

some six or seven years since, from Philadelphia, by the late F. Bloodgood, Esq.

The specimens from which our portraits were taken, were presented to the author by a gentleman of Boston, who informed us he procured them from Maryland, where they were called the "Ostrich Fowl." In a letter accompanying the fowls he says, "This breed are the largest of fowls, and from them you will obtain the largest sized eggs. I have had eggs from this breed weighing $4\frac{1}{2}$ ounces avoirdupois weight. I could have sold fifty pair if I had them to spare."

The colour of the cock is a dark blue-black, with the ends of his feathers tipped with white; wings tinged with a bright yellow, or gold color; hackles dark glossy blue; rose or double comb, and wattles large; bold lively carriage and a stately walk.

The hen does not differ much from the cock in colour, and is very similar in form, being deep, short, plump, and thick-set in body; legs short, of a dark color and of medium size; she has a high, single, serrated comb, generally falling over on one side; wattles large.

This breed has one peculiar quality which we have discovered. When first feathered they are very dark colored; the white tips of the feathers are very small, and on moulting the white increases, and continues to increase with every successive moult until the white predominates. They are esteemed good layers, and for a large breed, good sitters and good mothers; the eggs large and nutritious; the flesh, unlike the Malay, white, firm, tender, and fine flavoured. We consider them in all respects fully equal to the famous Dorking breed.

We are under particular obligations to Dr. R. Kittridge of Portsmouth, N. H., for the following information regarding the Booby Fowl, which, from his description, appears to be the Ostrich Fowl, under a different name. "Booby is a large fowl," says the Doctor, "weighing from 6 to 9 pounds. Of those that I received, the smallest weighed 6 pounds, the largest $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; the cock almost 9 pounds. Their invariable color is a black ground with white spots all over them; the legs are black; they are shaped like a turkey.

They are great layers, and are not so much inclined to sit as the common hen; laying forty or fifty eggs before they are broody. I procured mine from Montgomery County, Pa."

In a letter from the gentleman in Philadelphia, who procured these fowls for the doctor, he says, "I shall send two lots of fowls, a cock and three hens each. The Boobies are speckled, and were furnished by a German, and are no doubt a year old. There will be one hen with the three, that the good honest man said was much superior, and for which he was offered two dollars, on his way to the city. He had no name for this fowl, but said 'these are the greatest fowls ever in our part of the country.'"

The Portsmouth Journal gives an account of two varieties of hens, of more than three times the common size, and of proportionate value, which can be as easily raised as the common hen. "They have been raised by Dr. Kittridge of that town." The editor says, "The kind called 'Boobies,' are spec-

kled. The cock now weighs ten pounds, and some of the hens eight pounds. They are prolific layers; some of their eggs weigh over $3\frac{1}{2}$ ounces each, and measure three inches in circumference."—*Am. Farmer.*

The editor of the Yankee Farmer says: "We have received from our friend Dr. Kittridge of Portsmouth, N. H., six Booby hen's eggs. These hens are considered as the greatest of layers by those who have kept them: and it appears that those which Dr. Kittridge has have laid well after getting over the effects of travelling. Owing to their being moved, they did not lay much for fifteen days; then they (our in number) laid thirty six eggs in ten days, and none showed a disposition to sit excepting one, which he thought was not of the Booby breed."

ON THE BREEDING OF CATTLE.—Up to the time of Collins and Bakewell, cattle and sheep were produced according to the generosity of the land on which their lot happened to be cast. Perhaps we owe it to difficulties of internal communication that very distinct races maintained in some districts of small extent, as compared to the surface of Great Britain, a separate existence. Over the rest of the country some little attention was paid to the qualification of the ox as a beast of draught, but beyond this the cow was merely a milk and calf producing animal. The bull was selected for his proximity, and his best recommendation was that he had given sufficient evidence of the talent which Mr. Shandy desiderated in Obadiah's grave pet. "Their bull gendereth and faileth not." When he had served the parish in this capacity for three or four years, he was discarded from a prevalent and probably well-founded idea that uncanonical connexions were, on more than one account, inexpedient. He was then marched off to Stilton or Porchester Castle to feed French prisoners, or, if his size and substance were favourable, he was degraded into an ox, and took his place in the team. Of his progeny, the males, with the exception of a successor or two in his own vocation and a few oxen for the plough, were made into very immature veal. The females were reared. Such as were seasonably prolific, and as showed milking qualities, succeeded their mothers in the dairy, and the remainder, after having been indulged with the best pasture which the district afforded, served to relieve, with the tenderness of youth, the uniformity of old cow beef which formed the staple supply of the provinces.

Of the pure races we must speak more definitely. England preserved the Devons and the Herefords. We add, with some hesitation, the appropriately named Long-horns, which still struggle for a separate existence in a small district round the point where the counties of Warwick, Derby, Stafford and Leicester approach each other. To fix on a known point, we should say they hail from Atherstone. Some splendid horns from this race are preserved by Lord Bagot at Blithfield. As late as the year in which the General Agricultural Meeting was held at Derby, a bull of this sort obtained a prize. The earliest, and that very recent, representative of the Short-horn, of which we have knowledge, was a large, uncouth, patch-coloured animal from the district of Holderness—a milk-seller's cow. Wales furnished a mean, black, mountain bullock, dignified with the name of a runt, which still appears in considerable numbers in the markets of the western and southern grazing districts. Perhaps the improvement which has of late years been made in this race by the infusion of West Highland blood, can hardly be called a cross. We apprehend that both races speak Gaelic. Scotland gave