

UNCLE WALT

The Poetic Philosopher.

HAPPY CHILDHOOD

The children are swinging and singing and playing with marbles and rolling their hoops, they're laughing and leaping their festival keeping, they run past my cottage in jubilant troops.

I look and I listen and briny tears glisten and roll down my whiskers and fall on my feet; the children are playing and my thoughts are straying to days when I gamboled as gay and as fleet.

Men say I've succeeded; all things that I needed I've managed to capture, fortune to thank: I've lands and I've houses and horses and cowses, and motors and diamonds and cash in the bank.

My butler's imported, my daughters are courted by princes and nobles, with eyes on my stack; but youth is departed I'm sitting, down-hearted a stitch in my side and a crick in my back!

For fame I have striven, for wealth I have driven—I got them and now I would give them away, for one hour of swinging and dancing and singing, as young and as blithe as the children at play.

WALT MASON.

THE GIRLS OF LONG AGO.

Where are the girls that we used to know:

The pink-rocked girls of the long ago?

The little lass with the eyes of blue,

And wind-tossed hair of a golden hue?

Have the fates been kind to her, tell me, pray,

That maid I loved in the bye-gone day?

Where is the maiden that stammered so,

The little lady called "pigeon toe?"

The shy little miss with the pig-tail braid,

The shy little girl who was half afraid

To speak to the boy that she didn't know?

Where are the sweethearts of long ago?

I can see them all in my dreams today,

Jennie and Marion, Ruth and May,

And I wonder often as I look back,

Has the world been kind to the merry pack?

Come, tell me, seer, for I want to know,

Where are the sweethearts of long ago?

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