

## CARRIER PIGEONS.

### Their Knowledge of Direction Still Unexplained.

#### How the Birds Are Trained For a Contest.

Of late years the interest in carrier pigeons has been very considerably enhanced. Belgium takes the lead, but the other countries are not far behind. The facility with which the carrier pigeon determines its course is as yet unexplained. To attribute this knowledge of direction to instinct is merely a confession of ignorance. It is much rather sight, reflection, and sensation which guide the carrier pigeon on its course, and rarely guide it wrong. The same faculty is possessed by all migratory birds. To form an intelligent conception of this faculty, we must assume either a special sense or a delicate sensitiveness to atmospheric currents. Experiments by balloonists have shown that pigeons are incapable of flying at any great height. Birds thrown out at 6,000 meters fell like dead, and even at the moderate height of 300 meters pigeons liberated by the balloonist, Gaston Tisaandier approached the earth in a spiral course. It is evident hence, that they are not guided wholly by sight. To bring a point 300 miles distant within the range of vision, it would be necessary to ascend nearly 20,000 meters. The carrier pigeon, starting on such a journey, must consequently start with faith in the unseen.

As regards the speed and flight of carrier pigeons, there is considerable divergence of opinion. The Belgian birds are admittedly the best, and the greatest achieved speed of a Belgian bird is given as 150 kilometers (over ninety-five miles) within the hour. In favorable weather a good bird will cover thirty to thirty-five miles in an hour. The greater the distance, the smaller the probability of the prompt return of the bird. At a distance of say a hundred miles almost all birds return safely if the weather is favorable, but at distances of four or five hundred miles it is impossible to reckon confidently on the bird's return. It appears curious, but it is a well established fact that as the bird nears its home its speed is accelerated.

The question has frequently been raised as to whether the male or female pigeon is the better for racing contests. Practically there is nothing to choose between them when both are in condition, but a laying female should never be taken for the sport. The carrier pigeon is not, as many suppose, a distinct variety. All domestic pigeons are presumably descended from the blue-rock pigeon, and all are more or less suited to the purpose. The common pigeon is not used, for, although a rapid flier for short distances, he has no great staying powers.

One of the best pigeons for the purpose is the tumbler whose sense or sensation of direction is very strongly developed, and who rarely loses his way. The tumbler flies higher than most birds of the genus, and will continue circling in the air for hours. He has all the necessary staying power for long flight and a great love of his home. Still many of these birds leave much to be desired. In the first place, they are likely to waste time before setting out on their return; again, they are liable to fall victims to birds of prey, and lastly they are especially liable to diseases of the eye which frequently result even in total loss of sight. Another bird of equal speed and endurance is the Persian "carrier."

In the first year of training, the first flight is from 60 to 90 miles; the following year the distance may be extended to 250 miles; and in the third year, when the bird is at the height of its powers, the limit may be extended to 350 or 400 miles.

In the last year of training, the first flight is from 120 to 130 miles, terminating in a contest which usually extends to about 300 miles. The longest contests are from 400 to 700 miles. Before entering a bird for a contest it should be carefully examined as to its fitness, and the feet cleaned, washed, dried and oiled. Some trainers start their birds with empty crops, with the idea that it will make them more eager to get home. This is a great mistake. The famished bird is liable to be exhausted by long sustained effort.—Literary Digest.

#### "Music Hath Power."

"Were you moved by her music?"  
"Yes, it amounted to that. I think we should have kept the flat another year if it hadn't been for her."—Puck.

## Wonders of the Microscope.

The smallest atom that can be seen by that most powerful microscope is a cube whose side is the four-thousandth of an millimetre (the millimetre representing the one-thousandth part of a yard.) Such a cube, according to Professor Clark Maxwell, contains about two million molecules of organic matter. By the aid of the microscope, four million shells have been discovered in an ounce of chalk, and living specimens, only one millionth of an inch in length, in a drop of water. In 1865 Mr. H. C. Sorby exhibited his spectrum microscope, by which the millionth part of a grain of blood was detected. Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg, the German naturalist and microscopist, detected among the animalcules in a drop of stagnant water the one named Monas crepusculus, which is only one twenty-four thousandth part of an inch in diameter. Dr. Dallinger, president of the Royal Microscopical Society in 1883, found in putrefying meat 2,800 millions of minute living creatures, which would lie in a space equal to one-thousandth of a cubic inch. In 1875 with the highest microscopic facilities then available, he discovered the flagellum, or whip-like rudder of the minutest of the microbes, which is named Bacterium termo, the diameter of width of which is 1,204,000th part of an inch. Under a very powerful microscope, a vinegar eel appears like a serpent 100 feet long, while a pinch of flour can be magnified to look like a heap of stones.—New York Dispatch.

