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Dick's Speeches

FOR

Tiny Tots

NEW YORK DICK & FITZGERALD



DICK'S SPEECHES FOR TINY TOTS

CONTAINING

A SELECTION OF PIECES SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR QUITE YOUNG AND VERY SMALL CHILDREN.



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PNAZZIE

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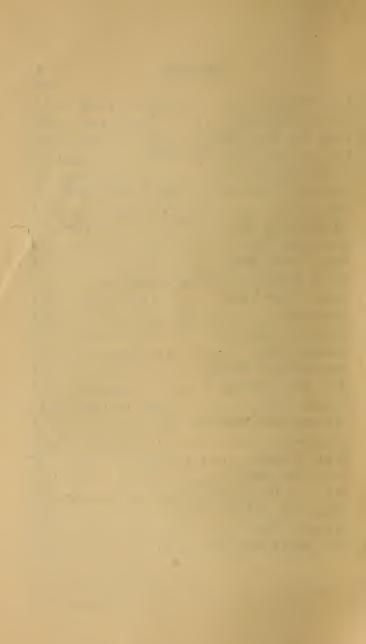
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FOR

TINY TOTS.

PROLOGUE.

FOR A TINY TOT.

I am only a little child, and I am airaid I cannot speak loud enough to make you all hear me—it is so hard to talk to so many people.

They say little children should be seen and not heard; but that does not mean smart little ones like *me*.

I know you are all nice, kind people, or else you would not have come to hear as well as see us tonight, and we thank you all very much for coming. How do you like my little speech ?

ROBIN REDBREAST'S SECRET.

I have a secret I would like The little girls to know; But I won't tell a single boy— They rob the poor birds so. We have four pretty little nests; We watch them with great care; Full fifty eggs are in this tree— Don't tell the boys they're there.

Joe Thompson robbed the nest last year, And year before, Tom Brown; I'll tell it loud as I can sing To every one in town. Swallow and sparrow, lark and thrush, Will tell you just the same; To make us all so sorrowful, It is a wicked shame.

WHAT SHE SAID.

She tole me sumfin defful ! It almost made me cry ! I never will b'lieve it— It *mus*' be all a lie !— I mean, she mus' be 'staken. I know she b'oke my heart;

I never can forgive her, That horrid Maggie Start!

Tuesdays she does her bakin's; An' so I fought, you see,
I'd make some fimble cookies For Arabella's tea.
An' so I took my dollies An' set 'em in a row,
Where they could oversee me When I mixed up my dough.

An' when I'd wolled an' mixed it Free minutes or an hour,Somehow I dwopped my woller, An' spilt a lot of flour.

An' I was defful firsty,An' fought I'd help myselfTo jes' a little dwop of milkOff from the pantry shelf.

So I weached up on tiptoe; But, quicker than a flash,
The horrid pan turned over, An' down it came, kersplash !
Oh, then you should have seen her Rush frough that pantry door !
"An' this is where you be !" she said; "Oh, what a lookin' floor !

"You an' your dolls—I'll shake you all; I'll shake you black 'n' blue !"
"You shall not touch us, miss," I cried; "We're jest as good as you !
An' I will tell my mofer The minute she gets home;
An' I will tell ole Santa Claus, An' I'll tell every one."

Oh, then you should have heard her laugh !
"Tell Santa Claus, indeed !
I'd like to have you find him first— The humbug never lived !"
"What do you mean, you Maggie Start ? Is dear old Santa dead ?"

"Old Santa *never lived*," she cried— And *that* is what she said.

ALL THINGS.

All things bright and beautiful, All things great and small, All things wise and wonderful— *Our Father* made them all.

Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings— He made their lovely colors, He made their tiny wings.

He gave us eyes to see them, And *lips* that we might tell How good is God our Father, Who doeth all things well.

FLO'S LETTER.

A sweet little baby brother Had come to live with Flo; And she wanted it brought to the table, Where it might eat and grow.

- "It must wait awhile," said grandma, In answer to her plea,
- "For a little thing that hasn't teeth Can't eat like you and me."
- "Why! hasn't it got teeth, grandma?" Asked Flo, in great surprise;

"Oh my ! but isn't it funny— No teeth, but nose and eyes!

"I guess "—after thinking gravely— "They must have been forgot;

Can't we buy him some like grandpa ? I'd like to know why not ? "

That afternoon in the corner, With paper, pen, and ink,

Went Flo, saying, "Don't talk to me; If you do, you'll 'sturb my think.

"I am writing a letter, grandma, To send away to-night; And 'cause it's very 'portant, I want to get it right."

At last the letter was finished— A wonderful thing to see, And directed to "God in heaven." "Please read it over to me."

Said little Flo to her grandma, "To see if it's right, you know." And here is the letter written To God by little Flo:

"Dear God! the baby you brought us Is awful nice and sweet; But because you forgot his toofies The poor little thing can't eat.

"That's why I am writing this letter A purpose to let you know; Please come and finish the baby. That's all, from little Flo."

PICCANINNY LULLABY.

I see a gray coon in de corn; Sleep, baby, sleep.
I heah de mastah blow his horn; Sleep, baby, sleep.

I see a niggah at de gray coon shoot, I heah de echo of de ole horn's toot, An' I heah an owl in de wild-wood hoot; Sleep, baby, sleep.

A 'gator's gruntin' in de ole bayou— Sleep, baby, sleep—
At a fat pig crawfishin' in de flue; Sleep, baby, sleep.
His teeth am big an' wide an' white,
An' he am chucklin' at de great big bite
He's gwine to hab outen dat pig to-nite; Sleep, baby, sleep.

I heah de wild geese flyin' by; Sleep, baby, sleep.
De air am ringin' wid dere cry; Sleep, baby, sleep.
It's gwine to be cole, but you am snug As de hoppin' lizard an' de little June-bug, So I'll leabe you now wid a good-nite hug; Sleep, baby, sleep.

THE RAINDROPS.

"I'm going down to cheer a flower," Cried a little drop of rain; "I hear it sigh; it droops its head, As if in weary pain !" "And I will go !" "And I !" "And I !" Cried all the raindrops near; So down they went in merry haste The whole wide field to cheer.

The drooping flowers looked up and smiled; The whole wide field was glad— Fresh water-cups for thirsty lips Each happy flower had.

And when the sun came shining out, The raindrops in his face Sparkled and laughed, till, radiantly, A rainbow arched the place !

OUR FLAG.

Shout for the banner bright Unfurling in the light— Our country's flag. Shout till each rugged hill, Each valley, low and still, Shall echo—Lord, we will Protect our flag.

Weep for the flag once borne Through blood and shame, and torn— Our noble flag !

God, for these glorious days Of peace receive our praise; Blest Guide of all our ways, Protect our flag.

MAY.

Pretty little violets, waking from your sleep, Fragrant little blossoms, just about to peep, Would you know the reason all the world is gay? Listen to the bobolink telling you 'tis May.

Little ferns and grasses, all so green and bright, Purple clover nodding, daisies fresh and white, Would you know the reason all the world is gay ? Listen to the bobolink telling you 'tis May.

Darling little warblers, coming in the spring, Would you know the reason that you love to sing? Hear the merry children shouting as they play, "Listen to the bobolink telling us 'tis May !"

MARGARET'S BROKEN SLATE.

I've b'oken my slate! Oh ! what s'all I do? Papa's thus b'ot it, So p'etty and new!

