cross-cut to perfection, but in inexperienced hands it often proves the truth of the old saying, "The nearest way home is the farthest way around." It issues only too often in an undermining of the constitution, decreasing of the procreative powers, diminution of the size, and the destruction of all the characteristic qualities of the Game. It is possible that very close breeding may be carried on for a succession of years without any marked deterioration of the stock, when only strong and robust breeders are selected. From two nearly related fowls, each having a perfect constitution, the chances are that the chicks will be stronger than from two non-related fowls of uncertain constitution, but one can never be absolutely sure that his fowls have perfect constitutions, and it is but a simple mathematical problem to prove that if there is a weakness or special tendency to disease in the blood that it is strongly increased in the offspring by close breeding. To illustrate this point: Suppose you mate a cock and hen, brother and sister, in the blood of which there is a tendency to consumption; and suppose you should mate another with this same tendency to consumption to a fowl not akin, but having a tendency to some other disease. From the first mating you would be pretty sure to obtain some chicks with a strong tendency to consumption, for both parents have a weakness in the same direction. From the second mating, the tendency to consumption would be checked by a lack of such a tendency in one of the parents, which might prove the physical salvation of whole broods resulting from this union. In the blood of each there is a tendency to weakness, but the strength of one

offsets and corrects the weakness of the other. These mutual checks are of great service in maintaining the vigor of fowls.

Of course with the introduction of fresh blood antagonistic tendencies may be introduced, but since the adoption of a uniform standard for each variety, breeders have the same end in view, and there is less danger in introducing fresh blood than was previously the case. Bred for the same purpose the different strains of a variety are brought closer together in tendencies, and fresh blood may be had which, while strengthening the constitutions of one's stock, does not introduce any, or at least but a comparatively few, objectionable tendencies. This is one thing for which fanciers can be thankful to the *Standard*. It has made fresh blood for fine breeding more available.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that inbreeding is dangerous, even in skillful hands, and in the hands of the inexperienced is almost necessarily disastrous. If fresh blood is introduced, some trouble may arise; if it is not, it certainly will arise. It is the part of wisdom, at least for the beginner, to avoid what is surely dangerous. If he must take chances, let him take those that may turn out well, not those that must turn out ill.

CROSSING.

Closely allied to the foregoing subject is the matter of crossing. Shall the fancier make any crosses, and if so what ones? What are the advantages and disadvantages of crossing?

To answer the last question first we may say that the advantages of crossing Games are an increase of the size,

a greater development of muscle, a greater hardness of feather, a stronger constitution, greater prolificacy, more vigorous procreative powers. In a utilitarian point of view crossing Games is advantageous. The breeder for the pit recognizes this and has his favorite crosses for battle. Its disadvantages are that it destroys the distinctive characteristics of the breeds and makes of color and marking a hopeless jumble.

And yet we have seen that even the fancier in breeding to feather is obliged to resort to some crosses. How were the Duckwings and the Piles produced? By crossing. How are many of the best exhibition specimens produced to-day? By crossing. How were some of the largest Black-breasted Reds produced? By crossing. And it is not inconceivable that even now an occasional cross between the varieties may be advantageously had for the purpose of restoring the brilliancy of feather that may have been in some degree lost.

But if Games are to be crossed, let them be only crossed with Games. Never dilute the royal blood that flows in the veins of Games with other. Let even your cross-bred birds be real Games.

If crosses are made it is well that they should be made with an eye to the resulting color. A certain writer says: "As to crossing and mixing the different colors I think that Piles and Red Duns cross best of all, both being of a light red. Reds will always spoil the color of grays, giving them a tinge of red and brown, but grays do not spoil the reds. The best colored Duckwings are bred from the dark gray cross, though this spoils dark grays. It is well known to all good breeders that cross-

ing colors is very injudicious, as a rule all the best breeders liking each sort to be exactly alike both in shape, in feather and in blood, and disliking all mongrel mixed colors and crosses. In crossing colors when the hens are of a stronger and harder color than the cock, most of the cock chickens will be the color of the hen and the pullets the color of the cock. For instance, in crossing Brown Red hens with a willow-legged Black-breasted Red cock, most of the cocks will be Brown Reds, and most of the pullets of the partridge color. This, however, is not a good cross."

HATCHING.

