

# SUNBEAM

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## FEEDING THE RABBITS.

It is a very nice thing for young folks to have some pet which they can take an interest in—feed, play with and look after. It teaches the little ones early in life that animals too have feelings like themselves and thus helps to form in them a love and gentleness for the dumb creation, which are not always shown in much older people. If kindly and firmly treated, animals will grow very fond of their owners. The horse in our picture seems glad to welcome the boys' morning visit, and is waiting for the fresh bundle of hay which we see being brought downstairs. The little rabbits, too, seem to have no fear, and to look forward to the morning meal as much as any one.

## ELLIE'S PROMISE.

BY ELIZABETH ALLAN.

"Oh," cried little Ellie, springing up in her cot, "there's a great spark of fire on mother's new rug."

Out went the little feet on the bare floor, dashing across to reach the hearth broom; but on the outside border of the new rug they came to a standstill, the pink toes curling up to keep warm.

What held Ellie back? There was the red coal eating its way through the rug; there was the hearth broom waiting to whisk the coal back to the hearth, and there was Ellie, who dearly loved to sweep with the little red-

handled broom. Yet Ellie stood still, on the rug's flowered border, until the smell of fire brought nurse in from the bathroom, and mother from her room, and

Ellie answered, half crying, "I promised not to cross the rug."

"Bless your heart!" cried mother, delighted, catching Ellie up in her arms: "so you did, darling: the day the new rug went down you promised me never to cross it, unless somebody was in the room with you. And I would rather have a girl who keeps her promise than a carpet made of gold threads strung with diamonds!"

Father said, "Yes, indeed," and came in for his share of the hugging, while Jack tickled the pink feet, and said baby was a brick." So Ellie found out that keeping a promise pleased everybody she loved. Some day she will know that it pleases God, too.

After she was dressed, Ellie sat in mother's lap, and heard her tell why she had made Ellie promise not to go near the fire. It was a sad story of a dear little girl mother had known, who ran across the hearth in her night-dress one morning early while nurse was out of the room. The fire seized her fluttering dress, and in few minutes she was burned to death!

"You see mother always has a good reason for telling you not to do things.

"You see mother always has a good reason for telling you not to do things, darling, even when you don't know what the reason is," said Ellie's mother. And when Ellie is just a little older she will know that the heavenly Father has good reasons, too, when he says, "Thou shalt



FEEDING THE RABBITS.—A GOOD PICTURE TO DRAW.

father from downstairs, and brother Jack from the third story; a whole fire company of people was now in the room!

"Why didn't you brush the coal back, little housekeeper?" asked father, and