



How Much is That Doggie in the Window - 1880s Style

By Lee Finley

(A note: In case you don't have a feeling of recognition from the above title, the majority of it is the title of a 1953 song written by Bob Merrill and first performed by Patty Page. It was exceptionally popular and reached Number One on two different record rating charts and over two million copies were sold. Later in the same year Lita Roza did a cover of the song in Great Britain, and it also reached Number One there. To be fair other pets are also mentioned in the song: e.g. Verse five - "...I don't want a bunny or a kitty, I don't want a parrot that talks, I don't want a bowl of little fishies, He [her true love] can't take a goldfish for a walk...". Lastly on a personal note I must state that I remember singing this song when it came out; most of us 10-year-olds were doing it.)

In a few articles that have previously appeared on the Museum of Aquarium and Pet History website I have made mentions of A. [Alfred] W. Roberts. In this piece I am going to concentrate on one part of an aspect of his life...his writing. But before doing so I want to offer up a brief set of notes regarding him. I must note that what follows is in part from my article "William Alford Lloyd and his Connections to American Aquariums" which was published herein on October 1, 2024. Making note of this is to avoid what has become known in some circles as "self-plagiarism." With that said:

Some Notes on A.W. Roberts

"Alfred W. Roberts, who for the most part, went under the moniker A.W. Roberts, is an important, but poorly known, part of American aquarium history. I have an ongoing project regarding him that will be presented herein later, but this does seem to be a good time to at least say a few words on his behalf. A.W. Roberts was a New Yorker (Brooklyn) with a wide range of nature interests, especially those of an aquatic nature. In his late teens he was collecting and selling aquatic plants to the newly formed aquarium (the "Grand Aquaria") in Barnum's American Museum. By 1862 he was working regularly for the museum with a specialty in collecting aquatic specimens in New York and around New England. As a part of this he was also second in charge of the aquarium, under William Emerson Damon. During this time, he also honed his skills in art and became a talented artist and professional engraver.

When the Coup and Reiche New York Aquarium opened in 1876 he went on board as Director of Fisheries and collected specimens far and wide. Towards the end of the facility's function as a true aquarium, he served as the Superintendent and worked, unfortunately to no avail, to maintain the aquarium-based status of the institution. He also, for a while, replaced Henry D. Butler as the person in charge of W. C. Coup's travelling aquarium with the New United Monster Shows circus.

Roberts was also a prolific writer and produced numerous articles, which he usually illustrated during the 1870's and 1880's. Many of these dealt with topics of aquatic natural history and aquariums. Articles of his appeared in a variety of sources including, but not limited to, Harper's Young People, Scientific American, The American Angler, Forest and Stream and The Young Scientist."

As noted above, this piece will be concerned with an aspect of Roberts' writing. What will be covered is a series of articles that he wrote dealing with the price of various pets and some of their associated

supplies. These were aimed at younger individuals, a regular audience that Roberts wrote for. This commenced in the January 17th, 1882 issue of the magazine Harper's Young People (page 183). Either Roberts just treated this as a once only piece or the magazine wasn't up for such a series. In any case, a year later in the January 1883 issue of the monthly magazine The Young Scientist, in which Roberts was regularly writing a wide variety of articles, he started the series again and it ran for 11 months. I must note here that in The Young Scientist series Roberts' name is not used. But his regular writing for the publication, the sameness of format, the style and knowledge presented and especially the initial introductory text are pure Roberts. I have, to date, identified over 135 articles written by him and will be preparing a bibliography for submission to the MOAPH website.

Some words regarding how prices of the time may be known by potential buyers are needed here. Many larger pet dealers in the latter quarter of the 19th Century produced sizable catalogs of their "products" which offered both information and prices. See Figure Two for an example of this type of catalog. But this type of publication would most likely not end up in the hands of the audience that Roberts was writing for. Another form of advertising of the time was the trade card. Numerous pet dealers used this attractive method of advertising, but, in my experience, prices were not a feature. Animals and products were noted and that was that. Figures One, a and b, show a typical example of this form of advertising by a New York City establishment. Newspapers and magazines also provided a format for advertising, but these like the trade card were slim on providing prices. Figure Three shows such a format for another popular New York City establishment in 1878.

