

Thursday, as everyone knows, the rain came down heavily all forenoon, but yesterday morning a small party, including a couple of representatives from *The News*, Inspector Newhall, who acted as time-keeper, W. E. Riley, W. M. Milligan, and others assembled in the Queen's Park. Precisely at 8.30 the hamper was opened. The birds did not pause an instant. Led by one of the oldest cocks—nearly all of the birds are quite young—the flock, without circling as is usually the case, took straight away over the trees, and before one could draw a second breath were out of sight. They started very strongly, but as they had to face a very strong west wind, which blew all morning, it was not expected that fast time would be made. Yet, notwithstanding the strong wind five of the birds reached Strathroy in a bunch at 12.39, having covered the 141 miles in one minute less than four hours, rather better time than is made on the Grand Trunk railway.

Mr. Fullerton states that he has always found that when his birds are first liberated near a large body of water they become confused, never make good time, and a number are lost. Yesterday morning they started fairly enough, and made good time, everything taken into consideration, but whether all arrived safely or not we have not yet been advised.

There is a great difference of opinion among fanciers as to whether the birds are guided by sight or instinct in their flight for home, and many incidents are recorded to prove each theory. Mr. Fullerton's opinion is that the instinct is strong no doubt, but that sight is the principal factor, backed with a great love for home and indomitable perseverance.—*Toronto News*, August 2nd., 1881.

Fifteen of the birds were home before 6 o'clock on the evening of the day liberated, and two more early next morning; three have not returned.

On Monday morning, the 11th inst, the eighteen birds that returned were liberated at Bowmanville by Mr. J. H. Pearce. Although the weather was reported quite clear at Bowmanville it was very hazy in the west, and the birds did not do well. They were started at 8 o'clock, but as it was not expected that they would be liberated that day no watch was kept, and exact time of arrival is not known, but five were found in the loft at 12 o'clock, and thirteen have arrived to date, the 14th. As nearly all the absentees are the oldest birds, it is expected that they will return as soon as the weather becomes clear. Since Monday the weather has been very hazy.

Editor Review.

It may interest the readers of your valuable paper to learn that on July 2nd I received per steamer "State of Indiana," nine Jacobins, consisting of four blacks, two whites, one yellow, one red and one splashed, all from the lofts of Mr. Harry Jeffery, of Belfast, Ireland. They arrived safely, in fine condition, and are as good a lot of birds as I ever imported.

The breeding season here in the States has been

exceedingly hard on raising many youngsters, owing to the changeable weather, but when I compare my own success with my brother fanciers, I find I have done remarkably well.

GEO. E. PEER.

Rochester, N. Y., July 20th, 1884.

Experience.

Editor Review.

We hear much said and written about hatching and raising chickens that is superficial and misleading, because premature. I have paid dearly for hasty conclusions and too easily believing the so called experience of others. To explain what I mean, let me give the results of three years experimenting with methods of hatching and chicken raising. My experiments have been in the direction of ascertaining if there were any especial modes of nest making, chicken feeding, and not least, of caring for fowl so as to ensure fertile eggs and vigorous stock or chicks.

1 As to nests. The earth theory is not only no better than many—or any—other ways, but is worse than most. The earth dries and becomes so hard that the eggs are too rapidly dried, and in many instances are smashed by the weight of the hen pressing the eggs or the unyielding earth. I lost scores of eggs in this way one season. I have found that a nest of straw—*soft* straw—with the bottom layer well packed and made moist, is, so far as nest influence affect the eggs, the nicest kind to make.

Again I find that an open square nest, 15 by 16 inches and 5 inches deep, bottomless, placed in a room 3 by 5 feet is the *sine qua non*. In a box the hen is more or less cramped—I mean a box nest in which she is supposed to lay and hatch. In an open nest she has no upper confinement to annoy and cramp her. Place a nest box such as are advocated (I have used many kinds) in position, hanging on the wall, perhaps. It is, we will say, 15 by 16 inches on the bottom, 12 inches front and 15 inches at back, slope roof. This is as good a nest and shape for nesting as can be made. Let the hen set to work to hatch; alongside place on the floor my open box as noted above, and set a hen on it. Now watch the two hens when coming off and getting on; see how much easier and with what little disturbing of eggs the hen on open nest work to the other. Then you can handle her and her nest much easier. In a wall room coop, about 2½ or 3 feet deep, and 4 to 5 long with one part of the front dark and the other wire, and your nest in one corner of the floor of coop, and you have the *ne plus ultra* of hatching nest method. Your hen is concealed. She gets on, not in, her nest. The wire front attracts her from the nest when she, being off to feed, is fidgety, and she does not tramp