

the cock species, found in the *Gates*, mountains of India, which separate Malabar from Coromandel: he mentioned them as the primitive stock from whence all the different races of our domestic hens had sprung. From that time naturalists rejected without much difficulty, my assertion on the subject of the wild hens of Guiana *as mere vague and uncertain facts, relative to the origin of the cock and hen.*\* Sonnerat himself occasioned this rash decision, from the manner in which he spoke of the hens of the *Gates*: as if to support the existence of certain wild birds in certain countries of India, it was necessary to destroy the testimonies of other writers, who asserted having seen similar ones in other countries. In fact, that we may feel how much such a mode of reasoning is inconclusive, I will here extract the very words of Sonnerat; they will throw a new light on the natural history (yet but imperfectly known) of the wild cock and hen.

“ Although the species of the domestic cock and hen,” says he, “ has been very anciently known, although the varieties are very numerous, although they are found in the regions

\* Mauduyt, *Encycl. Method. partie Ornithologique. Article du coq.*