The Game hens make the best of sitters and mothers. As they are light and active, they neither crush the eggs nor tread upon the chickens. Active and brave, they forage well for their broods and protect them from marauders. Not more than eleven eggs should be set under Game hens on account of their small size. They might cover more and even succeed in hatching them, but one ought not to expect so good results when a too large number of eggs are given. The efforts of a small hen to cover a large nest of eggs remind one of the story of the boy who had put two hundred eggs under a broody turkey hen. "But she can't hatch them," objected the father. "I know it," said the boy; "I didn't give them to her to hatch, but I wanted to see the old fool spread herself."

Cockers have a practice of rejecting what is known as the "clucking egg," that is the egg laid after the hen begins to show signs of broodiness; and also the afternoon eggs, that is eggs laid in the afternoon. While the

former practice can be defended on sound principles, as the last egg of a litter is laid when a hen is in a disturbed condition, weakened by her previous efforts, the latter practice is an indefensible superstition, for there is no reason why an egg laid in the afternoon should not produce as vigorous a chick as one laid in the morning.

Having rejected the "clucking egg," the fancier selects ten or eleven eggs of an even size, and as free from all irregularities as possible. These are placed in a nest, slightly concaved to keep the eggs from rolling out, made upon the earth if possible, by a slight sprinkling of shavings or straw well broken, and rendered vermin proof by a liberal supply of some insecticide like sulphur, tobacco, Dalmatian Insect Powder, or the like. The nest should be in a retired place, removed from the possible visits of other hens, for their visits would be likely to result in bad blood and broken eggs. This would be neither pleasant nor profitable for the owner, whose visions would disappear like those of the milk maid we all used to read about.

CARE OF CHICKENS.

When the period of incubation has passed, that is on the twenty-first day, the expectant breeder is saluted with a peeping sound that tells him he has not waited in vain. He will not disturb the hen for twenty-four hours yet, but allow her to finish hatching and drying the chicks. They need no food; the yolk which they have drawn into their body will be ample nourishment for at least twenty-four hours. At the end of that time the hen and her chicks should be removed to the coop intended for their occupation, and the nest of the sitter destroyed.

Many take the precaution, and it is a wise one, to dust the hen with insect powder and to apply a little of the same effective agent to the heads of the chicks, to guard against lice.

How interesting the little strangers are! It matters not whether they are black, as is the case with young Blacks, Gingers and Brown Reds, or striped as are the young of the Black-breasted Reds, or white as are the offspring of the Whites, they are alike the cause of wonder and admiration. These animated balls of various colored down, with their pert ways and consequential airs, must be properly cared for. Interest and admiration will not rear them. They now need to be fed.

The most successful system of feeding which we have ever practiced, is to feed for the first week upon hard boiled eggs chopped very fine, and mixed with stale bread crumbs. Give only a very little indeed. It is natural for young chicks to receive only the scanty rations the mother scratches out of the ground, and artificial sudden surfeits are injurious and sometimes even deadly. After this, while furnishing an egg now and then for variety, we rely upon oat meal dry, cracked corn, and whole wheat. Dry feed is better than mixed feed,—not that corn meal dough will not nourish them, but in a somewhat extended experience we have found that on dry feed the percentage of losses is much smaller.

Cooked meat cut into very small pieces and fed twice a day will be found a valuable addition to their diet. Ground oyster shell and granulated bone are kept before them constantly, and they are allowed to eat just as much of this as they choose. Pure water or water with a little

Douglass Mixture or tincture of iron is also kept before them at all times, and frequently renewed to insure its freshness.

For the first month the chicks should be fed about five times a day,—morning, mid-forenoon, noon, mid-afternoon, and evening,—but after that three times will be found sufficient.

The coop and its surroundings should be kept scrupulously clean. Cleanliness is a great preventive of vermin and disease. Without it no system of feeding can secure the best results.

We have met with the greatest success by confining the hen, but allowing the chicks to run out, and pick the green grass after the dew is off. But they should not be allowed to run in the wet grass. If one cannot permit the chicks to get at the grass, some substitute should be supplied. Finely chopped lettuce, cabbage and so forth, with an occasional onion, will be beneficial.

