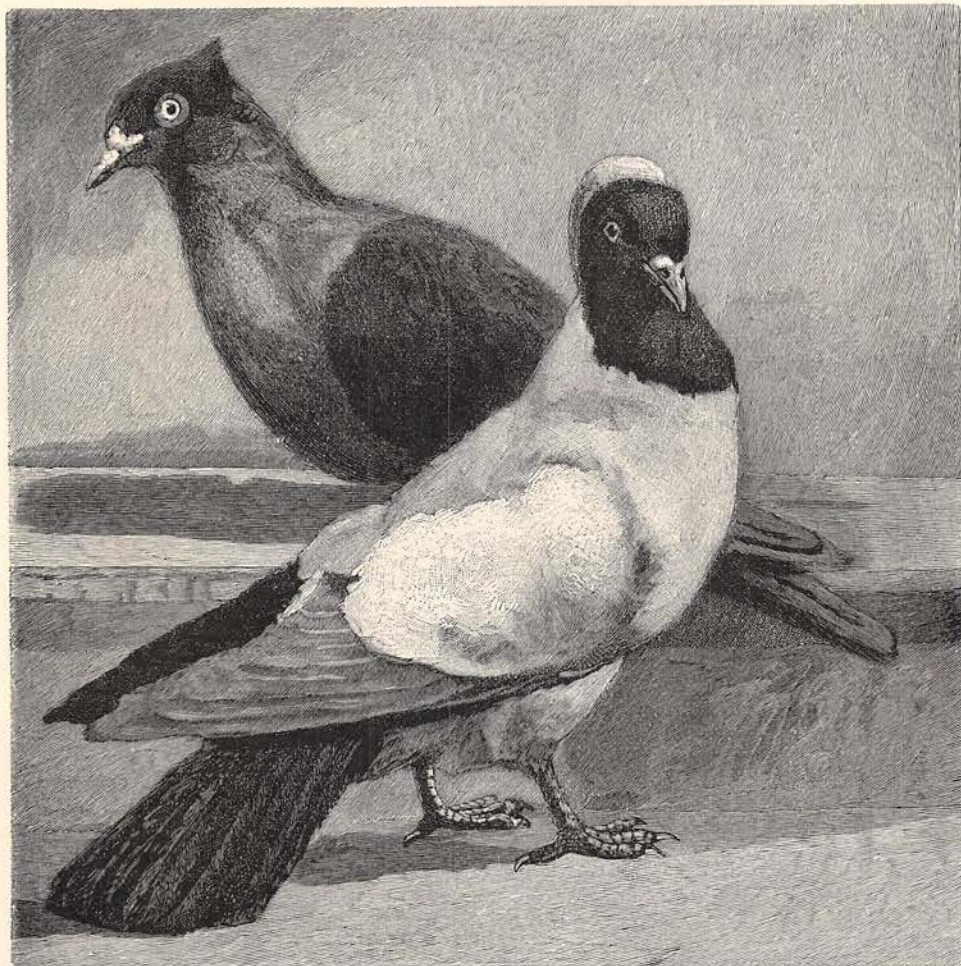


THE BREEDING OF FANCY PIGEONS.

"I know it as an art and a mystery."—*Darwin.*



ARCHANGEL. (BRED BY W. BROEMER, BALTIMORE, MD.) YELLOW NUN. (OWNED BY W. W. WALKER, BRIDGEPORT, CT.)

THE breeding of fancy pigeons is fascinating and engrossing beyond the conception of those who have not engaged in it. Says Crabbe, and truly, "Whether tumblers, croppers, carriers seize the gentle mind, *they rule.*" The pigeon-fancier acknowledges the thrall, but pleads in excuse for submitting to it, not more the gratification it affords to the creative instinct and love of harmony of his artist nature, than the benefit he finds in its recreative action upon his mind; that with the problems its study forces upon him for solution, new thoughts are awakened, new emotions are excited, and, returning from

things ethereal to things mundane, it is with brain refreshed and perceptions quickened.

The pigeon-fancier is the artist among breeders. His work of living pictures is the outcome, and to satisfy the same longing that incites the painter, the sculptor, or the connoisseur. Sometimes, Pygmalion-like, his bird is his ideal, brought, by his love of it, to the life; or the purpose is defined, and he strives to fill the outline; or he cannot fashion or portray, and he finds his satisfaction in possessing, counting the value in the difficulties in the way to it, or in the measure of another's ap-



RED JACOBIN. (OWNED BY H. V. CRAWFORD, NEW YORK CITY.) HOMING PIGEON, "BABY MINE." (OWNED BY E. H. CONOVER, KEYPORT, N. J.) FIRST YOUNG BIRD TO MAKE OVER 250 MILES THE DAY OF LIBERATING IN THE AUTUMN RACES—FROM LYNCHBURG, VA., 338 MILES.

preciation or envy. But, whether the one or the other, there is no economic purpose to weight its wings and bring his fancy low.

The influences of the pigeon-fancy are refining in the habits one must fall into in being with the birds, in the enforced quiet and gentleness without which the best efforts are lost, in the patience with which one must work and wait for long-deferred results, and in the dis-

cipline of the often accompanying disappointment. The pigeon-lover is notably kind and gentle-mannered. He is also thoughtful, since his work demands the action of his mind, and the love of it compels the effort. It may be child's play as a beginning, or seem to be so to the mere looker-on; but great men and good, princes, poets, prelates, and judges, are in the ranks of the fancy, and find their solace



SCOTCH FANTAIL, "QUEEN OF THE SCOTS." (FROM LOFT OF BUNTING HANKINS, BORDENTOWN, N. J.)

and their pleasure in their pigeon-lofts, and in the company of their birds.

