

## SELECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER.

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There are twelve months throughout the year,  
 From January to December —  
 And the primest month of all the twelve  
 Is the merry month of September!  
     Then apples so red  
     Hang overhead,  
     And nuts ripe-brown  
     Come showering down  
 In the bountiful days of September!

There are flowers enough in the summer time,  
 More flowers than I can remember —  
 But none with the purple, gold and red  
 That dye the flowers of September!  
 The gorgeous flowers of September!  
     And the sun looks through  
     A clearer blue  
     And the moon at night  
     Sheds a clearer light  
 On the beautiful days of September!

— Mary Howitt.

## CHARLES AND ANIMALS.

The cow has a horn, and the fish has a gill,  
 The horse has a hoof, and the duck has a bill,  
 The bird has a wing, that on high he may sail;  
 And the lion a mane and the monkey a tail;  
 And they swim, or they fly, or they walk, or they eat,  
 With fin, or with wing, or with bill, or with feet.  
 And Charles has two hands, with five fingers to each,  
 On purpose to work with, to hold and to reach;  
 No birds, beasts, or fishes, for work or for play,  
 Have anything half so convenient as they;  
 But if he won't use them, and *keep* them in use,  
 He'd better have had but two legs, like a goose.

— Jane Taylor.

## THE SWALLOW.

Fly away, fly away, over the sea,  
 Sun-loving swallow, for summer is done.  
 Come again, come again, come back to me,  
 Bringing the summer and bringing the sun.

When you come hurrying home o'er the sea,  
 Then we are certain that winter is past;  
 Cloudy and cold though your pathway may be,  
 Summer and sunshine will follow you fast.

— Christina G. Rossetti

## THISTLEDOWN.

Never a beak has my white bird,  
 Nor throat for song;  
 But wings of silk by soft winds stirred,  
 Bear it along.

With wings of silk and a heart of seed,  
 O'er field and town,  
 It sails — O quaint little bird indeed —  
 The thistledown!

— C. D. B. in *Wide-Awake*, November, 1885.

## THE DREAM FAIRY.

A little fairy comes at night,  
 Her eyes are blue, her hair is brown,  
 With silver spots upon her wings,  
 And from the moon she flutters down.  
 She has a little silver wand,  
 And when a good child goes to bed,  
 She waves her hand from right to left,  
 And makes a circle round its head.  
 And then it dreams of pleasant things,  
 Of fountains filled with fairy fish,  
 And trees that bear delicious fruit,  
 And bow their branches at a wish.

— Thomas Hood.

## THE KEY TO THE BOX.

"What would you do," said the little key  
 To the teak-wood box, "except for me?"  
 The teak-wood box gave a gentle creak  
 To the little key; but it did not speak.  
 "I believe," said the key, "that I will hide  
 In the crack, down there by the chimneyside,  
 "So that this proud old box may see  
 How little it's worth except for me."  
 It was long, long afterward, in the crack  
 They found the key, and they brought it back.  
 And it said, as it chuckled and laughed to itself,  
 "Now I'll be good to the box on the shelf."  
 But the little key stopped, with a shiver and shock;  
 For there was a bright new key in the lock.  
 And the old box said: "I am sorry, you see;  
 But thy place is filled, my poor little key."

— Selected.

## RHYMED RULES FOR SPELLERS.

When "ei" and "ie" both spell "e"  
 How can we tell which it shall be?  
 Here is a rule you may believe  
 That never, never, will deceive,  
 And all such troubles will relieve;  
 A simpler rule you can't conceive  
 It is not made of many pieces,  
 To puzzle daughters, sons or nieces,  
 Yet with it all the trouble ceases;  
 "After C an E apply;  
 After other letters, "I."  
 Thus a general in a siege  
 Writes a letter to his liege.  
 Or an army holds its field  
 And will never, never yield,  
 While a warrior holds a shield  
 Or has strength his arm to wield.  
 Two exceptions we must note  
 Which all scholars learn by rote;  
 Leisure is the first of these,  
 For the second we have seize  
 Now you know the simple rule,  
 Learn it quick and off to school!

— St. Nicholas.