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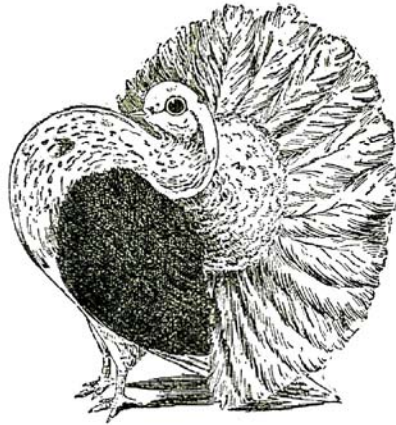
BALTIMORE, MD., FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1893.

NO. 21.



Blue Fantail.

Mountainside Lofts.



.
HAVEMEYER BROS.,

Proprietors,

MAHWAY, ~ ~ ~ ~ N. J.

—BREEDERS AND IMPORTERS OF—

Fantails} In all Colors and Kinds.

White, Blue, Silver, Black, Red, Yellow, Silkies, Saddles in all colors, colored with White Tails and White with Colored Tails. Having mated up what we require for breeding purposes, we have a number of all varieties for disposal. Cash must accompany order, and value guaranteed for money received. For further particulars, address JOHN GLASGOW, Manager.

WINNERS—1892-3.

1892.—Jacobins, Owls, Turbits, Reading; Jacobins and Owls, Philadelphia; Turbits and Owls, Louisville; Carriers and Owls, New York.

1893.—Short-faced Tumblers, Barbs, Muff Tumblers Magpies, Dragons, Owls, Turbits, Philadelphia; Turbits and Tumblers, New York.

FOUST'S CANKER CURE.

—
The Standard Remedy.

—
Get it at Once.

—
Fifty Cents—Free by Mail.

TUMBLERS, ETC.

Most of the fanciers have met their requirements for the season, and to such as have bought of me I return my thanks. We are now importing a stud of muffed Tumblers for a member of the club, and the next consignment, due in early June, will consist of an extraordinary lot, nearly 50 pairs, all muffed, with muffs from 2 to 4 inches, and consisting of red, yellow, black and white selfs and black and red mottles. These are grand birds, and I have made an exceptionally good bargain with one of the most prominent fanciers of Birmingham, and propose to give my customers the benefit of it. They will be sold at from \$7.50 to \$10 per pair. Write at once and find out all about them. You will want some. We now have a nice stock of beautiful white booted Tumblers. If you have not seen them you can have no idea of their great beauty—spotless white, not a foul feather in them, clear pearl eyes and clear beaks. The price for the summer is now further reduced—from \$5, \$7.50, \$10

per pair. All according to length of foot feathering. Also a fine pair of yellow splashed Inside Tumblers. They cannot raise off the floor without tumbling—price \$5 for the pair, as pretty a pair as ever lived. Short-faced Tumblers of the renowned Gaddess strain—at Philadelphia showed almond cock, yellow hen, both 1st in good competition. All these birds will win in the keenest competition. Price, almond cock, prize-winner, \$8; almond cocks, never shown, as good as the winner, \$6; kite cock \$4; yellow cocks \$6; red Bald \$3; white splashed yellow \$2; almond hens \$6; yellow hen, winner, \$8; kite hens \$4; black hens \$2. Take advantage of these prices and let me send you a pair. The price can never be equalled for the quality. It frequently happens that Mr. Stanfield sends me over some birds in excess of what I can sell, and now, to make them go more quickly, I shall make the following offer: There are 30 pairs of black Magpies—their blood is equal to any in the Kingdom, and these will breed you birds that will win anywhere—only the one color, black—and they cost me to import just \$5.79 a pair. Now to reduce stock somewhat I will sell a few pairs at the cost price—so remember you can get a grand pair of black Magpies for exactly just what they cost me—\$5.79 a pair. I advise you not to miss this chance. Then, again, Mr. Stanfield sometimes sends me some varieties that have not been introduced long enough to be popular—for instance, short-faced Show Antwerps. Those that have never seen them can have any idea of their great beauty. Any one who admires a Carrier or a Barb will like them—massive in size, grand round head, extra stout in beak. They cost me \$8.68 a pair to import—are worth \$25 at any time—but to popularize them will sell a few pair at \$8.65, the actual cost. Then we have some nice Barbs, grand 1892 rung, champion bred—dun hen at the last Philadelphia Show first in the young class. You cannot buy as good as these anywhere for less than \$20 each, but will sell single birds at \$9.75 each, or \$13.50 a pair. I am compelled to sacrifice these at cost prices, as there don't appear to be many fanciers who breed this grand bird. At this price it is almost like giving them to you. In fact, will cut my prices on all my birds for the next three months. Will sell a nice pair of Pigmy Pouters for \$7.50, blue and blue and silver. English Owls, blue and silver, Stanfield's Champion Cup Strain—none other kept—\$3 per pair; old show birds at \$15 per pair. A splendid pair of blue African Owls at \$7.50. An extra white cock, a gem, will win anywhere. \$12.50, a bargain for some one, as he is worth at least \$25. My imported Jacobins show wonderful hood properties. You can get a Jack good most anyway except hood. These will work up that desirable quality for you. Will sell single birds cock or hen, at \$8 each, red cocks, red and black hens only. Our most prominent fanciers have bought individual birds of this strain, and some have three and four pairs. Mr. Stanfield bought out one of the leading studs of Dragons in England—reds and yellows only. The party was going abroad and Mr. Stanfield secured the lot—he said there were none better than these—you ought to see them. Such yellow and red, for

depth of color, I have never seen—stout beak, wedge-shaped head. Showed two hens at Philadelphia—one hen showed in cock class—and took 2d—other hen, in her own class, 1st. There are several odd hens to dispose of, also, one black hen with a phenomenal good head, prices \$10 each—their average value in England is \$5 each. A nice pair of white Dragons at \$8 the pair. There are a small stud of Pouters on the way over, mostly birds that have won prizes this last winter, red, black and blue pied. Should be pleased to correspond with any one who wants something extra fine at a very moderate price—are to arrive about middle of June. Have a few pairs of very good Pouters on hand, blue-pied \$6 to \$8 per pair, red imported cock \$5, white imported cock \$6—worth more than double. Turbits we have a large lot breeding, but all are for sale—the 1st prize blue cock at Philadelphia was sold for \$50. Have 6 or 7 blue Turbits brothers to the above winner and all mated with nice hens, and will be sold cheap—they are right on top and will win in the best of company. Write me if you want show birds in black, blue, red, yellow, dun, etc. Good stock birds at \$10 per pair. Have some 1892-rung red and yellow cocks, extra head and show points—this year will be right in it and fit for the highest show—prices very reasonable considering quality. In addition to winners at Reading, Louisville, Philadelphia and New York, I have also sold birds that have won 1st at some of our best shows, such as Louisville, etc., all for sale, so write me at once. Black mottled Trumpeter hens at \$3.50 each, grand birds in rose and foot-feathering. Now I have made the above prices low to encourage trade during the dull summer months, and you will find any of them a bargain you cannot duplicate elsewhere for two or three times the money.

GEORGE FOUST,
Rhinebeck, - New York.

H. TIEMANN,

572½ North Gay Street, - - Baltimore, Md.

BREEDER AND IMPORTER OF

HIGH-CLASS BARBS, MAGPIES, FANTAILS, JACOBINS, TUMBLERS, HOMERS.

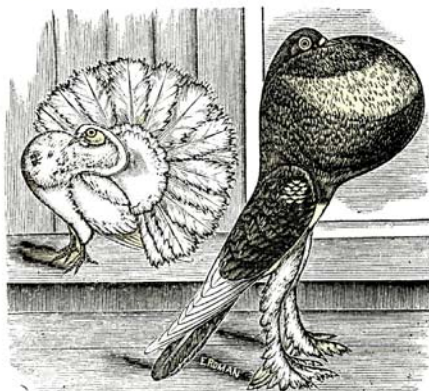
Very Best Strains.

Dealer in Choice Food for Pigeons, such as Canada Peas, Tares, Pigeon corn, Millet Feed, Hemp and Flax Seeds, Etc.

No Catalogue.

Send for Price and State what is Wanted.

ANDREW MUEHLIG,
ANN ARBOR, - MICH.



