

and overpower him by numbers. This is piracy of the worst kind, and is one of those cases which may be seen amongst humanity in every day life—might overcoming right. But because Jack has a set-to occasionally, English fashion, with his neighbors, I do not believe there are any less summer birds with us than there were before the first English sparrow chirped on the City Hall in New York. I cannot but think these charges against him are imaginary. People think because there are not the same pair of robins hatching under the verandah, and the same pair of bluebirds nesting in the hole in the siding of the old shed, as they have done for several years, oh! those dirty, fighting, quarrelsome little English sparrows have driven them away. Now, if such people would reason a while, they would not be so quick in fastening their charge on them, if they would remember that their favored friends, the robins and bluebirds, have many enemies—cats, hawks, weasels and other animals prey on them, they have to make a long journey from North to South and return annually—in many ways they run risks so numerous that here it is impossible to enumerate them, and because they do not return, as they would do, to the same spot to rear their young, it is not to be wondered at when all the possible causes for their not returning are taken into consideration; and to charge this to the account of the English sparrow is unreasonable and unjust. Might just as well say because in the old country he occasionally wallops a swallow out of his nest, and takes forcible possession, that all the swallows have quit paying their annual visit to the British Islands. It is quite possible he may do some harm, but I am quite convinced he does very much more good, and in our Canadian towns and cities, where he has made his home, he is quite a favorite. In the bright, cold winter mornings, when no other bird is left with us, we are pleased to hear his familiar chirp on the sunny side of the cornice, and, whatever his enemies may say against him, we have so much to say for him that we are pleased to think we shall never again see our streets wanting him. For our own part there are many British birds we would like to acclimatize in our country, but in the latitude we live our winters are too severe. Whilst such lively songsters as the English starling, thrush, lark, linnet, blackbird and many other beautiful birds we could mention, would do well here during our summer season, it would be impossible for them to survive our long, cold winters. While in Australia and New Zealand nearly all the British birds have become acclimatized, we believe none but the hardy little sparrow can live in our rigorous climate.

+ ROADS.

USE OF PIGEONS IN WAR.

A curious item in the military estimates of the greater military powers of Europe is the sum now set down annually for the providing and maintenance of a certain number of pigeon-breeding establishments and houses. The large German fortresses of Cologne, Metz, Mayence, Stratsburg, and others, are all supplied with a complement of pigeons, and in France great efforts have been and are still being made to ensure that there shall be a good stock of these birds in every garrison town. The idea which has been frequently mooted of utilizing carrier pigeons as the bearers of military despatches was first worked out in practice during the investment of Paris and Metz in the late Franco-German war. So vigilant was the watch kept by the Germans over all the approaches leading into the fortresses that, in fact, no other messengers could enter the beleaguered towns. Pigeons could be trusted, under certain easily fulfilled conditions to return with all speed to their homes; and, consequently, many of them were taken out of Paris in balloons, to be subsequently laden with dispatches, with which they then returned to the capital. At first the messages were tied round the necks of the pigeons; but it was found that when this was done many of the birds returned without their despatches, having probably got rid of them themselves during their flight. The plan was therefore adopted of reducing the despatches, by the aid of photography, to the smallest possible dimensions, and inclosing them in a quill, which was then fastened under one of the larger feathers of the pigeon's wing. By this means not only was the loss of the dispatches avoided, but they were also protected from partial destruction and obliteration by the weather.—*Bull. tin.*

Darwin says that animals have no religious sense, but he probably never observed the calm, reflective manner in which a chicken will stand on one leg and look up to heaven after squeezing through a hole in the fence into the strawberry bed next door.

Trying to do business without advertising is like winking at a pretty girl in the dark; you may know what you are doing, but nobody else does.

It is said that a duck goes under water for divers' reasons, and then goes ashore for sun-dry purposes.

Why have chickens no hereafter? Because they have their necks twirled (next world) in this.

Why is a hen immortal? Because her son never sets.

Farmers gather what they sow, seamstresses sew what they gather.