

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

## Light Brahma Fowls.

### ORIGIN OF DOMESTICATED FOWLS.

There are good reasons for believing that all breeds of the fowl are descended from one wild species, though as the period of domestication reaches so far back their early history is involved in obscurity.—Nothing being known directly and certainly, we can only rely upon circumstantial evidence which on the whole points out the wild "Gallus Bankiva," of India, as the parent stock of all domesticated races, however diverse they may be in present character. Therefore, according to the careful and laborious investigations of naturalists, Cochins, Brahmans, Hamburgs, Polands, Games, Bantams, and all other breeds of fowls have their source in a common ancestry.

### ORIGIN OF THE BRAHMAS.

The two breeds now called Brahmans were founded in the United States upon stock brought from the port of Luckipoor, upon the Brahma Pootra river in India, and landed in New York in September, 1846. The Light Brahma is then by immediate origin an American breed, but by remote descent an Asiatic. There is no sufficient evidence to show that the specimens imported were anything more or less than Indian dunghill fowls. The term blooded or thorough bred could not be applied to them on their arrival here, any more than to the common fowls of this country. The Brahmans have been "worked up" and made over upon our own soil, within twenty-five years, till they breed true in external appearance, and are, therefore, entitled to be called a breed.

### VALUE OF THE BREED.

The Brahmans, either light or dark, are, on the whole, the most valuable breed of fowls in the world. True, a number of non-sitting races rival them as layers, but they can never be kept so universally, because requiring the addition of a sitting breed in order that they may be perpetuated, and ordinarily families do not want to be obliged to keep more than one sort. But Brahmans are suited to everybody's wants. They excel non-sitters in size, and weighty chickens for the table are considered an object in most cases. They are more easily induced to lay in winter when eggs are scarce and high than any of the non-sitting breeds. No other race of fowls will produce as great a value of eggs in a year, the value and the number of eggs being two different matters. They are more docile and good natured than any other breed, excepting their congeners the Cochins. Most breeds are liable to get into a flutter or panic at any little fright, but the Brahmans are so quiet and tame that there is a real satisfaction in their management. There is no breed so well calculated for pets, and amateurs who would make friends with their birds cannot do better than to choose the Brahmans, either light or dark. Save in color there is very little difference between the two breeds. It is of late claimed that the dark variety are a little smaller bodied, and that the cocks before maturity are less gaunt, but the superiority is not very obvious. Brahmans lay at an early age, if fed plentifully, and given a liberal allowance of animal food. Cold has little effect upon this breed, and they endure a winter in Canada or the Northern States better, or at least as well as the common barnyard breeds, which is saying a great deal. The most valuable trait about them is, however, not their capacity to endure cold merely, but their wonderful strength of constitution. Brahma chicks, with any

thing like fair treatment, may be safely expected to live; and we believe there is no breed whatever that can excel them in this respect.

### FAILINGS OF BRAHMAS.

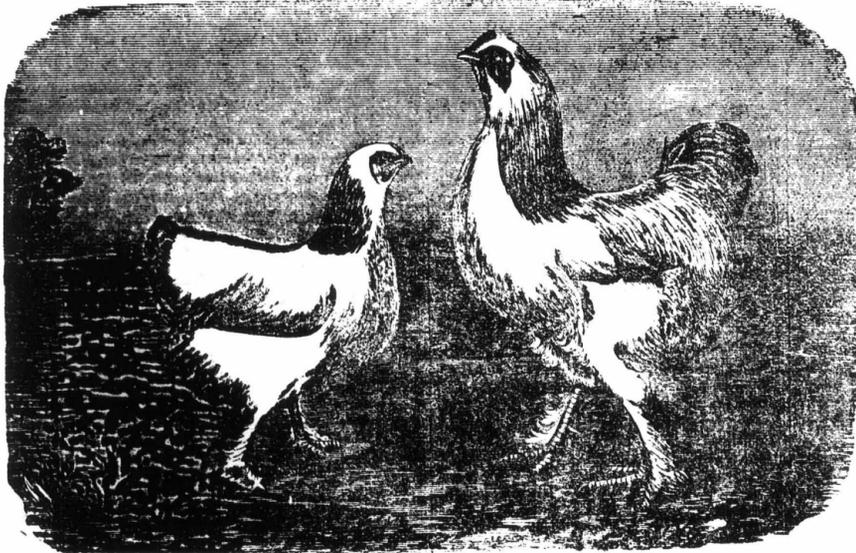
There is no breed that is perfect. It is urged against the Brahmans that they are too much inclined to sit. It is true that they are very troublesome in this respect, especially in warm weather. And the ordinary expedients for breaking up the desire will not avail in their case. If a hen is cooped up by herself after the fit is confirmed, she will sit anywhere, whether she can find eggs to cover or not; and if a nest is not accessible, she will take to a corner upon the ground, or a bare board. Confinement with strange hens, or with a cock, is the only thing that will cure some individuals. Another fault of the breed is, that they are great eaters. But they have a vigorous digestion, and that sort of plump build that in animals of all species signifies a tendency to render a good return in flesh for what is consumed. If their appetite accompanied a frame too big to be proportioned to their flesh, they might be set down as "hard to keep," a designation applicable to some horses and cattle. But a well bred Brahma, when mature, is not a rangy, gaunt creature, but

it not been for the interest of this class, in fowls, we should not have the Brahma. But when a breed is raised to a certain pitch of merit, and its points are become fixed by persistent selection, it is time for practical men to step forward and rescue it before it is sacrificed to whim and fashion.

