

# Home Thoughts

Claude McKay

Oh something just now must be happening there!  
 That suddenly and quiveringly here,  
 Amid the city's noises, I must think  
 Of mangoes leaning o'er the river's brink,  
 5 And dexterous Davie climbing high above,  
 The gold fruits ebon-speckled<sup>1</sup> to remove,  
 And toss them quickly in the tangled mass  
 Of wis-wis<sup>2</sup> twisted round the guinea grass;  
 And Cyril coming through the bramble-track  
 10 A prize bunch of bananas on his back;  
 And Georgie—none could ever dive like him—  
 Throwing his scanty clothes off for a swim;  
 And schoolboys, from Bridge-tunnel going home,  
 Watching the waters downward dash and foam.  
 15 This is no daytime dream, there's something in it,  
 Oh something's happening there this very minute!

## Textual Note

This poem also appears in:

- *The Literary Digest* (October, 1922) with two other sonnets.
- *The Liberator* (February, 1920)

## Editorial Notes

1. **Ebon-Speckled:** black specked (i.e. ebony speckled).
2. **Wis-wis:** a vine-like weed easily tangled with other plants

---

1 Oh ] O *Lib.*  
 1 OhO ] , *add.*  
 7 toss ] throwing *Lib.*  
 7 quickly ] carefully *Lib.*  
 8 twisted round the guinea grass ] lush and blue and  
 lance-shaped grass *Lib.*  
 10 A prize ] With a big *Lib.*  
 10 ; ] , *Lib.*  
 11 Georgie ] Aleck *Lib.*

12 Throwing ] Getting *Lib.*  
 12 ; ] , *Lib.*  
 13 , ] *om. Lib.*  
 14 waters ] water *Lib.*  
 15 daytime dream ] day-dream *Lib.*  
 15 , ] — *Lib.*  
 16 Oh ] , *add. ! add. Lib.*  
 16 something's ] Something's *Lib.*