

Mother's Choice

Jas. McGranahan
(1840-1907)

James McGranahan (1840-1907) was born in Adamsville, Pennsylvania. Growing up on the farm, his father sent him to singing school and he soon became assistant and played bass viol. At age 19, he started his own singing school. He attended the Normal Music School in Geneseo, New York, and later studied with George F. Root, James G. Webb and others. He also studied under Sir George A. Macfarren of London. He taught at music institutes throughout the region, many with his friend C. C. Case, and considered a career as an opera singer. He chose to pursue a life of evangelism, traveling throughout the United States and Great Britain. He wrote many hymns, in particular with co-authors Major Daniel Webster Whittle and Ira D. Sankey. Much of his music was popular with the ministries of Dwight Moody. He is noted for writing the music to the hymn "I Left It All With Jesus." An early missionary to Hawaii, Rev. Lorenzo Lyons, wrote alternative lyrics and the song became known as "Hawaii Aloha," a song often sung at the close of public political, spiritual, educational and sporting events. His nephew, H. H. McGranahan, was also a successful musician and composer. He died in Kinsman, Ohio.

A mother sat, one summer eve, within her little room,
Her children hovered by her side amid the twilight gloom;
She tho't an angel spake to her— "I've come," she said, "to bear
A little lamb from out a flock, a birdling from thy care;
But first I give thee pow'r to choose with which thou first wouldst part,
Which little blossom of thy love thou'dst pluck from out thy heart."

The mother gazed in grief and woe, "Oh, do not take," she cried,
"The eldest born, the Rose that blooms so sweetly by my side;
She's grave and thoughtful, faithful, kind, and true in word and deed,
So watchful o'er the younger ones, and mindful of their need;
Our home would be so desolate, and dark the sunniest day,
Were we to lose our little girl, our darling ELLEN MAY.

"Her little sister? No, no, no! within our household bower
She is the honeysuckle sweet, which gladdens ev'ry hour—
Lighthearted and affectionate, each wish and want is twined
With sweet content and love around her sister's guiding mind;
At work or play, by night or day, apart they do not dwell;
'Twere cruel now to separate— oh, leave my CLARA BELL.

And yet I cannot spare my son, my brave, my only boy;
His father's morning glory, and his mother's evening joy!
He's agile as a mountain deer, as reckless and as free,
And yet a warm and loving heart has little Wendell Lee;
His father's heart would burst with grief, and mine be filled with woe,
Were we to let from out our home our merry prattler go.

Yet oh, I can not, dare not say that thou, my youngest pet,
My daisy, my sweet violet, my fragrant mignonette,
Art any less beloved by me because that love is brief,
Thou art to me what morning dew is to the summer leaf;
I can not bid thee take my bale, good Angel, hear my prayer;
I can not choose; then leave them all to bloom beneath my care.

The angel sadly turned away, but soon he came again,
And bore away the eldest flower; the mother's tears were vain.
She laid her darling in the grave, and thought her heart would break,
And yet she blessed the holy Power which gave and could retake;
That He in wisdom did not add the deeper, heavier woe,
Of choosing which of those she loved should be the first to go.

Mother's Choice

Jas. McGranahan

S A T B

A moth - er sat, one sum - mer eve, with - in her lit - tle room, Her child - ren

A moth - er sat, one sum - mer eve, with - in her lit - tle room, Her child - ren

A moth - er sat, one sum - mer eve, with - in her lit - tle room, Her child - ren

A moth - er sat, one sum - mer eve, with - in her lit - tle room, Her child - ren

