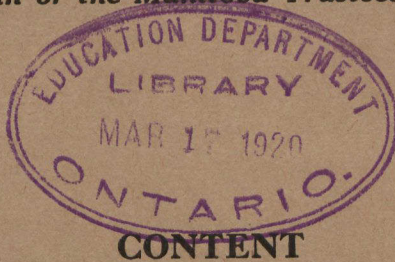


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I could not find the little maid Content,
So out I rushed, and sought her far and wide;
But not where pleasure each new fancy tried,
Heading the maize of reeling merriment,
Not where, with restless eyes and bow half bent,
Love in a brake of sweetbriar smiled and sighed;
Not yet where fame towered, crowned and glorified,
Found I her face, nor wheresoe'er I went.

So homeward back I crawled like wounded bird,
When lo! Content sat spinning at my door.
And when I asked her where she was before,
"Here all the time!" she cried; "I never stirred;
Too eager in your search, you passed me o'er,
And, though I called, you neither saw nor heard."

—Alfred Austin

