



The Waefelaer Prize Cup.

Flying Matches of St. Catharines Club.

A match was flown on June —, by one bird each from the lofts of Mr. A. W. Bessey and Mr. C. Ayre. They were liberated by Mr. J. A. Case, at Paris, distant from St. Catharines 63 miles. Mr. Bessey's bird arrived home in 73 minutes, and Mr. Ayre's in 79 minutes; Mr. Bessey's bird winning by 6 minutes.

Messrs. Wilson and Ayre flew their young birds from Port Colborne, a distance of 22 miles; Mr. Ayre's bird "Lottery" covering the distance in 27 minutes; Mr. Willson's bird in 46 minutes.

Mr. Bessey writes us:—On July 2nd I sent five birds to Dorchester, a distance of 100 miles from St. Catharines. Three of them arrived home in three hours. One came next morning; he was shot through the body. The other came at 11 o'clock, with his legs shot all to pieces. How he got into his loft I cannot tell, as he was unable to move around. They must have been shot on the first day, as the wounds were discolored, and the blood perfectly dry.

Don't you think birds are of the right sort that will return under such circumstances?

Mr. James Grist Claims that his Birds have Accomplished the 500 Miles Flight.

We are in receipt of a copy of "*The Sun*," (Philadelphia), dated June the 24th, with the following paragraph marked:—

"Mr. James Grist called at the *Sun* office on Monday, and showing letters, telegrams, etc., to prove all that he states, says that he expressed three of his birds to Dayton, Ohio, which is five hundred miles, air line, from Philadelphia, last week, to Mr. Wm. L. Bates, who had been recommended to him by Mr. Newhall, of Germantown, with the orders to liberate the pigeons early Saturday morning, which was done by Mr. Bates, at 5 minutes past 7 o'clock, in the presence of Major Loury, the postmaster of Dayton, and a number of others. The first bird arrived home at Mr. Grist's, 2017 Ridge avenue, at 4:15 P. M. Sunday, and the other two shortly after that time. This is one of the most wonderful performances we have ever heard of, 500 miles never before having been accomplished by a carrier pigeon in one flight, and if what Mr. Grist says is correct, and he certainly seems to prove all he asserts, he is justly entitled to the prize offered by the *Fancier's Journal*, having succeeded in doing what has been attempted so very many times, and always failed."

Several fanciers have for some time past been training their birds for the flight of 500 miles, for which certain rules and regulations were laid down for their guidance so as to insure a fair understanding. Mr. Grist seems either to have misunderstood or ignored these rules, and his claim, under the circumstances, is a matter of surprise to all, and not likely to be entertained. Mr. Van Opstal, of New York, and Mr. Waefelaer of Hoboken N. J., visited Philadelphia for the purpose of seeing the birds for which the great honor was claimed, and these gentlemen, from their long experience in flying matters are very likely to arrive at correct conclusions, do not appear to be satisfied that the 500 miles flight, on this continent, is yet an accomplished fact, as the following extract from the *Fanciers' Journal* will show:—

"Many letters written by Jas. Grist to different parties and publications, including Jos. M. Wade and the *Fanciers' Journal*, saying that Messrs. Van Opstal and Waefelaer had visited Philadelphia to see the birds that had completed the wonderful flight from Dayton, O., and, after examining them, had expressed themselves perfectly satisfied that they had flown the distance, and were entitled to the prize. These letters being sent to these gentlemen for verification, Mr. W. replies:

"I deny that Mr. Van Opstal or myself ever mentioned to any one that we were satisfied with the performance. We would have called it a won-