

The Meanest Man

“TELL you why I never got married?

I'd as lief as not, Sarah Ann,
I never but once got an offer,
And then—well, he wasn't the man.

Tell the story—yes, if you wish it,
You cannot remember I know
When the widow Wemp an' her youngster
Moved in the old cottage below.

That spring was as backward as could be,
The nights and the days were so cold,
Not a bird had a bit of a song
But the robins, saucy and bold.

Did you ever try to be kind to
A kitten that scarcely could stand?
Half starved, or half drowned, or half frozen,
Yet it flies from your outstretched hand?