And me could draw ho'ses And w'ite, when me try; But now slate is b'oken, So des I will ky.

Oh no, I won't neder— I 'member one day I hurted my fin'er While I was at play;

And mama took sumfin-'Twas arn'ca, I tink-And den my poor fin'er Was cured in a wink.

So I'll wun to mama, And take her my slate, To give it some arn'ca Before it's too late.

HIS PROFESSION.

My boy and I rode in the train, One morning bright and clear; "When I'm a grown-up man," said he, "I'll be an engineer!" But soon the dust flew in his eyes. And heavy grew his head;

"I wouldn't be an engineer For all the world!" he said.

My boy was at a seaport town, And saw the rolling sea; "Mama," he said, one evening, "A sailor I shall be !" We took him to a yacht-race— He had to go to bed ! "I wouldn't be a sailor now For all the world !" he said.

We read him stirring stories Of soldiers and their fame; "I'll go and fight," cried Freddie, "And put them all to shame !" We told him of a soldier's life; He shook his little head; "I wouldn't be a soldier now For all the world !" he said.

And thus to each profession He first said "yes," then "no."
"To make a choice is hard," he said; "At least, I find it so."
"But what, then, will you be," I asked, "When you are grown up, Fred?"
"I really think I'll only be A gentleman," he said.

LITTLE THINGS.

MOTION SONG.

We are leaflets, growing, growing; Here's a cloud and there's the sun. Now the rain is soaking, soaking;

We are dripping, every one.

(Chorus.)

But we grow, we grow, we grow, Yes, we all are growing. (Chorus repeated after each stanza.)

We are flowers, growing, growing,

Dancing when the wind comes by, Turning as the sunlight circles,

Drooping heads when night is nigh.

We are cotton, growing, growing,

Golden flowers glittering;

Some day great white bolls shall open For the angels' harvesting.

We are nestlings, growing, growing, Open beak and fluttering wing;

Now we need a mother's tending,

Some day in the sky we'll sing.

We are seedling acorns, pushing

Warm leaves from the brown, soft sand; Wide and far and high and leafy,

Great oak-trees some day we'll stand.

We are little raindrops, dripping, Dropping, falling from the cloud; Some day in the thunderous ocean You shall hear our voices loud.

We are infant scholars, saying A by B and B by C; Some day we'll be saints in heaven, Learning God's great mystery.

OVER THE BARE HILLS.

Over the bare hills, far away, Somebody's traveling day by day; Coming so slowly—I wonder why ! Oh, she is busy as she goes by.

"Sing, little brook; wake up and hear! Where is the song that you learned last year? Don't you remember the dear old tune? Naughty small brook, to forget so soon!

"Dainty wee clouds in the bright blue sky, Last year I taught you to float so high ! Flowers, where are you ? Why don't you blow ? Come, Dandelion, you can, you know.

"Spring up, tall grasses and daisies and clover; Last year I taught you how, over and over; Come with me, every one—this is the way; Don't you remember me? Why, I am May."

NOT GEORGE WASHINGTON.

I saw him standing in the crowd, A comely youth and fair;
There was a brightness in his eye, A glory in his hair !
I saw his comrades gaze on him— His comrades standing by;

I heard them whisper each to each, "He never told a lie !"

I thought of questions very hard For boys to answer right—
"How did you tear those pantaloons ?" "My son, what caused the fight ?"
"Who left the gate ajar last night ?"
"Who bit the pumpkin pie ?"
What boy could answer all of these And never tell a lie ?

I proudly took him by the hand— My words with praise were rife;
I blessed that boy who never told A falsehood in his life;
I told him I was proud of him. A fellow standing by
Informed me that *that* boy was dumb Who never told a lie.

GRUMBLE CORNER AND THANKSGIVING STREET,

I knew a man whose name was Horner, Who used to live on Grumble Corner— Grumble Corner, in Cross Patch Town— And was never seen without a frown. He grumbled at this, he grumbled at that; He growled at the dog, he growled at the cat; He grumbled at morning, he grumbled at night; And to grumble and growl were his chief delight.

He grumbled so much at his wife that she Began to grumble as well as he; And all the children, wherever they went, Reflected their parents' discontent. If the sky was dark and betokened rain, Then Mr. Horner was sure to complain; And if there was never a cloud about, He'd grumble because of a threatened drought.

His meals were never to suit his taste; He grumbled at having to eat in haste; The bread was poor, or the meat was tough, Or else he hadn't had half enough. No matter how hard his wife might try To please her husband, with scornful eye He'd look around, and then, with a scowl At something or other, begin to growl.

One day, as I loitered along the street, My old acquaintance I chanced to meet, Whose face was without the look of care And the ugly frown that it used to wear. "I may be mistaken, perhaps," I said, As, after saluting, I turned my head; "But it is, and it isn't, the Mr. Horner Who lived so long on Grumble Corner!"

I met him next day, and I met him again, In melting weather, in pouring rain, When stocks were up, and when stocks were down; But a smile somehow had replaced the frown. It puzzled me much; and so, one day, I seized his hand in a friendly way, And said, "Mr. Horner, I'd like to know What has happened to change you so ?"

He laughed a laugh that was good to hear, For it told of a conscience calm and clear; And he said, with none of the old-time drawl, "Why, I've changed my residence—that is all !" "Changed your residence?" "Yes," said Horner; "It wasn't healthy on Grumble Corner, And so I moved—'twas a change complete; And you'll find me now on Thanksgiving Street."

Now every day, as I move along The streets so filled with the busy throng,

I watch each face, and can always tell Where men and women and children dwell; And many a discontented mourner Is spending his days on Grumble Corner, Sour and sad, whom I long to entreat To take a house on Thanksgiving Street.

A COMPLAINT.

A BOY'S RECITATION. I think it really mean—don't you ?— To leave us nothing at all to do ! In a world all made to order so A modern boy has no earthly show.

Columbus sailed across the sea— Which might have been done by you or me— And now they call him great and wise, They praise his genius and enterprise, Although when he found our native land He took it for India's coral strand !

There's Newton, too, saw an apple fall Down from the branch, and that was all; Yet they talk of his great imagination, And say he discovered gravitation. Goodness me! why, I could have told Him all about it; at ten years old I knew why things fell, and I studied the rule For "falling bodies" in grammar-school ! There's noble George, who wouldn't lie— Perhaps he couldn't; he didn't try. But if I should cut down a cherry-tree, My father would only laugh at me.

Benjamin Franklin—what did *he* do? Flew a big kite—on Sunday, too; Standing out in a heavy shower Getting soaked for half an hour, Fishing for lightning with a string, To see if he couldn't bottle the thing. Suppose I should fly my kite in the rain? People would say that I wasn't sane. Why should there such a difference be Between Ben Franklin, Esq., and me?

Then there's Napoleon First, of France: Suppose that we had had his chance, No doubt we'd have been emperors too; But we'd have conquered at Waterloo. I wouldn't have had old Grouchy make Such a stupid and grave mistake; I should have sent him the proper way To arrive in time to save the day !

Still, what makes me feel the worst Is Adam's renown for being first. That was easy enough, you know— It was just a thing that happened so.

And my sister says, "If it had been me, I wouldn't have touched the apple-tree." That's so. If she sees a snake to-day She gives a scream and scoots away.

To write such things as Shakespeare's plays Was not so hard in Queen Bess's days; But now, when everything has been done, I cannot think of a single one To bring a boy to wealth and fame— It's a regular, downright, burning shame !

