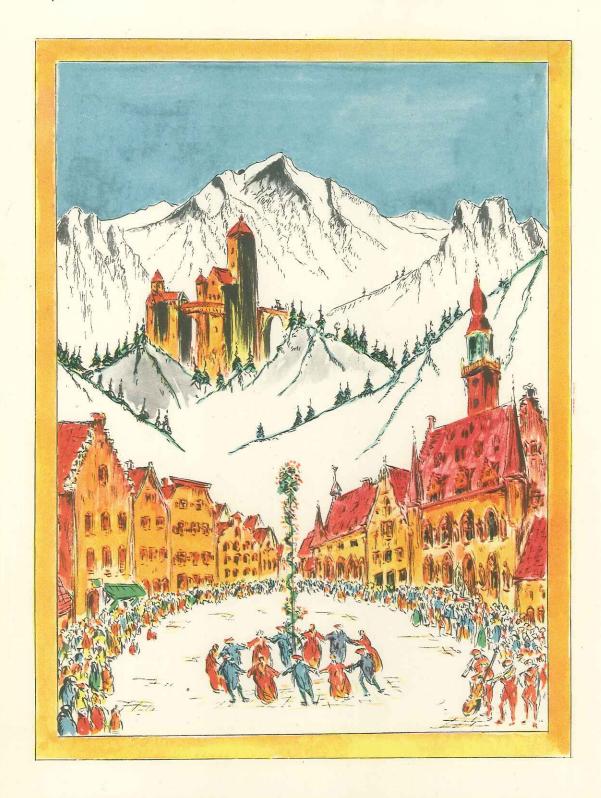
Folk Songs of Many Lands



by HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON and GRACE CASTAGNETTA

LIST OF BOOKS BY HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON

THE FALL OF THE DUTCH REPUBLIC, 1913, Houghton Mifflin Co.
THE RISE OF THE DUTCH KINGDOM, 1915, Doubleday Page & Co.
THE GOLDEN BOOK OF THE DUTCH NAVIGATORS, 1916
The Century Co.

The Century Co.

A SHORT HISTORY OF DISCOVERY, 1917, David McKay
ANCIENT MAN, 1920, Boni and Liveright
THE STORY OF MANKIND, 1921, Boni and Liveright
THE STORY OF THE BIBLE, 1923, Boni and Liveright
THE STORY OF WILBUR THE HAT, 1925, Boni and Liveright
TOLERANCE, 1925, Boni and Liveright
AMERICA, 1927, Boni and Liveright
ADRIAEN BLOCK, 1928, Block Hall
LIFE AND TIMES OF PIETER STUYVESANT, 1928, Henry Holt
MAN THE MIRACLE MAKER, 1928, Horace Liveright
REMBRANDT VAN RIJN, 1930, Horace Liveright
VAN LOON'S GEOGRAPHY, 1932, Simon and Schuster

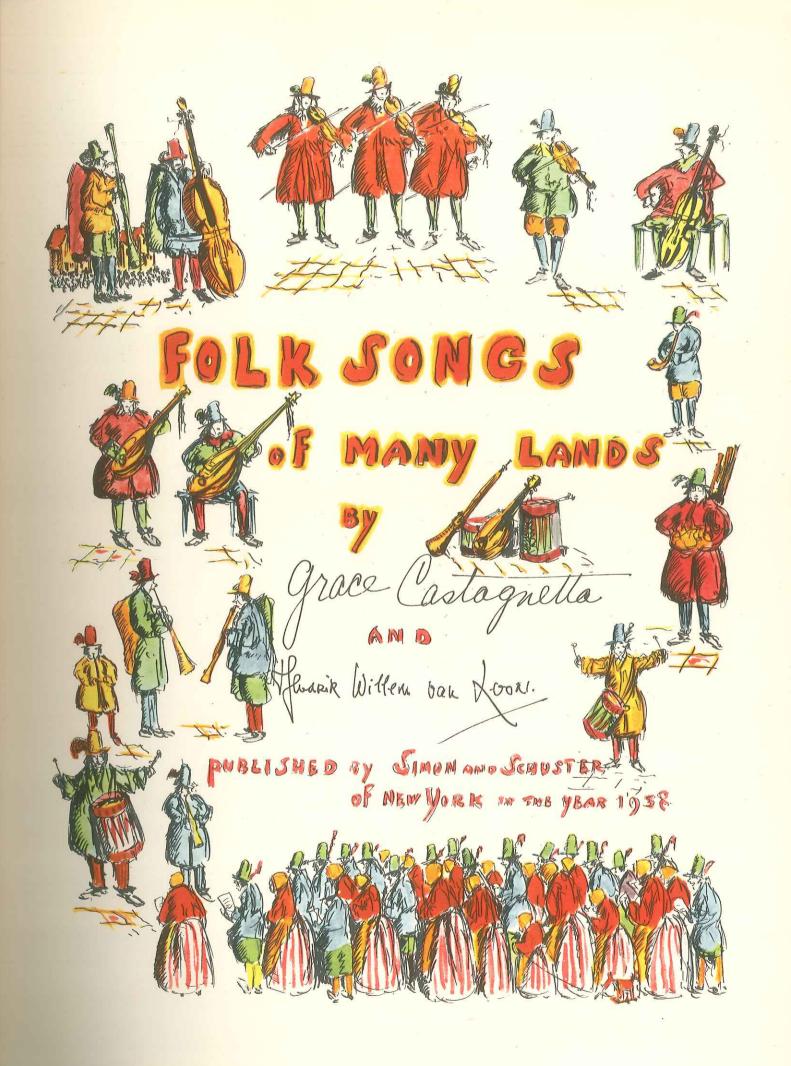
Van Loon's Geography, 1932, Simon and Schuster
An Elephant up a Tree, 1933, Simon and Schuster
An Indiscreet Itinerary, 1933, Harcourt, Brace
Ships, 1935, Simon and Schuster

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE ALPHABET, 1935 Simon and Schuster

AIR-STORMING, 1935, Harcourt, Brace
The Songs We Sing, 1936, Simon and Schuster
The Arts, 1937, Simon and Schuster
Christmas Carols, 1937, Simon and Schuster

TRANSLATIONS

These books have been translated and published in the following countries: England, Holland, Germany, France, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway, China, Japan, India, Russia, Spain, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia, Greece, Palestine, Roumania, and Brazil. There also have been translations into Urdu, Bantu, Esperanto, and Braille.



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Manufactured in the United States of America



This book is dedicated toAlfred C. Howell but if that is all we say please do not think (even for a moment) that there is nothing more to be said only, we knew that if we said all the things we would like to have said (being indebted to him for endless acts of thoughtful kindness and courteous consideration) he would feel so utterly uncomfortable that we decided just to say: "This book is dedicated Alfred C. Howell" and then let it go at that.



Foreword

This little book we are giving you twenty-four folk songs.* We are sure that if you had been asked to make the choice yourself, you would have selected an entirely different group. But so would we, if we were to do it again tomorrow or next week or a year from now.

There are so many of them and it is so difficult to decide what is really a folk song and what is merely a "made tune" (a tune composed by a duly authenticated composer) and what is a mixture of both, that we finally gave up in despair. After we had spent some twenty-four years of anticipated royalties on telephone calls between Connecticut and New Jersey, our creditors held a meeting and suggested that we either make up our minds or go without any further groceries, shoes, and clothes. So we arranged for a meeting in the public library and we filled the entire loft with bundles of folk tunes and finally we decided: "These are the songs the people who sing them are most apt to sing on those occasions when they feel the need for giving expression to their emotions by means of a song," and we took those and did not take many others, for if we had put the day of judgment off another twenty-four hours, we would have had to start all over again.

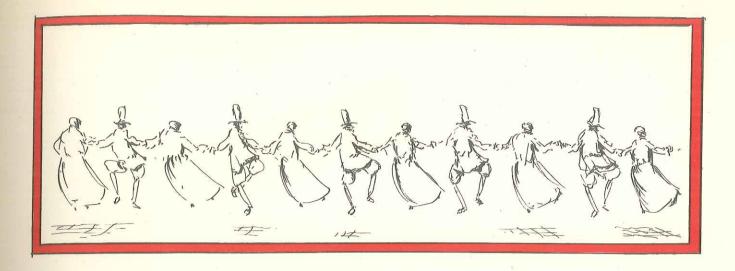
We do not claim to have been infallible in our verdict. To pick twenty-four tunes out of ten thousand times that number of candidates does not make for an easy choice! But at the moment we "tapped" them and said, "Go to your page," those particular songs seemed to hold the best possible promise for the foundation of a thoroughly happy and congenial community of musical interests.

And that is all there is to say.

The rest is—music!

HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON

^{*}For a few items of interest about each of the songs, see pages 86 to 96.

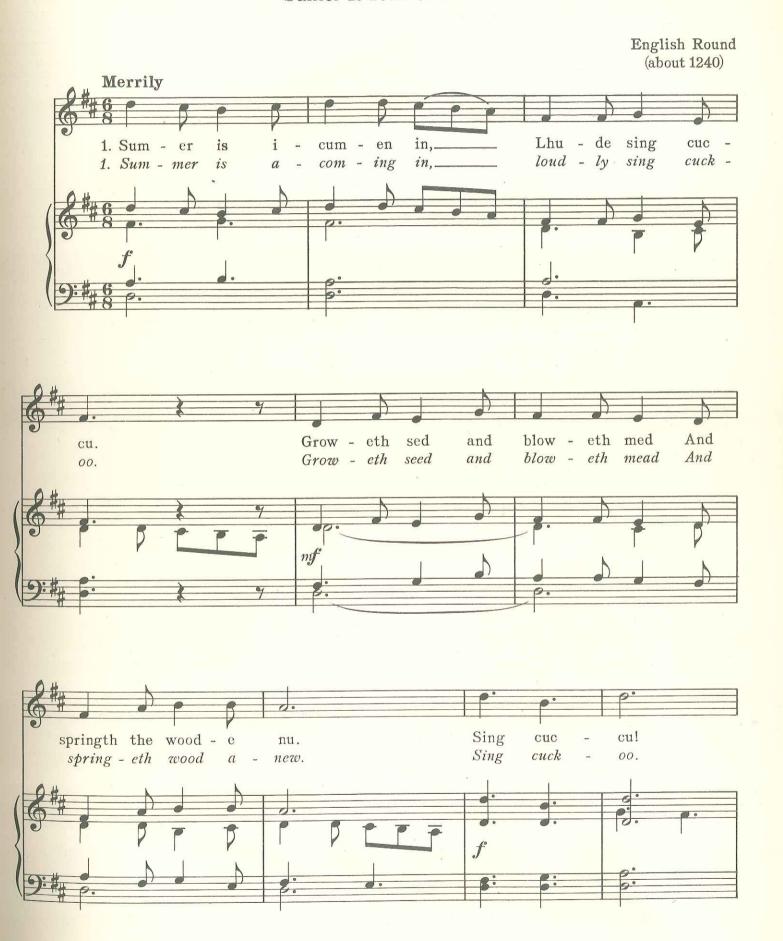


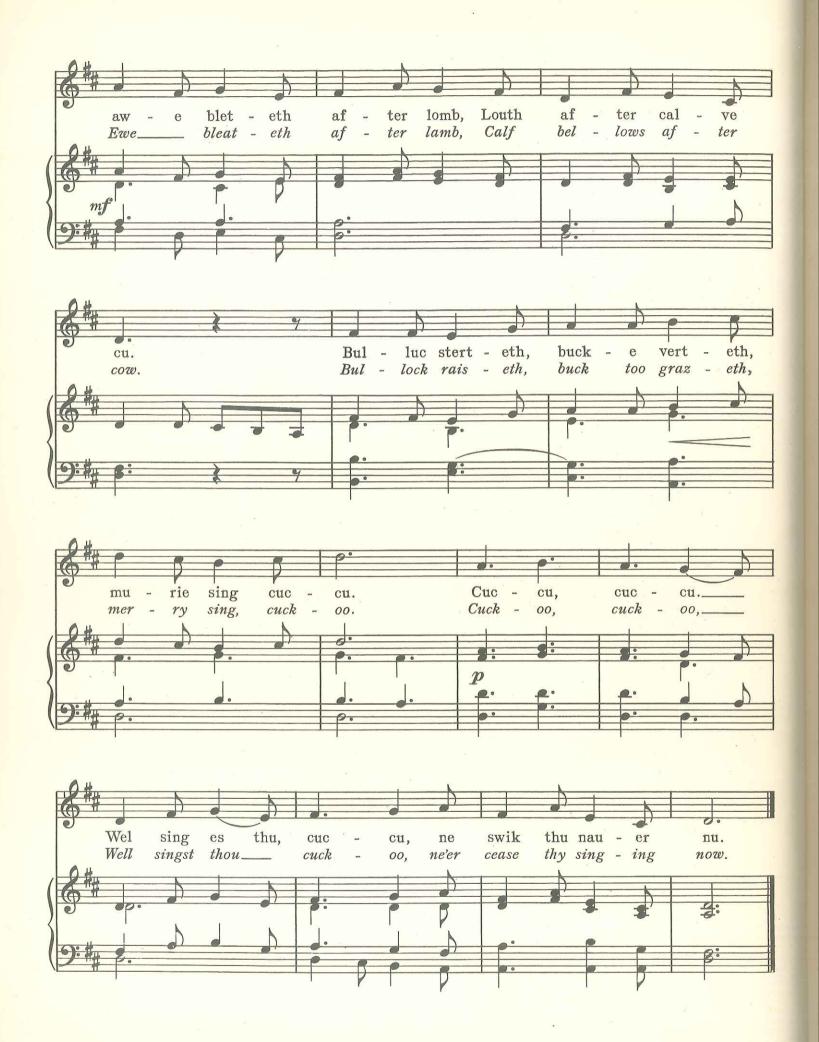
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3	THE LITTLE SANDMAN					×				*				•					17
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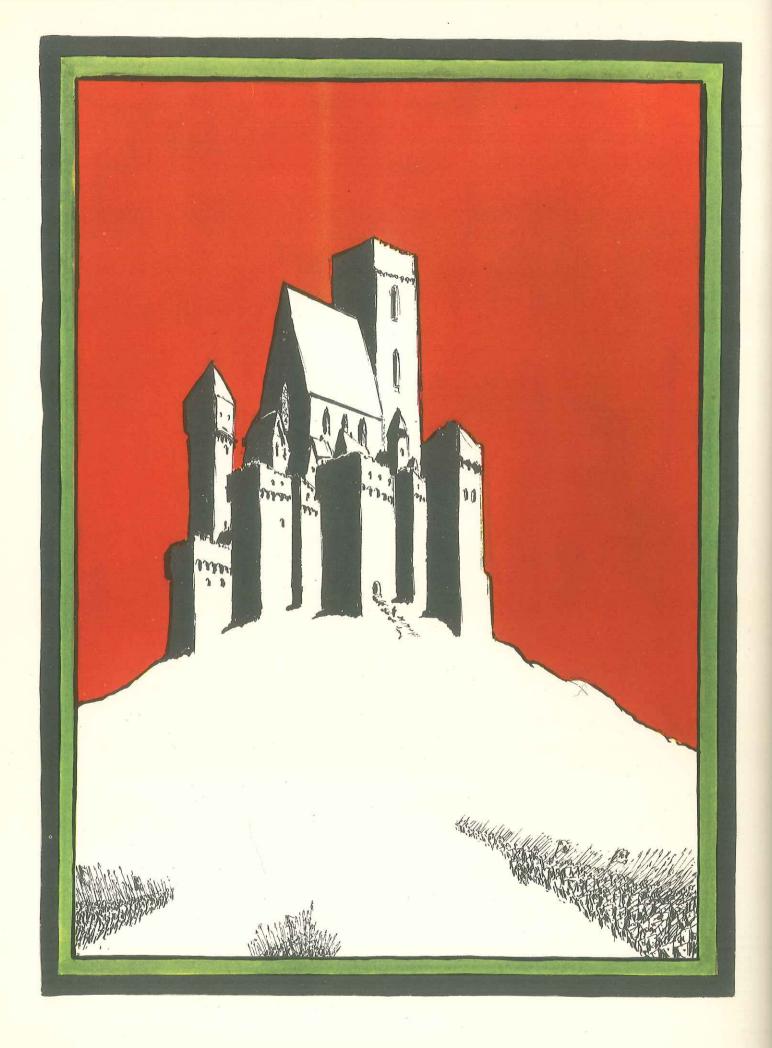


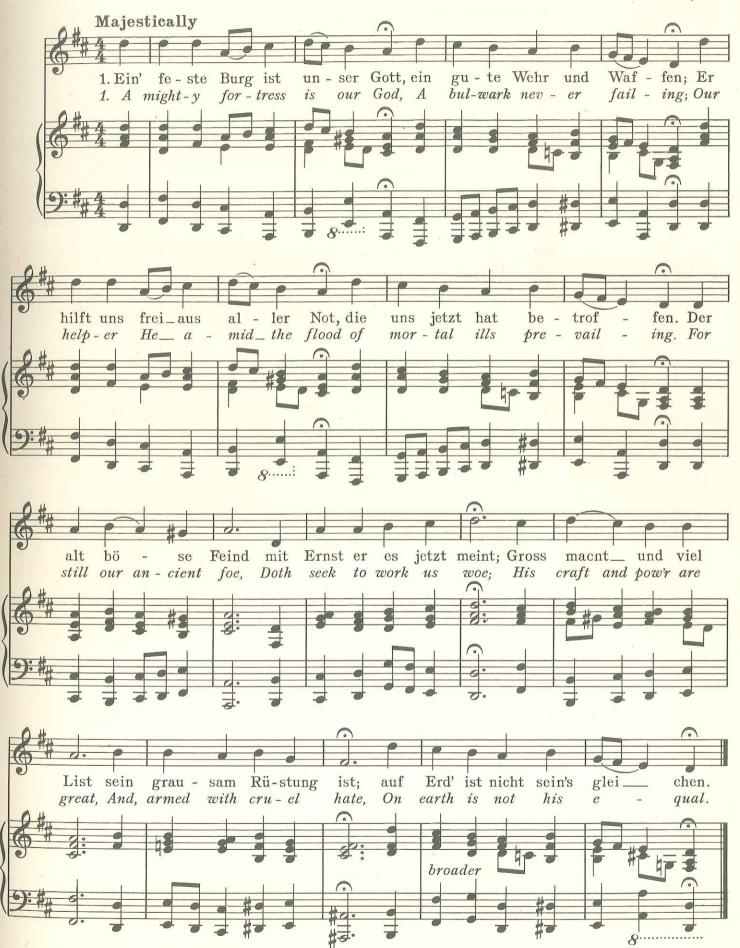
Sumer Is Icumen In





A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
(EIN' FESTE BURG)





EIN' FESTE BURG

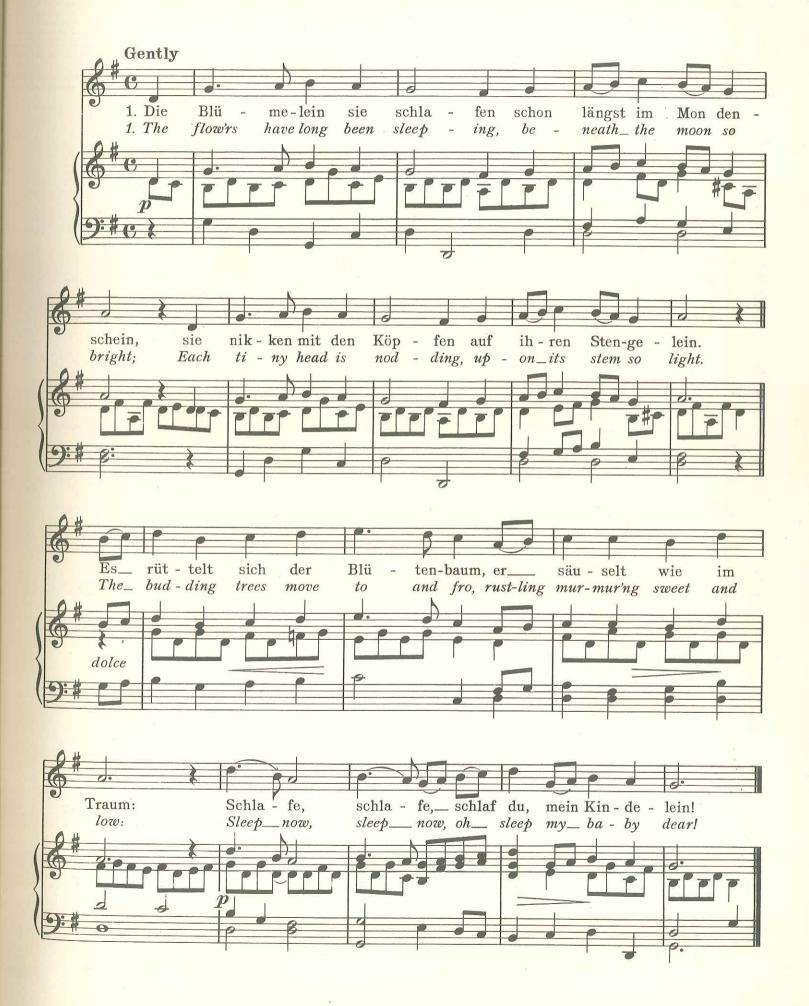
- Did we in our own strength confide,
 Our striving would be losing;
 Were not the right man on our side,
 The man of God's own choosing:
 Dost ask who that may be?
 Christ Jesus, it is He;
 Lord Sabaoth His name,
 From age to age the same,
 And He must win the battle.
- 3. And though this world, with devils filled,
 Should threaten to undo us;
 We will not fear, for God hath willed
 His truth to triumph through us:
 The prince of darkness grim,
 We tremble not for him;
 His rage we can endure,
 For lo! his doom is sure,
 One little word shall fell him.
- 2. Mit unsrer Macht ist nichts getan,
 Wir sind gar bald verloren;
 Es streit't für uns der rechte Mann,
 Den Gott selbst hat erkoren.
 Fragst du, wer der ist?
 Er heisst Jesus Christ,
 Der Herr Zebaoth,
 Und ist kein andrer Gott:
 Das Feld muss er behalten.
- 3. Und wenn die Welt voll Teufel wär,
 Und wollt uns gar verschlingen,
 So fürchten wir uns nicht so sehr,
 Es soll uns doch gelingen.
 Der Fürst dieser Welt,
 Wie saur er sich stellt,
 Tut er uns doch nicht;
 Das macht, er ist gericht't,
 Ein Wörtlein kann ihn fällen.

