

R A S O R E S .

PAVONIDÆ.

GALLUS BANKIVA.

Gallus Bankiva. Temm. Hist. Nat. Gen. des Pigeons et des Gallinacés, tom. ii. p. 87.

Gallus Bankiva. Horsf. Lin. Trans., vol. xiii. p. 185.

Gallus Bankiva. Raffles. Lin. Trans., vol. xiii. p. 319.

Javan Cock. Latham. Gen. Hist. of Birds, vol. viii. p. 166.

Collection Exp. Exp.

Fowls are found wild in the unfrequented parts of the Island of Tahiti, which appear to be specifically the same with those held in a state of domestication by the natives at the time of their discovery by Europeans, and continued to the present day. They are less subject to variations of plumage than the domesticated fowls, and are said to retain a wild spirit which is not easily subdued. The young hatched from the eggs of wild hens, take to the woods as soon as they are old enough to leave their foster-mothers; and should a domestic fowl wander a sufficient distance from the dwelling of its master, to be heard or seen by the wild ones, a battle ensues which is almost always fatal to it. The Tahitians often take advantage of this belligerent propensity to obtain a meal of tough poultry, by tying a cord six or eight feet long to the leg of a dunghill bully, and carrying him to the mountains at early dawn; the tame cock crows, and is answered by the wild one, and from notes of defiance they are led to join in combat. The Tahitian conceals himself, until by the noise of wings, he feels assured the strife has commenced, when he comes to the rescue, and generally finds the cord has bound the two combatants together. Any person who has seen a cock-fight, will readily understand how