

RHYMES OF CHILDHOOD

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Rhymes of childhood by James Whitcomb Riley

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JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

**RHYMES OF
CHILDHOOD**



*Would, as now, we might endure,
Twain as one!*

RHYMES OF
CHILDHOOD

BY

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

INDIANAPOLIS

THE BOWEN-MERRILL CO

1894

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J. W. RILEY

—TO—
THE LITTLE NEPHEW
HENRY EDMUND EITEL

PREFATORY NOTE

IN presenting herein the child dialect upon an equal footing with the proper or more serious English, the conscientious author feels it neither his desire nor province to offer excuse.

Wholly simple and artless, Nature's children oftentimes seem the more engaging for their very defects of speech and general deportment. We need worry very little for their futures since the All-Kind Mother has them in her keep.

It is just and good to give the elegantly trained and educated child a welcome hearing. It is no less just and pleasant to admit his homely but wholesome-hearted little brother to our interest and love.

J. W. R.

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