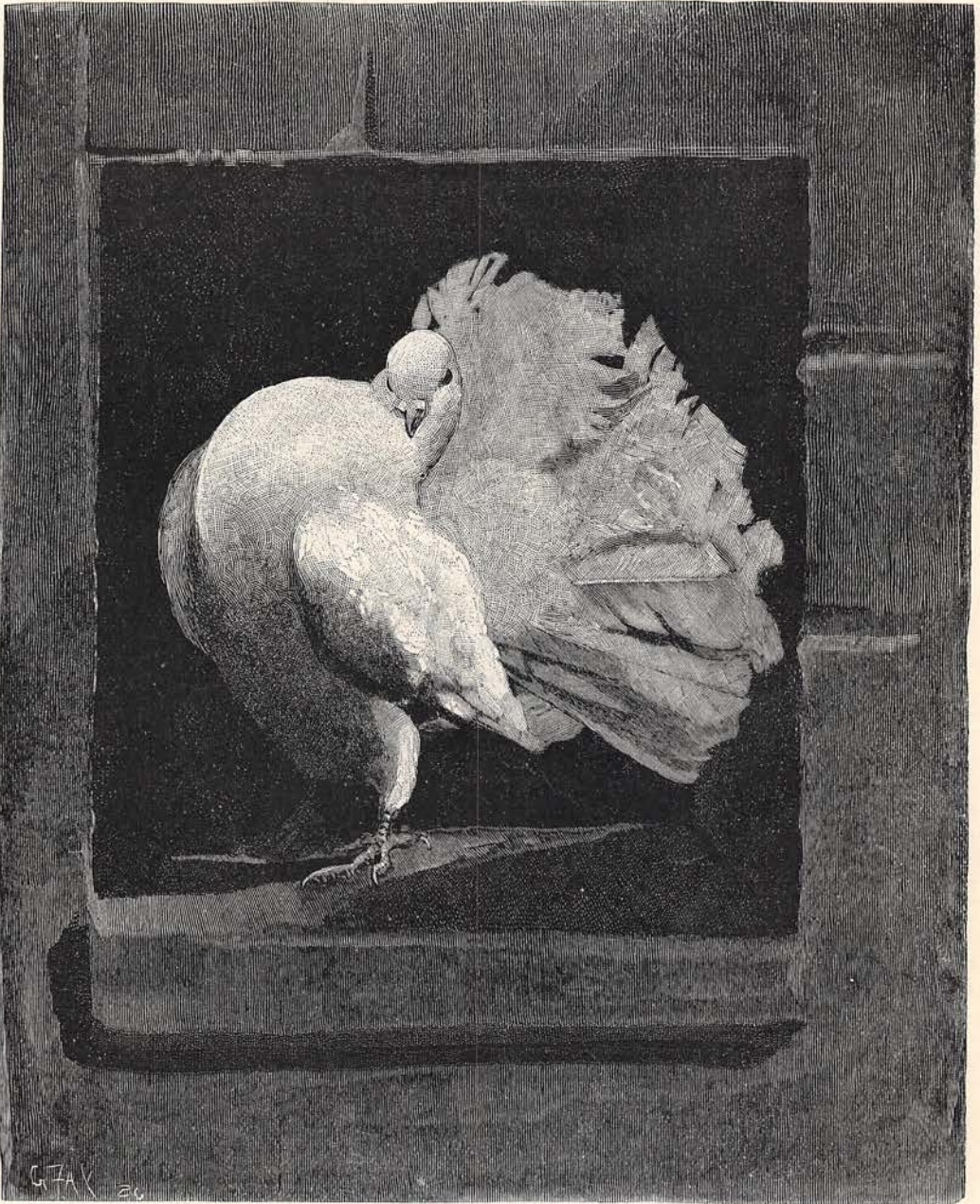
Columba, the family name of the pigeon, is from the Greek *kolumban*, to dive, giving us the word dove, by which pigeons were until lately known, and which has reference to the bird's peculiar movement of the head when walking. The family is in three grand divisions: *C. livia*, the blue rock or wild bird; *C. affinis*, the duffer or domesticated; and the artificial or fancy pigeon.

The blue rock is found in the true type only among the cliffs and rocks of Great Britain and the adjacent islands, where none of its members show a deviation in color or form from the one character. All alike avoid the haunts of man, and refuse to submit to domestication. Says Macgillivray, "Amongst the many hundreds I have seen I have never observed any remarkable variation in form or color." The "rock" exists in all parts of Europe, and with only sufficient variation from the true type to admit of classification for locality; and in each variety there is the same likeness observable in the colonies of the true

type, showing the modification to be due to climatic influence or forced habit.

The duffer is the bird imported for and known at shooting matches as the "blue rock," and is otherwise termed the rockie and the dove-house pigeon. This variety seeks the companionship of man, frequenting and rearing its young in the nooks of church steeples and public buildings. In undisturbed colonies there is great variation in color and markings, but none in structure.

Both the blue rock and the duffer have the beak long, slender, and of horn color, and the eyes, feet, and legs bright red. There is also a striking resemblance in contour, but here the likeness ends. The blue rock has the body color of light blue except upon the rump or lower part of the back, which is white. The folded wings and tail also show the black bar caused by the terminal spot of black upon each of the secondary and tail feathers. The duffer is dark slaty-blue throughout except upon the wing-coverts, where, each feather being tipped with a lighter shade, there is a checkered appearance.



IMPROVED ENGLISH FANTAIL. (OWNED BY J. G. HOWLAND, WORCESTER, MASS.)

The class of fancy pigeons is made up of a great number of varieties, each distinct in marking or form or both; these variations being so controlled in breeding as to bring them within certain defined limits. The ideal bird of each, whatever the tendency of the variety, is built upon the lines of harmony and perfect symmetry.

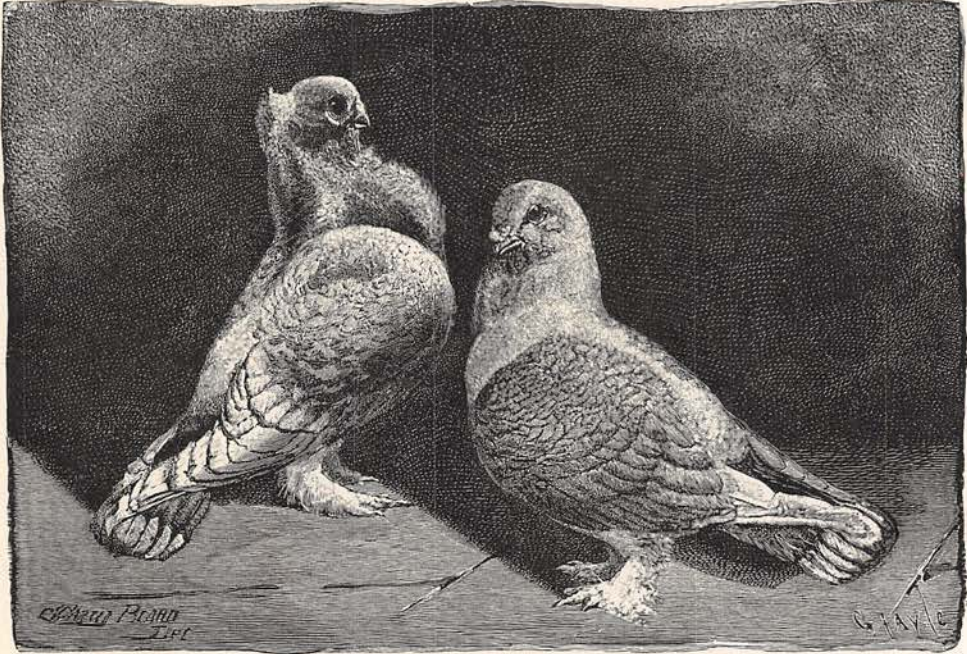
The origin of the fancy pigeon has been a

vexed question with naturalists and wise men through the past century, and is still open. Mr. Charles Darwin experimented with pigeons for years for material for his work upon "Variations under Domestication," and to sustain his theory of the blue rock as the parent stock. But while with his eye single to the purpose of that theory he satisfied the conditions and his followers, there remains reason for doubt.

