

larly has this question attracted the attention of the government, which since 1871 has installed a number of military columbaries, under the direction of Mr. Lensen, and have sought occasions to encourage the private pigeon clubs by offering medals to the winners in the races.

"We have been able to see that the efforts made in this way have given the best results, as it was a German pigeon, belonging to the Society Columbia, of Aux la Chapelle, that after the great prize race from Rome—in which city they were set free on June the 23rd—came home first to his coop; beating by forty-eight hours the first Belgian bird that arrived at Brussels."

*To be continued.*

### The Homing Pigeon.

By JAMES GRIST, 2017 RIDGE AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA.

In commencing keeping "homers" it is false economy not to get good bred birds. Little reliance is to be placed in mere good looking birds. They should be either trained, club-marked birds, or the progeny of homers whose history and performances are known.

Homers in training for match or sweepstake flying must have constant practice. A bird showing itself to be slow of wing should not be kept.

I notice that Mr. Van Opstal does not agree with me in regard to the distances in Belgium, which was published in your November issue. My information came from Charles H. Mills, Esq., of the Rue de la Madeleine, Brussels, who resides there, and is president of the Society Libre D' Abeona, and who for many years has competed, with marvellous success, in all the great national and international concourses, and who is known all over Belgium and England as an enthusiastic fancier and a gentleman. In his letter to me, dated Brussels, July 12th, 1875, he informs me that Paris, as the crow flies, (which is direct,) is 240 miles; Orleans, 325 miles; Poitiers, 400 miles; Montainbeau, 500 miles from the "City of Bruxelles." There is certainly a screw loose somewhere, and the best plan I know of to find what the correct distances are, would be for our friend and genial editor, Mr. James Fullerton, to write to the editors of the Belgian newspapers, *L' Epervier* or *L' Colombophile*. I am quite sure they will inform us of the proper distances between these places and cities. For my own part I shall only be too pleased to be enlightened from such trustworthy officials and able authorities.

Our New York Colombophile also objects to my mode of management. Allow me to inform that gentleman of the following facts in regard to separating males from females: In the winter months in 1870, I was then a believer in allowing the

birds to breed up to December, and even later. I was also partially successful in raising a nice loft of youngsters during November and December; but, behold, when the spring of the year came I could not for the life of me raise any birds. In 1871 I wrote to my friends in England and Belgium, informing them of the above facts. From Mr. Charles Stokes, of England, I received a letter advising me to have my lofts and aviaries divided by moveable wire partitions, and place the males on one side and the females on the other, and separate them about August 30th. My friend in Belgium, Mr. Victor Marchon, also advised me to separate them and note the result, after affording the hens a good winter's rest. I have adopted this plan and must say I am greatly pleased at the result, viz: Being very successful in raising in the spring of the year a great abundance of strong, muscular, stylish birds, and have never lost male or female from this European plan of separation during winter.

Depend upon it, gentlemen, the breeding season is virtually over when August comes upon us, for nearly all kinds of birds.

January 1st, 1879.

For the Review.

### Sharks.

When I read the advertisements of the wonderful things discovered and for sale by some of "ye wisest" breeders, and which the amateur *must* have or all his efforts will be futile, I think of the cry of the sailors in bathing when they see the long black fin cutting the water, "Sharks!" One case in point. A few days ago, I picked up a prominent poultry journal, and the first advertisement which met my eye was that of one of our "learned" fanciers, where he advertised to send to amateurs packages of large tobacco seed for 25, 50, and 75 cents each, according to the size, whereby said amateur might raise tobacco, and when dry crumble the leaves; which he in his advertisement claims is the best thing possible for lice. Now, if the person spoken of really wished to confer a favor on the amateur fancier, and thinks tobacco dust good to keep out lice, why did he not tell him to buy a ten cent package of common smoking tobacco, dry it a little and then use it for that purpose? Simply because then the "shark" would not get his 25, 50, or 75 cents, as the case may be. And why does not the editor of the journal that claims to work wholly for the benefit of the breeder say something on the subject? Because he gets pay for the advertisement, and it is money in his pocket to keep his mouth shut.

Another case. Not many years ago I attended a poultry show where a "wise man from the East" was the judge. He awarded a special to a pull t