EPILOGUE.

FOR A TOT.

Before we say good-by, I want to tell you that I love you all very much. You know who it was that loved little ones like me, and wanted us to come to Him; and I am sure you cannot help loving us little ones too, almost as much as He did.

It is because I am little that I love you all. You know, when I get big I shall have to love a few people more, and other people less; and when I get married I shall have to love one person more than *all* the rest. So you ought to be very glad that I am little and can love you all so much. And now I blow you all a good-by kiss.

DECEMBER.

On Christmas day, when fires were lit, And all our breakfasts done, We spread our toys out on the floor, And played there in the sun.

The nursery smelled of Christmas tree, And under where it stood The shepherds watched their flocks of sheep— All made of painted wood.

Outside the house the air was cold, And quiet all about, Till far across the snowy roofs

The Christmas bells rang out.

But soon the sleigh-bells jingled by Upon the street below, And people on the way to church Went crunching through the snow.

We did not quarrel once all day; Mama and grandma said They liked to be in where we were, So pleasantly we played.

I do not see how any child Is cross on Christmas day, When all the lovely toys are new, And every one can play.

AN INDIGNANT SCHOLAR.

Such a horrid jogafry lesson !
Cities and mountains and lakes,
And the longest, crookedest rivers,
Just wriggling about like snakes.
I tell you I wish Columbus
Hadn't heard the earth was a ball,
And started to find new countries
That folks didn't need at all.

Now wouldn't it be too lovely If all that you had to find out Was just about Spain and England, And a few other lands thereabout; And the rest of the maps were printed With pink and yellow, to say, "All this is an unknown region, Where bogies and fairies stay?"

But what is the use of wishing, Since Columbus sailed over here, And men keep hunting and 'sploring And finding things every year ? Now show me the Yampa River, And tell me where does it flow ? And how do you bound Montana, And Utah and Mexico ?

A LITTLE FELLER.

Say, Sunday's lonesome fur a little feller, With pop an' ma'am a-readin' all the while, An' never sayin' anythin' to cheer ye,

An' lookin' 's if they didn't know how to smile; With hook an' line a-hangin' in the woodshed,

An' lots o' 'orms down by the outside cellar, An' Brown's Creek just over by the mill-dam— Say, Sunday's lonesome fur a little feller.

Why, Sunday's lonesome fur a little feller
Right on from sun-up, when the day commences;
Fur little fellers don't have much to think of 'Cept chasin' gophers 'long the corn-field fences,
Or diggin' after moles down in the wood-lot, Or climbin' after apples what's got meller,
Or fishin' down in Brown's Creek an' mill-pond— Say, Sunday's lonesome fur a little feller.

But Sunday's never lonesome fur a little feller When he is stayin' down to Uncle Ora's;

He took his book onct right out in the orchard,

An' told us little chaps just lots o' stories— All truly true, that happened once fur honest,

An' one 'bout lions in a sort o' cellar,

An' how some angels came an' shut their mouths up, An' how they never teched that Dan'l feller.

An' Sunday's pleasant down to Aunt Marilda's; She lets us take some books that some one gin her, An' takes us down to Sunday-school t' the schoolhouse;

An' sometimes she has nice shortcake fur dinner, And onct she had a puddin' full o' raisins,

An' onct a frosted cake, all white an' yeller.

I think when I stay down to Aunt Marilda's

That Sunday's pleasant fur a little feller.

WELCOME.

A CHILD'S SPEECH.

It scares me, my friends, to speak to you to-night. My heart goes pittypat. I want to speak my piece, and can scarce think what to say. Mine is a speech of welcome. I am to say welcome to you all-right welcome to our hall, our hearts, and to hear what we have to say. Some of the larger boys who are studying arithmetic and geography and grammar will make believe they are orators or generals or kings; but I don't. You all know me, and it's no use for me to pretend to be what I am not; besides, I can welcome you just as well just as I am; and now I say you are just as welcome as you can be. Besides, we are real glad you are here. We wondered if you would come, we wanted you to come, we are glad you have come, we thank you for your coming. Now you know you are welcome.

Our speeches for to-night are not our own. The politicians, the lawyers, the speechmakers, among us are using the speeches made by great men before our day. We adopt theirs until we can make our own. Again, welcome.

GRANDMA.

When grandma puts her glasses on And looks at me just so, If I have done a naughty thing, She's sure somehow to know. How is it she can always tell So very, very, very well ?

She says to me, "Yes, little one, 'Tis written in your eye !"

And if I look the other way,

Or turn and seem to try To hunt for something on the floor, She's sure to know it all the more.

If I should put the glasses on And look in grandma's eyes,Do you suppose that I should be So very, very wise ?Now, what if I should find it trueThat grandma had been naughty too !

THE QUARRELSOME KITTENS.

Two little kittens, One stormy night, Began to quarrel, And then to fight.

One had a mouse, The other had none; And that's the way The quarrel begun.

- "*I'll* have that mouse," Said the bigger cat.
- " You'll have that mouse ? We'll see about that !"
- "I will have that mouse," Said the eldest son; "You sha'n't have the mouse," Said the little one.

The old woman seized Her sweeping-broom, And swept both kittens Right out of the room.

The ground was all covered With frost and with snow; The two little kittens Had nowhere to go.

So they lay and shivered On a mat at the door, While the old woman Was sweeping the floor.

And then they crept in, As quiet as mice, All wet with the snow, And as cold as ice;

And found it much better, That stormy night,To lie by the fire Than to quarrel and fight.

ROBIN'S NEW YEAR.

On the snowy branch of the holly-bush A gay little redbreast sings;
"Happy New Year to all, to all !" says he. Oh ! loudly his greeting rings.
And in the warm nursery, way high up, From the window-pane looks down
A dear little girl with sunshiny hair, And a boy with eyes so brown.
To Robin they call, "Ho, ho ! little bird, Why singing so gaily, pray ?
The snow is so deep, the wind is so keen,

"Icicles hang on the mistletoe-bough, And snow on the meadow lies,

But I fear not the cold this New-Year's morn," The brave little bird replies.

"For God He is good, and God He is love; He made the land and the sea;

And the God that sees when the sparrows fall Will also take care of me."

Then he eats with a thankful heart the crumbs That the small white hands let fall,

And sings from his swing in the holly-bush,

"Happy New Year to all, to all !"

THE GOLDEN KEY.

I know of a jeweled casket Where is hidden a golden key That opens the door of a castle fair, Called the Castle of Courtesy.

Its owner, a bright-eyed maiden,

When she wakes in the morning light, Takes the treasure out from its hiding-place

• And bears it around till night.

She opens the door of the castle

With the beautiful golden key, And smiles a welcome to all who come—

Even strangers, like you and me.

And to every door in the castle The maiden fits her key;Wide open it flies at her magic touch, That all may its treasures see.

The heart is the jeweled casket, And kindness the golden key That opens the doors of the numberless rooms In the Castle of Courtesy.

NINETIETH PSALM.

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling-place In generations past; Before the mountains saw Thy face, Or earth in form was cast. A thousand years before Thy sight Are but as yesterday," Or as a watch-hour in the night, That hurrieth away. As on a flood we all are borne, Our life is like a sleep; Beneath Thine anger we must mourn, And for our sins must weep. Our secret sins Thou bring'st to light, Our days pass quickly by; They end in trouble, grief, and night, As onward cycles fly.

