ELITTLE FOLKS





'Father Tuck's Annual,' Raphael Tuck & Sons, London.

Fleet Wing and Sweet Voice.

Mother and Father Pigeon lived with their two young pigeons in their home, built high on a post in the king's barn-yard. Every bright morning they would fly away through the beautiful sunshine wherever they pleased, but when evening came, they were sure to come to the pigeon house again.

One evening when they were talking together in their sweet, cooing way, Mother Pigeon said:

'We each have a story to tell, I know; so let each one take his turn, and Father Pigeon begin.'

Then Father Pigeon said:

'To-day I have been down to the shining little stream that runs through the wood. The green ferns grow on either side of it, and the water is cool, cool, cool, cool! for I dipped my feet into it, and wished that you were all there.'

'I know the stream,' cooed Mother Pigeon. 'It turns the wheels of the mills as it hurries along, and is busy all day on its way to the river.'

'To day I have talked with the birds in the garden,' said Sweet

'the thrush, the blackbird and bluebird, and all. They sang to me and I cooed to them, and together we made the world gay. The bluebird sang of the sunshine, and the blackbird of the harvest; but the thrush sang the sweetest song. It was about her nest in the tree.'

'I heard you all, said Fleet Wing, the other young pigeon, 'for I sat and listened on the high church tower. I was so high up there that I thought I was higher than anything else; but I saw the great sun shining in the sky, and the little

Voice, one of the young pigeons, white clouds, like sky pigeons, sailing above me. Then, looking down, I saw, far away, this white pigeon house, and it made me very glad, for nothing I saw was so lovely as home.'

> 'I never fly away from home,' said Mother Pigeon, 'and to-day I visited in the chicken-yard. The hens were all talking and they greeted me with "Good-morning! Good-morning!" and the turkey gobbled "Good morning," and the rooster said "How do you do?" While I chattered with them a little girl came out with a basket of

