

# THE SUNBEAM

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## THE HARVEST HOME.

"They joy before thee according to the joy in harvest," says one of the most beautiful verses of Scripture. And right and comely is it to rejoice at this glad season of the year when God openeth His hand and we are filled with good. To the Jews the harvest-tide was a time of special rejoicing. So should it be with us. We greatly like that old English custom of the Harvest Home, or bringing in the last load with songs of rejoicing and thanksgiving. We would like to see more of this kind of harvest festival in Canada. As the Jews had their feast of first fruits, and presented their wave-offering before the Lord, so should we recognise the bounty of the Giver of every good and perfect gift and testify our gratitude by liberal gifts for his cause. For after all, it is only of his own that we give unto him.

Let the children share the joy. Let them gather harvest flowers and keep a holiday among the reapers, and rejoice in that love which giveth us all things richly to enjoy. Why might not all the Sunday-school be decorated with wheat and flowers and fruit, and a harvest festival of song and thanksgiving be held?

Sing to the Lord of harvest,  
Sing songs of love and praise,



IN THE HARVEST-FIELD.

With joyful hearts and voices  
Your hallelujahs raise.  
By him the rolling seasons  
In fruitful order move,  
Sing to the Lord of harvest  
A song of happy love.

## THE SERPENT IN THE CUP.

THERE is an old story told of the holy St. John, who, you remember, was the disciple whom Jesus loved. He lived to be a very old man, and he grew to be very pure and saintly as he came near his heavenly home. This may not be a true story, but it has in it a good and true lesson. Although St. John was so good, there were many people to hate him, and some even wanted to kill him. Once an enemy gave him a glass of wine to drink, when he was tired and faint. It looked like a kind act, but it was not, for a poison was mixed with the wine which would have killed him if he had taken it. The story says that he held it up before him, and a serpent raised its head from the cup, and then he knew that an enemy had given it to him! He threw it to the ground, and so his life was saved.

There is a cup which will be offered you, dear boys, one of these days. Perhaps it has already been offered you. It is a wine cup, and a serpent lies at the bottom! Do not touch it! You may not see it, but by and by it will raise its dreadful head, and you will find too late that you cannot throw it from you. Ask God to give you the clear sight to see what lies in the cup, and then you will be safe.