

# THE SUNBEAM

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## BIRDS REMEMBER.

SOME years ago two boys, while playing upon a cliff near the sea, found a young sea bird which a dog was worrying. It would have been killed but for them. They drove away the dog and carried the bird, nearly as large as a goose, safely home. There it was shut up in a coop, like the hens and chickens, fed and kindly cared for. It soon became quite tame, and manifested constant affection for its little masters, who felt quite proud of the result of their care. And thus weeks and months rolled on. In the fall of the year the bird became very tame, the coop was occasionally opened, and the prisoner permitted to go to the coast near which the boys lived. But it came regularly home at night, receiving its supper along with the rest of the birdies, and crept to its nest to repose. So the cold winter passed away, and the spring came. One night the bird which had been cared for so well

was missed. It did not come home. The next day and the next went by, and still the coop was empty. The fact was, the boys' bird had been coaxed away. I cannot really say into bad company, but it had joined a flock on its way north.

and flown with the rest. Presently the boys began to comprehend the difficulty, and as a matter of course they had to have a good cry about it. They had really learned to love their bird, and to part with it, for them, was a severe trial. That is all

similar events are recorded. One cold autumn day, as the boys were at play in their yard, they saw a flock of sea birds coming towards them. Nearer and nearer they came, until at last, to their great surprise, the whole flock settled upon the

ground close at hand, and the largest waddled along towards them, quacking most curiously as she came. It was the bird which had flown away in the spring now returned with her young ones to claim hospitality for the winter. You may imagine, if you can, the delight of the boys, and indeed that of their parents, at this instance of affection. Words cannot describe it. You may make up your mind that the flock was not turned adrift, though for a long time the young ones were pretty wild, and did not take as kindly to the boys as the mother did. Ah, well; they did not know them as well.



LITTLE MISS CONSEQUENCE.

very natural, for kindness, no matter upon what creature bestowed, ever begets kindness, and to part with an object that we love is ever painful.

Some boys and girls will, no doubt, anticipate the end of my story, for many

He who climbs above the cares of the world and turns his face to heaven, has found the sunny side of life. The world's side of the hill is chill and freezing to a spiritual mind, but the Lord's presence gives a warmth of joy which turns winter into summer.