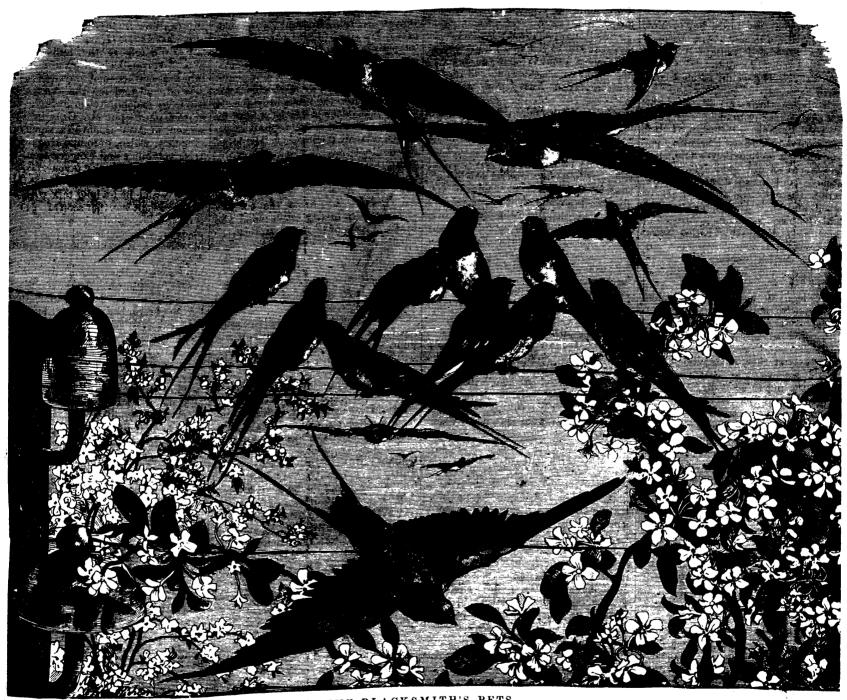
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THE BLACKSMITH'S PETS.

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MRS. M. JEANIE MALLARY.

NELLIE WINTERS and her brother, Hal, had gone with their parents to spend the summer months in the country. The children were always on the look-out for something new, and one evening, as they were strolling together, Nellie exclaimed:

 $swallows\,!\,"$

"My!" exclaimed Hal. "If I I could kill half a dozen at one throw, I trust you." I do believe."

little swallow?"

"Oh, the swallows! The pretty fun? Why didn't I bring my sling horses, and these birds know it, and shot?"

"Buddie, I don't think it would be only had brought my sling-shot! fun at all. See how low they fly; Wouldn't I make them dance? Why, just as much as to say, 'I trust you.'

"Ha! Ha! Nellie, you've got the "Hal, would you kill a pretty, wrong tune this time. The people won't let us boys shoot guns in these "Indeed I would. Wouldn't it be kind of places, for fear of frightening

when they fly low, it is to say, 'I dare you, I dare you.' I never could take a dare, and wouldn't now, if I had my sling shot. Why, I'd sling it so softly, nobody would know it, and even the birds would wonder how they come dead. Ha! ha! Ah! you young gentlemen, just wait till to-morrow."

"Hal, don't hurt the little things