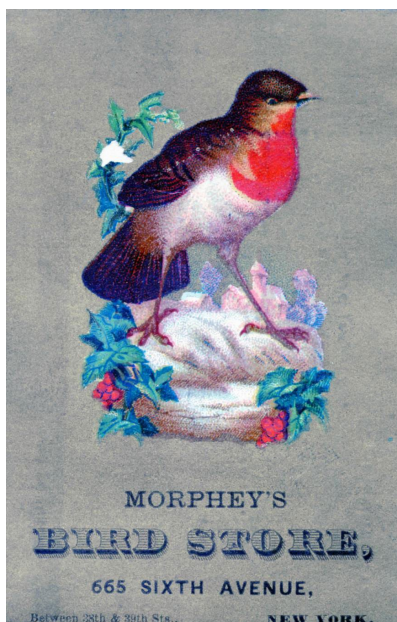


Figure 1a: The attractive obverse of Victorian trade card for a New York City dealer of pets and pet supplies. Authors collection.

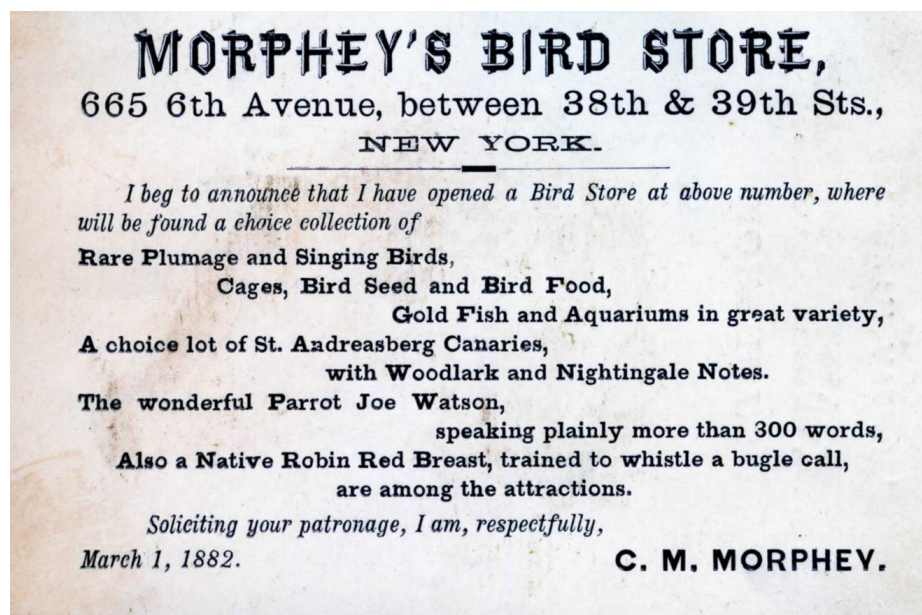


Figure 1b: Reverse of the same Victorian trade card. The majority of such cards are not dated as this one is. This, from a historical information perspective, makes it more valuable. Author's collection.