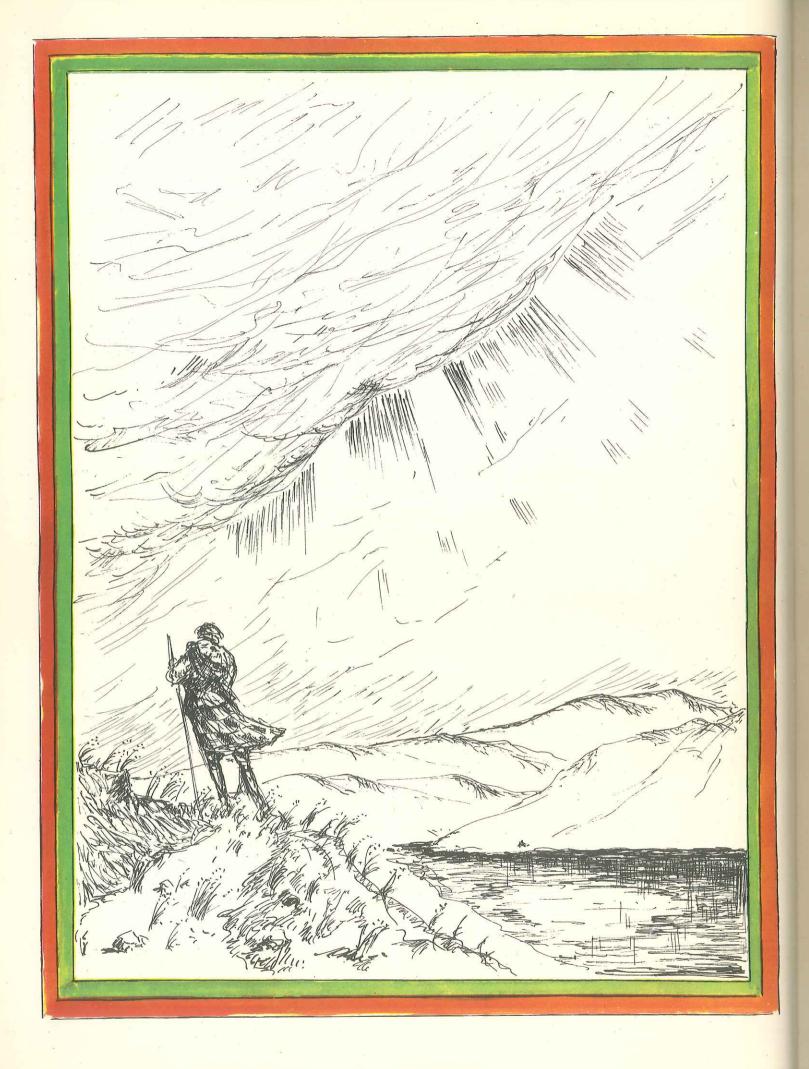
The Little Sandman
(SANDMANNCHEN)



- 2. The birds that sang so sweetly
 By day have gone to rest,
 With feathers folded neatly,
 Each in its cozy nest.
 But in my little cottage,
 I sing to you, my child:
 Sleep now, sleep now,
 Oh sleep, my baby dear!
- 3. The Sandman now is coming,
 And surely he will peep
 To see that all good children,
 Are really fast asleep.
 And when he finds one still awake,
 Sand he'll sprinkle in its eyes:
 Sleep now, sleep now,
 Oh sleep, my baby dear!
- 2. Die Vögelein, die sangen
 So süss im Sonnenschein,
 Sie sind zur Ruh' gegangen
 In ihre Nestchen klein;
 Das Heimchen in den Ährengrund,
 Es thut allein sich kund:
 Schlafe, schlafe,
 Schlaf' du, mein Kindelein!
- 3. Sandmännchen kommt geschlichen
 Und guckt durch's Fensterlein,
 Ob irgend noch ein Liebchen
 Nicht mag zu Bette sein:
 Und wo er nur ein Kindchen fand,
 Streut' er in's Aug ihm Sand:
 Schlafe, schlafe,
 Schlaf' du, mein Kindelein!

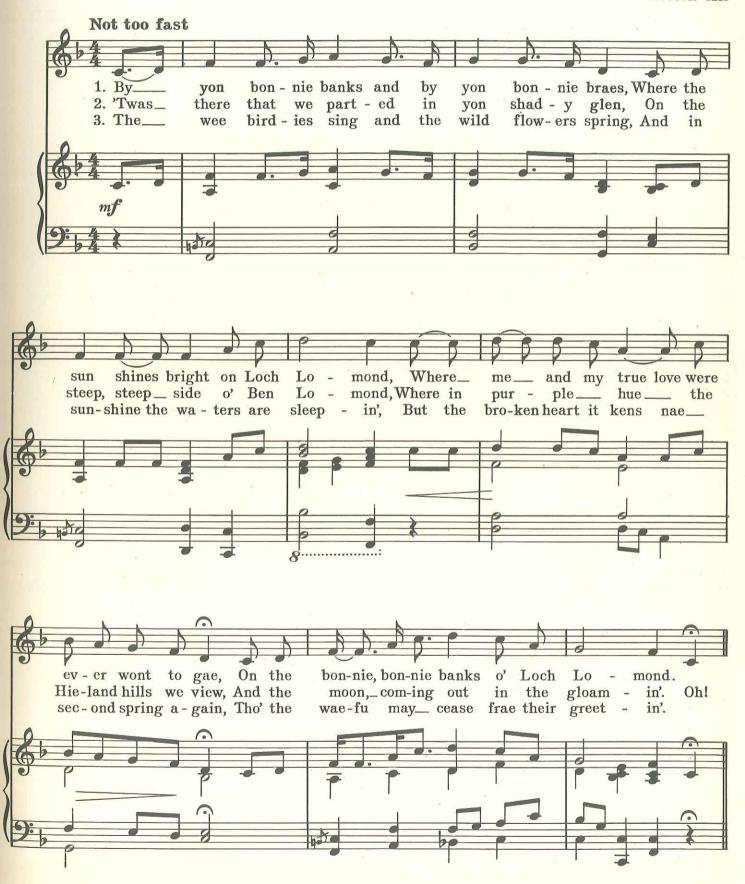
The Little Sandman

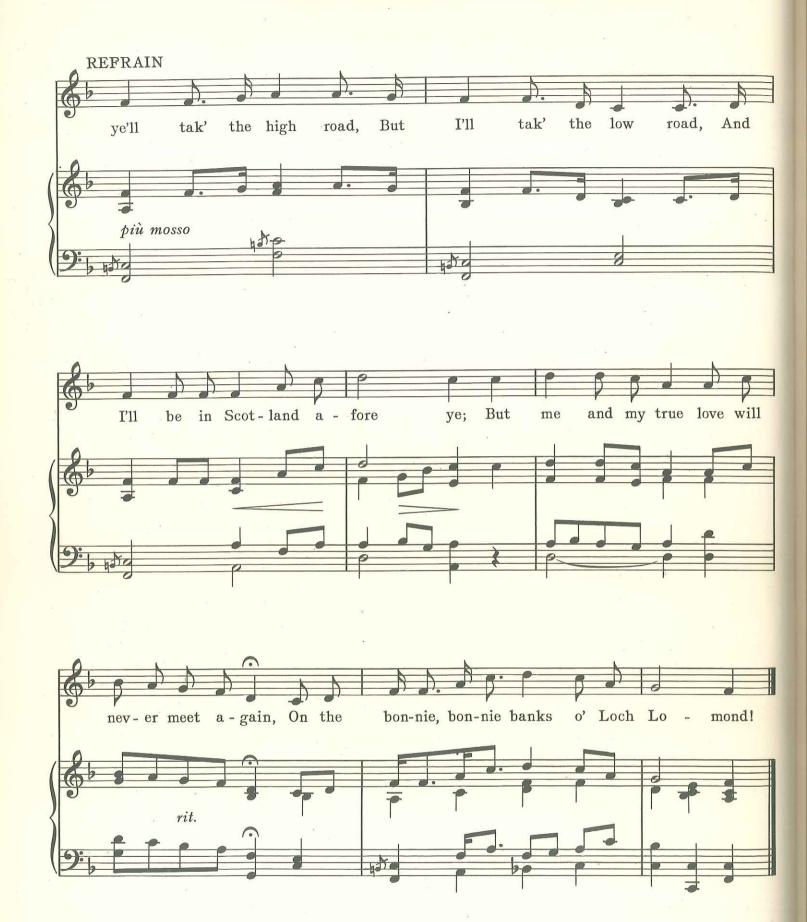




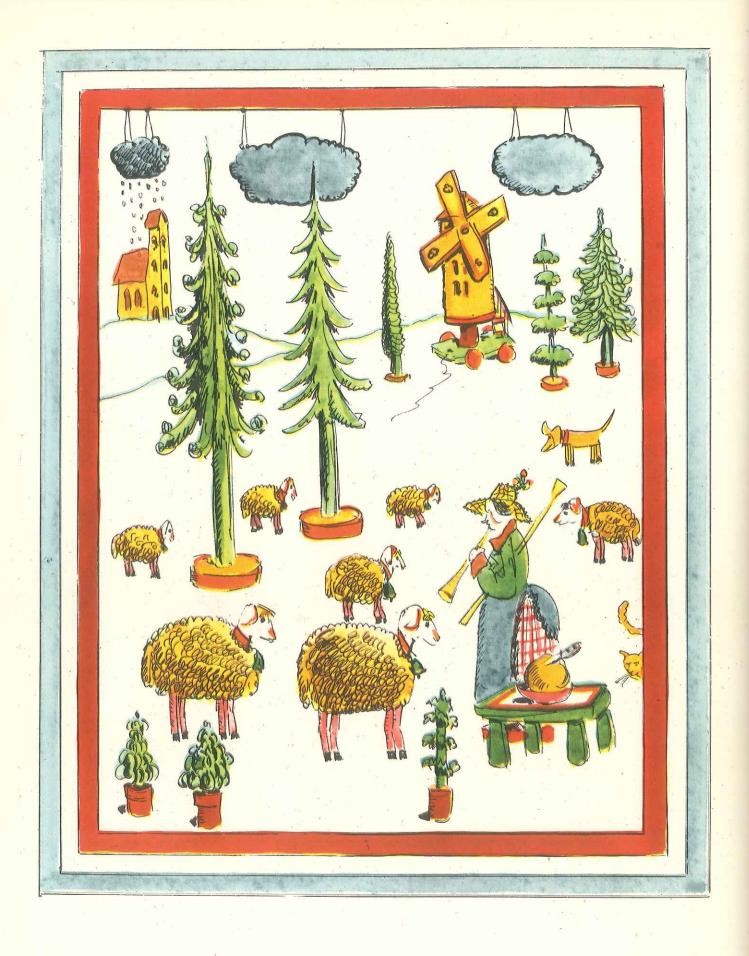
Loch Lomond

Scotch Air



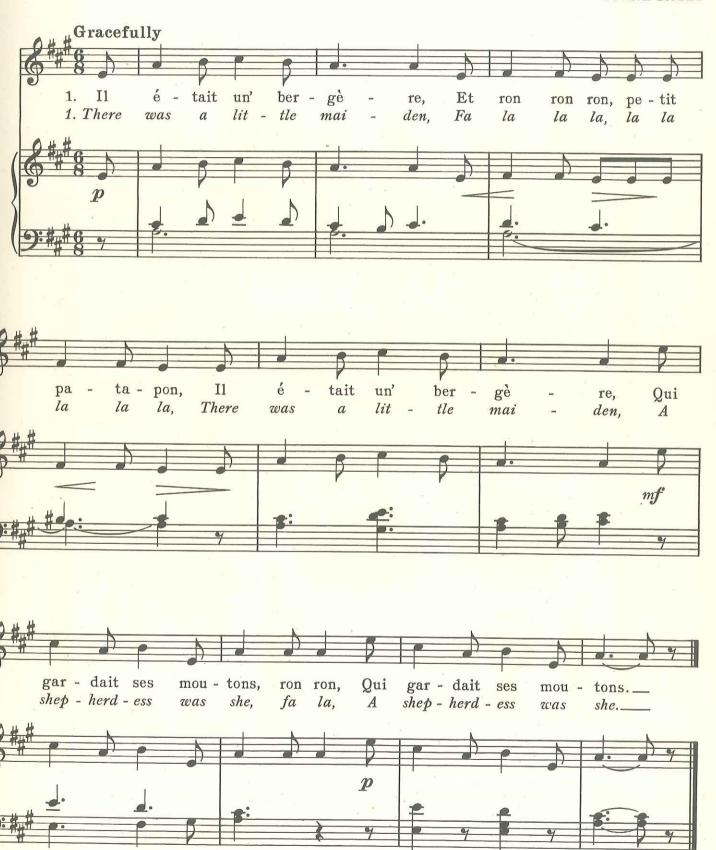


Il était une bergère



Il était une bergère

French Round

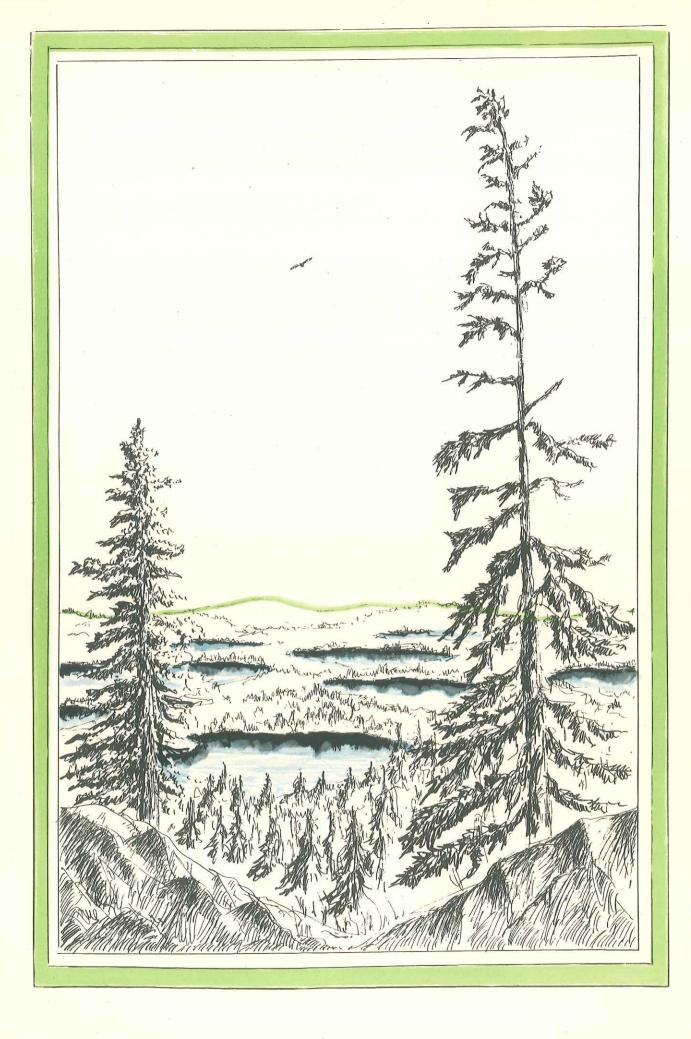


IL ÉTAIT UNE BERGÈRE

- 2. A cheese she was a-making,
 Fa la la la, la la la la la,
 A cheese she was a-making,
 Of milk so pure and white, fa la,
 Of milk so pure and white.
- 3. Her cat, who sat a-watching,
 Fa la la la, la la la la la,
 Her cat, who sat a-watching,
 Had such a naughty look, fa la,
 Had such a naughty look.
- 4. If you dare put your paw in,
 Fa la la la, la la la la la,
 If you dare put your paw in,
 I'll get out my big stick, fa la
 I'll get out my big stick.
- 5. The cat did not attempt this,
 Fa la la la, la la la la la,
 The cat did not attempt this,
 Instead, his tongue went in, fa la,
 Instead, his tongue went in.

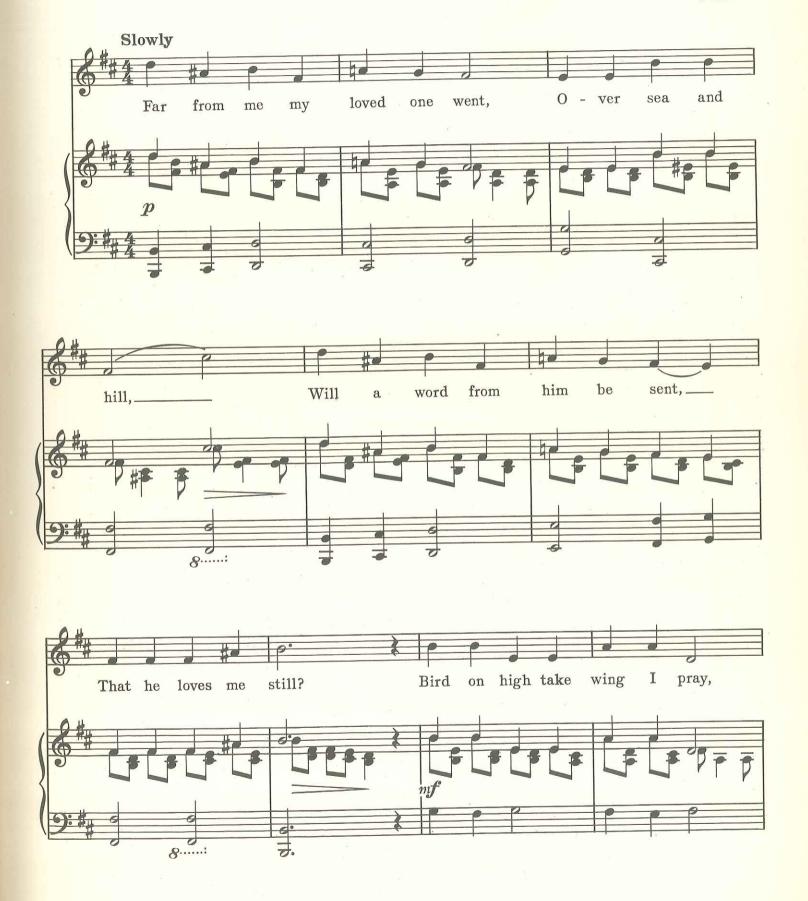
- 2. Elle fit un fromage,
 Et ron ron ron, petit patapon,
 Elle fit un fromage
 Du lait de ses moutons, ron, ron,
 Du lait de ses moutons.
- 3. Le chat qui la regarde,
 Et ron ron ron, petit patapon,
 Le chat qui la regarde
 D'un petit air fripon, ron ron,
 D'un petit air fripon.
- 4. Si tu y mets la patte,
 Et ron ron ron, petit patapon,
 Si tu y mets la patte,
 Tu auras du bâton, ron ron,
 Tu auras du bâton.
- 5. Il n'y mit pas la patte,
 Et ron ron ron, petit patapon,
 Il n'y mit pas la patte,
 Il y mit le menton, ron ron,
 Il y mit le menton.

