

CARRIER PIGEONS.

Some Accounts of Their Remarkable Journeys.

Noteworthy Uses of the Birds as Postmen and for Purposes of Commerce and Speculation—The Messenger Pigeon's Wonderful Homing Faculty—How the Birds are Trained.

In these wonderful days, when not only our written messages but our very voices may be instantaneously transmitted many hundreds of miles, it is worth being reminded that only half a century ago there was no more rapid means of conveying intelligence than by pigeon post, and that even now there are conditions of affairs under which the birds still hold the advantage over steam and electricity.

The use of pigeons as postmen goes away back to classic times. Early navigators, when they neared the shores, sent up birds to convey the good news of their home coming. In Greece the carrier pigeon was the messenger employed to spread abroad the results of the Olympic games, and in Egypt the pigeon post was a public institution. The State eubularies were distributed all over the country, and it was owing to constant communications between the general stations that public order and safety could be maintained in the extensive Syro-Egyptian empire.

In more modern times the pigeons were used for purposes of commerce and speculation as well as war. In 1770 a shrewd Italian had the winning numbers in the lottery of the city of Genoa. He is well-known as the London branch of the great Rothschild banking house was, by means of carrier pigeons, to receive the news of the Waterloo three days in advance of the Government, and to realize an enormous profit by buying up Government stock, but very much depressed, and selling again when the rise came.

Of course, after the railway and telegraph had spread their wonderful network of iron and steel over the earth, and under the sea, the services of the pigeon as a news-carrier were no longer necessary in the same degree, and their training might have become a lost art had not the love of sport come to its rescue. People of means and leisure found them more interesting pets than greyhounds or race horses, and their systematic rearing and training for purposes of friendly competition rapidly developed until the extraordinary services rendered by the birds during the siege of Paris had established them once for all on a firm footing as a recognized institution of vital importance.

The popular title for the birds that can be made to do duty as postmen is carrier pigeons. But this is not correct. "The true carrier," says Colonel Cameron, who has made a thorough study of the whole subject, "is not suited to this purpose. It is essentially a fancier's show bird—tall, erect and bold in carriage. The homing faculty, or power to satisfy its desire to trace its way homeward, is not possessed in any high degree by carrier pigeons. The birds used on messenger service are of common looking pigeons, undistinguished by untrained sight from the ordinary house pigeon bred for the table. Such birds are known in German as 'Brieftrauben'—letter pigeons; in French as 'voyageurs,' i. e., travelers, carriers, homing and messenger pigeons."

The last name is perhaps the most appropriate, indicating as it does the service to which the bird is put. Upon what the messenger pigeon's wonderful faculty of finding its way homeward over vast distances depends, opinion differs. Some ascribe it to an exercise of highly developed intelligence, others to an almost insuperable perfection of sight, and yet others to instinct or intuition. The fact of the matter is, it is one of those mysteries of nature that perhaps will never be revealed, and which, on the other hand, the action of the grise or young salmon, which finds its way back unerringly to the same stream, and left nearly three years before as a tiny parr, is a mystery.

The points to be desired in a messenger pigeon are brainy heads—that is, broad between the eyes, and full at the back; bright, intelligent eyes, and wings that show length, breadth and firmness of pinion webs, together with a straight alignment of the wing-feather tips when fully expanded.

There are remarkable instances on record of what the birds have done. A French bird captured near Paris, and taken to Berlin, 500 miles away, and kept there for four years. It escaped somehow, and at once made a straight line for home, safely reaching it in the distance of 1,000 miles. Colonel Cameron relates that he purchased in Toronto two birds which had never been flown eastward of that place. From Toronto they were taken to Kingston, 100 miles east, and there kept for some time. They were then sent to Niagara lake, nearly fifty miles north of Kingston, to be flown. Instead of returning to Kingston they went westward 150 miles direct to their old loft at Toronto, as they had been in the case of both moves, conveyed in a closed basket, they had no chance of seeing the intervening country, so that sight evidently had nothing to do with their return. There are numerous instances of birds in training making their way swiftly and safely back over 100, 200, and even 250 miles of utterly unknown territory.