One experiment was especially interesting, and its results were offered as the conclusion of the whole matter; but viewed from another standpoint it bears a different significance. The Darwin argument for the blue-rock origin is the frequent recurrence of the peculiar white-rumped, black-barred blue of the cliff bird, as spots. To show this he mated a black barb with a pure white fantail, also a black barb of another strain

weakened, and if not reënforced, eliminated; that is, there are indications of, if not complete return to, the blue-rock type.

Against the Darwinian theory is the fact that the blue rock exists in abundance at the very doors of the English, the most expert of breeders; the problem and the conditions are given in the existing varieties, and the solution is most earnestly desired by fancier-



ORIENTAL FRILLS. BLONDINETTE, "HASSAN." SATINETTE, "PACHA." (OWNED BY DR. H. E. OWEN, OCEANIC, N. J.)

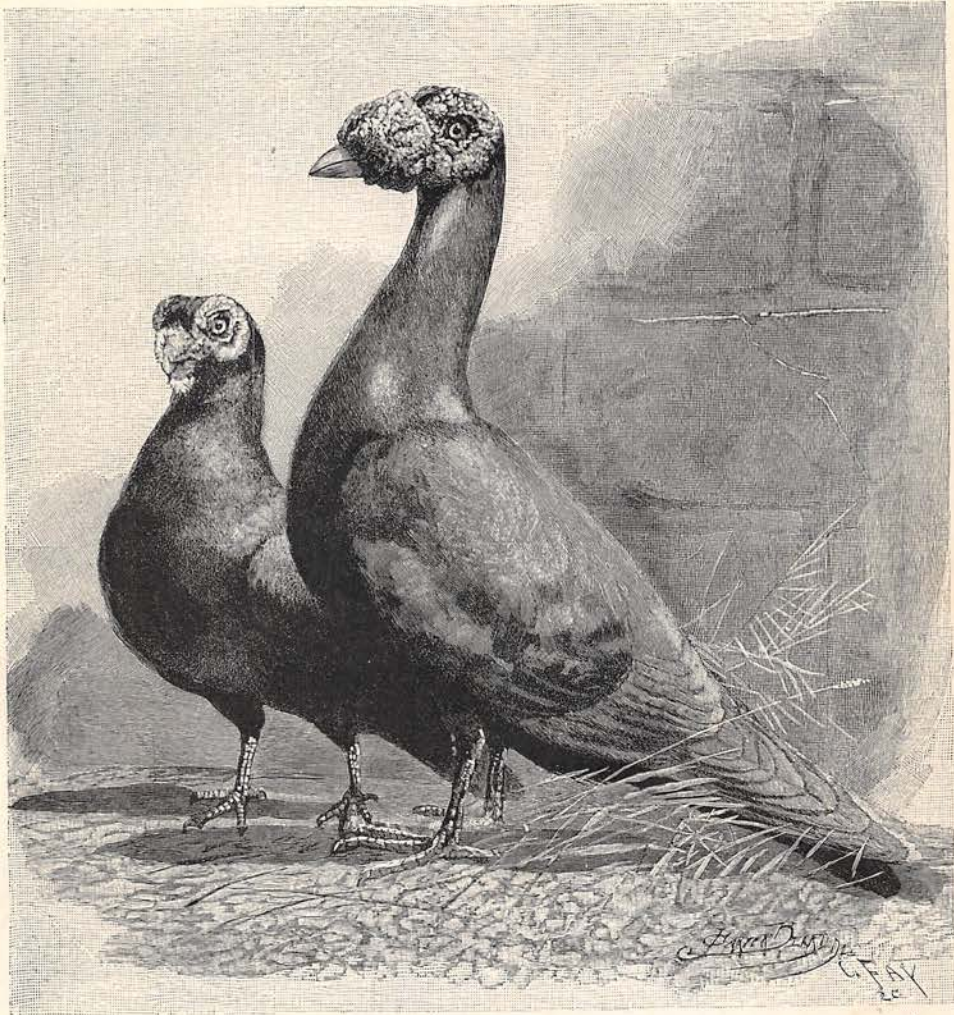
with a red-spot; and, as a third pair, young of the two pairs. The young of the third nest was, as he predicted, the typical blue rock. The experiment is curious in the fact that blue is not a color of the barb of which one-half the cross was made up; the white is the common dress of the fantail, and the spot is a century-old breed and supposed to be established. Mr. Darwin calls attention to this, but does not refer to the more important item of the alien types brought into the combination. Practical and unprejudiced breeders would accept the result, but not the Darwinian conclusion that, therefore, the blue rock is the progenitor. Their work has taught them that in too violent and far-fetched crossing, as in bringing together these birds of African, Indian, and German manufacture, the artificial taints are neutralized in the admixture, and the *sang pur*, or simplest type of the genus, asserts itself. The same result follows when in-breeding is carried too far, and the artificial element upon which the character depends becomes

scientists skilled in the knowledge and art of breeding. But their every effort is in vain, for the one and single reason that the blue rock shows no appreciable variation in form or color. The blood has no wayward tendency upon which to build, and no material divergence from the one type can be provoked without the addition of a foreign taint.

The pigeon is unique among the feathered creation in the similarity of the sexes, the habits during incubation, the provision for and manner of feeding the young, the helpless and crude condition of the young when it leaves the shell, and its phenomenal development and early maturity. In structural points there are also peculiar differences. The long intestine is of greater length than in any other bird, while the *cæcum* is merely rudimentary, and secretes only mucus. Some varieties lack the oil-glands, and all are without the gall-bladder.

"But I am pigeon-liver'd,
And lack gall to make oppression bitter."

—"Hamlet," Act ii., scene 2.



BLACK BARB, "BLACK PRINCE." (OWNED BY D. E. NEWELL, NEW YORK CITY.) DUN CARRIER, "SUCCESSFUL."
(OWNED BY R. G. WILSON, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.)

