



THE GRAY PARROT.

"He will be talking."—*Shakspeare.*

The best known and most popular Parrot is our domestic pet "Polly," the gray parrot from Africa with ashen gray body, black bill, light gray face, and scarlet tail. Until the bird is a year old the body plumage is a darker gray, and the tail dark brown, excepting close to the body where the crimson shows a little. The birds vary from twelve to fifteen inches in length, about the size of a common pigeon. They are brought to America, generally from their home in West and Central Africa, either by steamers to England, or direct in sailing vessels. The birds in sailing vessels are preferred, because

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