

# MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN

THE FROLICS OF THE  
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



ELIZABETH GORDON










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*Mother Earth's Children*

*The Frolics of the  
Fruits and Vegetables*



TO WILLETTE WALLACE

FROM MUHE-E

FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> BIRTHDAY

OCT. 14, 1943

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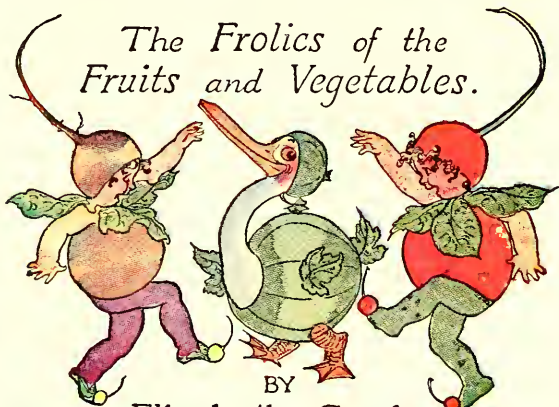


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# Mother Earth's Children

*The Frolics of the  
Fruits and Vegetables.*



BY  
Elizabeth Gordon

Author of  
Flower Children, Bird Children,  
etc.

With illustrations by  
M. T. Ross



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*This little book is a  
thank-offering to the  
thousands of little friends  
who have so loyally given  
me their best in the way  
of encouragement and  
appreciation, and is most  
especially inscribed to  
Gladys Doris.*



## FOREWORD



SEED, little friends, is really a plant or a tree all wrapped up in a little brown bundle. If you plant it in the ground it will grow, and when it is old enough it will bear fruit, because God has made it so.

¶ Among all the children of Mother Nature, the fruits and vegetables are probably the most useful to us. Wherever we may go some of these little people are there before us, ready to help us by giving us food and to make life easy and joyous for us.

¶ In your Mother's garden you will always find many familiar friends; in the fields the graceful Grain children will nod and beckon to you; in the orchard the Fruit children will peep out at you from their leafy homes; along the roadside the gay little Berries will give you a friendly greeting, and in the forest you will find the little wild Grapes climbing trees and playing hide and seek with the Bird children.

ELIZABETH GORDON.







**L**ITTLE Miss Radish, pretty thing,  
Has her birthday in the spring;  
She and the little Onions play  
Out in the garden all the day.



WHEN Orchard Oriole sings his song  
The Rhubarb children troop along;  
They're hardy, healthy youngsters, too,  
And stay the whole, long summer through.





**S**AID Lettuce, tender-hearted lass:  
“Come Dandelion, ’neath my glass;”  
But Dandelion smiled and said  
She liked the nice fresh air instead.



**S**AID Spanish Onion: “I don’t see  
Why people weep at sight of me;  
I’m a nice, friendly sort of chappie  
And like to make everybody happy.”



**T**HE Button Mushrooms went to play  
With the small Puff Balls one bright day;  
They had such heaps of glorious fun,  
But all ran home at set of sun.





**A**SPARAGUS in early spring  
Came up to hear the robins sing;  
When she peeped out her dress was white;  
It turned green in the sunshine bright.



**T**HE Green Pea children went to sail  
On the Sauce Pan ocean in a gale;  
“This boat’s a shell,” they cried; “Dear me!  
We might capsize in this deep sea.”



**S**AID Spinach: "In my dress of green  
I'm just as happy as a queen.  
I'm truly glad that I am good  
For little babies' early food."



**L**ITTLE Wild Strawberry came down  
To visit with her folks in town;  
She's a sweet child with charming ways,  
And blushes modestly at praise.





**S**AID Endive: "I was born in France  
But travel when I get a chance."  
Said Celery: "I travel, too,  
But my real home's in Kalamazoo."



**T**HE Carrot ladies love to go  
To church on Sundays in a row;  
And, tall or short, each lady fair  
Wears a green feather in her hair.



**P**EARL Onion, tiny little thing,  
Lives out doors from early spring;  
She's German, so I understand,  
And dearly loves her father-land.



**T**HE dainty little Water Cresses,  
In their pretty bathing dresses,  
Like water fairies splash and play  
In the cool brooklet all the day.





'**C**HERRIES are ripe," said Old Blue Jay  
As he flew by one August day;  
"Why, he means us," the Cherries cried,  
"Perhaps we'd better go inside."



