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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK CRADLE SONGS ***

Cradle Songs



By Babyland Contributors



CRADLE SONGS

BY
BABYLAND CONTRIBUTORS



ILLUSTRATED

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32 FRANKLIN STREET

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A SONG OF SIX-PENCE.

Sing a song, a brand new song:
"Sing a song of six-pence,
A pock-et full of rye."
John and Jim-my both picked some,
So they could have a pie.

And when they'd filled their pock-ets full,
Down in the field of rye,
They found some cun-ning lit-tle birds,
To put in-to the pie.
Six pret-ty lit-tle hid-den nests,
Down in the yel-low rye,
Held four-and-twen-ty ba-by birds,
E-nough to fill the pie.

They set them all with-in the dish,
Lined with a crust of rye;
But soon the four-and-twen-ty birds
Cried out in-side the pie.

Then Jim-my turned and looked at John,



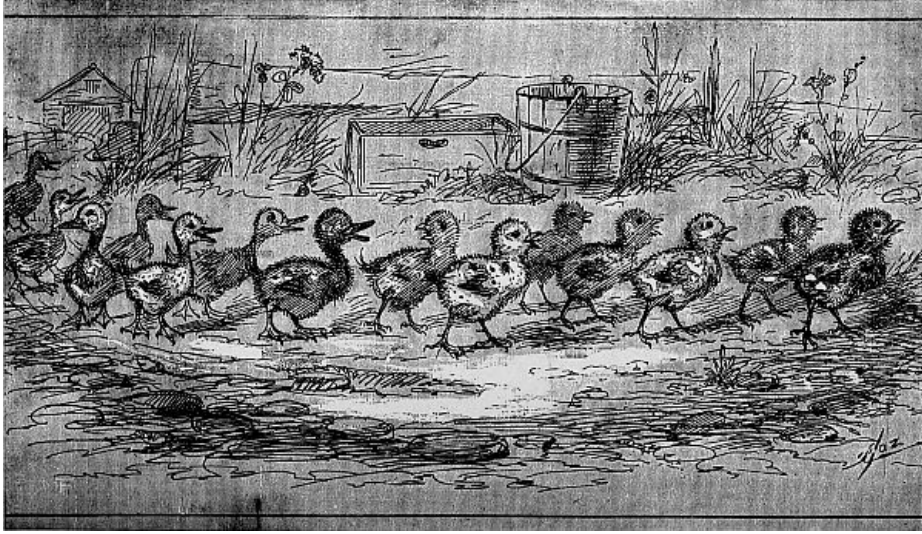
And John took up the pie,
And back the lit-tle lad-dies went
In-to the field of rye.

The moth-er bird flew up and shrieked,
"O, have you baked that pie?
How can you bring the cru-el dish,
And eat it in the rye!" John—

And soon they ate the pie;
The birds flew out and found their nests
Down in the yel-low rye.

PAYING BACK.

Seven happy little chicks walked out one day in June,
Thought they would enjoy the way by starting up a tune;
Seven ugly little ducks, whose names I will not mention,
Made up their minds to follow them, and spoil their good intention;
Now everybody knows that a duckling's voice is deep,
And everybody knows that *quack* will make more noise than *peep*.



So when they found their music drowned, these plucky little chicks
Made up *their* minds to cure these ducks of all such naughty tricks;
So they chased them from the barn-yard, on this pleasant day in June,
Then started on their walk again, and went on with their tune.

—J. S.

THE GENEROUS CLOVER.

Clover, clover in the field,
Why do you hang your head?
Have you done anything unkind?
Or any cross word said?

O no, my little maiden, no!
I only droop with dew;
And from my lips sweet honey drips;
Come, I will share with you.

—*C. C. B.*

WHERE THEY GROW.

Down in the valley, deep, deep, deep,
Where little sunbeams wink and peep,
Under the grasses hiding low—
There's where the dear little violets grow.

Out in the meadow, bright, bright, bright,
Close by the clovers red and white—
With heart of gold and a fringe of snow,
There's where the dear little daisies grow.

Up in the older tree, tree, tree,
Peep, and a tiny nest you'll see,
Swung by the breezes to and fro—
There's where the dear little birdlings grow.

Up in the nursery, neat, neat, neat,
Hear the patter of wee, wee feet—
Hear little voices chirp and crow—
There's where the dear little babies grow!

