Surprise, The.

By Barnes, William .

As there I left the road in May,

And took my way along a ground,

I found a glade with girls at play,

By leafy boughs close-hemmed around,

And there, with stores of harmless joys,

They plied their tongues, in merry noise:

Though little did they seem to fear

So queer a stranger might be near;

Teeh-hee! Look here! Hah! ha! Look there!

And oh! so playsome, oh! so fair.

And one would dance as one would spring,

Or bob or bow with leering smiles,

And one would swing, or sit and sing,

Or sew a stitch or two at whiles,

And one skipped on with downcast face,

All heedless, to my very place,

And there, in fright, with one foot out,

Made one dead step and turned about.

Heeh, hee, oh! oh! ooh! oo! -Look there!

And oh! so playsome, oh! so fair.

Away they scampered all, full speed,

By boughs that swung along their track,

As rabbits out of wood at feed,

At sight of men all scamper back.

And one pulled on behind her heel,

A thread of cotton, off her reel,

And oh! to follow that white clue,

I felt I fain could scamper too.

Teeh, hee, run here. Eeh! ee! Look there!

And oh! so playsome, oh! so fair.