WHEN Gooseberry wears a gown of green  
She cries and pouts and makes a scene;  
But when her gown's a purplish hue  
She never disagrees with you.



**T**HE String Beans love to climb a pole,  
And so their clothes are seldom whole.  
Mother Bean said: "I'll mend the tatters;  
While they are happy, nothing matters!"



**S**AID Dame Potato: "Hurry, Pat!  
And wash your face and feed the cat,  
Then run to school, or you'll be late;  
Just see! It's nearly half past eight!"





“**G**OOD morning, friends! Know who I am?  
I’m Raspberry who makes the jam;  
You know—that on the pantry shelf—  
I make that every year myself.”



**W**HITE Turnip said: "I'm pale, I know,  
And all our family are so."  
"I should advise," said old White Beet,  
"A course of sugar cakes to eat."



**R**ED Pepper said a biting word  
Which Miss Green Pepper overheard;  
Said she: "Hot words you can't recall;  
Better not say such things at all."



# MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**S**AID Miss Cucumber: "I have brought  
My fan, because the day is hot;  
Our family have a splendid rule,—  
Whatever happens, we keep cool."



**M**ISS Parsley raised her plummy head,  
And in her modest manner said:  
"I'm only asked to dine, I know,  
Because my dress becomes me so!"





# MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**G**UMBO'S a splendid southern cook,  
And, without looking in the book,  
He'll make a savory soup or stew,  
And send it, steaming hot, to you.



**T**HE Blueberry children love to run  
Around the hillsides in the sun;  
Smiling and jolly, plump and sweet,  
Best-natured youngsters one could meet.



## MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**E**VERY one knows," said Madame Beet,  
"My disposition's very sweet;  
And though to plumpness I am prone,  
My color's every bit my own."



“**M**Y new spring dress,” said Chicory,  
“Is just as lacy as can be;  
Shading from green to purest white  
Its ruffles are my heart’s delight!”



**F**IG is the queerest chap; you know  
The way that fellow starts to grow?  
Just a small bud upon the bough,  
No flower at all—that's clever now!





**T**HE pretty little ladies Rice  
You'll always turn to look at twice;  
They came from India long ago,  
And now they're everywhere you go.



**T**HE Currant ladies look so sweet  
In their green dresses, cool and neat.  
They offer you, for your delight,  
Their strings of berries, red and white.



**S**AID Brussels Sprout: "I am so glad  
That I'm such a good-looking lad."  
Horseradish said: "I'm glad I'm plain  
If good looks make a chap so vain."



**S**AID Rutabaga Turnip: “Wow!  
I just escaped that hungry cow;  
I jumped behind a great big tree  
Or she’d have surely eaten me!”



# MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**T**HE Blackberry children love to run  
And play beneath the August sun  
Until each little maid and man  
Takes on a friendly coat of tan.





**C**ARRAGEEN makes his bow to you.  
He's a sea child, that is true,  
But he's so jolly—never cross—  
His other name is Irish Moss.



“THE person they named after me,”  
Said Oyster Plant, “lives in the sea;  
I’m very sure I could not sleep  
‘Rocked in the cradle of the deep.’”



# MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**Y**OUNG California Artichoke  
Exclaimed: "It is the richest joke  
That many people, young and old,  
How to eat me must be told!"



“**D**EAR me!” Madam Muskmelon said,  
“Those children will not stay in bed;  
Before the darlings get misplaced  
I’ll tie each baby to my waist.”



# MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**W**ATERMELON'S dress of green  
Trimmed in rose pink you all have seen;  
She has such pleasant smiling ways,  
We welcome her on summer days.