BA-BY FAY FERN-Y.

What is this, with blue
Lit-tle shoes, so new—
Cun-ning lit-tle feet,
Trot-ting down the street,
What will mam-ma say?
Ba-by's run a-way—
Ba-by Fay Fer-ny.

Calls a boy: "Hal-loo!
See here, lit-tle pop-pet show,
Come with me!" No, no,
Ba-by's do-in' do
Ba-by's own self! Fast
Round the cor-ner passed
Ba-by Fay Fer-ny.



BA-BY FAY FER-NY.

Stops a great big man
Hur-ry-ing all he can:
“Here! what’s this! My!
Dropped down from the sky?
Some-bod-y’s to blame!
Ba-by, what’s your name?”
 “Ba-by Fay Fer-ny.”

“Where you go-ing? say!”
“Day-day.” “What’s that, hey?
See the ba-by fidg-et!
What d’you want, you midg-et.”
“Piece o’but-ter-bed,
Su-gy on it, ’las-ses on it,
Jam on it,” said
 Ba-by Fay Fer-ny.

Peo-ple pause to see:
La-dies, one, two, three;
A po-lice-man, too;
But no one that knew
Whence the ba-by came.
“What’s your pa-pa’s name?”
 “Pa-pa Fay Fer-ny.”

Comes a breath-less maid:
“O dear! I’m a-fraid
Ba-by’s lost and gone—
Ba-by Fer-gu-son!
No—there down the street!
O, you naugh-ty sweet
 Ba-by Fay Fer-ny!”

THE DOUGH-DOG.

One day when grandma was making some pies,
She wished to give Tommy a pleasant surprise;
So she made a puppy-dog out of some dough,
And baked it, and marked it, and named it Bruno.
This wonderful dog could stand on its feet,



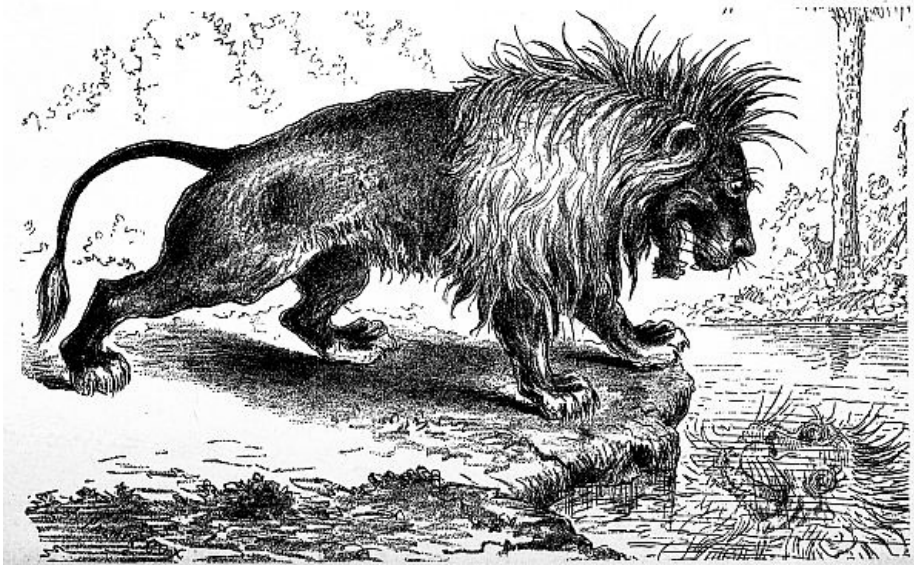
BRUNO.

Its body was chubby, and cunning and neat,
Its little dough-head was spotted with black,
And its little dough-tail curled over its back.
And when Tommy saw it he shouted with glee,
"How good grandma was to make that for me!"
And he played with the puppy-dog day after day,
Till its head and its tail were both worn away.

—M. E. N. H.

THE LION'S O-PIN-ION OF HIM-SELF.

A li-on gazed down at his shad-ow one day;
Said he, "I look fierce, I de-clare!
No won-der my neigh-bors keep out of my way,
And wish they were birds of the air!



"And I own that real-ly I feel a-fraid
Some-times when I hear my-self roar!"
And he wished as he went and lay down in the shade
That he need be a li-on no more.

