

In the next three stages they kept dropping off singly or in pairs, until at thirty-two miles but five returned. At this stage I lost the hen bird that last year made this distance in thirty-three minutes.

My last trial was from a station forty-one miles distant, with the five remaining birds, and this was the only occasion on which they had very unfavorable weather to contend against. Through a misunderstanding they were liberated at noon, weather very cloudy, with occasional showers of rain, and high wind, and the result was one bird home the same day, and another just a week later. These two I have mated together, and will not fly again this season. The bird that returned the day liberated is a small, with very short face and body, and the one I thought least of in my loft.

There is only one conclusion I can draw from the above result, and that is that the stock was not good, for I do not consider a homing pigeon worthy of the name that cannot find its home when tossed from it a distance of forty miles, in good weather, that is when they are as old as mine were. Several of the birds were bought from the most successful fanciers in the United States, and were from winners in long-distance races. It also proves, to my mind, that good homers cannot always be depended on to produce progeny equal to themselves. I feel quite satisfied that the birds sent me were just as represented.

With two exceptions all the birds I am breeding from this season were imported from Belgium, and from them I have now about a dozen fine young ones, which in a few weeks will be old enough to train, and I hope for better results from them. I am determined that they shall have careful training, so as to fully bring out any good qualities they may possess, and perhaps will yet be able to participate in the races for young birds this season.

Strathroy, June 4th, 1880.

J. F.

### Birmingham Rollers.

Editor Review,

I think it but right in the interest of justice that I make known to your readers a transaction I have had over Birmingham Rollers, and I hope you will allow a little space in your Review for the purpose.

In August last I remitted Jas. Grist, of Philadelphia, \$15.00 for three pairs Birmingham Roller pigeons, (one pair of imported birds and two pairs young ones bred by himself,) and in due course I received six birds, which I soon discovered to be four cocks and two hens. I at once wrote Mr. Grist on the subject, and after a few letters had passed between us, he, or rather Messrs Grist & Son, wrote on 18th of February last: "Our price for two

first-class hens will be \$5.00 to you, to anyone else \$10.00; we will send you two of our best performing hens on receipt of reply and remittance." I accordingly wrote him on 20th February, enclosing the required sum, and after waiting till 15th of March I received their reply dated 11th March, returning the \$5.00 with the excuse "they had lost several hens lately and had deemed it best to return remittance." I at once wrote them as follows:

Montreal, 15th March 1880.

Gents,

I must say yours of 11th inst., returning the \$5.00 sent you on the 10th February, nearly a month ago, surprises me, and I don't see that the excuses you offer in any way justify this course. In the first place, I remitted you \$15.00 for three pairs of Birmingham Rollers (not two pairs and two odd cocks,) and when your attention was drawn to the fact you promised to let me have two hens to mate these two odd cocks for \$5.00, and in your letter of 18th February you state, "our price for two first-class hens will be \$5.00 to you, to any one else \$10.00; we will send you two of our best performing hens on receipt of reply and remittance."

I replied February 20th, sending you \$5.00, and now, nearly a month later, you write you can't send them. Do you call this fair play? I candidly tell you I don't, and were I to send two odd birds for a pair to any one, I should go a great way towards making up the blunder.

I therefore expect you will send me two of your best hens as promised 18th February, for which I inclose the \$5.00, and would say that had you sent the birds as promised in the first place there would now be no need of depriving you of two hens. I think you must agree that this is only just.

I have all your letters and press copies of mine to you, and you have several times promised me these two hens, I therefore trust you will send them by return. Kindly let me know at once.

Yours truly,

FRED. WHITLEY.

Since writing the above, now nearly three months ago, I have addressed Mr. G. & Son on the subject at least three times but am still without a reply, so the matter rests here in the meantime.

Yours truly,

FRED. WHITLEY.

Montreal, 8th May 1880.

We are very sorry that the necessity should arise for the publication of such letters in the REVIEW, but having recommended Mr. Grist to our readers we recognize it as a duty to give the above. His dealings with his Canadian patrons, in more than one instance, have not been of that nature which should characterize the honorable gentleman and true fancier.—[Ed.]