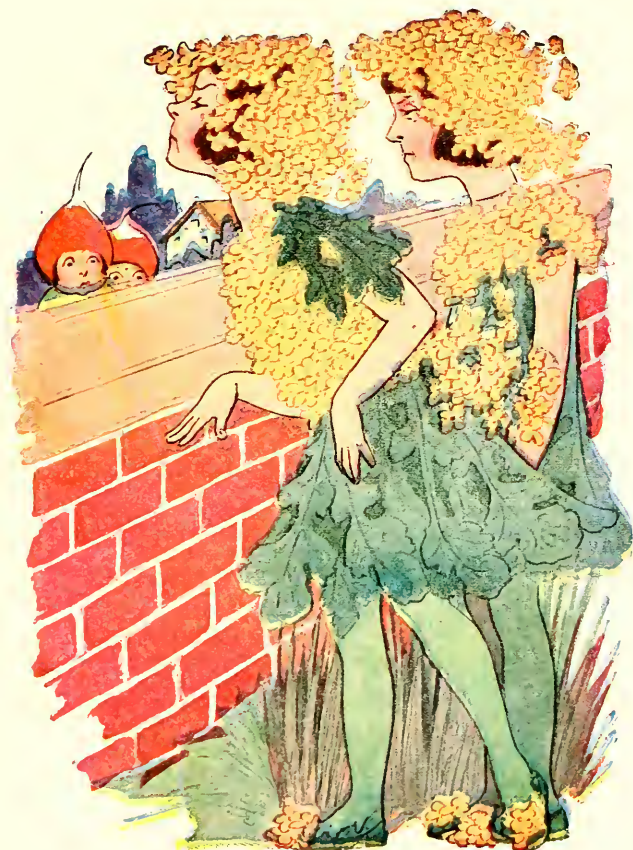
## MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**O**LIVE'S a sweet Italian maid,  
Her gown is green—a lovely shade.  
Though just at first she's rather shy,  
You get to like her by and by.



## MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**T**HE Mustard Children grew so tall  
They looked right over the garden-wall;  
They're rather sharp and forward, so  
That's why they're left outside, you know.



**S**AID Cauliflower: "I used to be  
A cabbage, so some folks tell me;  
When I've improved some more—who  
knows?  
Maybe I'll be a Cabbage Rose."



**H**AND in hand with summer comes  
The happy family called the Plums,  
Some dressed in purple, some in red;  
They're very pretty and well bred.



**S**AID Garlic: "My home used to be  
In far-off, sunny Sicily;  
But people here think I'm a blessing,  
I make such splendid salad dressing."





## MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**Y**AM really is a pretty fellow,  
Though his complexion's rather yellow;  
When Winter comes he packs his grip  
And goes north for a little trip.



**S**AID pompous, purple Egg-plant: “Well!  
So that is egg in that queer shell;  
Really! It’s very hard to see  
Why they named that chap after me!”



**V**EGETABLE Marrow liked to tell  
How he was once an English swell;  
Summer Squash laughed and said: "My  
word!  
That's quite the best thing Hi 'ave 'eard."



**S**AID Hubbard Squash: “All summer long  
I’m on the farm where I belong,  
But in the fall, for change of air,  
I go to see the County Fair.”



**S**AID busy, bustling Mrs. Quince:  
“I never have a moment since  
The jelly-making time is here;  
We’re making such a lot this year.”





**S**AID Mother Pear: "Dear me! Those twins  
Are just as much alike as pins;  
I must do something, I declare!"  
So she cut little sister's hair.



**B**ANANA wears a yellow coat  
Buttoned quite snugly 'round his throat.  
He comes from where it's warm, you see,  
And feels cold more than you or me.



**H**ERE'S an odd child named Cashew—  
Provides you nuts and apples, too;  
Oil and wine, and other things  
This busy young Brazilian brings.



A FOREIGN lady of renown—  
Pomegranate in her crimson gown,  
Smiling and nodding as she goes,  
Looks like an Oriental rose.



**L**ITTLE Miss Sugar Cane is sweet—  
In truth, she's good enough to eat.  
She gives us sugar, nice and white,  
And syrup to make things taste right.





**H**ERR Burgomaster Cabbage said:  
“My little dog, he needs some bread.”  
Frau Cabbage smiled; “Just help yourself,  
A fresh loaf’s on the pantry shelf.”



**H**ERE'S Apple, loved by young and old  
And sometimes worth his weight in gold.  
We hail him with delighted cries  
When he comes to us, baked in pies.



**P**INEAPPLE has so many “eyes”  
You cannot take him by surprise;  
He’s full of sunshine, through and through,  
And always has a treat for you.



**C**OFFEE said: "I must really study  
To find why my complexion's muddy.  
Perhaps it's only tan, you know  
I do run out bareheaded so!"



**M**R. Green Tea comes from Japan,  
He's such a wrinkled little man;  
He says: "My tea is very nice,  
Will you have sugar, milk or ice?"





**B**ARLEY'S a bearded gentleman,  
He wears a suit of golden tan;  
Though he has homes both east and west  
He loves the prairie lands the best.