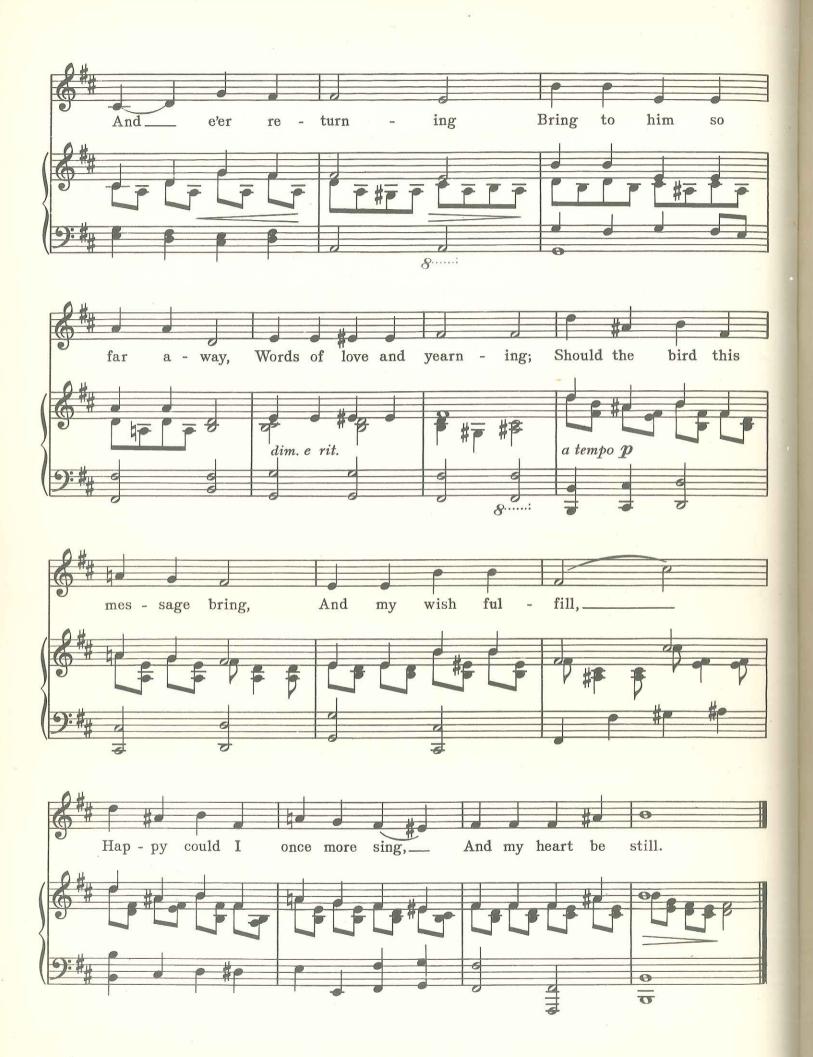
Far from Me



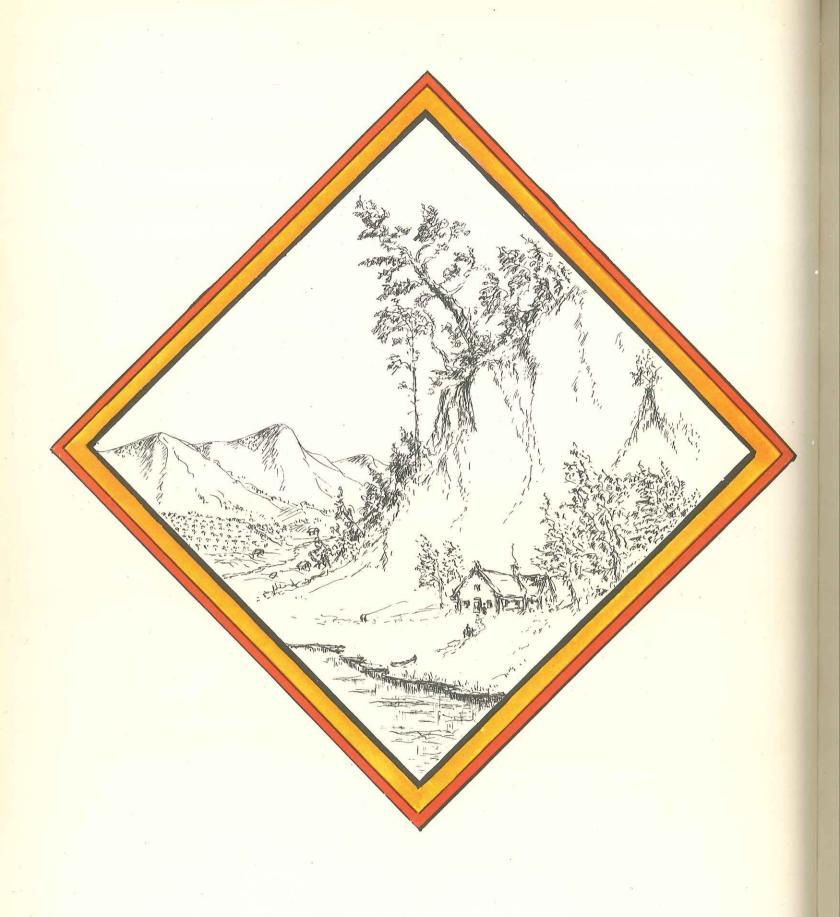
Far from Me

Finnish





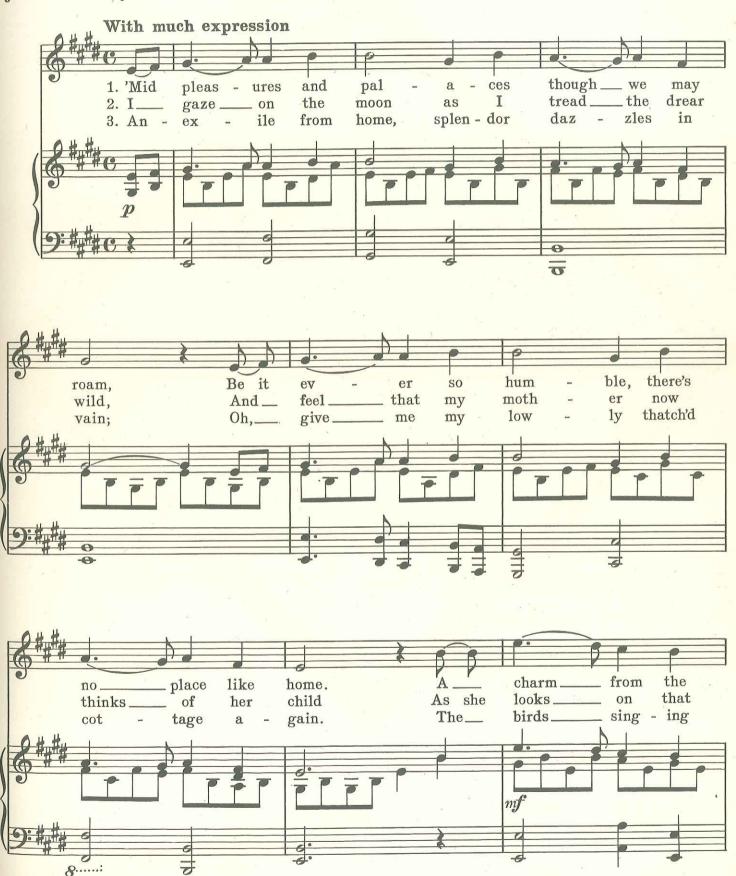
Home, Sweet Home

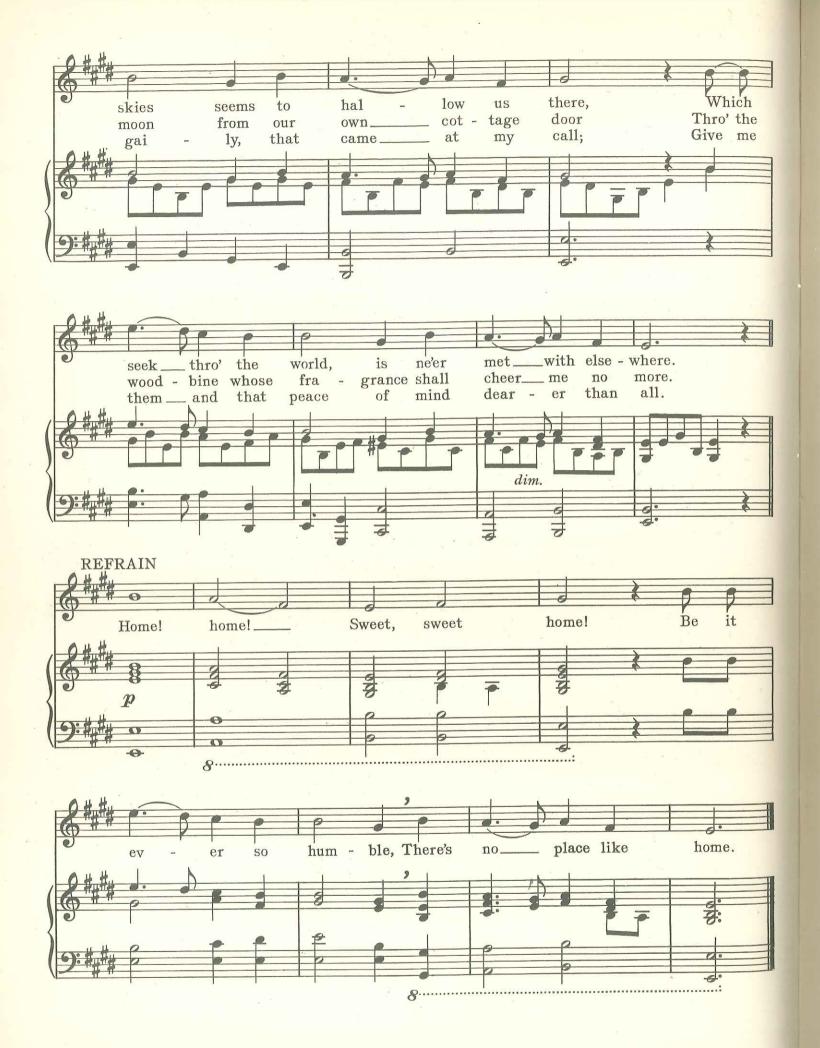


Home, Sweet Home

John Howard Payne

Sir Henry Bishop



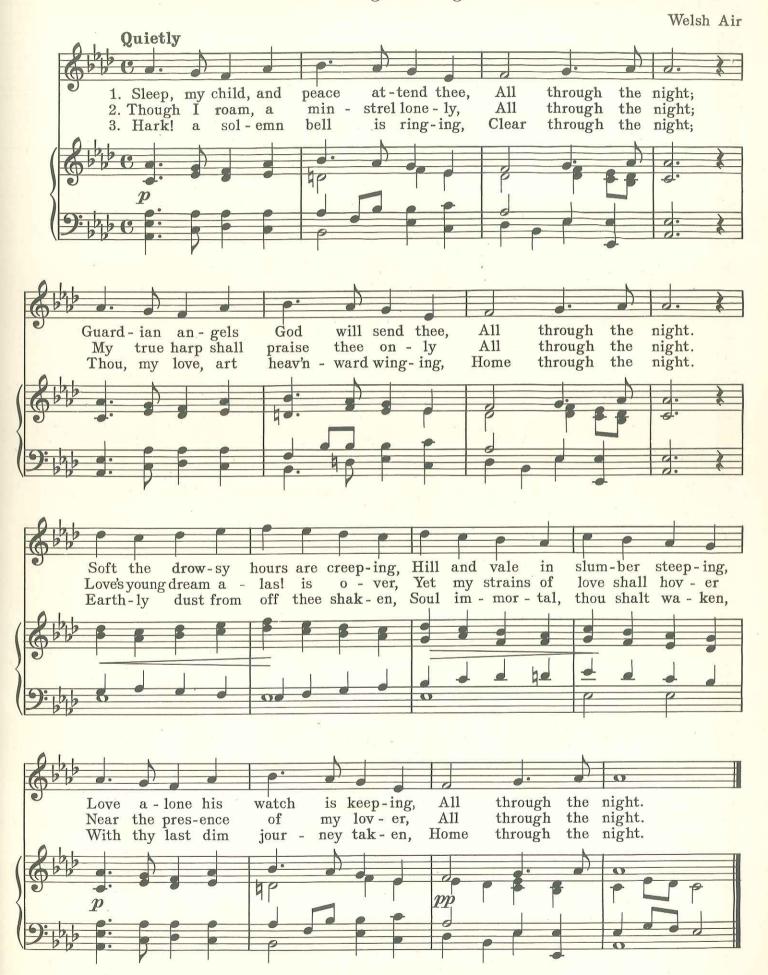


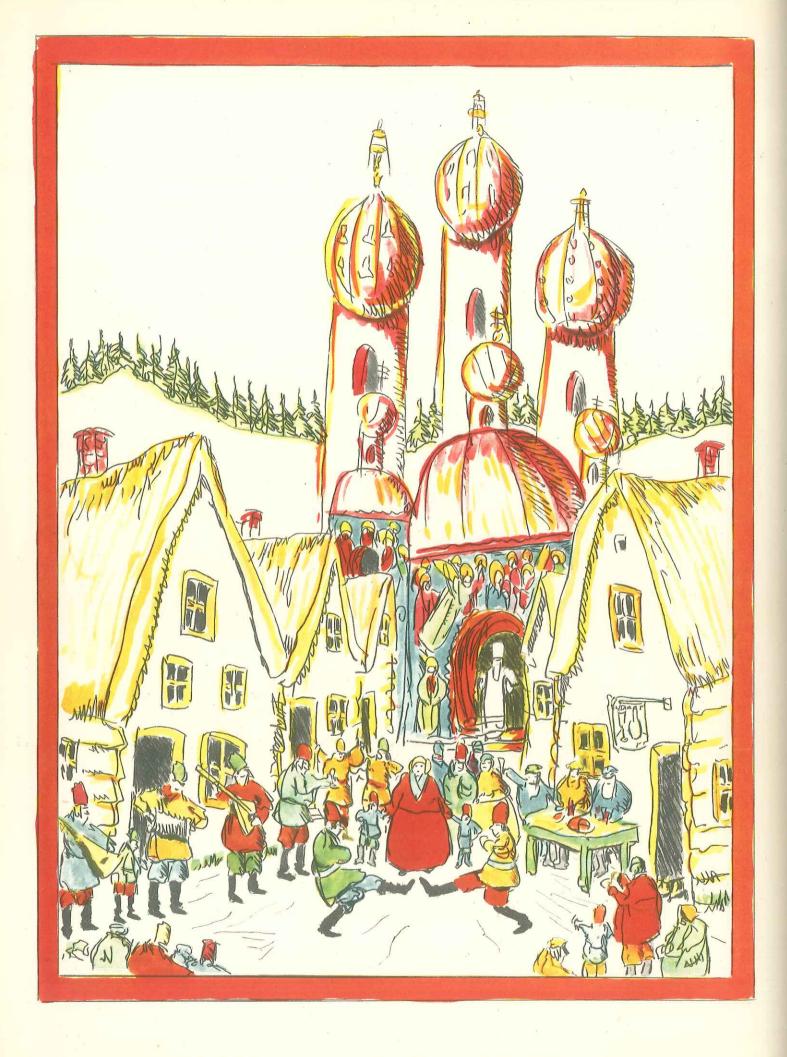
All Through the Night



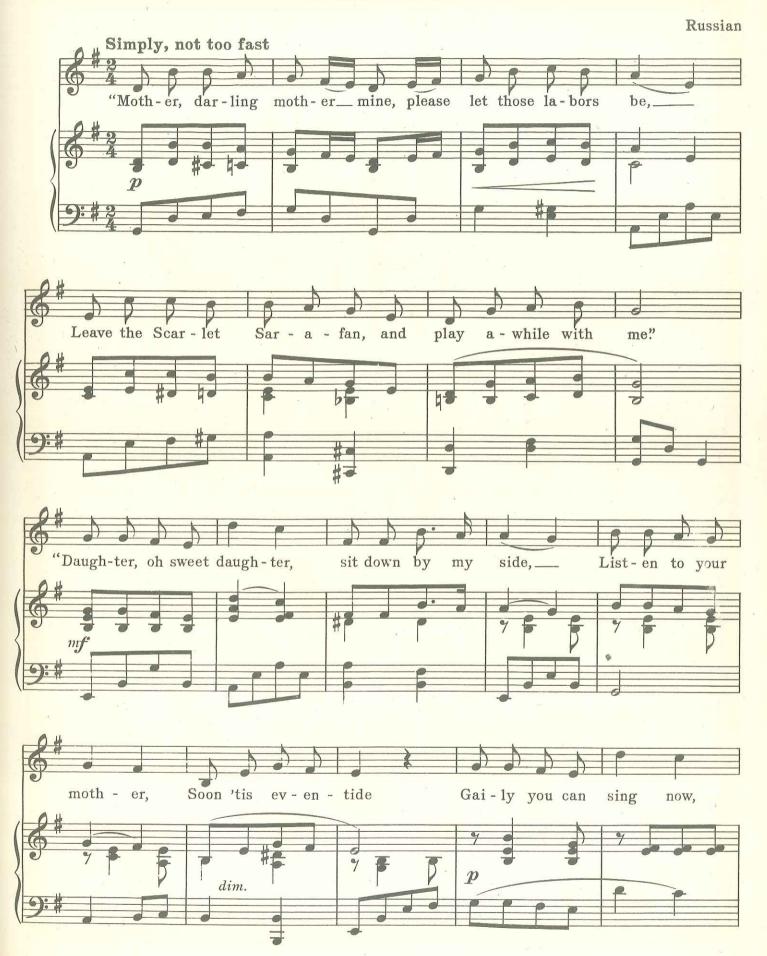
4. While the moon her watch is keeping,
All through the night;
While the weary world is sleeping,
All through the night.
O'er thy spirit gently stealing,
Visions of delight revealing,
Breathes a pure and holy feeling,
All through the night.

