

Mr. J. CLARENCE SIDELL, *Englewood, N. J.*, received from Mr. Henry Beldon 29 Silver Spangled Hamburg eggs, 22 of which hatched, "a result," says the *Poultry Bulletin*, "we believe unprecedented. The chickens are strong and healthy."

#### FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS.

**CITY OF TORONTO EXHIBITION.**—A grand Fall Exhibition will be held, under the auspices of the City of Toronto Electoral Division Society, at the Crystal Palace and Grounds, on the 18th, 19th and 20th September, 1871. Upwards of \$5,000 will be offered in prizes—competition open to all the world. The prize list is divided into three departments—Agriculture, Horticulture, and Arts and Manufactures—which are again subdivided in the usual manner of prize lists. The Poultry class has awarded to it about the sum of \$150 in prizes, and exhibition birds are to be shown in pairs. No prizes are offered for chickens of this year. The varieties for which prizes are offered are:—Bantams, game, feathered legged and Scribbling; Brahmas, dark and light; Cochins, partridge and white; Dorkings, buff, white and colored; Game, black reds and duckwing; Guinea Fowls; Hamburgs, gold and silver; Houdans; Pea Fowl; Polands, gold and silver; Spanish; Turkeys, bronzed and any variety; Ducks, Aylesbury and Rouen, and any variety; Geese, common and China; Pigeons, for the best collection; Rabbits; the best collection of poultry, and a prize left for extras. Entries close on the 18th September, and must be made on proper printed forms, which will be furnished by the Secretary, Mr. W. Edwards, Bond St., Toronto.

**THE WESTERN FAIR.**—The second annual Exhibition will be held at the City of London on Tuesday, 26th, to Friday, 29th September, 1871, at which premiums to the amount of \$8,000 will be offered, of which a portion, amounting to \$191, is offered in poultry prizes. The subdivision of the poultry is in somewhat the usual form, but not embracing quite so many varieties as we would wish to have seen. Entries close on the 16th September, but on payment of an extra fee of 50 cents, entries will be received up to the 23rd of September.

## Pigeons.

#### SPOTS AND HELMETS.

The question is not unfrequently asked, What is the difference between Spots and Helmets? Both are old varieties that have met with undeserved neglect in the rage for new breeds. In country places, where white pigeons can be kept clean, and show their purity of plumage, strutting about on a closely-shaven lawn, few breeds can be kept with more advantage, as regards appearance, the white of the birds' bodies being prettily set off by the color of their heads and tails. The history of the Spot is soon told. Willughby mentions it in the following terms: "Spots, because they have each in their forehead, above their bill, a spot. Their tail is of the same color with the spot, the rest of the body being white." And Moore, the author of "The Columbarian," writes: "This pigeon is about the size of a small runt, and was first transmitted to us from Holland, but from whence the original of this bird came I cannot as yet learn. They have a spot upon their heads, just above their beak, and from thence take their name; the feathers of the tail are of the same color with the spot, and the rest of the body is all white. The spot and tail in some of these pigeons is black, in others red, in others yellow, and I have been informed that there are some blue. They look pretty when they spread their tail and fly, and always breed their young ones of the same color."

The first description of the Helmets with which we are acquainted is that of Moore: "This pigeon is much about the size of a Nun, or somewhat bigger. The head, tail, and flight feathers of the wings are always of one color, as black, red, yellow; and I have been informed there are some blue, and all the rest of the body white, so that the chief difference between them and the Nun is that they have no hood on the hinder part of the head, and are generally gravel-eyed."

They are called Helmets, from their heads being covered with a plumage, which is distinct in color from the body, and appears somewhat like a helmet to cover the head."

As far as we are aware, little or no further information has been given by subsequent authors. One point, how-