S A T B

6

hov - ered by her side a - mid the twi - light gloom; She tho't an

hov - ered by her side a - mid the twi - light gloom; She tho't an

hov - ered by her side a - mid the twi - light gloom; She tho't an

hov - ered by her side a - mid the twi - light gloom; She tho't an

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10

S an - gel spake to her— "I've come," she said, "to bear A lit - tle

A an - gel spake to her— "I've come," she said, "to bear A lit - tle

T an - gel spake to her— "I've come," she said, "to bear A lit - tle

B an - gel spake to her— "I've come," she said, "to bear A lit - tle

14

S lamb from out a flock, a bird - ling from thy care; But first I

A lamb from out a flock, a bird - ling from thy care; But first I

T lamb from out a flock, a bird - ling from thy care; But first I

B lamb from out a flock, a bird - ling from thy care; But first I

18

S give thee pow'r to choose with which thou first wouldst part, Which lit - tle

A give thee pow'r to choose with which thou first wouldst part, Which lit - tle

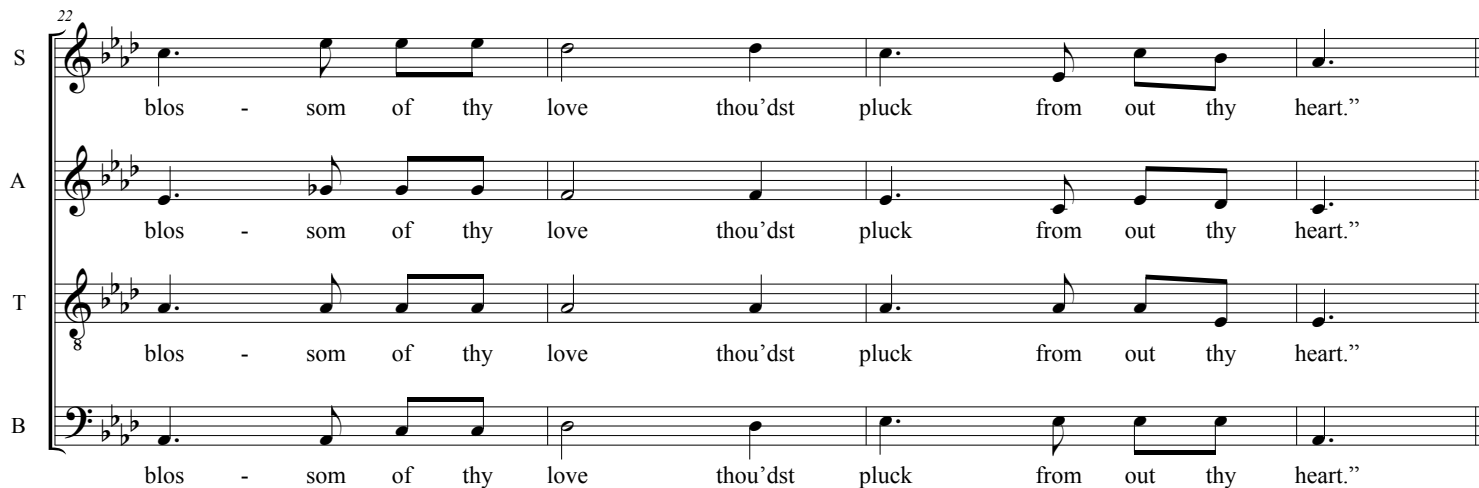
T give thee pow'r to choose with which thou first wouldst part, Which lit - tle

B give thee pow'r to choose with which thou first wouldst part, Which lit - tle

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22

S
 A
 T
 B



blos - som of thy love thou'dst pluck from out thy heart."

