

boiled eggs, bread crumbs, and weed; and when strong let them out on a good grass-plot, with the goose under a coop, or she would lead them too far away. They grow very fast and will require very little feeding or care after they take to the fields, a great many every year being killed at Michaelmas just as they are taken out of the field, and hence called "green geese." Those which are kept on for Christmas will, however, require feeding about six weeks, which should be done in rather a dark place, where they are kept very quiet. I have always fed on the best barley meal with a little whole barley put in the water, and have thus made some splendid birds; in fact, my geese were always sought after as very superior, and few could beat my exhibition specimens in weight. The heaviest single bird I ever had weighed thirty-six pounds, and gained many prizes; pair of Toulouse weighed sixty pounds by the scales of the judges at Darlington, after traveling the long distance from Aylesbury. My exhibition birds were always fed the same as the other, only were not allowed to run out so much, or to sit, as this quite spoils the plumage for exhibition.

"Toulouse Geese are not good sitters, and their eggs are generally set under hens, but these must be large and heavy, or they do not do well."

### The Bird Trade.

Few people have any idea what an enormous business is done in large towns and cities, especially in the old country, in birds, rabbits, pigeons and pets—all these being vended in establishments called "bird shops." There are millions of all kinds of foreign birds imported into Great Britain annually. These comprise nearly every known bird that is capable of domestication on the face of the globe, parrots, cockatoos, Java sparrows, love birds, paraquets, and a host of others that would be impossible to name here, are among the varieties to be seen in any good bird shop. The number of parrots that is brought to England is something enormous. I have seen the estimated figures, but forget just now, but it is almost incredible, and one would wonder what in the world is done with them, and who buy them; everybody knows that about nine hundred and ninety-nine people out of every thousand would not take a parrot at a gift, but if the thousandth fancied one, and buys it, and pay twenty per cent. die before arriving at maturity—for they are all imported and sold when young,—and pay five per cent. more this annually, it will easily be seen in a country of fifty million inhabitants, that only one in a very large number of people need buy a parrot to make the trade in them very large.

But perhaps the largest trade in any one kind of birds is done in German canaries. I have understood that in some parts of Germany, among the peasantry, breeding canaries is quite a business; in some hamlets every cottage is full of canary breeding cages. Regular dealers travel through the country buying up the young birds. They are then exported by thousands, in little wooden cages, about four by six inches, each cage containing a single bird. They are kept in these little cages until they arrive at their destination, are disposed of to the bird dealers, and are still kept by him for further transfer, or are sold, but at his shop, and during all this time the little fellows are confined in their small wooden "broods," the wonder to me is how they bear such close confinement; but they do, and bear it well too. I have heard a canary belch forth as sweet a song from one of these little round-peg wooden cages as I ever heard from a fine and gorgeously painted one.

1. (Birds of a feather flock together?) Wholesale dry-goods houses are generally, on the same street in a city, banks and monetary institutions have their particular location, and, it is the same with bird dealers. There is in all towns in England one particular street noted for its bird shops, where you can get anything from a lop-eared rabbit to a skylark. The time I have squandered when a boy in these streets and these shops, looking at the handsome foreign birds, wishing to own dear knows how many specimens, and wishing more to be in the land where such grandly plumaged birds flew about wild, as common as the English sparrow and robin did there. Where I lived the bird business was as firmly established as any other branch of trade. If a boy wanted a rabbit, or a pigeon, or anything else in the fancy line, he knew just where to go to get what he wanted. If he was overstocked with rabbits or pigeons, and wanted to reduce his stock, or sell out altogether, all he had to do was to pack up his live stock and take it to a bird dealer, where he found a cash customer (although perhaps at a low rate) at a moment's notice.

A bird dealer in Great Yarmouth was a blind man. I did not know him, but a friend of mine did, and he has often spoken to me about him, and said it was truly wonderful to see that poor stone blind man carry on such a business, for which one would suppose the loss of sight would entirely unfit him; but when one brought him a rabbit or a pigeon for sale he would feel it all over, and his judgement by the sense of touch was something extraordinary, seldom making a mistake about the kind or quality he was buying.

Another large part of the bird dealer's business in England is buying native birds from bird catchers. These chiefly comprise linnets, gold-