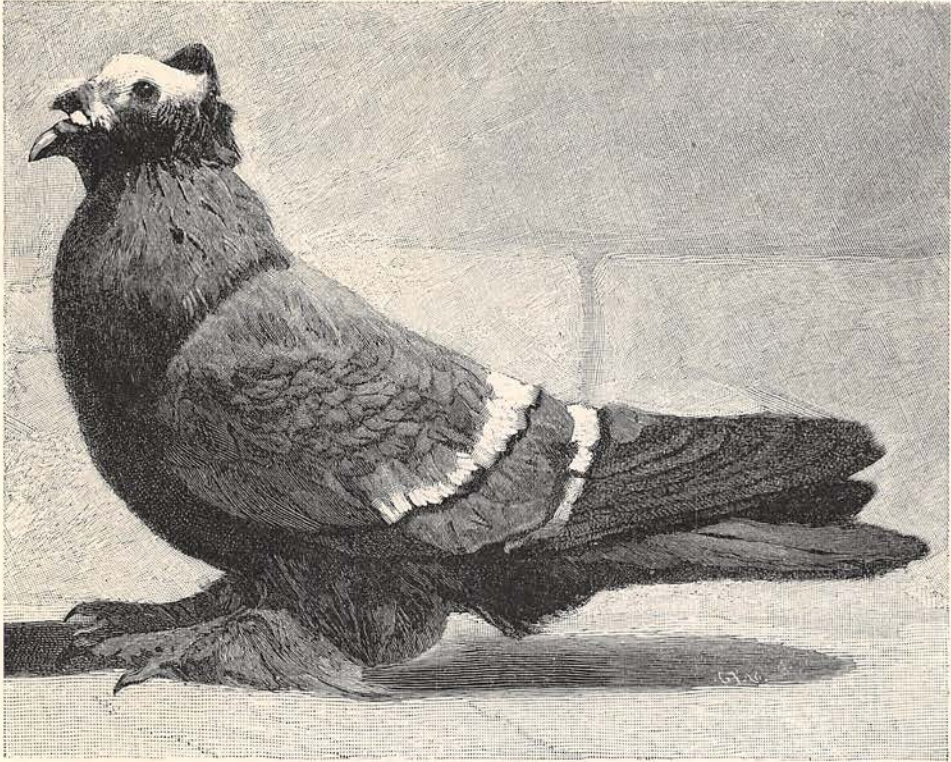
It is this lack in its digestive make-up that accounts for the inordinate desire for salt, characteristic of this alone of the known bird-world, and which must be considered as a craving for an absolute essential to its healthful existence.

The feathers of the pigeon are peculiar in having the shaft short and downless and with but a slight hold upon the skin. All varieties shed a peculiar dust from the plumage in greater or less quantities, so that any place occupied by pigeons for some time will have its surface covered with a peculiar "bloom."

The pigeon is naturally monogamous and mates for life, but, under the artificial conditions of confinement in the loft, the love of the male for home duties and care of the young will often lead him to maintain two es-

tablishments, when his efforts to do double duty during the time of incubation and feeding will be unremitting and amusing.

Two eggs make up the setting. One is laid at about two o'clock in the afternoon, the other about forty-five hours later. The time of incubation is seventeen days. The sex of the hatch is generally male and female; thus, "a doo's cleckin" is the Scotch term for a family of two children of opposite sex. But this depends greatly upon the relative age and condition of the parent birds. During incubation the hen sits from four o'clock in the afternoon until ten the next morning, when she is relieved by the male. The food of the newly hatched bird is a thin curdy secretion of the glands of the crop known as pigeon's milk, and exists alike in both parents.



BLUE PRIEST. (OWNED BY E. H. MOORE, MELROSE, MASS.)

Its presence is only influenced by incubation; thus, a barren hen can be induced to sit upon eggs, and when the young appear she with her mate will be prepared to feed them. In feeding, the beak of the young is inserted in that of the parent, and the food is disgorged from the crop into it by a peculiar convulsive movement of the body of the parent. While the secretion is unmixed with grain, the beak of the young is soft, and the bird is known as a peeper; but as the grain is added the beak hardens and the voice changes, and it is a squeaker. When ready to leave the nest and face the world for itself, it is a squealer, or, in market parlance, a squab. When six weeks old it is able to take care of itself, and its parents probably have a second pair of eggs to claim their attention.

The old classification of fancy pigeons was the high-class, the fancy breeds, and the toys; but with the increase of standard requirements in certain of the middle class and the increase of varieties in others, this has been changed to high-class, frills, tumblers, and toys. Of the old order it was said, "The toy fancy is but the entered apprenticeship degree; of the fancy breeds it is that of the fellow-craft, and the high-class rank as the master

degree. One may understand both the first and never rise to the dignity of the third; but one cannot know the last thoroughly without holding the other two as a mere stepping-stone to knowledge."

The pigeon-fancy antedates the Christian era. Pliny tells us that "many are mad with the love of these birds, and will detain you to tell of their pedigree and breeding." And he hands to posterity the name of a Roman knight, one Lucius Axius, not for victories in the arena or sacrifice in Rome's quarrels, but "who used to sell a single pair of pigeons for upwards of four hundred denarii." The first book on pigeons was the "Ayeen Akbery," written in 1595 for Akbar, the Mogul Emperor, by his prime minister, Abdool Furjool. In this we learn that twenty thousand pigeons were carried with the court; that the Emperor of Turan sent presents of rare varieties to his brother sovereign, and that the gifts of traveling merchants were most acceptable when of valuable breeds of pigeons; that aside from those used as message-bearers and kept for food, there were seventeen varieties bred for their appearance only, "and the pigeon-master by crossing the breeds, which had never before been attempted, improved



THE OWL-TURBIT AS DESCRIBED BY J. W. LUDLOW, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND.

them wonderfully." This number of varieties was probably exceeded in India centuries before, since the ancient Sanskrit, we are told, has more than twenty-five names for different classes of pigeons, all referring to characteristics by which one sort was to be known from another. A century after the "Ayeen Akbery," a book about pigeons was written in Persian by Musari Sayzed, by order of his sovereign.

The object of the breeder of pigeons is so different from that of all other breeders in being solely to maintain the fancy points of color and outline, and with no reference to utility, that they scarcely meet on common ground in their methods. His material is the most impressionable known, and being wholly artificial is as unstable. His first work is to fix upon his ideal, and so far order his material in the breeding stock as to make it possible to build and to repair for a long time without adding new blood. But, when new blood is an absolute necessity, he seeks it strong in the point in which his strain is weakening, and then only uses it by crossing it into the strain and working with the rejuvenated stock, as the knowledge of its tendencies may direct, re-

membering that the male influences the external points, and the hen the size, structure, and constitution. The tendency of all colors is to pale, and to enrich or maintain the colors of pigeons, birds of different colors are bred together. In birds of the same blood, as a rule, the young follow in color and marking the parent of the same sex; while in matings of different colors and of different strains the young follow the color and marking of the opposite sex. The breeder sometimes resorts to counteraction, that is, making up a deficiency in one of a pair by superabundance of that point in the other; but this is only for typical points, and never for points of development of growth, where it is only excellence, and excellence that does not produce deterioration.

