

YOUNG FOLKS.

FINE AND FANCY PIGEONS.

Most boys are fond of pigeons; they are easy kept. All the known varieties can be traced back to three originals—the Rock dove, the Ring-dove and the Fancypigeon. Fancy pigeons have been developed by the ingenuity of breeders, and there are no less than forty-four independent varieties, each of which contains several varieties. They all have some peculiarities in shape, plumage or flight, and the boy who promptly names all of them is not only a keen observer, but also something of a naturalist. The leading fancy pigeons, sometimes called artificial varieties, are the Fantails, Tumblers, Shakers, Croppers, Trampeters, Jacobines, Rants and Nuns. The Fantails have a hood or ruff of feathers, which grows on the back of the neck and reaches the head of the bird. It gets its name from the resemblance of the hood to the tail of the Jacobine zebra. The head is peculiarly small and the eyes are bright and prominent. Yellow is the best color for the Fantail, and their value depends on the length and shape of the appendage. The Nun has a name from a similar tuft, which resembles a nun's veil thrown back from her forehead. The most perfect of the Nun variety is the black preferred. Some go so far as to breed at least six of the flight feathers to be of the same color as the head and neck. The Fantails are black, blue or red in color, but the choice ones are white. It is a tall, shaggy pigeon, with a tail of twenty to thirty-six feathers, which it spreads out like a fan. It struts about like a peacock, with its wings spread and its tail so erect as to touch the back of its head. One with thirty-six feathers is considered a perfect bird. The young of the Fantail must have more room than other young pigeons, or the tail feathers will be injured, which will affect the beauty and the value of the bird. The Trampeter is generally black-mottled, with short, feathery legs and a tuft of feathers on the root of the beak, and sometimes a hood at the back of the head. It utters a sound not unlike a trumpet. The Tumblers derive their name from the singular habit of tumbling or rolling over and over in their flight. They are considered among the best of fancy pigeons, if they have all the points. The Carrier is a noble-looking bird, with long neck and head erect. Around each eye is a circle of loose skin, ranging in color from a dull orange to a fiery red, the latter being preferred. There are wattles of soft skin around the bill, white in the ordinary bird, but black in the most valuable kind. The plumage is generally dun colored or black, though in some rare cases the bird is pied. In training them when quite young, flights of a mile are sufficient at a time, and the distance can be increased as they acquire strength and experience. They must be fed, but not overfed, before starting. If hungry they will turn aside to hunt for food; if overfed, they will be likely to fall. They must be watered or thirst will lead them to seek to quench it, and no boy should blame them for doing that. Another thing is essential, they must be taken in a covered basket to the place where they are to be let loose. When liberated a good bird will at once rise high, and after making several circles in the air, it will start off in the direction of its home with an air of certainty that has something wonderful in it. These pigeons were very popular years ago in carrying messages before the telegraph and telephone were invented. The dove cotes may be made round, square, triangular or eight-sided. They should be placed on a pole out of the reach of rats and mice and sheltered from the driving winds by a near-by wall. The landing circles should be large enough to prevent over-crowding, and it is very essential that the air should pass through them. There should be a projecting ledge in front of each cell or tier of cells, upon which the pigeons can perch. Each pigeon knows his domestic retreat and will sit upon the perch in front of the opening with a keen sense of proprietorship. The dove-cote should be lined with slate or plastered with cement to keep it free from vermin, which pester the birds very much. Sometimes the woodwork is made so that it can be taken apart and scrubbed. A hole in the roof of a house furnishes a good entrance. The entrance should be in the middle, and the main points are freedom from draughts, free access for air, plenty of room and safety from cats. Pigeons begin to breed at the end of nine months, and breed every month, except in very cold weather. The nest boxes should be kept clean and should be changed often. The birds are a few days old. Clean water should be kept constantly within their reach. The parent food and water boxes and bottles should be good contrivances. They keep the birds from wanting the food, which they are apt to do. Suit is an occasional luxury to them and is very necessary, as it assists them in digesting their food. They are also fond of being at old mortar. When pigeons get sick they indicate it by a loss of flesh, by refusing food, by sitting in a huddled position with their wings puffed out and their heads drooping. In most cases the best remedy is to fumigate the cage with tobacco smoke to kill the vermin. Pigeons are subject to a disease called "the roop." The wet roop is caused by a fungus. It is a bad cold, and two or three times every other day is a good remedy. The dry roop is the wet roop with a little added, for which cloves or garlic is a good remedy. Another disease is the canker, which occurs when the birds fight and peck each other. The exposed spots should be rubbed every day with a saline made of honey and alum. When pigeons are generally healthy, which is likely to be while they are young, a little stimulating food, like hemp seed, will be good for them. Keep them dry and dry while they are changing their feathers, and put saffron and old rusty nails in the water they drink. —[Philadelphia

