

# THE SUNBEAM

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## ROOKS' NESTS.

is the time for building, and the are hard at it. are a sort of crow abound greatly in Britain. They live in large societies. Their nests, called rookeries, are very extensive. One in Edinburgh contained 100 nests and about 1000 birds of all ages. They are fond of groves and old mansions, where they are protected. They fly many miles for food, and when hungry will enter the grain fields. They are very intelligent birds, and can be taught to answer the cries of various animals. The nest is a clumsy-looking one, made of sticks, but makes a good home for the little

## THE POWER OF GENTLENESS.

is related that a stranger stayed all night at a farmer's house. He noticed that a slender girl, by her gentle ways, had a great influence in the house. She seemed to be a bringer of peace and goodwill to the other ones in the house-

She had power over the dogs, also, as the following shows: The stranger was going to town the next morning, and agreed



ROOKS' NESTS.

to take the stranger with him. The family came out to see them start. The farmer gathered up the reins, and with a jerk said "Dick, go 'long!" But Dick didn't "go 'long." The whip cracked about the pony's ear, and he shouted: "Dick, you rascal, get up!" It availed not. Then came down the whip with a heavy hand; but the stubborn beast only shook his head silently. A stout lad came out and seized the bridle, and pulled and yanked and kicked the rebellious pony; but not a step would he move.

At this crisis a sweet voice said: "Willie, don't do so." The voice was quickly recognized. And now the magic hand was laid on the neck of the seemingly incorrigible animal, and a simple low word was spoken; instantly the rigid muscles relaxed, and the air of stubbornness vanished. "Poor Dick," said the sweet voice, and she stroked and patted softly his neck with the child-like hand. "Now go 'long, you naughty fellow," in a half-chiding, but in a tender voice, as she drew slightly on the bridle. The pony turned and rubbed his head