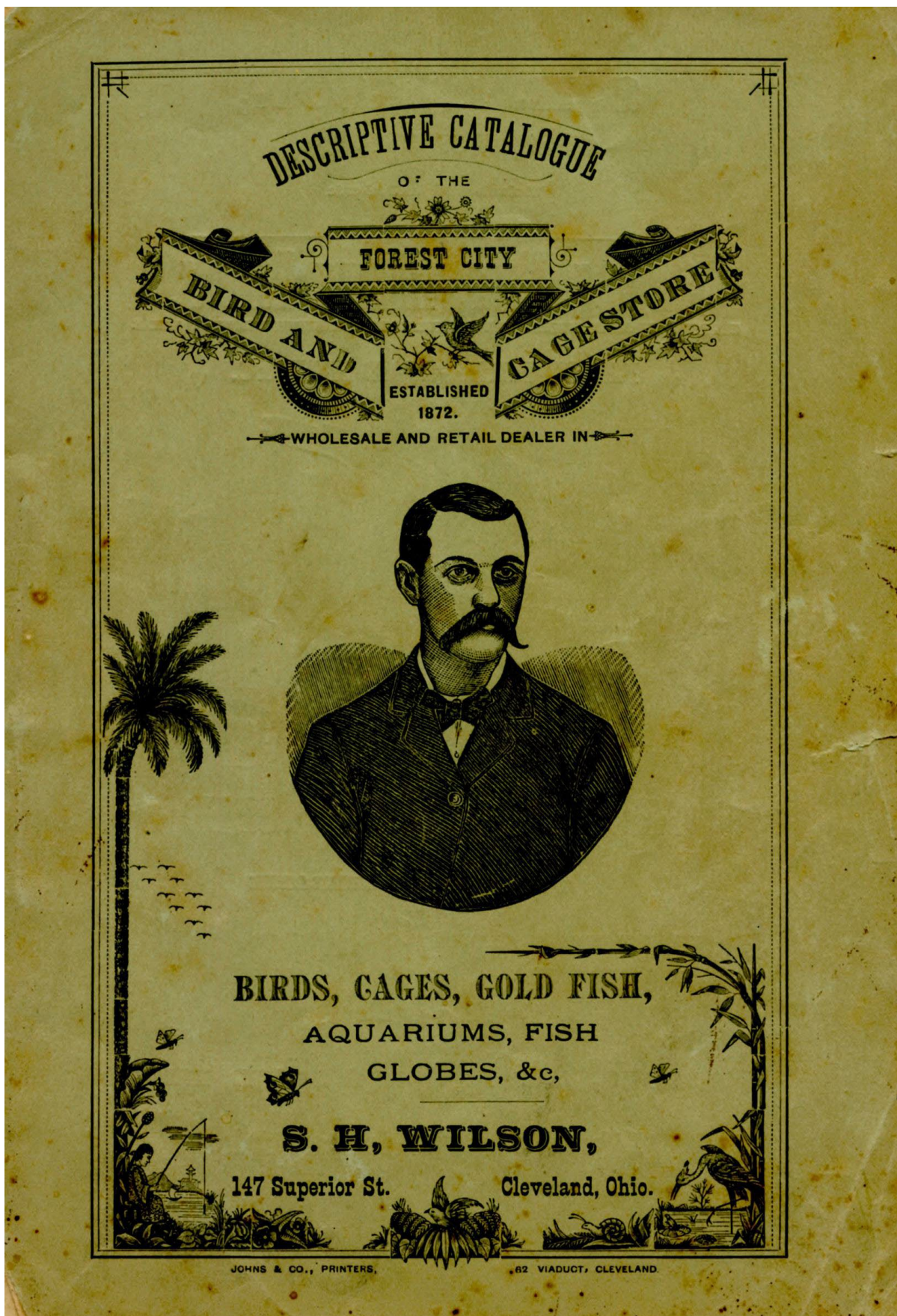
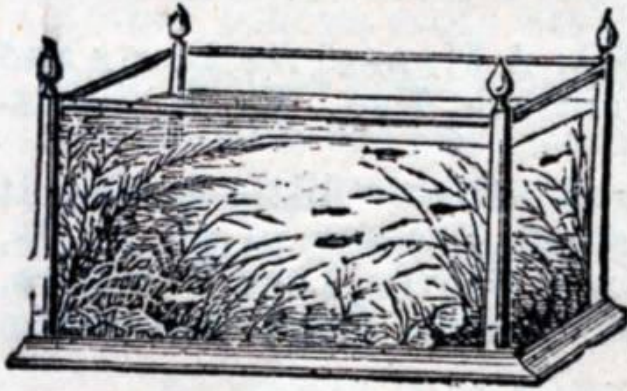


Figure 2: Front cover of a 52-page catalog of pets and pet supplies. This is undated but appears to fit nicely within the general dating time of the Roberts articles. Author's collection.

B. GREENWOOD,



Manufacturer of Aquaria, Greenhouse and Aquarium Cement, and dealer in Fish Food, Gold Fish, Water Plants, Globes and Aquaria Stock of all descriptions; Canaries and Cages, Bird Houses, Sea Shells, etc., wholesale and

retail. Valisneria, Spiralis, and other Aquatic Plants for Microscopists. Pure White Leghorn eggs, \$1.50 per dozen.

11½ TO 13 COLLEGE PLACE, NEW YORK CITY.

Figure 3: An advertisement for a pet dealer which appeared on the cover page of the March 1878 issue of The Young Scientist magazine. Author's collection.

What follows is a transcription of the January 17, 1882 Harper's Young People presentation.

PET STOCK MARKET REPORT.

BY A. W. Roberts

The report at the end of this article will enable any boy or girl who wishes to exchange pet stock to see at a glance the market valuation placed upon such things as young people probably like to deal in.