Oh, teach us to apply our days To wisdom's counsels pure, And let Thy beauty and Thy praise Upon our works endure !

DOLLY'S BROKEN ARM.

Mama, do send for doctor-man, And tell him to be spry;My dolly fell and broke her arm;I'm so afraid she'll die.

I thought that she was fast asleep, And laid her on the bed;

But down she dropped upon the floor; Oh dear ! she's almost dead !

Poor dolly! she was just as brave, And she did not cry at all. Do you suppose she ever can Get over such a fall?

But when the doctor mends her arm And wraps it up so tight, Then I will be her little nurse, And watch with her all night.

And if she only will get well, And does not lose her arm, I'll never let her fall again, Nor suffer any harm.

A CUP OF TEA.

A very old dame in a very small cot Made tea in a blue-and-white Chinese tea-pot; She drank it so black I'm sure you would think 'Twas the very worst thing an old lady could drink. She never drank water, nor coffee, nor wine, But said her black tea was exceedingly fine. She'd draw it at morn, and at night drink it up From an old-fashioned blue-and-white china tea-cup. And she lived long ago, yet I have heard say She's making and drinking her tea to this day.

"PLEASE, PREACHER-MAN, CAN I GO HOME ?"

Bess went to church one sultry day; She kept awake, I'm glad to say, Till "fourthly" started on its way.

Then moments into hours grew; Oh dear ! oh dear ! what should she do ? Unseen she glided from the pew,

And up the aisle demurely went, On some absorbing mission bent, Her eyes filled with a look intent.

She stopped and said, in plaintive tone, With hand uplifted toward the dome, "Please, preacher-man, can I go home?"

The treble voice, bell-like in sound, Disturbed a sermon most profound; A titter swelled as it went round.

A smile the pastor's face o'erspread; He paused, and bent his stately head. "Yes, little dear," he gently said.

THE LITTLE TOMTIT.

"Oh! where do you come from, little Tomtit?" "From birdland, of course," sang he. He wasn't quite sure of the matter, I know, As he sat on the old oak-tree.

- I asked him again: "Oh ! where do you live ?" "At Thomas Tit Hall," he cried.
- "And what do you eat for your breakfast?" said I. "A nice potted worm," he replied.
- "And how do you dress in that little blue coat And nice yellow waistcoat so trim ?"
- "They grow, little maiden," he cried, with a laugh. In wonder I gazed then at him.
- "And how—" but he stopped me by saying, "My dear,

I was taught, when a very young bird, This sensible motto—I quote it to you:

'Little folks should be seen and not heard'!"

A GIRL'S ESSAY ON BOYS.

Boys are men that have not got as big as their papas; and girls are women that will be young ladies by and by. Man was made before woman. When God looked at Adam He said to Himself, "Well, I think I can do better if I try again;" and then He made Eve. God liked Eve so much better than Adam that there have been more women than men. Boys are a trouble. They wear out everything—but soap. If I had my way, half the boys in the world would be girls, and the rest would be dolls. My papa is so nice that I think he must have been a little girl when he was a little boy.

A BOY'S MOTHER.

My mother she's so good to me; Ef I was good as I could be, I couldn't be as good—no, sir ! Can't any boy be good as her !

She loves me when I'm glad er mad; She loves me when I'm good er bad; An', what's a funniest thing, she says She loves me when she punishes.

I don't like her to punish me; That don't hurt, but it hurts to see

Her cryin'—nen I cry; an' nen We both cry—an' be good again.

She loves me when she cuts and sews My little cloak and Sunday clothes; An' when my pa comes home to tea She loves him 'most as much as me.

She laughs an' tells him all I said, An' grabs me up an' pats my head; An' I hug her, an' hug my pa, An' love him purt' nigh much as ma.

A LITTLE BOY'S VALENTINE.

Little girl across the way, You are so very sweet I shouldn't be a bit surprised If you were good to eat.

Now what I'd like, if you would too, Would be to go and play— Well, all the time, and all my life, On your side of the way.

I don't know anybody yet On your side of the street, But often I look over there And watch you—you're so sweet.

When I am big, I tell you what, I don't care what they say,I'll go across—and stay there, too— On your side of the way.

A HOUSEKEEPER'S TROUBLES.

Dolly's wet her Feet to get her Posies, in the morning dew; Sure to be sick— Cold or colic— Like as not the measles too.

There is Freddy, Always ready Into awful 'fairs to fall; Bad as Rosy— Doodness knows, I Don't know how to manage 't all !

Jack or Norah's Telled a story ! One or t'uver ate ma's cake ! While there's silly, Greedy Willy Got a drefful stomach-ache !

Naughty Bessie Tored her dress; she Wants anuver one, I s'pose; I tell you what, It tates a lot Of work to teep my dolls in tose !

A LITTLE BOY'S PLEA.

Here I am most four feet high;I'm brimming full of fun;I dance and whistle, laugh and sing, And hop and skip and run.

I suppose I bother big folks some With all my fun and glee; But then remember, gentle folks, There is some work in me.

Five days each week I go to school— I'm very busy there; And then of chores and errands, too, I always have my share.

So please don't scold me when I play, Although I make some noise; It's hard to be so full of fun And still be quiet boys. I am a little boy, you see; I never spoke before; But if you'll listen to me now I'll tell you something more.

I'll tell you what I mean to be When I am grown a man:I'll keep the store where letters come— I'll be the post-office man.

A TINY BOY'S SPEECH.

I am a very little boy, As you can plainly see; And as I stand before you now I tremble in each knee.

But then I thought it would not do For all the boys in school To make a speech and leave me out,

Like a poor simple fool.

And so I plucked my courage up, Determined to be bold,

And have come out upon the stage To do as I am told.

I thank the ladies very much For listening to my speech; And if they ask me, I am sure I'll give a kiss to each.

LITTLE WILLIE WARE.

"The night is cold," said Willie Ware; "A-coasting I will go." He wore his father's sealskin cap, And lost it in the snow.

They searched the highland far and near, And Willie's pa was wild; And then he got upon his ear, And interviewed that child.

And now, when Willie Ware comes round To stay with us a bit,He will not take a chair. He says He does not care to sit.

MY DOGGIE.

I have a little doggie,

His back is smooth and white; He has a ribbon round his neck, And wears it day and night.

He has a little basket All lined with Turkey red; He often takes a little nap Before he goes to bed. He stands upon his hind legs With sugar on his nose; When I say "now" he snaps it up— What else did you suppose?

He has a bath on Mondays; Cook puts him in a tub, And then with soap and flannel Begins to rub, rub, rub.

When I give him a penny, He goes to buy a bun;He lays it down and barks quite loud Until the people come.

Now, isn't he a clever dog, And just as good as gold ? I think now I must stop and rest, Because my story's told.

"GRAN'MA AL'A'S DOES."

I wants to mend my wagon, And has to have some nails— Jus' two free will be plenty— We're goin' to haul our rails; The splendidest cob fences We're makin' ever was !

I wis' you'd help us find 'em-Gran'ma al'a's does.

My horse's name is Betsy; She jumped and broked her head; I put her in the stable, And fed her milk and bread. The stable's in the parlor— We didn't make no muss; I wis' you'd let her stay there— Gran'ma al'a's does.

I's goin' to the corn-field, To ride on Charley's plow;
I 'spect he'd like to have me; I wants to go just now.
Oh, won't I gee up awful, And whoa like Charley whoas !
I wis' you wouldn't bozzer— Gran'ma never does.

