

gions of the old world, and in many countries of the new, still we are absolutely ignorant what country gave birth to these birds originally, and still possesses them in a state of liberty. All that is to be found upon this subject in writers of natural history, and in travellers, is full of incertitude, does not present the necessary proofs and details, and is not sufficient to preclude further researches.

“ Dampier speaks of wild cocks, which he says he saw in the Island of *Pulo Condor*, at *Timor*, and at *St. Jago*. These cocks, according to his account, are about the size of our crows, and their notes similar to that of our dunghill cocks, only a little more sharp. But Dampier had not studied, accurately, the science of natural history: he has not given a detailed description of the bird which he saw: we cannot, from any thing which he has said, compare it with the domestic cock, and judge of the identity or the difference of the species.

“ Gemelli Careri says that he saw wild cocks at the Phillipines* ; Merolla pretends to

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* Gemelli Careri is not the only one who has seen wild cocks at the Phillipines; a more modern traveller relates, that among other birds which abound in the woods of the island of *Samar*, the most eastern of the Phillipines, there