

'em" at first sight.

These gentlemen stared at the engravings, exclaimed, "Can it be?" thrust their hands to the very bottom of their long purses, and ordered the stock by return of mail.

In this last mentioned case, I informed my correspondent that I agreed with him in the ideas he had advanced precisely (I usually did agree with such gentlemen), and I entertained no doubt that he was entirely correct in his views as to the origin of domestic fowls, of which he evidently knew so much. (This helped me amazingly.) I pointed out to him the distinction that existed (without a difference) between a "Shanghai" and a "Cochin-China," and finally concluded my learned and unselfish appeal by hinting (barely *hinting*) to him that I felt certain he was the best judge of the facts in the case, and I would only suggest that, so far as my experience went, there were, in reality, but *ten* varieties of pure-bred fowls known to ornithologists (I was one of this latter class), and that these ten varieties were the Cochins, the White, Grey, Dominique, Buff, Yellow, Red, Brown, Bronze and Black *Singhaes*—and these were the only kinds I ever bred.

As to their purity of blood, I could only say, that I imported the original stock myself, and "enclosed" he had their *portraits*; to which I referred with pride and confidence and pleasure, &c., &c., &c. Of their probable merits I must leave it entirely to his own good judgment to decide. I had this stock *for sale*, and it did not become me, (mind this!) didn't *become me* to praise it, of course not, (O no!). And I would say no more, but simply refer him to the public prints for my character as a breeder of blooded stock, etc., etc.

Did this take him down? Well, it did; *vile* the following reply from him, two weeks subsequently:

"MY DEAR SIR:

"I never entertained a doubt that you were *all* you had been represented; and your reputation is, indeed, an enviable one, in the midst of these times, when so much deceit and trickery is being practised among this community. I am flattered with the tone of your kind letter, just received, and I am greatly pleased that you thus readily coincide with me in regard to my opinions touching the fowl race.

"I had come the conclusion that there were but *eight* real varieties of genuine fowls; but I observe that, in your last favor, you describe *ten* strains of pure-bloods, that you know to be such. The portraits of your stock are beautiful. You allude to the 'Bronze' and the 'Dominique' colored *Singhaes*. These must be very fine, I have no doubt; and I gladly embrace the opportunity to enclose you a draft on Merchants' Bank, Boston, for six hundred dollars, in payment for six of each of your splendid varieties of this pure China stock, the like of which (on paper, at least) I have never yet been so fortunate as to meet with.

"Please forward them, as per schedule, in care of Adams & Co's Express; whose agents, I am assured, will feed and water them regularly *three times a day** on the route, and who are universally proverbial for their attention to the birds thus directed and intrusted to their care. I shall order the 'Suffolks' shortly. Yours truly,

"_____,"

I sent this anxious purchaser sixty chickens, at ten dollars each (cheap enough, to be sure), in accordance with his directions, and he was delighted with them. I do not *now* entertain a shadow of doubt that every *one* of those ten "different varieties" were bred from white hens and a black cock of the ordinary "Shanghai" tribe.—*Burnham's History of the Hen Fever.*

For the Review.

Figures for 1871.

I am often asked by parties about investing in pure bred poultry, which variety to get. Now, with your permission, I will answer the question through the REVIEW, which may be of interest to some of your numerous readers. First, then, if any one is about investing in pure-bred poultry for their own fancy and pastime, they should select one or more such varieties as their fancy dictates, as they will enjoy much more pleasure in breeding such varieties than they would in breeding others which might be more valuable to parties breeding for profit, and not for fancy. Second,—for the benefit of those parties who, (like your humble servant,) wish to breed the varieties that will bring in the most dollars, I will give the figures on each variety as I find them in my poultry diary for the year 1871, and down to the time I got the Delaware fever, and left Canada. Although I began to breed fancy poultry as far back as 1860, I did not start my poultry diary until 1871, which found me breeding 13 varieties; and the figures in my diary show the result from each variety, and also the whole amount at the end of the year, which may, perhaps, in some measure, answer the question so often asked, Does fancy poultry pay? Dark Brahmas, sold 30 birds for \$134; most money received for one pair, \$20; for eggs \$25. L. Brahmas, sold 27 birds for \$64; most money received for one pair, \$10; for eggs, \$22. Buff Cochins, sold six birds; most money received for one pair, \$10; for eggs \$9. Partridge Cochins, sold eight birds for \$107; most money received for one pair, \$80; for eggs \$7. White Cochins, sold six birds for \$38; most money received for one pair, \$20; for eggs \$6. Silver Gray Dorkings, sold six birds for \$13; highest pair \$5; for eggs, \$3. White Dorkings, sold two birds for \$5; for eggs

* Certainly—of course. The express agents had nothing else to do but to "feed and water" fowls "three times a day" on the way!