#### Dead Paupers Made Useful.

Nothing is useless nowadays—not even a defunct pauper. Hood's plaintive wail—

Rattle his bones over the stones;

He's only a pauper, whom nobody owns—is now out of date. The guardians know better than to act so recklessly, for often the party concerned is the possessor of a set of artificial teeth which contains a good deal of gold—last relic of more prosperous times—and in the interest of the rate payers the precious metal must be secured and turned into pounds sterling. Often, too, they are the owners of rings or tiny trinkets, not pawnable, but still containing as much auriferous value as not a few modern gold mines. These have to be collected and also converted into cash by means of the melting pot. In the Holborn Union the melting process takes place once a year, and has just been accomplished for the present season. The jewelry dealt with is what is found on paupers who die friendless and unclaimed in its various establishments.

This week rings, chains, brooches and trinkets have been melted down, and produced a bar of gold, estimated at eleven karats, and worth about \$200. A good portion of it was got from the plates of artificial teeth. Mr. Walton said that on one set of artificial teeth there was at least \$20 worth of gold. The proceeds are paid into the common exchequer of the Union.—London Telegraph.

#### Cure for Round Shoulders.

A physician in Mother's Nursery Guide has recommended the following movements for the cure of all except very "severe cases" of round shoulders, when braces are also sometimes a necessity:

"1. Raise arms before you shoulder-high; extend arms sidewise; throw head back; straighten head; move arms forward; lower arms repeat ten times.

"2. Stand erect; raise arms before you; rise on tiptoes, then throw arms as far backward as possible; sink again on heels, and drop arms to side; repeat ten times.

"3. Raise arms with elbow bent, shoulder high, bringing palms together in front of face; then, with elbows still bent, swing both arms vigorously backward as far as possible even with the shoulders, palms looking forward. This should be repeated several times, but as the position is somewhat fatiguing, rest or change of exercise may be made between the movements."

#### Appropos.

"Get off the earth, will ye?" shouted the rude urchin whose path had been obstructed by a kind-looking but queerly clad gentleman. He did not get angry. On the contrary, he looked pleased.

"Such," he said, "is fame. Sonny, I'm kinder surprised that ye knowed me, but it's ter yer credit that ye keep up with what's going on. It'll probably please ye ter know I'm expectin' ter get off the earth in about three more days—jes' ez soon es I kin git one little improvement in my flyin' machine.

And the kind looking old gentleman strode on, happier than he had been before in months.—Washington Star.

## UNLINED GOWNS.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR CHEAP EVENING FROCKS.

The Secret of How One Dollar Can Be Made to Do Duty for Ten—The Waved Hair Fashion.

HERE is a thrifty secret, says a New York letter to the Detroit Free Press, that is well worth imparting to all workmankind which appreciates the value of making one dollar do duty for ten. The idea is to make up a number of fluff, filmy evening frocks that cost a mere nothing and can be worn over crisp, warm silk slips.

In many cases these are worn over complete undersuits of silk.

Any one of the three designs here shown can be reproduced in the materials described for less than \$20.



LIGHT AND CHARMING IN EFFECT.

They were taken from gowns thought out and worn by a clever English girl, who went to New Orleans and fell in love with Creole styles.

The first dress, like the other figures given, was made in the French quarter of New Orleans, and cost all told \$19. The materials were canary-yellow organdie, pure white footing—a plain-edged lace of net—and yellow satin daisy ribbon, which gave a sparkling finish to the lusterless organdie.

As can be seen in the design, the gored skirt, which has a round bell sweep at the bottom, is finished with a wide foot flounce of the organdie, surmounted by a narrower one, headed as well as edged with the footing.

The waist is the low cut baby model, with a full waved neck fluff put on without heading; this is also edged with the footing and at the top line of the half-inch hem there is a single row of the ribbon.

The neck is filled in with a round yoke made in alternate rows of the footing and heading, through which passes the yellow ribbon to tie in front under the low upstanding throat ruffle in a loose bow.

The sleeves are the usual nightgown model generally liked for unlined dresses; with a tight elastic in the wrist facing to enable the wearer to shorten or lengthen them at will.

They are finished at the bottom with a drooping footing edged flounce, out-



DINNER DRESS.

lined at the hem, as is the neck one, with a single row of the ribbon.