With the best of care occasionally a chick will be found to be drooping. When one is discovered in this condition a careful examination should be made for lice, and even if none are found it will do no harm to grease the chick's head with pure lard, or to dust it with Dalmatian powder or buhach. We then mix some corn meal or shorts with boiling water and add a dash of cayenne pepper as a stimulant. Cayenne pepper is one of the best stimulants for man, beast or bird, in the whole range of stimulating substances, and a single dose often restores to his wonted activity many a chick that might otherwise be lost.

By taking these precautions whole broods may be

reared without the loss of a single member. Farmers often calculate to hatch seventy-five per cent. of the eggs and to rear but fifty per cent. of the chickens, or in other words they do not expect to rear much more than one chick for every three eggs set. But this need not be so, as we have practically demonstrated again and again. We should expect to raise ninety-five per cent. of all the strong chickens hatched, and it can be done, barring accidents, by a proper regard to diet and the observing of the above precautions. Chicks fed and reared in this way, if from good stock, properly mated, will develop into birds that will be the pride of their owner and the envy of his visitors.

FEEDING IN GENERAL.

Breeders of Pit Games have many nice rules for the putting of their birds into condition for hard battle. As these rules have a value for stock in general, we reproduce what is known as

STAMPER'S RULE.

“Ten days before the cock is taken up from his walk to be prepared for battle he should be carefully examined to see that he is a sound fowl; his feathers should be glossy, hard and lie close; if you are fully satisfied from this examination of his soundness you can then spar him with a cock of his own weight until he becomes wearied; should he turn black in the face turn him out, as it will be impossible to get him right in time for the contest. If he does not show any sign of disease, give him a dose of the following physic: Six grains cream tartar and six grains rhubarb made into pills with unsalted butter or

lard. After giving the physic, flirt him a few times, then give him a warm mash of bread steeped in sweetened water or boiled rice and milk; leave him for twenty-four hours and this will have acted sufficiently; he can now be turned out. Give one feed of boiled rice and milk. For the balance of the ten days feed on such grain as he may have been accustomed to, giving an occasional feed of *raw meat* chopped fine, which will be of great advantage should it agree with him.

"11th. Having been prepared as above suggested, the cock will now be taken up preparatory to being fed and drilled for the pit. Cut off his spurs, which should be done with a small saw made for the purpose, leaving about half an inch. Flirt him until he seems tired, then give him warm sulphur water. Late that evening physic as before directed, spar him, then give him a mash of barley or oat bread and milk to work off the physic.

"12th. At twelve o'clock to-day feed boiled rice and milk, late in the evening flirt him, then give warm sulphur water.

"13th. Clean out your coop well, then wash your cock's mouth, legs and feet, wipe dry and put him back into the coop. His first feed should be barley or oat meal bread moistened with skimmed milk or water. Give him three feeds of this, and his drink should be barley water three times that day. Flirt him.

"14th. Feed oat bread and scalded barley mixed; at twelve o'clock oat bread and the white of a hard boiled egg; late in the evening exercise by flirting, feed with scalded barley and corn bread. Give him free-stone water three times for drink.

“15th. Feed corn bread and raw beef chopped fine and mixed, in the morning, oat bread and the white of a hard boiled egg at twelve o'clock, flirt him in the evening for exercise, feed oat bread and scalded barley; give barley water cool three times and let him roost at night.

“16th. Feed oat bread and raw beef chopped fine and mixed, in the morning; at twelve o'clock feed with corn bread and the white of a hard boiled egg. Exercise him in the evening by flirting and feed him oat bread and scalded barley. His drink should be spring water and milk. Let him roost at night.

“17th. Feed corn bread and scalded barley mixed, in the morning; at twelve o'clock feed on oat bread and the white of a hard boiled egg. In the evening flirt him for exercise, and feed corn bread and scalded barley mixed. His drink should be barley water three times. Let him roost at night.

“18th. Feed barley bread and the white of a hard boiled egg in the morning. At twelve o'clock feed corn bread and the white of a hard boiled egg. Flirt him in the evening, and feed on oat bread and scalded barley. Let him roost at night.

“19th. Feed corn bread and scalded barley. At twelve o'clock feed oat bread and the white of a hard boiled egg. Flirt in the evening, and turn loose for a few minutes in a room, but not one in which he cannot get FRESH AIR. Feed corn bread and scalded barley.