On 14 entries in Red, White and Blue

POUTERS:-

at the Nashville (Tenn.) Show 1892, my birds were awarded the following: 1, 3, 4, Blue Cocks; 1, 3, Red Cocks; 1, White Cocks; 1, 4, Blue Hens; 1, 2, Red Hens; 1, 2, White Hens, and special for best pair Pouters in the show. On ten entries in red, white and blue Pouters 1st New York Show, March, 1893, 1st and 2d blue cocks, 1st red cocks, 2d white cocks, 1st blue hens, 1st and 2d white hens, 1st red hens.

Special for best Pouter in the Show.
" " collection "
" " red Pouter "
" " blue Pouter "
" " white Pouter "

Closing out my Booted and Crested White Fans—On Pair left—Good Birds

Breeder and Importer of FANCY PIGEONS.

Just arrived a large importation of many varieties of Pigeons.

Send for Catalogue and prices.

H. W. VAHLE,

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F. A. ROMMEL,
1302 N. Central Ave. Baltimore, Md.



—BREEDER OF—
RUSSIAN
(OR BOKHARA)

Trumpeters.

A. B. HOSKINS,
GLEN RIDDLE,

DELAWARE CO., - - PENNA



RECORD FOR 1893.

At Philadelphia's great Show my

JACOBINS

won nine first premiums out of twelve given, and at New York, where were exhibited the finest collection of pigeons ever seen in this country, 8 firsts out of ten given. Birds for sale in all colors. Prices reasonable, considering quality and satisfaction guaranteed.

EDMANN PHILA.
FINEST QUALITY.

THE FANCIER.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY.

JOHN D. ABEL & CO.,

—Publishers—

12 N. HOLLIDAY STREET,

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (in advance):
\$2.00 Per Annum. \$1.00 for Six Months.
Foreign Subscriptions, 10s.

The above rate includes payment of postage by us. Subscriptions can commence at any time during the year.

Always write your name, postoffice address, county and state plainly.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES:

Ten cents per line for first insertion.
 Eight cents per line for each subsequent insertion.

| | 13 times. | 25 times. | 52 times. |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 inch..... | \$ 8 00 | \$14 00 | \$20 00 |
| 2 inches..... | 11 00 | 25 00 | 36 00 |
| 3 inches..... | 20 00 | 36 00 | 50 00 |
| 1 column..... | 25 00 | 45 00 | 62 00 |
| 1 column..... | 45 00 | 60 00 | 100 00 |

Twelve lines nonpareil (this size) type make one inch.

Transient advertising payable in advance. Yearly advertisements payable quarterly in advance. Advertisements contracted for a year at yearly rates, if withdrawn before the expiration of the year, must be paid for at regularly advertised rates.

Advertisements, with remittance for same, should reach us not later than the first mail of Wednesday preceding the day of publication, in order to insure proper classification and display.

Address all letters, and make checks, drafts and postoffice orders payable to

JOHN D. ABEL & CO., Baltimore, Md.

THE FANCIER will be supplied by newsdealers throughout the United States and Canada.

The trade supplied by the Baltimore News Co.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1893.

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EDITORIALS.

The successful breeder is the one who advertises the year around and does not discontinue his advertising in summer. Do you realize to discontinue advertising for two or three months will only result in some more enterprising breeder securing your trade and you will practically have to start in anew? Moral.—Advertise all the year around, and if you wish the best results for the least outlay advertise in THE FANCIER. Circulation larger than any other similar journal. Its patrons are the cream of the fancy, and who pay prices at which you can make a profit. Its advertisers, whether large or small, are all treated alike, as we make it a special point to display all "ads." to the best of our ability. The following from Mr. A. L. Hinterleiter, of Scottdale, Pa., is a sample of letters received daily by us regarding the merits of THE FANCIER as an advertising medium. Mr. Hinterleiter says: "Enclosed find \$1.00 for 'ad.' for another month. If it keeps on this way will enlarge my 'ad.' I sold more high-class pigeons this month than I did in three months previous. It is a good advertising medium."

We feel very grateful toward

the large number of our readers who, upon the receipt of the last issue of THE FANCIER sent in their congratulations upon its reappearance and for their well wishes for our future. It is these little tokens of appreciation of our efforts in the interest of the fancy that touches a cord of reciprocal affection and which spurs us on to renewed efforts and cheers us every time we think of it.

Our English contemporary, "Poultry," got off quite an effusion recently regarding our negligence in giving credit for the use of a cut of a Nun, and reproduces a paragraph from the Canadian Poultry Review, wherein the editor of the Review (who, by the way, owes us a sum of money which he refuses to pay) says: "If he (meaning us) will again turn to page 337, under the heading of 'Our Illustration,' he will find these words penned by us: 'We give in this issue an excellent representation from 'Poultry,' England, of a Nun, a well-known winner in England.'" In the first place it was not Mr. Donovan that gave credit to "Poultry," from which we got the cut, as we can prove by his copy, which we have before us, but it was us that inserted the words "from 'Poultry,' England," knowing that the cut was from that journal, as it has the name of H. Weir as delineator upon it. So Mr. Donovan's little cock-and-bull story don't go. In the second place, if we would have been sent a copy of the "Review" with the paragraph in it that "Poultry" reproduces we should have nailed the lie instantaneously, but our Canadian friend (?) overlooked sending us a copy of that issue for reasons best known to himself. In the next place, we are surprised that the editor of "Poultry" should be so thin-

skinned to take offence at such a small matter, as "Poultry" had twice before been given credit for the use of the cut. Furthermore, no one knows better than the editor of "Poultry" that there is not another journal upon the face of the globe that stands up for the giving of proper credit for both cuts and articles to the various papers than does THE FANCIER, and whenever its attention is called to an omission it is ever ready to apologize.

At last has the appointment of the superintendent of the Poultry and Pigeon department of the World's Fair been made. Mr. Geo. Seeger, Jr., of Lafayette, Ind., is the fortunate one to have received the appointment, and from what our friend Gilbert says he is the right man in the right place. It is to be regretted that the appointment was not announced sooner, as that would have given the fanciers more confidence in the Fair and a great many more entries would have been made. As it is the pigeon fanciers still have time until the first of September to make their entries and we hope all those that have not already done so will send in their entry at once, as a prize won at a show of such magnitude as this will be invaluable, in so far as the advertising the successful exhibitor will receive as having won a prize at the World's Fair.

Entry blanks can be had by addressing W. I. Buchanan, chief of the Department of Live Stock, Chicago, Ill.

The next thing that ought to be done, and that at once, is the announcing of the judges on pigeons, as that is one of the first things in connection with a show

that should be announced. The judges, nine times out of ten, make shows a success, as it is upon their ability as judges that the entries are made. In England and Australia the fanciers have gone so far as to pledge themselves not to show at any show where the judges are not announced in the premium list.

At this season of the year nature works a change in all things both animated and inanimated, and everything takes on a new garb appropriate to the coming of cold weather. The time has arrived when our pets are changing their dress of feathers for a new one, and for that reason better care should be taken of them then than at any other time during the year, for the least draught of air that reaches them in their semi-nude condition will at once create a catastrophe. Canker and roup, both dreaded diseases, will at once make their appearance, and the birds, especially young ones, will succumb to it. Canker and roup are no more than aggravated cases of cold; so as soon as your bird shows a symptom of cold at once look for the root of the evil and close the chinks or cracks. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and it works just as well in pigeon fancying as in all other walks of life. A little tonic to tone the birds up during the moult is a good thing to give them two or three times a week.

By this time most pigeon fanciers will have bred all the young birds they require for this season, says The Feathered World, and therefore it behoves them to take stock and see what promise of success in the autumn and winter shows awaits them, and what can be done to render this promise

more certain of realisation. In the first place, it is by far the best and cheapest to clear out all delicate birds; endless trouble and disappointment invariably follow attempts to patch up feeble constitutions. To remove them either kill them or give them to somebody who has no others to attend to; your loft will be less crowded, and those which are left consequently will do all the better. Next thin out all which are faulty, and for that reason not likely to be of much use; thin out, but do not clear out, since among the faulty ones probably are to be found the best stock birds for another year. On no account continue to breed from old birds which you intend to show, and separate the young as soon as the sexes are recognisable. Birds ought not to be shown until they are well through their moult — especially young ones; be patient, let them get well developed, and you will have more reason for congratulation than would otherwise be the case. Now, too, is a good time to look to all necessary repairs, both within and without the lofts; ere the nights begin to get longer, fanciers ought to be up betimes, before business hours, and attend to all these matters personally, instead of driving them off later and then having to trust somebody else to see to them, because it is too dark both morning and evening—the only times many fanciers have to devote to their pets—before and after business hours. And not only for this reason, but also because it is better to do any repairs, whitewashing or such like, now, instead of having to disturb the birds just at the time they ought to be getting into good show form. Fanciers, of all men, should learn to take time by the forelock.

