

and declare them a fraud, and upon inquiry, one usually finds that the reason for this decision is, that they are too tender and will not stand the winter; and when a fancier claims for his birds equal hardiness with the common or barn-yard variety, he claims for them a power of endurance which they do not possess, and eventually injures the reputation of his variety, among farmers at least. How many proofs of this have we in the public press every now and then, an ominous cloud of disappointment and dissatisfaction rolls up from some rural district, and coming into contact with the cooler atmosphere of the press, descends in a copious shower of condemnation upon the devoted heads of fanciers.

I do not wish to accuse or even seem to accuse fanciers of intentional misrepresentation, when they claim equal hardiness with the common, for their fowls; but I am confident that those who make such an assertion are not aware of the kind of treatment which the common usually get. What would a fancier think of finding his flock on the coldest and most stormy morning of this winter with but little more than their heads sticking out of the snow? Yet I have known this to happen repeatedly with a flock of common this winter, and not one, apparently, a whit the worse. The following instances which have come under my own observation prove conclusively the superiority of the common in this respect:—Three flocks of pure-bred birds, each a different variety, have perished from among common fowls in this neighborhood this winter; and the owner in each case has assured me that they want no more fancy fowls; that they do well enough for me, who has plenty of time to attend to them, but don't suit farmers. Again, some who were frozen in the barn-yard try to mend the matter by jumping into the fire; so hard is it to get at that happy medium, lying in this case as in many others, about midway between the extremes—they build frost-proof houses which necessarily partake of the nature of a root-house. Now, in my humble opinion, it is not so much heat they require as shelter from wind and storm, to keep them healthy. I am keeping two flocks this winter, and in the house in which they are kept a vessel of water freezes solid when left all night, and the ice has to be broken several times during the day—and yet I have not had a nipped comb this winter, and they have layed right along.

But let us assume that a farmer is prepared to furnish the requisite accommodation, which variety will be most suitable? I think this can be best determined by considering what he requires of his birds. It might be asked with reason, What more can he reasonably expect than eggs and chicks in return for food given? Or what

more from his cow should he expect than others receive? but he gets more nevertheless. Most of his stock is a double source of advantage to him. When I keep a cow I find that the price of her food has to be entered on Dr. side of cow account, while a farmer takes his pen and dashes off with the greatest complacency, cow account Cr. by so much land food. His cow, in addition to supplying him with milk, &c., is a machine by which a comparatively useless article is converted into food for his land, thus performing an invaluable work and gaining her own support in the performance of it. His fowls have, in the same way, to perform their part in the economy of the farm, he finds in them no mean auxiliary in the warfare against destructive insects. Secondly, they are expected not only to live but also to grow fat and ready for market off what is unavoidably left upon the ground in harvest. For these reasons his fowls must be active and have free range. And it is also obvious, that if they are to remain pure, he must keep but one variety; therefore, the non-setting varieties do not suit him, though having so many qualities in their favor. But the question naturally suggests itself, Can he not keep the setting kind closed in during the hatching season? In the first place that would mean all summer, and in the second, he won't, and that is the end of it, for he has too much else to attend to of infinitely more importance. But I have heard it remarked that if proper accommodations were provided the lady part of the establishment might look after this—it would be such a pleasant duty, such an agreeable exercise; admitted on the condition that she is in need of exercise, but in my opinion the farmer's lady is already the most severely exercised farmer of the two. And, though I am an admirer of the grand old Asiatics, I am compelled to admit that they too are out in the cold to a certain extent, though the Light Brahma is a pretty fair forager, and of all the Asiatics probably the most suitable for the farmer; but there is another feature to the subject which tells against these birds. In winter, the farmer desires that his birds shall be out in the barn-yard during the day, and a splendid place it is too for them, being generally sheltered by buildings to north, west, and frequently to east also; and trodden down solid by stock, it is warm here even when old Boreas is trying to freeze your ears off outside. But this yard is generally crowded with larger stock, which, on a warm day, are kicking up all kinds of antics, and the heavy, slow Cochins, and even Brahmas are liable to be trodden upon and killed.

Now, taking the data laid down, which variety would seem to meet the conditions most completely? Games and Dorking do to a certain extent un-