

Two Cents a Week.

"Two cents a week" the Master asks
From all the loving children's hands;
Two cents a week to tell his love
And teach his Word in foreign lands.

"Two cents a week" to place afar
The gates of mercy, high and broad,
Two cents a week to spread afar
The knowledge of our risen Lord.

"Two cents a week" may send a blaze
Of Gospel light o'er India's plains;
Two cents a week may free a race
For ages bound by error's chains.

"Two cents a week;" from China's shore
We catch the cry and hear the plea;
Two cents a week a few years more,
And struggling China shall be free.

"Two cents a week" may wake the note
Of Zion's song in fair Japan;
Two cents a week, O blessed Christ,
May tell of all thy love to man.

WILD DUCKS.

BY ELLA RODMAN CHURCH

To see a waddling and swimming fowl,
Like the barnyard duck, spread a good-
sized pair of wings and
mount up into the air
until it became a small
speck in the sky, would be
a remarkable sight; yet
this is just what its
cousin—the wild-duck,
who is a very "high
flyer"—does continually.
It can also swim and
float, for, like its plainer
relative, it belongs to the
swan family, and must
therefore be at home on
the water.

These wild ducks are
beautiful birds, and each
family of them has its own
peculiar style of dress.
Thus, the summer or wood
duck—which is the hand-
somest of all the species
—appears in the most
gorgeous colouring, with
softly-shaded tints, and it
moves so gracefully that
it seems more like a swan
than a duck. It is called
the summer duck, because
it is the only one of its
tribe that is seen here dur-
ing the summer months;
and because its eggs are
usually laid in a hollow
tree or stump. It is also
called the wood duck.

The nest is carefully
hidden under grasses and
water ferns; and both
parents are very watchful
that no harm shall come
to the precious eggs. The
mother-bird does not seem
to know what fear is
when she is sitting on her
eggs; and a naturalist
tells a story of a pair of
summer ducks which had
built their nest in a
hollow oak overhanging a
creek. Not more than ten
feet away from them some
workmen were building a
boat, and a constant noise
and hammering went on
from morning till night.
In spite of all this con-
fusion the mother-duck
would not move from her
eggs, and there she stayed
until—before the little
ducklings appeared—some
heartless sportsman shot
them both.

The summer duck is
known all over the coun-
try, as it usually flies in pairs, or in
very small flocks. When it alights it
utters a curious, whistling sort of cry,
that sounds like "tee eek" and can be
heard at some distance. Strange to say,
it prepares its food before eating it by
making a mixture of dried snails, acorns,
and wild-oat seeds.

The mallard—although it looks more
like the common duck—is nearly as hand-
some as the summer duck, and has a
great variety of glowing and beautiful
colours in its plumage: "The dark
emerald of the head, the snowy-white
line which encircles the neck, the brown-
ish carmine of the chest, the gold and
blue and crimson of the wings, the clear,
flashing transparency of the eye—are all
beautiful features."

This duck is a strong flyer, and very
suspicious of any near approach. He
may sometimes be seen floating on a
lake like a swan, with his beautiful,
glittering head raised high, and his eyes
gazing in the sun. A long distance
off, perhaps, there is a man with a gun,

but the mallard seems to know it, and
to remember the dreadful noise of the
report that frightened him so much; so,
drawing his feet under his body, he
springs upon them, opens his wings, and,
with loud "quacks!" takes himself off—
as the bird in the picture is doing.

The blue-winged teal and the green-
winged teal are both beautiful birds.
The latter has such soft, beautiful shaded
colouring, that it seems to have been
laid on with a fine brush. The head is
of emerald, streaked with chestnut; the
wings of the freshest green, and the
back is finely pencilled.