The best illustration of the prac-

tical value of pigeons as messengers the test of the season have as yet afforded was from the United States schoolship Constellation. Twenty birds from the cadets loft were carried by the vessel, to be let go at intervals until the capes were passed. Twelve birds from the G. T. King loft at Richmond, Va., were reserved to take up the story then and continue it until the ship was about 100 miles from shore. The Constellation sailed on Tuesday, and the first message was that a sailor had been killed at the capstan while the anchor was being weighed, just before 6 o'clock on Wednesday morning. A quarter of an hour later the bird bearing the news left the ship, and at 8.30 it had delivered the message in Annapolis. The Stanish was at once ordered to overtake the Constellation, and at 1 o'clock was back, with the body on board.

THE BARB CLUB.

EDITOR THE FANCIER:

The Barb Club has been organized by the election of the following officers: President, D. E. Newell, New York city; Treasurer, W. W. White, Baltimore, Md.; Secretary, J. S. Rittenhouse, Reading, Pa.

The members of the club are thoroughly in earnest in their endeavor to further the interests of their favorite variety of pigeon, knowing that the Barb combines qualities which make its culture a hobby of absorbing interest, and that the production of a specimen closely approximating the accepted type is a triumph of which the most ingenious fancier may well feel proud. The club is formed with the single purpose of increasing, by every right means, the interest of pigeon fanciers in the Barb, and next winter will witness a display of this pigeon which, for numbers and quality, has never before been equalled in this country.

The following is a list of members: H. Tiemann, G. A. Fick, W. W. White, D. E. Newell, and J. S. Rittenhouse. This is not a long list of

names, but it is long enough to show that the club is not for the special advantage of any person or locality. Anyone fancying the Barb is earnestly asked to become a member by communicating with the secretary, J. S. Rittenhouse, Reading, Pa.

THE OWL CLUB.

AN ASSURED SUCCESS.

EDITOR THE FANCIER:

Parties wishing to join the American Owl Club should do so at once if they wish to get their votes for officers in before the election of officers.

The voting slips are being rapidly filled and returned to our secretary pro tem., Mr. H. T. Klusmeyer, of Easton, Pa., and only a short time will be now allowed those who have not sent in their fees in which to do so and vote.

A delay in this matter may cause you disappointment and have an entire set of officers elected which you do not approve of.

All Owl fanciers are invited to join. We have now a membership of about twenty and would like to make it twice that number, but cannot waste any more time in waiting for delinquent fanciers to join, as there is much work to be done by the officers before the show season opens.

No votes will be received from those that have not paid their \$1 initiation fee.

I hope I have offended none by my straight talk, as business is business; and we must get the club on its feet if we ever intend to.—C. W. BUTTLES.

TRANSFERS.

From Standard Homing Lofts, Sam'l W. Taylor breeder, No. 1303 East Lexington street, Baltimore, Md., to W. W. White, Baltimore, Md., the grand pair of Homers, namely, "Key-stone," red checker cock, and "Sunshine," blue checker hen, both with 500 mile records; also the handsome checker cock "Hicks," whose record is 525 miles, and blue checkered splash hen, "Daisy," with 300 mile record, and the blue checkered hen "Linda," with 535 mile record and several youngsters out of 500 miles and over strains.

THE FANCIER, bright and newsy.

THE AFRICAN OWL.



This handsome little pigeon is one of the prettiest, most valuable, and the smallest of the toy varieties—when bred to a high state of perfection. Fabulous prices have been paid for very choice birds, and there are few of such to be had at any price. The African Owl is generally considered more aristocratic, so to speak, than the English Owl, the latter being considered inferior in blood and beauty, and is much more commonly met with in the show room. Their trim tiny figures, active and bold manner, and general beauty, together with nearly all the characteristics that interest the pigeon fancier make the African Owl one of the most highly prized and admired varieties among our columbarian pets. One drawback to its being more generally bred is the difficulty experienced in rearing the young, like the Almond Tumbler, a large majority of the birds hatched, never reach maturity. This has proved so discouraging to would-be fanciers, that few who admire them continue to breed them, consequently they have become very scarce. Many have odd birds of the variety, rather than purchase mates, have crossed them with the small, but coarser varieties of the English Owl, and thus produced a mongrel, that is neither an English nor an African but yet often shown as an African. Judges suffer them to pass as such when exhibited, and so they became known as an African Owl. Who is there with any experience in the show room that has not seen birds of this kind shown by one party as English Owls, and by another exhibitor as African? On meeting such antagonism one is at a loss how to act, necessarily one or the other must be thrown out, and as the generally acknowledged type of an African is a small bird the one entered as African is condemned, and the bird classed as English receive the awards. But correctly this is not as it should be, for the birds are really neither English nor African, and both pairs should be condemned. I am thinking now of where the Owl class is not a large nor fine one, where true English and African Owls compete with these specimens, they are quickly assigned to their proper positions, and no notice is taken of them. But many of

these birds have good Owl properties and yet while they are strictly neither one nor the other, I suppose they will never be entirely excluded from competition, and this being the case, it would be better if all Judges would agree to class them with the English, making proper allowance for their size. But on no account should they be allowed to compete as African. One of the most important characteristics of an Owl is its head. This should be short, broad, and nicely rounded, both front and back, the curved outline extending to and including the beak, thus securing the much desired down-faced appearance, without which no Owl is perfect. In the English variety the head has for the size of the bird an appearance of massiveness not easy to describe, while in the African, the shape is more delicate but yet preserving all the roundness of form. The cocks show these properties always in greater perfection than the hens, many of which especially in the African are flat back of the eyes, and do not show the down-face properties to such an extent as the cocks. The frill in the English variety is usually well developed, also another desirable quality is the dewlap. In the African as a rule, the frill is small and the dewlap deficient. These properties are all more prominent in the cocks than in the hens of both varieties. But where possible the Owl properties should be as well developed in one sex as the other especially when paired for exhibition.

BALTIMORE COLUMBARIAN ASSOCIATION.

The above society met at its usual place on last Monday. The following gentlemen were present: W. T. Levering, W. J. Roberstson, F. A. Rommel, H. Tiemann, Wm. Broemer, Geo. B. Hart, Chas. H. Meyer, Louis G. Mueller, T. S. Gaddes, John D. Abel and G. A. Fick. Mr. Rommel, the president of the society, presided. The minutes of the former meeting were read and approved. Report of committee regarding hall in which to hold show reported, and were further instructed to secure the hall for the last of December and first part of January. After collection of dues and payment of bill for stationery, the society adjourned, to meet on Monday, September 4th.

THE PIGEON-BREEDING SEASON.

ITS LIMITATIONS.

BY RICHARD WOODS.

From the Fanciers' Gazette.

The longer I keep and breed pigeons, the more convinced I become that my advocacy for a curtailment of the breeding season is right, both in principle and fact; and although I have often pleaded this cause, a few words at the present time, will not be out of place, neither will they, I hope, be passed unheeded. Trying to work out the why and wherefore of so many old fanciers extending the breeding season until the autumnal months has often puzzled me much, for surely past experience must have taught them that nearly all late-bred stock are of inferior quality, either stunted and deformed, or weakly and diseased. I am fully cognisant of the many temptations there are to "try just one more nest," as it is generally put, and whilst a valid excuse for doing so may sometimes be found, I would strongly impress upon my pigeon-loving friends the important point that the number of "nests" allowed each pair of birds should be governed by circumstances and ruled with a strong hand. Unfortunately, no hard and fast rule can be laid down, for the peculiarities as well as the constitutions of the different breeds need to be separately considered. We will do so now, commencing with that "king of doos."

