

# SUNBEAM

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## GRETCHEN AND HER FRIENDS.

Gretchen has as pretty a playhouse as any little girl could wish to have. She lives away out in the country, far from any other little boys and girls, and has no brothers or sisters. "How very lonely she must be," you say? No indeed; she does not know what it is to want company. Look at her now, seated amongst her friends, having a merry time. She has picked a number of carrots from the garden, and the geese are enjoying the fresh green tops. The goslings, seated in the round dish, are getting their share too, while one bold little gosling is drinking out of the spout. If he were not a very tough baby goose it looks as if he would be drowned under the heavy stream of water.

Gretchen has other friends as well. See the pretty white pigeons! They love the little girl and will come up to her and eat out of her hand and let her stroke their soft feathers. And Gretchen and her playmates have never had a quarrel. Perhaps you think they could not very well quarrel. Well, the pigeons are not quarrelsome, but the geese soon show when they are angry. They will stretch out their long necks and hiss. But our little girl has never been unkind to them, so they would not hiss at her. In the hottest days this little party are comfortable as they can be, under the shade of the great tree, and beside the cool, running water. Do you not agree with me in thinking it an ideal playhouse?



GRETCHEN AND HER FRIENDS.

### THE GIRL WHO IS EVER WELCOME.

The welcome guest is the girl who, knowing the hour for breakfast, appears at the table at the proper time, does not keep others waiting, and does not get in the way by being down down half an hour before her hostess appears.

The welcome guest is the girl who, if

there are not many servants in the house, has sufficient energy to take care of her own room while she is visiting, and if there are people whose duty it is, she makes that duty as light as possible for them by putting away her own belongings, and in this way not necessitating extra work.

The welcome guest is the one who knows how to be pleasant to every member of the family, and who yet has tact enough to retire from a room when special family affairs are under discussion.

The welcome guest is the one who does not find children disagreeable, nor the various pets of the household things to be dreaded.

The welcome guest is the one who, when her hostess is busy, can entertain herself with a book, a bit of sewing, or the writing of a letter.

The welcome guest is the one who, when her friends come to see her, does not disarrange the household in which she is staying, that she may entertain them.

The welcome guest is the one who, having broken the bread and eaten the salt of her friends, has set upon her lips a seal of silence,

so that when she goes from house to house she repeats nothing but the agreeable things that she has seen.

This is the welcome guest, the one to whom we say, 'good-bye' with regret, and to whom we call out welcome with the lips and from the heart.—*Love's Home Journal*.