

HAMBURGHES, II.

SPANGLED HAMBURGHES.

Of the origin of the Spangled varieties of this breed of fowls, nothing more is known than of the pencilled. It is stated that under the names of Gold, Silver and Pheasant Fowls, and Gold and Silver Mooneys, and Red Caps, they have been cultivated by breeders in the North of England, from whence we derived our original stock. Although the spangled varieties have certain general characteristics common to the pencilled, there are, however, great differences in the different varieties; "and," says Tegetmeier, "there can be no doubt that several very distinct breeds, known as Gold and Silver Mooneys and Gold and Silver Pheasant Fowls have been included in this title."

Mr. Teebay, quoted in the Poultry Book, states that the fowls included under the name of Golden-Spangled Hamburgs are of two very distinct breeds; one cultivated in Lancashire, England, under the local name of Golden Mooneys—the other in Yorkshire, as Golden Pheasants. The

GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURGHES

are described, under their local name, as rather small birds, with neat heads, tight rose combs, small deaf-ears, which are not pendent, but close to the face, and which are very seldom pure white. The plumage of the Mooney hens is exceedingly close and glossy, the ground-color being a rich golden bay, each of the body feathers having a large round, rich green, black moon or spangle on the end; the neck should be striped with rich green-black; the tail feathers black; the forepart of the breast of the cock is often rich green-black, but lower down, and on the sides the ground is beautifully clear golden bay, with very large distinct, round rich moons, without the least mossaing or lacing. The spangles on the true Golden Mooneys are large,

round, very black, with beautiful green reflections; but they have often the fault of showing a little white on the end of the feather beyond the moon.

Golden Pheasant fowls are heavier than the Golden Mooneys, with larger and looser rose combs, and large, pendent deaf-ears, which are generally pure white; their plumage is not so close and glossy as that of the Mooneys. The bay ground-colour is often slightly mossaed with brown; the black spangles on the end of the body feathers are crescentic, and not circular; the neck is striped with black; tail feathers black; on the breast of the cock the black spots on the ends of the feathers generally run up the edges, something like a bad, ill-defined lacing, and gives the breast a streaky appearance. The Yorkshire Golden Pheasant hens are better layers, hardier fowls, and much easier to rear than the true Golden Mooneys. In the

SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURGHES,

as in the Golden, two different varieties are included: the Lancashire Silver Mooneys, and the Yorkshire Silver Pheasant fowls. The Silver Mooney hens are much larger than the Silver Pheasant hens, yet the Silver Mooney cocks are smaller, and shorter in the legs, than the Silver Pheasant cocks.

Silver Mooneys have rather large, coarse heads, rose combs, dark faces, very close, small deaf ears, which are rarely pure white, but generally, in the hens, of a sort of leaden colour. The plumage of the hens is hard and close, ground-colour a beautiful silvery white, with very large, round, rich green-black moons or spangles on the end of each of the body feathers. The hackle of the cock is silvery white, and free from yellow shade; the ends of the longest feathers are tipped with rich black; the neck of the hen is silver, striped with rich green-black, the moons on the greater and lesser wing-coverts of both sexes forming two distinct rich black