

Poetry.

THE APPROACH OF SPRING.

Rejoice, my little merry mate,
The blithesome spring is coming,
When thou shalt run, with heart elate,
To hear the wild bee humming;
To hear the wild bee humming round,
The primrose sweetly blowing,
And listen to each gentle sound
Of glad some music flowing.

The birds shall sing from many a bower,
Joy, like thy own obeying;
And round full many a blooming flower
The butterfly be playing;—
Be playing, love, on wings as light
As heart in thy young bosom,
And showing tints as fair and bright
As does the opening blossom.

The snow-drops by our garden walk,
Long since to life have started;
They wither now upon the stalk;
Their beauty is departed;
Their beauty is departed,—but
Flowers in the field are springing,
Which bye-and-bye shall open and shut,
As to the glad birds' singing.

The robin from the pear-tree bough,
Gives us of song our ear full;
The morns are getting lighter now,
The evenings growing cheerful;
And soon they'll be more long and light,
With warm and pleasant weather;
And we, to see the sunset bright,
May go abroad together.

Then shall our summer haunts again
Renew their former pleasures;
The poplar grove, the shady lane,
For thee be full of treasures;
For flowers are treasures unto thee;
And well thou lovest to find them;
To gather them with child-like glee,
And then in posies bind them.

Spring is to me no merry time;
Its smiles are touched with sadness,
For vanish'd, with life's early prime,
Is much that gave it gladness.
Yet, merry playmate for thy sake,
I will not sing of sorrow;
But since thou canst its joys partake,
I would 'twere spring to-morrow.

—Bernard Barton.

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