

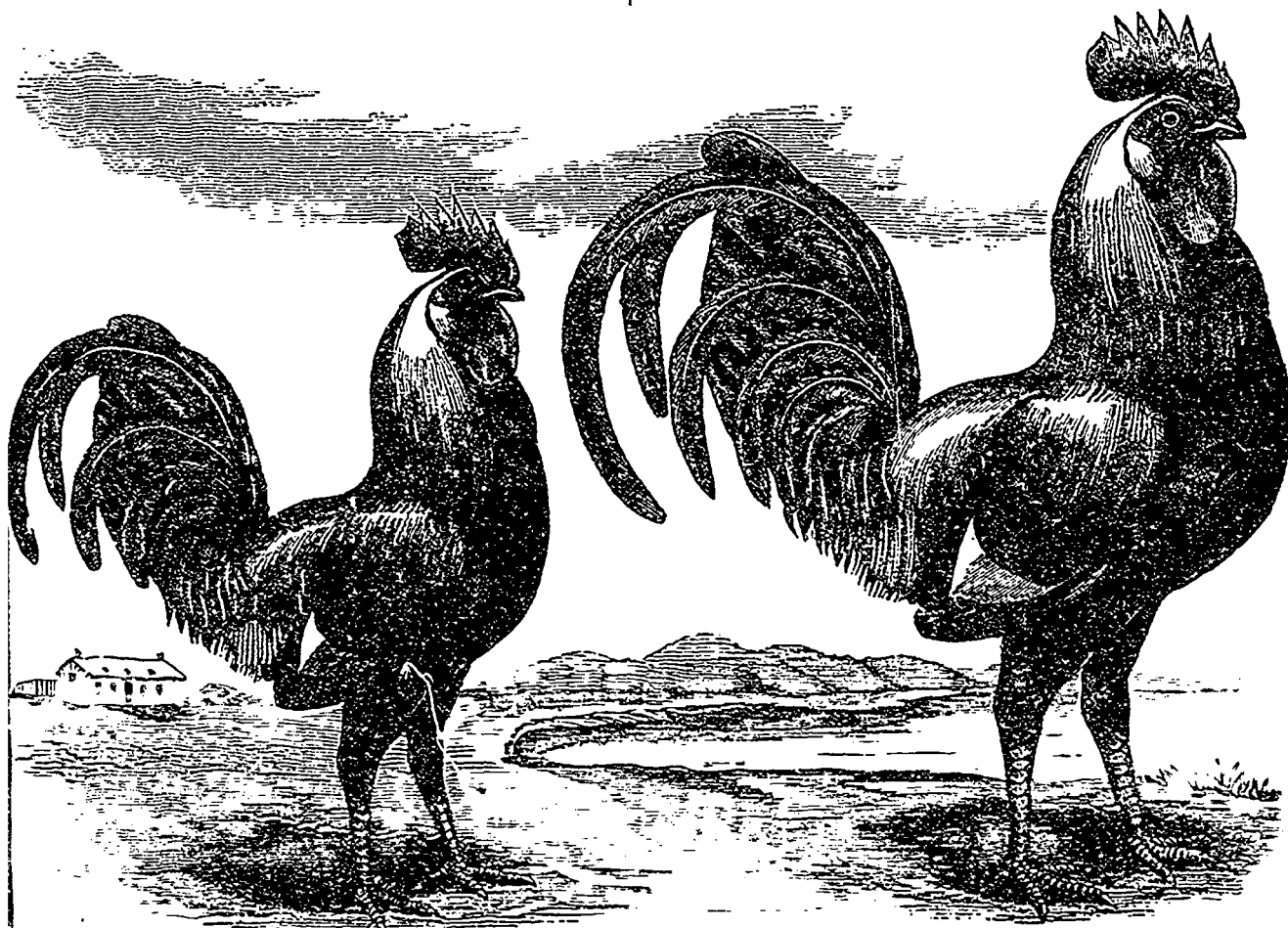
are generally so small and badly dressed for market that often, when they are fatter than many that are properly dressed, by themselves, and would when cooked taste fully as well, their appearance is so bad that they cannot get half the price.

We endorse most fully the following taken from an American Journal: "Poultry keeping in a pecuniary point of view insures the keeper a large percentage over the cost of keeping. It does not require a very profound knowledge of mathematics to compute what ten or twelve dozen eggs would come to, or the value of a bushel of grain. We know on a farm a bushel of grain will feed a hen a year, and we know that it does not cost the farmer over fifty or sixty cents at most. We know also that any of our modern improved varieties (to be modest about it) will with care lay some ten dozen eggs during the year; these, at twelve and a half cents per dozen, gives the farmer a net profit of seventy five cents, without calculating the value of nearly a bushel of the best manure

from each hen yearly and not speak of her own worth or that of her chickens."

Farmers generally are slow to change their ways and listen to timely suggestions, and even slower to give up old usages, and are too apt to be content with following in the same groove as did their ancestors centuries ago, and keep on using the same old methods in the care and breeding of domestic animals. No class of men have better chances for raising good poultry, having large fields, meadows, and orchards for them to wander in and pick up grubs, insects, and worms that infest the vegetation and fruit trees of the homestead.

There are many yards where a few fowls are kept, and yield hundreds of dollars to the keeper in a season. Of course every poulterer is not lucky enough to make such large profits on a few birds. But there is plenty room for others to make good profits even though beginning in a small way. Keep the very best fowls and advertise them well, and you will meet with good results.



### CAPONS.

*A castrated cock; a cock chicken gelded for the purpose of improving his flesh for the table.*

All birds taken under the protection of man and domesticated by him lose a large part of their natural figure, and are changed in habits. Those that have been longest under the direction of mankind have the greatest variety of size, and the most gorgeous plumage. Of all birds the cock was the first reclaimed from the forest and jungle.

The time when the cock was first domesticated in Europe is not definitely known. It is said that we of the Western

World first procured the bird from the kingdom of Persia. It is known to have existed in that country during the time of the earliest monarchs. Since its introduction great improvement has been made, but it is still susceptible of much greater amelioration.

There is a great difference between the flesh and bones of the wild fowl, and that of the domesticated bird; that of wild birds being very dark, while that of the domestic is white. Nations have competed with each other in producing birds of large size, and for the purpose of perfecting them to the greatest degree of beauty of form and plumage; but it is claimed that the India Capon is splendid, bears the most