In making up this report I have avoided the very high selling prices, and often the very low prices paid by dealers, but have taken the figures of dealers who are satisfied with a fair profit. Purchasers of pet stock will do well to bear in mind that prices vary greatly according to the season of the year, as, for instance, a month previous to the holidays the prices range the highest. During the hot midsummer months, when the young folks are in the country, the demand falls off greatly, so that dealers are forced to reduce the amount of stock on hand and the prices to the lowest figures.

The valuation of pet stock also varies according to the age, shape, color, and purity of breed, and the amount of intelligence or training possessed by the animal. The supply and demand also regulate the market price, as, for instance, I have known gold-fish of best size and color to be disposed of to dealers as low as two dollars per hundred in the months of June, July, and August, but during the months of October, November, and December the same quality of fish rose in price to ten and fifteen dollars per hundred. A caprice of fashion for any particular variety of animal or class of pet stock will often run up the price with dealers.

There is no reason why boys should complain of having nothing to do, when there are so many things that can be raised by them for the New York market that yield a fair profit, and often a large one. By clubbing together, some might raise white pigeons, for which there is so steady a demand and high

prices paid. Or a pond might be constructed for raising golden carp, or gold-fish, or German carp. Just think of it: here is the United States government offering, through Professor Baird, thousands of German carp, which have been carefully bred, for free distribution to any persons who have a suitable pond or ponds in any part of the United States. When I was a boy there was hardly any demand for gold-fish, and the German carp was unknown in America; now there is a steady demand for the golden carp at six and eight dollars per hundred, and German carp sells readily at ten and fifteen cents a pound.

Think of all the books, papers, magazines, printing-presses, and scroll-saws that might be purchased with money earned by some such pleasant occupation!

What lots of fun could be had. How much could be learned about the natures and habits of the lower animals. When any of them might die they could be stuffed or set up, thus learning a lesson in taxidermy, or their skeletons might be prepared and set up, and a lesson on comparative anatomy learned. Also studies in pencil or India ink of animal life might be made. Then, again, the club could have a rabbit pie once in a while.

PRICES TO PURCHASERS.

RABBITS, common, per pair	\$1.00 to \$2.50
RABBITS, fancy breeds, according to	
Age and purity of breed, per pair	3.00 " 15.00
GUINEA-PIGS, common, per pair.....	1.50
GUINEA-PIGS, all white, "	2.00
GUINEA-PIGS, African, "	3.00
FERRETS, English, "	15.00
SQUIRRELS, gray and black "	3.00 " 10.00
SQUIRRELS, all white "	15.00 " 25.00
SQUIRRELS, flying, "	3.00 " 4.00
SQUIRRELS, small red, "	2.00
CATS, Maltese (males), each	5.00
CATS, Albinos, pink or blue eyes, each	3.00 " 5.00
RATS, white China, pink eyes, per pair.	1.50
RATS, piebald, per pair.....	1.50
MICE, white, pink eyes, per pair.....	.50
MICE, piebald, per pair50
RACCOONS, each.....	4.00 " 5.00
NEWFOUNDLAND PUPS, each.....	10.00 " 15.00
GREYHOUNDS, English. "	10.00 " 25.00
GREYHOUNDS, Italian, "	10.00 " 30.00
POMERANIAN OR SPITZ, "	5.00 " 15.00
TERRIERS, Scotch and Skye, each.....	5.00 " 30.00
TERRIERS, black and tan, each	5.00 " 30.00

PRICES PAID BY DEALERS.

Very young, 50 cents;	
Breeders, \$1 per pair.	
No established price.	
Per pair..\$0.50 to \$0.60	
" .. 0.75 " 1.00	
" .. 1.00 " 1.25	
" .. 4.00 " 5.00	
" .. 1.00 " 1.50	
No established price.	
Per pair.....1.50	
" .. \$0.75 to 1.00	
Each..... 2.00 " 3.00	
" .. 2.00 " 3.00	
Per pair..... 0.50 " 0.60	
" .. 0.50	
" .. 0.20 " 0.30	
" .. 0.10 " 0.20	
No established price.	
There are no established prices for various breeds of dogs. Age, purity of breed, color and intelligence regulate market prices.	

PRICES TO PURCHASERS.

