

TASTE SONG.

WHEN the red lips open wide,
And you part the teeth inside,
Then a tiny door you show,
Where this little plum may go.
Now the pink tongue comes in haste,
All the pleasant juice to taste.
Ah, 'tis very nice and sweet!
Fruit like this is good to eat.
Bid good-bye to juicy plum;
Let the sour apple come—
Take a dainty little bite
From its cheek all red and white.
What a funny face you make!
How your little head you shake!
In your look I see confessed
That you like the sweet things best.
Now the bitter almond try,
Brown its shell, and hard and dry;
Yet within, a kernel white
Shyly hides away from sight.
Yes, it draws the mouth a bit,
But it's wholesome, every whit.
Many bitter things you'll meet:
Time, perhaps, will make them sweet.
All the fruits and nuts, in turn,
Teach a lesson you may learn.
If a thing is ripe all through,
Then 'tis very good for you;
But to eat the unripe things,
Sharpest pain and trouble brings;
Though they look so fresh and fair,
Danger, dear, is hiding there.

NORA ARCHIBALD SMITH.

FLOWER SONG.

SMELL the flower, my child, and see
What its perfume tells to thee.
In its cup, so small and bright,
Safely hidden from our sight,
There an angel-spirit dwells,
And its message sweetly tells.
“From my tender resting-place,
Little one with happy face,
I am talking to thee, dear,
Though no voice my child may hear;
But my perfume sweet will tell,
Little friend, I love thee well.”

KATE L. BROWN.

TICK! TACK!

SWING, swong! this is the way
Goes the pendulum night and day.
“Tick! tock! tick! tock!”

Never resting, says the clock.

“Time for work and time for fun,
Time to sleep when day is done.

Tick! tock!” Hear the clock!

“Time to rest each little head;
Time the children were in bed.”

Swing, swong! sure and slow
Goes the pendulum to and fro.

“Tick! tock! tick! tock!”

In the morning says the clock.

“Time to wake from slumber sweet,

Time to wash and time to eat.

Tick! tock!” Hear the clock,

“Tick, tack, tock!” it cries,

“Children, it is time to rise!”

EMILY HUNTINGTON MILLER.

