

I cannot approve of the remarks of your correspondent when he says that this strict observance of the Sabbath is an offshoot of the British rule, and that it was transplanted from there, and should be followed consequently. Besides all the people in this country are not descendants of the British; there are as many descending from other countries. Even in Canada there are multitudes descending from the French.

To come back, then, to the keeping of the Sabbath in European Protestant countries, I will say that in Holland, where the Protestant religion is prevalent, and which country is known for one of the most orderly, where pauperism and crime is almost unknown, and in that country, just as in Roman Catholic Belgium and France, the church or their ministers don't think even of forbidding, or to criticise, the enjoyments or recreations on Sundays; and in fact the clergy, and the king and his household, participate in them.

We come to Prussia now, or better, say to the whole of Germany, also a Protestant country, and there, like in Holland, the recreation and amusement on Sundays are not forbidden; nay, they are encouraged by the Emperor and his ministers, particularly the flying of the pigeons on Sundays, as they give yearly gold medals, silver cups and other valuable presents to encourage the sport of the racing and flying them, and they are well aware that it is done on Sundays. Surely the above named countries have as enlightened people as there are on the face of the globe. And, besides, these countries, except France, are countries ruled by kings, emperors, or other potentates, and which we call here tyrannical countries; while in the United States a republic, or a free country like Canada, we should be prevented to follow the rules which we think are in keeping with civilization and common sense.

The word Republic is little understood. In the Flemish or Holland language it is called "Gemeentibest," which literally translated means "the best for the multitude." Now, who are the multitude? They are the workmen—the people working six out of the seven days of the week; and by workmen I understand all people who work or are employed in any capacity by somebody. The majority of these people work from 7 o'clock, a. m., till 6 or 7 o'clock at night. Now, candidly speaking, should these people, who are certainly in the majority, and have a right to be counted in this republic among the multitude, not have one day of the week to recreate and enjoy themselves in a respectable and law-abiding way; and should the privilege be denied them to fly their pigeons on a Sunday, while they cannot do it any other day of the week. And if these people feel religiously inclined cannot they pray and do other religious ex-

ercises on any day of the week.

Now, Mr. Editor, I am sorry that I must say so, but I cannot help it, it is the truth, and experience will teach that I am right, but I would not advise any person that is employed in any capacity during the six week days, and that find religious scruples against flying pigeons on Sundays, to commence to keep the Antwerp flying birds—that is at least when he wants to train and race them, because even if somebody else can look for the arrival of his birds in a race or even in preliminary exercises, he will feel annoyed by not being able to see to it himself. Everybody knows that to witness the arrival of one's birds is the greatest enjoyment of a flying fancier; and it is really an interesting and exciting sight to see these pets, when coming from a voyage, flying through the clouds, and fall on their coops as if they were shot from the mouth of a cannon.

Your correspondent says that if we fly our birds on Sundays, that the western cities, say, Cincinnati, Chicago, Louisville, St. Louis, will pour out their Sunday shooters by the hundreds. I will say simply to this, that Sunday shooting or hunting being against the law, it is easy to get these men arrested, and when fined and imprisoned a few times they will not return to the nefarious traffic. Around New York there is no shooting at all on Sundays. The constables, who have a premium for arresting any shooter, lay for them, arrest them, and consequently shooting on Sundays is but little indulged in, if at all.

I will translate from the French pigeon paper, *La Revue Colombophile*, which shows that not only are the pigeons flown in Germany on Sundays, but that the king of Italy spent an hour in inspecting the countermarking of the birds that had to participate in the fly from Rome; and that the pigeons were let loose on June the 23rd, (a Sunday,) in the Eternal City of Rome, the cradle of Catholicism and civilization. The article says:

"THE CONCOURSES OF CARRIER PIGEONS IN GERMANY.

"As the sure and as rapid as possible way of transmitting orders and news in time of war is one of the most important questions it is natural that preparations should be made in time, and organize in advance the means of corresponding in a sure and absolute way, so as to be at the shelter of the services of the enemy, and which can function instantly when the ordinary communications, telegraphic and others, are intercepted, be it for the present or for a long duration, as it might be, for example, with an invested place. Also, in most of the European countries, they have occupied themselves seriously with the carrier pigeons in a military point of view, so that they might be made servicable at any moment. In Germany particu-