

GREBES AND THEIR NESTS.

A fierce warfare is continually waged against these beautiful birds, which threatens them with extermination, not for their flesh, which is generally coarse and fishy, but for their brilliant plumage, which is a favorite adornment for ladies' bonnets and dresses. There are more than twenty species of the grebe, in all parts of the world. They are aquatic birds, walking with great difficulty on the land, and are usually found in small flocks on the sea-coast and the shores of fresh-water lakes. They migrate in summer to the arctic regions to breed and rear their

of Sir John Lubbock) is devoted to work, and at the present time contains a menagerie of ants. Between 30 and 40 species are represented by separate nests, placed under glass, carefully shaded from light, and surrounded by water to prevent the interesting insects from escaping and overrunning the house. It is pleasant to see Sir John, arrayed in his working suit of gray stuff, gently uncovering the nests and replacing the screens quickly lest the animals should take alarm at the influx of light, and be thrown into disorganization by the thought that their nest is attacked. It is curious to observe that these tiny creatures have animals with them,

—making themselves useful as scavengers. A chat with the proprietor of this workroom soon dispels the illusions of the unscientific mind as to the industry of the ant. It is an industrious animal in the main—but there are ants and ants. The large red species found in Central Europe is not industrious at all, being a purely fighting aristocrat and slaveholder. She (the fighting ants are Amazons) makes predatory excursions and carries of the pupæ of another species, and brings them up as slaves. As Sir John Lubbock points out, the slaveholders present a striking instance of the degrading tendency of slavery. They can

of natural history, have all been verified at High Elms by observations which confirm those of Huber in almost every case.

YE DID IT NOT.

Not to do that which ought to be done is just as sinful as to do that which ought not to be done. If one who had not before given serious thought to this subject, were to go through the Bible, concordance in hand, for the sake of finding out how largely sins of omission are made the grounds of condemnation, the result would probably startle him. Over and over again the accusation comes in the form of a negative: "The



GREBES AND THEIR NESTS.

young. Their nests are made of grasses lined with down, which are placed among the reeds, and rise and fall with the water. The eggs are three or four in number. They are excellent swimmers and divers, swimming under the water for a considerable distance in pursuit of game, and sinking beneath the surface, leaving only their bills out, at the approach of danger. They feed on aquatic animals and plants.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK AND HIS ANTS.

The London World says that one of the best rooms on the first floor of High Elms (the residence

which, it may be presumed, are useful to them in some way, as the ants forbear to attack them. They are mostly of the beetle race, and some, like the little *claviger*, are quite blind, possibly from confirmed subterranean habits, and are only found in ants' nests, the proprietary of which take as much interest in them as they do in their own young. Apparently ants have a considerable variety of domestic animals, among which the blind *Platyarthrus* is conspicuous, as well as the *Beckia albinos*, the latter of which was fully described by Sir John Lubbock, who suggests that perhaps these two act the part of the Constanti-

neither wash nor feed themselves. They have lost the greater part of their instincts; their art of building; their domestic habits (for they take no care of their young); their industry (for they take no part in providing themselves with food); and if the colony changes its nest the rulers are carried to the new one by their slaves. Even their structure has altered; their mandibles have lost their teeth and have become mere nippers, terrible in war, but useless for other purposes. So helpless have they become, except for fighting purposes, that if deprived of their slaves they actually die of starvation. These curious facts, which sound almost like the romance

diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost." It is not enough to live a respectable life, doing no particular harm to any one; the Bible demand is that every one should do all the good that he properly can. The final ground of condemnation, as shown in the inspired description of the last Judgment, hinges on the words, "Ye did it not." Unless one is ready to do all the good that he rightly can, he is not free from this condemnation.