THE CARRIER.

What are its chief attributes? Size and shape, waddle and beak. None of which, I affirm, can be attained from weakly stock; or from vigorous stock, for the matter of that, if they are prematurely "matched-up," or suffered to continue paternal and maternal duties beyond a reasonable length of time. Not only is it positively cruel to excite reproductive functions by pairing Carriers too soon but it is well nigh impossible to procure vigorous off-spring from such unseasonable and unreasonable methods of breeding. I have often expressed the highest degree of respect and reverence for God's natural laws, and I have no hesitation in saying they cannot be contravened to any great extent by breeders of fancy

stock. Two blades of grass may be made to grow where only one grew before, and extraordinary results may be obtained by tillage or cultivation; but I defy the cutest man in the Fancy to produce stout-beaked, heavily-waddled, and vigorous-constitutioned Carriers during the inclement weather we usually get in the early months of the year, unless his pigeon-houses or lofts happen to be exceptionally sheltered, or his stock kept under the most unnatural conditions; and even then it will be found impossible to rear precocious youngsters without damaging the constitutions of the parent birds, so that by the time more favorable weather for pigeon breeding comes round, the stock birds are actually "played out."

Nothing is more objectionable to the eye of a Carrier fancier than a bird of diminutive size, with short legs and neck, beak little thicker than a slate pencil, and wattle of that objectionable kind which never increases much in size, and is either inflexible or misshapen. I would have my readers know that I am not drawing an imaginary sketch, for scores of birds of this class yearly pass under my "ken." The other extreme late breeding, is equally pernicious, perhaps more so, for the parent birds are bound to suffer if their season of reproduction be unduly prolonged.

It never seems to enter the minds of some breeders—and old hands, too—that another season's results will have to be reckoned with; and yet it is so, for breeding season succeeds breeding season with remarkable rapidity, and in the interim another tax on the strength is exacted. I refer to the period of moult, a most trying time, and about which I shall have something to say another day. Then it should be remembered that the difficulty in rearing late hatched pigeons is great—greater, in fact than most persons imagine—for with a rapidly falling temperature comes the need for more food to keep up the animal heat, without which no young pigeons can thrive. I have tried the experiment of late breeding, not once nor twice, but scores of times, and have invariably found that the young of all wattled birds are sadly deficient, not only in wattle, but also in many other leading characteristics, if bred after the end of

June. As I write my pigeonry is in full view, the dismantled condition of many of the breeding quarters proving that I practice what I preach. Let me, therefore, lay particular stress on the injunction not to attempt to breed Carriers either early or late. To cut a long story short, I would lay down as a golden rule that high-class Carriers should never be allowed to go to nest more than three times during one season; and if the Carrier breeding season closes—as it most certainly should—with the month of June, it will not cause much mental strain to calculate when the breeding time should begin. Exceptional cases occur, certainly, but they must be specially considered and exceptionally dealt with, for my remarks apply to Carrier breeding generally.

POUTERS,

owing to their abnormal proportions, need very special care. It is highly desirable that the breeding stocks should be full of activity and vigour, which they cannot be for long, if permitted to go to nest during the cold early months of the year, or are allowed to continue breeding for any length of time. Opinions differ greatly as to the length of time Pouters should breed. Some fanciers go in "for the whole hog or none"; that is to say, they start early and finish late; but I am in favor of a couple of rounds, or three at the most. "Why so?" may be asked. Well, simply this: because length of limb and feather can only be obtained during genial weather, and when the parent birds are full of physical strength or active force, and size and shape never comes to youngsters bred and reared under other than the most favorable atmospheric conditions. Long-feathered Pouters minus proportionate length of limb and the much desired size and shape may be bred both early and late, but who wants to propagate birds of that class? Anyway, I for one do not.

PIGMY POUTERS

differ from their larger *confreeres* in size only, shape and color being the same—at least, so far as obtainable. The title "pigmy" signifies smallness of size and smallness of stature. It should therefore be the aim of Pigmy Pouter breeders to select a season for breeding during which healthy and vigorous stock may be reared

without size being increased. Deformed or stunted offspring are not required, for it should be remembered they, in turn, will have to be bred from, and no variety or race can retain its characteristics for long if the stock be deformed or weakly. Breeders of Bantams never commence to "put down" eggs for incubation so soon as do breeders of the larger breeds of fowls, neither should Pigmy Pouter breeders make an early start. May, June and July (with an occasional nest in August) are the best months in the year to breed Pigmy Pouters, all things considered.

BARBS.

Much of what I have said under the heading Carriers equally applies to this very high-class pigeon, except that size needs to be kept in check; and this can easily be done by carefully selecting the breeding stock. A lot of nonsense has been written about the so called Antwerp style of Barb; but I very much question whether any Antwerp blood flows in the veins of some of the large Barbs one has become accustomed to see of late. I am inclined to think that excessive size has been brought about more by carelessness in selection of stock and injudicious feeding than by crossing with Antwerps or other unconsanguinous breeds. Barbs, as a rule, are more hardy than Carriers, and they are also more prolific; but if fanciers would only be content with three nests in a season instead of four, the percentage of weekly offspring would, I am sure, be considerably reduced.

SHORT-FACED TUMBLERS

are looked upon as a comparatively tender breed, and so they are to a great extent, requiring great warmth and more delicate feeding than such robust birds as Dragons, Owls, Antwerps, etc. According to my dictum, their "close time"—to borrow a metaphor—extends from the latter end of March to the end of July, though I am aware some are bred earlier and some later than this; but no fancier of experience would ever dream of Short-face Tumbler breeding as early as February or so late as the autumnal months. How is it possible for August and September bred pigeons to cast off their nestling garb and assume adult plumage before the cold weather sets in? Utterly impossible.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

PIGEON ITEMS AROUND BOSTON.

BY OUR BOSTON CORRESPONDENT.

The members of the New England Pigeon Association are all looking forward to a big boom in the fancy in the near future. I have talked with quite a number lately who have never become members of the club, and most of them intend to hand in their names very shortly. I wish those members who honor the roll of membership with their names but never show up at the meetings would come in and see us once in a while. There are a number of good fanciers who are members but have never attended a single meeting. Your names help gentlemen, but we would like the pleasure of your company and acquaintance.

There has been some good exhibitions held at the club during the year just past, and the prospects are good for still better this year. The young bird classes might have filled better but this was owing to so few using seamless bands last year. This season about everyone has banded their young, and I expect to see some very hot competition in these classes. The best show held last season was when the muff Tumblers were exhibited. There were between 75 and 100 birds entered, and there is no reason why we cannot have fully as many this year in other varieties. Some good birds have found their way to Boston of late and a few of them are sure to create a sensation when they are put up in competition. The New England Pigeon Association has got the name of being the most enterprising club in the country, and every New England fancier should try to keep up the interest. If all the good fanciers who are not already members will join and attend the meetings regularly so as to have a voice in matters that come up from time to time we could soon make Boston the pigeon centre of America. Progress in the fancy is what we must keep in mind at all times, and if some of the boys who have said there is no use in paying out money to belong to the New England Pigeon Association will only stop to consider the benefits to be derived from it I think they can see that it is for their interest to stay in.

We want to hold a show some time and think of the amount of good such an event will be to us all. Think it over well, boys, and stick to the club, for in doing so you are surely helping the fancy, and that means a greater demand for stock.

The entrance for the World's Fair Pigeon Exhibit has closed, and as far as I can learn very few birds have been entered from this section. The only ones I have heard of are Dr. Kendall, 4 pair Runts, 1 pair hen pigeons; Blake & Johnson, 1 pair barred Blondinettes, 1 pair laced Blondinettes, 1 pair Satinettes, 1 pair Bluettes; and C. E. Twombly, 4 pairs barless Swallows.

Undoubtedly, there would have been been many more had the entries not closed so early. I should think one month before the show would have been plenty soon enough. Another thing that has kept the fanciers from entering is the non-appointment of superintendent and judges.

I received a letter from Mr. W. I. Buchanan, who is in charge of live stock exhibit, a few days before the entries closed, in which he states that everything indicates a very successful and satisfactory pigeon exhibit. Let us all hope such will prove to be the case, for surely fancy pigeons should cut some figure at an event which happens but once in a lifetime.