with me for a while; but of course he won't." Jim jumped through a hole in the fence into the Donald's yard. He found Tip there looking as sober as could be imagined. "What is the matter, Tip? Why are you so solemn?" "Well, I'm a little sorry," said Jim, "because you would look so well, too. I wish I was you, and could have nice bones to pick, instead of bread and milk." "I'll tell you what we can do," said Jim, "as we look so much alike—only you are faster than I am, but that would not be noticed—we can exchange places and so one will know the difference. What say you, Master Tip?" "All right," said Tip, after thinking awhile; "anything to get out of eating bread and milk every meal. I'll go over now and pretend I'm you. So good-by. Tell me how you like the change soon." Tip had not told Jim of the bad boys in the family, or how they tied tin cans on his tail that sent him howling over the house, while kicks were added to the noise he made. Jim sat down on the side porch, thinking of his good fortune. Suddenly he heard some one calling "Tip, Tip," so, as he had exchanged places for a while with that individual, he answered the summons. He went around in front where the children were playing. "Here, Tip," cried Hatty, the fair young mistress of the dog, "come here, sir. Why didn't you come when I called you?" and, with this, she whipped him. Poor Jim, not being used to such treatment, didn't know what to make of it, but he determined to put up with it till he saw Tip. "Come here, Tip, let me dress you up like a young lady." She picked up a doll dress and commenced putting it on him. Jim felt very uncomfortable and was glad when the sleeve of the dress ripped and he was released. He strolled around to the side porch and seating himself comfortably commenced thinking again, but his thoughts ran in quite a different channel this time. Instead of thinking of his own troubles he was thinking of poor Tip's. "I'll go over and see how he enjoys the life I led." So saying, Jim moved quietly to the hole in the fence and saw Tip looking happier than he had ever seen him look before. "Why couldn't I be happy like that?" thought Jim. "Well, I'll try anyhow and see how I succeed." Jim certainly did not accept the exchange for "always," but he learned that we must never judge from appearances, and went back to his old haunts better contented than he had ever been before.

An Unsuccessful Illustration.
A teacher was telling his little boys about temptation and showing how it sometimes came in the most attractive attire. She used as an illustration the paw of a cat.
"Now," said she, "you have all seen the paw of a cat. It is as soft as velvet, isn't it?"
"Yes, ma'am," from the class.
"And you have seen the paw of a dog?"
"Yes, ma'am."
"Well, although the cat's paw seems like velvet, there is, nevertheless, concealed in it something that hurts. What is it?"
No answer.
"The dog bites," said the teacher, "when he is in anger, but what does the cat do?"
"Scratches," replied the boy.
"Correct," said the teacher, nodding her head approvingly. "Now, what has the cat got that the dog hasn't?"
"Whiskers," said a boy on the back seat, and the titter that ran around the class brought the lesson to a close.

