

HAPPY DAYS

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GRACIE'S PETS.

"Cluck, cluck: I wish you would let my little ducklings go."

This is what the old mother hen is trying to tell Gracie. But Gracie loves to hold the soft, downy creatures in her arms, and the ducklings do not object: indeed they seem to be perfectly at home where they are. And the other ducklings are not one bit afraid, but stay around her feet, picking up crumbs Gracie has brought for them.

The old mother hen cannot understand why Gracie wants to hold the little ducks in her arms. She is satisfied if they have enough to eat and drink and a comfortable place in which to sleep. She never thinks of petting them. Gracie pets little ducks because she loves them; and they love her in return, just as any animal will, if it is treated kindly.



GRACIE'S PETS.

Last year a gentleman came from England to this country, and visited a number of the largest cities for the purpose of

organizing among the school children Bands of Mercy. The Chicago children joined heartily in the movement, and a

of whom loved to be kind to animals. But it is not necessary to join a Band of Mercy in order to be kind. I hope the

number of these bands were formed. In order to become a member each one pledged himself to be kind to every living creature, and to protect them as far as possible from cruel usage. The Bands held meetings once a month and the members told of all they had been able to do to help the cause during that time.

In one of these meetings a little girl named Florence told of a bird she had found in the street. She said that it was almost dead, but she took it home and gave it some water. Then after keeping it in the house until it had revived, she carried it to the door and let it fly away. A little boy told how he rescued a little kitten from a crowd of rough boys, who were tormenting it.

It was interesting to listen to their stories, and we were glad to see a band of children all