I am pleased to see that our good friend, "Rounder," has again favored us with an article. We have missed you, "Rounder," very much, and had come to the conclusion that the classification question had discouraged you. I could not blame you if it had, for I had tried it myself and was very glad to drop it. Some one named mine the crystalized classification, and I think it is well named. Come again, "Rounder." Let us hear from you every week.

Mr. Henry Wagner is having very poor success with his youngsters this season. He tells me they have about all died in the first month, and try what he will he cannot rear them. This is a bad state of things, and coming from Mr. Wagner, who ought to know what is the trouble if anyone would, I cannot understand it.

Read the new advertisements in this issue.

LONG-FACED TUMBLERS.

BY HENRY CHILD.

From Feathered World.

In commencing my articles on the various varieties of long-faced Tumblers, I wish it to be understood that it is the long-faced Tumbler I wish to describe. We so often see medium-faced Tumblers in the show-pen adorned with first-prize cards, that it may be thought by some that my drawings do not represent many of the frequent winners of the present day, and although I regret this, still it is hard for a judge to pass some of the pleasant-faced birds, as some of them possess many of the best points towards perfection. Still, I should like to see more uniform type of birds at our large shows. To illustrate my meaning, take, for instance, classes for Beard, Baldheads, and, say, Almonds, and anyone closely watching these classes must frequently be struck by the difference in type of some of the winners in each class, to say nothing of the three classes combined. I have myself often been puzzled after giving first prize to a bird I consider a long way the best in a class, to find my next bird equally well marked, of good color and correct size, in fact running the winner rather close up, but here type fails, perhaps too pleasant-faced, perhaps face too long, but still, all things considered, the next best bird, and to pass this bird because not exactly the style of No. 1, I would consider wrong, as the best bird for type perhaps fails in several important points, hence my desire to have a more uniform type among our show birds. Let me try and illustrate what I mean. I will suppose the class to be for rosewings. There are two birds in that class so near alike in all but two points—one excels in type, the other in rose, and in a rosewing class I would give it to the one possessing the best rose, unless, of course, it should be too deficient in type. The great difficulty often occurs that one fancier has a strain of birds which please him very well, and under some judges he wins, and by that type which predominates among his stock he swears by, and that follows that judge up, and who can blame him? The classes which represent the best and most uniform type and good quality are the classes for self colors,

and I am surprised they are not more frequently found at our shows, as I have known as many as thirty-five entries in one class, and that is the class to see quality to perfection. But often in a large class of mottles, many are shown because they are nicely mottled, and possess no other good quality. The same applies to Baldheads, some high cut, some low cut, and as many different shapes of head as there are entries in the class. These are things I would like to see remedied, and it can only be done by working up to one standard. I propose giving a series of drawings of some of the varieties, giving my idea of what I consider is the correct type, and as far as possible to show as near as I possibly can how the different varieties should be marked both in clear-legged and long-muffed Tumblers.

With this chapter I give my first drawing, which represents a self-color Tumbler, and which admirably conveys my idea of what constitutes a typical specimen. To assist the fancier I may say that the measurement, from a very perfect specimen before me, should be as near as possible the following: $8\frac{3}{4}$ to 9 inches from floor to top of head, 13 inches from tip of beak to end of tail, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch from centre of eye to end of beak, and when in good show condition a bird should weigh about 11 to 12 ounces; These remarks, with the illustrations, should give, I think, a very good idea of what a Tumbler should be. These self-colors are found in red, yellow, black, blue, silver, dun and white. but whatever the color, the eye should in all cases be pearl, and as free as possible from any dark shade. The eye cere very fine and forming a very narrow ring round the eye and of a very pale color, quite free from a red shade, which often gives some birds a very coarse appearance.

Commencing with reds, although there are so many different shades of this color I find it very difficult to describe what I consider a really first-rate color for a red Tumbler. Some say, certainly a blood-red; but I can imagine several shades of which, when seen in Tumblers, may form very attractive colors. However, on the whole, I believe that the darker the red you are able to get the less likelihood there will be of variations in the shade of the feathers; therefore I conclude that the darkest shade

of red is the safest as well as the most correct color to aim at. It also gives you a margin for two or three shades of a lighter color. But whatever shade you strive for, it should be of a solid uniform color throughout, even to the flights and tail. I fancy I hear some one say, "I wish you may get it." Well, I wish so, too. I am quite aware of the difficulty of finding such perfection, and am willing to confess that I do not believe such a bird exists at the present time.

Whatever shade of red is got it should possess as much lustre or sheen as possible, especially on the neck and shoulders; and it should be as free as possible from green lustre. Add to the foregoing description a pale flesh-colored beak, free from stain, and you see a bird that would tempt you to break one of the Commandments. Avoid lustreless reds, which are often of a dull plum color underneath the breast; with the flights and tail dull color, the two outside feathers showing a lighter shade, especially along the outer edge of the feathers, often described as too bricky in color and hard feathered.

Here is a problem for advocates of judging by points to solve. Take a Tumbler possessing all the requisite points bar color, and another, the best colored red living; how many points would you give to color?

Yellow Tumblers appear far easier to get to perfection than reds, from the simple fact of there being so many different shades of the color, any of which, when uniform and solid throughout, form very handsome birds, from the dark heavy color to the paler, but at the same time even color, and it must always be purely a matter of taste which color is selected for preference in the showpen. Neither can I see why this should not be so; for you may find in a class of yellows so many good birds each of a different shade of color, and I have often been struck with the difference of opinion among good judges as to yellow selfs. For my part, I think it is wrong for any judge to lay down a hard-and-fast line as to color, especially in yellows, but whatever shade of color the birds may be they should possess as much lustre as possible, especially on the neck hackle. The beak, as in reds, should be of a pale flesh color, quite free from stain. I have only to add that yellows, reds, and, in fact, all

self colors, should be short, close-feathered, and when in fine condition almost appear as if they had been polished.

Blacks are blacks certainly, but only those who have gone through a large class of self-blacks can form an opinion as to the difference in shade or intensity of color. I remember once having to judge a class of self-blacks, containing, if I remember rightly, thirty five entries, as is often the case at some of the Scotch shows, and *lucky* is the man who can feel satisfied afterwards that he has selected the best birds. They take some finding. Blacks, then, should be as black as possible, even down to the root of the feather, and carrying as much lustre or sheen as possible, of a bright bottle-green color, and as free as possible from purple or copper-colored shade. I say, as far as possible, for there are very few free from it. I know of nothing in the color of pigeons to equal the color of a proper self-black Tumbler when in show form. The beak should be black; the eye pearl and as free as possible from cere; the toe nails black.

Duns, although seldom seen or thought of, are often produced from blacks, and when of an even uniform shade of color, with the hackle showing a greenish lustre, a clear, pearl eye, a pale flesh-colored beak, and of a sprightly carriage, make up attractive birds.

Blues should be of a solid, uniform color all through, even underneath the vent and thighs, where they are often very pale in color. They should be free from white on the rump, the tail carrying a black bar, and the wings the usual bar for blue pigeons to be as distinct as possible and quite black; the neck hackle carrying plenty of lustre of a dark bottle-green; the beak black.

Silvers are very seldom seen now, the fashionable colors—reds, yellows and blacks—having almost elbowed them out of existence; but they are often produced in breeding closely-related blues. I remember producing one in this way, which was considered one of the most perfect Tumblers living. The tail and wings barred; color, clear silver; beak flesh color; eye clear pearl.

Whites should be a clear white all through, but the neck and hackle often with the lustre shows a shading

which appears a little dark. These birds when in proper show form are very attractive; but they are seldom shown except where separate classes are provided for them, as they have but little chance against their brethren. Eye, clear pearl; beak, pale flesh-color, toe nails, white. In breeding whites the young often show a few tinged feathers in the first crop, but unless too dark these will generally come clear white in the first moult. If not, they will often come white by pulling a few times.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

PEORIA NOTES.

The membership of the Peoria Columbarian Association is still increasing. We now have 15 live members and before long several applications will be handed in. If this increasing of the ranks continues Peoria can have the honor of having the largest number of fanciers for its size in America. I have often wondered why the fanciers of Chicago and St. Louis do not organize a club, and thereby not only increase the number of fanciers, but also put new life into the old ones. It was our club which stirred up the fanciers in this vicinity, and the consequence was that they invested in better stock and also build better lofts. This goes to illustrate the old saying: "In union there is strength."