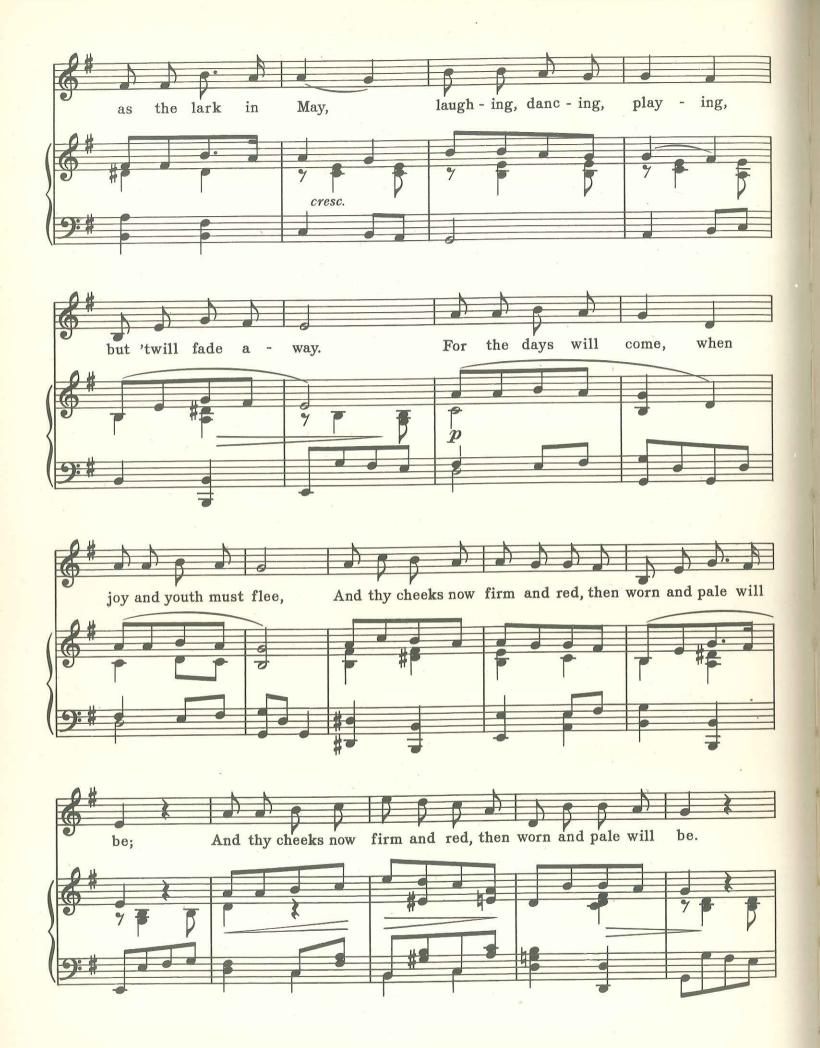
All Through the Night

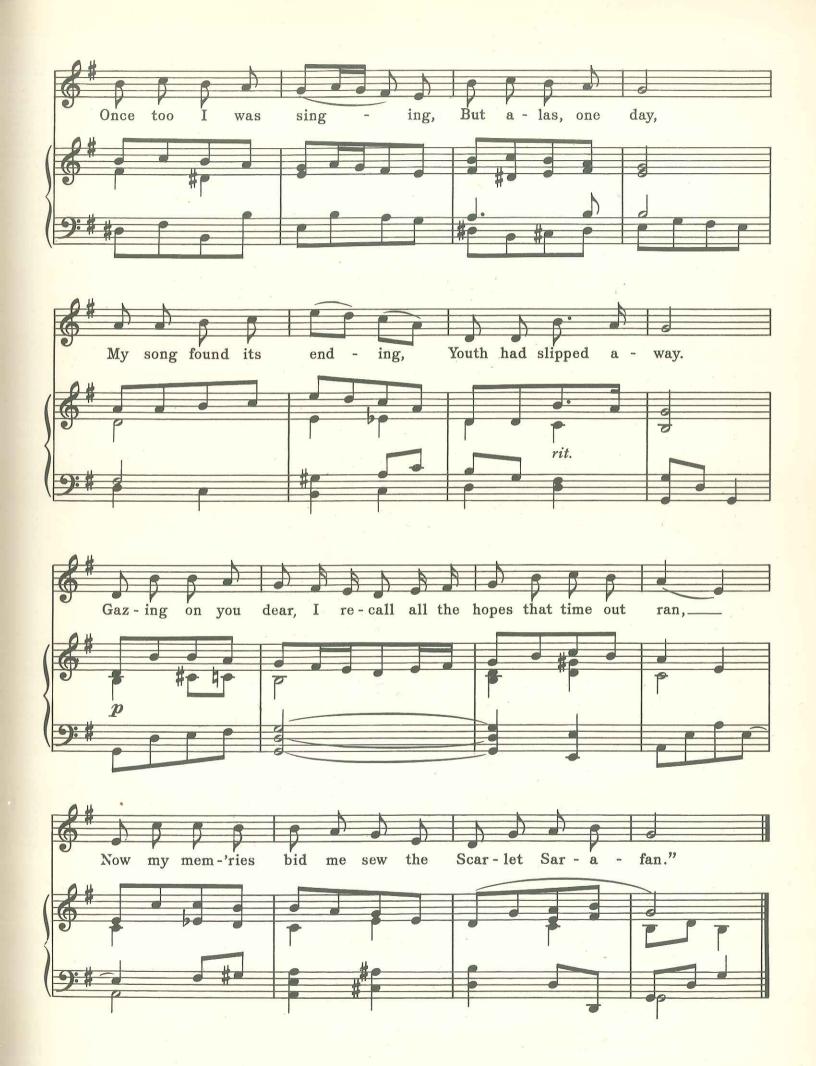


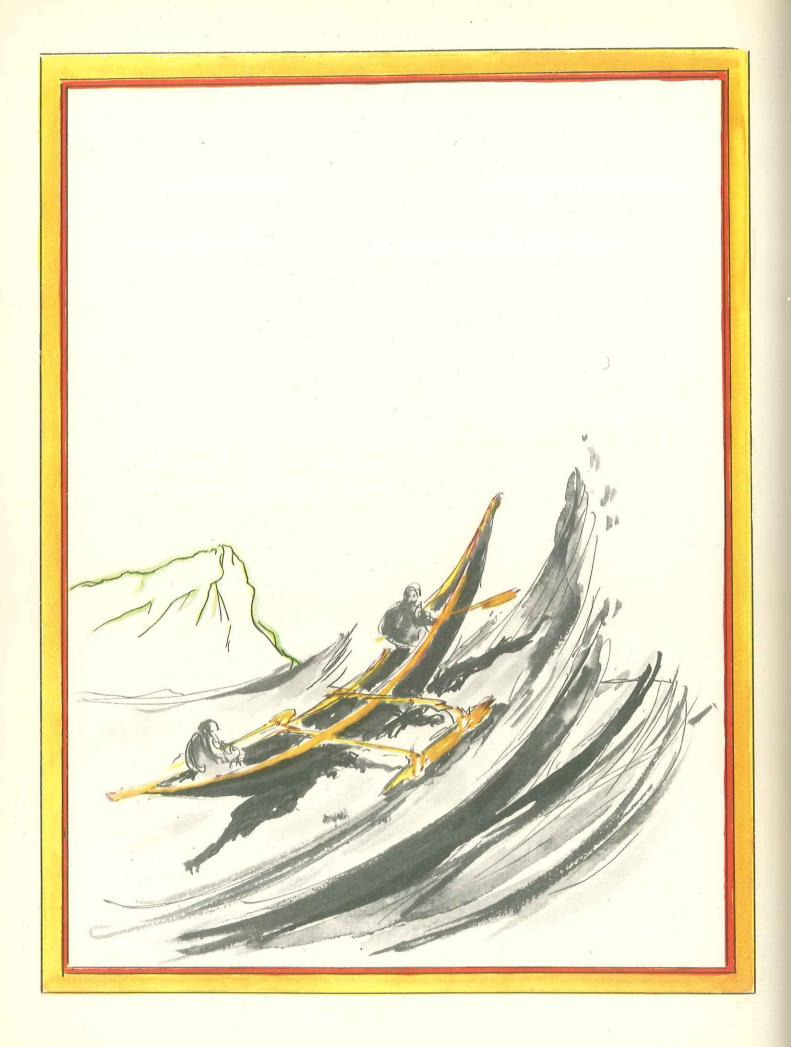


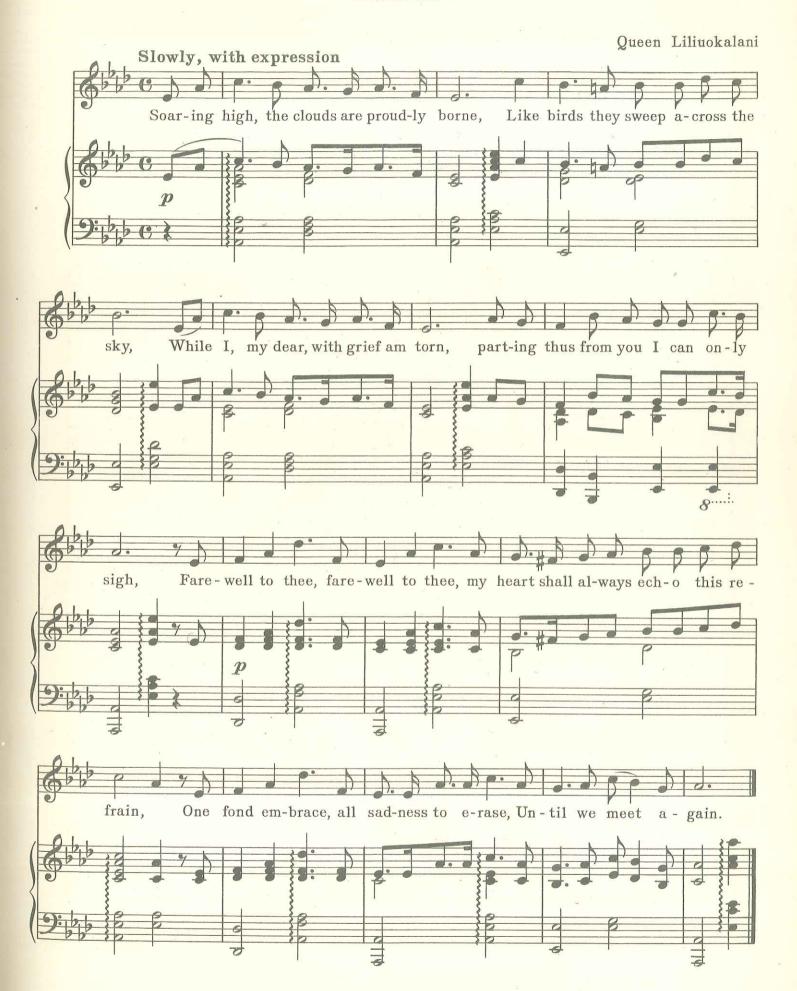
The Scarlet Sarafan

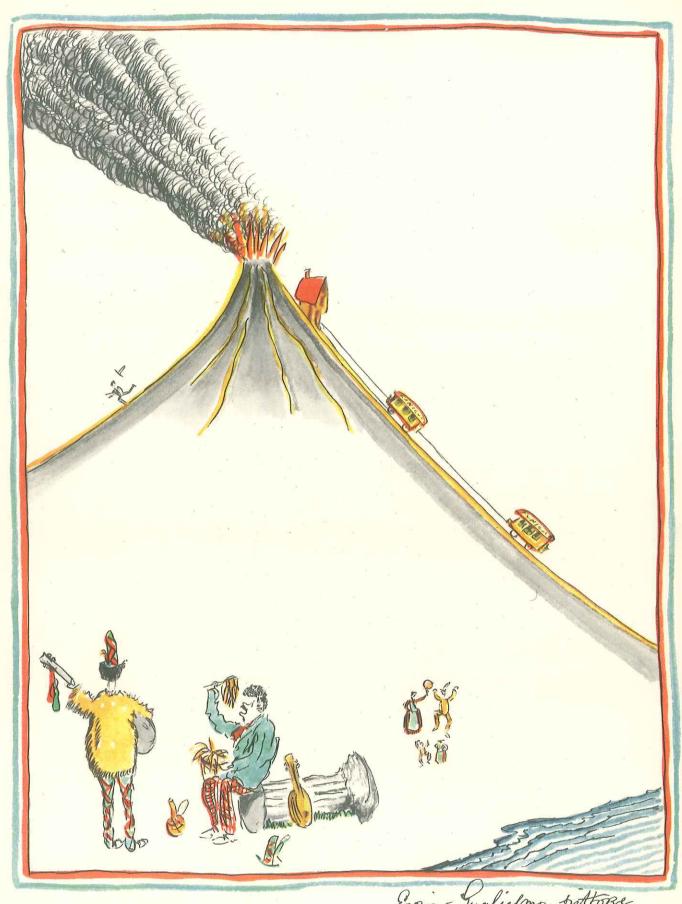






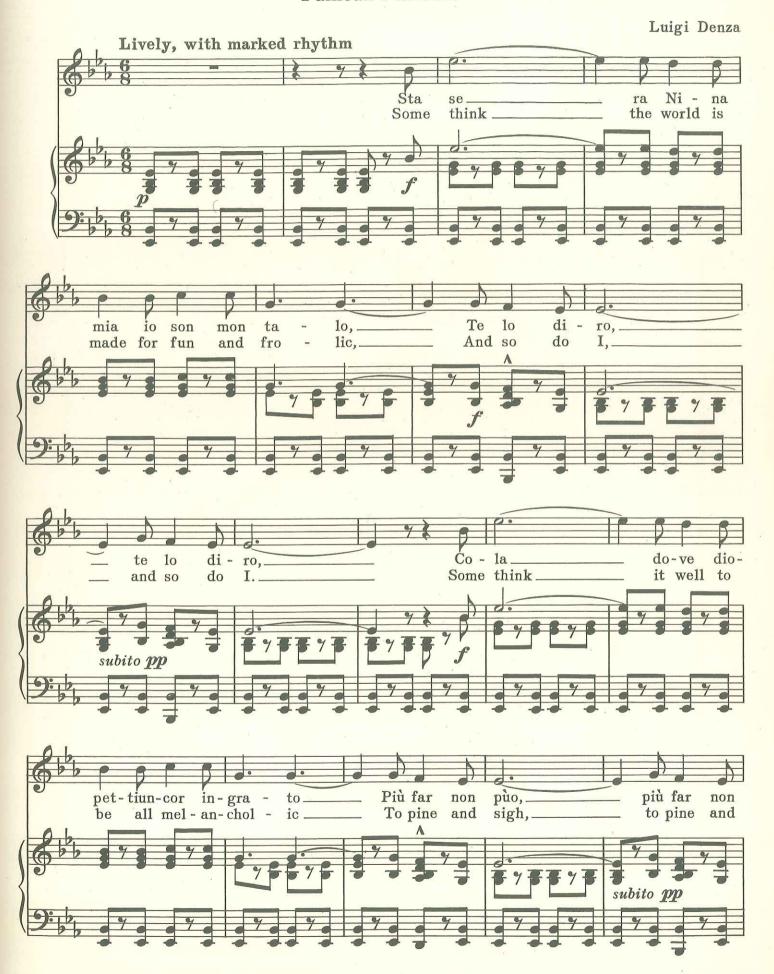


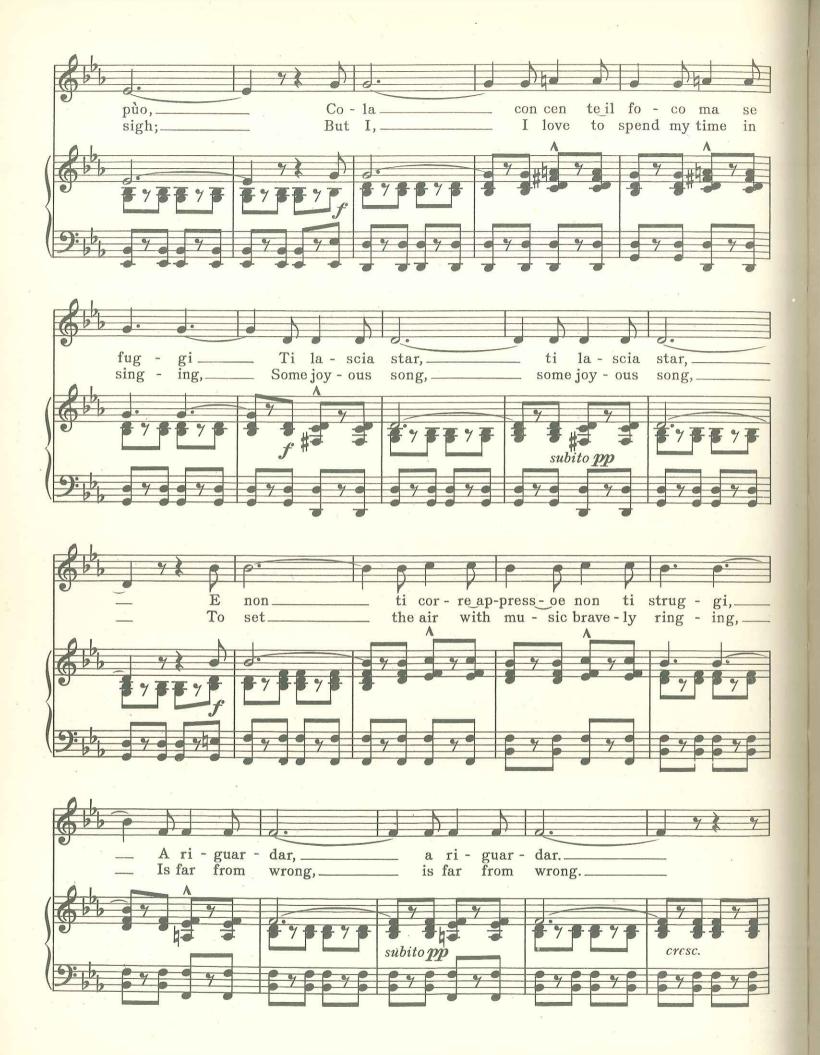


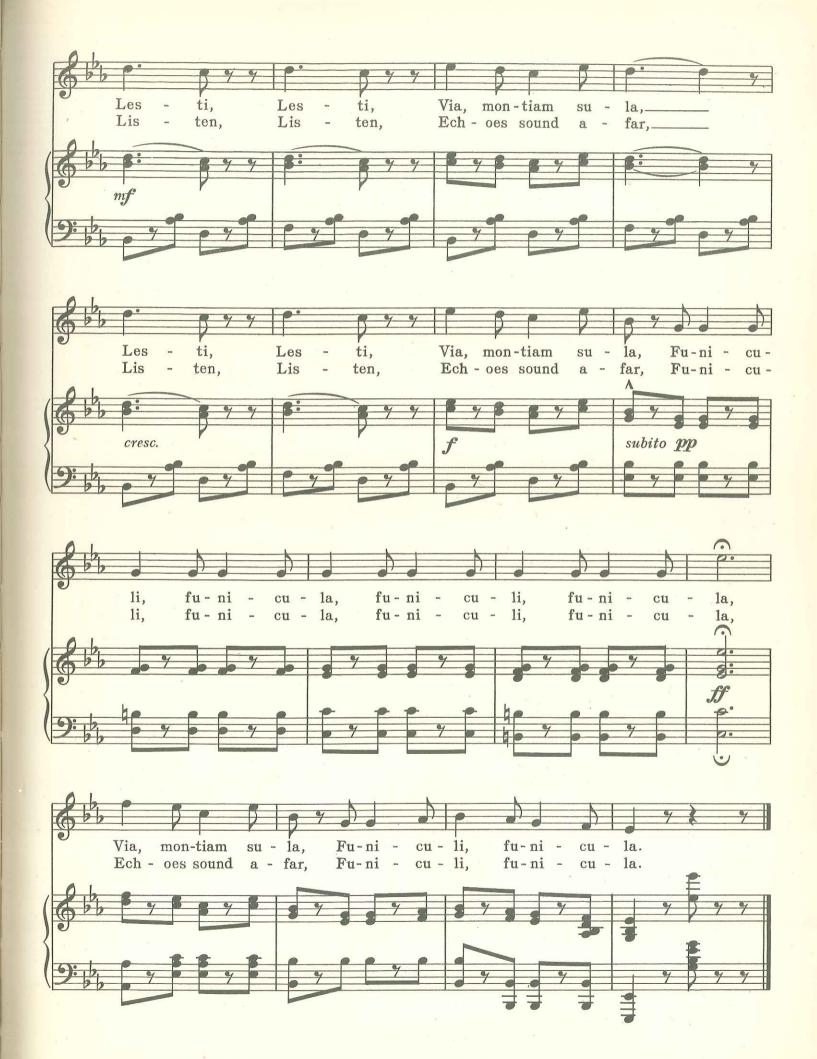


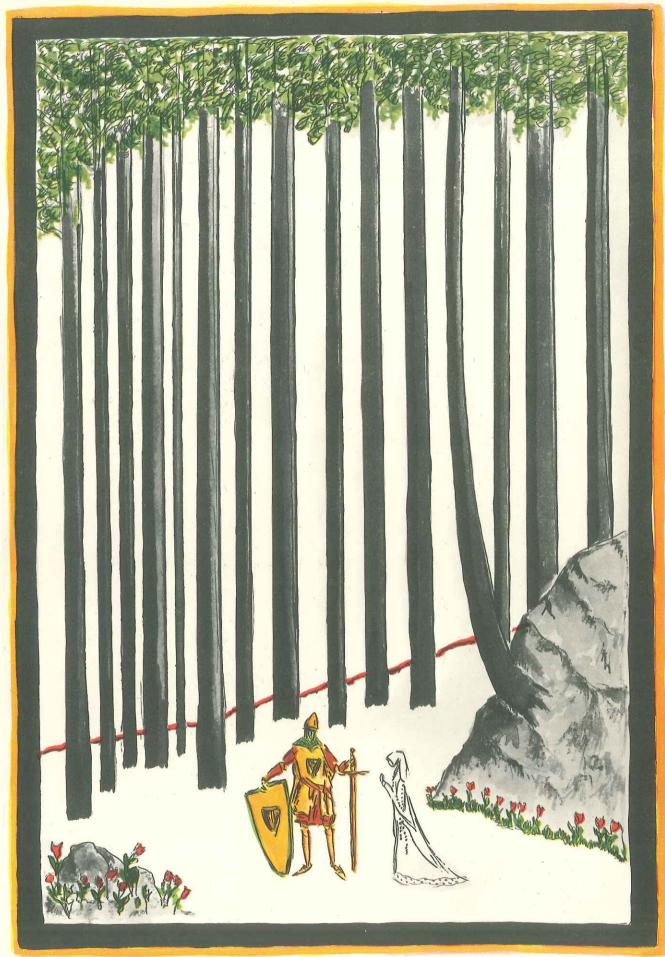
Enris Juglielmo, pottore

Funiculi Funicula



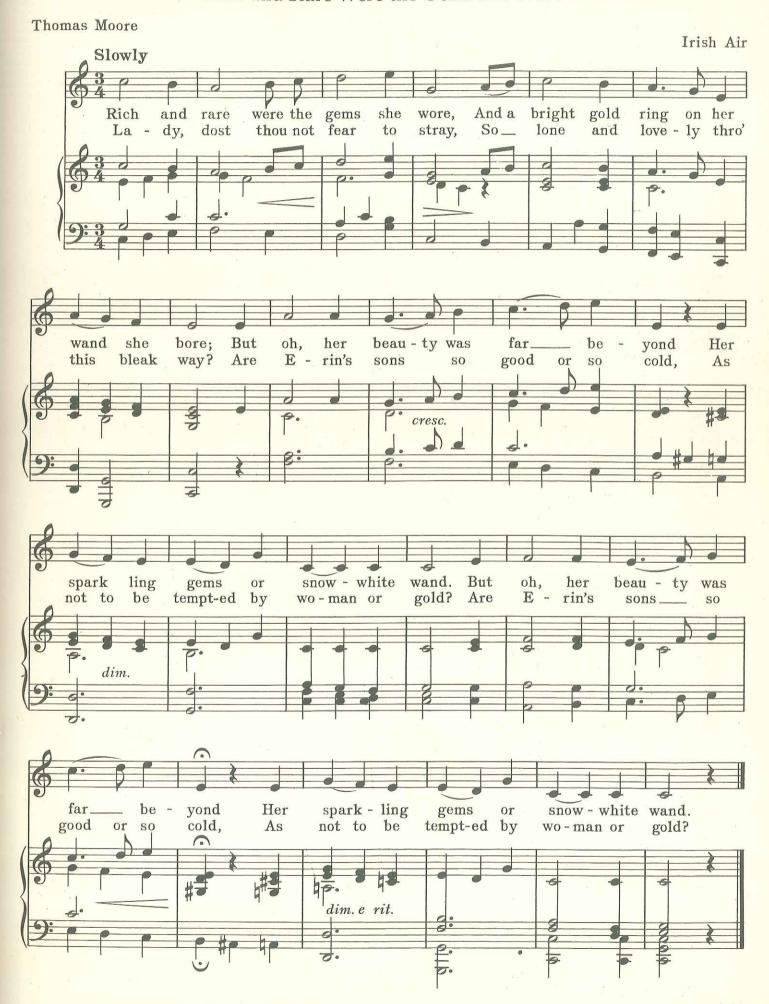


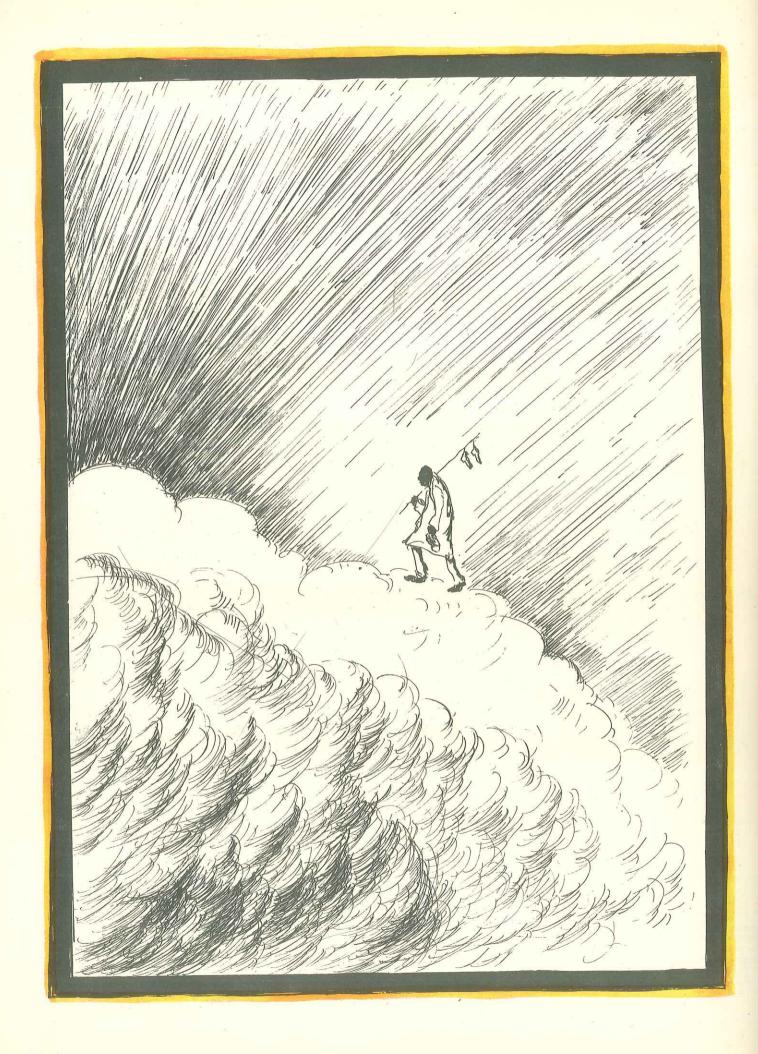




- 3. "Sir, I feel not the least alarm,
 No son of Erin will offer me harm;
 For though they love woman and gold enstore,
 Sir Knight, they love honor and virtue more!"
- 4. On she went, and her maiden smile, In safety lighted her round the green isle; And blest forever is she who relied Upon Erin's honor and Erin's pride.

