

WOOING BY FLOWERS.

ONCE on a time, to woo a maid
Three suitors sought her bower.
"Give me, I pray," the maiden said
To each, "thy favourite flower."

The lord, he took a lily fair
That grew in regal pride;
"This flower put in thy raven hair;
"Twill suit a noble's bride."

The knight, he plucked a rose and cried, "This flower place on thy breast."
The bard a violet gave, and sighed, "Ah! near thee let it rest."

"Come back again at autumn-tide And meet me in my bower, And ye shall learn," the maid replied, "How fares it with each flower."

At autumn-tide they stood once more
Beside the maiden bright.
Then from a vase the flowers she bore
And placed them in their sight.

The lily leaves were dull and stained;
The shrivelled rose was dead;
The odorous violet fresh remained—
"The bard," she cried, "I'll wed."

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