Two weeks ago I visited the lofts of Mr. Charles Suter. Charley has a one story building, 12x22, separated into two lofts. The one loft is at present used for a store room, but he intends to clean it out in a week or two and use it for his young birds. The other loft is stocked with white Fans exclusively. Charley has a very good collection of this beautiful variety. He had one stylish hen which I admired above all. She is a cross between a Scotch and an English. Charley informed me that he may show a few at the winter shows.

Most of the fanciers in this city report a poor breeding season.

The entries for the pigeon show at the World's Fair closed July 15, without a single entry from Peoria. This was on account of being required to enter their birds three months before the time. If they would have set the

date for the entries to close on September 1st they would have stood the chance of having a fair entry from this city.

HOMING PIGEONS IN 1583.

The following, taken from "Linschoten's Voyage in the East Indies in 1583," will no doubt interest some of our readers:

"And inasmuch as we are speaking of Turkey, I cannot remain silent as to the way in which the great Turk can always have, and send tidings and messengers from all his kingdoms and countries that are so great, wild and waste, and lie so far apart. Now, you must know that in all Turkey they make use of pigeons that are trained (to the work), and have rings on their legs. These pigeons are taken from Bossora and Babylon to Aleppo and Constantinople and *vice versa*; and if there is anything needful or important to advise, they make fast the letter to the ring on the leg and let the pigeon fly away, so the letter comes with the pigeon to the place whence it was brought, and it flies sometimes a thousand miles or more, which one would declare to be impossible. But it is true, and affirmed to by many that come thence. I have seen some of these pigeons in India, that a Venetian, a good and peculiar friend of mine had brought with him as a curiosity to show in India."

WORLD'S FAIR SUPERINTENDENT.

The Evansville Tribune in its issue of Saturday last says, under the head "Indiana Again:"

"President Buchanan has confirmed the appointment of Mr. Geo Seeger, Jr., of Lafayette, Ind., as Superintendent of Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Department of the World's Fair,

Mr. Seeger will begin his duties on September 1st, though the exhibit proper will begin October 16th, to continue six days.

While we feel proud that an Indiana man was chosen for this important place, we are free to say that a better officer than Mr. Seeger could not have been chosen. He is a breeder of national repute, and is moreover a just and genial gentleman, who has the high esteem and perfect con-

fidence of the fanciers of America irrespective of location. Many who were undecided as to whether or not to exhibit will hasten to make their entries now that the appointment of Mr. Seeger is a certainty.

That he will conduct the office in such a manner as to merit the high opinion we have of him, goes without saying."

Mr. Seeger is all that the Tribune says of him, and is one of the most prominent of Western men. He is young and full of energy and will see that the best of care is taken of all stock under his jurisdiction.

EXPERIENCE IN THE PIGEON FANCY.

BY P. S. HUNTER.

In reviewing his career, if it has extended through many years, the fancier notes among the most striking changes which have been developed, the loss of that exuberant enthusiasm which characterizes the earliest stages of the fancy, and imparts vigor and animation to his efforts. It is true that if he has been successful, this enthusiasm has been supplanted by a steady confidence in his methods and standards which encourage perseverance, and commands educational as well as pecuniary profits, but the old spirit and energy of hope has sensibly declined. At first the study of *pigeon-culture* has been altogether by steps of delight and admiration. Every new point of color, form of marking (and at that stage all were new) was something phenomenal, and destined to strike the fancier world with perfectly dazzling *eclat*. If he had procured stock with which to commence, from fanciers of celebrity, he had noticed that these birds had come highly endorsed by owners whom he supposed were competent judges, and he saw with high exultation that in some point or some quality the parent birds were surpassed by their progeny. "If the parents were fine," he argued, their offsprings are decidedly superior, at least in some respects, and I must be on the high road to a fancier's fame already." But the weeks elapse and build up months, and there comes a season when it can afford to dispose of some surplus stock. Promptly he advertises, receives letters of inquiry,

and finds himself fairly embarked upon the sea of pigeon correspondence. He secures an order, and is requested to forward the birds at once upon the recommendation and description given. Now in this recommendation he has determined to avoid if possible all exaggeration, and to confine himself to actual facts, even a little more unfavorably stated than they deserve. And what is the result? Usually, absolute condemnation of the birds sent, or at best, very faintly expressed toleration of their quality on the part of the recipient. Rarely, very rarely, a bird does meet with the approbation of his purchaser. Disappointed and deeply chagrined, the fancier determines to do what he considers sacrificing his stock. "I know," he reflects, "I can give satisfaction. I will send the parent birds themselves to my next customer, just to prove that I do know what good stock is, and can supply it by giving up my finest birds. Here are pigeons which I have bought at high prices from renowned fanciers, and they are endorsed as exceptionally high-class birds. I will see what objection can be urged now."

To the express office he departs with the birds neatly and securely packed, and anxiously he watches the mail for the letter of rapture which he is to receive from his customer. At last, the longed for epistle arrives, and to his utter astonishment, he reads that his birds were inferior, perhaps far more inferior than those he had sent before, if it chanced that he sends them to a former customer. Again and again in succeeding years, this experience is repeated, and, while the fancier may learn to rear stock which really is valuable, and to know himself when he has secured a bird of unusual quality, it has been the result of his own study and education in the fancy, and he has steeled himself to disregard the criticisms of other fanciers if they are false, and adopted the firm principle of sending out only such birds as he knows are just what he recommends them to be. By these methods he achieves success, but he will never again feel the excitement and enthusiasm of earlier episodes of his career. And as every fancier is not successful, but very many meet with no such stimulus to counteract the effect of disappointment, we find pages and pages of names of advertisers who were once

well-known as pigeon fanciers, but whose character as such is now numbered with the things of the past. They have become disgusted, and abandoned pursuits which were really instructive and ennobling to their natures. The root of this difficulty is to be found in the fanciers' forgetfulness, than in the pursuit of purely ideal standards, it is impossible, with any show of reason, to expect to achieve those which all fanciers will concur in acknowledging to be correct. Human taste differs so widely, and human judgment varies so much, that in deciding upon the merits of such an artificial creation as a fancy pigeon, anything like an absolute concurrence of general opinion would be miraculous. We are all disposed to be too much influenced in our taste by the prevailing fashions around us, and if we are only going to cultivate pigeons with the hope of meeting anything like the universal approbation of our fellow fanciers, we will find our object quite delusive. If each fancier, who is really devoted to the pursuit, would select his favorite varieties, and appoint his standards, to be steadily pursued to their accomplishment, he would achieve a success in the end which would be highly satisfactory.

Carefully produced types of birds will always command a high value among fanciers, because if they are not wanted for themselves, they are frequently of great use as material in the formation of other types. The pigeon fancy thus pursued, is remunerative pecuniarily, but if it is to be considered purely in view of its material profit, and there is no strong natural love of the fancier for the bird, it should not be recommended, as the result will almost infallibly be a failure. Fortunately the predilection of human affection for this beautiful bird is one of the oldest and most constant on record, and it is highly improbable that there will ever occur a period of time when its admirers will not be found as sincere as they are numerous.

THIEVES AGAIN.

EDITOR THE FANCIER:

I write you to let you know of my loss. Last Saturday night some person broke into my lofts and stole 15 of my Shield Trumpeters, 10 old and 5 young, the young wearing the F. J.

seamless band. There are in old 4 reds, 4 blues and 4 yellows, and in the youngsters were 4 blues and 1 red. The party who stole them will probably try to get rid of them in the neighborhood of New York. If any of the readers of this paper hear or see anything of them and will let me know he will very much oblige

CHAS. BANG.

New York.

RAMBLING NOTES.

BY "ROUNDER."

Delight of delights! The postman has at last brought me the *only*, and to say I was delighted but feebly expresses my feelings. I have been lost for the last month and kept wondering if every pigeon crank felt as I did. Is it not strange how attached one becomes to a certain something that when it is taken away from us suddenly one feels as if the entire world had turned its back upon us. Such has been my feeling during the last month, and from a few letters I have received from several fanciers they must have felt about like I did. One of them wrote me, saying: "I feel as if I had lost a near and dear friend by death since THE FANCIER has ceased coming."