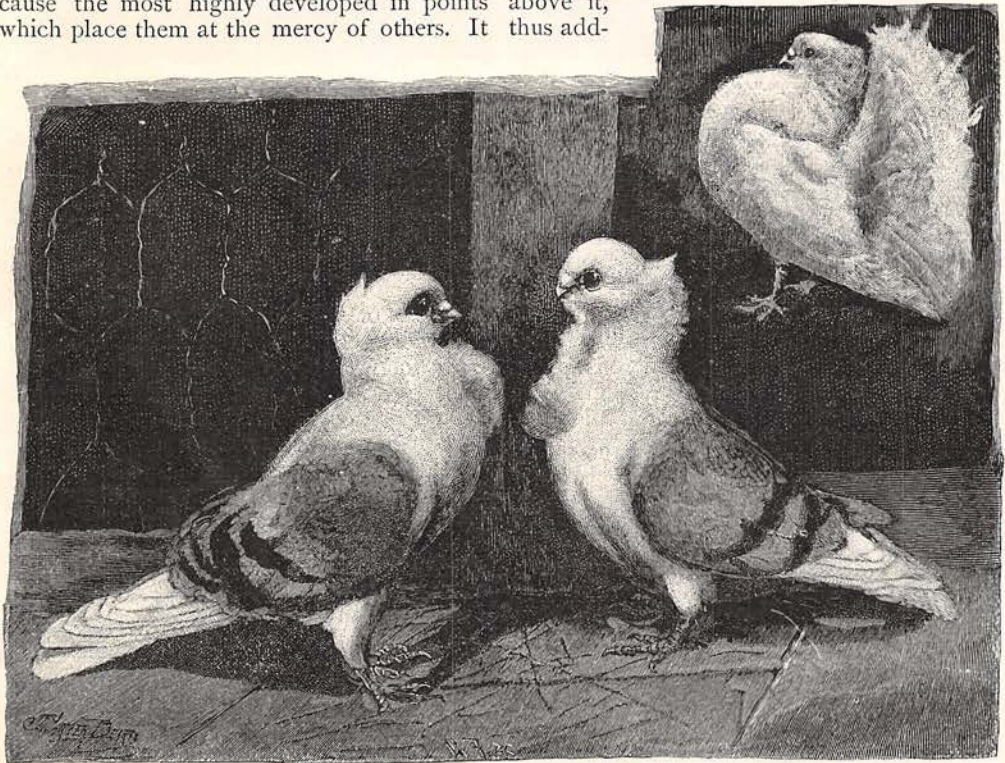
The carrier, the acknowledged king of pigeons, has in its name the source of a great annoyance to its sensitive fancier. He admits for it an ancestry dating back to the message-bearers of Persian kings and Turkish sultans, and that the peculiarities of structure—the prominent wing-butts, the great muscular development which gives the full-rounded breast, the wing best adapted to speedy and long-

continued flight, and the protruding eyeball peculiar to the traveling bird, all points he values for their part in the perfect symmetry — that these were all fixed in its day of usefulness as the courier of royalty. But he is careful to explain that he has counted out all useful qualities and practical values in the bird of to-day; that the points he values highest are those of development of growth, to perfect which his bird is carefully secluded from the deteriorating influences of sun and outdoor air; that the name is only applicable to it for its elegant carriage, one of its most valued and to be remarked properties; that it is only the ignorant who could confound the grand high-class bird with that little shapeless message-bearer, the homing pigeon.

The carrier has always been held in the highest esteem in England. Moore, writing in 1735, tells of a fancier in Bishopsgate street who kept a silver hatchet and block with which to chop off the heads of those condemned to death, "that being of the blood royal they ought not to die after the manner of the common herd."

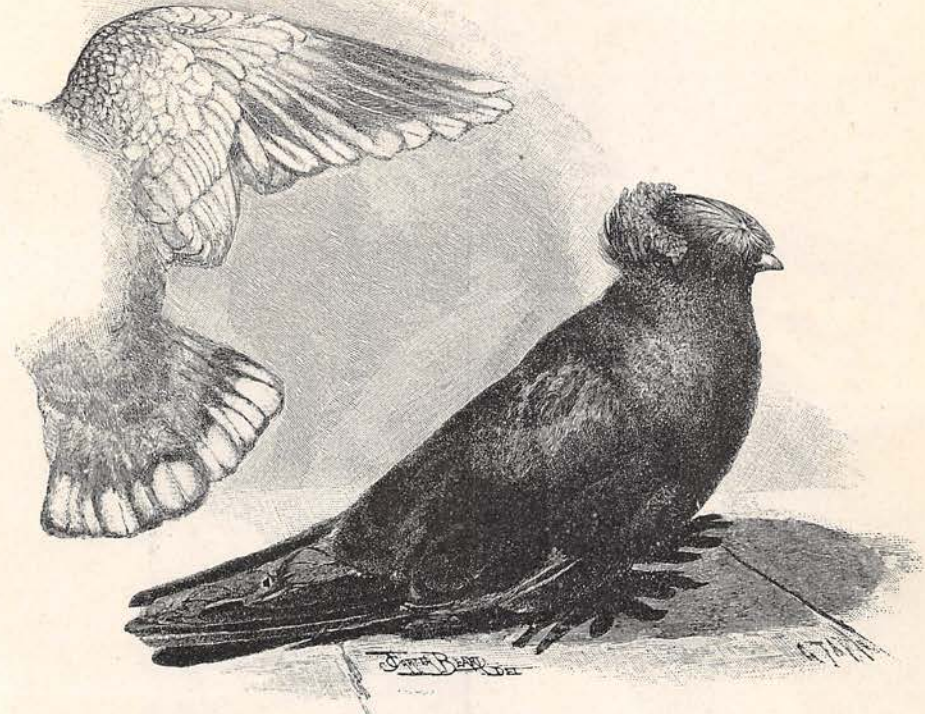
It is the most quarrelsome and savage of the pigeon family. The old proprietary instinct is dominant, and unless perches are so partitioned that boundaries are defined, there are battles in which the best suffer most, because the most highly developed in points which place them at the mercy of others. It

is by nature one of the hardest, but the unnatural conditions under which its most valued points are alone to be developed render it one of the most delicate. The only chance for condition is in having the breeding hens robust and in giving the youngsters the freedom of flight until the head-properties begin to develop. The first promise for perfection lies in the beak. This must be long, but appear still longer; also straight, with the mandibles of about equal size and fitting together close. The wattle of the beak is the most artificial point of the bird and the most difficult to obtain. That upon the upper mandible begins from in front of the mouth and increases by lateral growth. Seen in profile it appears to rise in three sections, the last the highest and tilting slightly forward. That of the lower mandible, the jéwing, is in three small knobs, one at each side and one before the juncture of the two. Exposure to the atmosphere shrinks this cere, destroys the whitish bloom, and tinges it with pink. The eye-cere is secondary in requiring less care to obtain good. The skull of the carrier should be long, flat, and narrow, and the eye-cere which adds to this effect is of course the most valued. This cere, known as the rose variety, is of good diameter, even edge, and extends over the top of the skull, not above it, thus add-



TURBITS. (OWNED BY H. LANCASTER, BALTIMORE, MD.)