26

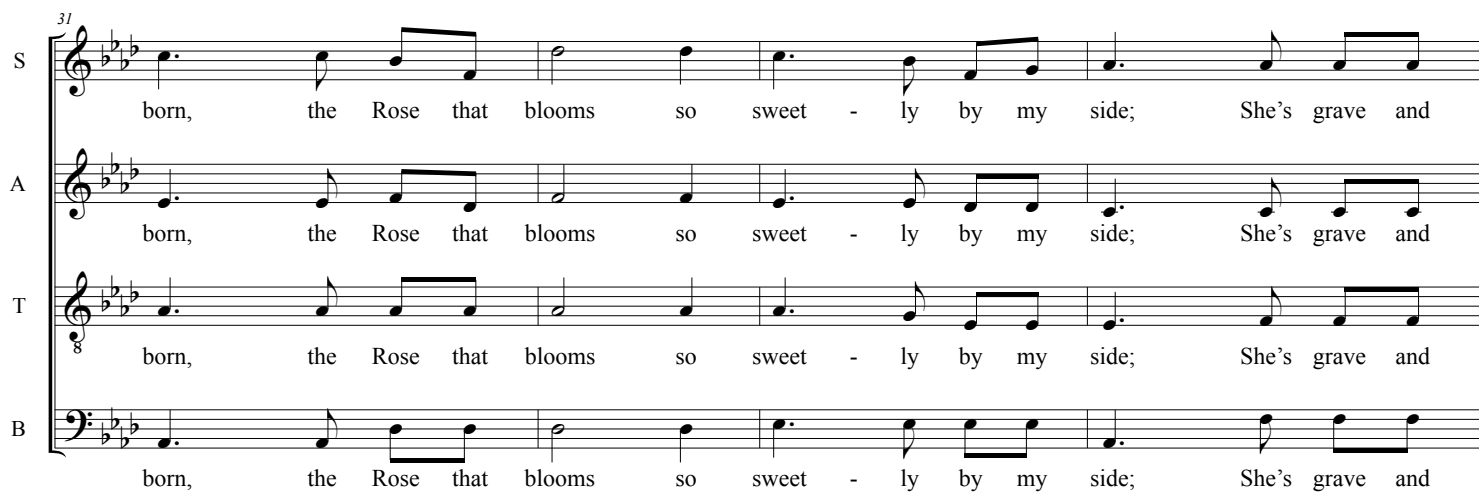
S
 A
 T
 B



The moth - er gazed in grief and woe, "Oh, do not take," she cried, "The eld - est

31

S
 A
 T
 B



born, the Rose that blooms so sweet - ly by my side; She's grave and

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35

S thought - ful, faith - ful, kind, and true in word and deed, So watch - ful

A thought - ful, faith - ful, kind, and true in word and deed, So watch - ful

T thought - ful, faith - ful, kind, and true in word and deed, So watch - ful

B thought - ful, faith - ful, kind, and true in word and deed, So watch - ful

39

S o'er the young - er ones, and mind - ful of their need; Our home would

A o'er the young - er ones, and mind - ful of their need, Our home would

T o'er the young - er ones, and mind - ful of their need; Our home would

B o'er the young - er ones, and mind - ful of their need; Our home would

43

S he so des - o - late, and dark the sun - niest day, Were we to

A he so des - o - late, and dark the sun - niest day, Were we to

T he so des - o - late, and dark the sun - niest day, Were we to

B he so des - o - late, and dark the sun - niest day, Were we to

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47

S lose our lit - tle girl, our dar - ling EL - LEN MAY.

A lose our lit - tle girl, our dar - ling EL - LEN MAY.

T lose our lit - tle girl, our dar - ling EL - LEN MAY.

B lose our lit - tle girl, our dar - ling EL - LEN MAY.

51

S "Her lit - tle sis - ter? No, no, no! with - in our house - hold bower — She is the

A "Her lit - tle sis - ter? No, no, no! with - in our house - hold bower She is the

T "Her lit - tle sis - ter? No, no, no! with - in our house - hold bower She is the

B "Her lit - tle sis - ter? No, no, no! with - in our house - hold bower She is the

56

S hon - ey - su - ckle sweet, which glad - dens ev - 'ry hour— Light - heart - ed

A hon - ey - su - ckle sweet, which glad - dens ev - 'ry hour— Light - heart - ed

T hon - ey - su - ckle sweet, which glad - dens ev - 'ry hour— Light - heart - ed

B hon - ey - su - ckle sweet, which glad - dens ev - 'ry hour— Light - heart - ed

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60

S and af - fec - tion - ate, each wish and want is twined With sweet con -

A and af - fec - tion - ate, each wish and want is twined With sweet con -

T and af - fec - tion - ate, each wish and want is twined With sweet con -

B and af - fec - tion - ate, each wish and want is twined With sweet con -

64

S tent and love a - round her sis - ter's guid - ing mind; At work or

A tent and love a - round her sis - ter's guid - ing mind; At work or

T tent and love a - round her sis - ter's guid - ing mind; At work or

B tent and love a - round her sis - ter's guid - ing mind; At work or

68

S play, by night or day, a - part they do not dwell; 'Twere cru - el

A play, by night or day, a - part they do not dwell; 'Twere cru - el

T play, by night or day, a - part they do not dwell; 'Twere cru - el

B play, by night or day, a - part they do not dwell; 'Twere cru - el

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72

S
now to sep - a - rate— oh, leave my CLA - RA BELL.

A
now to sep - a - rate— oh, leave my CLA - RA BELL.

T
8
now to sep - a - rate— oh, leave my CLA - RA BELL.

B
now to sep - a - rate— oh, leave my CLA - RA BELL.

