

While all around, with the wildest capers,
The children laugh, and dance and chatter
In a most bewildering joyous clatter.

SNOW (TO DREAM)—And were you, too, busy, while away?

DREAM—I have been toiling all the day.

FOREST—Dream Fairy, I thought you loved the night
Better than day, with its glare of light.

DREAM—Ah ! there are day-dreams as bright and fair
As any that float in the midnight air ;
And to-day the little folks kept me busy,
Till their dear little heads were almost dizzy,
Even the poor pale child of sorrow,
Dreamed that his wish would come true to-morrow.

JOY—Ah me ! I am half-mad with delight.

FOREST—Let us haste to work while the stars are bright.

SNOW—I shall send forth, ere the dawn of the day,
My messengers, and in the air they will play,
Till heaven and earth seem to mingle
In a stormy delight
Of snowflakes white,
And the sleigh-bells' merry jingle
In the Christmas morning,
Will give Santa Claus warning
That 'tis time to leave the ingle.

DREAM—And I must fly, and with dreams delicious
And airy fancies, sweetly capricious,
Visit the sleepers to-night.
The rich shall dream it is good to give,
And the poor shall dream it is sweet to live
All happy till morning light.

JOY—And I shall come lightly,
And bid each one brightly.
Sigh no more sadly,
But gratefully, gladly
Give thanks to kind Heaven
For rich mercies given.