

also last Saturday, and was to let them out the first favorable morning to see whether they would fly back to New York. Unfortunately the weather was not favorable till last Sunday morning. The birds were in the meantime given every possible attention by Mr. Stansell, who took great pride in exhibiting and caring for his pets. It was his desire to have them in the best condition for the flight, and he never grew impatient, although he got up early in vain one morning after another. When he arose about four o'clock last Sunday, examined his instruments and went out to look at the weather, he saw that the time had arrived, and never took the time to go out and call in his friends and the reporters, according to promise, but gave all of his attention to the birds. They were perching about the room, and each one was resting with his head under his wing. They were caught, put in the large basket in which they were shipped, taken to the roof and the basket was raised above his head, so that there would be nothing on either side to turn them, and they could choose their direction. The lid of the basket was thrown back and out they went. They first flew directly up and then to the Southeast. When over the State House they were about a quarter of a mile high. Then they curved about and passed along a line midway between the steeples of the First and Second Presbyterian Churches and kept that course for some distance, when they made for a direct line East and were flying in that direction at the time they disappeared from sight. They were flying in a group and within a circle two feet in diameter. It appeared as though the cluster was but a single bird, when they were at some distance. The weather was all that could be expected. It was clear, the sky free from smoke or fog, and the wind south southwest, blowing a gentle breeze of four miles per hour. The temperature was 74°. Mr. Van Opstal had directed that the pigeons should not be started if there was a prospect of over 90° in the shade, and it was not over 81° that day."

The birds were very fortunate in being consigned to the care of such a model custodian and liberator as Mr. Stansell has proved himself to be, and their owners feel very grateful to him for the care and attention given to their little pets.—[Ed.]

By JOHN VAN OPSTAL, 4 LEWIS ST., NEW YORK.
Editor Review,

The New York fanciers, after patient and careful training, have at last flown some of their birds from Columbus, in the State of Ohio, to the cities of New York, and Brooklyn, N. J.

Mr. Oscar Donner and I commenced to train our birds the latter part of April, and as it will

be interesting to your readers to know how we trained them, I will give an account of it. After flying them two or three times around New York we flew them from Newark, N. J., which is about 10 miles from New York; then we sent them to Summit, 18 miles, then to Dover, about 35 miles; then to Easton, Pa., about 60 miles; then to Hamburg, Pa., 105 miles; then to Millersburg, 155 miles, then to Huntingdon, 208 miles; then to Cresson, 245 miles; then to Pittsburgh, 315 miles; then to Steubenville, 355 miles; and then to Columbus, Ohio, 500 miles—all the distances air-line.

Our birds were shipped from New York to Columbus on the 18th of July, but on account of the continual bad weather they could not be liberated until Sunday, July 27th.

The first bird that came home was one of Mr. Donner's, called "Boss," bred by me in March of last year; it arrived at 11:45, on the 28th of July, and the second was also a bird bred by me in August of 1877.

Mr. Donner won the 1st prize, which consisted of \$100, offered by Mr. Joseph M. Wade, of Springfield, Mass. (late editor of *Fanciers' Journal*); and the 2nd prize consisted of \$50, offered by Mr. Louis Waefelaer, of Hoboken, N. J. My bird also came home on the 28th of July, at 2:50 p. m.

But if we may flatter ourselves as having now the champion birds of America, it is only with great loss that we have been able to win these laurels, as we have been obliged to sacrifice some of the very best birds in the United States. I commenced with 10 birds, 1 of which number had flown from Steubenville the year before, 6 had flown from Sunbury, 150 miles, last year in the inter-State race; 2 were young birds of last year and had flown from Towanda, Pa., 150 miles, and 1, a bird of 1877, had flown last year from Tomaspuse, Pa., 105 miles—all air line—and it is only the latter birds, which had the best training, that have succeeded in accomplishing the 500 miles, 7 having been lost; one, my "Jupiter," died after coming from Pittsburgh, and one that I was obliged to keep home after coming from Steubenville, as it had lost an eye. My birds were lost as follows. two at Huntingdon, three at Pittsburg, and two at Columbus. Mr. Donner had also, I think, 10 birds that he flew from Hamburg, and had 6 left from Pittsburg, which was good flying, as of his 10 birds at least 5 had never been trained. But at Steubenville he lost three more, so that each of us had the same number to send to Columbus, each received one bird home, and each lost two birds. This will give your readers an idea how difficult it is for pigeons to fly 500 mile, and how many may