

**A CHILD'S POEMS
FROM OCTOBER TO
OCTOBER, 1870-1871**

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A child's poems from October to October, 1870-1871 by Lucy Catlin Bull

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LUCY CATLIN BULL

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FROM OCTOBER TO
OCTOBER, 1870-1871**



A Child's Poems

From October to October,

1870-1871.

BY

LUCY CATLIN BULL,

(BORN APRIL 15, 1861.)

HARTFORD, CONN.

"But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."

HARTFORD:
CASE, LOCKWOOD & BRAINARD.
1872.

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NOTE FROM MR. WILLIAM C. BRYANT.

NEW YORK, Oct. 6, 1871.

I have looked over the poems of Lucy C. Bull, of Hartford, shown to me in manuscript. They seem to me most extraordinary for one so young, that is to say, of nine or ten years of age. They show a prodigious command of language considering her time of life, great ease of construction, an accurate ear for poetic numbers, and facility in the use of imagery not copied from books, but derived immediately from nature. I do not think I have seen any thing produced at the same age at all comparable to them.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

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PREFACE.

It is thought best to print this private edition of a child's first poems for two reasons. First, to save the labor of supplying the large number of manuscript copies desired by friends; and secondly, to collect the poems themselves in a secure and more permanent form.

In doing this it is most earnestly desired that no more publicity may be given to the verses and their author than must necessarily accompany a book *privately printed*.

The arrangement of the book is simply in the order of the composition; the object being to give a year's history of the working of the child's mind, as shown by her writings, rather than a volume of perfect poetry. For this reason, and for other obvious ones, no suggestions, corrections, or alterations have been made in any case. From title to end every poem is wholly original, and, with but few exceptions, they were withheld from parents and friends until completed.

As the little book will meet the eyes of many who do not know the author, it may be proper to say a few words with regard to her.

From early childhood she has been keenly alive to impressions of grace and beauty, and her writing is a natural outpouring rather than a mental labor. Her health, so far from deteriorating, has steadily improved since this gift was developed. She has a strong and healthy inclination to all childish and even boisterous sports; great delight in the companionship of little children; and an even temperament, not subject to great exaltations or depressions. In a word, she is neither morbid nor precocious.

Fearing injury to her health, great care has been taken to avoid suggestion or pressure in the matter of her writing and reading; careful guiding of the latter being the only course adopted, and a holding back in study, writing and reading, so far as it could be done without arousing opposition and producing unhappiness: it being evidently the wiser course to surround her with pleasures and occupations that unconsciously to herself would in great measure take the place of mental work.

The "guiding of her reading" has consisted chiefly in withholding those books which in style or matter might have an injurious influence. Her own choice led her to make constant companions of Shakespeare and Milton, Scott's poems, and the Pilgrim's Progress, at so early an age as to surprise her parents. Later she became fond of Wordsworth, Tennyson and Bryant, and of her own accord took up Spenser's Faerie Queen with great delight.