These ducks are all very much sought
after for their tender, juicy flesh; but
none are quite equal to the canvas-back.
This delightful, but rather stupid duck
begins to arrive from the north early in
October, and it always comes in great
flocks, and is slaughtered in countless
numbers. It dearly loves the wild
celery, for which it has to dive, as the
root—the only part it cares for—grows
under water; and the widgeon, another
duck that likes celery, is sure to be the
companion of the canvas-back.

This widgeon has been described as a
"thorough rascal," getting his living by
stealing from others. He cannot dive
as his companion can; but he is quite

GOLDEN TEXT.

We ought to obey God rather than men.
—Acts 5. 29.

OUTLINE.

1. Prisoners, v. 17, 18.
2. Preachers, v. 19-23.
3. Witnesses, v. 29-32.

Time.—Not definitely known, but prob-
ably between A.D. 30 and A.D. 33.

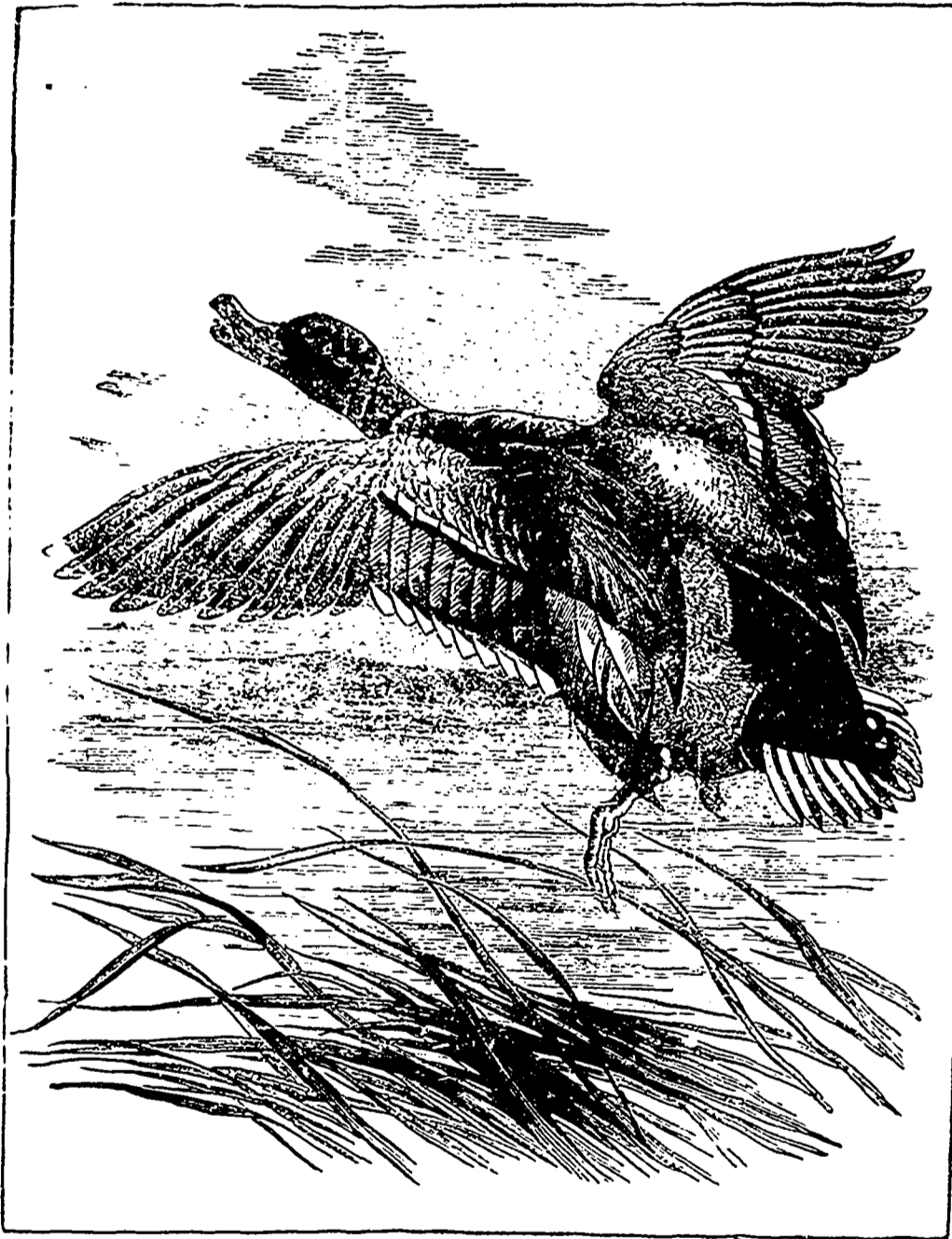
Place.—The hall of the Sanhedrin; the
prison, the temple—all in Jerusalem.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The prison opened.—Acts 5. 17-32.
Tu. Rejoicing.—Acts 5. 33-42.
W. Jonah's prayer.—Jonah 2. 1-9.
Th. Fearless obedience.—Jer. 26. 8-15.
F. Suffering for Christ.—1 Peter 3. 8-17.
S. Blessed in trial.—Luke 6. 17-23.
Su. Boldness for truth.—Dan. 3. 8-18.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Prisoners, v. 17, 18.
Who were put in the prison?
Did they deserve to go there?
What is said in 1 Peter 4. 16?
Who put the apostles in prison?
What made them angry at the
apostles?



