

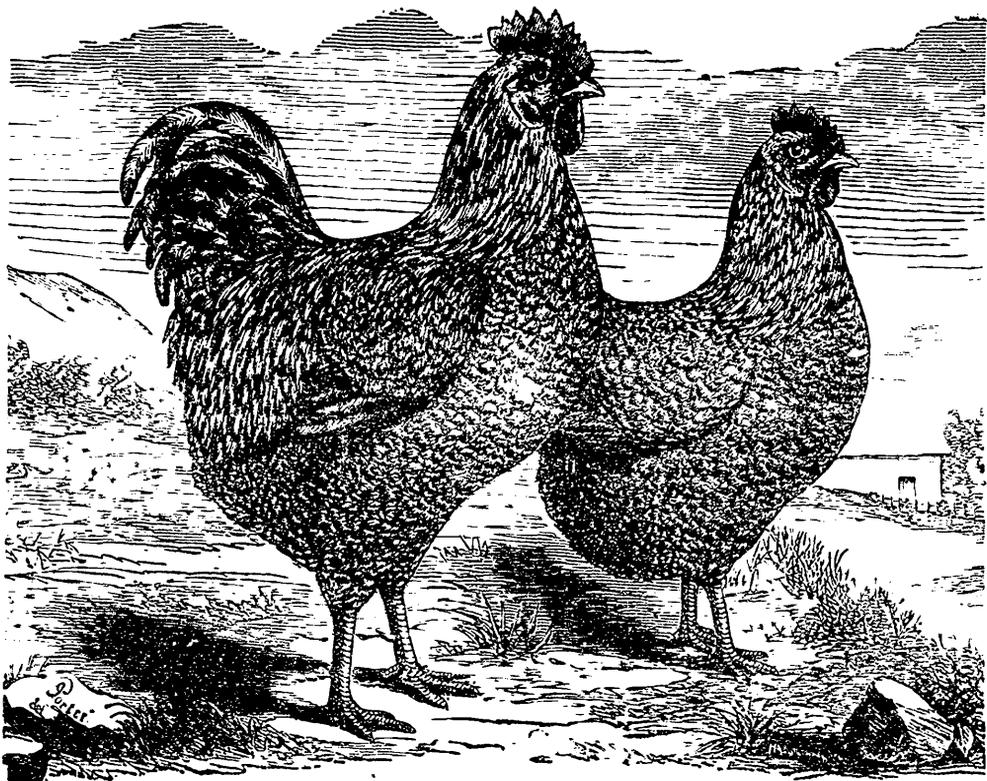
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## PLYMOUTH ROCKS,—1873—1883.

The march of progress is generally so gradual in the improvement of live stock, that the steps from year to year are hardly perceptible, and it is only when the mind is carried back a number of years by illustrations and descriptions that we can comprehend the importance of the changes wrought in them.

We cannot now bring to mind any other variety of fowls that show greater change in the last few years than Plymouth Rocks. We give above what ten years ago was considered a good representation of a pair of this variety, and on page 173 another that is considered a good illustration of the breed at the present time. There are few but will admit that great improvement in appearance has been made; whether the improvement in utility

has been as great we are not prepared to say, but if nothing in the latter quality has been sacrificed to the former, the breeders' work for the ten years has certainly not been in vain. The first illustration shows us a pair of rugged, homely birds, fit to rough it under almost any conditions, and give a good account of themselves. In the other we have the fine thoroughbred lines and bearing of the aristocrat, accustomed to good quarters and generous care. The improvement in color, which cannot be shown in the illustration, has been nearly as great as in the shape; more especially is this the case in the females—seldom even in the show-pen were they found with the groundwork other than a rusty brown. The plumage of the males was much better in color. To get the required bright yellow