“20th. This being the day of battle, give him a light feed of oat bread early in the morning, and in about one hour a drink of spring water and milk.”

Such is the care recommended for the fitting of a cock

for battle. What must his condition be in order to win? Must he not be strong, in perfect health, hard from exercise, and not rendered sluggish by too much fat?

And what ought to be the condition of a breeding cock to insure the fertility of every egg? Ought he not also to be strong, in perfect health, hard from exercise, and not rendered sluggish by too much fat? Would it not pay breeders to take a hint from the cocker, and put their breeding birds in as good form for reproduction as he does for fighting.

What are the principles which underlie this system of fitting? Are they not the following?

- 1st. Plenty of exercise.
- 2d. Variety of food.
- 3d. Food of a strengthening and not of a fattening character.
- 4th. Careful attention to the digestive organs.
- 5th. Fresh air.
- 6th. Scrupulous cleanliness.

These principles are equally applicable to breeding stock, and he is the wise man who takes a hint wherever he can find one. Let us learn from the cocker how to take better care of our breeding stock in order that we may meet with better success in breeding fowls, in doing away with complaints about infertile eggs, and in meeting with more satisfactory results in rearing our broods. Like begets like. Strong parents have strong children. Health as well as disease is hereditary. Therefore breeding stock ought to be in the pink of condition.

PREPARING GAMES FOR EXHIBITION.

Fowls for exhibition need to be in the finest possible

condition. In those varieties where weight counts much, as in Brahmas and Cochins, the fowls should be quite fat, not so fat as to make them appear over-fed and sluggish, with a tendency in the hens to dropping down, but as fat as they can be and yet preserve all their outward fine points. But in Games there is no need of this superfluous fat. The bird should be well nourished, the muscles full and plump, but fat is unnecessary. A Game should look slender, tall and erect, and too much adipose tissue tends to the reverse of this appearance. No better rule for fitting a Game for exhibition can be given than has already been given for fitting one for battle, with the exception of "sparring" him with other cocks and removing his spurs for the adjustment of gaffs.

The cock and hen should be kept separate until just before the show, as their plumage will be in better condition for this separation. The fowls should be kept scrupulously clean and should be put into cages every day for some time before the exhibition to accustom them to such confinement. They should be confined in the cages but a few hours at a time.

White birds are improved by washing all over, and the legs, feet and heads of all birds should be carefully sponged off. The addition of a little alcohol to the water will be advantageous, as it will have a tendency to brighten the red of their faces, and also will prevent their taking cold.

If the fowls are colored, the back of the cages should be white or light gray, as this will serve to bring out their colors more clearly by the contrast. White birds

need a dark background to their cages for the same reason.

Care should be taken in shipping them to the exhibition so that they need not take cold. A cloth coop furnishes ventilation and avoids draughts. If it is very cold weather, paper tacked around three sides of the coop will keep them warmer.

The sum of the whole matter may be expressed in a few words.

1. Have your fowls in perfect health.
2. Have them in full feather.
3. Have them scrupulously clean.
4. Exhibit them in suitable coops.
5. Avoid colds in shipping.
6. Avoid too much fatness.

By attention to these matters, birds will be in a condition to show to the best of advantage, and their scores will not be reduced by cuts on condition, symmetry and station, which figure up a good many points on the score card.

THE PLEASURE OF GAME BREEDING.

In the breeding of all fowls, when intelligently pursued, there is an indescribable pleasure; and of all varieties there is none more suitable for this purpose than the Game. It matters not whether one's choice is the noble Black-breasted Red, his darker hued brother, the Brown Red, the exquisite Duckwing, or any other of the standard varieties, in the development of fine specimens he cannot fail to receive much pleasure. The rapidity of reproduction, in comparison with mammals, enables one of an experimental turn of mind to make numerous experiments

for the purpose of demonstrating the effects of different matings upon figure and color; the constant change from the downy covering of the chick to the mature feathering of the fowl awakens an unflagging interest; the peculiar traits of character exhibited by the different birds, their loves and hates, their gallantries and rivalries, afford an increasing fund of amusement; the comparisons which may be drawn from their acts and similar acts of man often provoke merriment or lead to serious reflection; the study of the laws of life, nowhere more easily prosecuted than in the poultry-yard, may lead to results of wide applicability, by which the student not only is made wiser, but the world better.