I wants some bread and butter-I's hungry worstest kind; But Taddie mus'n't have none, 'Cause she wouldn't mind. Put plenty sugar on it; I tell you what, I knows It's right to put on sugar-Gran'ma al'a's does.

A BOY'S APOLOGY.

I'd rather take a whipping now Than stand up here and make a bow, And speak before a crowd like this; For much I fear you all may hiss.

But then I thought that Henry Clay Had been a boy once in his day, And Daniel Webster had to crawl Before he ever walked at all.

"Large oaks from little acorns grow;" And though I creep along quite slow, Who knows but at some future day I'll be as great a man as Clay?

Perhaps some lady here will say, "That boy's too fast—take him away !" This trouble I will save you now, As thus I make my farewell bow.

WHAT I KNOW.

A very little boy am I, And yet to speak I mean to try; Because I know a thing or two, As small as I appear to you.

I know that millers have fat hogs— I've seen them roll about like logs; But where the miller gets his corn I never knew since I was born.

I know that lawyers oft get rich When into people's suits they pitch; But how they get the money paid I never knew since I was made.

I know that doctors all dress fine, No matter how their patients pine; But how they get so much to spend I never knew, you may depend.

I know the boys all love the girls, And talk about their "eyes" and "curls"; But why the girls don't like a beau I never do expect to know.

OUR FUTURE WORK.

RECITATION FOR TEN BOYS.

FIRST BOY ..

Oh, what will be our future work? Come, boys, let's choose a trade.

I'd like to be a *locksmith* ! all the town would seek my aid.

SIXTH BOY.

- Across the waves, not underneath, my future path I'll take !
- I want to be a captain bold, like Raleigh or like Drake;
- The captain of a bonny bark with sails so fair and fleet—
- From figurehead to keel she'll be so taut and trim and neat !
- I'll stand upon my bridge and shout, as forward still we flee,

"Starboard !" or "Port !" or "Land ahead !" just as the case may be.

SEVENTH BOY.

- I'd like to be a *fireman*, with a helmet on my head;
- You'll see me on my engine when the flames leap high and red;
- When people call out "*Fire ! fire ! fire ! "* and dread fills all the town,
- Oh, then you'll see me play my hose till flames die hissing down !
- But oh, remember there's a foe of deeper danger near-
- The raging drink does far more harm e'en than the flames we fear !

EIGHTH BOY.

- Oh, what will be our future work ? I'm sure I cannot tell;
- But yet I think a *waiter's* life would suit me very well;
- In some bright temperance coffee-house (I'm glad there are so many)
- I'd rush along with plate and dish, and thank you for your penny;
- I'd never, never fill your glass with drinks that hurt and harm—
- I'll be a *temperance* waiter, with my napkin o'er my arm !

NINTH BOY.

- And *I* will be a *druggist*, and your powders I'll prepare;
- I'll roll your pills and measure out your dose and draught with care;
- I'll mix the proper physic that's adapted to your case;
- I'll cure your headache, toothache, cough and cold, and swollen face !
- Dear friends, I'll do my very best to cure your every pain,
- And my advice to young and old will be just this abstain !

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- And my advice to young and old will be just this abstain !

BEDTIME FANCIES.

Out from the corners and over the floor Come flocking and flocking the shadow band; I will get in my little white coach and drive Through the Valley of Dreams into Slumberland.

I have four black horses that Night has lent; I call the name of my coachman Sleep; And the little white coach is cozy and soft, As I nestle down in its cushions deep.

Heigh-ho! we are off. The horses go slow At first, then fast and faster still, With silent hoof-beats speeding on,

Down to the foot of the Drowsy Hill.

This twilight place is the Valley of Dreams, Where all the wonderful dream things are, And the balsam-groves and the poppy-fields That stretch on ever and ever so far.

The dream forests rustle their secrets out,

The lights of the dream towns twinkle and shine, And the white dream ships from the harbor sail Away to the dim horizon-line.

- Ah ! the sounds of the Valley are growing faint; Its sights are fading on either hand.
- I cross the border still and dark, And enter the real Slumberland.

THE DREAMER.

When I am sleeping in my bed, The little people in my head All sport and frolic, dance and play, As they never do by day.

They play at being king and queen, Or catching fairy-folk unseen; They act out giant, troll, or gnome, Or in far Afric's forests roam.

They go with Sindbad on his trips, Or take command of pirate ships, And capture galleons of Spain, Pearl-freighted, on the Spanish Main.

Yet each one still pretends he's me, While I am sound asleep, you see; They play I run and shout and leap— And yet I'm lying fast asleep.

They have such jolly lots of fun, And see such sights ! Yet never one Will wake me up that I may go To share the joys that please them so.

And if I wake and try to hear, Or at their frolics try to peer, Then all the sly things in a trice Are quiet and demure as mice !

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EPILOGUE.

The best of things, as well as the worst, must, like everything else, come to an end. We have had our say, and have done what we can to entertain you. If we have tried your patience it has been our misfortune, not our fault; and in the name of our little company I apologize for our shortcomings.

But, judging by the applause with which you have so generously rewarded some of us this evening, I think we have succeeded in amusing you; and your kind approval will encourage us to try to do still better next time.

As a parting word, we give you our hearty thanks for not only your presence here, but especially for your kind attention and encouragement. We say *au revoir*, but not good-by, with the hope to meet again some other time. Friends, one and all, good-night !

WHO BIDES HIS TIME.

Who bides his time, and day by day Faces defeat full patiently,
And lifts a mirthful roundelay However poor his fortunes be,
He will not fail in any qualm Of poverty; the paltry dime
It will grow golden in his palm— Who bides his time. Who bides his time, he tastes the sweet Of honey in the saltest tear; And though he fares with slowest feet, Joy runs to meet him, drawing near; The birds are heralds of his cause, And, like a never-ending rhyme, The roadsides bloom in his applause—

Who bides his time.

Who bides his time, and fevers not In the hot race that none achieves, Shall wear cool-wreathen laurel, wrought

With crimson berries in the leaves; And he shall reign a goodly king,

And sway his hand o'er every clime, With peace writ on his signet-ring— Who bides his time.

GRANDPA'S WAY.

My grandpa is the strangest man ! Of course I love him dearly, But really it does seem to me He looks at things so queerly.

He always thinks that every day Is right, no matter whether It rains or snows, or shines or blows,

Or what the kind of weather.

When outdoor fun is ruined by A heavy shower provoking, He pats my head, and says, "You see, The dry earth needs a soaking." And when I think the day too warm For any kind of pleasure, He says, "The corn has grown an inch-I see without a measure." And when I fret because the wind Has set my things all whirring, He looks at me, and says, "Tut ! tut ! This close air needs a stirring !" He says, when drifts are piling high, And fence-posts scarcely peeping, "How warm beneath their blanket white The little flowers are keeping !" Sometimes I think, when on his face

His sweet smile shines so clearly, It would be nice if every one Could see things just so queerly !

ESCAPING A SHOWER.

Two crabs who were out on the beach to walk Shook claws when they met, and stopped to talk.

"We're going to have a storm," one said; "Just look at those big clouds overhead!"

"Then if we stay," said the other, "it's plain That both of us will be caught in the rain."

So, ere the threatened shower began, Back in the water they quickly ran.

SUMMER SONG.

Hear the quail in yonder glen; He is calling to his mate; You can hear him in the morning— Hear him early, hear him late. "Whistle! whistle!" That is what the quail is saying As he whistles to his mate.

