

TWINKLEBERRY and six other little squirrels each carried a fat minnow; but Nutkin, who had no nice manners, brought no present at all. He ran in front, singing--

“The man in the wilderness said to me,  
‘How many strawberries grow in the  
sea?’

I answered him as I thought good--  
‘As many red herrings as grow in the  
wood.’”

But old Mr. Brown took no interest in riddles--not even when the answer was provided for him.



ON the fourth day the squirrels brought a present of six fat beetles, which were as good as plums in *plum-pudding* for Old Brown. Each beetle was wrapped up carefully in a dock-leaf, fastened with a pine-needle pin.

But Nutkin sang as rudely as ever--

“Old Mr. B! riddle-me-ree  
Flour of England, fruit of Spain,  
Met together in a shower of rain;  
Put in a bag tied round with a string,  
If you’ll tell me this riddle, I’ll give  
you a ring!”

Which was ridiculous of Nutkin, because he had not got any ring to give to Old Brown.

