

may be given to this young and ardent fancier.

I hope all our fanciers may send exhibits to the Ontario show, to be held in St. Catharines. They will find the fanciers of that beautiful city and vicinity a whole-souled lot of fellows, with a record for fair play fully established. I know from the officers in charge that there will be a large and also satisfactory show in every respect.

The judges are two of our long tried men, with a man new as a judge, but an old and well posted fancier in our province, and I have no doubt, with the addition of Mr. Smelt, the judging will be done before the last day of the show, thus giving exhibitors the advantage of their scores to advertise their stock.

Right here some may wish an explanation of my position as a director of the Eastern Michigan Poultry Association, and its coming show in Detroit at the same date as our Ontario show. This clashing of dates I very much regret, though it is no fault of mine. The position of director of that show was never asked for by me, but was cheerfully accepted when tendered to me by the association, because I was so very kindly received there last winter, a stranger among them. They anticipated my every want, and made me feel perfectly at home, and now being one of their directors, I should not be blamed by our fanciers for having the courage to mail their circulars among our fanciers. I have never tried to injure the Ontario, and while I expect to exhibit in Detroit with our American cousins, I also expect to be able to send as good an exhibit to St. Catharines as I ever sent to the Ontario. I have sent an exhibit to the Ontario for the past four seasons, and my past and present actions should determine exactly where I stand in regard to the Ontario.

It is true I have not been in love with its recent management, especially last year. I think with the provincial

grant, and the very large entry and special list, together with a fair patronage, that exhibitors should have been paid what they were promised on the premium list.

Better have a lower list and pay in full, than promise more than can be performed. I am in hopes the recent lesson may put our executive on their guard, and studiously avoid any recurrence of last seasons experience in this direction. It is better to make haste slowly than go to fast and get wrecked.

I hope the above remarks may be received in the same kindly spirit in which they are written. They are my honest sentiments, and written with a view to the good of the fraternity, without fear or favor.

Yours truly,

FRANK WIXSON.

Ingersoll, Nov. 17, '88.

(We beg to thank Mr. Wixson for his very kind remarks and good wishes, and to assure him that they are reciprocated. Can't you find time to write more than once a year, friend, W. try.—ED.)

PIGEONS

HOW PIGEONS GET HOME!

* * * And how do pigeons get home again? I am not going to accept the sight theory at any price. That bird that you have just let go may be over a hundred miles from its loft. It has travelled that distance with you in a basket under the seat of your compartment. Well, it is true enough he may circle round a bit after you throw him up, but he may never have been in this part of the country before, and it cannot be, therefore, that he is looking for landmarks. Has the pigeon a compass in his brain? Animals have instincts, doubtless, that we can form no conception of. * * * The wonderful flights of Passenger pigeons, seen and so graphically described by the naturalist

Wilson, give food for thought. But what peculiar instinct is indicated in the following statement of Auderton's concerning these birds? Flock after flock perform these same evolutions which had been traced, as it were, in the air by a preceding flock. Thus, should a hawk have charged upon a group at a certain spot, the angles, curves and undulations which have been described by the birds in their efforts to escape from the dreadful talons of the plunderer are undeviatingly followed by the next group that comes up. Should the bystander happen to witness one of these affrays, and struck with the rapidity and elegance of the motions, feel desirous of seeing them repeated, his wishes will be gratified if he only remain in the same place till the next group comes up.—Gordon Stables, C. M. M. D., R. N., in *Littell's Living Age*.

The deficiency of the sight theory to account for the return of the Homing or Carrier pigeons was brought forcibly to our notice a few days since with some squealers of Mr. Geo. H. Marsh.

He was training some youngsters, and by mistake the squealers we put into the basket, taken out to the Mission, some three or four miles from Mr. Marsh's residence; one returned same afternoon, the other next morning. Now these two birds had just been moved from the ground floor to his pigeon house to the flying loft, and had never so much as flown around the house. Will some of our many sight-theory advocates kindly explain what kind of a land mark these squealers made for, and whether the vision that discovered said landmark was microscopic or telescopic? I am inclined to believe it was pigeon-sopic. Next!—*California Cackler*.
H. H. CARLTON.

RAKBLING THOUGHTS OF A PIGEON FANCIER.

Continued.

There are two classes of people re-