



# **Little Jessie**

**J. A. Butterfield  
(1837-1891)**

**James Austin Butterfield** (1837-1891) was born in Hertfordshire, England. His father, a cellist, made him a tiny 8-inch violin and taught him to play. By age 4, he could play plain psalmody by sight and, at age 6, played in the chapel orchestra with his father. He soon started playing in the local Harmonic Society. Although efforts were made to have him be a chorister at Westminster Abbey, his parents would not consent. He continued to study violin and voice and became deputy leader of the Harmonic Society. His parents did not want him to pursue music as a profession, so he emigrated to the United States by himself in 1856. He was in Chicago and taught violin and singing schools in the region. He went to Florida until the outbreak of the Civil War. There he established the Tampa Musical Academy. He went to Indianapolis, Indiana, and established the monthly music Journal "The Musical Visitor." He returned to Chicago and taught voice and harmony, held musical conventions, directed the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Choir, and conducted the Chicago Mendelssohn Society. In 1880 he went to Norwich, Connecticut, as director of the Norwich School of Vocal Art. He returned to Chicago in 1888 in his previous position at Centenary Methodist Church. He was also the second president of the Music Teachers National Association. He died in Chicago. He composed anthems, piano pieces, some unpublished orchestral works, a number of comic operas, song books for conventions and singing schools, and many songs. His best-known composition is "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," first published in 1866 (lyrics by George W. Johnson).

Have you seen my little Jessie?  
With her face so wondrous fair,  
With the love-light in her blue eyes,  
And the sunlight in her hair?  
In the springtime, when I left her  
She was radiant as the dawn;  
Ere the springtime flowers had faded  
I returned, but she was gone?

*Little Jessie, have you seen her?  
You would know her anywhere,  
By the love-light in her blue eyes,  
And the sunlight in her hair.*

To her dimpled cheek the fairies  
Nightly brought their choicest flowers,  
To her laughing eyes the brownies  
Gave their mischief-making powers,  
'Round her lips in beauty gathered  
All that witching is and rare,

They but mock me when they tell me—  
They have robed and laid her there—  
Paled her cheek and twined immortelles  
In the glory of her hair?  
She is waiting for me, hiding,  
Still she hides I know not where;  
Surely, surely, you have seen her?  
You would know her anywhere!

Still she comes not! shall I never,  
Down the pathway, thro' the lane,  
See her swift feet fly to meet me?  
Clasp her in my arms again?  
Still she comes not! but her presence  
Shall be near me everywhere;  
And I know, whate'er betide me,  
I shall know and love her there!

# Little Jessie

J. A. Butterfield

Andante con affetuoso  $\text{♩} = 63$

S  
Have you seen my lit - tle Jes - sie? With her face so won - drous fair,

A  
Have you seen my lit - tle Jes - sie? With her face so won - drous fair,

T  
Have you seen my lit - tle Jes - sie? With her face so won - drous fair,

B  
Have you seen my lit - tle Jes - sie? With her face so won - drous fair,

5  
S  
With the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair?

A  
With the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair?

T  
With the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair?

B  
With the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair?

## Little Jessie

9

S In the spring - time, when I left her She was ra - diant as the dawn;

A In the spring - time, She was ra - diant as the dawn;

T In the spring - time, She was ra - diant as the dawn;

B In the spring - time, She was ra - diant as the dawn;

13

S Ere the spring - time flowers had fad - ed I re - turned, but she was gone?

A Ere the flowers fade I re - turned, but she was gone?

T Ere the flowers fade I re - turned, but she was gone?

B Ere the flowers fade I re - turned, but she was gone?