AMERICAN FANTAIL. (BRED BY J. G. HOWLAND, WORCESTER, MASS.)



WING AND TAIL OF A LACED BLONDINETTE. BLACK TRUMPETER COCK. (OWNED BY F. A. ROMINEL, BALTIMORE, MD.)

ing to its apparent length and decreasing the apparent width. The gullet is the space from the termination of the jawing to the beginning of the neck. This should be well curved in to decrease the apparent depth from the top of the skull and add to the apparent length of the neck. This one point with the slender long neck has almost the controlling influence in the appearance. The wings fold close above the tail, nearly reaching to its end; while the tail, if the feather is the apportioned length, just touches the ground. The colors of the carrier are black, dun, blue, and white. Red and yellow have been tried for, but are impossible, since neither can be bred from the colors of the variety, and brought in from another; the carrier points are lost when color is gained, and the color is lost in getting back to the carrier type. Color-points in the variety rank very low and are not disqualifying.

The carrier-fancier has his anticipations brightest when at ten months old his bird is at its best in style and carriage, and to be raised or dashed when the head-points begin to develop in the second year. The bird requires five years at least to mature, but the third year will determine its character. The

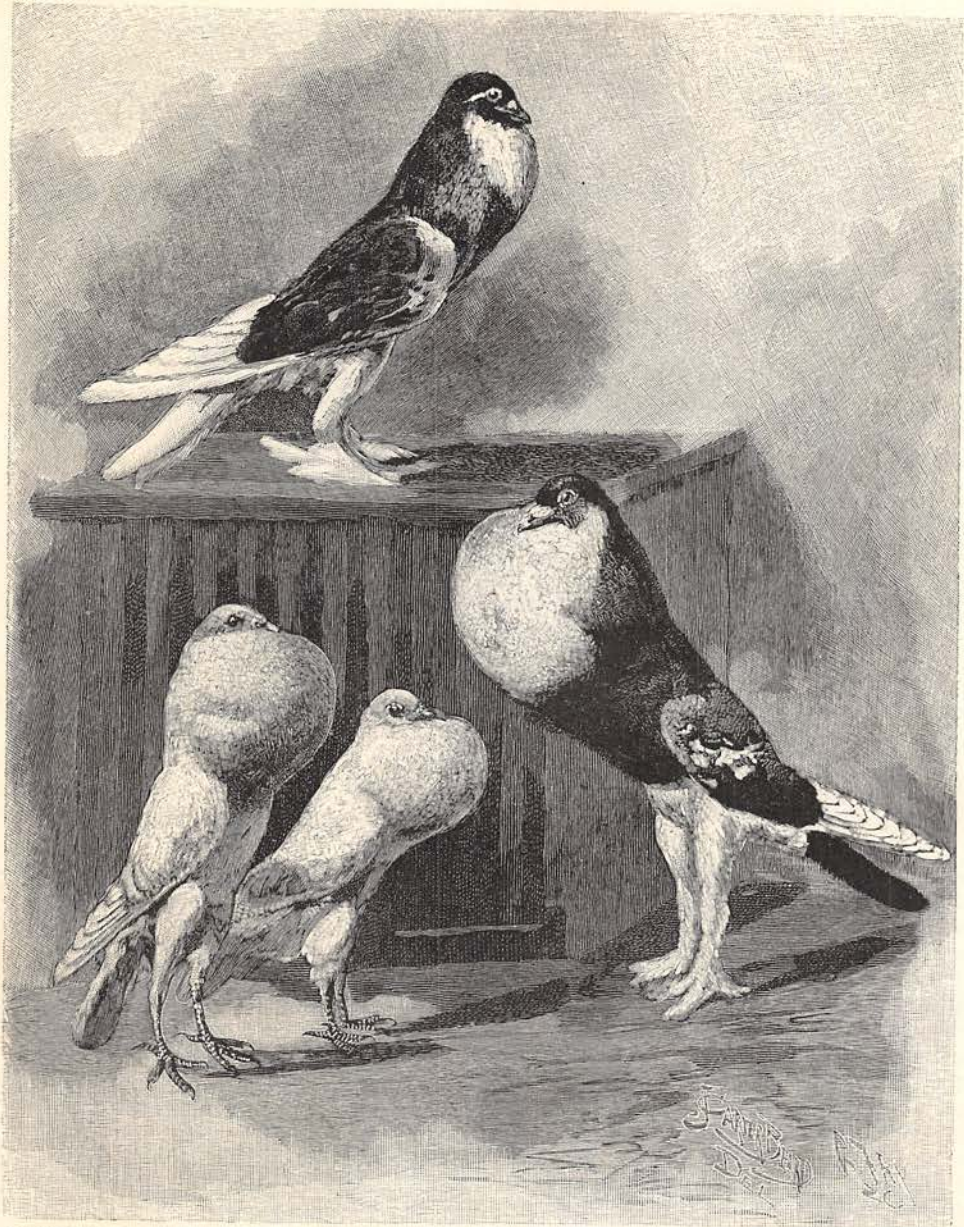
length of the bird from tip of beak to end of tail is seventeen and one-half inches. The standard for judging the carrier is as follows:

Beak and beak-wattle; length, shape, and thickness of beak, each 4; color 2; shape of upper wattle 10; lower wattle 3, color 2; texture 2	31
Space between eye and beak-wattle	3
Eye-wattle: regularity of build 5; diameter 5; texture 4; lacing 2	16
Skull: narrowness 5; flatness 2	7
Gullet	5
Neck: length 6; slenderness 5	11
Shoulders: flatness and width	3
Breast: width and fullness	4
Length of flights and tail	4
Thigh	7
Length	5
Color	4

100

The barb, although the antithesis of the carrier in every point, is its nearest relative. The young of the two during the first few days after hatching can scarcely be distinguished, but the building once begun, it is with opposite purpose.

