

I found a little beetle; so that Beetle

---

was his name,

---

And I called him Alexander and he answered

---

just the same.

---

I put him in a match-box, and I kept him

---

all the day...

---

And Nanny let my beetle out -

---

Yes, Nanny let my beetle out -

---

She went and let my beetle out -

---

And Beetle ran away.

---

She said she didn't mean it, and I never said

---

she did,

---

She said she wanted matches and she just

---

took off the lid,

---

She said that she was sorry, but it's difficult

---

to catch

---

An excited sort of beetle you've mistaken

---

for a match.

---

She said that she was sorry, and I really

---

mustn't mind,

---

As there's lots and lots of beetles which

---

she's certain we could find,

---

If we looked about the garden for the holes

---

where beetles hid -

---

And we'd get another match-box and

---

write BEETLE on the lid.

---

We went to all the places which a beetle

---

might be near,

---

And we made the sort of noises which

---

a beetle likes to hear,

---

And I saw a kind of something, and I gave a

---

sort of shout:

---

"A beetle-house and Alexander Beetle

---

coming out!"

---

It was Alexander Beetle I'm as certain as can be,

---

And he had a sort of look as if he thought it

---

must be Me,

---

And he had a sort of look as if he thought he

---

ought to say:

---

"I'm very very sorry that I tried to run away."

---

And Nanny's very sorry too for

---

you-know-what-she-did,

---

And she's writing ALEXANDER very blackly

---

on the lid,

---

So Nan and Me are friends, because it's

---

difficult to catch

---

An excited Alexander you've mistaken

---

for a match.

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The Poetry of earth is never dead:

---

When all the birds are faint with the hot sun,

---

And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run

---

From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead;

---

That is the Grasshopper's—he takes the lead

---

In summer luxury,—he has never done

---

With his delights; for when tired out with fun

---

He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.

---

The poetry of earth is ceasing never:

---

On a lone winter evening, when the frost

---

Has wrought a silence, from the stove there

---

shrills

---

The Cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever,

---

And seems to one in drowsiness half lost,

---

The Grasshopper's among some grassy hills.

---

---

---

---

Come take up your Hats, and away let us haste

---

To the Butterfly's Ball, and the Grasshopper's

---

Feast.

---

The Trumpeter, Gad-fly, has summon'd the Crew,

---

And the Revels are now only waiting for you.

---

So said little Robert, and pacing along,

---

His merry Companions came forth in a Throng.

---

And on the smooth Grass, by the side of a

---

Wood,

---

Beneath a broad Oak that for Ages had stood,

---

Saw the Children of Earth,

---

and the Tenants of Air,

---

For an Evening's Amusement together repair.

---

And there came the Beetle, so blind and so black,

---

Who carried the Emmet, his Friend, on his Back.

---

And there was the Gnat and the Dragon-fly too,

---

With all their Relations, Green, Orange,

---

and Blue.

---

And there came the Moth, with his Plumage

---

of Down,

---

And the Hornet in Jacket of Yellow and Brown;

---

Who with him the Wasp, his Companion,

---

did bring,

---

But they promis'd, that Evening, to lay by

---

to lay by their Sting.

---

And the sly little Dormouse crept out

---

of his Hole,

---

And brought to the Feast his blind Brother,

---

the Mole.

---

And the Snail, with his Horns peeping

---

out of his Shell,

---

Came from a great Distance, the Length of an Ell.

---

A Mushroom their Table, and on it was laid

---

A Water-dock Leaf, which a Table-cloth made.

---

The Viands were various, to each of their Taste,

---

And the Bee brought her Honey to crown

---

the Repast.

---

Then close on his Haunches, so solemn and wise,

---

The Frog from a Corner, look'd up to the Skies.

---

And the Squirrel well pleas'd such Diversions

---

to see,

---

Mounted high over Head, and look'd down

---

from a Tree.

---

Then out came the Spider, with Finger so fine,

---

To shew his Dexterity on the tight Line.

---

From one Branch to another, his Cobwebs

---

he slung,

---

Then quick as an Arrow he darted along,

---

But just in the Middle, -- Oh! shocking to tell,

---

From his Rope, in an Instant, poor Harlequin fell.

---

Yet he touch'd not the Ground,

---

but with Talons outspread,

---

Hung suspended in Air, at the End of a Thread,

---

Then the Grasshopper came with a Jerk

---

and a Spring,

---

Very long was his Leg, though but short was

---

his Wing;

---

He took but three Leaps, and was soon out

---

of Sight,

---

Then chirp'd his own Praises the rest of the

---

Night.

---

With Step so majestic the Snail did advance,

---

And promis'd the Gazers a Minuet to dance.

---

But they all laugh'd so loud that he pull'd in his

---

Head,

---

And went in his own little Chamber to Bed.

---

Then, as Evening gave Way to the Shadows

---

of Night,

---

Their Watchman, the Glow-worm, came out

---

with a Light.

---

Then Home let us hasten, while yet we can see,

---

For no Watchman is waiting for you and for me.

---

So said little Robert, and pacing along,

---

His merry Companions returned in a Throng.

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I saw, one sultry night above a swamp,

---

The darkness throbbing with their golden pomp!

---

And long my dazzled sight did they entrance

---

With the weird chaos of their dizzy dance!

---

Quicker than yellow leaves, when gales despoil,

---

Quivered the brilliance of their mute turmoil,

---

Within whose light was intricately blent

---

Perpetual rise, perpetual descent.

---

As though their scintillant flickerings had met

---

In the vague meshes of some airy net!

---

And now mysteriously I seemed to guess,

---

While watching their tumultuous loveliness,

---

What fervor of deep passion strangely thrives

---

In the warm richness of these tropic lives,

---

Whose wings can never tremble but they show

---

These hearts of living fire that beat below!

---

---

---

6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her

---

ways, and be wise:

---

7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

---

8 Provideth her meat in the summer,

---

and gathereth her food in the harvest.

---

9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard?

---

when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

---

10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber,

---

a little folding of the hands to sleep:

---

11 So shall thy poverty come as one

---

that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

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24 There be four things which are little upon

---

the earth, but they are exceeding wise:

---

25 The ants are a people not strong, yet

---

they prepare their meat in the summer;

---

26 The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make

---

they their houses in the rocks;

---

27 The locusts have no king, yet go they

---

forth all of them by bands;

---

28 The spider taketh hold with her hands,

---

and is in kings' palaces.

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19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon

---

earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt,

---

and where thieves break through and steal:

---

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in

---

heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt,

---

and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

---

21 For where your treasure is,

---

there will your heart be also.

---

---

All things bright and beautiful,

---

All creatures great and small,

---

All things wise and wonderful,

---

The Lord God made them all.

---

Each little flower that opens,

---

Each little bird that sings,

---

He made their glowing colours,

---

He made their tiny wings.

---

The rich man in his castle,

---

The poor man at his gate,

---

God made them, high or lowly,

---

And ordered their estate.

---

The purple-headed mountain,

---

The river running by,

---

The sunset, and the morning,

---

That brightens up the sky;

---

The cold wind in the winter,

---

The pleasant summer sun,

---

The ripe fruits in the garden,

---

He made them every one.

---

The tall trees in the greenwood,

---

The meadows where we play,

---

The rushes by the water,

---

We gather every day;--

---

He gave us eyes to see them,

---

And lips that we might tell,

---

How great is God Almighty,

---

Who has made all things well.

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