

American Homing Matters.

Editor Review,

The season in this vicinity has fairly opened, Most every one who is fortunate to have old birds to fly has had very good luck, but in a few cases, some having bad weather to contend with, lost heavily. The time made this year has been very good, I think will compare favorably with that made in previous years, and the number of birds flown will certainly far exceed any other year. In the races of the two principal clubs of this vicinity, the prizes have been well competed for, an average of fifty or sixty birds have been entered in each race; and in most cases the younger fanciers have taken off their share of the honors. In the first race from Hamburg, Pa., both clubs and their birds started the same day and hour; those belonging to the New York club making rather better time than the Hudson Co. club. The prizes in the former club being won as follows:—Messrs. Laubenberger and Van Opstal, the first nine, three to the former and six to the latter, the others being won by Messrs O'Connors, Rover and Halsted. In the Hudson Co. club, Mr. Waefelaer was fortunate enough to win the first seven, and Messrs. Welch and Verrinder winning the eighth and ninth, from Newport. I believe Messrs. Laubenburger, Rover, Van Opstal, and O'Connors were the fortunate ones in the New York club, while in the Hudson Co. club, whose time was somewhat better than that of the other club, Mr. Waefelaer won the first three, and 5th 6th and 7th, with Mr. Verrinder 4th and Mr. Welch 8th. From Cresson, Mr. Verrinder won the first, including the Waefelaer gold medal, Mr. Welch the third, and Mr. Waefelaer the remaining five.

The next race will be the inter-State race, in which the fanciers of this vicinity will be well represented.

The younger fanciers console themselves with the prospect of doing their share in the young bird races in the fall, when we hope to have a large race a distance of about 150 miles, in which the clubs in this vicinity and Philadelphia can come together, when the younger fanciers will be on an equal footing with the old fanciers, who have now a slight advantage in being able to fly a great many old and experienced birds against a less number and younger and inexperienced birds, although they don't show their advantage to a very great extent. For my part, although I have not been able to win any prizes, my birds (most of which are young), have come very well; one of them which I sent to Cresson, Pa. (230 miles) to my surprise returning. I have had good luck in another way, which is more satisfaction to me than all the prizes. I mean in relation to the time allowance proposed

by me, and opposed by our Belgian friends, which has worked to perfection, every body being satisfied, which is all that I could desire. It is now being used by the Hudson Co. and New York clubs, and will, I think, in time be generally used by all.

W. A. CRANE.

Sec'y Hudson Co. Antwerp Club.

Items from L'Épervier.

A Belgian has sent an order to a house in China for a thousand of the whistles which the Celestials attach to their pigeons, as mentioned in a former number, with a view to retailing them.

England and Belgium shortly are going to compete in a pigeon race. A pigeon fancier of Brussels and one living in Yorkshire (Eng.) have arranged a pigeon match for a stake of forty pounds. Each is, in the presence of witness, at a time agreed upon, to liberate a pigeon belonging to the other; the first announcing the return of his bird being winner. It is likely to take place about the 1st of August.

The Belgian Government has at length definitely refused to grant an extra subsidy for a grand national pigeon flight on the occasion of the anniversary fetes of 1880, so the pigeon clubs will have to go to work with the annual ordinary subsidy only. The grounds of refusal seem to be somewhat similar to those of the school-boy, who replied to his fellow's request for the loan of a knife: "I won't, I hav'nt got it; and, besides, I want it myself."

As a sample of meanness and spite, we give the following from *L'Épervier*:—Mr. A. took part in a pigeon flight on the 25th April last; one of his birds returned in time to carry off one of the first prizes, and would have done so but for the kind intervention of a neighbor, also a amateur fancier. Whenever the bird made an attempt to light on the roof of its cote this kind friend fired off a gun, evidently with the object of frightening it. Five times successively he repeated this performance till he was sure all the prizes were adjudged. The facts as we relate them are testified to by several witnesses, and proceedings have been taken in the proper quarter.

At the grand flight from Orleans, organized by the town of Charleroi, fixed for the 30th of May, and open to all amateurs established on Belgian territory, the sum of 2,000 francs is offered in 40 prizes, ranging from 100 francs to 25 francs for the first series of four pigeons belonging to one owner; ditto. 2nd series of four; also 1st to 6th series of 3, and 1st to 32nd series of 2, also 100 francs in special prizes with special entry fee.