

The Derby Game Fowl.

We do not admire the cock-pit, or any of the brutal exhibitions that take place there, though we do admire the game fowl, particularly the Derby, ranking as it does as one of the oldest breeds in England. It is the many superior qualities, apart from those of fighting, possessed by this noted fowl that command our highest admiration. Those who breed games say their flesh is finer-grained and whiter, and their bone lighter than that of any other fowl. The eggs are larger in proportion to the weight of the bird than those

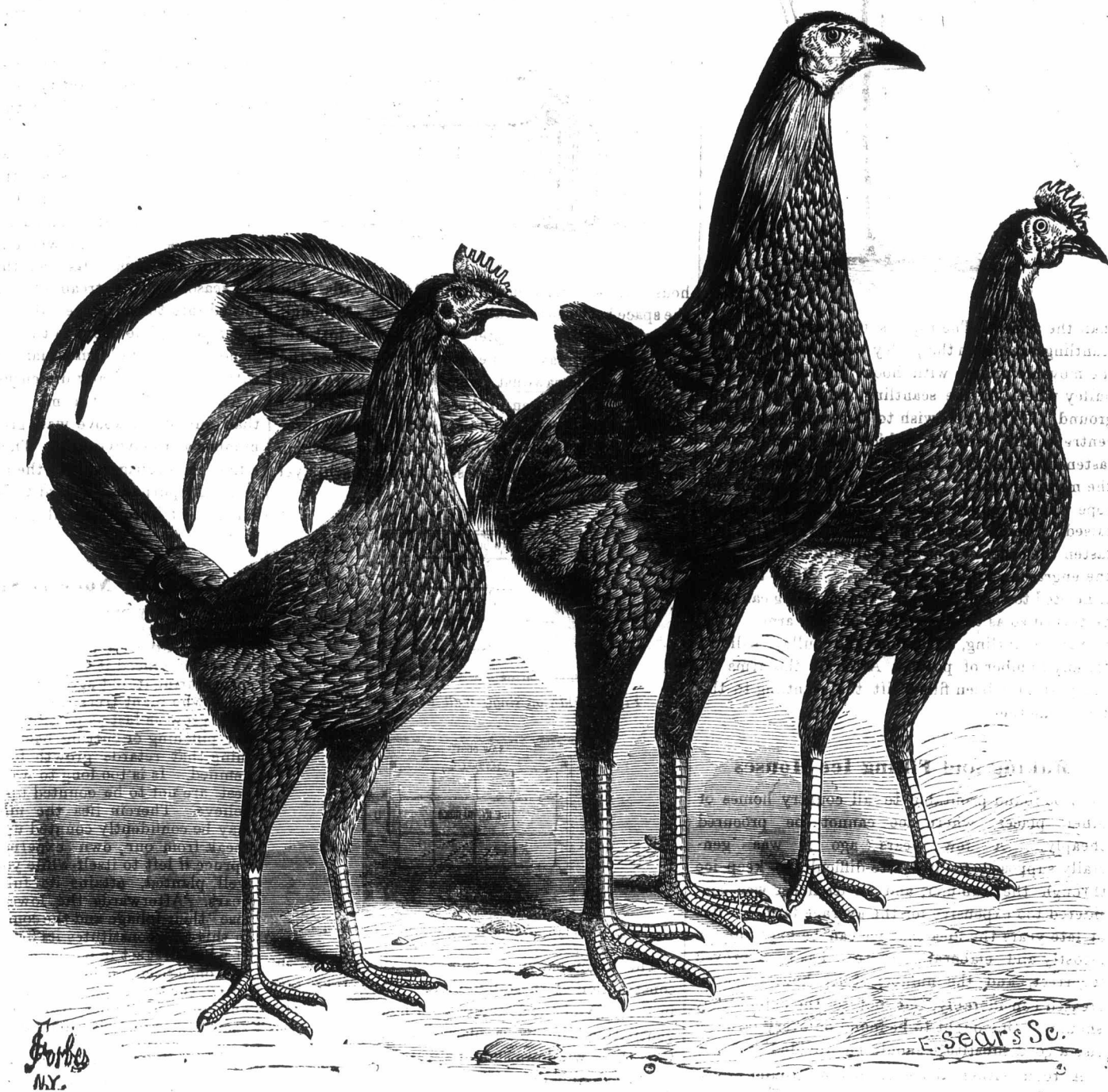
chickens. One or more game hens should always be kept by those who have flocks of non-sitters.

The game cock is not nearly so pugnacious as many would suppose from the reputation he has attained, yet when once started in a fight he continues till he or his antagonist is defeated, after which he is peaceably inclined. It is seldom that he will keep up a long chase after he has gained a victory. Other fowls will constantly chase a defeated bird, whenever it comes in sight.

This breed of fowls cannot well bear close confinement, but are excellent foragers, and if given a

tail long and sickled, being well tufted at the roots, thick, short and stiff; legs rather long, with white feet and nails, the latter being free from all coarseness.

The red Derby Game cock is a very showy bird. He should have a bright red face; breast and thighs coal black; hackle and saddle feathers light orange-red; back brown-red—a depth of color that painters term dragon's blood; lesser wing coverts maroon colored; greater wing coverts marked at the extremity with steel-blue, forming a bar across the wings. It is a peculiarity of these fowls that one at least of the pinion feathers is marked with white.



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of any other fowl, except, probably, the Leghorn. Not only are they larger, but they are richer as a food than those of any other fowl; and it is a fact not generally known that there is a wide difference in the quality of eggs. The hens cannot be recommended as non-sitters, like some breeds; as good mothers they excel every other breed. Some farmers have a mistaken idea that they are pugnacious, and always spoiling for a fight. There are no hens more peaceably inclined if unmolested, but if attacked there are none which will fight with more tenacity, and this good quality is what makes them such good mothers. We have seen one of these hens drive a tom-cat from the yard because he dared to attempt a raid upon her

good run they will take care of themselves, and though somewhat shy, like the Leghorn, if kept near the house they soon become accustomed to the family. The cocks can be grown by extra feeding so as to dress six pounds, and hens three and a half to four pounds. These weights may be considered, however, a pound above the average.

In the illustration herewith given the birds are represented as nearly perfect as possible, the cock showing off his points to excellent advantage. He is of good round shape, well put together, the head long with "dew-eyes" (resembling the eyes of the jack-daw), long and strong neck, hackle well feathered, touching the shoulder; wings large and well quilled, back short, belly round and black,

We have had an excellent cross with the Game and the Dorking. Their size was not increased, but their flesh was greatly improved. The brown Leghorn, it is said, emanated from a cross between the Leghorn and the Game. We have crossed them and produced a similar bird, but did not fix the type. We have also had a desirable cross with the Brahma.

A worm resembling the ordinary corn-grub has appeared about Goshen, N. Y., and is ruining grass-fields. It burrows in the ground just beneath the surface and eats off the roots of the grass. Its presence is detected by spots of brown grass that look as if scorched. The sward can be lifted from the surface, revealing the grubs beneath. Many fields are swept cleaner than could be done with a scythe and farmers are becoming alarmed. The same grubs are eating the potatoes in the ground in many localities.