The barb is short in beak and down-faced; that is, the forehead and beak are in almost a continuous line. It is small in size, with the



PYGMY POUTERS. (OWNED BY DR. COOK, OF UTICA, N. Y.) SARAH BERNHARDT AND CLEVELAND, ENGLISH POUTERS.
(OWNED BY CHARLES BECKER, BALTIMORE, MD.)

neck short, breast broad, legs short, flights long, and carried each side of the tail. The gullet is well curved in to increase the apparent size of the head. The skull is broad and of equal length and breadth—a perfect curve from the crown to the beginning of the beak-wattle, and arched from side to side. The beak is short and thick, the mandibles of like shape and boxed; the eye is pearl or white. The beak-wattle is divided in the mid-

dle, and resembles a small bean split open and laid across the beak, and simply fills the juncture of beak and head. The jewing is three small knobs of cere in the middle of the lower mandible, and each side of the gape of the mouth. The beak-wattle is white, and the jewing of deep flesh-color. The eye-wattle matures in the third year, and should be of equal breadth, thickest at the outer edge, the eye standing out in the center like the hub

of a wheel. This wattle is a bright red. A front view shows the good barb head very square, the eye-wattle rising above the skull and standing away from it, thus giving a broader, more massive appearance. An indented groove each side of the face is peculiar to the variety and gives character to the face. The barb is in red, yellow, dun, white, and black. The only blues known are in the lofts of the Princess Charles of Prussia. The various colors are so bred together that the color of the prospective young of almost any mating is uncertain.

The barb is of African descent and ancient lineage. Poor Mary Queen of Scots, writing from her prison in 1574, says, "I beg you to procure me pigeons, hens from Barbary (barbs), to keep in cages, as I do my birds, a pastime for a prisoner." Willughby says he was first told of the barb by his friend Philip Skippon (Major-General Philip Skippon, the associate of Cromwell in the civil war).

The pouter, next in standard order, is of another character, if character can be claimed for the great rollicking fellow that is so fond of attention and so winsome as a pet when at home, and so sulky and unattractive when away from his loft or among strangers.

"How gracefully their breasts they blaw!
Their limbs are lang, their waists are sma'.
The bravest bird ye ever saw,
An' king o' doos, the pouter."

The variety is oldest of the English breeds. Aldrovandus wrote of it in 1600, but its peculiarities were fixed long previous. On the sign-board of the old inn at Brentford frequented by Shakspeare and his friends, the pouter is pictured much as it would be to-day for the same purpose. Early in 1700 it had given place in higher columbarian circles to the almond tumbler, but was still the idol of the silk-weavers of Spitalfields. From their lofts it passed gradually into Scotland and Ireland, and suddenly, about twenty-five years ago it was discovered that there was not a good pouter to be found in all England. The grand and perfected bird, winning at English shows, was British, but, alas! not English. This caused the revival of the fancy for them in its old home.

"To see a pouter at its best," says Rev. Dr. Headley, "he must be among the smaller varieties. He seems always to be delighted with little Mrs. and Miss Tumbler, cooing after them and paying them all attention, while the little ladies prance in front of him on their tiny feet, and, liking the notice of the tall fellow, show off at their best, while the pouter rears himself still higher, blows himself out, and bends and

bows like the poplar with the wind playing upon it."

The pouter should be large, measuring twenty inches from tip of beak to tip of tail, but so proportioned as to appear taller. He should be so upright that a line drawn through the eye will strike the top of the arch of the wing-bow and end at the center of the foot without departing from the perpendicular. The crop when blown out should be globular and borne well up. To add to the effect of the girth just above the wing-bow should be slender. The legs should be long, with the thighs well displayed, and closely covered with short, soft feathers, which gradually increase in size and quill to the toes, where they spread upon the ground at right angles with the foot.

"The most difficult point to obtain," says Charles Becker, "is the apparent length of leg, since this is so far governed by other conditions that the bird may actually measure well and yet not show it. The rule should never be put to the leg of a pouter, but the length should show to the eye in the general effect." "Of what value," says Robert Fulton, "is that property which one cannot see unless he has a rule in his pocket?" But apparent length is not all. Fulton adds, "No sooner do you get a grand-limbed bird in the nest than the chances combine against it, and your troubles, so far from being ended, are only fairly begun. The legs are almost as soft as jelly until the age of three weeks, and, in spite of care, the least cold is liable to paralyze them. Again, the least wrench or strain, owing to the softness of the joints, will produce deformity. These are only the beginning of the many difficulties. The pouter-breeder must be the genuine fancier, else he would never persevere in the midst of the cruel disappointments his fascinating pursuit must occasion him."

Color Mr. Becker considers an easy point. His rule is to mate like colors unless a cross is necessary, when reds may be used for blacks, reds, and yellows; silvers and blacks for blues. The cross of the black and the red often produces the sandy, a valuable bird for crossing whites, in its colors being broken, since, as a rule, the young follow the parent true in color, and from this cross are almost always pure and excellent whites. He would also mate rough-limbed to thin-limbed and gayly marked to close-marked.

The properties of the pouter in order of value are, length of limb, crop, slenderness of body, length of feather, color, and marking.

It was said of Sir John Sebright that he would go up a chimney to look at a good pigeon, and he was as well known in lofts of

Spitalfields (not much better than chimneys) as in Parliament. It is to his work that we are indebted for the pygmy pouter, the bantam of the pigeons. This pouter in miniature presents the same difficulties in breeding, and is amenable to the same laws, as the large variety. The clean-legged Austrian pygmy, or Brünner, is another bird, and found at its best in Prague and Vienna. Neumeister says of it, "Its length is about eleven inches when full-grown, and its weight seven and one-half ounces. When not inflated it is not much bigger than a blackbird, and may be drawn through the thumb and finger."

The trumpeter may be divided into the toy and the Russian. The former is the joy of the German fancier. He breeds it in all the colors, and in splashes, checkers, and solids; he puts bars on the wings, changes the color of the crest, the rose, and the boots; giving it as many names as he can produce varieties. The Russian, on the contrary, is a study in black and white, no other colors entering into its make-up. It is very "high-class" in the difficulties of the rose, crest, foot-feathering, and delicate constitution. The rose is the tuft of feathers covering the head from the base of the beak to the crest at the back, and overhanging the eyes so that the bird can only see what is beneath it. This must be a perfect rosette, the feathers diverging from the center regularly, and lying smoothly. The crest is at the back and extends from eye to eye. The white eye and beak afford a strong contrast to the intense black of the plumage. The half-blinded condition of the bird and its excessive foot-feathering combine to give it a groping character and a slow and heavy gait.