MOCKING-BIRDS, males, each.....	\$3.00 to \$25.00
PIGEONS, pure white common, per pair	1.40 " 1.75
PIGEONS, common, per pair.....	0.25 " 0.30

DEAD GAME.

QUAIL, per dozen.....	\$2.25 to \$2.50
PARTRIDGE, per pair.....	1.00 “ 1.50
SQUIRRELS, gray, black, and red fox, per pair.....	0.20 “ 0.25
RABBITS, wild, per pair.....	0.50 “ 0.60
OPOSSUMS.....	No established price.
RACCOONS.....	No established price.
TROUT, wild, per pound.....	20 cents.
FROGS' LEGS, Canada style, per pound.....	50 cents.
FROGS' LEGS, Pennsylvania style,, per pound.....	60 cents.
SNAPPING-TURTLES, per pound.....	8 cents.
TERRAPIN, per dozen.....	\$12.00

The run of “Market Report” in The Young Scientist magazine began in January 1883. From there it was presented monthly through the November issue. It was absent from the December issue, which has been reported to be the last one which was published. There is one report stating that there was a January 1884 issue, but I have been unable to find any confirmation of this.

Figure Four consists of the first The Young Scientist presentation from January 1883. As with the Harper’s Young People piece there is a not overly long introduction followed by a short listing of various pet prices. As the series progressed it became more comprehensive in its coverage. Figure Five is the November, and last presentation of the series.

Market Report.

Price-List of Pet Animals, etc.

All young persons, at some time or other develop a fondness for living pets of some kind. Boys frequently evince a strong liking for ponies, dogs, rabbits, squirrels and similar animals, while the girls delight in caring for little dogs of fine breeds, cats, birds and aquarium fish of all kinds. This trait in young people is a laudable one and worthy of encouragement, as it cultivates a feeling of kindness and good will towards animals in the minds of young people, that might otherwise remain undeveloped. In order to inform our youthful readers of the prices paid for pet animals we have arranged a price list by which the retail cost of any animal may be seen at once. These prices, it must be understood, are the selling ones for the city of New York and neighborhood, but we do not think they will vary much from prices given in other large cities.

Of course, our readers are aware that there exists a large difference between the retail and wholesale prices—sometimes amounting to one-half or more; this difference is but just, as the dealers sometimes have to keep and care for the animals a long time before getting any returns, and frequently deaths take place, losses against which the dealer must insure himself by making the difference between the wholesale and retail price sufficiently large.

This price list or amateur "Market Report" will be continued from month to month and will be enlarged and corrected from time to time in accordance with the changes in actual prices. We will also try to give early mention of any novelties that may be worth noting.

IMPORTED CAGE BIRDS.

Canaries, <i>Belgian</i> , per pair.....	\$3.00 to 15.00
" <i>French</i> , each.....	8.00 to 15.00
" <i>German, Haritz Mts.</i> , each.....	2 50
Gold Finches, each.....	\$1.50
Gold Fin h (mules), each.....	2.50 to 5.00
Bull Finches, each.....	1.50 to 2.00
Bull Finches (tuned), each.....	5.00 to 30.00
African Finches, per pair.....	2.50 to 5.00
Chaf Finches, each.....	1.50
Linnets, each.....	1.50 to 2.00
Linnets (mules), each.....	1.50 to 2.00
Green Linnets, each.....	1.50
Java Sparrow (blue), each.....	1.50
Java Sparrows (white), each.....	3.00 to 4.00
English Sparrows, per pair.....	1.00
Siskins, each.....	1.00
Gray Cardinal, each.....	5.00
Nightingales, each.....	8.00 to 25.00
Thrushes, each.....	5.00
Skylarks, each.....	5.00
Troopials, each.....	5.00 to 15.00
European blackbirds, each.....	5 00
Black-caps, each.....	4.00
Starlings, each.....	2.50 to 50.00
Ring Doves, each.....	

AMERICAN CAGE BIRDS.

Canaries, each.....	
Mocking Birds, each.....	\$1 00 to 10.00
Robins.....	2.50 to 50.00

Blue Birds ("Blue Robins") each.....	\$1.50 to 2.00
Indigo Birds, each.....	1.00
Nonpariel, each.....	1.50 to 2.00
Virginia Cardinal, each.....	2.50
Bobolinks, each.....	1.00
Yellow Birds, each.....	1.00

QUADRUPEDS.