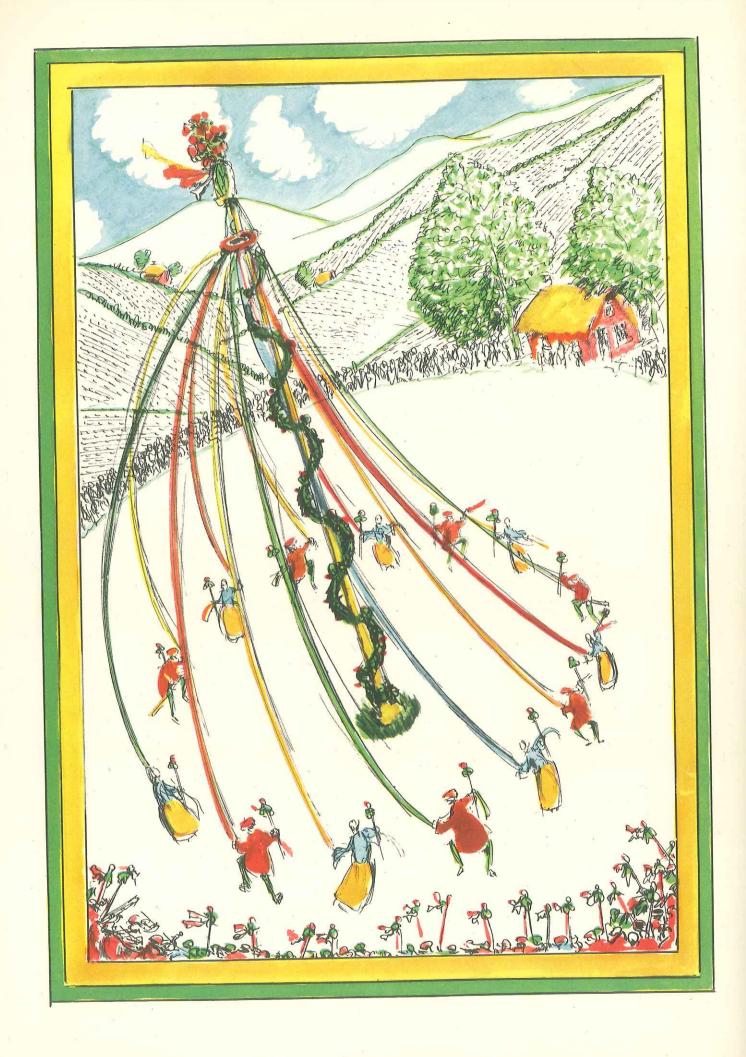
Rich and Rare Were the Gems She Wore



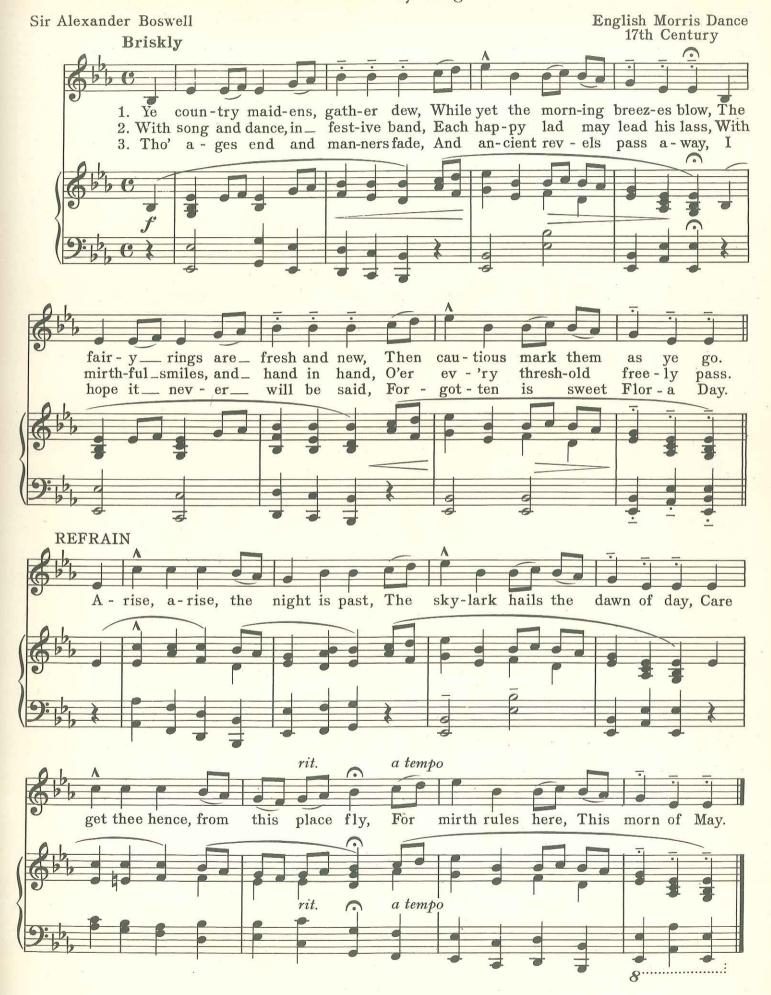


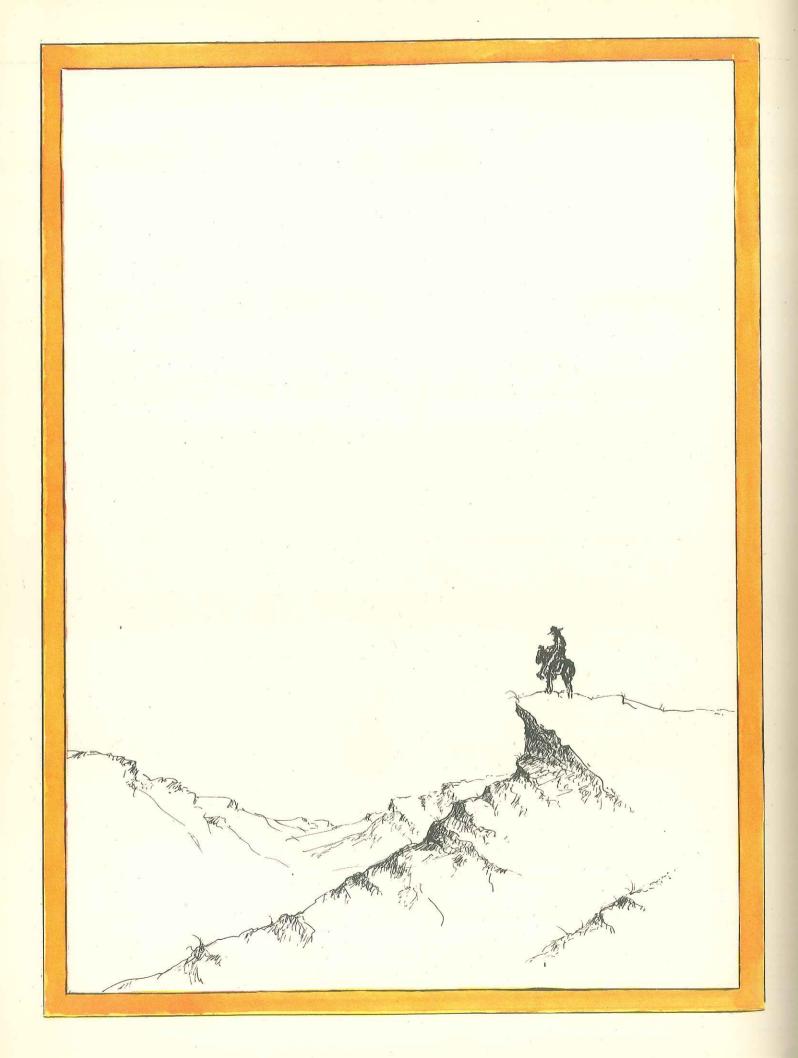
Goin' to Shout All Over God's Heav'n



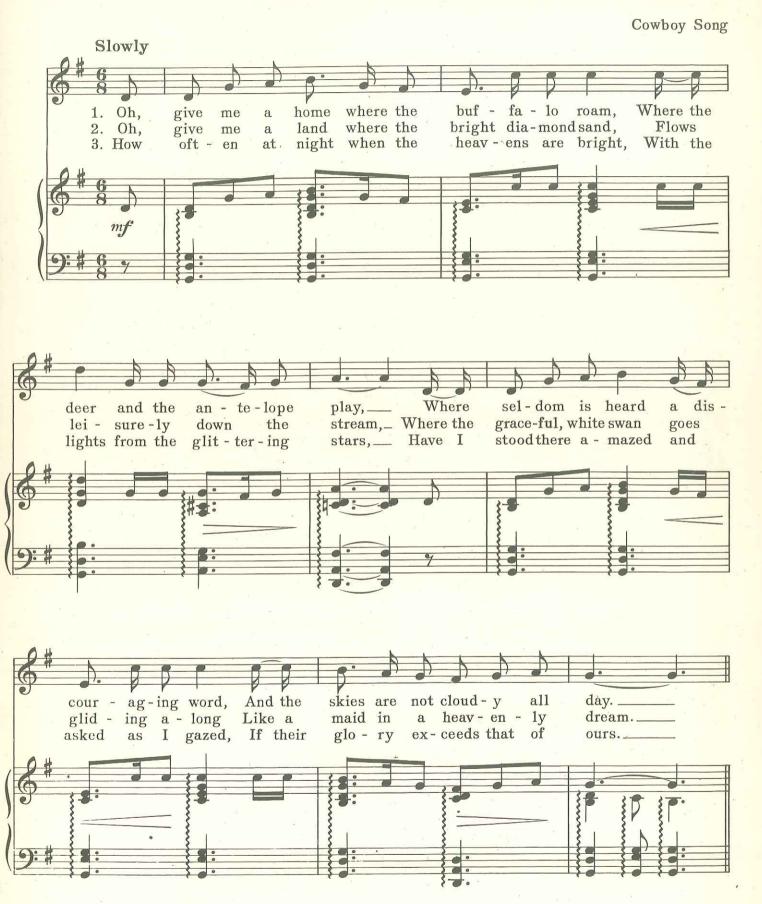


Cornish May Song





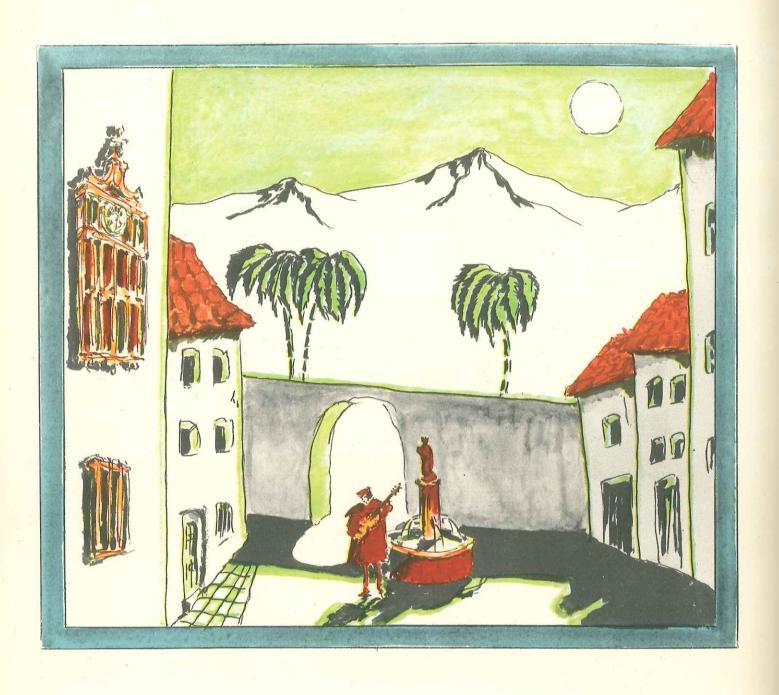
Home on the Range

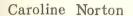




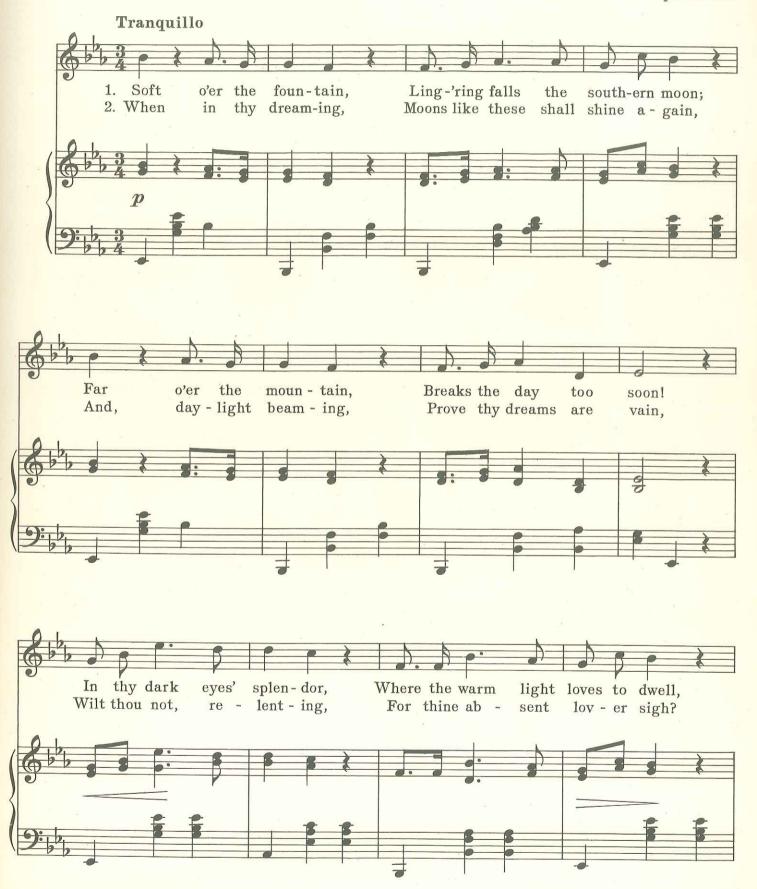


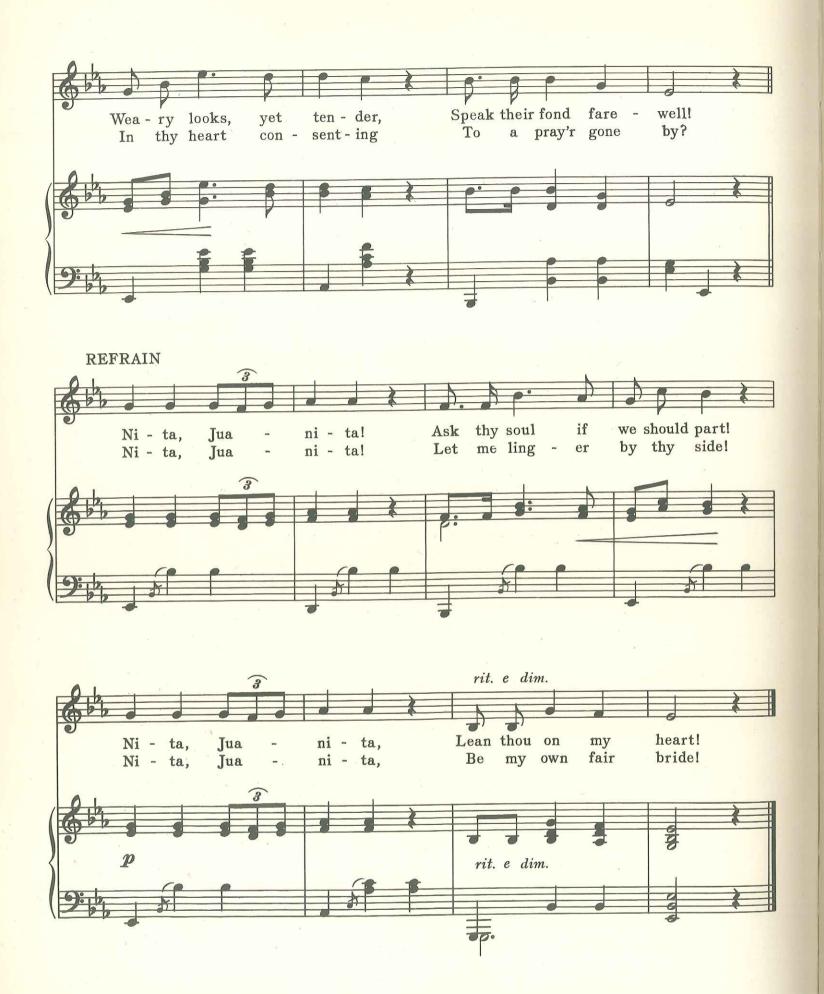
Juanita





Spanish Air

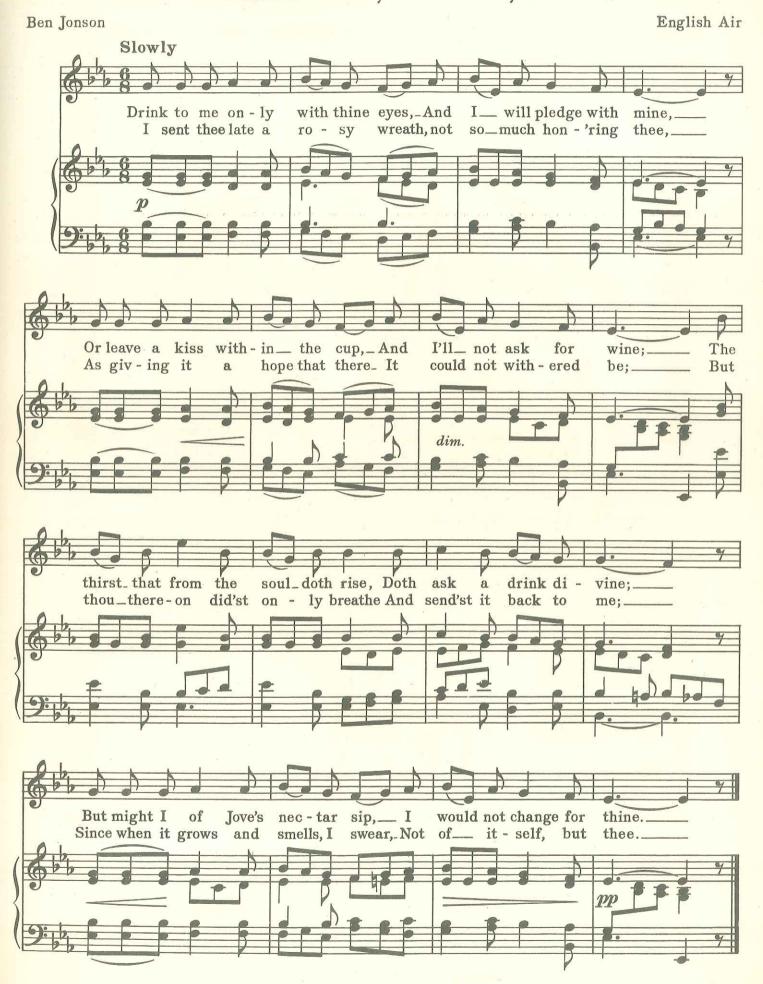


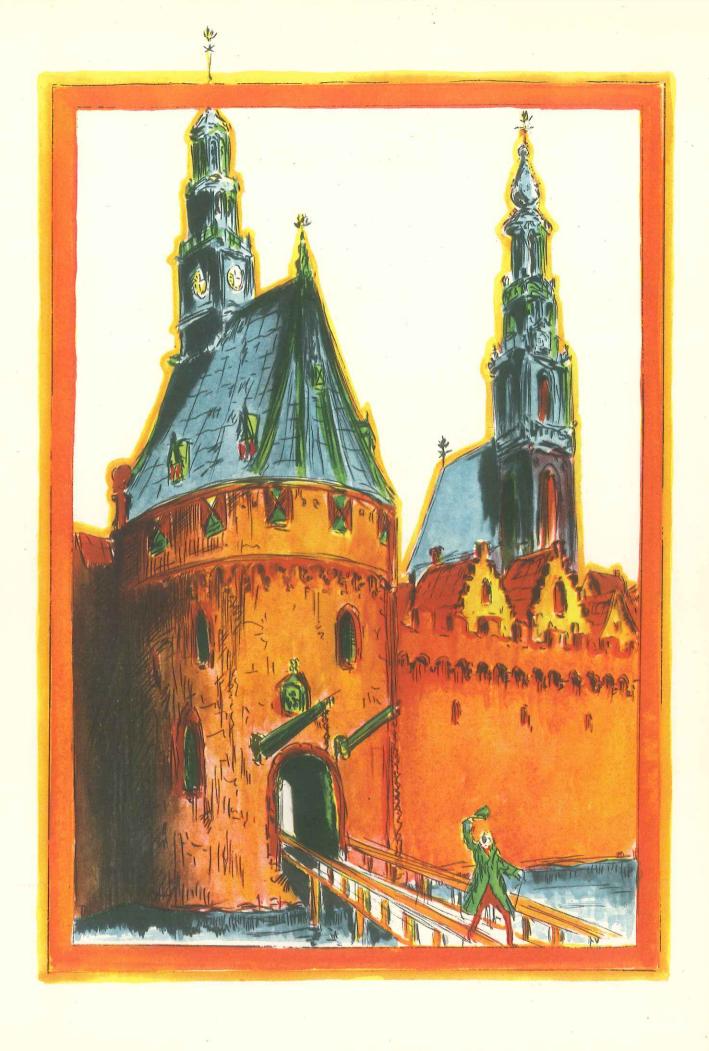


Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes

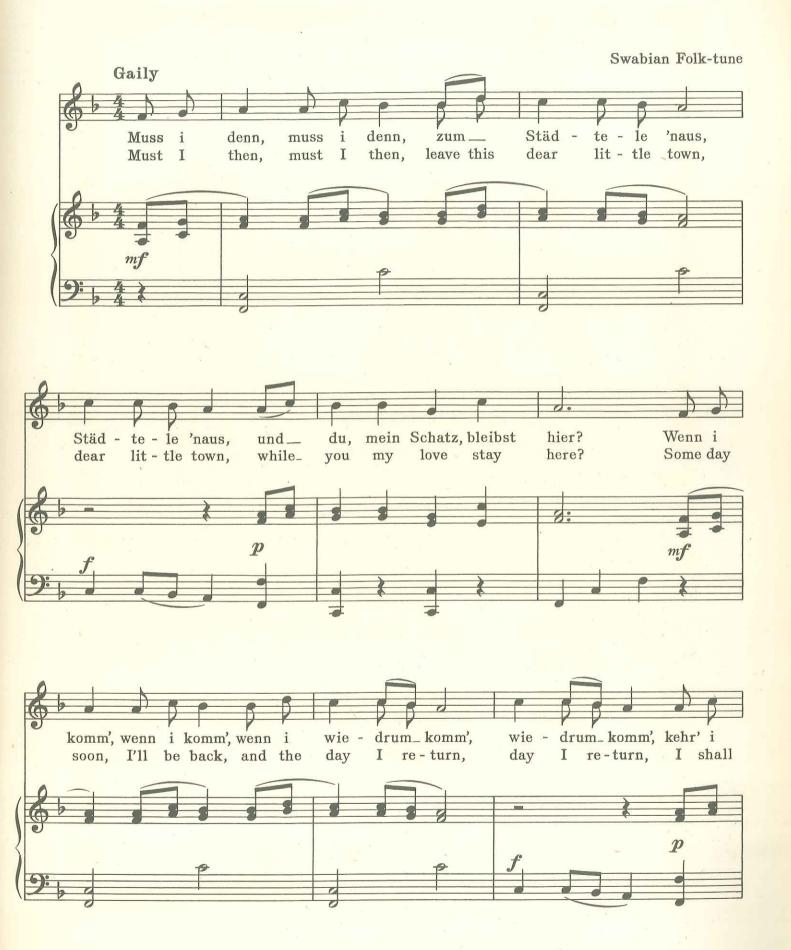


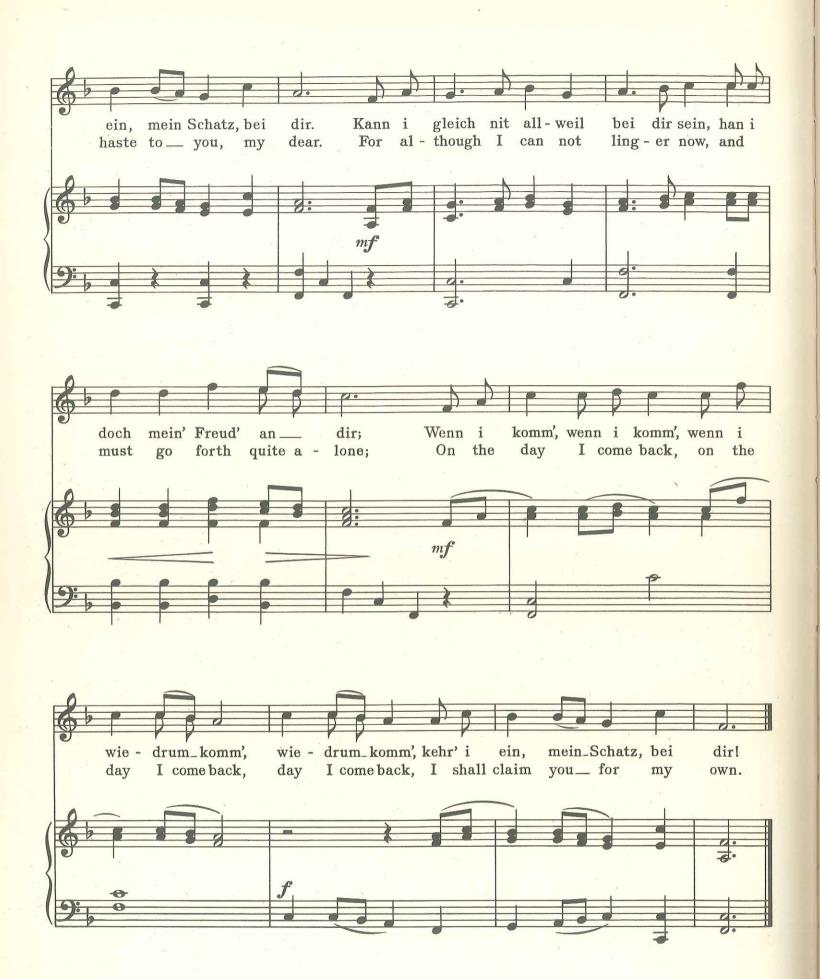
Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes





Muss i denn





Muss I Denn

2. Wie du weinst, wie du weinst, dass i wandere muss, Wandere muss, Wie wenn d' Lieb' jetzt wär vorbei, Sind au' drauss, sind au' drauss der Mädele viel, Mädele viel, Lieber Schatz, i bleib' dir treu! Denk du net, wenn i en Andre seh',

So sei mein Lieb vorbei:

Sind au' drauss, sind au' drauss der Mädele viel, Mädele viel,

Lieber Schatz, i bleib' dir treu.

Über's Jahr, über's Jahr, wenn me Träubele schneid't,
 Träubele schneid't,
 Stell' i hier mi wied'rum ein;
 Bin i dann, bin i dann dein Schätzele noch,
 Schätzele noch,

So soll die Hochzeit sein.

Über's Jahr, da ist mein Zeit vorbei,

Da gehör' ich mein und dein:

Bin i dann, bin i dann dein Schätzele noch, Schätzele noch,

So soll die Hochzeit sein!

2. How you weep, how you weep, at the thought that I must go,
Thought that I must go,

As if no one could stay true.

Yet the girls in this world, all the girls in this world,

Girls in this world,

They but make me think of you.

