

# SUNBEAM

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## BEFORE THE STORM.

All nature seems to know when a storm is about to burst, or is lurking somewhere in the atmosphere. There is a heavy, oppressive feeling in the air, which we all are aware of before the thunderstorm finally breaks out over the land. On one of these still days a careful observer will notice how the cows and horses approach the hedges, or any shelter they can find, and how the geese and ducks in the farm-yard begin to cackle and quack as if something unusual were about to happen. In the air a strange stillness reigns, only broken by the shrill voices of the birds which keep flying here and there in a state of visible alarm. In the picture the storm seems just on the point of beginning—the first gust of wind that heralds its approach has passed, and the birds, butterflies, and all the forms of animal life that may be about, are seeking shelter under the trees and up on the branches. These heavy thunderstorms do a very great deal of good, for they rid the atmosphere of the excessive amounts of electric fluid which cause them. The air is always sweet and fresh after such a storm, and all nature



BEFORE THE STORM.

seems to feel the change, which is certainly exhilarating and cheerful.

Little children, be good to one another.

## THE BOY WE LIKE.

The boy we like has a merry, open face, fresh and ruddy with the combined effects of healthful exercise and soap and water. Although not pedantic, he always looks neat, and takes care of his clothes, and does not consider it "fun" to use his hat as a football. He prefers a brisk walk, or a football match, to moping over the fire on a winter's afternoon, and if there is skating to be had he does not think it an "awful nuisance" to take his sisters, but he puts on their skates for them without a murmur. He is fond of reading, but does not mind putting his book aside to join in a juvenile game with the younger members of the household. At school he is a painstaking scholar, and he is quite as earnest in the playground and cricket field, where, although he is an excellent "bat," he is always ready to take his share of "fielding." Though he has not a very musical voice he cheerfully joins the others around the piano, "chiming in," as he expresses it, in the hymns on Sunday evenings. Of course, he is his "mother's pet," but that is not his fault, and he does not encroach upon her kindness toward him.