

Guernsey Bull Wonder of the World.

The animal shown at page 117 took the first prize at the New York Dairy and Cattle Show for best bull over one and under two years old. He was calved October 29, 1885, on the Island of Guernsey. He is by Wonder, out of Avenirier. He is now owned by Mr. E. N. Howell, of this city, whose fine herd of Guernseys made the neatest and most attractive display of all herds at the Dairy Show. The Guernseys are beautiful animals, and always make a fine display in the show ring. They are somewhat larger than Jerseys, and more uniform in color.

R. N. Y.

POULTRY-DEPARTMENT.

Dorkings and Other Breeds.

A TEST IN CHICKEN-RAISING.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—Another year has passed, and the annual Thanksgiving has been held at very many farm houses throughout the entire country. Many families have been reunited in whole, or in part, that have been separated during the whole year, especially among New-Englanders and their descendants wherever they are now settled; and for the many blessing received during the past year from the kind Heavenly Father, who bestows so liberally on all his earthly children, the American farmers have abundant cause for thankfulness in their general prosperity. There have been some places visited by drought and earthquakes which enlist the sympathies of all who have been free from some such distressing casualties, and needed help has been liberally offered and sent to the sufferers by those who have been more highly favored. All such intercommunications help to bring the dwellers, both north and south, as well as east and west, into a closer bond of friendship. These, with other passing events, should teach us wisdom, and knowledge is of vast importance to the farmer, whether he lives at the North or South, East or West; we have one common country, and are bound by common ties, and any information gained in the passing seasons by any farmer will benefit some one if that knowledge is published, as we are a reading people, and very many profit by their reading as well as by their labors. One of the lessons learned by the writer the past year has been in the rearing of poultry, and as each particular breed has its advantages, some no doubt claim for their favorites more merit than they really deserve compared with other breeds.

The Silver Grey Dorking has been bred by the writer for a number of years past, and with success. It is a bird of good size; the chicks feather out early and grow finely, and by some are considered the best fowl for the table; they certainly are a good table fowl, and they lay nice large eggs, larger than those of many other breeds, and are good layers, careful sitters and mothers of their chicks—all good qualities, with the objections of an extra toe, and the large single comb, which is liable to be frozen in winter, unless the fowls are warmly housed. A flock of nice Silver Grey Dorkings are very beautiful in the eyes of the writer; if well selected, they are all nearly alike, and the cocks are splendid birds when in full plumage, and are very showy on the farm.

Last spring my son procured three sittings of eggs; one of a cross-bred fowl; one of Plymouth Rock, and one of Brown Leghorn, to test with our Dorkings. The cross-bred eggs were purchased of a neighbor whose fowls were noted for good size and extraordinary laying propensities, and were first hatched; the Dorkings came next, the Plymouth Rocks following soon, and the Brown Leghorns last. The first three

breed were hatched in May, the Brown Leghorns not till the last of June, as the eggs were not received on the farm till May 30th. We raised four pullets from the Brown Leghorns, five from the Plymouth Rocks, four from the cross breed, and five Dorkings. These constituted the pullets of the trial sittings of the different eggs purchased from our farm stock. These pullets have all been reared together as soon as their size would permit of their running together, and were fed mostly on wheat, until the harvest fields, which were near the barns, became their foraging grounds during the day, when they were fed mixed grain at night, corn, wheat and oats—what they would eat before going to roost. On this fare they all grew finely, the Leghorns of course being much the smallest. The cockerels were disposed of in the kitchen as wanted for table use, as pullets were desired in the experiment. Each set of pullets began to lay in October; the Brown Leghorns at hardly four months old. (1) Not all of them have yet begun to lay, but some of each breed, those probably that are the best matured. The Plymouth Rocks and the cross breeds lay a yellow egg, while the Dorkings and Brown Leghorns lay a white or light colored egg, which is easily distinguished. The Dorkings lay a slightly larger egg than either of the others, none of which are as large as eggs laid by birds of full age, as it not expected they should be.

Which variety will prove to be the best layers, will require further treatment, which it is our intention to give them, separate from our flock under the same circumstances; all to run together, and fed alike. We have never before had as many eggs from pullets so early in the season as this fall; whether our method of rearing them on wheat when young, and as they grew older to still continue it, is the cause of their early laying, I will leave your readers to judge. Their main feed has been wheat, just as soon as they would eat it. Their corn meal was scalded before feeding when they were small, and we have had healthy fowls and chicks with such feeding; chicks free from gapes and all other ailments. I should like to have any reader of this give notes on my method of rearing these birds that will give information to the readers of the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN; also, if any improvement can be made in their winter treatment to production; so far, we can discover very little difference in either breed in their egg-production. (2)

J. TALCOTT.

Rome, N. Y., Nov. 26.

(1) A Dorking pullet, hatched on January 27th last, began to lay on May 15th!

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(2) For table use, particularly of boiled fowls, there never has been any breed equal to the Dorking. Crossed with the large game-fowl, they are capital for roasting, as the colour of the meat does not signify.

A. R. J. F.

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