

"IT IS GOOD TO BE A CHILD AGAIN."

—Dickens.

To be a child again is good,
To walk with father in the wood,
And hear him tell in simple words
Of trees, and ferns, and flowers, and birds;
Or hear my mother's voice, as she
Told fairy tales, or sang to me,
Or see her face with love a-light
Beside my little bed at night.

'Tis good to be a child again,
And ramble in my shady glen,
Or paddle in my crystal stream,
Or sit upon its bank and dream,
Or watch the squirrels leaping free
From branch to branch, from tree to tree,
Or listen to the thrush's tune,
Or bobolink's love song in June.

'Tis good again a child to be,
A waking, kindling child, to see
New beauty ev'ry passing hour
In changing cloud or growing flower;
New glory on the earth and sky;
New wonders ever asking "Why?"
New outlook with a clearer view;
New plans to make, new work to do.