WHICH IS TALL-EST.

Look! how they meas-ure,
Dai-sy and Rose;
Naught-y Dai-sy *will* stand
On the tips of her toes!

If I was in her place
I'd try to act fair!
And Rose *is* the tall-est
For all, I de-clare!



THE ANX-IOUS DOG-GY.

Take care, lit-tle mas-ter,
Or you'll fall in!
That wa-ter is up
To your ver-y chin.

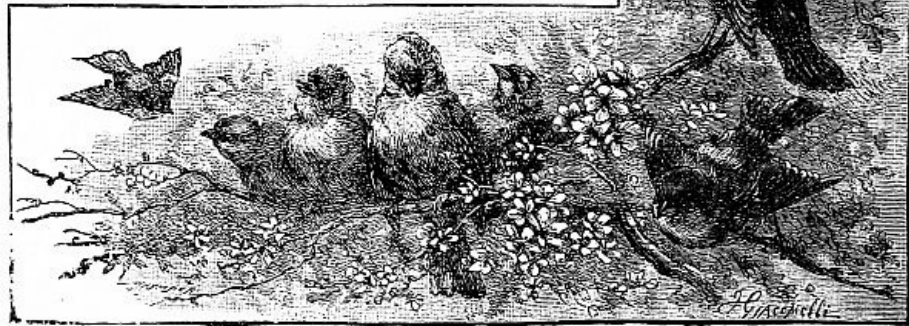
Please don't! please don't,
My mas-ter dear—
O, I wish your moth-er
Wouldn't send you here!

For oh! lit-tle mas-ter,
What could I do,
If you should fall in,
But jump in too?



NINE LITTLE BIRDIES.

Nine little birdies rocked by the breeze:
First birdie said, "I'm tired of these trees;"
Next birdie said, "Where shall we go?"
Third birdie said, "Where red cherries grow!"
Fourth birdie said, "Are they ripe, do you think?"
Fifth birdie laughed with a rogue's own wink;
Sixth birdie said, "I'm sure that they are;"
Seventh birdie said, "Is it very far?"
Eighth birdie said, "Who'll leader be?"
Ninth birdie said, "I'm off, follow me!"
Whew! Whew!
And away they all flew
Into Mr. John Lee's
Choice cherry trees!



WHAT BA-BY DID.

What do you think the ba-by did?
Why, Ba-by did as he was bid!

The dar-ling took a pen, and wrote—
A lit-tle in-vi-ta-tion note,

To all the aunts, and grand-mam-ma,
To un-cles all, and grand-pa-pa,

To all the ba-by kin ar-ray,
To come to din-ner Christ-mas Day.



HE WRITES IT.

He wrote it ver-y black and plain,
Criss-crossed and marked it all a-gain;



HE MAILS IT.

And though he had not had his nap
He next was seen in cloak and cap,

And go-ing up the crowd-ed street,
Safe in his hand the mis-sive sweet,

To drop it in the box him-self,
The aw-ful lit-tle dar-ling elf!

TWO KIND LIT-TLE GIRLS.

Whith-er a-way,
Lit-tle la-dies so gay?
"O, o-ver the hill
To Grand-moth-er Dill!"
And what have you there
In your bas-ket square?
"O, pud-dings and pies,
A lit-tle sur-prise!"
Why such good-will
To Grand-moth-er Dill?
"O, ev-er-y one should
On Christ-mas do good!"
Lit-tle maids, good day!
Flow-ers strew your way!



AN APRIL RAIN.

You poor little birds,
It's happened again—
In the midst of your play
Down patters the rain.

You were caught in a shower
Just so last week,
And I thought that morning
I ought to speak;



I hear you all up
A-singing at dawn,
I know you have tried
Each tree on the lawn,

Yet not one of you all
Have picked up a straw—
Such improvident birds
I ne'er before saw.

But I hope you see now
That it would be best
To let your play go
And build you a nest.



WHAT THE GRASSES SAID.

Who can hear the grass talk?
Very few, I know;
Yet it whispers every day,
Sweet and soft and low.

And one day I heard it;
Shall I tell you when?
I lay on the grass to read,
And I heard it then.

