The Spider



It was one summer's morning, As I lay on my bed, I spied an ancient spider, A-spinning of her thread. She wove it in a sunny beam, As clear as glass might be; The oldest nun that ever spun Ne'er spun so fine as she.

The first that came into the net. A silly fly, was slain; The next that came, a hornet bold, Soon broke the net in twain. And so I ofttimes wonder why Are poor men brought to shame, While rich men live in vanity, And all men praise their name. O if I had but Agur's wish, And it might come to me, That I were neither poor nor rich, How happy I should be! For riches are but vanity, I heard the wise man cry, And when you think to hold them fast, Away from you they fly.

If rich men would advis-ed be, And stewards would be just, And to their tenants frank and free, When they are put in trust; The hump from off the camel's back Would easily be shaven; The camel pass the needle's eye, The rich man enter heaven.