

SOMETHING ABOUT DUCKS.

Duck life is not one long dream of bliss, a time to waddle, quack and pipe; no, indeed, sorrows enter into their lowly nests among reeds and rushes as keenly as into more airy, elevated homes among our feathered friends. The red-tailed hawk stops not to admire the varied tints or graceful movement of the Pintail duck, neither is it of any moment in his eyes that *Anas Acuta* indicates a certain aristocracy of family

by carrying as erectly as possible the sharply-defined and delicately-painted tail. All these beauties are as nothing: hunger to be appeased is the great question, and to this the strong-winged brigand of the skies addresses himself with undisguised intent. The ducklings by the brook-side, tenderly sheltered in their sedge-crowned home, must breast the tide of life unhelped by mother-love, must ceaselessly quack on, un-comforted by motherly responses.

The world is full of duck cousins; the family is a well-known and favorite one, and stories of their beauty and faithfulness are not wanting. In a great city of the Celestial Empire once dwelt a happy duck family. One night pater familias was stolen, and in her lonely home Madam Duck refused all comfort; an obsequious caller, offering tender attentions, was indignantly repulsed; most unexpectedly the lost one returned, and was received by his grieving mate with every demonstration of delight. It would seem as if the little duck-mother gave information concerning the intruding suitor, for her partner flew upon him with rage, tore out his eyes, and so wounded him that he soon lay dead.

These were Mandarin ducks, so called on account of their beauty and remarkable conjugal fidelity. They are often carried in wedding processions in China. The Chinese are fond of lauding one of this family, now extinct—having passed away, it is said, in the halcyon days of Confucius; and wonderfully endowed the creature must have been, for the legend tells us that "it would not peck or injure living insects, nor tread on growing herbs; that it had the throat of a "summer-duck" for its chiefest adornment, and "among other gaudy feathers with which our Western tribes ornament the calumet, or pipe of peace, the skin of the head and neck of this beautiful bird is often used to cover the stem;" and so gentle is the pretty creature in its woodland haunts that a few affectionate words can effectually tame it.

Another family of cousins, the *Tadorna Vulpanser* of the Orkney Islands, have fashions of their own touching the courtesies of

This extensive family of water-birds is represented in our country by more than thirty species.

To catch them is often a difficult matter; but in marshes where they congregate at low water, a tight hoghead is sunk, tufts of long, coarse grass, reeds, and sedge are arranged with care over the upper edge so as to appear like a natural growth; then a sportsman takes refuge within the huge barrel, and has a rare chance for collecting the unsuspecting creatures. In China the sportsman covers his head with a sort of grass-made hood, and from "eye-holes" is able to detect and, almost at leisure, to entrap many of these simple-hearted birds.

Decoy ducks, made of wood and painted a re successfully used in our own country. Lead is nailed to the bottom, so that they will float easily; these gliding over the water, attract the living sailers, who, imagining themselves surrounded by attentive relatives, alight, and at once become a prey to cruel strategy!

The "Pintail duck" of our picture, is noted for its delicate, slender neck, is of a social turn, and has richly variegated plumage; it is a bird of rapid flight, and its tones are softer and sweeter than some others of its kin. They are fond of beech-nuts, but in the spring

gladly feast upon tadpoles, while for autumn and winter fare they seek mice and insects.—*Illus. Chris. Weekly.*



AN EPICURE HUNGRY FOR DUCK.

by carrying as erectly as possible the sharply-defined and delicately-painted tail. All these beauties are as nothing: hunger to be appeased is the great question, and to this the strong-winged brigand of the skies addresses himself with undisguised intent. The ducklings by the brook-side, tenderly sheltered in their sedge-crowned home, must breast the tide of life unhelped by mother-love, must ceaselessly quack on, un-comforted by motherly responses.

The world is full of duck cousins; the family is a well-known and favorite one, and stories of their beauty and faithfulness are not wanting. In a great city of the Celestial Empire once dwelt a happy duck family. One night pater familias was stolen, and in her lonely home Madam Duck refused all comfort; an obsequious caller, offering tender attentions, was indignantly repulsed; most unexpectedly the lost one returned, and was received by his grieving mate with every demonstration of delight. It would seem as if the little duck-mother gave information concerning the intruding suitor, for her partner flew upon him with rage, tore out his eyes, and so wounded him that he soon lay dead.

swallow, the bill of a fowl, the neck of a snake, the tail of a fish, the forehead of a crane, the crown of a Mandarin duck, the stripes of a dragon, and the vaulted back of a tortoise; that the feathers had five colors, named for the five cardinal virtues; that it was five cubits high, having the tail graduated like Pandean pipes; and that its song had five modulations."

Among Indians, royalty itself disdains not the plumage of the

society. They, it seems, wish never to be "at home" to disagreeable guests, and if by chance steps are heard near its nest where the baby-ducks lie sleeping, Madam makes pretence of suffering from a broken wing, waddling off with most distressing indications of pain, trailing the supposed injured member on the ground. After the intruder has followed for some time, she as suddenly takes to flight, leaving the outwitted follower gaping with wonder.

gladly feast upon tadpoles, while for autumn and winter fare they seek mice and insects.—*Illus. Chris. Weekly.*

"AFTER THE 'toil and trouble, cometh the joy and rest; After the 'weary conflict,' peace on the Saviour's breast; After the 'blight and sorrow,' the glory of life and love; After the 'perilous journey,' the Father's home above,"

AMSON,
ected with
struments
e separated
o God, to
of God and
te vow, he
en captive,
hat all their
o Jehovah,
rting from
ches us the
that their
y in their
give them
company.
bad com-
allen.
o God will
us.
mon Deli-
tians bring
d is short,
nitent and
each Israel,
by failure;
out also by
y his heroic
son.
as.
y practical
L. (1) His
be. Teach
their adap-
The source
fall. How
e tempted,
ould escape,
tance with
e.
L IN THE
os.
time," said
y man, who
liberally of
cause, and
ord's good-
He lost his
ter as book-
tablishment
Still he was
and at the
ceerfully and
fact that he
heretofore,
o be seen in
I said to
I you to be
but of the
re sunshiny
were before
e said cheer-
could have
desire, that
he Lord in
othing only
ay, I enjoy
that I have
o rejoice, for
ved his glori-
n prosperity
I have been
in adversity
praise and
day!"—
R.—Wash a
hick, in cold
oth, lightly
and wrap it
er, the edges
ly over each
retain all the
salmon thus
double wire
nutes on each
g care not to
a hot dish in
ntil the last
cooking all
fish are pre-