No doubt, Mr. Editor, the entire fancy will now more than ever appreciate THE FANCIER and redouble their efforts in its behalf by soliciting their friends to subscribe and advertise, for they certainly know now its sterling worth. I hope it will never be said of the pigeon fancy that they would not lend their undivided support to the only exclusive pigeon paper in the world.

I received a letter from home to-day which says that Baltimore will have a show, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the American Pigeon Club show. I cannot understand the ways of some people, and I would have bet my existence upon the American Pigeon Club holding their show after the deal of blowing they did. But now that the Baltimore fanciers have concluded positively to hold a show, I hope you, Mr. Editor, as well as all the rest of the home fanciers, will do all in your power to help make the show a howling success, so as to reflect credit upon the city of monu-

mens. I shall do all I can to help the show, and if the promoters will address me, care of THE FANCIER, and give me whatever news they desire published I shall be only too happy to have my say, with your permission, Mr. Editor (which is freely given—Ed.) and urge all to do their share to make the exhibit one of the largest ever given by the Baltimore, or for that matter, any other fanciers.

By the way, I have heard that the show is to be of poultry and pigeons. This is a mistake. I think it should be nothing but pigeons, as there are plenty of fanciers in Baltimore alone to make a big display of pigeons, and as good as any in the country. Let it be pigeons boys, and only pigeons.

Well! well! So the Owl men at last have gotten down to work and sent out voting slips to those that joined the club. This is the sort of talk I like to hear. Now, if the members will only elect a goop list of officers that have some push in them we will no doubt see lots of Owl men and a boom for Owls before long. The beautiful certainly deserve it, as in my opinion no prettier pigeon lives than the white African Owl. There is a certain something that is hard to explain in an African Owl that catches the eye, and once a an Owl fancier always an Owl fancier. The fancier may give them up for awhile and get some other variety but he invariably returns to his first and lasting love, the Owl.

The Pouter men should now move up in line and organize their specialty club. I certainly would be a pity to leave such a grand bird like the Pouter without a club. Get a move on yourselves, Pouter breeders, and organize at once. Don't put off until to-morrow that which can be done to-day.

Mr. Editor, I have often wondered what has become of such breeders as H. Lancaster, Wm. Stunz, Charles Becker, Charles Powell, Cunningham, Klemm, Kraft and a host more whom I cannot recall to memory just now. Are they dead or alive, and have they still got pigeons?

Now is the time to send in your advertisements to catch the fall and winter trade.

THE FANTAIL

This pigeon, (the Trembleur Paon) of the French, often called the Broad tailed Shaker, is one of the most attractive and elegant of the many varieties of pigeons. As the name denotes, they derive their appellation from the size of their tails and the quivering or trembling of their necks. There are several classes of fantails and fanciers, and as the demand for fine, high bred birds is increasing, so will the dull birds constantly disappear. One strain of fantails is large and erect with very large tails the other is small and stylish. Some birds are long-necked and others short-necked. The latter is the well-known German variety. Then comes the pointed and plain headed. The smooth head appears to take best in England, as well as in America. Many breeders put nearly all their attention to the tail and others go for grand style and sacrifice the rest and I think the latter combines in it the former. The standard color of a fantail is pure white, with a slight purplish glimmer about the neck when basking in the sun. There are none of the many breeds that equal the pure white. Some breeders have blacks with white tails, and whites with black tails; but after all they like the pure white best. Yellow and blues are quite hard to obtain, and few in number. Some fanciers like large tails having 36 feathers as a minimum, but if you can get a tail with thirty feathers in it be satisfied, for that is a very good tail and its weight is easily carried. The feathers, as a rule, are of two varieties, long and narrow short and wide. Those birds that have long necks generally have long feathers, and short-necked ones *vice versa*. Those birds that have the feathers short and broad make the best tails, and there is more likelihood of its being a wide-spread tail, and more than that, the birds to which they belong generally have short backs and have therefore one of the points in the standard. The tail should form about seven-eighths of a circle, and should be smooth and flat, the under tail coverts smooth; the carriage is a thing most important. The fan should be carried so that the ends of the middle feathers would come in a straight position over the center of the feet, and touch-

ing the head and must not lean either to the right or to the left, as the slightest bending will make against the bird. The neck preferable is that which is long, graceful and slightly curved. It must rise from a full, round breast and be continually in a tremulous motion. The eye of a fantail has an expression which is not observable in the eye of any other variety and it appears to be on account of the continual motion of the neck. The neck inclines backward until it rests against the surface or tips of the tail, it must not press heavily against the tail, for if it does it will pass the feathers and go between and undoubtedly cause a deformity. The vibration of the neck is only produced by culture and is one of the great things necessary to good style. If you draw a triangle you can form a good idea of what a fantail should be, with regard to the relative position of neck, tail and body. The base of the triangle represents the body and the two sides the neck and tail meeting at the apex or point. The wings should be carried close to the side, the tips joining behind the tail just about touching the ground. The feet should be a coral red and the shorter the back the better, as it is more likely to have the carriage fine. The following is about the standard for fantail breeding.

1. Color, snowy white; 2. Style, nervous continual motion of the head;
3. Size, small; 4. Back, short; 5. Tail, well spread, with even and broad carriage; 6. Feet, coral red, unfeathered; 7. Eye, hazel in white, bright and pearl in color; 8. Neck, long, head, plain. The number of feathers in tail is quite a matter of choice, many good birds have only twenty-four to twenty-eight. If you want a good breed of fantails you must cull the coarsest of them and you will find the fantails as good breeders as any of the other varieties and quite as ornamental as any. They are poor flyers and stay about the yards and cot, and of all the varieties, the most apparent intelligent, affectionate and attractive. No variety can equal them for grace and ornament, as they seem to take pleasure in showing off their graceful motions, and winning the grace and admiration of the beholder as they waltz before you.

Send in your subscription.

TRIMMING FANTAILS.

EDITOR THE FANCIER:

Mr. Ed. B. Page, in a well written article, asks for advice about trimming the wings and tails of young Fans. I am glad to give him experience, for experience is a dear teacher, and if you can get some other man's for nothing you are that much ahead. For years I had trouble with my tails. In striving after style I couldn't get the heads in the right place on the cushion. The heads were too far back, and would go down on one side or the other and push the tail over. Then, as I kept on breeding, I would find that the wry tail began in the rump—right in the nest, even before the feathers grew. I laid awake many a night and pondered on the question, and I did lots of cutting and trimming, but now that it's all over I can't say that I ever got any good results. If Mr. Page will take any of his young birds that catch badly and drop them out of his hand onto the floor he will find that they light with the whole rump over to one side and not the tail only. This shows that it's in the body formation of the bird, and I don't think any trimming will ever get it out. My way was to let go of every bird that had a tendency that way, and I believe that out of 71 young I have bred this year only two had wry tails, and I gave them away before they ever got out on the floor.

Now, as to cutting the wings, or to put it better, "clipping the flights," I am a very firm believer in its efficacy. But I don't approve of cutting too much. Watch a young bird and you will find that often only one or two of the longest flight feathers do the catching. Then slight catches can spoil any tail on earth if they are allowed to keep catching day after day. When a tail is young it is soft, naturally, and there should be nothing to interfere with its keeping its proper shape night or day.

If a heavy stick struck against a young tree it would keep pushing the tree and it would grow crooked. Take the stick away and the tree grows as it should. If flight feathers catch on a tail and push it out of the way take them away, *i. e.*, by clipping. But I do not mean the whole wing should be cut. Often an inch off the end of a feather or two will do the work. I have seen some breeders

make a straight cut clear across the wing, and this, as Mr. Page says very truly, throws the young bird clear out of balance. I believe in assisting nature as little as possible, but when that little is a necessity it should be done.

There is nothing that needs more watchful care than a young Fantail. When I lock up at night I always go to the room where the young are, and if I find a bird roosting with its wings in its tail, or on top of its tail, I quietly slip them past and let them drop under. I do the same thing if I see one standing during the day with its wings caught. Of course this applies only to young birds. After a bird is matured it's love's labor lost to try to break him of an old trick. Almost any old bird, can be weighted tied and "worked" in a pen, till he is presentable, but the man who does this with a show bird practices deception, and whoever buys a bird so "Faked" will be disgusted when the bird goes back to its normal condition and will always blame the seller. My old birds I never touch and they go to the show pen just as I pick them up in the loft, but whenever I have the luck to turn out a star young bird, I watch it like a hawk till the tail is strong and firm in its proper position. This I think not only a pleasure but a duty.

