

compared with that of dark colored birds, and when put on the market they are not excelled in appearance.

This breed was first introduced into this country in 1821 by Col. Samuel Jacques, of Boston, who bred them for many years on his estate at Medford, Mass., under the name of Bremen geese, as it was from the seaport city of that name, in Germany, he obtained them. The name Embden is derived from a seaport city of Prussia, in the province of Hanover, East Friesland, and it is interesting to note that the letter of instruction to the captain of the ship relative to the care of this importation of 6 geese (2 ganders and 4 geese) is dated "Emden, 17th August, 1821." Under date of December 12th, 1850, Samuel Jacques, Jr., writes, "The original stock has never been out of my father's possession, nor has he ever crossed it with any other kind." In 1826 one of the imported females was marked by cutting a hole through the web of the left foot with a gun-wad punch, and in 1850 she was "in as fine health and vigor as any of her progeny. She has never failed to lay from 12 to 16 eggs every year for the last twenty-seven years, and has always been an excellent breeder and nurse." In 1849 one of her brood, at exactly nine months old, weighed 22 pounds. The progeny of this importation was sold in "almost every State in the Union, as also Canada and Nova Scotia."

In 1826, James Sisson, of Warren, R.I., imported a trio from Bremen, and others were imported about the same time by John Giles, of Providence, R.I. In 1852 a pair imported from Bremen, by Burnham, weighed, on shipboard, alive, 55 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds, and was sold with four others, to a gentleman in New Orleans, La., for fifty dollars per pair. When crossed with dark feathered birds, the progeny is most frequently white or pied, and as the latter almost invariably have white breasts and yellow or mottled bills and yellowish legs, they present almost as fine an appearance when dressed as pure white birds. The crosses are desirable for market, but should never be used for breeding, as rapid deterioration in size and quality is almost sure to follow.

AFRICAN.

A veteran goose breeder, William Rankin, says of this breed, "I think the most perfect goose is the pure bred African, as they lay more eggs, mature

earlier and make more pounds of flesh in the same time, while they are very vigorous and hardy, and you will almost always raise all you hatch." African geese have a more erect carriage than either the Toulouse or Embdens, but not so erect as the modern brown and white Chinas. The body should be large and long, well developed through the shoulders and breast, the neck moderately long, of fair size and gracefully curved, head rather large, with moderately long, stout bill, and a knob or protuberance at the base of the upper mandible. There should be a heavy dewlap or pendant fold of skin under the throat. The bill and knob should be black, and the eyes hazel or brown. The color of the plumage of the back, wings and tail is dark grey, shading to light gray on the breast and under parts of the body. A dark brown stripe extends from the head down the back of the neck. Legs, dark orange in color, with black claws. The notes of this goose resemble those of the brown and white China much more than those of the Toulouse and Embden breeds.

The utmost confusion prevails in poultry literature regarding the name of this variety. Saunders says: "The principal breeds of geese are the China goose (which is also called the Guinea goose, Spanish goose, African goose, and a host of other names in the English tongue), Toulouse goose and the Bremen or Embden goose." Under the name of China goose he gives a fairly good but very brief description of the African goose. It is true that his description might apply to the brown China, but he makes no mention of a white breed under "China."

Bement, under the heading of GUINEA OR AFRICAN GOOSE, says. "This is the largest of the goose tribe which has fallen under our notice, it is the size of the swan, and it often weighs more than twenty-five pounds. We have now in our possession one pair * * * which will weigh, in common, ordinary condition, over twenty pounds each. We once owned a gander that weighed twenty-four pounds." His description of this goose, colors of plumage, knob and dewlap, agrees well with that of the African goose of the present time. He says, "Africa, and perhaps the other southern countries of the old continent, seem to be their native abode," and quotes authorities to prove the identity of the so-called Siberian, Russian or Muscovy goose with the Guinea or African goose.