Worn with this brilliant little costume was a slightly pointed belt with a black bow and long ends of canary-yellow grenadine ribbon, down the centre of which ran a satin band with a raised wheat ear figure.

The next toilet, though perhaps not as elegant as the bird-like yellow, was without doubt the most wearable of the three. It can effectively be made in any of the crisp, gauzy washcottons, muslin lawn or dimity. The original of this model was composed of peach-

bloom pink figured dimity, with trimmings of net-top fancy lace and narrow pink satin ribbon. The three tiny foot ruffles at the bottom of the wide gored skirt are headed as well as edged with narrow lace.

The neck and sleeve flounces are of the net-top lace, six inches wide, and with this costume a straight girdle of the peach-bloom satin belting is worn. Instead of silk, the simple hemmed petticoat and half low underwaist that went with it were made of unfigured dimity the color of the gown.

A very dress-up little frock indeed one would call the third figure. Nile green silk mull, black black ribbon and French blonde lace—the old-fashioned blonde lace, but a new, net-like web of silvery white with thick raised figures—composed the costume from which it was taken. Unlike the canary-yellow and peach-bloom batiste, it was worn over a low-cut slip of Nile green satin, which, by the way, had once composed an evening dress and was now deftly

## SELECTIONS FOR SOLDIERS.

### SIDE LIGHTS OF MILITARY LIFE.

Stories, Anecdotes and Articles of Interest to Old and Young.

THE FLORIDA BANNER LOST.  
The silk banner of the Florida department of the Grand Army was lost last week. It was sent to one of the Pittsburg hotels but which one is not known. The banner belonged to the department so long the comrades have learned to love it and are anxious to get it back.

ANNIVERSARY OF ANTIETAM.  
The thirty-second anniversary of the battle of Antietam was celebrated at Hagerstown, Md. September 14. A large number of old soldiers were at the National cemetery at Sharpsburg in honor of the event. Among them were twenty-five members of the One hundred and twenty-fourth Pennsylvania regiment, which fought in the engagement.

ARMY AND NAVY.  
The enlisted strength of the Army has reached 24,969, within 140 of the limit prescribed by law. In view of this small number of vacancies and the consequent restrictions upon recruiting, it has been decided that no person under the age of 21 years will be enlisted until further orders, boys as musicians, or to learn music excepted.

There is a movement in progress extending to the public school system of the country regular instruction in the rudiments of military tactics. The idea no doubt has been stimulated somewhat by the popularity and success of the system of detailing Army officers for such services in colleges and academies. The law now allows 100 such details, and the effect of having 10 schools, each with a regular military department under the supervision of a regular officer must in time become apparent. But there are scores of other schools that have their own provision for military training, not depending on the Government. There are high-school battalions, corps of cadets, and so on, in many institutions, and these must be taken into the account in reckoning the amount of military drill which the youth of the country receive. The plan has already been advocated in the Grand Army of the Republic, and it is directly in accord with the principles of that body.

A General Order will soon be issued by the War Department, making several changes in the stations of regiments, the abandonment of small posts, and the assignment of additional companies of cavalry, artillery, and infantry to strengthen these posts near the great commercial cities, in accordance with the policy of the Department to have always available and close at hand large bodies of troops which can be dispatched to scenes of strikes and riots on short notice.

#### LINCOLN'S MONUMENT AT EDINBURGH.

In a letter to the National Tribune, Robert B. Heath, of Philadelphia, says:

On a recent visit to Scotland I was assigned the pleasing duty of placing two Grand Army flags from Gen. U. S. Grant Post 5, of Philadelphia, upon the statue of Abraham Lincoln in the old Calton burying ground, Edinburgh.

While you have already noted the dedication of a monument, it appeared to me that the fact should be more widely known to our comrades, that this magnificent monument, bearing the figure in bronze of the martyred president, has been erected in memory of the Scottish-American soldiers and sailors who served their adopted country during the rebellion.

In the summer of 1890, Mrs. McEwan, the widow of a Union soldier, Serg't John McEwan, Co. H, 63d Ill., called on the Hon. Wallace Bruce, then United States Consul at Edinburgh, to aid her in procuring a pension. Mrs. Bruce also became deeply interested in the case and after hearing the story and assuring immediate assistance, desired to visit the old soldier's grave, that she might place a wreath of flowers, but the grave had already been leveled, as they had been too poor to obtain a burying plot of their own.