Everything was pleasant;
Bright the sun did shine;
Dew lay in the flowers' eyes,
Heavy sleep in mine;

So I gently shut them;
Soon they opened wide;
For I heard the grasses talk
Fast on every side!

This is what they talked about:
"Oh, what pleasant weather!
Lift your heads up to the sun,
Nod and wave together!

"We're so glad that we are grass,
Cool and soft and green;
Oh, how sad the earth would look
If no grass were seen!



“And we love the summer warm,
But, oh, dear! oh, dear!
What will little grasses do
When winter cold is here?”

“How the wind will whistle
Round about our heads!
Oh it’s very hard to have
No covers on our beds!”

Then the wise red-rose bush
Tall, and rough and old,
Shook his head, and kindly said,
“You will not be cold,

“For God sends a blanket warm
For every blade of grass,
Soft and light, and white as wool;
Not a blade He’ll pass!”

“What’s the blanket made of?
Quick! we want to know!”
“Why, my dears,” the rose-bush said,
“God’s blanket is the snow.”

J. S.

TAB-BY'S LULL-A-BY.

Wash-wash-you-cat,
Now this side, now that!
Wash-wash-you-cat,
Keep clean and grow fat!

Four lit-tle ears,
And eight lit-tle paws,
Two small nos-es,
And for-ty sharp claws,

Give moth-er's tongue
A great deal to do.
So hush! keep still,
And I'll sing to you:

Purr-r! purr-r!
In a sil-ver house,
Moth-er once saw
A lit-tle white mouse,

Soft white fur,
And lit-tle pink eyes,
So round and plump,
And so ver-y wise.

Wash-wash-you-cat,
Now hold up your chin.



Me-ow! don't you scratch—
To scratch is a sin.

Me-ow! Me-ow!
You *bad* lit-tle cat,
You mustn't bite;
Moth-er won't stand that!

Purr-r! purr-r!
Now shut up your eyes;
Moth-er will make
You some cat-nip pies.

Purr-r! purr-r!
Lit-tle balls of fur,
Purr-r! purr-r!
Lie still, and don't stir.

Wash-wash-you-cat,
Lit-tle balls of fur!
Wash-wash-you-cat,
Purr-r! purr-r!

SOME NAUGHTY I'S.

"I, I, I,"

Some little people cry:

"I won't, I can't,

I shall, I shan't—"

Oh, what a naughty I;

"I, I, I,"

Now hear them passing by:

"I han't, I be,

I are, I see—"

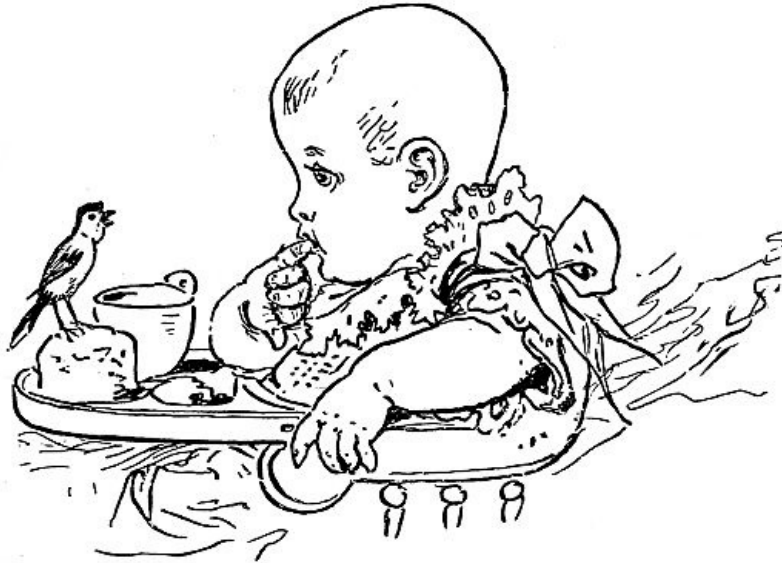
Oh, what a naughty I.

AT BREAK-FAST.

A gay lit-tle bird
That want-ed some fun
Flew in and light-ed
On the ba-by's bun.

He pecked at a cur-rant,
He sipped from the cup,
Then hopped on the loaf,
And thus piped up:

*"Peep-sy weeps! Ba-by, say,
What'll you give if I will stay?
Peep-sy weeps! Ba-by, O,
What'll you give if I will go?"*



AN AS-TON-ISHED BA-BY.