There is a distinct literature of the Game fowl, and although this relates chiefly to their origin and the history of cock pits we cannot refrain from quoting a few scraps for our entertainment. We have sedulously omitted the various rules for gaffing and the numberless regulations for cock fighting, because of our conviction that the prohibition of this sport by statute laws of various states has been wisely made with a view to promote the morals and welfare of civilized society. Cocking mains are fitted for a rude state of society, and indicate an uncultured condition of the mind. "The slaughter of the innocents" at a cocking main, the sudden transfer of wealth from one to another, of those who have staked their all upon the issue of a battle or a main, tend to unsettle the public mind and divert it from those steady channels of business upon which public prosperity rests. For these great reasons of public policy cocking has fallen into disrepute, and mains are now fought in most states only in violation of

law, under cover of the night, and with guards out to warn of the dreaded advance of the police. Violation of law cannot be commended, even if the law is a bad one, as it serves to bring all laws into contempt, and so we must rejoice when cock fighting shall become wholly a thing of the past. But the noble Game will still be bred, for beyond his uses for the pit arise other and nobler uses. His popularity will not wane, but will increase, for he has to a certain extent gotten a bad name from the uses to which he has been put, which deters many men from breeding him. "Do you breed *Games*?" is asked.

"Yes," is the answer.

"But I shouldn't think you would breed fighting birds," says the objector.

This may be a foolish superstition on the part of the public, but cocking mains serve to keep it alive and give some color to the prejudice. But with the disappearance of the last vestiges of this sport, many admirers of this truly admirable fowl, clergymen, business men and others, can safely breed them without being brought under the suspicion of fighting them on the sly. Congregations will not watch with solicitude their beloved pastor even if he does happen to fancy Games. Business men will not be looked at askance as being in alliance with questionable characters because their yards rejoice in fine specimens of the Black-breasted Red. Clerks and mechanics, if they oversleep, will not be suspected of having been at a cock fight the night before because they fancy Brown Reds or Duckwings. It is really for the interests of Game fanciers to have the cock pit done away with.

Cock fighting used to be regarded as a legitimate kind

of amusement, like bear baiting, bull fights, dog fights and similar sports. It was patronized by monarchs, encouraged by the nobility, engaged in by school-boys with the approval of their masters, and was considered the fitting sport of the mass of men. Courage and loyalty were supposed to be developed and promoted by it, and the nation's life and defence thus more surely secured. Such notions have passed away. In nations where the sport has been prohibited by law the profession of arms has not fallen into desuetude, courage has not vanished and loyalty has not disappeared. If we desired an illustration of this, we need but to point to our own citizen soldiery and their gallant conduct in battle during the late civil war. At no time did men more eagerly spring to arms in defence of their country, and by no men were lives laid down and blood poured out more cheerfully. Without cock fights a nation may be brave, and the martial spirit not wanting.

After a time cock fighting came under the ban of the law. In Ireland where it had flourished under the protection of the law, it was finally prohibited. Cock fights of course did not entirely cease, but they had to be carried on more secretly. Dr. Cooper relates the following amusing scene :

“At a cock fight in Dublin one night, the police came in upon the crowd, and ‘sich a gitting up stairs you never did see’ by all of the crowd, except one fellow, who was one of the chief men at the main, and who ran about the pit catching the cocks, putting them into bags and handing them over to the police, as if he had just come in with them, and was anxious to break up the

whole concern. 'We don't want the cocks,' said the police. 'But what the——shall be done with them—they will get them and go to fighting them again, if they are left here,' replied *the stranger*. 'Then we depute *you* to take care of them,' said the chief of the party; and thus did the *proprietor* save his own and his opponents' cocks, and they fought them afterwards."

