



### ON THE STAIR.

Eight little pattering feet on the hard oak stair, what a clatter they do make sometimes, but how surprisingly quiet they are this time. One would scarcely know there were more than two feet. Now what is the reason of it? Why the explanation is simple. Mamma has a headache and the children are trying their best to be real quiet. Bless them for it.

### PIGEONS AND THEIR WAYS.

Did you ever watch a pigeon drink? All the other birds put their bill in the water, and lift up the head before they swallow, but pigeons put their beak in the

water and take long, deep draughts until satisfied.

The tumbler pigeon takes his name from a queer habit he has of falling or tumbling backward.

The Pouter seems to be very vain. He stands erect, and has a crop in front which he can fill with air until his head is almost hidden behind it. Sometimes the crop is puffed out so far that Mr. Pouter loses his balance and falls down the chimney or off the roof. So he shows the truth of the old saying: "Pride goes before a fall."

Years ago, before the electric telegraph was invented, carrier pigeons were used to send messages and letters. The message was written on a small piece of paper and fastened under the wing. Then the pigeon's feet were bathed in vinegar to keep them cool, for fear the bird might stop on the way to bathe and thus destroy the paper. When the bird was set free he would rise in the air, fly round in a circle two or three times, and then start off in the right direction.