He splashed the milk,
He nib-bled the bread,
He spread both wings,
He stood on his head.

But still the ba-by
Said nev-er a word—
And out of the win-dow
Flashed the bird!

"Peep-sy weeps!" loud sang he,
*"Such a stu-pid ba-by I nev-er did see!
Nev-er a smile, nev-er a word—
Peep-sy weeps! I'm glad I'm a bird!"*

BA-BY DIM-PLE AT BREAK-FAST.

She sits in the porch with her sau-
cer;
Smeared are her fin-gers and thumbs;
While a-round with nois-y clat-ter
Old hen, with her chick-ens comes.

Ba-by shoos and shoos, and strikes them
With the spoon that spills the crumbs:
*"Do 'way chick-ies! 'ou s'an't hab em—
My nice bwead an' las-ses tums!"*

But the chick-ies sly will pick them
When Miss Dim-ple's not on the watch;
And old moth-er hen comes bold-ly



With her mind made up for a snatch.
Take care, Mrs. Hen-ny-pen-ny!
One good rap is what you catch,
With Miss Dim-ple's sharp ad-vice-ment:
"'Ou la-zy ol' fing—go scwatch!"

NOBODY KNOWS.

How the wind whistles and roars!
How he blows, he blows, and he blows!
But what does he say at the doors?
Nobody knows, nobody knows.

The ground is covered with white,
For it snows, it snows, and it snows;
But it falls so silent at night
That nobody knows, nobody knows.

The grass is springing again,
And it grows, it grows, and it grows,
In the sunshine and the rain—
How, nobody knows, nobody knows.

Hear the black cock flap his wings!
And he crows, he crows, and he crows;
But whether he laughs or he sings,
Why, nobody knows, nobody knows.

The brook runs sparkling along,
And it flows, it flows, and it flows;
But what is its rippling song,
Why, nobody knows, nobody knows.

The cow comes down through the lane,
And she lows, she lows, and she lows;
But what she says it is plain
That nobody knows, nobody knows.

Over the fields and away
Fly the crows, the crows, the crows;
They caw, they caw, but they say
What nobody knows, nobody knows.

—*E. B.*

THE LOST CHICKENS.

"CLUCK, cluck! cluck, cluck!" called the mother-hen,
"Some harm has come to my chickens, I fear;
I counted this morning, and then there were ten;
Now four are gone, and but six are here."



"ALL SAFE AND SOUND."

"Peep, peep! peep, peep!" four chickens replied,
As they sipped the dew from a burdock leaf;
"We must hurry back to our mother's side,
She is calling us now with a voice of grief."

Then away to her side they ran again,
Leaving the dainty drink they had found;
"Cluck, cluck! cluck, cluck!" said the mother-hen,
"Here are my ten, all safe and sound."

—M. E. N. H.

LIKE BABY.

I'm going to make a dolly,
Just like the baby there;
I'm going to take some sunshine
And twist it up for hair.

I'm going to take the bluest speck
In all the great blue skies,
And make a bright blue pretty pair
Of little winking eyes.

I'm going to take some roses,
The sweetest, brightest pink,
To make her little darling cheeks,
The very thing, I think!

But, oh dear me! I surely am
Forgetting all the while,
I cannot find a single thing
To make baby's smile.

HOW THE BABY WAS NAMED.

Mother's busy washing;
Jack has gone to school;
Baby's in the garden;
Kitty has a spool.

Every one is busy
This bright summer day,
None more so than Baby,
Working hard to play.



Hat stuck full of daisies,
Dolls are daisy-crowned—
Daisies, daisies everywhere
Lying on the ground.

Out comes little pussy
Tossing them about;
Baby calls, "Go way now!"
With a little pout.

Summer sun grows warmer;
Baby tires with play;
Down upon the green grass
Fast asleep she lay;

Daisies all about her,
Sunshine overhead,
Pussy nestled closely
In this summer bed.

Mother from her washing
Comes, and finds her there
With the wide-eyed daisies
Nestling in her hair.

Then was Baby christened
In the summer sweet;
Now, no longer "Baby,"
But sweet Marguerite.

THE WINDOW-PANE TREE.

With her warm little finger,
Gold Locks wrote
On the icy window-pane
A note.

