

ACT THE SECOND

SCENE. The farm yard. Rooster is addressing the hens and cocks.

Rooster

He lies within a dungeon, cold and dark,
For aught we know the last remaining spark,
Of life has almost altogether fled
Perhaps our only champion is dead.

Cockerel (bursting in)

Ho! comrades, come the warders are asleep,
E'en now they rest in slumber calm and deep.
Come to the Gamecock's rescue e'er they wake.
Make haste! The king, at dawn his life will
take!

Rooster

Come, friends, the night is drawing to an end,
How many here the Gamecock will befriend?
(Everybody steps forward)

Rooster (addressing hens)

Nay, wait you here—come, friends, let us away,
We'll rescue him before the dawn of day.
(Exit all but hens)

(In a few moments they bring Gamecock)