17

S Lit - tle Jes - sie, have you seen her? You would know her an - y where,

A Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, You would know her an - y where,

T Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, know her an - y where,

B Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, know her an - y where,

# Little Jessie

21

S By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

A By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

T 8 By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

B By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

25

S To her dim - pled cheek the fai - ries Night - ly brought their choic - est flowers,

A To her dim - pled cheek the fai - ries Night - ly brought their choic - est flowers,

T 8 To her dim - pled cheek the fai - ries Night - ly brought their choic - est flowers,

B To her dim - pled cheek the fai - ries Night - ly brought their choic - est flowers,

29

S To her laugh - ing eyes the brown - ies Gave their mis - chief - mak - ing powers,

A To her laugh - ing eyes the brown - ies Gave their mis - chief - mak - ing powers,

T 8 To her laugh - ing eyes the brown - ies Gave their mis - chief - mak - ing powers,

B To her laugh - ing eyes the brown - ies Gave their mis - chief - mak - ing powers,

## Little Jessie

33

S 'Round her lips in beau - ty gath - ered All that witch - ing is and rare.

A 'Round her lips find All that witch - ing is and rare.

T 'Round her lips find All that witch - ing is and rare.

B 'Round her lips find All that witch - ing is and rare.

37

S Lit - tle Jes - sie, have you seen her? You would know her an - y where,

A Have you seen her? You would know her an - y where,

T Have you seen her? You would know her an - y where,

B Have you seen her? You would know her an - y where,

41

S Lit - tle Jes - sie, have you seen her? You would know her an - y where,

A Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, You would know her an - y where,

T Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, know her an - y where,

B Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, know her an - y where,

# Little Jessie

45

S By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

A By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

T 8 By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

B By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

49

S They but mock me when they tell me— They have robed and laid her there—

A They but mock me when they tell me— They have robed and laid her there—

T 8 They but mock me when they tell me— They have robed and laid her there—

B They but mock me when they tell me— They have robed and laid her there—

53

S Paled her cheek and twined im - mor - telles In the glo - ry of her hair?

A Paled her cheek and twined im - mor - telles In the glo - ry of her hair?

T 8 Paled her cheek and twined im - mor - telles In the glo - ry of her hair?

B Paled her cheek and twined im - mor - telles In the glo - ry of her hair?

## Little Jessie

57

S She is wait - ing for me, hid - ing, Still she hides I know not where;

A She is wait - ing, Still she hides I know not where;

T She is wait - ing, Still she hides I know not where;

B She is wait - ing, Still she hides I know not where;

61

S Sure - ly, sure - ly, you have seen her? You would know her an - y where!

A You have seen her? You would know her an - y where!

T You have seen her? You would know her an - y where!

B You have seen her? You would know her an - y where!

65

S Lit - tle Jes - sie, have you seen her? You would know her an - y - where,

A Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, You would know her an - y - where,

T Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, know her an - y - where,

B Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, know her an - y - where,



# Little Jessie

69

S By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

A By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

T 8 By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

B By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

73

S Still she comes not! shall I nev - er, Down the path - way, thro' the lane,

A Still she comes not! shall I nev - er, Down the path - way, thro' the lane,

T 8 Still she comes not! shall I nev - er, Down the path - way, thro' the lane,

B Still she comes not! shall I nev - er, Down the path - way, thro' the lane,

77

S See her swift feet fly to meet me? Clasp her in my arms a - gain?

A See her swift feet fly to meet me? Clasp her in my arms a - gain?

T 8 See her swift feet fly to meet me? Clasp her in my arms a - gain?

B See her swift feet fly to meet me? Clasp her in my arms a - gain?

## Little Jessie

81

S Still she comes not! but her pres - ence Shall be near me ev - 'ry - where;

A But her pres - ence Shall be near me ev - 'ry - where;

T But her pres - ence Shall be near me ev - 'ry - where;

B But her pres - ence Shall be near me ev - 'ry - where;

85

S And I know, what - e'er be-tide me, I shall know and love her there!

A And I feel that I shall know and love her there!

T And I feel that I shall know and love her there!

B And I feel that I shall know and love her there!

89

S Lit - tle Jes - sie, have you seen her? You would know her an - y - where,

A Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, You would know her an - y - where,

T Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, know her an - y - where,

B Dar - ling Lit - tle Jes - sie, know her an - y - where,

# Little Jessie

93

S  
By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

A  
By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

T  
8  
By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

B  
By the love - light in her blue eyes, And the sun - light in her hair.

John Church & Co.  
(1872)

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