

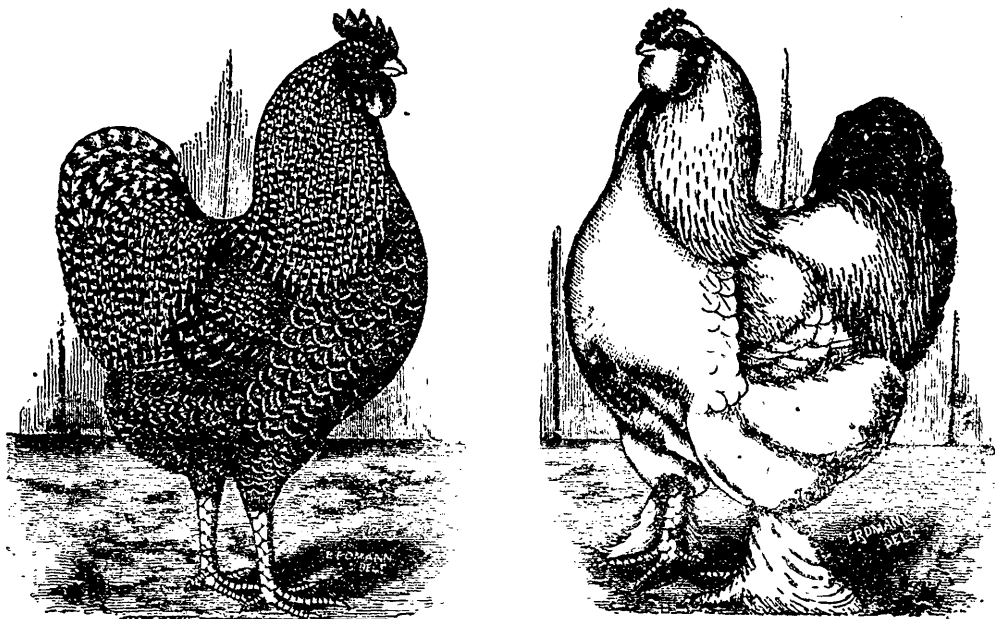
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THE FAVORITES OF THE DAY,

As bred by James F. Watson, Nashua, New Hampshire, U. S.

The above are good illustrations of male birds of the two leading varieties of the day, Light Brahmas and Plymouth Rocks. The competition between the two varieties for first place is very keen, and the Rocks are gradually gaining on the old favorites, nor, perhaps, because of greater merit, but from being of later origin, they have the rage for novelty in their favor.

Light Brahmas have long been regarded as at the head of all domestic poultry for general purposes, and are well worthy of the position assigned them. They have stood the test for many years, and their improvement is still going on in beauty and utility. We believe as good returns can be realized for a flock of Light Brahmas of a good strain as from any other fowls, and none will give their keeper less trouble.

Plymouth Rocks are also a very fine fowl in every respect—perhaps they are a little better than Light Brahmas in quality of dressed meat; in egg

production about the same. They are not being improved very rapidly. The numbers of good birds showing much improvement that are seen at exhibitions is still small in proportion to those that are no better than we had many years ago. This is hard to account for when so much interest is being taken in them. We believe too much mixture of different strains is the cause a great deal of the failures in breeding this variety.

Both of these varieties will be found well suited to our climate. They are good table fowls, easily reared, healthy, good layers at the season when their eggs are of most value. The hens are good sitters and mothers. In fact, if asked the question, "What variety of fowls do you consider best for all purposes?" we would unhesitatingly answer, Light Brahmas, and our second choice would be Plymouth Rocks. We have bred both, and many of the other popular varieties.

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