

# THE SUNBEAM

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## NOAH'S DOVE.

**I**T took one hundred and twenty years to build the ark, but when it was completed God commanded Noah to take some of every kind of beasts, birds, insects, etc., with him into the ark, and to provide food for them while they should be confined there. These all followed Noah into the ark, for God made them gentle and obedient. Then God told Noah and his family, eight persons in all, to enter the ark, and an angel shut the door. But it did not commence to rain until seven days had passed. This gave the wicked people outside a chance to ridicule still more, and to think they were quite right in their unbelief. At the end of seven days it began to rain, and the rain increased till it poured in torrents, for the "windows of heaven were opened."

After the rain ceased it was one hundred and fifty days before the waters were dried away. At length the ark rested upon one of the mountains of Ararat, in Asia. Nearly three months later the tops of the mountains could be seen. Forty days after, Noah opened the window of the ark and sent out a raven. The raven is a fierce bird, and not liking the confinement of the ark, though there were no trees to be seen, it did not return. Then Noah chose a dove, and put it out of the window. The dove is



a gentle, lovable bird, and finding nothing but water, it soon came again to the ark, perhaps pecked at the window, and Noah put forth his hand and took it in.