

years since; and although, taken as a class, they are of superior average merit, yet we do not think the most distinguished among them are equal to those that held the same high rank ten years ago.

"Our old friends, the Cochins, hold their own: buff and cinnamon, Grouse and Partridge, and the white. We have had most excellent birds of all these commonly shown in 1870. If we were asked to name the color in which there has been most progress, we should be disposed to give the palm to the Grouse. They have been largely exhibited at all the leading shows, but are seldom found at the purely agricultural meetings. They are kept by dwellers in towns, and at the suburban villas, but they find no favor with the farming interest.

"Brahmas now form one of the largest classes, so large, indeed, that it has been necessary to divide them; and instead of the one or two pens of light birds, seeming out of place among their dark brethren, they form a large item in every show. There has been wonderful progress in these birds: immense weight and perfect plumage are attained. Those who are familiar with our ideas, know we are not lovers of crosses; but if any cross is useful, it is between the Dorkings and Brahmas. The latter take somewhat from the delicacy of the flesh of the former, but make ample amends by the strength of constitution they infuse.

"We have been pleased to see an increase in the entries of Polands, the birds composing them being of high merit. They are great ornaments to a show.

"The Hamburgs in their different classes have sustained their old reputation. The Capulets and Montagues of the Spangled, represented in the fends of hen tails and full tails, have ceased the wordy warfare of bygone days, and adopted the decision of judges; a hen tail is now never seen. The pencilling of the Golden is very superior to that of the Silver, and a desideratum appears accomplished, inasmuch as in many pens we have seen the tails as well pencilled as any other part of the body. We think the Golden birds of both breeds have been shown as nearly perfection as is possible, and certainly superior to the Silver. The recent intro-

duction of classes for Black birds of this breed, has added a beautiful variety to our exhibitions. The glossy black plumage, the bright red comb, and the pure white deaf ear, form a striking contrast.

"Black and Brown Red Game run a neck-and-neck race. When looking at the Black we award them the palm; but when we come to the Browns we reverse our decision. It is certain both are nearly perfect. Old Cockers sometimes grumble, and say, 'the birds of the present day are too leggy.' The other game classes make little progress, and we are sorry to see a falling off in the Duckwings. We know no more beautiful bird in our eyes than the Duckwing Game Cock.

"But very few years since the French breeds showed an occasional pen in the variety class. Then there were two; then more; and at last an experiment was tried by offering prizes for any French breeds; then they were divided; and now the Crève Cœurs and Houdans form large classes. The La Flèche have been failures.

"Malays, once so popular, have now few admirers, if we may judge from their entries. The beautiful Sebrights seem losing ground. Some one should step in to the rescue; they are far too beautiful to lose merit, and being a composite breed, they go back if not renewed from time to time. The Blacks and Whites are hardly shown so good as they used to be. The Game have irresistible charms for Bantam breeders. They are bred to high perfection, and their entries are sufficiently numerous to justify an increase in the number of prizes offered for them. The quaint Japanese Bantam is exhibited in considerable numbers. They are familiar little creatures, and from their attachment to man would seem to be among fowls like the Robin among birds. While speaking of Bantams, it would be unjust not to mention the beautiful Buff Cochins Bantams that have been seen at some of the shows during the past year.

"In every way the Aylesbury Ducks have quailed before the Rouens. Their numbers have been fewer, and their weights less. The Rouens now form the largest class. The black Buenos Ayreans have shown well, but still bear reducing in size. A pair of Mandarins or Carolinas caused a sensation