

subject, it would be, that the present will soon be followed by another "standard" claiming to be the authoritative one.

Correspondence.

ORIGIN OF GAME FOWLS.

A friend of mine residing in your city was kind enough to send me the February number of the *National Live Stock Journal*, in which there is a letter signed "Quidam," and is intended to be an answer to my letter of the 7th December on "Game Fowl." I am certainly thankful to the author of the letter in the *Stock Journal* for his kindness in answering my letter; but he has not, as I consider, proved that some of the arguments I adduced were not correct. He has cited various authors, and in one instance he states that such a cross as that mentioned by me has been produced, but he says the bird was dull, and anything but what was expected; and he further says this bird would not breed with the hens. This may be, as the bird I saw would, when placed with the hens, treat them in a very unkind manner, and, I was informed, had killed a couple of them. He was certainly very vicious and destructive.

I would have rested contented if "Quidam" had given some expression as to what he considered the origin of the "Game Fowl." This he has abstained from, perhaps thinking he might fall into an error. He has not shown, or produced any authority to show that they could not be from the wild cock or fowl of India. As a partial authority for making this statement, I will give a couple of extracts, one taken from a work edited by the Rev. E. S. Dixon, and the other from Tegetmeier. The former says: "The Game Cock approaches nearer to the Malay and Pheasant Malay than to any other variety of fowl."

A very singular variety of Game fowl, said to be of Indian origin, is described in the following communication. The writer describes the variety in a very clear manner. This extract is from a letter written by Mr. B. P. Brent, of Parkmot.

Will my friend Quidam please explain how it happens that in most of the warm or Eastern countries each has a distinctive breed of Game Fowl, either in colour or some other peculiarity, and in some countries they have a particular strain? Will he also please state what has produced the tassel on some breeds of Game; is it from crossing? If so, what cross has produced it? Or does Quidam pretend to say that the various strains of Game fowl are produced by crossing the Game cock with the common Dunghill fowl or other English breed of fowl? This, I am rather inclined to think, he will not maintain; but his letter, or a portion, would lead one to suppose it. It is a well-established fact, that if there is any other breed, no matter how remote, in a Game fowl, it will, when the true test is applied, show itself; so I don't think he will maintain or hold to that doctrine.

Would you, Mr. Editor, or some other person equally interested in these matters, say why it is that all Irish strains of Game fowl are, as a general rule, so much hardier and stronger than the English breeds? For instance, the Irish Greys are considered a dangerous bird to meet in a battle. I know some of the English breeds are also considered strong birds, but not so strong as the Irish. This, I think, may be partially accounted for in the following manner: the English breeders have endeavoured to produce finer birds for exhibition by breeding in-and-in, whereas the Irish breeders have endeavoured to produce strong birds to raise stock. If I am in error, please correct me. Some of the more experienced breeders may con-