



# **Polly Wants a Cracker**

**Chester G. Allen**  
**(1838-1878)**

**Chester G. Allen** (1838-1878) was born in Westford, New York. He taught music in the public schools of Cleveland, Ohio, and Cooperstown, New York. He was editor the New York Musical Gazette, edited and compiled collections of music for schools and churches, co-authored a volume on voice culture, and composed many hymns and songs. His most well-known song is the tune he composed for Fanny Crosby's words "Praise Him, praise Him— Jesus, our blessed Redeemer." His wife was Cornelia E. Doubleday of Cooperstown, New York, who was the niece of the legendary Abner Doubleday. He died in Cooperstown.

While other birdies warble with delight,  
Upon your perch you're clinging,  
As grave and sober, morning, noon and night,  
Without one note of singing.  
And still you chatter to yourself,  
You hungry, discontented elf,  
No matter whether skies are dull or bright,  
It's "pretty Polly wants a cracker!"

Chatter, chatter, chatter, chatter all the livelong day,—  
It's "pretty Polly wants a cracker!"

Your cage is always hanging in the sun,  
And children homeward straying,  
When school is over gather, one by one,  
To hear what Polly is saying.  
With sidelong head you ever stand,  
Your appetite, it must be grand,  
For all you answer to the children's fun,  
Is "pretty Polly wants a cracker!"

Chatter, chatter, chatter, chatter all the livelong day.—  
It's pretty Polly wants a cracker!"

And yet, it strikes me, little people, too,  
And big ones, for that matter,  
Quite rarely here their quiet way pursue,  
Nor still for something chatter,  
Oh, never satisfied are we,  
As like poor Polly, as can be!  
Some idle wish still calls to me and you,  
"Oh! pretty Polly wants a cracker!"

Chatter, chatter, chatter, chatter all the livelong day,—  
It's pretty Polly wants a cracker!"

George Cooper (1840-1927)

# Polly Wants a Cracker

Chester G. Allen

S While oth - er bird - ies war - ble with de - light, Up -

A While oth - er bird - ies war - ble with de - light, Up -

T While oth - er bird - ies war - ble with de - light, Up -

B While oth - er bird - ies war - ble with de - light, Up -

4  
S on your perch you're cling - ing, As grave and so - ber,

A on your perch you're cling - ing, As grave and so - ber,

T on your perch you're cling - ing, As grave and so - ber,

B on your perch you're cling - ing, As grave and so - ber,



# Polly Wants a Cracker

7

S  
morn - ing, noon and night, With - out one note of sing - ing. And

A  
morn - ing, noon and night, With - out one note of sing - ing. And

T  
morn - ing, noon and night, With - out one note of sing - ing. And

B  
morn - ing, noon and night, With - out one note of sing - ing. And

10

S  
still you chat - ter to your - self, You hun - gry, dis - con -

A  
still you chat - ter to your - self, You hun - gry, dis - con -

T  
still you chat - ter to your - self, You hun - gry, dis - con -

B  
still you chat - ter to your - self, You hun - gry, dis - con -

13

S  
tent - ed elf, No mat - ter wheth - er skies are dull or bright, It's

A  
tent - ed elf, No mat - ter wheth - er skies are dull or bright, It's

T  
tent - ed elf, No mat - ter wheth - er skies are dull or bright, It's

B  
tent - ed elf, No mat - ter wheth - er skies are dull or bright, It's

## Polly Wants a Cracker

16

S "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

A "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

T "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

B "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

19

S all the live - long day,— It's "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

A all the live - long day,— It's "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

T all the live - long day,— It's "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

B all the live - long day,— It's "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

S Your cage is al - ways hang - ing in the sun, And

A Your cage is al - ways hang - ing in the sun, And

T Your cage is al - ways hang - ing in the sun, And

B Your cage is al - ways hang - ing in the sun, And

# Polly Wants a Cracker

24

S child - ren home - ward stray - ing, When school is o - ver

A child - ren home - ward stray - ing, When school is o - ver

T child - ren home - ward stray - ing, When school is o - ver

B child - ren home - ward stray - ing, When school is o - ver

27

S gath - er, one by one, To hear what Polly is say - ing. With

A gath - er, one by one, To hear what Polly is say - ing. With

T gath - er, one by one, To hear what Polly is say - ing. With

B gath - er, one by one, To hear what Polly is say - ing. With

30

S side - long head you ev - er stand, Your ap - pe - tite, it

A side - long head you ev - er stand, Your ap - pe - tite, it

T side - long head you ev - er stand, Your ap - pe - tite, it

B side - long head you ev - er stand, Your ap - pe - tite, it

## Polly Wants a Cracker

33

S must be grand, For all you an - swer to the child - ren's fun, Is

A must be grand, For all you an - swer to the child - ren's fun, Is

T must be grand, For all you an - swer to the child - ren's fun, Is

B must be grand, For all you an - swer to the child - ren's fun, Is

36

S "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

A "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

T "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

B "pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

39

S all the live - long day.— It's pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

A all the live - long day.— It's pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

T all the live - long day.— It's pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

B all the live - long day.— It's pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"



# Polly Wants a Cracker

S And yet, it strikes me, lit - tle peo - ple, too, And

A And yet, it strikes me, lit - tle peo - ple, too, And

T And yet, it strikes me, lit - tle peo - ple, too, And

B And yet, it strikes me, lit - tle peo - ple, too, And

44 S big ones, for that mat - ter, Quite rare - ly here their

A big ones, for that mat - ter, Quite rare - ly here their

T big ones, for that mat - ter, Quite rare - ly here their

B big ones, for that mat - ter, Quite rare - ly here their

47 S qui - et way pur - sue, Nor still for some - thing chat - ter, Oh,

A qui - et way pur - sue, Nor still for some - thing chat - ter, Oh,

T qui - et way pur - sue, Nor still for some - thing chat - ter, Oh,

B qui - et way pur - sue, Nor still for some - thing chat - ter, Oh,

## Polly Wants a Cracker

50

S nev - er sat - is - fied are we, As like poor Pol - ly,

A nev - er sat - is - fied are we, As like poor Pol - ly,

T nev - er sat - is - fied are we, As like poor Pol - ly,

B nev - er sat - is - fied are we, As like poor Pol - ly,

53

S as can be! Some i - dle wish still calls to me and you, "Oh!

A as can be! Some i - dle wish still calls to me and you, "Oh!

T as can be! Some i - dle wish still calls to me and you, "Oh!

B as can be! Some i - dle wish still calls to me and you, "Oh!

56

S pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

A pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

T pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

B pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!" Chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter, chat - ter

# Polly Wants a Cracker

59

S all the live - long day,— It's pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

A all the live - long day,— It's pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

T all the live - long day,— It's pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

B all the live - long day,— It's pret - ty Pol - ly wants a crack - er!"

Biglow & Main  
(1875)

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