Hear the owl in yonder tree, Among the leaves so green; Can you tell me what he's saying In his leafy house unseen? "Whoo! whoo!" This is what the owl is saying In his leafy house unseen.

Seeking for his morning food See the crow in yonder field; He must feed his little nestlings, In the nest so well concealed. "Caw ! caw !" This is what the crow is saying, Seeking for his nestlings' food.

When the evening comes again, And the earth in night is hid, All along the woods and meadows You can hear the katydid. "Katydid ! katydid !" All along the woods and meadows You can hear the katydid.

WHEN I'M A MAN.

Oh, when I'm a man Just as big as papa, I'll have a mustache, And I'll smoke a cigar.

I'll wear a tail-coat— Oh, won't I be grand, With a glass in my eye, And a cane in my hand !

I'll buy all the papers, And read all the news— The *Times* and the *Standard*, And weekly reviews.

And I'll have a birthday— Just listen and hear— About every week, And not once a year.

And it would be better If Christmas day came A little bit oftener, And New Year the same.

I'll be very rich;For you'll certainly findI'll run to the toy-shopWhenever inclined.

I won't have a nurse-maid To bother me so, Nor teacher for lessons-Oh dear, no, no, no !

Nor will I to bed, Like a baby so small, At seven o'clock— No, I won't go at all !

Nasty rice-pudding, Potatoes and meat, Thick bread and butter, I never will eat; But dine on sweet candies Wherever I be, With sponge-cakes for breakfast And toffee for tea.

THE LAND OF MAKE-BELIEVE.

Have you ever heard of the wonderful land, The dear land of Make-believe,

Where the rivers have beds of golden sand, And the clouds all day are rainbow-spanned; Where every good girl at a word's command May summon a beautiful fairy band

And bid them new wonders weave ? Oh, nowhere has earth, with all her noise, Such a glorious spot for the little boys,

Where never they fret or grieve, As the kingdom known since the world was planned As the land of Make-believe.

Have you heard who own all the houses and things

In the land of Make-believe ? Why, sweet little fairies with silver wings, Wearing satin slippers and diamond rings. And they say, every time the south wind brings Good boys and girls, the fairy queen sings, And takes them all down to the honey springs

If they never, never deceive;

But then, if the children grow very bad, The fairy queen becomes silent and sad,

And folds her feathers to leave, After tying the boys in her apron-strings,

In the land of Make-believe.

In this wonderful land far over the seas,

In the land of Make-believe, They have candy horses and candy trees; And the candy cows are taking their ease, Lashing their tails in the peppermint breeze, Or standing around right up to their knees

Where the taffy billows heave. There the kittens all fly—they never climb; Everything has a magnificent time,

As happy as Adam and Eve, And every story comes out as you please, In the land of Make-believe.

BEES.

Folkses, do you think I look very green ? I'll tell you what—I've seen a queen ! Not the kind that wears long satin trails, But that goes buzzing and buzzing around rails And other things, for nice, fresh honey !

I've seen a king too—a real bee king ! Tell you what, folks, he's a queer thing ! When his subjects are indoors he proudly sits on the throne;

But when on a journey the queen leads off alone, And they all follow to a tree that's hollow.

But the strangest thing—and it's true too; My father told me so three days ago— Is that bees can make honey; 'spect that's the why I don't want any of 'em buzzing around me—do you ? Now my story 'bout bees is through.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

The bells of Mount Vernon are ringing to-day,

And what say their melodious numbers

The world's monument stands the Potomac beside,

And what says the shaft to the river ?---

"When the hero has lived for his country, and died, Death crowns him a hero forever."

The bards crown the heroes, and children rehearse The songs that give heroes to story;

And what say the bards to the children ?—" No verse

Can yet measure Washington's glory.

"For Freedom outlives the old crowns of the earth, And Freedom shall triumph forever, And time must long wait the true song of his birth, Who sleeps by the beautiful river."

WHICH IS BEST?

A DIALOGUE FOR NINE BOYS.

Characters.

Boy,	TINKER,	Doctor,
Soldier,	TAILOR,	GENTLEMAN,
SAILOR,	PLOWBOY,	THIEF.

BOY (dressed in coat with eight buttons).

I wonder, when I'm bigger, What I would like to be—
A soldier with a helmet, Or a sailor on the sea ?
I think a soldier's nicest—
Then you can have a gun,
And sometimes they let soldiers Play on a great big drum !

(Enter boy dressed as SOLDIER, with drum.)

SOLDIER.

You ought to be a soldier,

And get a drum, you see (*shows drum*) Just listen to my rub-dub (*beats drum*), And come and fight with me (*marches about*). (Enter SAILOR, dressed in uniform, small boat in hand.)

SAILOR.

No, no; you be a sailor, And visit far-off lands, And come back to your mother

With strange things in your hands (shows shells, coral, etc.).

(Enter TINKER, with mended kettle in hand.)

TINKER.

The best of all's a tinker, Who mends old pots and pans; And since "ifs" aren't "kettles," There's need for tinkers' cans.

(Enter TAILOR, with large needle, who sits down crosslegged and begins to sew.)

TAILOR.

You come and be a tailor— That's useful work, you know; Who'd make and mend your jackets If tailors couldn't sew (*points to jacket*)?

(Enter PLOWBOY, cracking long whip.)

PLOWBOY.

Crack, crack ! just hear my good whip! And I have horses too; And plowing is so easy, It would just do for vou.

(Enter DOCTOR, with medicine bottle.)

My work's to give folks physic (*uncorks bottle*), For which they dearly pay; But I've to work at night-time, As well as through the day.

(Enter GENTLEMAN, with hands in pockets.)

GENTLEMAN.

I don't have to work any, Either by night or day; For I have plenty money (takes money from pockets)

For everything to pay.

(Enter, while GENTLEMAN is speaking, THIEF, in ragged clothing. Steals GENTLEMAN'S handkerchief from pocket.)

THIEF.

Ha, ha ! my fine young boaster ! See what I got from you (*waves handker-chief*) !

Although I don't work, either, I've plenty money too (*shows small coins*).

BOY (considering).

I'd like to be a soldier (*turns to* SOLDIER), But then I'd go with joy

To learn to be a sailor (*turns to* SAILOR), Or even a plowboy (*points to* PLOWBOY).
I'll have to count my buttons, And see what they've to say;
For if I have to choose here, I'll not be done to-day.
(*Counts buttons, repeating " Soldier, sailor," etc.*)
I've counted all my buttons, And have to say, with grief,
If I'm to do their bidding I've got to be a thief.

PROLOGUE.

FOR A BOY.

Did you ever, any of you, see the sun rise ? Have you seen its first morning rays illumine and bring out bright and clear everything that was dark and gloomy in the shades of night, and make you feel glad that you are alive ?

How funny it would seem for the sun to rise late in the evening—about this time, for instance ! But it does to-night, and I'll tell you how and why. It is just this way: the manager of these solemnities, naturally selecting the smartest of the young martyrs under his control, said to me, "Son, you must rise tonight—rise to the occasion—and make the opening speech." You see what a mess of it I am making; but I *have* risen, as you perceive, and I wish you all heartily welcome. Having thus tried to brighten you with my presence, and dispel your gloom of expectation and suspense, this son will now set—setting a good example for those who are to follow by doing my best to worry you as little as possible, and to try to make you glad you came.