So be still, my sweet, and have no fear,

Of all these girls by the score;

Since I gave you my heart so many years ago,

Many years ago, You're the one I still adore.

3. One more year, one more year, when the grapes are being cut,

Grapes are being cut,

I'll be back dearest for thee.

And if then, and if then, I'm still thy own true love, Still thy own true love,

Then married we shall be.

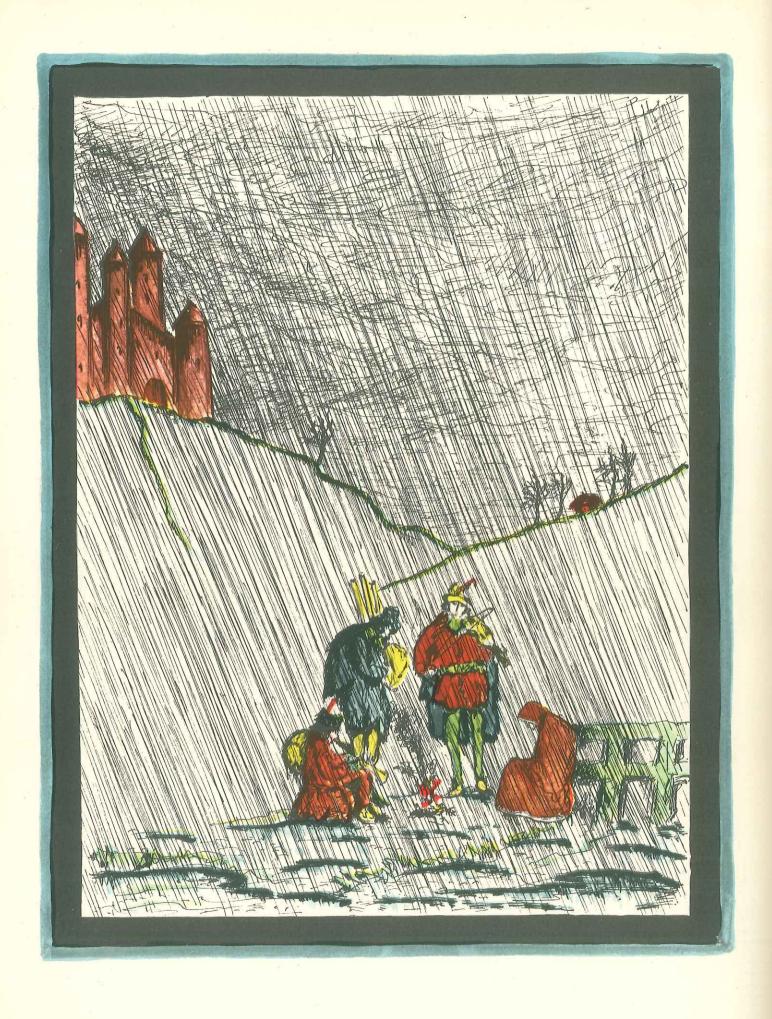
Just a year, then is my duty done,

Once more I shall be free;

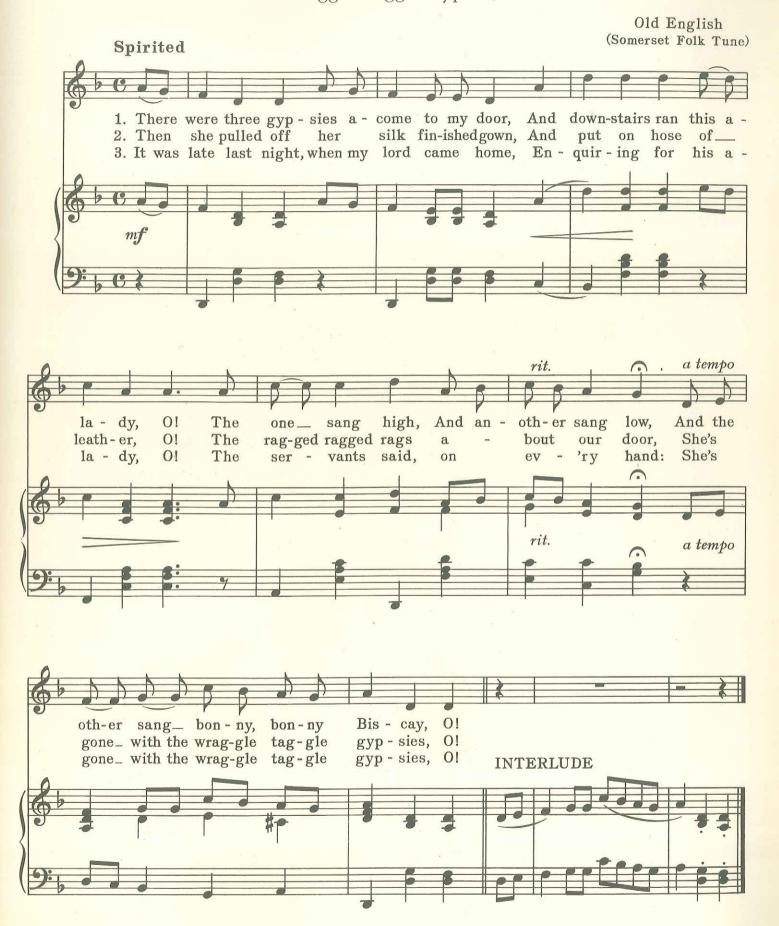
And if then, and if then, I'm still thy own true love,

Still thy own true love,

Then married we shall be.



The Wraggle Taggle Gypsies, O!



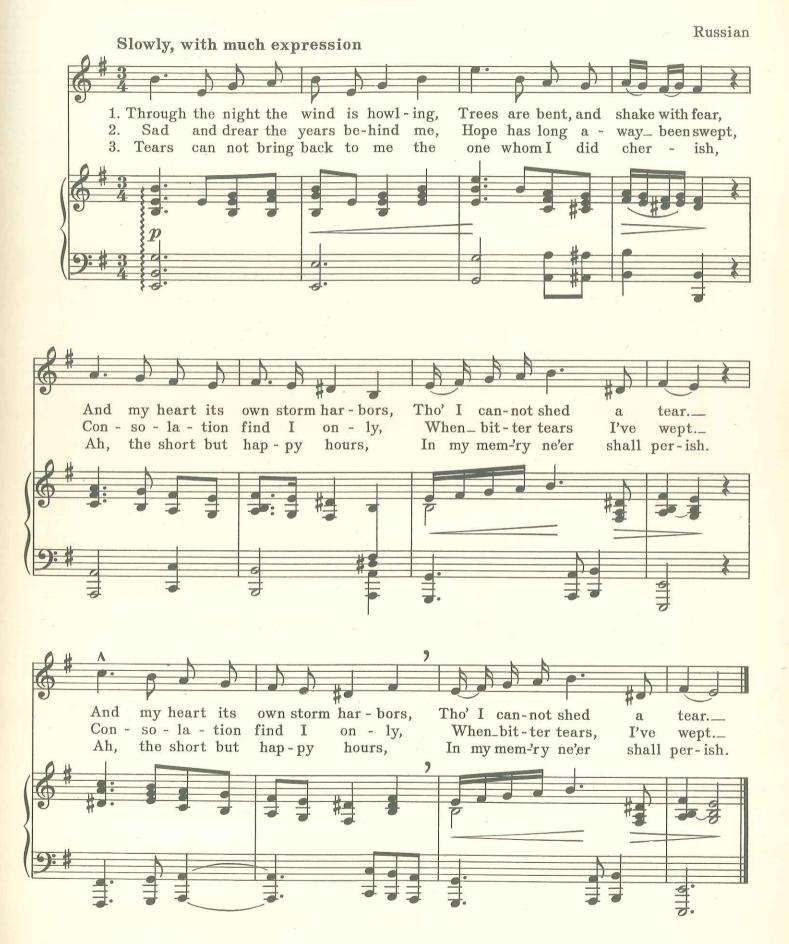
THE WRAGGLE TAGGLE GYPSIES, O!

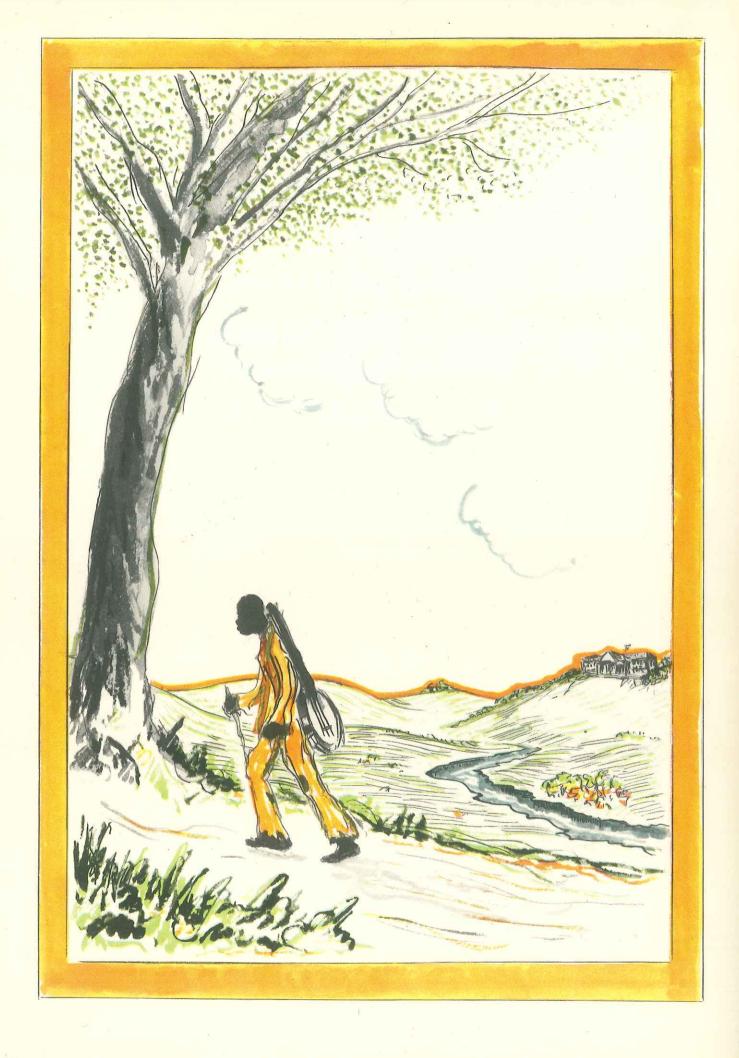
- 4. O saddle to me my milk-white steed, Go and fetch me my pony, O! That I may ride and seek my bride, Who is gone with the wraggle taggle gypsies, O!
- 5. O he rode high and he rode low,
 He rode through woods and copses too,
 Until he came to an open field,
 And there he espied his a-lady, O!
- 6. What makes you leave your house and land? What makes you leave your money, O? What makes you leave your new wedded lord, To go with the wraggle taggle gypsies, O?
- 7. What care I for my house and land?
 What care I for my money, O?
 What care I for my new wedded lord?
 I'm off with the wraggle taggle gypsies, O!
- 8. Last night you slept on a goose-feather bed, With the sheet turned down so bravely, O! And tonight you'll sleep in a cold open field, Along with the wraggle taggle gypsies, O!
- 9. What care I for a goose-feather bed,
 With the sheet turned down so bravely, O?
 For tonight I shall sleep in a cold open field,
 Along with the wraggle taggle gypsies, O!

