

'THREE YEARS SHE GREW'

Three years she grew in sun and shower,
Then Nature said, 'A lovelier flower

On earth was never sown;
This Child I to myself will take;
5 She shall be mine, and I will make
A Lady of my own.

'Myself will to my darling be
Both law and impulse; and with me
The Girl, in rock and plain,
10 In earth and heaven, in glade and bower,
Shall feel an overseeing power
To kindle or restrain.

'She shall be sportive as the fawn
That wild with glee across the lawn
15 Or up the mountain springs;
And hers shall be the breathing balm,
And hers the silence and the calm
Of mute insensate things.

'The floating clouds their state shall lend
20 To her; for her the willow bend;
Nor shall she fail to see
Even in the motions of the storm
Grace that shall mould the Maiden's form
By silent sympathy.

25 'The stars of midnight shall be dear
To her; and she shall lean her ear
In many a secret place