The method of training is to take the young bird a few miles from its home loft and liberate it. Fifteen or twenty with each successful lesson, and after a fifty-mile journey had been accomplished the stages may be doubled, thus 100 miles, 200 miles, and so on. As the regular long single-day courses which have been flown on the Continent are: Mechlin from Paris, 554 miles; Ghent from Bayonne, 660 miles, and Liege from Lourdes, 565 miles.

Some famous flights may be mentioned. San Sebastian, in Spain, and Liege, in Belgium, are 610 miles apart, yet in 1824 a bird traversed this great distance in one day, making a record that still stands unbroken. Fifteen other birds thrown at the same time arrived at their loft early the following morning.

A splendid performance was that of the pigeon which in 1885, on being sent up from Abington, in Virginia, flew 505 miles to Brooklyn at the rate of a mile in one minute, forty-two seconds. Another bird flew from Crosson, Pa., to New York, 243 miles, at the rate of a mile in 58.5 seconds; another from Etampes to Lovain, on the Continent, 215 miles, at the rate of a mile in 59.4 seconds, and still another from Arras to Antwerp, 80 miles, at the rate of a mile in 48 seconds.

Compared with such speed as this the most brilliant achievements of locomotives, ice-boats and race-horses sink into insignificance, and unless the problem of transporting ourselves by telegraph is solved, it is pretty safe to say that the messenger pigeon will remain master of the situation.

Perhaps even more remarkable than the speed with which this interesting bird makes its way back to its home, are the distances it can be trained to traverse. A famous bird named Arnon, owned by A. P. Baldwin of Newark, in the year 1885 in the course of four months, flew as follows: He was trained up to 150 miles; he was then raced successively 100, 150, 272, 372, 535, 1,010 miles, and finally was sent away down to Bontte, La., a distance of 1,154 miles, when he made his way safely back to Mr. Baldwin's loft.

The most noteworthy use of the messenger pigeon as postmen was at the time of the siege of Paris by the German army. A strip of paper 10 inches long by 2-1/2 inches broad was rolled up inside of a large turkey quill, the whole weighing one gramme, or a little more than fifteen grains.

Now, not very many words could have been written or printed upon so small a sheet of paper, but French ingenuity was

Royal Baking Powder. Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report, Aug. 17, 1889. The Empire. CLEARANCE SALE. This being the last day of our great sale, we intend to make it the best for you. For the past two weeks it seems to us that we have supplied all Sacramento and the surrounding country with Dry Goods at prices that have pleased every customer.

equal to the occasion, and by a clever combination of the microscope and the photographic lens by microphotography, as it is called, it was possible to put 1,152,000 words on one of these sheets, so that each sheet of paper might carry as much information as one of our big morning papers. By this means messages both private and public, which might have been sent in large numbers throughout the siege, enabling the newspaper correspondents to contribute graphic accounts of what was going on within the beleaguered city to their respective journals, and also individuals who could afford to pay 5 pence a word to communicate with their friends who were not in the same straits.

The use of messenger pigeons, not only for sporting purposes, but in other ways, is rapidly extending. The United States Government has already established a loft at Key West Island for naval and military purposes, the Government of Canada is arranging to utilize them for the conveyance of news from Sable Island to Halifax, and on the Continent the German, Austrian, Russian and other authorities are utilizing them for conveying news in time of war.

It would be easy to write another column about these most interesting birds. Ed Meredith was among the training birds for the present. Let me, however, suggest the raising and training of messenger pigeons as an enterprise in which some sportsmen might find both pleasure and profit if systematically carried out.—Denver Republican.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL. Mrs. John Bidwell of Chico is in the city. H. F. Dillman has returned from San Francisco. Miss Edie Waite paid the Auburn Citrus Fair a visit Saturday.

T. L. Ford, District Attorney of Sierra County, was in the city Saturday. St. Louis John Smith, Or., is on a short trip to our city Saturday.

Deputy County Clerk Robinson visited the Citrus Fair at Auburn Saturday. Robert E. Alexander, Charles Duhaime and Ed Meredith were among the Sacramentoans in Auburn Saturday.