### DISQUALIFICATIONS IN BRAHMAS.

Birds not matching in the pen, combs not uniform in the pen or falling over to one side, crooked backs, twisted feathers in wing, legs not feathered to the tips of the outer toes, vulture hocks a disqualification in Light Brahmans, and objectionable in Dark Brahmans, not a disqualification; legs of any other color except yellow or dusky yellow.

[We imported a fine pair of this species last season. Mr. J. Plummer, of this city, was so pleased with them that he purchased them. We have since procured eggs from him, and have had chickens raised, and this year we have sold some eggs and still could do so, but as the season is advancing, perhaps our readers would rather procure the birds in the fall of the year, or eggs next spring. In reality, the birds do not belong to your humble servant; but our 4th son John has invested his earnings in poultry and



LIGHT BRAHMANS.

full breasted, broad backed, and inclined to take on fat. In justice, however, no rotundity whatever can be claimed for a Brahma chicken, especially a cockerel when four or five months old. When they are of an age suitable for the gridiron, that is, when they reach two and a half or three pounds, live weight, their shape is better than when some weeks old, when they will be past the age at which they appear so leggy and ugly, and will begin to acquire considerable breast, and depth of body.

### EFFECTS OF IN-BREEDING.

It is the remarkable vigor and stamina of the Brahmans that enables them to resist so well that curse of the fancier's work, close breeding. We hope that intelligent, practical men enough may be found, with minds bent on raising cheaply healthful food for the million, so that this valuable breed may be rescued from the ruin that sooner or later overtakes all races of fowls, kept in the hands of those who breed for fancy to the neglect of utility. A few petty profits may be gleaned by dealers in exhibition fowls, and vanity may be tickled by prizes at shows, but the masses of the people know and care nothing about such things. We advocate a management that shall place more and better eggs and chickens on the poor man's table. We do not ignore the value of the fancier's work either, for had

been. We know you all wish him success in that line. You can communicate with Johnny on the poultry question.]

### Miscellaneous Items.

#### A WATER SPOUT.

During a terrific rain storm which passed over north-western Iowa and Dakota on the night of May 15th, a large water spout descended to the earth, striking a few miles from White Swan, Dakota, covering the earth for a great distance around with water to the depth of 8 to 30 feet. Fortunately it did not strike in the vicinity of any settlement, and no person was injured, but considerable stock was lost.

CONSUMPTION OF EGGS.—The receipts in New York city for nine months of 1871 averaged one thousand barrels per day. A barrel of eggs contains about eighty dozen; the aggregate, therefore, was in one day nearly a million. One thousand barrels of eggs at an average price of 30 cents per dozen amounts to \$24,000 per day, or \$8,790,000 per annum. In this amount there is no estimate made of the number of cases of eggs received per day. From two to ten of these cases are sometimes received per day by one firm, each case containing seventy-two dozen eggs.

BEAN SOUP.—Wash the beans and boil them with salt pork. When soft, take them out, and pass through the colander. Then put them back in the same water they were boiled in, with four hard boiled eggs, cut in quarters, and a lemon sliced, and a little pepper if you like it. Boil again, and serve. This soup is very nice.

### SICK HEADACHE.

Those who have ever had this distressing complaint need no description of it. Its attacks are often so sudden and severe as to make one helpless for a while. If possible, put the feet in a warm bath (coming well up the limbs), to which two teaspoonfuls of clean wood ashes have been added. But this cannot always be done, as the person may be away from home at the time of the attack, or have no one to wait upon him or her, and he too sick to wait on themselves. But a remedy may be kept on hand, that has always eased me when I have tried it: it may be carried in the pocket, so that if attacked from home, as one often is, by taking it, one may soon be relieved. This remedy is honest blossoms, and I take them in this way:—Take what would make, when pressed together, a bunch as large as a chestnut; put it in the mouth and chew, wallowing the juice: as the bile begins to circulate in the stomach a sort of chill is often felt, and the excess of blood circulates from the head to other parts of the system.

I suppose I need not give a description of this plant, as it is so generally known, though often called by different names. Bonaset, or Thoroughwort, is called *Eupatorium perfoliatum*. The whole plant is medicinal, though for headache I use only the blossoms, which appear in August; and I prefer them before they fully blossom as they are not so easily rubbed off and wasted. It grows in wet pastures, and should be gathered when well budded for blooming, or about the first of August. It may be tied in bunches and hung up out of the way, where it will keep clean and dry.

SCARLET FEVER.—Rub all over, often, with bacon rind. Soak a piece in white lye, and put around the neck; let the patient drink freely of cold water, and keep from the cold air, but give fresh air. Wash often with saleratus water, and let the patient drink it. This treatment has been very successful.

THE BEST BUTTER.—It has been proved that cows make the richest butter when they first go out to pasture in the spring; that they produce the hardest butter when fed on dry food; that butter made during the fall is best for keeping. The town of Rennes, in Brittany, is noted for its peculiar butter; the milk of the previous evening is mixed with the warm morning's milk, and the mixture allowed to stand for two or three hours, when the whole is churned. Those who practise this plan claim that they thereby obtain a larger amount of butter of a more delicate flavor.

CABBAGE LOUSE.—The *American Agriculturist* pronounces as the best remedy for the ravages of this pest of the garden, lime slacked dry with water, in which carbolic acid has been dissolved, one part, and dry air-slacked lime, three parts; mix together and sprinkle on the leaves, while wet with dew. When they are very numerous on a leaf it is better to remove it and destroy the insects by burning.

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