

From Isaac Watts (1674-1748), *Divine and Moral Songs for Children* (New York: Hurd and Houghton, 1866; facsimile edition, Morgan, PA: Soli Deo Gloria, 1988).

Song 20

Against idleness and mischief.

How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower!

How skillfully she builds her cell!
How neat she spreads the wax!
And labours hard to store it well
With the sweet food she makes.

In works of labour or of skill
I would be busy too:
For Satan finds some mischief still
For idle hands to do.

In books, or work, or healthful play
Let my first years be past,
That I may give for every day
Some good account at last.

Song 21.

Against evil company.

Why should I join with those in play
In whom I've no delight;
Who curse and swear, but never play;
Who call ill names, and fight?

I hate to hear a wanton song:
Their words offend my ears:
I should not dare defile my tongue
With language such as theirs.

Away from fools I'll turn my eyes,
Nor with the scoffers go:
I would be walking with the wise,
That wiser I may grow.

From one rude boy, that's used to mock,
They learn the wicked jest:
One sickly sheep infects the flock,
And poisons all the rest.

My God, I hate to walk or dwell
With sinful children here:
Then let me not be sent to hell,
Where none but sinners are.