Alone



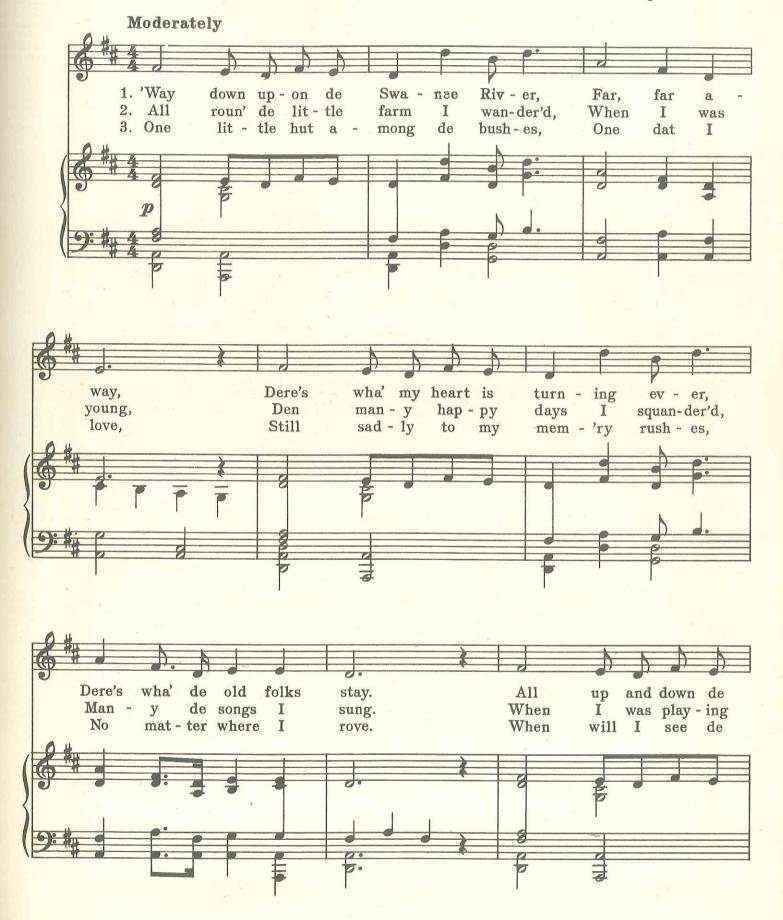
Alone

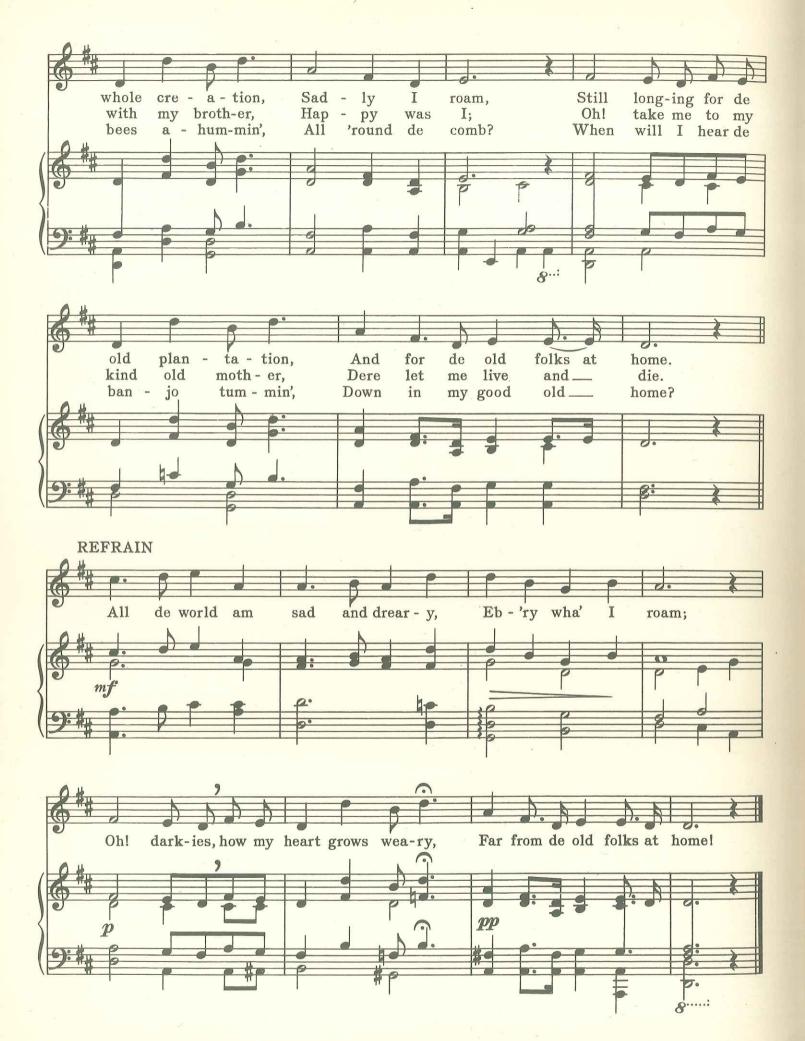




Stephen C. Foster

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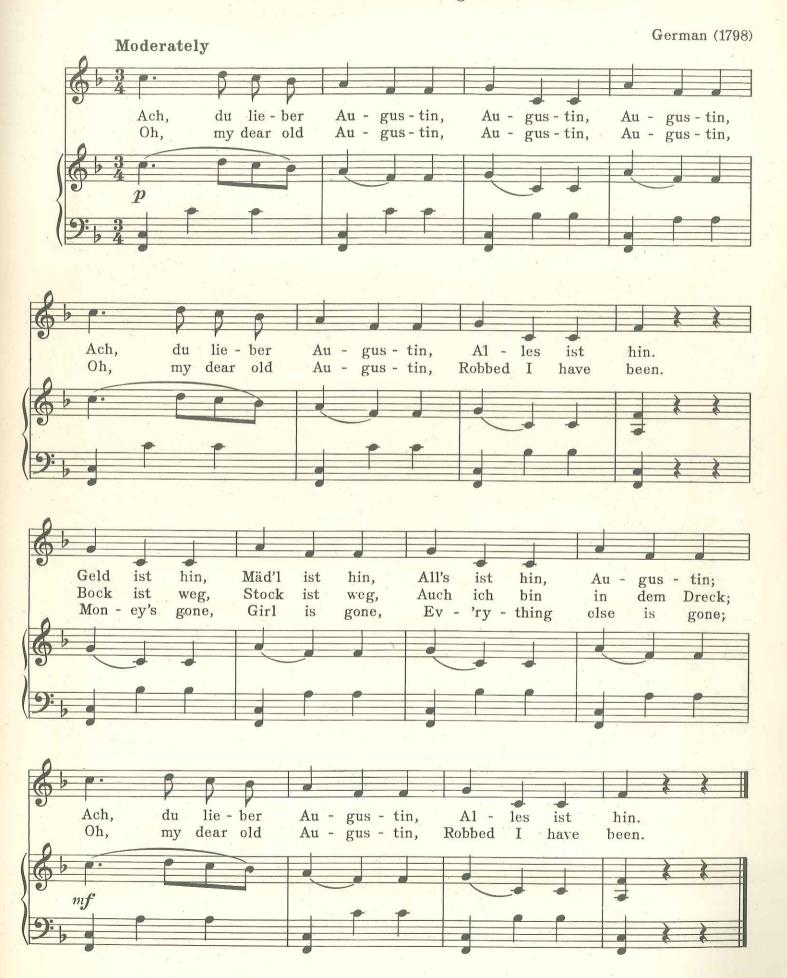


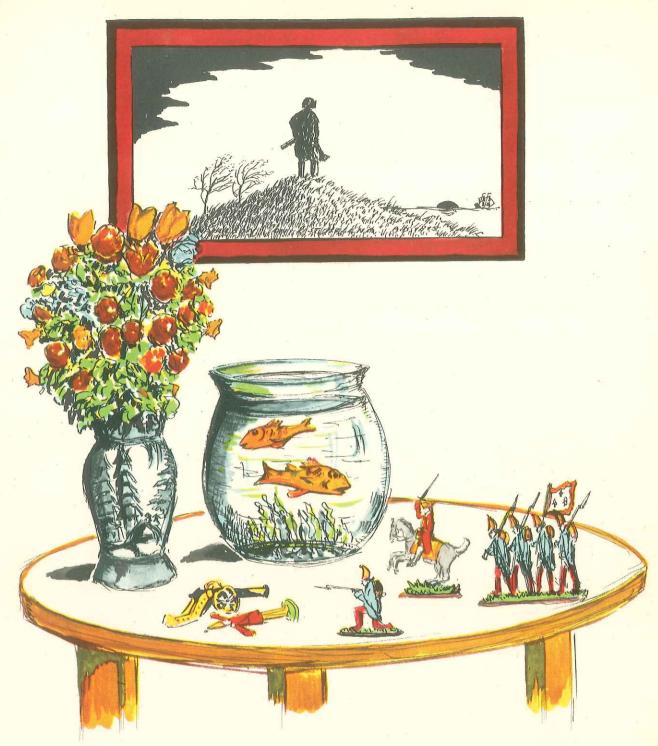


Ach, du lieber Augustin



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Il reviendra-z-à Pâques, Miron ton ton, mirontaine, Il reviendra-z-à Pâques, Ou à la Trinité. (Etc.)

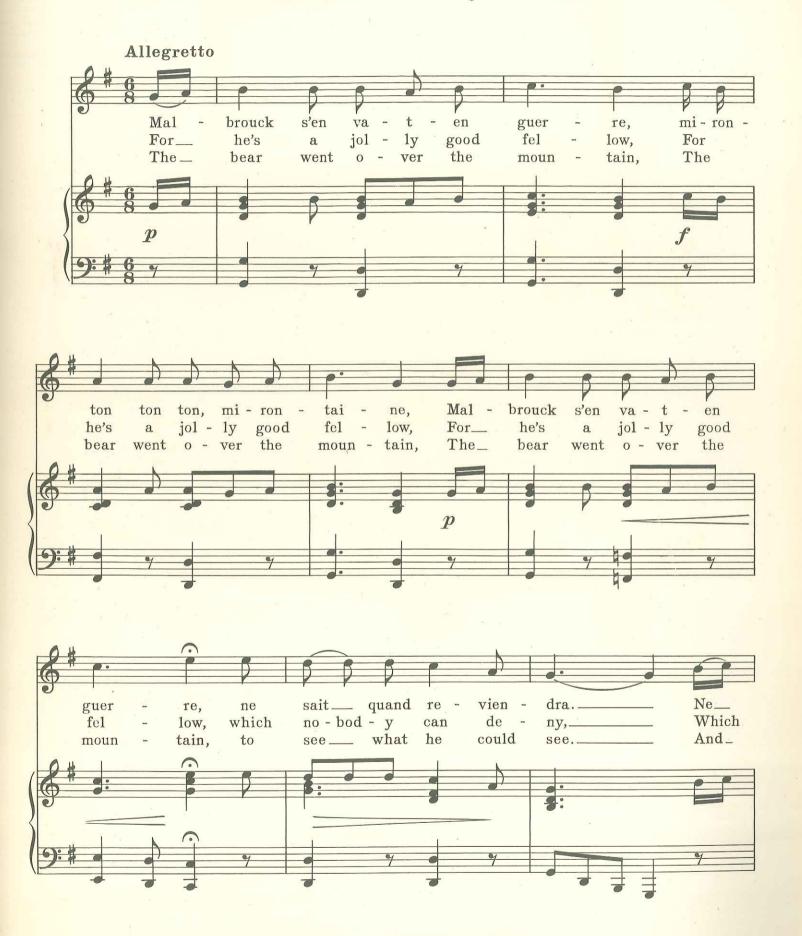
La Trinité se passe, Miron ton ton, mirontaine, La Trinité se passe, Malbrouck ne revient pas. (Etc.) Madame à sa tour monte,
Miron ton ton ton, mirontaine,
Madame à sa tour monte,
Si haut qu'elle peut monter. (Etc.)

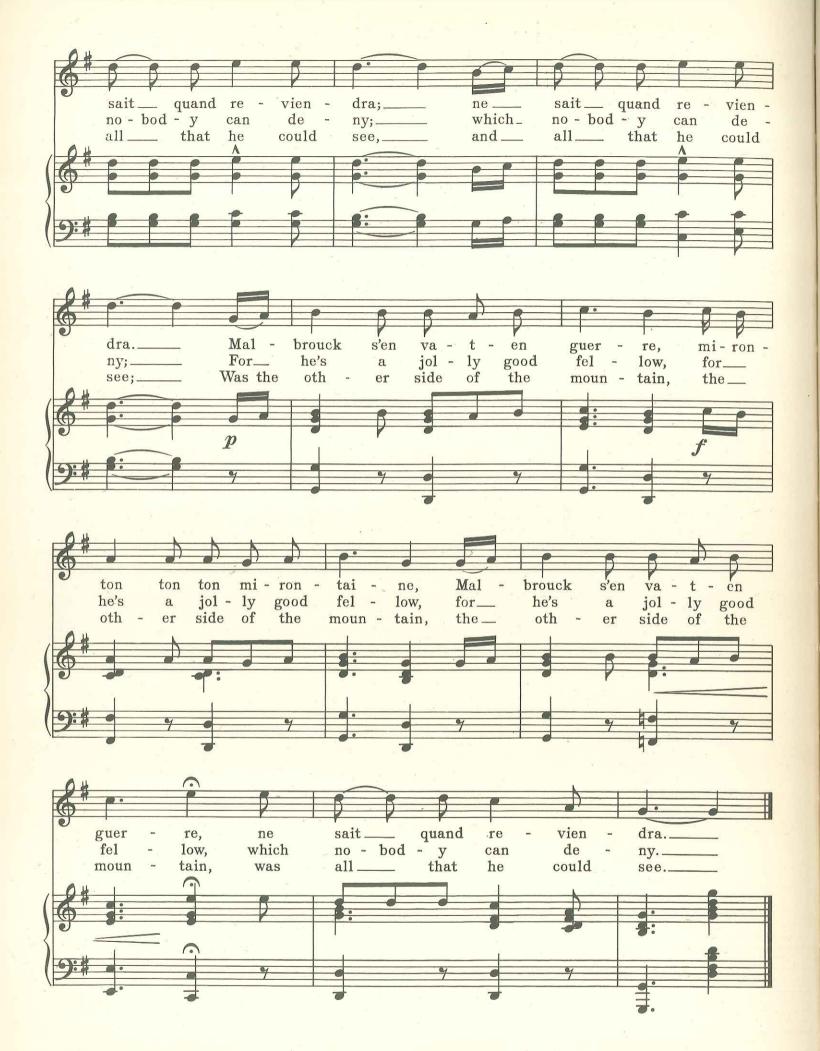
Elle aperçoit son page,

Miron ton ton, mirontaine,
Elle aperçoit son page,
Tout de noir habillé. (Etc.)

"Beau page, ah, mon beau page, Miron ton ton ton, mirontaine, Beau page, ah, mon beau page, Quell' nouvelle apportez?" (Etc.)

Malbrouck s'en va-t-en guerre

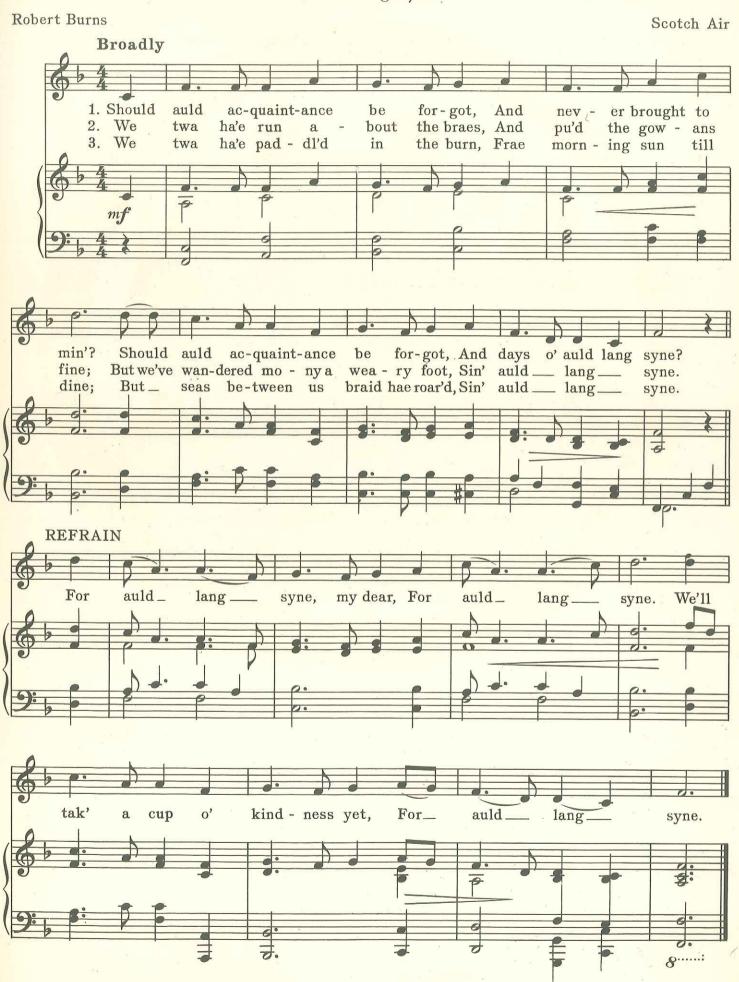


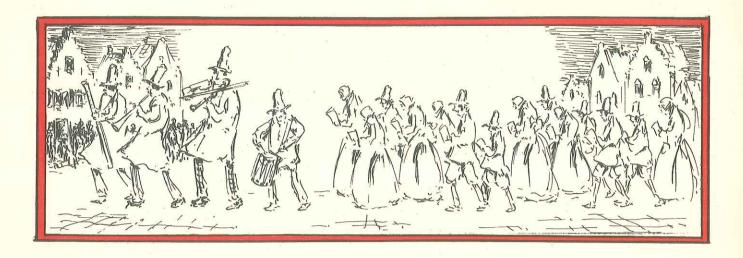


Auld Lang Syne



- 4. And surely you'll be your pint stoup, And surely I'll be mine, And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne.
- And here's my hand, my trusty friend,
 And gie's a hand o' thine;
 And we'll tak' a right gude-willie waught,
 For auld lang syne.





A few little items of interest about the songs in this book, that you may see for yourself what curious personal histories these melodies have had and how old many of them are and how they are apt to go places without anybody knowing how they ever got there.

As devoted servants of the idea of "tradition," we begin our book with SUMER IS ICUMEN IN. That is as it should be, for you will find that particular piece of poetry on the first page of practically all the better-known anthologies of British verse. According to the Oxford Book of English Verse, it goes way back to the middle of the thirteenth century and it was then known as the Cuckoo Song or Sing Cuccu.

Since this volume is supposed to be sung by all the family, we prefer to give you here not only an understandable but also a slightly more refined edition of the old text, for the original was perhaps a little too honest or medieval (or whatever you want to call it) to be entirely fit for our presentday ears.

The tune of Sumer Is Icumen In is one of the oldest known examples of "part music." As for the authorship of either song or tune, we don't know anything about it. The words seem to have been written by a monk

who dwelled in a monastery near Reading, England, not Pennsylvania!

Next we have A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD. Here we are right in the middle of things, for what exactly is this famous hymn? Is it a folk tune or a made song or a religious anthem? Well, it is all three of those, but I think that it deserves to be ranked as Number One among the folk songs of the last four centuries because to most of the people of northern Europe it is the one melody to which they will invariably turn whenever they find themselves in so desperate a situation that only their faith in God Almighty can still save them.

Luther, who gave us this tune (although it is based upon a much older melody), wrote it in the year 1529 when it looked as if he would have to fight the whole of this world with no other ally than the good Lord. It then and there became the battle hymn of the Protestant revolution and as such, the *Mighty Fortress* will undoubtedly survive as long as the cause for which Luther fought shall count its adherents by the millions.

As for the tune, it has been very popular

with other composers. Johann Sebastian Bach turned it into a cantata. Meyerbeer used it for one of the most important melodies in his opera, *The Huguenots*, and Wagner based his *Kaiser March* upon it. And we ourselves have incorporated it into the hymnbooks of almost all our congregations.

The Little Sandman. The words are by Wilhelm von Zuccalmaglio. He wrote them in the year 1840. Brahms took them up and fitted them to an old Dutch tune, called *In Bethlehem the Lowly*. This Dutch melody in turn was the descendant of a sixteenth-century Italian choral. Beyond that, we cannot follow its career, so we had better accept it as it is, done up into this lovely musical package and without any musicological frills.

The famous "low road" in LOCH LOMOND has nothing to do with a road in the valley as opposed to a road along the top of the hills. It merely means "traveling low," and this expression corresponds roughly to our own gangster idiom, which will tell you that a man is "on the lam" when he is trying to make himself scarce and intends to keep out of sight of the police.

This statement, therefore, of the traveler in Loch Lomond that he intends to "take the low road" (although it will lead him through the highest and most inaccessible parts of the Scottish mountains) shows us that Loch Lomond originally must have been a Jacobite song and that it was probably written in or shortly after the year 1746, when Bonnie Prince Charlie had been so disastrously defeated by the English in the battle of Culloden.

After that defeat, the picturesque but misguided young man (the so-called Young Pretender), disguised as a woman and with a price of \$150,000 on his head, had done his best to reach the coast that he might escape to France. His followers too tried to get out of reach of the victorious English, and behold! one of the loveliest of all folk songs was born.

IL ÉTAIT UNE BERGÈRE. Well, this is an old French song. Suppose we let it go at that, for there are so many old French songs, and we know next to nothing about the origin of most of them. They show us, however, that during the Middle Ages France must have been a very happy country, for the sort of people who could compose and enjoy this sort of songs had very little in common with the modern Frenchmen who have long since ceased to sing and who now merely snarl.

Incidentally, right here I would like to offer a few orchids to my youthful collaborator. She did a grand job in translating this and several other very obstreperous songs. When the question of translation came up, I said, lightly and airily, "Oh, never mind, leave all that to me! I will do it in no time. Languages and translating them into each other without any audible change of gear are my meat and buttermilk." And I did translate them most elegantly, just as I used to take watches to pieces when I was a little boy, and would put them together again. Oh, yes, I always put them together again so that they really looked as good as new, only thereafter they would never go again. My translations too were delightful and very picturesque, but unfortunately they never quite seemed to fit the notes.

Then the poor Castagnetta had to burn the midnight oil to change "shepherdesses" into "maidens" and to try and discover what the words of *The Red*, *Red Sarafan* really meant (we are not quite sure yet!) and endeavor to fit them into the melody. If you don't know what real hard work is, make yourself translate Funiculi, Funicula and try not to skip a beat or a word in the latter half of that song where it goes "to-deedeedee — to-deedeedee — to-deedeedee — to-deedeedee — to-deedeedee you will get an extra "dee" or "dah" into your bowl of Neapolitan spaghetti (Miss Castagnetta's Uncle Giuseppe is having one too, while sitting on an old Roman pillar), and then, of course, all is lost and you have to begin again from the beginning.

FAR FROM ME. The Finnish song we included because it has one of the loveliest of melodies, and we were sure that it had come straight out of some dark and distant Finnish forest. Until a friend, who knew his Mendelssohn better than we did, informed us that the Finns had borrowed the melody from a famous composer whose name has since been banished from Germany because its bearer was not of strictly Aryan origin.

As the Finns are not of Aryan origin either, we supposed that they had not deemed it worth their while to bother about such a trifling detail. But just then somebody else came along and told us that it was Mendelssohn who originally had borrowed his melody from the Finns and not the other way around. Well, there was not much we could do about it! But we have got the tune, and that is all that matters, for it is one of the loveliest songs in the whole book.

Home, Sweet Home. John Howard Payne, according to his own testimony, was a very lonely soul. He was born in New York in the year 1791, and he became an actor and playwright. Finding the home atmosphere

a little too cramping for his brilliant attainments, he crossed the ocean and spent the next twenty years of his life in England and France, acting and writing plays and adapting other people's plays for the stage.

Then, after having unsuccessfully laid siege to the heart of the lovely Mary Shelley, he returned to his native land and made himself the champion of the Cherokee Indians, with whom he lived for several years and whom he tried to defend against the encroachments of the Washington government.

Probably in order to rid himself of so persistent and intelligent an enemy, President Tyler appointed Payne American consul in Tunis, a town which was sufficiently far removed from the territories of the Cherokees to keep this ardent champion of the Red Man's wrongs at a safe distance. In 1852, Payne died at his post in Tunis.

