

ELIZABETH PERKINS

DARWIN AND THE TORTOISE

1832 A.D.

In the Galapagos Islands Darwin head bent to pocket watch paces  
two tall legs behind the carapace lifted reptile head that led  
Darwin forward.

Neat-bearded Darwin, booted well-hatted against the stronger sun  
long gun over right shoulder

Watch in left hand young eyes intent

Man tall, erect, intent on knowledge knowing man and knowing tortoise

Tortoise intent on going where: short legs, long neck

old handsome tortoise barbaric plated tortoise going

Man going where

AESOP AND THE TORTOISE

550 B.C.

Wise slave intent on teaching man by telling tale of tortoise  
tale of hare free slave

O where is perky hare speedy clever hare

fast forward frrrrreeee STOP

stumpy tortoise toiling stump by stump aha!

Time tortoise time: hare you are left behind

ALICE AND THE TORTOISE

1865 A.D.

We called him Tortoise because he taught us.