

“ What is the best a friend can be  
 To any soul, to you or me ?  
 Not only shelter, comfort, rest,  
 Inmost refreshment unexpressed ;  
 Not only a beloved guide  
 To tread life's labyrinth at our side,  
 Or with love's torch lead on before ;—  
 Though these be much, there is yet more.”

“ The best friend is an atmosphere  
 Warm with all inspirations dear,  
 Wherein we breathe the large, free breath  
 Of life that has no taint of death.  
 Our friend is an unconscious part  
 Of every true beat of our heart,  
 A strength, a growth, whence we derive  
 God's health, that keeps the world alive.”

—*Young Women's Gazette.*

#### CAN YOU ?

Can you put the spider's web back in place  
 That once has been swept away ?  
 Can you put the apple again on the bough,  
 Which fell at our feet to-day ?

Can you put the lily-cup back on the stem,  
 And cause it to live and to grow ?  
 Can you mend the butterfly's broken wing,  
 That you crushed with a hasty blow ?

Can you put the bloom again on the grape,  
 And the grape again on the vine ?  
 Can you put the dew-drops back on the flowers  
 And make them sparkle and shine ?

Can you put the petals back on the rose,  
 If you could, would it smell as sweet ?  
 Can you put the flower again on the husk,  
 And show me the ripened wheat ?

Can you put the kernel back in the nut,  
 Or the broken egg in the shell ?  
 Can you put the honey back in the comb,  
 And cover with wax each cell ?

Can you put the perfume back in the vase,  
 When once it has sped away ?  
 Can you put the corn-silk back on the corn,  
 Or down on the catkins ? say.

You think my questions are trifling, dear ?  
 Let me ask another one :  
 Can a hasty word be ever unsaid,  
 Or a deed unkind undone ?

—*Young Women's Gazette.*