



The

Despairing Lover

A. Wellesley Batson (1852-1917)





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he could die

When - ev - er

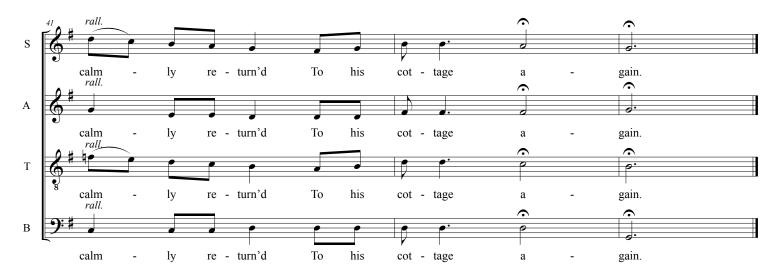
would,

Where - as

he could live

But as





Novello, Ewer and Co. (1892)

Rev. Arthur Wellesley Batson (1852-1917) studied at Oxford and Cuddesdon Theological College earning degrees in music and theology. He became deacon in 1881 and priest in 1882. He was Curate of Whitbourne, 1881-82; Precentor at St. Anne's, Soho, 1882-86; and Rector of Ringstead, 1888-1902. His compositions include a sacred cantata, "The Vineyard"; music to Fletcher's pastoral, "The Faithful shepherdess"; and a comic operetta, "The burglar and the bishop." He also published anthems, services, madrigals, songs, and part-songs. He seems to have been an artist, exhibiting a landscape at the Grosvenor Gallery in 1890, and he corresponded with American painter James Whistler. A descendent of the Duke of Buckingham, in 1906 he announced he would become "King of Lundy" (a large island off the coast of Devon) but abandoned the purchase of the island in 1907.

Distracted with care
For Phyllis the fair,
Since nothing could move her,
Poor Damon, her lover,
Resolves in despair
No longer to languish,
Nor bear so much anguish,
But, mad with his love,
To a precipice goes,
Where a leap from above
Would soon finish his woes.

When in rage he came there, Beholding how steep The sides did appear, And the bottom how deep, His torments projecting, And sadly reflecting That a lover forsaken A new love may get, But a neck when once broken Can never be set, And, that he could die Whenever he would, Whereas he could live But as long as he could, How grievous soever The torment might grow, He scorned to endeavour To finish it so, But, bold, unconcerned At thoughts of the pain, He calmly returned To his cottage again.

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