**I** DINNA care,” said bluff Scotch Oat,  
“For dinner at a table d’hote;  
A bowl of porridge and some tea,  
At home, are good enough for me.”



“I’LL be grown up,” said Caraway,  
“And out of school Thanksgiving Day;  
That’s a good thing, too, ’cause you see,  
They can’t make cookies without me.”



“OUR family’s not hard to suit,”  
Said Mrs. Peach. “We’re simple fruit;  
We like most any kind of weather  
If the sun shines, and we’re together.”



**H**ICKORY Nut looks rough and rude,  
Although at heart he's very good.  
If once you get inside his shell  
You're sure to like him very well.





**S**AID Cactus: “On the desert wild  
I used to be a naughty child,  
But since I went to Burbank’s school,  
I’m good, and live by Golden Rule.”



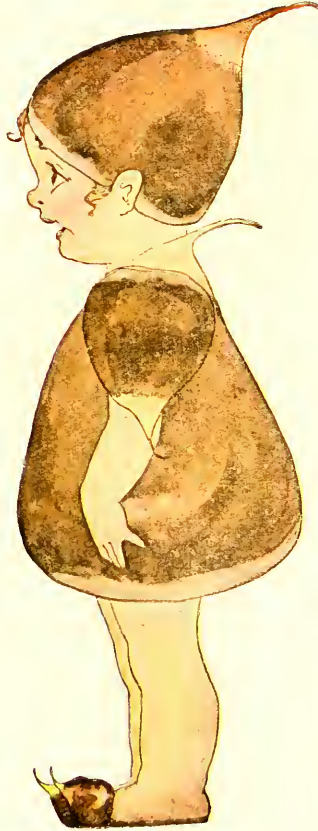
“THE boys all call me ‘Nigger Toe,’”  
Brazil Nut said; “I think I’ll go  
Back to Brazil; ’twould serve them right  
And teach them to be more polite.”



**C**OCOANUT has a funny face,  
Eyes, nose and mouth all in one place;  
He's always busy selling milk,  
While Mrs. Cocoanut makes silk.



**S**AID Mrs. Peanut, in a flutter,  
“I quite forgot to salt the butter;”  
The little Peanut children said:  
“Why then, Mama, we’ll salt the bread.”



**S**AID Chestnut: "I work for my living,  
I stuff the turkey on Thanksgiving.  
On winter days I work down town;  
You'll know me by my coat of brown."





**P**ERSIMMON said: "I'm up so high  
I can reach out and touch the sky."  
Bre'r Possum said: "Don't reach too far,  
You might put out a shining star."



**S**AID Mr. Gourd: "You'll plainly see  
We are a busy family;  
We give you bottles, cups and things,  
And curly vines for playtime rings."



**L**ITTLE, wise, home-loving Truffle  
Never lets his temper ruffle;  
His home is just beneath the ground,  
And there he always may be found.



**W**ILD Grape just loves to run away  
And in the green woods climb and play;  
You'll know him when among the trees  
His fragrant blossoms scent the breeze.



**T**HOUGH Miss Grape Fruit is very young  
Her praises are on every tongue;  
And though she travels everywhere  
She has a very modest air.



**T**HE Lemons every summer go  
In groups to see the Wild West Show;  
Come rain or shine, they never stay  
At home on any circus day.





**M**ISS Cotton is a fairy queen  
In her white dress all trimmed with green;  
To other children everywhere  
She sends such pretty clothes to wear.



# MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**M**ISS Orange said: "I'd like to know  
Those pretty mountain girls called 'Snow;'"  
"Don't," said her Dad, "or we are lost;  
They're relatives of Sir Jack Frost."



**M**ISS Beechnut wears a pretty bonnet  
With little fuzzy feathers on it.  
She's very sweet, and always good;  
Her home is in the deep, wild wood.



## MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**I** WORK," said genial Mrs. Wheat,  
"To give the world enough to eat;  
I'm always happy when there's bread  
Enough, so every child is fed."



**C**ITRON is very plump and round,  
He likes to roll upon the ground;  
Come rain or shine he's always happy,  
A nice, contented little chappie.



**C**RANBERRY dearly loves to go  
Wading in places wet and low;  
She wears soft gowns of dainty floss.  
Made of the pretty yellow moss.