Terriers, <i>black and tan</i> , each.....	\$5.00 to 30 00
Terriers, <i>Scotch and Skye</i> , each.....	5.00 to 30.00
Newfoundland Pups, each.....	10.00 to 15.00
Pomeranian or Spitz ".....	5.00 to 15.00
Greyhounds, <i>English</i> , ".....	10.00 to 25.00
Greyhounds, <i>Italian</i> ".....	10.00 to 30.00
Guinea-Pigs, <i>common</i> , per pair.....	1 50
Guinea-Pigs, <i>all white</i> , ".....	2 00
Guinea-Pigs, <i>African</i> , ".....	3.00
Squirrels, <i>gray and black</i> ".....	3.00 to 10.00
Squirrels, <i>all white</i> ".....	15.00 to 25.00
Squirrels, <i>flying</i> ".....	3 00 to 4.00
Squirrels, <i>small red</i> ".....	2.00
Rabbits, <i>common</i> per pair.....	1.00 to 2.50
Rabbits, <i>fancy breed</i> , according to age and purity of breed, per pair.....	3.00 to 15.00
Ferrets, <i>English</i> , ".....	15.00
Raccoons, each.....	4.00 to 5.00
Cats, <i>Maltese</i> (males), each.....	5.00
Cats, <i>Albinos, pink or blue eyes</i> , each.....	3.00 to 5.00
Rats, <i>white China, pink eyes</i> , per pair.....	1 50
Rats, <i>piebald</i> , per pair.....	1.50
Mice, <i>white, pink eyes</i> , per pair.....	0.50
Mice, <i>piebald</i> , per pair.....	0.50

Nature has her language and she is not un-
veracious, but we don't know all the intricacies
of her syntax just yet, and in a hasty reading we
may happen to extract the very opposite of her
real meaning.

Wood-carving is an industry which is carried
to considerable perfection among the Germans,
and is fostered by the establishment of carving
schools, particularly in districts where the wood
used for the work—Spanish walnut, the best
walnut the Germans have—is plentiful. There
are now 80 such schools in Germany.

Speed of Cannon Balls.—The highest velocity
that has been imparted to shot is 1,626 feet per
second. This is equal to a mile in 3.2 seconds.
The velocity of the earth at the equator, due to
rotation on its axis, is 1,000 miles per hour, or a
mile in 3.6 seconds. Therefore if a cannon ball
were fired due west, and could maintain its initial
velocity, it would beat the sun in its apparent
journey round the earth.

How Small Birds Migrate in Europe.—Ac-
cording to a writer in *Nature*, the small migratory
birds that are unable to perform the flight of 350
miles across the Mediterranean Sea are carried
across on the backs of cranes. In the autumn
many flocks of cranes may be seen coming from
the north, with the first cold blast from that
quarter, lying low and uttering a peculiar cry, as
if of alarm, as they circle over the cultivated
plains. Little birds of every species may be seen
flying up to them, while the twittering songs of
those already comfortably settled upon their
backs may be distinctly heard. But for this kind
provision of nature, numerous varieties of small
birds would become extinct in northern coun-
tries, as the cold winters would kill them.

Figure 4: This is the first new presentation of the Roberts' Market Report article as it appeared in the January 1883 issue of The Young Scientist magazine. Courtesy of Smithsonian Libraries.

clare that it is to endure forever. Ecclesiastics i. 4. reads, "The earth abideth forever." Now, if *this age* is to end (even in a tragical way) to give place to a better, is that doleful? If sin is to be banished, and *earth* as well as man *redeemed*, is not such a consummation better than its destruction, and more desirable than its *present* condition? If Christ, in delivering the race of man from the power of his enemy, also buys the Home of man and gives it back to him as an eternal inheritance, is not that an issue worthy of the Lord of the whole Earth? That Redeemer who is to rule and reign over the earth which He has bought and owns as the "coming man," "the coming King?"—E. B., Rutherford, N. J.

Queries.

143. GLUING UP STUFF.—I find a good deal of difficulty in gluing up joints. I can't make them stay together. Will some one give me a few hints regarding this kind of work.—AMATEUR.

144. EMBLEMS.—Will some one who is posted inform me of what are the various emblems of "God and the Father," "The Holy Spirit," and the "Trinity," and greatly oblige—EPISCOPALIAN.