WILD DUCK.

as fond of celery, so he waits patiently
until his victim disappears in quest of
food. "A violent commotion now goes
on under the water. It is the struggle
of the duck with the plant. Finally, the
luckless canvas-back emerges, blinded
momentarily by the water. The widgeon
'gibbles' quickly forward, snatches the
morsel, and is off ere the dupe has got
the water out of his eyes." The canvas-
back does not like this, yet—except at
feeding-time—he and the widgeon are
very good friends.

LESSON NOTES.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

LESSON VII.—FEBRUARY 14.

THE PRISON OPENED.

Acts 5. 17-32. Memory verses, 29-32.

2. Preachers, v. 19-23.
How did the apostles get out of prison?
Did the keepers know of their escape?
How did this fulfil Psalm 34. 7?
What three commands did the angel
give?
What did the apostles do?
What took place in the council?
What were the feelings of the rulers?
Who were brought before the council,
and how?
Why were they brought so carefully?
What did the high priests say to them?
To what "name" did he refer?
3. Witnesses, v. 29-32.
What did Peter answer in the Golden
Text?
How did he proclaim Jesus to them?
What did he say that Jesus will give?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson do we find—
1. How God takes care of his people?
 2. Whom we ought to obey?
 3. What Christ gives to men?

**STRAIGHTENING A CHIMNEY
STACK.**

The straightening of a chimney stack
at a brick and tile works in Earnest, Pa.,
was recently accomplished in a novel
manner. The stack is 122 feet high, 11
feet square at the base, tapering some-
what at the top, and weighs 400 tons.
The walls are 36 inches thick. The top
was found to be leaning 45 inches from
the vertical line. To right the chim-
ney, ten and a half inches of brick work
was removed from the foundations on
three sides. As the bricks were re-
moved, square blocks of wood were in-
serted, one after another, until three
sides of the structure rested on the
blocks. Between the blocks substantial
brick piers six inches high were built,
leaving a space of four and a half inches
between the top of the piers and the bot-
tom of the undermined brickwork. The
blocks were then set on fire and kept
burning evenly. If one burned faster
than the others, the fire on that par-
ticular block was checked, so that all
were made to burn uniformly, and, as
the blocks were reduced to ashes, the
stack slowly righted. As the top
gradually swung back through the
45-inch arc, small fissures appeared near
the base. In every groove a steel wedge
was driven to maintain the weight of
the walls. The entire work consumed
one day, and the reduction of the wooden
blocks to ashes required one hour.—The
Electrical Review.

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