

quotes a second instance from the annals of the oldest Roman historian, Fabius Pictor, who lived 220 B.C. A Roman garrison being besieged by the Ligurians, they brought to Fabius a Swallow caught on its nest, in order that by tying a thread to its foot he might make known to the besieged, by the number of the knots, the day on which help would be sent to them, so that they might make a sortie at the same time.

The Swallow is not the only bird that under similar circumstances was made use of in olden times. One of the kings of Egypt named Marres—if one can believe Ælian—De Anim. Nat., lib. vi., c. 7, had a Crow so well trained that it would carry letters in any direction with the greatest rapidity. It was only necessary to inform him of the direction. Marres caused a tomb to be raised to honour the memory of this bird.

It was in the days of Varron—that is to say, half a century after the conquest of Greece—that the Romans commenced to entrust messages to Pigeons. "One well-known consequence," says this learned writer in De Re Rust., lib. iii., c. 7, "of the instinct which guides the Pigeon back to the place from which it is taken, is the custom which certain persons have of carrying Pigeons in their bosom into the theatre and there let them fly—a thing they would not do if they were not sure of seeing these Pigeons return to their homes."

This reflection, recorded by Varron, proves incontestably that the custom of which he speaks, and consequently the knowledge of a Pigeon's instinct, was then of recent date amongst the Romans. However that may be, Justus-Lipsius thinks (Saturnal. Sermon., lib. ii.) that what took place at the theatre served as an example to the Roman garrison at the siege of Modena, which took place 44 B.C. Decimus Brutus, shut up in that city by Anthony, received by means of Pigeons frequent news of the consul Hirtius. Pliny, who records

this fact (Hist. Nat., lib. x., c. 53) asks, "What use to Anthony was the depths of his entrenchments, the vigilance of his soldiers, the nets stretched right across the river, when the messenger took the skies for his path?"

Frontinus, who was born about 40 A.D. and died 106 A.D., explains to us in his "Stratagems of War," lib. iii., how Brutus and Hirtius managed to make Pigeons arrive in the place. After having shut them up in a dark place and made them very hungry, Hirtius attached the letters to their necks by means of a silken thread, and then let them loose as near as possible to the ramparts. The Pigeons, eager to see light again and to find food, flew towards the roofs of the houses in the town, where they were captured by Brutus, who thus learnt what was going on outside especially when, after placing food in certain places, he accustomed his messengers to come and alight there.

It appears to me that we cannot doubt that the Romans had recourse to Pigeons in other important events after the siege of Modena. This first attempt succeeded too well for it not to be renewed whenever communications became impossible by any other path than that of the skies.

We find in Martial (born in Spain about 40 A.D., died about 105 A.D.) lib. viii., ep. 32, an epigram which leads us to believe that the gentlemen of Rome, as well as those of Athens, used the Pigeon for purposes of correspondence.

In the East the use of Homing Pigeons dates back to the earliest ages, although, so far as I know, we have no historical proofs of this previous to the crusades.

Some authorities, says Mr. Michaud in the "Hist. des Crois.," note du liv. iii. 1098, do not trace back the use of Homing Pigeons beyond the reign of Nour-Eddin, who is well known to have organised a regular postal service worked by means of Pigeons. The celebrated author of the history of the holy wars remarks that this method of com-

munication was of the greatest antiquity in Asia but that before the time of Nour-Eddin it was only used occasionally, and according to the whims of the fanciers. It is therefore evident that this custom must have existed long before the illustrious Sultan of Syria and Egypt ingeniously conceived the idea of utilising it for the benefit of the public.—*Poultry.*

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION TORONTO.

PRIZE LIST.

FOWLS.

Brahmas—Light Cock, 1st Major Salt Parkdale, 2nd John Finch Seaforth; Hen, 1st John Finch, 2nd W. Brown Toronto; Dark Cock, 1st A. J. Wilson Seaforth, 2nd J. Miles Toronto; Hen, 1st J. Miles, 2nd A. J. Wilson.

Buff Cochins—Cock, 1st F. C. Hare Whitby, 2nd H. Hett, Berlin; Hen, 1st W. McNeil London, 2nd F. C. Hare. Partridge Cock, 1st A. Bogue London, 2nd H. Hett; Hen, 1st A. Bogue, 2nd H. Hett; White Cock, 1st W. McNeil London, 2nd H. Hett; Hen, 1st McNeil, 2nd H. Hett; Black Cock, 1st W. McNeil, 2nd H. Hett; Hen, 1st McNeil, 2nd H. Hett.

Langshans—Cock, 1st Geo. Bartlett London, 2nd T. E. Dudley St. Catharines; Hen, 1st same, 2nd E. S. Middleton Oshawa.

Dorkings—Colored Cock, 1st A. Bogue, 2nd Jas. Main Boyne; Hen, 1st same, 2nd W. Bell York Mills; Silver Grey Cock, 1st J. E. Corcoran Stratford, 2nd A. Bogue; Hen, 1st Jas. Main, 2nd J. E. Corcoran; White Cock, 1st and 2nd A. Bogue; Hen, 1st and 2nd same.

Plumhorn Rock—Cock, 1st and 2nd T. M. Goffat Orillia; Hen, 1st and 2nd same.

Game—Black Red Cock, 1st W. Barber & Co., Toronto; 2nd L. McIntyre, Norwich; Hen, 1st G. Goulding, Parkdale, 2nd H. P. Harrison, Toronto; Brown Red Cock, 1st G. Goulding, 2nd W. Barber & Co.; Hen, 1st same, 2nd G. Goulding; Duckwing Cock, 1st W. Barber and Co., 2nd G. Goulding; Hen, 1st W. Barber, 2nd same; Pile Cock, 1st E. Simpson, Brockton, 2nd L. McIntyre; Hen, 1st W. Barber & Co., 2nd G. Goulding; A. O. V. Cock, 1st same, 2nd L. McIntyre; Hen, 1st E. Simpson, 2nd L. McIntyre.

Hamburgs—Black Cock, 1st and 2nd A. J. Wilson; Hen, 1st I. Walmsly, Embro, 2nd A. J. Wilson; Golden Pencilled Cock, 1st R. Oke London, 2nd S. Wicks, Toronto; Hen, 1st A. Bogue, 2nd G. Bartlett; Silver Pencilled Cock, 1st W. McNeil, 2nd A. Bogue; Hen 1st same, 2nd W. McNeil; Golden Spangled Cock, 1st W. McNeil, 2nd A. Bogue; Hen, 1st W. McNeil, 2nd F. Sturdy, Guelph; Silver Spangled Cock, 1st A. Bogue, 2nd W. McNeil; Hen, 1st R. Oke, 2nd W. McNeil.

Java—Hen, 1st and 2nd W. Brown.

Leghorns—White Cock, 1st J. B. Laing, Guelph, 2nd W. Brown, Bowmanville; Hen,