"Privateer," one of the old correspondents to *Porter Spirit*, says: "Cocking, in a philosophical point of view, was ably treated by that rare wit and ripe scholar, the late Dr. Maginn. I think I can remember the verses, though it is twenty years, or thereabout, since I read the novel, 'John Manesty, or the Liverpool Merchant,' in which they are. The scene is in Lancashire; the place, Bullock Smithy, a country hamlet; the name has been changed, by some sentimentalizer, to 'Rosedale.' The *dramatis personæ*, a young lord, a sporting baronet, a tippling parson, who is waiting for the old rector of Everton carn Toffy to die, that he may succeed to the benefice, a sporting character who once fought Jack Broughton, and rejoices in the cognomen of 'Broken-nosed Bob,' and other worthies, have been exhibiting a main of cocks; becoming convivial afterwards, the tippling parson obliges the company with a song—

'The main is fought and passed,
 And the pit is empty now—
 Some cocks have crowed their last,
 While some more loudly crow,
 From the shock!
 In the world the same we see,
 Where'er our wonderings be,
 So here's a health to thee, jolly cock!

When once you're stricken down,
 And the spur is in your throat,
 You are surely over—crown
 By the world's insulting note,
 Fierce in mock !
 However game you be,
 In the day of thought and glee,
 So here's a health to thee, jol'y cock !

Then with eyes and feathers right,
 And with spurs sharp and prime,
 In condition for the fight,
 And sure to come to time
 As a clock !
 We will crow out bold and free,
 With no care for what may be,
 So here's a health to thee, jolly cock!"

Leaving the tipsling parson to sing over again, if he likes, his convivial song, to the loud *encore* of his revelling companions, we take leave of our subject, trusting that the reader has been instructed, if not entertained, and that he will not allow any breed, however good, to wean him from one of the oldest and most beautiful of all thoroughbred fowls, one that has a pedigree antedating most breeds and a history which in interest is second to none, the noble, the stately, the resplendent, the symmetrical, the graceful Game fowl. Yet we cannot leave the topic of mains and the cock pit without refuting this specious argument so often brought forward: *Games love to fight, and therefore it is not cruel to afford them facilities for mutilating each other.*

One apologist for cock fighting has given us perhaps

the most forcible plea for this beastly, brutal amusement ever written, which we quote from the *Poultry World* of May, 1876, p. 133, as follows:

“The venerable Dr. Watts says in his well-known hymns (we knew them all when a boy) that we should ‘let dogs delight to bark and bite, for ’tis their nature to.’ Every one takes delight in seeing ‘delight.’ Nothing is of the least use to young people (nor, by the way, of much use to old ones) but what interests them. We are not all made alike. We love the beauties of nature, and find true happiness in the observation and study of the same, whether we admire the delicate moss by the roadside, the grass on which we tread, fruits and flowers, or animals and their different natures. Vanity, when seen in a brute, is pleasant, though to be deprecated in the human species. Ferocity is the pure essence of tiger and demon. It casts on the human face the paleness alike of the horse of death and the ashes of hell. We see vanity and courage, but not ferocity, in the Game cock.

“We are to take it for granted that every creature is in some way good, and has naturally a duty and a specific operation to perform. What is it in a Game cock? We are to look to the natural instincts of each, and derive pleasure from their entire perfection and fitness for the duty they have to perform, and in their entire fulfillment of it; and so we are to take pleasure and find grounds for admiration, for instance, in the magnificent courage of the Game cock, and his adaptation to fighting (*i. e.*, delight), as of the canary for singing.

“Now, I hold that every village or family in the land ought to breed Game cocks; there would be less bad and more good than now. We all want a bird for dinner on Sundays. I breed Black Leghorns for beauty and to reach a high standard, and they are not to be surpassed; but they take ‘delight’ in a different way from the Games.

“I also breed fifty-three Game cocks—fifty-two for eating, one for breeding—and do it in this way. Every Saturday afternoon I let together two Game cocks, which take ‘delight’ and afford me the

same (and sometimes some friends from city and country), when the one that gets the *least delight* has his head taken off for not illustrating the principle of 'the survival of the fittest' in the struggle or existence. At the end of the year the cock that 'survives' is kept as a breeder, and we are each Sunday furnished a bird for dinner besides the assistance in our admiration of the beauties of nature. This pastime also dispels *ennui* for the day, which is born of many of our Saturdays. If this practice of affording 'delight' to both birds and men were generally followed, it would save much time which might otherwise be spent in dissipation, or worse. St. Peter was lying and swearing when the cock crew thrice. The cock very likely had been fighting, or *affording delight*, which was much better than spending time in telling lies and profanity.

R. W."

East Windsor Hill.

