

# SUNBEAM

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## AN AUTUMN FROLIC.

The glorious autumn days have lent the earth a new beauty, and looking on brilliantly tinted shrub and tree we are almost inclined to fancy the flower queen has assumed her reign again. How gracefully fair Nature grows old; her waning loveliness not less enchanting than her budding beauty. Can we not learn a lesson from her what our lives should be? Only the deformed, distorted character grows more repulsive with age. The true heart and well-trained mind grow yearly more pleasing. But it is not such serious thoughts as these our merry little ones in the picture suggest. They are having a fine frolic among the bright autumn leaves, as busy in their fun as the little squirrels and chipmunks storing the dropping nuts. Every season has its pleasures, and, if less numerous, there are none more enjoyable than those which this month affords.



AN AUTUMN FROLIC.

"I won't."—"I will not," said a little boy stoutly, as I passed along. His tone struck me. "What won't you do?" I stopped and asked. "That boy wants me to 'make believe' something to my mother, and I won't!" he said, in the same stout tone. The little boy is on the right road. This is just one of the places to say "won't." I hope he will stick to it. "Won't" is not a pretty word for children, but it is the right one when they are asked to deceive.

## THE HEAVENLY LADDER.

BY MRS. J. B. HILL.

It is almost a needless question to ask of any intelligent boy or girl what a ladder is? The youngest child that reads this would be able to tell me that it is a number of steps with strong sides to keep them firm, and is used for climbing to any high place. Suppose your home should take fire some night, and the fierce flames

heavenly ladder. Once we start to climb, we must be careful not to go back, for it grieves the "Good Shepherd" to have his lambs giving way to anger or doing anything that will send them down instead of up this way that leads to himself.

An old woman who loved Jesus, and who had served him for many years, said it always helped her to do right when she thought of the text "Thou God see'st me." By steadfast climbing you may do much

had cut off your means of escape by door or staircase, how gladly you would make use of the ladder placed at your bedroom window. All readers of the Bible know about *Jacob's ladder*, which he saw in his dream, how it reached from earth to heaven, and he saw the angels ascending and descending it. Some of my readers may not know that this ladder is a type of Christ, who is the ladder to heaven. Only by Jesus can we hope to enter the bright mansions, where the white-robed angels dwell. It is of this heavenly ladder I wish to speak to you. Jesus only can place your feet upon the first step, and he can and will help you to climb to the very top, which reaches to the pearly gates of the new Jerusalem. The first step is to seek forgiveness for your sins, to become a little soldier of the cross.

When you conquer some evil habit such as falsehood, temper, selfishness, love of praise and the like, you have gone up a few steps of the