

He waited seven days more, and then sent out the dove again. In the evening the dove returned, and when Noah took it in, lo! he saw in its beak an olive-leaf which it had plucked. This made Noah glad, for now he knew that the waters were nearly dried away, and soon he could step forth upon the green earth. How they all must have loved the gentle dove, that had brought them such glad tidings.

After waiting seven days more, he sent forth the dove again. This time it did not return, so Noah knew that the waters were drying away; but he waited patiently till God told him to go out of the ark. To show his joy and thankfulness, Noah made a heap of stones for an altar, and offered a sacrifice to God. This sacrifice also reminded him of the promised Saviour, who would give his life a sacrifice for the world. God was pleased with this act of Noah, and promised him that he would never again bring a flood to destroy all creatures. To remind Noah and all who should live after him of this promise, he gave him a token. What was this token? It was the rainbow. When we look upon the clouds after a rain, and see this bow of beautiful colours, it should call to mind God's kind promise to Noah, and to us his descendants.

But though God will never again destroy the earth by a flood, he has plainly told us that some day he will destroy it by fire. 2 Peter 3: 6, 7, 10, 12, 13. Our Saviour has told us that the days just prior to his second coming will be like the days before the flood. Matt. 24: 37-39. Only a few will believe, and watch for the signs that proclaim his coming, while many will follow the example of those who lived before the flood. In which class will we choose to be found?

“Oh, tell me how the nations passed  
The day before the flood;  
Oh, did they know it was the last?  
And did they call on God?”

“In merriment their time is spent;  
They sing and play, and dance away;  
They eat and drink, and little think  
They stand on endless ruin's brink.

“Behold just Noah safely ride  
Upon the mighty deep;  
While all who once God's word defied  
Beneath the waters sleep.

“Sudden as that tremendous day,  
The Judgment hour will come;  
Thousands shall then be swept away,  
And meet an awful doom.

“Let me not count these words a dream,  
And still refuse to hear;  
However far the time may seem,  
Each hour it draws more near.”

NELLIE F. HEALD.

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## The Sunbeam.

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TORONTO, AUGUST 21, 1880.

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### GOING TO SCHOOL.

**L**ITTLE Nelly is on her way to school, and very cheerful and happy she seems about it too. In one hand she carries her slate, and in the other a bunch of flowers for her teacher. How beautiful and sweet and pure are God's fair handiwork, the flowers:

As if on living creatures,  
Where'er my eye doth fall,  
On Bluebells and on Daisies,  
I say “God bless you all.”

Take the summer blossoms  
From the hills and fields;  
See what bounteous treasures  
Mother Nature yields.

Take them with thanksgiving  
From the grassy sod,  
Always with remembrance  
That they come from God.

Take them to the children  
In the city street;  
Take them to the crowded lanes  
Where the lowly meet.