Today with the Cherokees gone and the Indian no longer a menace to our safety, Payne would have been completely forgotten except for this one song he wrote. That song, the ever-famous Home, Sweet Home, was part of his opera Clari, or the Maid of Milan. It was performed for the first time in May of the year 1823 at the Covent Garden Theatre in London, but as an opera it has long since been lost without leaving a trace. The Library of Congress may have a copy but our music stores won't be able to help you.

Payne never married and like his beloved friend, Charles Lamb, he never had a real home of his own. Unless it was the cabin of John Ross, the famous chief of the Cherokees, with whom Payne seems to have spent the happiest years of his life. That was ten years after he produced his opera and wrote his immortal song. My picture in the book (of the little cabin on

the shore of the river) is therefore antedated by quite a number of years. But that is the way I like to think of this strange American genius, who thus far has had very little recognition from his fellow citizens.

As for the tune of Home, Sweet Home, like the rest of the music of Clari, or the Maid of Milan, it was composed by a certain Henry R. Bishop, who afterwards became Sir Henry Bishop. In the earlier printed versiens of this drama, it was stated that this piece of music was based upon "a Sicilian air." Unfortunately, no musicologist, not even the learned Dr. Sigmund Spaeth (who runs a detective bureau for stolen and strayed musical goods), has ever been able to lay hands on the original Sicilian air, and so we must conclude that it was either the work of Henry Bishop himself or that Sir Henry had heard the melody somewhere and then, very likely, had forgotten where he had got hold of it, and for lack of better had called it "Sicilian," as that word was apt to cover a multitude of sins, both political and musical.

Payne, like all actors, good, bad, and indifferent, dearly loved to dramatize himself, and he was very fond of giving a pathetic account of his many lonely wanderings, without a home and without a wife and without a penny in his pockets, while in every house on both sides of every street of every land happy families were loudly singing his Home, Sweet Home. As this attitude gradually became part of this man's character, I do not want to destroy this sad dream of the unrecognized poet in a cold, cold world, the fitting counterpart to the poor clown who can make all the world laugh while he himself must weep. But as far as we can find out, Payne always had a roof over his head, and while he was never very rich, he never was in actual need, either.

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT. Adapted from an old Welsh air called Ar hŷd y nâs, or something like that. Its exact origin is uncertain. The words are sometimes attributed to Harry Boulton and the music has been accredited to David Owen. But all this is guesswork. I give it to you because I am supposed to say something about every song—and a very charming song it is.

The Scarlet Sarafan or The Red, Red Sarafan has a lovely melody which all the world knows. The words may make sense to a pre-Stalinite Russian, but they are about as obscure to us as the late Count Leo Tolstoy in his more enlightened mood about the "Theory of Art" or the "Purpose of Life." I made a terrible botch of them, so (as usual) I left them to the poor Castagnetta on the pretext that I did not have the music and that Noodle objected so strenuously to all Russian music that it almost meant civil war every time I picked the melody out on the fiddle.

The picture I drew represents the old Russia as I knew it before the revolution. That old Russia was crazy and impossible, but completely delightful in its craziness and impossibility. R. I. P.

ALOHA OE. I had always taken it for granted that our typical Hawaiian songs were the work of those early Christian missionaries and real-estate dealers who during the first half of the nineteenth century had descended upon those blessed islands of the Pacific to bring unto the unsuspecting natives the benefits of their own religion and to instruct them in the rudiments of the civilization of New England and of the late Dr. John Calvin.

Those natives loved pleasure and were fond of singing. This was most deplorable from the point of view of those holy men and women from across the ocean, who hated pleasure and who detested the arts. But since the natives were obstinate, they encouraged them to chant the gospel hymns of the West, slightly modified, however, to the taste of the unfortunate heathen.

This explanation had never quite satisfied me because exhaustive researches among the citizenry and peasantry of our New England backwoods had failed to reveal any ability whatsoever for any form of musical expression, and the enchanting and seductive undercurrent of all Hawaiian music must therefore (so I felt) have been based upon something a little more agreeable to the ear than the long-drawn-out wails of Messrs. Moody and Sankey.

Four years ago I was able to investigate the matter in loco, so to speak, and I then discovered that a German bandmaster, rather than a New England evangelist, had laid the foundations for what we are now pleased to call "Hawaiian" music.

This worthy Teuton had been sent by the King of Prussia to his dear colleague in Honolulu as a sort of living present, the way the potentates of that day used to favor each other with expensive Gobelins and Sèvres dinner sets, and he apparently had become the father of all these enchanting Hawaiian tunes.

According to the not very dependable literature of the tourist agencies, the tune was originally written by the last queen of the independent islands, Queen Liliuokalani. We don't know. But if Her Majesty was the original author of this melody, she surely got her revenge!

The Americans took her country away from her. But is there an American, I wonder, who has ever left those blessed islands who did not leave part of his heart there, while listening to that incredible air, coming faintly from across the waters of the Pacific? Of course, I know that the whole show is phony—the band, the song, and even the Chamber of Commerce that pays for both of them. As a matter of fact, we all know that it is phony. But what a sublime combination of phonies and how all of us would love to give you the whole world of facts for a few stray bits of that sort of make-believe! Aloha Oe!

When Mr. Thomas Cook constructed his ferrovia funicolare to hoist the tired businessman and his wife to the top of Mount Vesuvius with the least amount of trouble and fatigue, the Neapolitans looked at the funny little railway cars going up and down their old crater and being a quick-witted folk, they at once baptized them Funiculi and Funicula.

Ever since the whole world has been merrily funiculi-ing and funicula-ing without as a rule quite knowing what it was all about. Richard Strauss, however, knew what he was doing when he incorporated this melody into his symphonic suite, *Air Italien*.

It is a catchy song but hard on the poor translator. However, her fine Italian hand has made as much sense of it as one can make out of something that never was meant to have any sense. As far as we have been able to find out, the tune made its appearance about the same time Richard Wagner was finishing his *Parsifal*, which was during the first years of the eighties of the last century. When everybody in my native land was telling my parents what a lovely child I was. . . .

It is curious that Ireland, which has done practically nothing within the field of the graphic arts, should have given us so many delightful folk tunes, but such is the fact.

This particular song, RICH AND RARE WERE THE GEMS SHE WORE (which is also known as Summer Is Coming), was written by Thomas Moore. As he died in the year 1852, the words are of very recent origin, but Tom Moore seems to have based his poem upon a much older ballad.

The Irish, not having dwelled in what one would be tempted to call an Earthly Paradise these last six hundred years, are very apt to indulge in pleasant daydreams about the glories of their past. Whether that past was actually as perfect as they are now trying to make us believe, that is something else again which need not bother us here.

As for the story which gave rise to this lovely ballad, it was all about a beauteous damsel who during the rule of the great King Brian or O'Brien or O'Braein (as I suppose he would be today) was able to travel from one end of Ireland to the other, dressed up in her Sunday clothes and carrying no other defense against a wicked world except her own beauty and a wand, adorned with a ring of tremendous value. But such was the respect of the populace for the far-reaching arm of good King O'Brien that no attempt was made upon the lady's jewels or upon that which undoubtedly was much dearer to her than all the jewels in the whole wide world.

A charming story and one which should be incorporated into every collection of folk songs and also into the statutes of the new Irish commonwealth.

* * *

About Goin' to Shout All Over God's Heav'n (God's Children) I know nothing, and all I can tell you about the Maypole dance is that the words for this

CORNISH MAY SONG were written by Sir Alexander Boswell, while the tune is an old English morris dance, slightly changed for the benefit of the Welshmen who seem to be the only natural-born musicians of the British Isles.

* * *

Home on the Range. And now we go back to America. A cowboy's existence may have been romantic but it was also very lonely. Riding their herds, these picturesque young men were apt to keep themselves awake and at the same time to assure their herds of their presence by humming tunes which they made up as they went along. Then, whenever a few dozen of these booted and spurred heroes came together in some primitive ranch house, they used to entertain each other with their latest poetical and musical effusions.

The cowboy himself is gone, but he has bequeathed upon us a rich treasure of highly interesting and melodious songs which are folk songs in the truest sense of the word, for they were of and by and for the folk who wrote them. Many of these songs, being rather of this earth earthy (like the cowboys themselves), cannot very well be reproduced in a book of this sort, but a great many others are available, and among those few have a greater appeal than the melancholy *Home on the Range*.

I wish that I could sometime give you an entire book of cowboy songs, but the trouble is that cowboy songs demand illustrations showing you horses, and try as I may (and have), the horse is about the one thing in this world I have never yet learned to draw. All during the winter and spring of 1938 we kept the furnace going with sketches of horses and cowboys which I had made in a vain effort to show you a lonely cowboy on a lonely horse in the

lonely wilderness of our glorious but lonely Southwest. Finally one day I succeeded in creating something which well disposed readers may faintly recognize as a horse, but I shall never do this again. For Watman's hot-press paper is very expensive, and life, on the whole, is too short to waste upon such a hopeless task.

* * *

The very typical Spanish song that we include—JUANITA—was written by an English woman, the Hon. Mrs. Caroline Norton, and it was set to a Spanish tune of unknown origin.

You may have heard of Caroline Norton. She was one of the three beautiful grand-daughters of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, the eighteenth-century playwright, who like so many famous English authors and playwrights was born in Dublin, Ireland. During the rule of George IV, these three sisters dominated London society and they were generally known as "The Three Graces." (This detail was given to me with considerable satisfaction by one Grace Castagnetta.)

Little Caroline began to scribble before she could cut her own goose-quills and she continued to write until she died in the year 1877 at the age of sixty-nine. In the year 1827 she married the Hon. George Norton and after his death she married Sir W. Stirling-Maxwell.

She must have been a woman of parts, as George Meredith incorporated her into his *Diana of the Crossways*, which is said to have been based upon the life of this beautiful and accomplished gentlewoman, who gave the English-speaking and -singing people their most popular Spanish song.

* * *

DRINK TO ME ONLY WITH THINE EYES is so lovely a tune that it has been often at-

tributed to Mozart, but there is nothing to prove that this talented son of the late and greatly lamented city of Salzburg was the original composer. It is much older than Mozart, for the words are by Ben Jonson, the English poet, who lived from 1573 until 1637. He called it *To Celia*, but poor Celia has been completely forgotten, whereas her eyes are still very much with us.

I have been very seriously criticized by people who were allowed to see the original pictures before publication and who told me that this was a very vulgar version of a beautiful spiritual thought, for the table shows food as well as drink and a man as much in love as the hero was supposed to be with his heroine would never have been able to think of food while thinking of his lady-love. The people who argued that way may have known their Hollywood, but they did not know their Ben Jonson, nor for that matter any other sensible artist or plain ordinary citizen. I therefore let the distracted lover have his cold chicken as well as his Steinwein. It is a very sensible way of making love!

* * *

Muss I DENN or Must I Then is a folk song that belongs to the same class as A Mighty Fortress. For all Germans take to it instinctively whenever they bid farewell to their home town or to their native country. Even the excellent brass bands of the Europa and the Bremen are not above a cheerful rendition of Muss i denn whenever these majestic vessels hoist their anchors and prepare for the voyage across the ocean.

The words were strung together by a certain Heinrich Wagner in the year 1820. The melody is of ancient Swabian origin. The translation should have been entrusted to the late Jean Francois Champol-

lion, who was the first man to decipher the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. It took the combined efforts of both the authors of this volume three solid weeks of very hard work to make sense of the Swabian original. Even now they are not quite certain but they hope for the best.

As for The Wraggle Taggle Gypsies, they seem to have made their first appearance in Somerset, in England, in a ballad that probably commemorated the unfortunate love of a noble lady of that neighborhood for some amusing but scoundrelly gypsy whom she followed rather than spend the rest of her days with her lawful but dullish legal lord and master in his beautiful but dull castle.

As long as the lady (according to the words) liked so much to sit in the rain with her gypsies, I thought that I would let her have it. But then again, having spent several happy but uncomfortable summers in her native land, I probably did not exaggerate as much as you might feel inclined to think.

The Russian song Alone is really a Ukrainian folk song. Nicholas Lysenko used it in his opera *Natalka Poltavka* and that is the way the rest of Europe learned about it, just as they learned *Home*, *Sweet Home* from another long-forgotten operatic score.

Stephen Foster really wrote OLD FOLKS AT HOME, though he is not always credited with the original authorship.

You will probably remember how Mozart's last days were made miserable by an Austrian nobleman who had promised the composer a couple of dollars for a requiem to which he (the nobleman) thereupon intended to put his own name as the real

"author." Indeed, that mysterious "personage in black" who used to frequent Mozart's house while the poor fellow was slowly dying of consumption and who has given rise to the absurd fairy story about a "messenger of death"—that terrible "personage in black" was none other than the nobleman's flunky come to inquire "whether the job had not yet been finished" and to insist upon a little more speed if Mozart wanted to get the rest of his pay, which he needed badly to pay for his own funeral.

Something like that happened to Stephen Foster when the head of the famous Christy Minstrels paid him four hundred dollars if he, Foster, would allow Christy to pose as the composer of *Old Folks at Home*, only Foster lived for a great many years afterwards and had no intention of dying just then.

Foster, who was undoubtedly the greatest as well as the most prolific of our folktune artists, was never out of debt during the first half of his life, and the four hundred dollars were therefore undoubtedly a most welcome contribution to his slender budget. Today, however, we know that it was he, Foster, and not Christy, who gave us this sad lament of the roaming colored minstrel.

This happened in the year 1851 when Foster, who was born in Pittsburgh, was twenty-five years old. He departed this life thirteen years later in New York as the result of an accident. By that time he had become widely popular and enjoyed a pleasant if modest income from the royalties on his Ethiopian Ballads, as he himself used to call his Negro songs. Indeed, his popularity became so great that he was finally persuaded to turn himself into a regular song factory, which turned out "Ethiopian" potboilers at a rate of speed

which interfered very seriously with the quality of several hundred of his latter-day songs, which he used to sell outright for a few dollars in cash, thereby anticipating the methods of our own Tin Pan Alley by almost half a century.

All the same, Stephen Foster at his best was very, very good indeed, and such songs as Old Folks at Home, Massa's in de Cold, Cold Ground, My Old Kentucky Home, and Old Black Joe have become part of the musical heritage of every good American and are as popular today as they were eighty years ago.

As for the far-famed Suwanee River, don't waste your time trying to find it on an ordinary atlas. Stephen Foster himself had never seen it. He had only heard of it. It was a little, insignificant creek somewhere in the Florida hinterland and Foster had used it because the name happened to fit into his tune, just as Malbrouck's name had been used by the French because it came in handy and did not disturb the meter, as Napoleon or George Washington might have done.

ACH, DU LIEBER AUGUSTIN is a Viennese song, written at the moment when a plague had visited that happy city and had destroyed everything in sight. Today another plague has overtaken that old and delightful center of European culture. And to accentuate that most unfortunate catastrophe, I have surrounded our poor friend Augustin with a few fitting symbols of the things that disappeared in the spring of the year 1938. A swastika now surmounts the old imperial crown. The imperial treasure chest has been pillaged. The Nazi laundry hides the view of the beloved old church of St. Stephen's. It is a sad picture. I wonder what Augustin will sing about it three hundred years from now.

Speaking of ancient tunes with strange adventures, you are of course familiar with We Won't Go Home till Mooooorning. And very likely as a child you have sung about Marlborough or Malbrough or Malbrouck, who went to the wars and (quite naturally) did not come back. But what you probably did not realize about our refusal to "go home till mooooorning" and the valiant Malbrouck, who went forth to war and did not return, was that both dated back to the earliest days of the Crusades.

It seems that among the holy men who besieged Jerusalem in the thirteenth century there was a certain French knight by the name of De Mambran, who had gained great renown for his courage and his ability to slaughter the infidels. After his untimely demise, someone (whose name has been lost) composed a *Chanson de Mambran*, and all during the rest of the Crusades the pilgrims sang about Mambran, who went to the wars, just as the Northern soldiers of our Civil War used to sing about a certain John Brown, whose spirit went marching on although his body lay mouldering in the grave.

Of course, it is perfectly possible that there never was a Sieur de Mambran. Folk tunes care for rhyme and rhythm but they are not in the least interested in historical accuracy. Take our own country. The famous John Brown, whose soul goes marching on, was not at all the John Brown of Civil War fame, as everybody seems to believe, but a much older John Brown who had been a musician in a military band during the forties and about whom his fellow soldiers had made up that song, because his name came in handy for a good, lusty marching song.

As for the Sieur de Mambran, his name was kept alive in the East even after the Crusaders had been driven out of the Holy Land, but in the West both he and his tune were completely forgotten for almost five centuries. And then, quite suddenly and for no apparent reason, they suddenly reappeared in Paris and all over France.

By then the name De Mambran no longer meant anything to the average Frenchman. But he remembered the great Malbrouck (the French way of pronouncing Marlborough) who had been a mighty warrior and who had died in 1722, and so he substituted Malbrouck for Mambran and sent this famous English hero forth to battle with the well-known disastrous results.

We first definitely learn about the revived Malbrouck (né Mambran) through Marie Antoinette, who used to sing the melody as a lullaby to her small son, the unfortunate little Dauphin. After that, Malbrouck went all over the Continent, and neither the Revolution nor the Empire was able to dislocate him as the central figure in one of the most popular of all French folk songs.

Napoleon, who artistically speaking was a complete barbarian and who despised both music and musicians with an ill-concealed contempt, made an exception for this one melody, and it used to be said (although it was never proved) that he could actually carry this tune for several bars and greatly preferred it to the melodies of his famous contemporary, Ludwig van Beethoven.

This famous contemporary, by the way, was also familiar with the tune, and he incorporated it into his *Battle of Vittoria*, the worst piece of drivel ever written by a great man desperately in need of a little ready cash.

As for the final puzzle—when and where and how the song of the distinguished Sieur de Mambran became the tune for our own drunken doggerel of We Won't Go Home till Morning-that too will have to remain a mystery, for nobody seems to know. But what I have just told you will undoubtedly convince you that folk tunes have often very strange adventures and that one never can tell how or under what disguises they will suddenly come back to life to gladden the hearts of millions of people who have not the slightest idea how they ever came to sing those particular melodies. (Sig Spaeth reading this told me that modern scholarship rejects the story of the Sieur de Mambran. Before this eminent authority I can only offer my apologies. But the proof was already in print, and all I can do is to express my regrets in a footnote.)

And now for the last of them—Auld Lang Syne—or For Old Times' Sake, as it used to be called.

Robert Burns, who was responsible for the words, took a special delight in mystifying his friends about the authorship of this immortal song. In a letter to Mrs. Dunlap, on December 17 of the year 1788, he wrote: "Apropos, is not the Scotch phrase, auld lang syne, exceedingly expressive? There is an old song and tune which has often thrilled my soul. You know I am an enthusiast of old Scotch songs. I shall give you the verses on the other sheet. Light be the turf on the breast of the Heaven-inspired poet who composed this glorious fragment! There is more of the fire of native genius in it than in half a dozen of modern English Bacchanalians."

In sending a copy of it to George Thomson in September, 1793, Burns accompanied it with the following note: "The following song—the old song of the olden times, and which has never been in print,

not even in manuscript until I took it down from an old man's singing—is enough to recommend any air."

That there was such an old air which Burns had in mind when he wrote the song has now been established beyond any doubt, but it is equally certain that Burns was under no obligation to anyone else for more than the title and possibly a single phrase of the song. Others claim that the melody came from a song much older than Burns', called *I Feed a Lad at Michaelmas*, but we think it is safe to let Burns have all the credit. It is almost the only "credit" he enjoyed during his short but useful life.

A Few Words About the Music

In selecting and arranging these songs, I have been careful to remember that they are to be played as well as sung. The old favorites and several new ones (which very much deserve to become favorites) have all of them been submitted to a slight overhauling. It would have been easier, of course, to leave them in their old and familiar four-part setting. But I have preferred to give them a slightly more "pianistic" treatment. As a result (so I feel convinced), the fate of the player will be a much happier one. He or she can now proceed without ever experiencing that feeling of irritation that comes from the too frequent repetition of a somewhat meager melody and which is apt to make the accompanist suggest, "let us turn the page," long before the singers feel likewise.

GRACE CASTAGNETTA

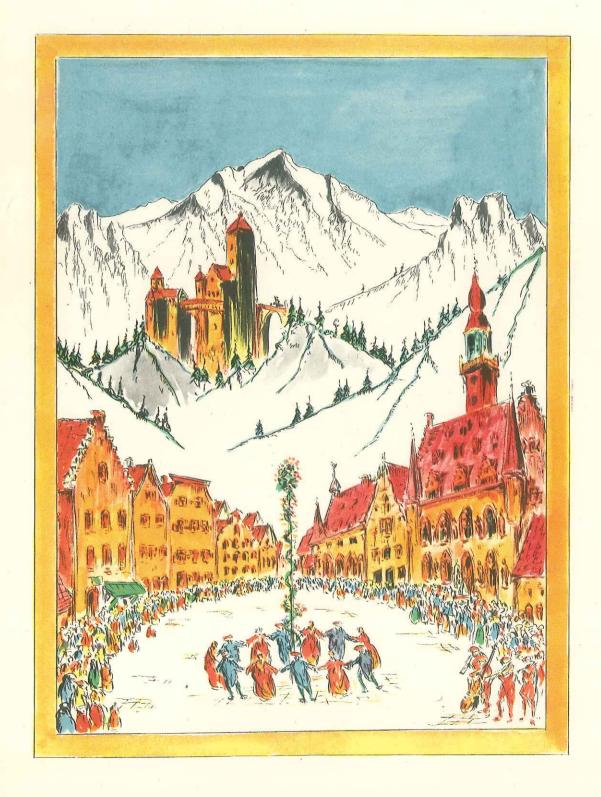
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