MAKING B'LIEVE.

I've maked b'lieve I was mama, And been to the bargain store;
But the bargain (the baby) wiggled so That I couldn't play that any more.
I've maked b'lieve I was C'lumbus, And discovered the world all over;
The rug was the 'Lantic Ocean, And I sailed on the nursery sofa.

I've maked b'lieve I was an Indian, And scalped Polyphemia twice;
And I played be a big polar bear, With the looking-glass for ice.
I've maked b'lieve I was the doctor, With pearl tapioca pills;
But I was 'bliged to give up practice, 'Cause I couldn't c'lect my bills.

Two times I've b'lieved to be a circus, And two times the coal-man too;
And once I was Robinson Crusoe, And once I was little Boy Blue.
Oh, I've maked b'lieve and I've maked b'lieve, Till there's nothing else to be !
And now—I'm so hungry, mama— Let's make b'lieve I was me.

VALEDICTORY.

FOR A SMALL BOY.

Our exercises for the day Will close without much more delay. We thank you for the interest Your kind attention has expressed. We know we are but young and weak To stand before a crowd to speak; But mighty *oaks* from *acorns* grow, And some of us, for aught you know, May climb the noble hill of Fame, And make a great and lasting name; While none of us, we hope, may live To loving hearts one pain to give. Again we tender thanks to you; Till next we meet, kind friends, adieu !

LITTLE MIDGET.

FOR A VERY LITTLE GIRL.

My papa sometimes scolds and says I'm always in a fidget ! But mama says I keep quite still For such a little midget;

And teacher said to-day she thought That it was very smart For such a little thing as I To learn a speech by heart.

THE MESSAGE OF THE SEASONS.

A RECITATION FOR FOUR GIRLS.

FIRST GIRL.

Behold the bright and smiling Spring !
I set the brooklets free;
The snowdrop-bells I gaily ring Across the sunny lea;
I chase the dreary clouds of gloom That wrapped the earth so long,
I bid the flow'rets rise and bloom,
I tune the skylark's song.

I hang the boughs with blossoms fair That promise fruit at last;

And in the gardens everywhere The seeds of hope are cast.

O boys and girls ! in goodness grow, For habits closely cling;

Take care, take care what seeds you sow Now in life's golden Spring !

SECOND GIRL.

See Summer like a fairy queen Awaken roses round !
Red, white, and pink, they wreathe the scene, And pansies gem the ground;
The royal lily, clad in white, Lifts up her stately head,
And dancing beams of golden light O'er grassy hills are shed.

The wavelets of the summer sea Sing out a glad refrain,
The bees go humming drowsily Across the heather plain.
O friends, in Summer's welcome glow We'll seek the fountain's brink;
We'll quench our thirst where waters flow, And not in fiery drink !

THIRD GIRL.

Now Autumn comes with ripe, ripe wheat, And bearded barley too;
And grapes are bending, dark and sweet, The smiling vineyards through;
The oats are waving in the breeze, But soon they'll be low laid;
The apples burn upon the trees, The nuts hang in the glade.
Oh, never crush the barley fair, That bloweth brown and free,
Into the ale-cup's hidden snare, That drags to misery;
Change not the oats that brightly shine To whisky's fatal blight,
Nor press the grapes to mocking wine,

But use God's gifts aright.

FOURTH GIRL.

Now Winter ends the seasons' train, And shivers in the cold ! There's frost upon the window-pane, There's snow on hill and wold; The hungry robin hops anear With timid, fluttering wing— But Christmas comes, and glad New Year, And joy doth Winter bring. Now friend meets friend,¹ and hearts are warm, And smiling looks abound;

You're sheltered safe from chilling storm, Where laugh and song go round.

And some will urge, "A glass you'll take,

To keep you from the cold !" Oh, for your feebler brethren's sake, Your pledge of temperance hold !

ALL.

Whate'er the season chance to be— In Spring or Summer glow,
When Autumn plenty crowns the lea, Or winds of Winter blow—
Stand free, stand free, while life shall last, From chains of sin and fear;
Oh, hold your pledge of temperance fast Through all the changing year !

THE BOY'S SERMON.

I came to-night to try to preach A sermon, if I can; For little boys can preach to boys As well as men to men.

¹ No. 1 here shakes hands with No. 2, and No. 3 with No. 4.

I never thought of such a thing Until the other day;I found a text so short and good, So hear to what I say.

"Mind" is my text; 'tis for you, boys, And something that you need. The girls may listen to it all, And, what they ought to, heed !

First : mind your tongue ! Don't let it speak
An angry, an unkind,
A cruel, or a wicked word;
Don't let it, boys; now mind !

Mind eyes and ears ! Don't even look At wicked books or boys; From wicked pictures turn away— All sinful acts despise.

And *mind your lips !* Tobacco stains ! Strong drink, too, keep away; And let no bad words pass your lips— Mind everything you say.

Mind hands and feet ! Don't let them do A single wicked thing; Don't steal or strike, don't kick or fight, Don't walk in paths of sin. But more than all, oh, *mind your heart !* From Satan turn aside; Ask Jesus *there* to make His throne, And ever there abide.

A BABY'S SOLILOQUY.

I am here. And if this is what they call the world, I don't think much of it. It's a very flannelly world, and smells of paregoric awfully. It's a dreadful light world, too, and makes me blink, I tell you. And I don't know what to do with my hands; I think I'll dig my fists in my eyes. No, I won't. I'll scratch at the corner of my blanket and chew it up, and then I'll holler; whatever happens; I'll holler. And the more paregoric they give me, the louder I'll yell. That old nurse puts the spoon in the corner of my mouth, sidewise like, and keeps tasting my milk herself all the while. She spilled snuff in it last night, and when I hollered she trotted me. That comes of being a two-days-old baby. Never mind; when I'm a man I'll pay her back good. There's a pin sticking in me now, and if I say a word about it, I'll be trotted or fed; and I would rather have catnip-tea. I'll tell you who I am-I found out to-day; I heard folks say, "Hush! don't wake up Emeline's baby;" and I suppose that pretty, white-faced woman over on the pillow is Emeline.

No, I was mistaken; for a chap was in here just now and wanted to see Bob's baby; and looked at me and said I was a funny little toad, and looked just like Bob. He smelled of cigars. I wonder who else I belong to ! Yes, there's another one—that's "gamma." "It was gamma's baby, so it was." I declare, I do not know who I belong to; but I'll holler, and maybe I'll find out. There comes snuffy with catnip-tea. I'm going to sleep. I wonder why my hands won't go where I want them to !

MY SHADOW.

I have a little shadow

That goes in and out with me; And what can be the use of him Is more than I can see.

He is very, very like me, From the heels up to the head; And I see him jump before me When I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him Is the way he likes to grow— Not at all like proper children, Which is always very slow;

For he sometimes shoots up taller, Like an india-rubber ball; And he sometimes gets so little That there's none of him at all !

He hasn't got a notion Of how children ought to play, And can only make a fool of me In every sort of way.

He stays so close beside me, He's a coward you can see; I'd think shame to stick to nursie As that shadow sticks to me

One morning, very early, Before the sun was up, I rose, and found the shining dew On every buttercup;

But my lazy little shadow, Like an arrant sleepyhead, Had stayed at home behind me And was fast asleep in bed.

GOOD-MORNING, MERRY SUNSHINE.

"Good-morning, merry sunshine! How did you wake so soon?

