

dispose of more grain, in the same number of months, than would serve to keep one of my heifers in tolerable trim.

Such restrictions were proposed by the officers of the Society with the lengthened cognomen, that my naturally democratic disposition revolted against the arbitrary measures talked of, and I resolved to get up an exhibition of my own, where this matter could be talked over at leisure, and which I did not doubt would "turn an honest penny" into my own pocket; where, though I had done well thus far, there was still room, as there was in hungry Oliver Twist's belly for "more."—*Burnham's History of the Hen Fever.*

### Homing Antwerp Stations.

The following gentlemen have kindly offered to receive, properly care for, and liberate as instructed, any Antwerps intrusted to their care:

Freeman, Ont.—J. Peart.  
 Fisherville, Ont.—G. H. Pugsley, (Cayuga Ex.)  
 Guelph, Ont.—J. E. Horsman.  
 Hamilton, Ont.—R. Mackay.  
 Montreal, No. 20, Fort Street.—Fred. Whitley.  
 Paris, Ont.—J. A. Chase.  
 " C. B. Capron.  
 St. Catharines, Ont.—A. W. Bessey.  
 Strathroy, Ont.—Dr. E. Nugent.  
 " Jas. Fullerton.  
 Toronto, Ont.—Chas. Goodchild.  
 " Thomas Adams.  
 Waterloo, Ont.—Jas. Lockie.  
 Woodstock, Ont.—J. T. Spracklin.  
 Yorkville.—Geo. Hope.

This list will appear each month, and we hope to receive the names of all who are interested in this fancy, and can attend to the duties set forth above.

### Homing Pigeons.

Many regard the homing pigeon merely from a sporting point of view, but that they can be made to do good service in many ways has been amply proven. The following, from the pen of Dr. Harver Philpot, in the *Telegraph*, (Eng.,) shows how useful they may become to the medical practitioner. If Dr. Philpot found them so serviceable in England, how much more valuable their services may be found on this continent, where the roads in country places are often almost impassible. How very handy a medical man would find it, were his practice in the country large, to leave a homer at the house of each patient, with instructions to liberate should there be any occasion for his services before the time of his next regular round. But a perusal of this letter cannot fail to suggest to him many ways in which they could be made to do good service to the profession:—

"With reference to your article of the 25th, upon

the possible services which might be rendered mankind by the carrier pigeon, permit me to say that since I have been practising in the country I have made valuable use of the carrier or homing pigeon as an auxiliary to my practice. So easily are these winged "unqualified assistants" reared and trained, that I am surprised they have not been brought into general use by the profession I belong to. My *modus operandi* is simply this: I take out half a dozen birds, massed together in a small basket, with me on my rounds, and when I have seen my patient, no matter at what distance from home, I write my prescription on a small piece of tissue paper, and having wound it round the shank of the bird's leg I gently throw the carrier up into the air. In a few minutes it reaches home, and, having been kept shut up fasting since the previous evening, without much delay it enters the trap-cage connected with its loft, where it is at once caught by my gardener or dispenser, who knows pretty well the time for its arrival, and relieves it of its despatches. The medicine is immediately prepared and sent off by the messenger, who is thus saved several hours of waiting, and I am enabled to complete my morning round of visits. Should my patient be very ill, and I am desirous of having an early report of him or her next morning, I leave a bird to bring me the tidings. A short time since I took out with me six pairs of birds. I sent a pair of them off from each village I had occasion to visit, every other one bearing a prescription. Upon my return I found all the prescriptions arranged on my desk by my dispenser, who had already made up the medicines. I should like to see a more intelligent interest taken in these winged messengers by the general public. There appears to be a settled belief in people's minds that homing pigeons fly by faith, and not by sight. Each bird must be trained a few miles at a time, away from its home, to ensure its inevitable return to head-quarters. A good bird can, of course, be trained to return to its loft from a distance of 500 miles, but it will steer its course, piloted by its wondrously-beautiful eyes, from point to point—of course the most salient ones in the landscape—with which it has become familiarized in its training by successive stages. The pigeon would long since have been used for bringing messages from the sea, although eager to return home, it has not the courage to launch itself from the ship over the trackless ocean, and will hover round and round, and at last probably "perish in the waters."

A gentleman in one of the counties bordering on the Georgian Bay, and engaged in the shipping business, has purchased a large number of homing pigeons, to be used as messengers. We will endeavor at some future time to give the result of his experiment. The principal purchase was made from Mr. A. W. Bessey, of St. Catharines, and a few pairs from Dr. Nugent, of Strathroy.