**S**AID Indian Corn: "I'm heap rich brave,  
Much shiny gold I make and save."  
So Squaw Corn went and bought a bonnet,  
And a silk gown with tassels on it.



**N**ORTH Wind came whistling by one day  
Where the Tomatoes were at play;  
It gave those children such a fright  
They put their blankets on that night.



**T**HE oddest child—when all is said—  
Of those we've met, is St. John's Bread;  
He's Spanish, so I've understood,  
And makes a food that's very good.



**T**HE Nutmeg children ran away  
To tease the cook on baking day.  
Said Mother Nutmeg, in surprise:  
“Why! Who will spice the custard pies?”



**T**HE Pumpkin children, every one,  
On Hallowe'en go out for fun;  
With Jack o'lantern and his crew  
They find such jolly things to do.





**W**HEN Jack Frost said: "Now, children all,  
Go in before the snowflakes fall,"  
Parsnip declared he liked the snow  
To cover him, and didn't go.





**S**IR English Walnut, pompous, fat,  
Is quite a great aristocrat.  
His family is very old;  
They lived in Bible times, we're told.



# MOTHER EARTH'S CHILDREN



**T**HE Popcorn children are so dear  
They stay with us all through the year,  
They like to dance in dresses white  
Around the open fire at night.

# INDEX

Apple . . . . .	62	Lemon . . . . .	81
Artichoke . . . . .	43	Lettuce . . . . .	11
Asparagus . . . . .	14	Muskmelon . . . . .	44
Banana . . . . .	57	Mustard . . . . .	47
Barley . . . . .	66	Nigger Toe (Brazil Nut) . . . . .	72
Beechnut . . . . .	84	Nutmeg . . . . .	91
Beet . . . . .	33	Olive . . . . .	46
Blackberry . . . . .	40	Orange . . . . .	83
Blueberry . . . . .	32	Oyster Plant . . . . .	42
Brussels Sprout . . . . .	38	Parsley . . . . .	30
Button Mushrooms . . . . .	13	Parsnip . . . . .	93
Cabbage . . . . .	61	Peach . . . . .	69
Cactus . . . . .	71	Peanut . . . . .	74
Caraway . . . . .	68	Pear . . . . .	56
Carrageen . . . . .	41	Pearl Onion . . . . .	20
Carrots . . . . .	19	Persimmon . . . . .	76
Cashew . . . . .	58	Pineapple . . . . .	63
Cauliflower . . . . .	48	Plum . . . . .	49
Celery . . . . .	18	Pomegranate . . . . .	59
Cherries . . . . .	22	Popcorn . . . . .	95
Chestnut . . . . .	75	Potato . . . . .	25
Chicory . . . . .	34	Pumpkin . . . . .	92
Citron . . . . .	86	Quince . . . . .	55
Cocoanut . . . . .	73	Radish . . . . .	9
Coffee . . . . .	64	Raspberry . . . . .	26
Cotton . . . . .	82	Red Pepper . . . . .	28
Cranberry . . . . .	87	Rhubarb . . . . .	10
Cucumber . . . . .	29	Rice . . . . .	36
Currants . . . . .	37	Rutabaga Turnip . . . . .	39
Dandelion . . . . .	11	Scotch Oat . . . . .	67
Egg Plant . . . . .	52	Spanish Onion . . . . .	12
Endive . . . . .	18	Spinach . . . . .	16
English Walnut . . . . .	94	String Bean . . . . .	24
Fig . . . . .	35	St. John's Bread . . . . .	90
Garlic . . . . .	50	Sugar Cane . . . . .	60
Gooseberry . . . . .	23	Summer Squash . . . . .	53
Gourd . . . . .	77	Tomato . . . . .	89
Grape Fruit . . . . .	80	Truffle . . . . .	78
Green Onion . . . . .	9	Vegetable Marrow . . . . .	53
Green Pea . . . . .	15	Water Cress . . . . .	21
Green Pepper . . . . .	28	Watermelon . . . . .	45
Green Tea . . . . .	65	Wheat . . . . .	85
Gumbo . . . . .	31	White Turnip . . . . .	27
Hickory Nut . . . . .	70	Wild Grape . . . . .	79
Horseradish . . . . .	38	Wild Strawberry . . . . .	17
Hubbard Squash . . . . .	54	Yam . . . . .	51
Indian Corn . . . . .	88		













