

1881

TWO POEMS TO RACHEL DANIEL

Lewis Carroll

Carroll, Lewis (pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) (1832-1898) - English novelist, poet, photographer, and mathematician, best known for his fantastical childrens' classics. He was a mathematical lecturer at Oxford. Two Poems to Rachel Daniel (1880, 1881) - Two of Lewis Carroll's poems. Opening lines of the first poem: "Oh pudgy podgy pup! / Why did they wake you up?..."

TWO POEMS TO RACHEL DANIEL

I

"OH pudgy podgy pup!
 Why did they wake you up?
 Those crude nocturnal yells
 Are not like silver bells:
 Nor ever would recall
 Sweet Music's 'dying fall'.
 They rather bring to mind
 The bitter winter wind
 Through keyholes shrieking shrilly
 When nights are dark and chilly:
 Or like some dire duett,
 Or quarrelsome quartette,
 Of cats who chant their joys
 With execrable noise,
 And murder Time and Tune
 To vex the patient Moon!" Nov. 1880.

II

FOR "THE GARLAND OF RACHEL" (1881)
 WHAT hand may wreathe thy natal crown,
 O tiny tender Spirit-blossom,
 That out of Heaven hast fluttered down
 Into this Earth's cold bosom?

And how shall mortal bard aspire
 All sin-begrimed and sorrow-laden
 To welcome, with the Seraph-choir,
 A pure and perfect Maiden?

Are not God's minstrels ever near,
 Flooding with joy the woodland mazes?
 Which shall we summon,
 Baby dear, To carol forth thy praises?

With sweet sad song the Nightingale
 May soothe the broken hearts that languish
 Where graves are green- the orphans' wail,
 The widow's lonely anguish:

The Turtle-dove with amorous coo
May chide the blushing maid that lingers
To twine her bridal wreath anew
With weak and trembling fingers:

But human loves and human woes
Would dim the radiance of thy glory
Only the Lark such music knows
As fits thy stainless story.

The world may listen as it will
She recks not, to the skies up-springing:
Beyond our ken she singeth still
For very joy of singing.

THE END