“Make me a Christmas-tree,”
It read;
It was signed with a flourish,
“Yours, Gold Head.”

Then out came the sunlight’s
Sparkling ray;
It melted the message
All away.

But the very next morning,
Lo! behold!
On the glass of the window,
White and cold,

Was a tapering fir-tree,
Weighed with snow,
Spire-like at the top,
And broad below.

Cried out little Gold Locks,
“See, oh, see!
Jack Frost has painted
My Christmas-tree!”



BIRDS IN WINTER.

Come now, little birds,
You must stop in your play,
The snow's coming down,
You must hide you away.

You must huddle together
And keep yourselves warm,
In snug nooks and corners
Shut out from the storm.



Be patient and wait,
The clouds will go by,
And sunshine once more
Will brighten the sky.

In the woods and the fields
Where summer-plants grew,
The buds and the seeds
Are stored up for you.

You can seek them for food
When the weather is fair,
And chirp your sweet songs
In the clear pleasant air.



THREE TRAVELLERS.

Three funny little travellers
Set out to leave the town;
And all they wore to keep them warm
Was one white, ruffled gown.

I asked these little travellers
If far they meant to roam.
"Oh, no," they all together said;
"We'll not go far from home."

The first brave one who started out
Was our sweet Baby May;
She said, "I'm going to By-lo-Land,"
In such a sleepy way.

The second one, in gown of white,
Was Alice, six years old;
She said, "I go to Shutt-eye-town,"
And on she went, both fast and bold.

And Lottie, eldest one of all,
Said, "On this road I plod,
To 76, Old Blanket street,
Bedfordshire, the Land of Nod."

I wondered where these towns could be,
When mamma softly said,
"Good night, good night, my children dear!
Now hurry off to *bed!*"

—*J. S.*

A TALE OF A BOT-TLE.

A bot-tle of ink on the ta-ble,
A lit-tle girl on the floor—
And now I don't think I'll be a-ble
To tell you an-y-thing more.

The lit-tle girl up to the ta-ble,
Mam-ma look-ing in at the door—
And now I don't think I'll be a-ble
To tell you an-y-thing more.

The lit-tle girl runs from the ta-ble,
Bot-tle rolls down to the floor—
And now I don't think I'll be a-ble
To tell you an-y-thing more.

Then mam-ma runs up to the ta-ble,
Lit-tle girl runs for the door—
And now I don't think I'll be a-ble
To tell you an-y-thing more.



A ROGUE.

Mam-ma runs a-way from the ta-ble,
And catch-es the girl at the door—
And now, oh! I *know* I'm not a-ble
To tell you an-y-thing more.

A WONDERFUL SCHOLAR.

O, a wonderful scholar
Is our little Kate!
She reads in a primer;
She writes on a slate;
Her lines are not even;
Her O's are not round;
And her words in the reader
Could not be found.

Her sewing—what puckers!
What stitches! what knots!
And along the whole hem,
There are tiny red spots.
Her weekly reports
Tell how oft she has spoken;
And there's not a rule
That she never has broken.



Yet she comes to mamma
For a smile and a kiss,
As if a "bad mark,"
Should be paid for by this.

And she cries in delight,
While she swings round her hat:
"I'm a wonderful scholar,
For I can spell 'cat!'
C-A-T, *Cat!*"

—K. L.

OUT IN THE MEADOW.

What do you think I saw to-day
Out in the meadow bright,
It tripped along on four little feet
In a coat all woolly and white;

I said "Good morning, you pretty thing!"
And it raised its gentle head
As if it wanted to chat awhile;
But, "*Baa-Baa*," was all it said!

What do you think I led with me,
Blue eyed, dimpled, and sweet?
It hardly bent the daisies down
With *two* little toddling feet;

She laughed and chattered at Woolly-back,
She patted his little head;
But he talked almost as well as she,
For "*ma-ma*" was all *she* said!

Transcriber's Notes:

April Rain, “thelawn” changed to “the lawn” (tree on the lawn)

Tab-by's Lull-a-by, after comparing text to original poem in “Babyland,” the word “A” was added to start of line of poetry (A great deal to do)

Some Naughty I's, “NAUGHY” changed to “NAUGHTY” in poem's title.

*** END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK CRADLE SONGS ***

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