

Which is THE "Gladiator."

Editor of Review.

I hope you will allow me a little space in REVIEW, to be used for the purpose of giving some light on the subject of the above heading. I have read with interest the many articles from prominent pigeon fanciers, claiming to have better birds than any one else, and as none of our Canadian fanciers have yet laid claim to having the champion homer of America, I now do it.

I may be a little mixed on this subject, but when I give my case perhaps brother fanciers will agree with me that it is of a sufficiently complicated nature to cause some bewilderment.

Last season I was taken with a mild attack of the "pigeon fever," probably induced by reading the REVIEW and *Fanciers' Journal*. I at once concluded to stock a loft with a few pairs of the best birds to be had; and as Mr. Van Opstal, of New York, and Mr. Grist, of Philadelphia, appeared to be the leading men, both in importing and flying stock, I ordered birds from each. Of those received from the former I have nothing to say, further than that they were recommended as good birds, and the older ones as having taken part in long-distance flights in Belgium; but among those received from the latter was one named "Gladiator"—the bird for which I claim the championship. To show that I have this famous bird, I quote from Mr. Grist's letter, dated August 10, 1878, in answer to mine containing order for pair of birds and remittance:

"MY DEAR SIR,—Your favor received of the 10th inst. On account of being out of town have been unable to attend to your letters or forward your birds. I would here state that if you desire a record of flight, and a first-class pair of imported Belgian Voyageur pigeons, you must remit \$2 more; also \$3 for freight, as the express company here will not accept live stock destined for Canada unless freight is prepaid. By remitting \$5 more the first-class pair of birds, "Gladiator" and "Princess," will be forwarded to your address immediately. "Gladiator" is an excellent bird, and has won numerous races in this country and Belgium—*this is the bird that won the Mount Union contest, 189 miles.* * * * JAMES GRIST."

In answer to this I at once sent the additional amount required to secure this pair. They arrived in due time, and also the following letter, dated August 20:

"MY DEAR S.R.,—I forwarded your birds last night, per Adams' Express, and hope you will receive them safely. * * RECORD OF FLIGHT.—Cock—in Belgium, 1875: from Paris to Brussels, 240 miles; Orleans, 320 miles; Poitiers, 300 miles. In America, in 1877: Lancaster, 75 miles, Harrisburg, 106

miles; Duncannon, 120 miles; Harrisburg, 106 miles; Mount Union, Cresson, 252 miles; Pittsburg, 325 miles. The hen: 1875, Paris and Orleans, in Belgium; Duncannon, 120; Mt Union, in America, 189 miles. Let me know how you like the birds. Your friend, JAMES GRIST."

I liked the birds very well, and felt proud of being the possessor of two homers of such renown; but on receiving February number of *Fanciers' Journal* I found that there was yet another "Gladiator" fully as renowned as mine, having won the same races. To say the least I did not admire this duplicature of records, and naturally concluded that "Gladiator" was a "wonderful bird." After enumerating a number of races won, from 1875 to 1878, the article by Mr. G. referred to closes as follows:

"June 14, 1878, Gladiator proved his excellence by winning first and a silver cup in a race from Mt. Union; 'Marmaduke,' second. In July, Gladiator made several flights from Cresson Springs, on the Alleghany Mountains, to Philadelphia, making good time.

"Gladiator is a native of the city of Brussels, and there took part in great races from London, Paris, Poitiers, Orleans Moreeaux, Bordeaux and Marseilles to Brussels, five hundred mile contests. The 'Blue hen,' Lady of Lyons, so named by Jos. Buckley, mentioned in the last *JOURNAL*, is Gladiator's sister."

I at once sent Mr. G. the following note:

"In the February number of *Fanciers' Journal* I read your letter as to the performance of "Gladiator." Is not this the bird you sold me in August last, with "Princess" as his mate? &c.

Yours truly, E. Nugent, F. R. C. S. I."

And received the following reply:

Philadelphia, March 26th, 1879.

"MY DEAR DOCTOR,—Your kind favor of the 17th inst. I am duly in receipt of. I did not reply sooner as I was out of town," &c. The 'Gladiator' mentioned in February *Familiar Science* is a bird bred out of your bird. The article should have been headed "Young Gladiator," but the editor left the young out for some reason. * * *

JAMES GRIST."

Not being fully satisfied with this brief explanation, I again wrote him, 30th March, as follows:

"DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of yours of the 26th, in reply to mine of the 17th, and wish to say that I am at a loss to understand about this bird "Gladiator," for your letters of August 10th and 20th, 1878, tell me that the cock Antwerp you then sold me, with 'Princess' as his mate, is the 'Gladiator' that won the Mount Union contest, and 'numerous races in this country and in Belgium;' how, then, did 'Young Gladiator' win the