Following this Mr. Bruce determined to secure a burying plot for any other Scottish-American soldiers dying in or near Edinburgh that their graves might be thus specially marked.

A request to the Lord-Provost, Magistrates Town Council for a plot of ground for the purpose was heartily granted, and that Mr. Bruce determined to have the site beautified by a worthy memorial, and on a visit to America he stated the project. Comrade Henry R. Heath, of U. S. Grant Post, 327, Brooklyn, N. Y., served as chairman of the committee to raise the necessary funds.

The design of Charles E. Bissel, the well-known artist, also a Union veteran, was accepted and the work assigned to him, and it has been successfully completed. The monument is 15 feet in height. The figure of Mr. Lincoln is of bronze, the pedestal being of polished red Aberdeen granite.

The figure of a freedman, also in bronze, is placed upon the base, with face looking upward to the great emancipator. The statues of flags, shields, and wreaths are also of bronze. One objection may be noted by the visitor that it is necessarily somewhat crowded in position, when viewed with the large circular tower beside it, where lies buried the philosopher and historian, David Hume, but in such an old cemetery as this it was impossible to secure a plot with any more room.

I trust that all veterans visiting Edinburgh will feel it a privilege and duty to see this first monument to the Union volunteers erected in a foreign country.

The Hon. Wallace Bruce and all who assisted him are entitled to our heartfelt praise for their most excellent work.

While thus writing, I assume that other comrades who have had the opportunity of traveling in England and Scotland have been, like myself, surprised and gratified to find in the great cathedrals and churches that the soldier has not been forgotten.

It is an inspiration to visit these edifices and gather around the lofty columns the battle-flags of the regiments who fought for Britain practically all over the world, and to read on the tablets of bronze, and brass, and marble the patriotic inscriptions to the soldiers and sailors who on land and sea so bravely served their country.

In the old church of John Knox, St. Giles, Glasgow, there are a number of tablets. Let me cite but two or three:

To the memory of two officers, 21 Sergeants, 27 Corporals, nine drummers, 429 privates, 47 women, and 124 children of the 78th Highland regiment, in all, numbering 699, who died on the banks of the river Indus, in Seoude, between the 6th day of October, 1844, and the 4th day of March, 1845.

A tablet of the 54d Gordon Highlanders traces all the officers and enlisted men who died or were killed in the campaigns in Afghanistan and South Africa, 1879-1881. The names on the Color-Sergeants are separately given in columns, with dates of their deaths. Similar inscriptions by the score may be found in other churches as we found them in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Chester, and Carlisle.

#### Negro Cooks Workers Tricked.

Over 500 negro cooksworkers assembled at Connelleville, Pa., Thursday night upon the representation of one of their fellow-workers that he would transport them to Washington city free of charge, where they should receive a work of \$2.50 a day. It turned out that he was tricked by the 25th div. strikers to induce the colored men to throw up their jobs. The negroes threaten to hang him on sight.

The feeling in trade circles is generally cheerful, there having been continued demand for the country for both staple and manufactured goods.

## KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS.

### A FORTUNE FOUND.

Harrisburg Minister's Crime—Robbery at Scottdale.

CUT HIS THROAT WHILE INSANE.  
At Reading on Friday morning, Frank Grant chased his wife of their bed room and cried after her: "I want to be buried in my wedding clothes; send for an undertaker." The woman summoned help, but before assistance arrived, her husband had cut his throat and was dead. Grant was undoubtedly insane.

Dr. James G. Jewell a native of Pittsburg, died on September 17 in Oakland Cal. He was 64 years old. He was engaged in early years at steamboating, and later as a newspaper man at Vicksburg. He was private secretary to Gov. Foote, of Mississippi. He then went to Washington and graduated there in medicine in 1854. He entered the Federal army and was Major of the First District of Columbia Regiment.

While out hunting Friday morning Chas. Wysong, a saw mill owner of Blue Knob, was fatally shot by William Korl. Wysong was watching a squirrel and Korl seeing a hat above the clump of bushes mistook it for a turkey and sent a full load of shot into the other hunter's head. The accident occurred near Hollidaysburg.

About 5 o'clock on Saturday morning, last, two men entered the dwelling of George Griffin in Irwin township, Venango county, knocked him down, gagged him, brutally beat him and robbed him of \$275 in gold and bank notes. They were captured and fully identified and gave the names of George Wilson and Frank Arkeles.

