

# **OUR WILD SWAN: AND OTHER PETS**

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Our wild swan: and other pets by Ellen Webley- Parry

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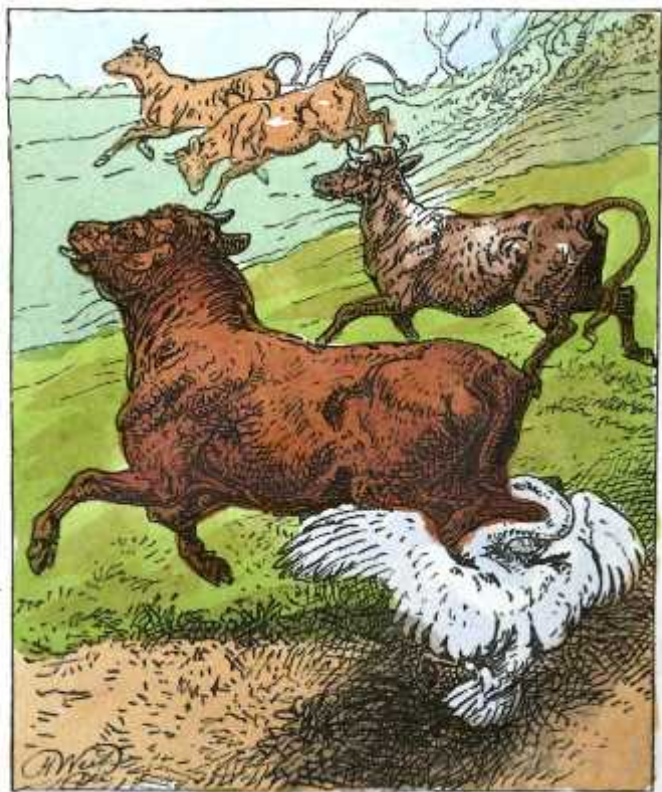
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**ELLEN WEBLEY- PARRY**

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OUR WILD SWAN.



DAN IS LORD OF HIS OWN DOMAIN.

See page 24.

# OUR WILD SWAN

*AND OTHER PETS.*

BY

ELLEN WEBLEY-PARRY,

AUTHOR OF 'AN EPISODE OF AMERICAN CHURCH HISTORY.'

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY HARRISON WEIR.



GRIFFITH AND FARRAN,

SUCCESSORS TO NEWBERRY AND BARRIS,

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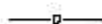
2521 f. 2

TO  
WILLIE, ADRIAN, AND OWEN HOPE,  
THIS ACCOUNT OF OUR PETS

IS  
DEDICATED.



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## MOUSEY, DAN, AND BOB:

THEIR LIVES AND ADVENTURES.

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**M**OST children are fond of animals: Dogs, Cats, and Birds being those more commonly petted. I am especially fond of all kinds of creatures, and find few things more interesting than the study of their nature and habits.

Have you ever noticed the pretty little beetles skimming over the surface of the water in the spring, and chasing each other in a circle? They lay their eggs on the small bits of stick or straw which float on the water in the midst of them, and on these the

eggs are hatched in due time by the heat of the sun. I have often watched their funny movements. Then there is the carder bee, so called from the manner in which it detaches the moss, and cards it, as it were, for its nest, which it makes on the mossy lawn. There it deposits its honey, and makes pretty cells to keep it in. These bees are a small community, and are far less pugnacious than our friend the domestic bee.

The much-despised toad is a friend of mine; it has such beautiful eyes, and can easily be tamed. It is very curious to see it take its food. Its tongue, like that of the frog, is placed in a peculiar manner. That which we call the root of the tongue is at the entrance of its mouth, the tip pointing down its throat. When the toad sees an insect or a slug within reach, it darts out its long tongue and draws its prey back with it into its mouth with wonderful quickness. A gentleman once had a pet toad that used to come out of its hole at his call, and eat bread-crumbs or any other food that he gave it. However, I am afraid I shall