Mrs. Edgar B. Carroll, Miss Etta Birdsell and Miss Laura Clark went to the Citrus Fair at Auburn Saturday. Fred E. H. Smith, Mrs. M. J. Well, Louis Weil and Miss Jessie Hunt of this city visited the Auburn fair Saturday.

W. W. Douglas, Dr. W. R. Cline, Jr., John Fatcher and L. E. Hanchett were in Auburn Saturday. Mrs. Wm. Schaw and daughters Minnie and Nellie, and Miss Kirk of this city were in Auburn Saturday.

John T. Whitney and wife and the Misses Gertrude and Beatrice Whitney of Rocklin have been taking in the Citrus Fair at Auburn. General Superintendent J. A. Fillmore of the Southern Pacific Company was in this city Saturday. He returned to San Francisco on the way to San Francisco to attend the Miners' Convention.

Arrivals at the Golden Eagle Hotel yesterday: Wm. H. DeLoach, N. Cassatt and wife, Brockville, Ont.; E. H. Scott, A. D. Crain, A. Deland, C. M. C. Peters, F. A. Mann, Chicago; George S. Scovel, St. Louis; John Smith, Or.; F. H. Richards, L. W. Wilcox, Boston; W. J. Richards, Michigan; L. W. Peterson and wife, Omaha; H. W. Barry, John H. Roberts, wife and child, New York; Mrs. E. R. Howe, Miss Daisy Neville, Alameda; Frank DeLong, Marin County; Robert Tolmie, D. V. J. Ferner, B. H. Roberts, San Francisco; L. Landberger, J. E. Field, James H. Hanley, M. A. Cussen, M. J. Bornstein, F. R. Smith, San Francisco.

"The Parental School." The latest new device in connection with public education is found in Boston. A French bird captured near Paris, and taken to Berlin, 500 miles away, and kept there for four years. It escaped somehow, and at once made a straight line for home, safely reaching it in the distance of 1,000 miles.

Best Advertising Medium. ON THE PACIFIC COAST. WE DRAW THE LINE SHARP AT LOW PRICES. Waterman Pens & Co. Corner Fifth and J Streets. AGENTS FOR BUTTERICK PATTERNS.

The Empire. CLEARANCE SALE. This being the last day of our great sale, we intend to make it the best for you. For the past two weeks it seems to us that we have supplied all Sacramento and the surrounding country with Dry Goods at prices that have pleased every customer.

COLORED DRESS GOODS. All-wool Scotch Cheviots, 38 inches wide; these have been rapid sellers; 25c a yard. 54-inch Cream Bleached Table Linen, 29c a yard. 60-inch Cream Bleached Table Linen, 38c a yard. 5-8 All-Linen Napkins, good quality, 65c a doz. 15x29 All-linen Huck Towels, \$1 a dozen. Damask Towels, in fancy colored border, knotted fringe, special, \$1 85 a dozen. Heavy Marseilles Bedspreads, large size, 95c.

BLACK DRESS GOODS. All-wool Camels' Hair Cheviots, excellent value, 38 inches wide, 42 1/2 c a yard. PATTERN SUITS. We don't intend to carry one of these over this season. There are 3 lots, ranging in price from \$4 50, \$5, \$7 50, \$10 and \$12 a suit.

FANCY DRAPEY SILK. These are lovely goods, in various colors and good patterns, formerly \$1 and \$1 25 a yard; sale price, 47 1/2 c a yard. Splendid Black Sateen Corsets, handsomely stitched in gold, \$1. The genuine P. D. Corset, all sizes; the famous P. D., \$2 50 a pair.

One line Children's Merino Vests, all sizes, good quality, 25c each. 100 dozen Ladies' Fast Black Hose, 18c a pair. IN ALL RESPECTS THE Best Advertising Medium.

Waterman Pens & Co. Corner Fifth and J Streets. AGENTS FOR BUTTERICK PATTERNS. WE DRAW THE LINE SHARP AT LOW PRICES.

"The Comstock Club." A Remarkable Book of Rare Wit and Sound Philosophy. It Deals "Neither With Radiant Angels Nor Magnified Monsters, but Just Plain, True Men."