The fallacy of R. W.'s argument may be detected by the aid of a little anecdote. When the writer was a lad a schoolfellow of ours had a most ungovernable temper. Life and limb of the by-standers were in danger if an axe, knife or club was at hand when the quick tempered boy was exasperated by the taunts and gibes of his mates. Stones of a convenient size for throwing were always at hand on the play-ground, and on one occasion a boy had his head cut open by one of these thrown by his frenzied schoolmate. Now apply the course of reasoning R. W. applies to his Games. It is "the nature" of the passionate boy to fight on provocation, therefore provoking him to deeds of violence is justifiable. Here you have it in a nutshell.

A STUMBLING BLOCK.

There is a stumbling block that sometimes appears in the way of tyros who are keeping Games. The word

“game” is used to convey two separate meanings. “Is he game?” some one asks regarding a cockerel, meaning will he fight to the death, or is he cowardly, no reference whatever being intended to be made to the question of the bird’s descent with unmixed blood from pure-bred Game stock. Again, perhaps a questioner asks what breed a certain cockerel is of, and the reply is: “He is Game.” The meaning here is that the bird is not Hamburg or Brahma or Polish but that he is *of the breed of Games*. No assertion is meant to be conveyed at all regarding his fighting qualities, for there are Games and Games. Some fight well and some do not.

Now it has happened again and again that readers have mistaken one use of the word “game” for the other, and hard thoughts and recrimination have followed.

There are strains of *Standard of Excellence Games*, or “fancy Games,” whose owners never pretend to fight them or to breed them for fighting qualities or to cherish these qualities in their birds. But they advertise *Games*, and parties purchase, thinking that “game” means *fight*, and after testing the courage of their new acquisitions the buyers are “mad as a March hare.”

The following letter throws light on the meaning wrapped up in the word “game:”

IS IT SWINDLING ?

“H. H. STODDARD, *Sir*:—The subscriber would like to know if it is swindling for a party to advertise in any journal or book, ‘Game fowls for sale,’ and in answer to letters of inquiry say he has no such fowls. Of course he does not say it in so many words, but in this wise: ‘My stock is bred from such a strain and so and so’s

breed; would not feel justified in warranting these Dead Game; do not test my stock and never shall, but consider them amply able to defend themselves.' Or: 'I always supposed my fowls were Game, but do not practice cock fighting. I have confidence in them, and they are *very fierce*.' Another writes: 'I know they are Game, because they don't *squeal when I catch them*.' Again, you write to some breeder after this fashion: 'Dear Sir—I wish to purchase a pair of Red Piles or Black-reds (whatever it may be), standard birds and Dead Game; if they are not Dead Game I do not want them, as I can get plenty of dunghills, and splendid feathered birds, too, at from 50 cents to \$1.00 each.' His answer totally ignores your questions, and it reads like this: 'Your favor at hand. I have a pair of Black-reds that won 1st, 2d, or 3d at——show, very gamy-looking birds, which you may have for——.'

"Now, I should be pleased to have some person give me the true definition of Game, or Dead Game. If it is a fowl that will stand a steel test at from one year to one and one-half years old, then I say there are parties that advertise what they have not got. But if they are merely a fowl of high station, with comb and wattles trimmed, and different color, just such eyes and legs, then *I have no Games*. All quotations are extracts from letters that I have received from breeders of the so-called Games within the last six months.

"Now, please allow me space to say a word to amateurs buying Game fowls. If you do not want to be disappointed, do not buy of any one unless he gives you the privilege of refunding your money, and unless he warrants them Dead Game. Such stock you can use in the show or in the pit; you can furnish parties wanting fowls for the pit or the exhibition room. I do not approve of cock fighting for bets, or pleasure, but consider it no more than just and fair to personally test your stags or cocks in the spring. Now, is it swindling to advertise fowls as Games and not know whether they are Games, or is it just and fair? I should like to have an answer, so that parties in quest of Games should first know whether there was such a breed.

ON THE SQUARE."

Now it must be kept in mind of course that the type

of our Game fowls has been fixed or at least preserved through centuries and even thousands of years of selection on the basis of fighting qualities. The shape of the bird which is fixed by "thoroughbred breeding" is that of the active, lithe, muscular, fighting character, and the Games of the present and of the future possess and are bound to possess the fighting shape essentially of the ancestral stock even if the qualification of courage is neglected by those who keep and breed them.