Blood is Thinner Than Beer.
Magistrate—"O'Reilly, you are charged with assaulting and brutally beating Michael McDooley at the reunion of the O'Reilly family yesterday. Have you anything to say?"
O'Reilly—"Yes, yer honor. The bloke's an impostor, sorr, and hasn't was drop av the O'Reilly blood in his skin, begorra. Niver laid my eyes on him afore, yer honor, an' he drank up all of the beer."
Magistrate—"How is this, McDooley? Are you a kinsman of the prisoner?"
McDooley—"Faix, an' sure it is that I am, yer honor; his grandfather wor Patrick O'Reilly av Belfast, an'—"
O'Reilly—"An' bebad, that do that prove, yer worship?"
McDooley—"An' Patrick O'Reilly's dochter marrit me own—"
O'Reilly—"He's lyin', yer honor; yer he's lying. Me grandfather never had any children at all, at all, sorr."

Its Chin Gave it Away.
"Dot was a pooty baby, dand id," exclaimed Hans Spellbreaker to the father of a new baby that has just been landed in the household.
"Yes, it is a dumpling, sure," replied the father.
"Who was dot baby, a girl or a boy?" asked Hans.
"Can't you guess?" asked the father.
"Well, I think dot id was a girl," said Hans.
"Correct. But how did you know?"
"Oh, yooost because he got so much chin on id's face."

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His Little Blunder.
Nephew (trying to make a good impression)—"Uncle, this port is excellent." Uncle—"Well, I should think so; it is fifty years old." Nephew—"By Jove, you don't say so! What a superb wine it must have been once!"

To Make Marriage a Success.
Dolley—That seems to be a good rule which Mr. Gladstone and his wife observe. Cumeo—what is it?
Dolley—"When he insists his wife submits; when she insists he submits."
Cumeo—"Yes, that's a good rule. My wife and I follow it, too—at least the last part of it."

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"Funny?" asked McCorkle.
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Wife's Lawyer—"Gentlemen, the husband is brutal, violent, choleric."
Husband's Lawyer—"Gentlemen, the wife is malicious, passionate, crabbed."
Puzzled Judge—"But, gentlemen, where the deuce do you find the incompatibility?"

Things are Seldom What They Seem.
While the above is, in the main, true, still there is an exception to the general rule, as is the case in many instances. We refer to Dr. Pierce's Pellets, which are not only all they seem, but more. In torpid liver, indigestion, sluggishness of the bowels, biliousness, and headache, the relief afforded by their use is wonderful.

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Cure Sentenne, the parish priest of Notre Dame, Montreal, severely criticized in his sermon on Sunday the celebration of Labour day, which he said was a godless demonstration resembling the fetes of the French Revolution when the goddess of reason was the supreme ruler.

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Louise—"Yes; I think he was nearly at the popping point last evening."
Mother—"Did you give him any encouragement, Louise?"
Louise—"Yes; I got as close to him as I could."

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He Warned Her.
"I wonder," said a husband to his wife, "what causes me to hiccough so."
"Have you been drinking?" asked the lady.
"No, madam, I have not."
"I have heard," said his wife, "that it is deduced from a cold settling between the shoulder blades."
"If that is the case," replied the husband, "I will thank you to keep your cold feet near the dashboard of the bedstead."

Advice.
"Aw, Miss Belle," said Gus de Jay, "do you know I've been thinking?"
"Indeed?"
"Y-a-a-s; thinking of doing some work."
"Then you had better hurry up, or you will be so tired thinking that you won't have any strength left to work with."
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The Dissatisfied Pug.
"What meat!" exclaimed the pug dog, as he tried to pick the meat from the bone. "I'm getting tired of this life. I haven't got anything but bones that haven't been good for me to eat. I wish I was the dog of the butcher. They get everything he wants to eat and is as fat as can be, while I'm getting thinner and thinner. I'll go and find him if he doesn't want to exchange places with me."

Two half fares? she murmured, questioning.
"Yes; that boy's more than five years old."
"I'm seven years old," volunteered the youngster in question, as if he thought his testimony would straighten out matters.
His mother flashed perceptibly, but woman-like she would have the last word—"I never paid for him before."
"Oh, yes, you have, me," quoth the terrible infant, very anxious now to establish his claim of being a big boy.
His mother settled back in her seat, her face the battle ground of emotion. But the boy spoke again:—
"Quit nudgin' me."
His mother whispered something in that boy's ear that settled him.

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