The first Russians were carried into England some twenty-five years ago, and soon after passed into Ireland, where the old cock "Warsaw" and its descendants laid the foundation for its fancy. The bird has its name from the peculiar and long-continued sound of its cooing. This is caused by a valvelike fold of the membrane of the crop over the opening, by which air enters the crop freely but escapes with difficulty, and much as water gurgles from a bottle, each gurgle producing the tum, tum, tum of the trumpeter's coo.

The jacobin is of continental origin, and has its name from the fancied resemblance in the hooded round white head to the cowl and shaven head of the friar. The bird is small in body, the loose silky feathering giving it a size to which its weight does not correspond. It may be described as a long, slender, white bird, enveloped in a colored cloak covering just the shoulders, thus allowing the white flights, rump, tail, and thighs to be seen below. The

legs and feet are clean, the eye pearl, and the cere bright red. The difficulties are in the adornings of the head. The hood is formed of feathers rising from the back of the neck, and their continuation inclosing the neck is the chain. The tippet is formed by feathers falling backwards over the shoulders and back. The rose is the center from which the chain and tippet feathers part; its lateral growth, meeting at the back of the neck and forming the mane, completes the line of beauty, which, viewed in profile, begins at the breast, extends around the neck to the top of the head, and around the shoulders to the breast again. The colors are red, yellow, black, and white, with blue tried for. The jacobin is not only one of the most beautiful of the pigeons, but it possesses difficulties to delight the most ardent fancier.

India is the source of the fantail, but it is not the Indian bird that wins in the show-pens of the present. Willughby in 1676 wrote of it as the "Broad tail'd Shakers—called Shakers because they do almost constantly shake or wag their heads up and down. Broad tailed from the great number of feathers they have in their tails, and when they walk up and down they do for the most part hold their tails erect like a hen or Turkey Cock." The bird at present exists in extreme types, with a third as a compromise of the two. The extremes are the English and the Scotch, and the medium bird is ordinarily the prize-winner. From the same beginning the English worked first for tail, and with carriage and nervous motion secondary if at all. The Scotch, on the contrary, gave style, carriage, and trembling movement first place, and tail a last consideration. The result is for the Scotch a small, delicately formed and featured bird, with motion so in excess that sometimes the tail is no longer carried erect, but, almost funnel-shaped, rests upon the ground. The English bird is longer, coarser, and loose in feather, with tail full and carried either upright in a perfect circle or even more forward, sometimes covering back and head. The eye of the English bird is in line with its feet, and its breast is protruding and upraised. The head of the Scotch is carried much farther back, sometimes even to the root of the tail-feathers. The feet of both varieties are small, and the tread appears to be on tiptoe. The eye is brown and with a gentle beaming expression found in no other. "The eye of a Venus," says a fancier of it. The bird is peculiar in structure in being without the oil-gland, and in having more than the usual coccygeal vertebrae. Thus the carrier has six, the pouter eight, and the fantail nine.

The owls, turbits, and orientals make up

the frilled varieties. In all there is the general resemblance in the short, plump body; short, stout beak; the frill of curled feathers upon the breast; and the thin feather-covered membrane, the dewlap, extending from the base of the beak to the top of the frill.

The owls are African, English, and Chinese. The African is at home in Tunis, whence many thousands have been sent to England, and of which scarcely dozens remain. The bird is the smallest of the family, and so delicate that its term of life out of African air is very limited. The English owl is fair in size, with eye round and prominent, the dewlap well developed, and the frill extending to the lower point of the breast. In the Chinese this frill-feathering is excessive, even extending up about the throat to the eyes.

"In judging owls," says John D. White, one of its best breeders, "more importance is given to the shape of the head and beak than to the frill, since, in breeders' parlance, 'a point of bone' is less easily secured than 'a point of feather,' and therefore should count for more."

The turbit is sometimes ignorantly termed a shouldered owl; that is, an owl with its wing-coverts colored and the body white. This is an error, since the material and difficult difference to obtain lies in the contour of the head. In the owl the measurement from the center of the eye to every part from front to back of the head should be equal, but in the turbit it should be less from the top of the skull; that is, "the skull slightly bevelled." The feathers at the back of the turbit head are sometimes inverted or curled upward, forming the point, or the shell crest, whereas the owl head is always unadorned, plain. The turbit is in all colors, and may be of one throughout, or with body white and wings or tail colored.

The "turbit-owl" J. W. Ludlow describes as "a cross of the turbit and owl, and in a measure resembling both. They are more particularly bred in the Eastern hemisphere and are in solid colors and mortles."

The orientals are the gems of the fancy, combining, as they do, the grace of the owl-pigeon with a peculiarly rich-colored plumage. The varieties have their origin in Turkey, and the characteristic white spot upon the tail, found in no other variety, is no doubt due to

their ancestor, *C. leuconota*, the wild bird of the Himalayas, or *C. rupestris* of Central Asia, the only others thus marked.

The varieties are three—the turbiteen, the blondinette, and the satinette. Of the two last named, the satinette is probably the original type, and the blondinette the result of a cross of it with the owl. Each of the two has its varieties classed by their marking. The colors of the orientals are peculiar to them, in being pinkish brown, orange, or sulphur, seal, brown, purplish black, and very light blue. A marking peculiar to it is the "arrow point," the effect of a wedge-shaped mark of darker shade at the edge of the feather just at the midriff. There are but two collections of orientals in America, the one that of Dr. H. E. Owen at Oceanic, New Jersey; the other that of John E. Teal in Cleveland, Ohio.

While the runt is the weakest and most forlorn of pigs, by the contrariness which characterizes our fancier it is the name given to the largest, and most robust among pigeons. The Roman runt, oldest of known varieties of pigeons, had its origin near the shores of the Mediterranean, where it has long been classed as poultry. Its main point is size. The Leghorn runt, while of equal weight with the Roman, is peculiar in standing high upon long, bare legs, its neck curved like the letter S, and its tail and wings carried high; these peculiarities winning for it the name of "hen pigeon."

The archangel has its name from *arc-en-ciel*, the rainbow, given with direct reference to its exceedingly rich-colored and iridescent plumage. This variety was introduced into England from the continent early in the century by Sir John Sebright, his birds at his death passing into the hands of the Earl of Derby.

The swallow, magpie, starling, nun, priest, and others are of the toys. All are the result of the German breeder's skill and the tendency of the duffer stock, from which they are bred, to variation. This toy fancy had its origin in Germany, where it is carried to the greatest perfection. The object in it is to combine the colors and marking to produce certain effects, and to make the colors retain their brilliancy and depth. The names given to the varieties refer to a fancied resemblance in the marking.