Trevor Dickens gives the following very complete description of the characteristic Game shape :

"The beak should be strong, curved, long and sharp ; the comb, single, small and thin, low in front, erect and evenly serrated ; it is usually red, but sometimes darkish red. Head, long and sharp, with the face and throat lean and thin. Ear-lobes, small and red, never whitish. Neck, long, strong and well arched ; the hackle, short, hard, close, firm and broad in the feather. Back, short, and very hard, both in flesh and feather ; broad at shoulders, narrow at tail, and rounded at the sides. Breast, broad and very hard, but not by any means too lean or too full—the last would be useless weight ; a good hard breast is most essential, as it is the most vulnerable part of the bird. The rump should be narrow, neat and short ; the saddle-feathers, close, hard and short. Wings, very strong, and of just a medium length, well rounded to the body, and carried neither high nor low, but so as to protect the thighs. Very long winged birds are usually too long in the body, and short-winged birds too broad in the stern. Tail, neither long nor short, but medium length, and carried erect to show good spirit, but not 'squirrel

fashion' over the back ; it should be well 'fanned,' or spreading, and the sickle-feathers of a good round full curve, and standing clearly *above* the points of the quill tail-feathers. Very long-tailed birds are soft and long-bodied, and short-tailed birds are too short-winged, and often have broad rumps. Thighs, short and very muscular, hard and firm ; placed well wide apart, and well up to the shoulders, in order to give a fine forehand, and make the bird stand firm on his legs ; which latter should be sufficiently long, but not too much so, and placed wide apart as the thighs. Spurs, low down, long, sharp, and rather thin ; a little curved upward, not turning in too much. Feet, flat, broad, spreading and thin ; the claws and the nails, straight, long and strong ; the back claw especially long and flat to the ground, to give a firm footing. The whole plumage should be *very* close, short and hard, with glossy reflections, and the quills or stems strong and elastic. Body in hand short and very hard, and the general carriage, upright, quick, fierce and sharp. The back is best rather curved, provided it be flat *cross-wise*, and not hump-backed or lop-sided. Weight not over $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

"The hen should correspond in form, but, of course, in proportion, hardness of flesh and feather, with shortness of body, being main points. Good hens generally become spurred, and such breed the hardest and best cocks. The proper weight of a hen is from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

"A short or clumsy head, short or soft neck, long body, narrow shoulders, long thighs, legs set close together, loose or soft plumage, and especially what is known as

a 'duck-foot,' are very serious defects. It should be remembered that a Game fowl is always judged mainly by reference to its fighting qualities, and anything that interferes with them is a fault of the bird."

The attention of the reader is called to the concluding sentence, which claims that the fighting type as regards shape, plumage and carriage should always be kept in mind; and with this we agree even if the "peaceable strains" of the "Exhibition Games" or "fancy Games" or "Standard of Excellence Games" are to be cultivated rather than Pit Games.

In the *Standard of Excellence*, under the list of points in Games, will be found one which is assigned a conspicuous position as regards the number of points allotted to it, and which we judge from the many queries we have received for information concerning it, is not well understood. We refer to "Station." What is "station"? Many who would fain be considered experts in judging Games, fail when brought to the test of scoring for "station."

This term is applied to a certain indescribable carriage, an air of aristocracy, a bearing conveying to the discriminating and sympathetic beholder that blue blood fills every vein. A bird may have perfect symmetry, a faultless plumage, with health and vivacity, and be considered by Mr. A. a perfect specimen, while Mr. B. misses in this specimen what he finds in another, termed "station," and in *scoring* cuts the first one for the defect. An infusion of Game blood into other breeds of fowls will have a marked effect, as we have before stated, and it is largely owing to this very trait, the proud bearing

or station which is displayed and which remains stamped on the progeny for many generations. One who has looked through a picture gallery of some old family, whose ancestry can be traced many generations back, will have noticed the fact that, after a new type appears, perhaps as introduced by the marriage of a son with some distinct family, this new infusion appears stamped on the descendants, not so much in the features and complexion as in expression and deportment or carriage. The same features with an entirely different expression will make an entirely different appearing person. And this truth may be carried into lower types of animal life with the same application. The necessity therefore of being able to distinguish the true rank of a bird as regards station will be seen.

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