THE WORK, WHICH IS ONE OF RICH humor, sparkling wit, sound sense, romantic interest, and wealth of anecdote, is by JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN, editor of the Salt Lake "Tribune," and one of the best writers of the time. The volume is bound in heavy boards, beveled edges and marbled paper; 288 pages.

SHILOH'S CONSUMPTION CURE. This GREAT COUGH CURE, this successful CONSUMPTION CURE, is sold by all druggists on a positive guarantee. If you have a Cough, Sore Throat or Bronchitis, use it. It will cure you. If your child has the Croup or Whooping Cough, use it promptly and relief is sure. If you detect that insidious disease, Consumption, DON'T FAIL to use it, 50c and \$1.

MANHOOD RESTORED. "SANATIVO," the Wonderful Spanish Remedy, is sold with a Written Guarantee to cure all Nervous Diseases, such as Weak Memory, Loss of Brain Power, Headache, Wakefulness, Lost Manhood, Nervousness, Insomnia, all kinds of loss of power of the system, either sex, caused by over-exertion, venereal indiscretions, or the excessive use of tobacco, opium, or stimulants. It is sold in convenient form to carry in the vest pocket. Price 1/2 a package, or 5 for \$5. With every \$5 order free a written guarantee to cure, or refund the money. Sent by mail to any address. Circular free in plain envelope. Mention this paper. Address: MADRID CHEMICAL CO., Branch Office for U. S. A., 353 Dearborn Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

SPORTSMEN'S HEADQUARTERS. HENRY ECKHART, MANUFACTURER AND IMPORTER OF Guns, Rifles, Pistols, Fishing Tackle, and Sporting Materials of every description. Stuns choke-bored, stocks bent, and repairing on guns and rifles a specialty. Send for catalogue. No. 523 K Street, Sacramento.

SHORTHAND AND TYPEWRITING. School, Standard System taught by an improved method. No books required. Terms moderate. Please call and investigate. MRS. F. L. SKRLEY, 531 K. 430-1/2

Record-Union Publications. Attention, Exempts. The regular election of officers of the Fremont Firemen's Association of Sacramento will be held on MONDAY, January 25, 1892, at 7 P. M. All members three months in arrears for dues and fines cannot vote.

THE DAILY RECORD-UNION. The Leading Paper of the Interior of California. The pioneer journal, which, from early years in the history of the coast, has maintained the FRONT RANK OF JOURNALISM, having every news facility with the San Francisco leading dailies, and sustaining the fullest public confidence.

Wanted. GERMANIA BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION. The monthly installments and interest are due and payable TO-DAY, Monday, January 18th, at the office of the Secretary, 1011 Fourth street, from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., and in the evening from 7 to 9 P. M.

Wanted. WANTED—PARTNER: MAN OF GOOD address. Call between 7 and 9 P. M. at 1230 J street, room 2, upstairs. 1415-67. WANTED—PARTNER, LADY PREFERRED, with some means, for profitable, splendid, genteel, paying business. Address J. M. D., this office. 1414-67.

Wanted. WANTED—LADIES; LIGHT WANTED. Call between 8 and 10 P. M. at 1230 J street, room 2, upstairs. 1415-67. WANTED—A FIRST-CLASS HOUSE-KEEPER as partner in a general blacksmithing business; must be sober and industrious; good character; good references; 1st and J, Sacramento, Cal. 1415-67.

Wanted. WANTED—FIVE GENTLEMEN, WIDE awake, with good address; salary or commission. Address THE SINGER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 509 J street. WANTED—MEN FOR FARMS, VINEYARDS, dairies, and all kinds of labor; women and girls for cooking and general housework; plenty of work for desirable help. Apply to EMPLOYMENT OFFICE, Fourth street, K and L. 1415-67.

Wanted. LOST YESTERDAY—A GOLD BRACELET, 14 in. with coral setting. Finder will kindly return it to 630 J street and be rewarded. 1415-22. J. M. GRAYSON—LOST YOUR BOX NUMBER, call at 1230 J street, or send correct address to J. M. D., this office. 1415-67.