And so to get down to advice. I would say briefly, never touch the shears to a tail. Three years ago I believed in it, but now I don't. Trim the flights just as little as possible. If half an inch will let the flight past the tail, don't take off an inch. If cutting one feather will do it, don't cut two. In other words interfere with nature just as little as possible. I can't agree with Mr. Page however that cutting the wings make a bird 'stoop.' I can show him a lot of which the entire wings bones and all could be taken off and yet they would not stoop. To overcome this tendency he must breed in some high stationed birds. I once had an entire family of those birds. They were perfect in body and grand in tail, but they had that stoop and I could never get it out and I finally sold every one.

F. M. GILBERT.

PIGEON ANGLING.

The London street urchin is a lad of infinite resource, and to a writer in

Cassell's Saturday Journal I am indebted for a new feature of his character. It shows evidently that he has decidedly sporting proclivities, though in this instance, particularly cruel ones, as the following account will show:—"The old-fashioned houses in Abingdon Street Westminster, have for many years been converted into Government or railway offices, and into various professional chambers. The occupants of the front rooms possess numerous opportunities for observing, among other things, the free-and-easy conduct of the scores of pigeons whose home is on the roof of the Houses of Parliament, and whose feeding-ground is Old Palace Yard and the western end of Abingdon Street, where a cab-stand is located. These pigeons are so fearless that you may walk through a flock of them picking about Old Palace Yard without causing them any uneasiness; they will usually just step out of your way. The birds are equally at home on the cab-rank in Abingdon Street, and this having been noticed by some youthful sportsmen emanating from the adjacent Westminster "slums," the sport of pigeon-angling has been initiated by them and carried on with some success. Here is the *modus operandi*. A good deal of food for pigeons falls from the nose-bags of the horses on the stones of the cab-rank, and the pigeons are constantly picking it up. The youthful sportsmen, who are on the watch just round the corner of Little College Street, select a time when the ranks is empty of cabs, or nearly so, and when the County Council guardian of the public embankment garden opposite is actively engaged in chasing some of their confederates in the sport, who have opportunely "cheeked" this watchful official. The boys then emerge from their corner with a batter hook and line. They artfully dispose of the hook among the fallen food, and retire to their hiding-place to watch events. Occasionally one of the pigeons is "taken sudden"—with something that disagree with it—and is pulled across the pavement to its doom. On one occasion the excitement of a capture aroused a sleepy cabman, who investigated the cause, administered corporal punishment to the successful anglers, and deposited the bird, in a cavity underneath the driving-seat of the cab. This is pigeon angling, which is however, on the wane, for, touched with compassion for the fate of the unsuspecting pigeon, the present writer has taken steps to prevent the continuance of the gentle art."—*The Feathered World*.

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Addresses will be inserted in THE FANCIER for \$2.00 per year, payable strictly in advance. Those who breed more than one variety, can have addresses under other headings (after the first) for \$1.00 for each variety.

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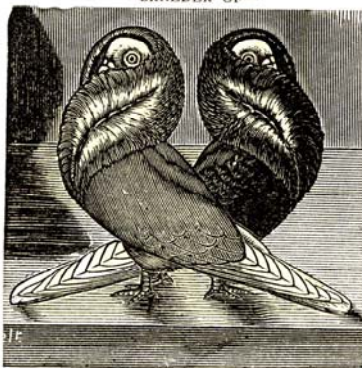
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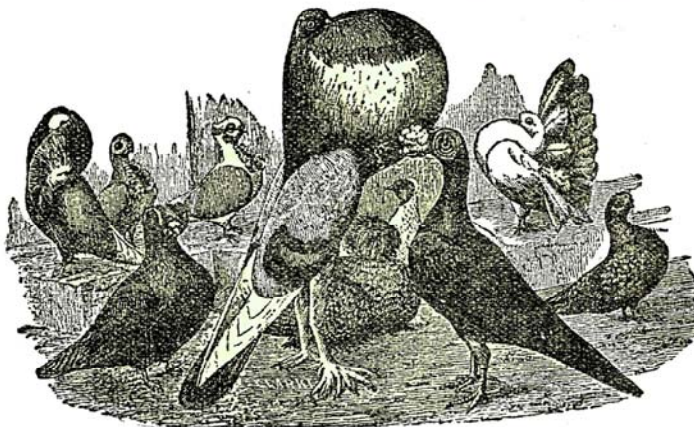
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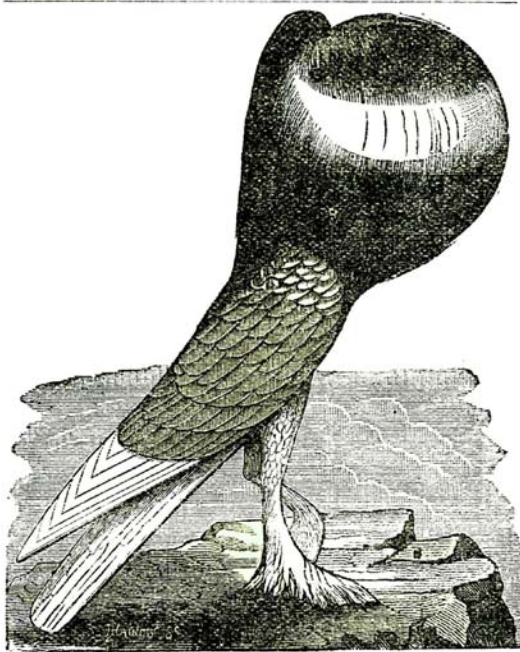
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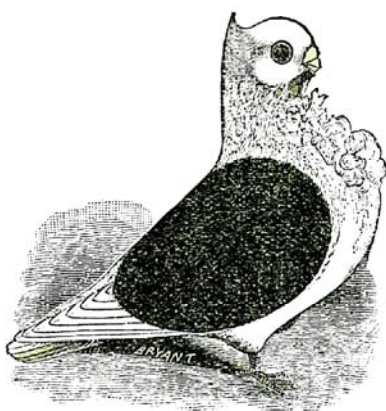
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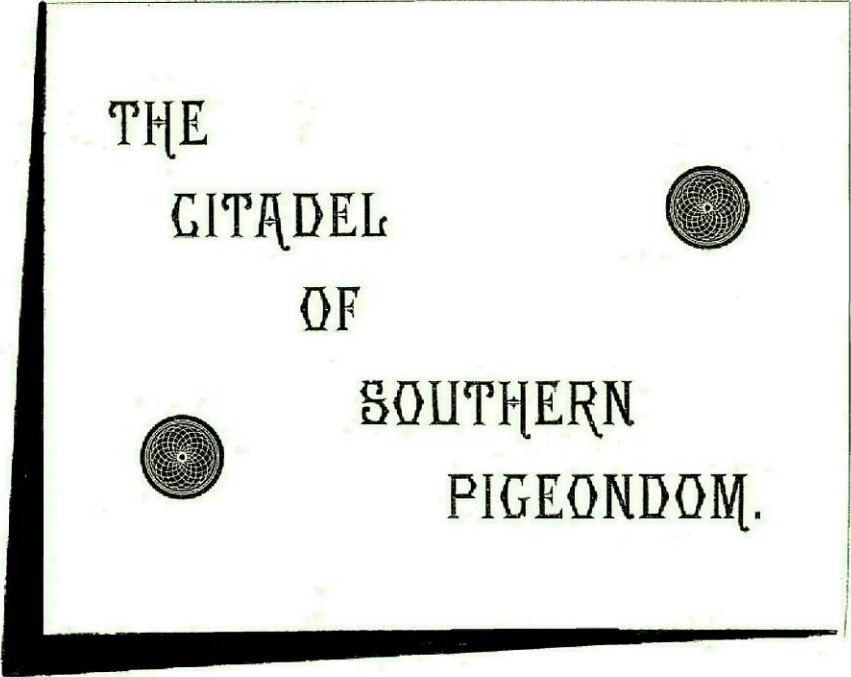
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