You've scared the little stars away, And shined away the moon.
I saw you go to sleep last night Before I ceased my playing;
How did you get 'way over there, And where have you been staying?"

"I never go to sleep, dear child; I just go round to see
My little children of the East, Who rise and watch for me.
I waken all the birds and bees And flowers on my way;
And last of all, the little child Who stayed out late to play."

WHAT TO DRINK.

I think that every mother's son, And every father's daughter,
Should drink, at least till twenty-one, Just nothing but cold water;
And after that they might drink tea, But nothing any stronger.
If all folks would agree with me, They'd live a great deal longer.

OCTOBER'S PARTY.

October gave a party; The leaves by hundreds came— The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples, And leaves of every name. The sunshine spread a carpet, And everything was grand; Miss Weather led the dancing, Professor Wind the band.

The Chestnuts came in yellow, The Oaks in crimson drest; The lovely Misses Maple, In scarlet, looked their best. All balanced to their partners, And gaily fluttered by; The sight was like a rainbow New-fallen from the sky.

Then in the rusty hollows At hide-and-seek they played; The party closed at sundown, And everybody stayed. Professor Wind played louder; They flew along the ground; And there the party ended In "hands across, all round."

RING HAPPY BELLS.

Ring, happy bells of Eastertime ! The world is glad to hear your chime; Across wide fields of melting snow The winds of summer softly blow, And birds and streams repeat the chime Of Eastertime.

Ring, happy bells of Eastertime ! The world takes up your chant sublime : "The Lord is risen !" The night of fear Has passed away, and heaven draws near; We breathe the air of that blest clime At Eastertime.

Ring, happy bells of Eastertime ! Our happy hearts give back your chime. The Lord is risen ! We die no more ! He opens wide the heavenly door; He meets us while to Him we climb At Eastertime.

AN APRIL FOOL.

"Welcome, pretty sunshine !" The dainty violet said,

As from beneath her leaflets green She lifts her little head.

"All my friends are fast asleep; Please let them slumber yet, For though you shine so bright and warm, The ground is cold and wet."

The buttercup, soft slumbering still, Now dreams that summer's here, And, wakened by the April sun, Believes no frost is near.

And heedless of the violet's voice— Whose warning words foretell Of April's frowns as well as smiles: "For flowers 'tis not well"—

And thinking oft, as children do, When they their ways will rule,The flower peeped, and finding frost, Sighed, "I'm an April fool !"

THE CHURCH SPIDER.

Two spiders—so the story goes— Upon a living bent, Entered the meeting-house one day, And hopefully were heard to say, "Here we shall have at least fair play, With nothing to prevent." Each chose his place and went to work;

The light webs grew apace. One on the sofa spun his thread, But shortly came the sexton dread And swept him off; and so, half dead,

He sought another place.

"I'll try the pulpit next," said he— "There surely is a prize; The desk appears so neat and clean, I'm sure no spider there has been; Besides, how often have I seen

The pastor brushing flies !"

He tried the pulpit, but, alas !

His hopes proved visionary; With dusting-brush the sexton came, And spoilt his geometric game, Nor gave him time nor space to claim The right of sanctuary.

At length, half starved and weak and lean,

He sought his former neighbor, Who now had grown so sleek and round He weighed the fraction of a pound, And looked as if the art he'd found Of living without labor.

"How is it, friend," he asked, "that I Endured such thumps and knocks,

While you have grown so very gross?" "'Tis plain," he answered; "not a loss I've met since first I spun across The *contribution box*."

SEPTEMBER.

The goldenrod is yellow, The corn is turning brown, The trees in apple-orchards With fruit are bending down;

The gentian's bluest fringes Are curling in the sun; In dusky pods the milkweed Its hidden silk has spun;

The sedges flaunt their harvest In every meadow nook, And asters by the brook-side Make asters in the brook.

By all these lovely tokens September days are here, With summer's best of weather And autumn's best of cheer.

THE MICE.

The merry mice stay in their holes And hide themselves by day; But when the house is still at night, The rogues come out and play.

Now here, now there, they trot about; In every hole they peep, To see what they can find to eat While we are fast asleep.

They taste of milk we set for cream, And nibble bread and cheese; They climb upon the pantry shelf, And taste of all they please.

But if they chance to hear the cat, Their feast will soon be done; Off, off they go to hide themselves, As fast as they can run.

THE COW.

The friendly cow, all red and white, I love with all my heart; She gives me milk with all her might,

To eat with apple-tart.

She wanders lowing here and there— And yet she cannot stray— All in the pleasant open air, The pleasant light of day.

And blown by all the winds that pass, And wet with all the showers, She walks among the meadow-grass, And eats the meadow-flowers.

THE FOUR SEASONS.

A RECITATION FOR FOUR CHILDREN.

(If desired, the children may be dressed in character.)

FIRST CHILD.

My name is Spring; I bring warm showers, And many a gentle breeze, And crocuses and daffodils, And buds on all the trees.

SECOND CHILD.

My name is Summer; in my hands I bring the sweetest flowers, And leafy trees, and long, warm days, And sunny, golden hours.

THIRD CHILD.

My name is Autumn; in my time I bring the ripened corn, And gayest flowers and richest fruit, And frosty eve and morn.

FOURTH CHILD.

My name is Winter; when I come I lay the plants to sleep, And cover them from wind and frost, With snowy mantle deep.

FIRST CHILD.

When I draw near, the little lambsBegin to bleat and play;And birds begin to sing and build,And longer grows the day.

SECOND CHILD.

When I draw near, the farmer sends His men to cut the grass;

O'er all the land the scent of hay Blows sweetly as I pass.

THIRD CHILD.

When I draw near, to reap the corn The merry reapers go;The farmer stores his roots and grain Before the winter's snow.

FOURTH CHILD.

When I draw near, the fields are bare, But fires more brightly burn;And gentle hearts with kindly help To poor and needy turn.I bring the joyful Christmas-tide, The happiest in the year;So, spite of all my gloom and cold, The children hold me dear.

ALL.

We come with ever-varying gifts And ever-changing faces;
But One who never changes sets Our duties and our places.
Not one alone, but all alike, We do His blessed will;
By heat and cold, by sun and shower, We seasons serve Him still.

LITTLE HELPERS.

RECITATION FOR A LITTLE GIRL.

Washing and wiping the dishes, Bringing in wood from the shed, Ironing, sweeping, and dusting, Trying to make well our bed,

Taking good care of the baby, Watching her lest she might fall— We little children are busy,

For there is work for us all.

Reading the paper for grandma, Who sits by the stove busy knitting, Setting the table for supper,

Or on errands fast we're flitting; Driving the cows to the pasture,

Feeding the horse in the stall, We little children are busy—

Yes, there is work for us all.

A SERMON IN RHYME.

If you have a friend worth loving, Love him. Yes, and let him know That you love him, ere life's evening

Tinge his brow with sunset glow. Why should good words ne'er be said Of a friend—till he is dead ?

If you hear a song that thrills you, Sung by any child of song,

Praise it. Do not let the singer

Wait deservèd praises long. Why should one who thrills your heart Lack the joy you may impart?

If you hear a prayer that moves you By its humble, pleading tone,

Join it. Do not let the seeker

Bow before his God alone. Why should not your brother share The strength of "two or three" in prayer ?

Scatter ever seeds of kindness,

All enriching as you go; Leave them. Trust the Harvest-giver— He will make each seed to grow; And until its happy end Your life shall never lack a friend.

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