Wanted. TO LET—527 I STREET, SUNNY FLAT, suitable for housekeeping, also rooms for gentlemen. 1415-67. TO LET—FIRST FLOOR OF 713 O STREET, corner 7th and O. 1415-67. TO LET—FIVE ROOMS AT 1414 SIXTEENTH STREET. 1415-67.

Wanted. ROOM TO LET—NORTHEAST CORNER of 4th and Tenth streets. A nice, sunny front room, with or without board. First-class accommodations; superior location. 1415-30. TO LET—THE TWO-STORY BRICK stable property on P. Street, about 50 acres in front; contains six stalls. Inquire of JOSEPH BELLE, next door east on P. 1415-67.

Wanted. FOR SALE—DIAMOND RING, DIAMOND stud, gold neckchain with lockets, gold bracelet, one set diamond earrings. For sale at 1230 J street. 1415-67. FOR SALE—RESTAURANT: FIRST-CLASS, good paying business. On K Street, apply to J. H. HANSON & HARTMAN, 1507 Fourth street. 1415-67.

Wanted. 10 ACRES FOR SALE OR LEASE THREE-FOURTHS of a mile from city in south Sacramento; five blocks from electric cars. Improvements consist of new cottage and barn; cost last May \$1,500; 2 1/2 acres in berries; small family orchard; one of the most desirable suburban homes in the country. Apply or address E. K. ALSEP & CO., 1015 Fourth street. 1415-67.

Wanted. FOR SALE—AN UPSTAIRS OF FIVE ROOMS; everything new. Address D., this office. 1415-67. FOR SALE—ONE CHAMPION, \$30. ONE Boys' safety (second-hand), \$20; two new Crescents, solid tire, at reduced prices. MELVIN'S, 712 K street. 1415-67.

Wanted. FOR SALE—CHEAP—FOUR ACRES JUST outside city limits; first-class berry land; good house, barn, sheds, windmill; splendid place for a suburban home. Inquire at Thirty-fourth street, between Gutierrez's Station and Oak Park. 1415-124. FOR SALE—OR WILL EXCHANGE FOR farming land 150 acres (about 50 acres in full bearing trees) Placer County and seven miles from Colusa, between Colusa and Roseville, four miles from Colusa; good house, barn, 10 rooms, rented last year for \$1,500. MILLER & HAY, 1111 Third street, Sacramento. 1415-67.

Wanted. FOR SALE—LOTS 40 OR 80x160 FEET, north side of P street, between Twentieth and Twenty-first streets; one of the finest locations in the city, about one mile from downtown. W. E. CHAMBERLAIN, 1618 M street. 1415-67.

Wanted. FOR SALE—ONE OF THE FINEST AND largest saloons in the city; extra family contractor; best location; stock and lease. Inquire at this office. 1415-67. FOR SALE, OR TO RENT ON LEASE—Ten acres of bottom land, one mile below Washington, Yolo County. Call and make small payment down. Apply to EDWIN K. ALSEP & CO., Real Estate and Insurance Agents, 1015 Fourth street. 1415-67.

Wanted. ORANGE TREES! Fruit, Shade and Ornamental Trees. Full and complete assortment. Everything in the Nursery line. Call and examine stock. W. R. STRONG COMPANY. Tree yard next to passenger depot. 1415-100. H. A. PETRALLI, DEALER IN—Stoves, Metals and Tinware. PLUMBING, GAS FITTING AND ROOFING. Jobbing a specialty. 716 K STREET. 48-1. AT FOLKS! "ANTI-CORPULENE PILLS" Reduce Flesh 15 pounds a Month. Reduce Fat, Druggists or by Mail. De La Monte's Complexion Wafers. Sold by KIRK, GEARY & CO., Sacramento. CROSSMAN'S SPECIFIC MIXTURE. WITH THIS REMEDY PERSONS CAN cure themselves without the least expense, change of diet or change of location to business. The medicine contains nothing that is of the least injury to the constitution. Ask your druggist for it. Price, \$1 a bottle. 027-1/2 Tu