145. GUINEA PIGS.—I would like a few hints as to the keeping and management of Guinea pigs, with a statement of what they should eat.—KING.

146. VIOLIN.—How many pieces are there in a violin, and where are they situated?—F. K., Danbury.

147. DRESSED SKINS.—Can squirrel skins be dressed at home sufficiently nice to be made into trimmings and muffs, or for lining for cloaks?—KATIE B.

148. BROKEN PAINTINGS.—I have two or three oil paintings on which I set a great value; on one of them the canvas has been broken a little. How can I repair it to make it look well.—ANXIOUS.

149. EBONIZING WOOD-WORK.—Having made some nice wooden articles, after the designs and descriptions published in the YOUNG SCIENTIST, some time ago, I am anxious to have them ebonized nicely, and would be glad to have some information regarding the materials used for the purpose, and the mode of application.—WILLING TO LEARN.

150. IMPRESSIONS OF FERNS.—I would like to take some impressions of ferns if any one will kindly inform me how the work is done.—SADIE.

151. ETCHING ON GLASS.—Any information on this subject will confer a favor on—ETCHING.

Market Report.

Retail Prices.

IMPORTED CAGE BIRDS.

Canaries, <i>Belgian</i> , per pair.....	\$6.00 to 15.00
" <i>French</i> , per pair.....	6.00 to 15.00
" <i>German, Hartz Mts.</i> , each.....	2.50 to 10.00
Gold Finches, each.....	1.50
Gold Finch (mules), each.....	2.50 to 5.00
Bull Finches, not trained, each.....	2.50
Bull Finches, trained to sing two tunes, each.....	10.00 to 40.00
African Finches, per pair.....	2.50 to 5.00
Chaffinches, each.....	1.50
Talking Mino or Mina.....	10.00 to 25.00
Linnets, each.....	1.50 to 2.00
Linnets (mules), each.....	2.50 to 5.00
Green Linnets, each.....	1.50
Java Sparrows (blue), each.....	1.50
Java Sparrows (white), per pair.....	6.00 to 8.00
English Sparrows, per pair.....	1.00
Siskins, each.....	1.00
Gray Cardinal, each.....	4.00 to 5.00

Nightingales, each.....	8.00 to 25.00
Japanese Nightingales, each.....	5.00 to 10.00
Thrushes, each.....	5.00 to 7.00
Skylarks, each.....	5.00
Troopials, each.....	7.00 to 12.00
European blackbirds, each.....	5.00 to 7.00
Black-caps, each.....	4.00
Starlings, each.....	4.00 to 6.00

PARROTS.

Gray Parrot.....	10.00 to 15.00
Single Yellow-Head Parrot.....	8.00 to 12.00
Double Yellow-Head Parrot.....	10.00 to 15.00
West Indian.....	4.00 to 5.00
Cockatoo (white).....	18.00
Australian Shell Paraquets, per pair.....	6.00
"Love Birds," African Paraquets, per pair.....	6.00
West Indian Paraquets, per pair.....	3.00 to 5.00

All birds that are accomplished singers or talkers bring high and "fancy" prices. Parrots are rated by the number of words, sentences, and tunes they have learned.

AMERICAN CAGE BIRDS.

Canaries, each.....	2.50
Mocking Birds, females, each.....	1.00
" " singers.....	12.00 to 25.00
Robins.....	2.50 to 5.00
Blue Birds ("Blue Robins") each.....	1.50
Indigo Birds, each.....	1.00
Nonpariel, each.....	1.50 to 2.00
Virginia Cardinal, each.....	2.50 to 3.00
Bobolinks, each.....	1.50 to 2.00
Yellow Birds, each.....	1.50 to 2.00

Prices Paid by Dealers.

Robins, per hundred.....	12.00
Blue Robins (Blue-Birds), per pair.....	0.35
Indigo Birds, each.....	0.50
Bobolinks, per dozen.....	3.00
Yellow-Birds, per hundred.....	12.00
Orioles, per hundred.....	25.00 to 35.00
Virginia Cardinals (Red-Birds), each.....	0.75 to 1.00
Nonpareils, each.....	0.75
Blue-Jays, each.....	0.35
Scarlet Tanagers, each.....	1.00
Red-Winged Starlings, or Black-Birds, each.....	0.25
Woodpeckers ("High-Holers"), each.....	1.00
Partridges, each.....	1.50
Cranes, each (according to variety).....	10.00 to 20.00
Wood-Ducks, per pair.....	2.50
Wild Bronze Turkeys (one cock, two hens).....	10.00 to 15.00

FANCY POULTRY.