At Washington on Monday John Cook, colored, who pleaded guilty to killing Mrs. Lizzie Smith, also colored, at the Jumbo mines, near McDonald, last May, was sentenced to death by Judge McElvaine. Flora Edmunds, colored, was sentenced to 12 years in the penitentiary for killing her child.

On Wednesday a workman busied in removing an old wardrobe in a vacant house in Allegheny, once occupied by David Morrison, found a secret drawer containing \$75,000 in \$500 certificates and government bonds.

Prof. Albert S. Bolles, chief of the Bureau of Industrial Statistics of Pennsylvania, has been appointed special instructor in political economy and commercial law in the Pennsylvania State College, near Bellefonte.

Herman Fanneschmidt, of Altoona, recently convicted of sending threatening letters to President Cleveland and others, has been sued for a divorce and a commission has been appointed to look into his sanity.

Rev. Jacob H. Gearinger, pastor of one of the Harrisburg churches, aged about 29 years was arrested Monday for assaulting one of his Sunday school scholars. He was committed to jail.

Frederick Lowrie, who was a member of the famous Ringgold cavalry, was killed by a freight train a short distance west of Washington on the R & O. road Monday afternoon.

There is a strike at the Thompson glass works, Uniontown, over the starting of a new mould, the company wanting to run two men and two boys, while the scale calls for three men.

Herman Eckert, a young Wayne county farmer, who has been out of employment for some time, hanged himself at Cherry Ridge. Despondency over his idleness is believed to be the cause of the suicide.

Prof. S. B. Mercer, formerly principal of the Altoona schools and subsequently editor of the Saltzberg, died at his home in Bell township, Westmoreland county, aged 79 years.

Texas fever has broken out in four herds of cattle in Manheim township, a few miles from Lancaster. Two cows have died, while a large number are suffering.

The Ohio river at Pittsburg reached a coal-ing stage on last Thursday and on Friday morning 7,000,000 bushels of black diamonds started down the stream.

William Freeman, the murderer of Gertrude Timberlake, at Mt. Pleasant, was found guilty of murder in the first degree. A new trial will be sought.

The Brewer pottery company at New Brighton, has been reorganized as the Beaver Valley pottery company and has begun operations with a large force.

Constable Gray, of McDonald, who shot and killed James Morgan, has furnished \$5,000 bail for his appearance at the November term of criminal court.

At the annual meeting in Philadelphia of the United Typothetae of America, Percy F. Smith, of Pittsburg was elected one of the vice-presidents.

James H. Lindsay, a wealthy iron manufacturer and president of the school council in Allegheny city, died Sunday night of Bright's disease.

The Second National bank, of Altoona, whose doors have been closed since August 8, resumed September 24 with new backing and new officers.

Frederick Lowrie, aged 76 years, a veteran of the war, was killed by a Baltimore and Ohio freight train at Taylorstown, on Tuesday.

Pearl Bush, aged 16 years, was assaulted near Evansburg by an Italian. She has become insane and may die.

The Women's Foreign Missionary society of the Altoona district of the M. E. church has been in session at Hollidaysburg.

John Mikeshiver and Michael Johns, Arabian peddlers, were shot and robbed near Wilkesbarre. The former was killed.

Frank Allen's stock barn and other buildings at Hermitage, were burned by an incendiary. Loss \$10,000.

Mrs. Flora Edmunds was convicted at Washington of murder in the second degree, she having killed her child.

The 2-year-old son of William Wollin, of Lancaster, fell into a tub of rain water and drowned.

A wealthy farmer named Greenleaf, living near Waynesburg, died Tuesday as a result of a bee sting on his arm.

Kennel Bros.' store at Scottdale, was robbed of \$300 worth of goods Monday night by burglars.

The New Castle tin plate mills declared a cut of from 20 to 25 cent in wages.

Superintendent of public instruction Schaeffer has fixed October 19 as Arbor Day.

At Franklin on Tuesday, ground was broken for the state asylum for the feeble-minded. The Stoneboro fair opened Tuesday.

#### Triplets Born in Jail.

Annie Radezowicz, the widow of John H. Radezowicz, who was murdered on July 24, now detained in the Allegheny County (Pennsylvania) Jail as a witness in the case, gave birth to triplets, all girls. One of the infants died shortly after its birth, and the other two died at noon. This is said to be the first instance on record of triplets born in jail.

The public schools of Chicago have opened with an unexpectedly large accession of pupils. Some 175,000 children presented themselves for tuition. Two hundred and fifty new teachers will have to be employed, and larger accommodations provided.