Guinea or Pea-Hens.....	12.00
Pheasants, <i>English</i> , per pair.....	20.00
" <i>Golden</i> , ".....	35.00
" <i>Silver</i> , ".....	30.00
Pea-Cocks, per pair.....	20.00 to 75.00
Bronze Wild Turkeys.....	15.00 to 20.00
White Turkeys.....	10.00 to 15.00
Bantams, trio.....	3.00 to 10.00
Ring-Doves, per pair.....	1.50
Pigeons, <i>common</i> , per pair.....	0.75
" <i>all white, common</i> , per pair.....	1.00

BIRD FANCIERS' MATERIALS.

Breeding Cages (double).....	1.50 to 4.00
Trap Cages.....	0.75
Wire " painted.....	0.50 to 4.00
Wood and Wire Cages.....	1.50 to 4.00
Prepared Bird Food, per quart.....	0.30
Bird Gravel, per quart.....	0.05
German Rape Seed, per quart.....	0.20
Canary Seed, per quart.....	0.20
McAllister's Mocking-Bird Food, 1lb. jar.....	0.35
" Canary-Bird Food, 1lb. box.....	0.20
" Mixed Bird Seed, 1lb. box.....	0.10
" Extra Silver Bird Gravel, qt. box.....	0.10
McAllister's Prepared Fish Food, per box.....	0.10
" Song Restorer, for birds, per bot.....	0.25
McAllister's Bird-Lice Destroyer, in patent bellows box.....	0.25
McAllister's Bird Lime, per box.....	0.25
Cuttle-Fish Bone, each.....	0.05
Meal-Worms, per hundred.....	0.40
Nest Boxes, wire and tin.....	0.10 to 0.15
Nest Material, per bunch.....	0.10

Figure 5a: This is the last presentation of the Roberts' Market Report article as it appeared in the November 1883 issue of The Young Scientist magazine. Courtesy of Smithsonian Libraries.

Overall, the series is a great introduction to the prices of numerous pets, and their supporting supplies in the early 1880's. It is worthy of study by anyone whose interests lie with 19th Century petkeeping. I will not dig too deeply here but feel that a few initial comments are of worth.

As noted, this series starts off slowly. But it picks up as it goes along. In the February column Roberts has two short articles at the beginning. These are on "The German Carp" and "The Golden Ide." Other similar pieces would have been welcomed in future columns. Aquarium stock and supplies are added in the March issue. In the May issue additional expansion covers Fancy Fowl, Parrots and supplies for bird fanciers (cages, foods, gravel, etc.). Prices for those wishing to sell stock to pet dealers are noted to be down for the Summer and they tend to stay mostly that way throughout the series. And a species of Anemone from Bermuda is added to the list of Aquarium Stock.

There is an occasional typo that needs watching for. In Figure Four I'll call your attention to Robin, which is the last bird on the lower left column. The price range is given as "2.50 to 50.00 [!]" In the February issue this is corrected to a more reasonable "2.50 to 5.00."

In closing I'd like to offer a few words regarding prices in sources such as this. There are a batch of websites that can quickly tell you what, for example, what \$2.50 in 1883 money is equal to in today's money. And such conversions are often interesting to say the least. But to better place the prices in the "real world" of the time I would like to suggest a couple of publications. These offer up, for a variety of professions, what average salaries were and the amount of work time needed to earn them. Both are broken down by states, so that then as now, regional realities are available for consideration. The two sources are:

1. "History of Wages in the United States from Colonial Time to 1928." Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics., Number 604. Government Printing Office. 1934. 574 pages.
2. "Wholesale Prices, Wages, and Transportation: Part3." Report by Mr. Aldrich. Government Printing Office. 1893. Pages 627-1277.

These may, or may not, be your cup of tea but they are worth checking out. Both are open access documents available at Hathitrust Digital Library (and other sources) at the following links:

1. [#5 - History of wages in the United States from Colonial times to ... - Full View | HathiTrust Digital Library](#)
2. [#7 - Wholesale prices, wages, and transportation. ... v. 3. - Full View | HathiTrust Digital Library](#)