76

S
And yet I can - not spare my son, my brave, my on - ly boy; His fa - ther's

A
And yet I can - not spare my son, my brave, my on - ly boy; His fa - ther's

T
8
And yet I can - not spare my son, my brave, my on - ly boy; His fa - ther's

B
And yet I can - not spare my son, my brave, my on - ly boy; His fa - ther's

81

S
morn - ing glo - ry, and his moth - er's eve - ning joy! He's a - gile

A
morn - ing glo - ry, and his moth - er's eve - ning joy! He's a - gile

T
8
morn - ing glo - ry, and his moth - er's eve - ning joy! He's a - gile

B
morn - ing glo - ry, and his moth - er's eve - ning joy! He's a - gile

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85

S as a moun - tain deer, as reck - less and as free, And yet a

A as a moun - tain deer, as reck - less and as free, And yet a

T as a moun - tain deer, as reck - less and as free, And yet a

B as a moun - tain deer, as reck - less and as free, And yet a

89

S warm and lov - ing heart has lit - tle WEN - DELL LEE; His fa - ther's

A warm and lov - ing heart has lit - tle WEN - DELL LEE; His fa - ther's

T warm and lov - ing heart has lit - tle WEN - DELL LEE; His fa - ther's

B warm and lov - ing heart has lit - tle WEN - DELL LEE; His fa - ther's

93

S heart would burst with grief, and mine be filled with woe, Were we to

A heart would burst with grief, and mine be filled with woe, Were we to

T heart would burst with grief, and mine be filled with woe, Were we to

B heart would burst with grief, and mine be filled with woe, Were we to

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97

S let from out our home our mer - ry prat - tler go.

A let from out our home our mer - ry prat - tler go.

T let from out our home our mer - ry prat - tler go.

B let from out our home our mer - ry prat - tler go.

101

S Yet oh, I can not, dare not say that thou, my young - est pet, My dai - sy,

A Yet oh, I can not, dare not say that thou, my young - est pet, My dai - sy,

T Yet oh, I can not, dare not say that thou, my young - est pet, My dai - sy,

B Yet oh, I can not, dare not say that thou, my young - est pet, My dai - sy,

106

S my sweet vi - o - let, my frag - rant mig - no - nette, Art an - y

A my sweet vi - o - let, my frag - rant mig - no - nette, Art an - y

T my sweet vi - o - let, my frag - rant mig - no - nette, Art an - y

B my sweet vi - o - let, my frag - rant mig - no - nette, Art an - y

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110

S
less be - loved by me be - cause that love is brief, Thou art to

A
less be - loved by me be - cause that love is brief, Thou art to

T
8
less be - loved by me be - cause that love is brief, Thou art to

B
less be - loved by me be - cause that love is brief, Thou art to

114

S
me what morn - ing dew is to the sum - mer leaf; I can not

A
me what morn - ing dew is to the sum - mer leaf; I can not

T
8
me what morn - ing dew is to the sum - mer leaf; I can not

B
me what morn - ing dew is to the sum - mer leaf; I can not

118

S
bid thee take my bale, good An - gel, hear my prayer; — I can not

A
bid thee take my bale, good An - gel, hear my prayer; I can not

T
8
bid thee take my bale, good An - gel, hear my prayer; I can not

B
bid thee take my bale, good An - gel, hear my prayer; I can not

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122

S choose; then leave them all to bloom be - neath my care.

A choose; then leave them all to bloom be - neath my care.

T choose; then leave them all to bloom be - neath my care.

B choose; then leave them all to bloom be - neath my care.

126

S The an - gel sad - ly turned a - way, but soon he came a - gain, — And bore a -

A The an - gel sad - ly turned a - way, but soon he came a - gain, And bore a -

T The an - gel sad - ly turned a - way, but soon he came a - gain, And bore a -

B The an - gel sad - ly turned a - way, but soon he came a - gain, And bore a -

131

S way the eld - est flower; the moth - er's tears were vain. She laid her

A way the eld - est flower; the moth - er's tears were vain. She laid her

T way the eld - est flower; the moth - er's tears were vain. She laid her

B way the eld - est flower; the moth - er's tears were vain. She laid her

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135

S dar - ling in the grave, and thought her heart would break, And yet she

A dar - ling in the grave, and thought her heart would break, And yet she

T dar - ling in the grave, and thought her heart would break, And yet she

B dar - ling in the grave, and thought her heart would break, And yet she

139

S blessed the ho - ly Power which gave and could re - take; That He in

A blessed the ho - ly Power which gave and could re - take; That He in

T blessed the ho - ly Power which gave and could re - take; That He in

B blessed the ho - ly Power which gave and could re - take; That He in

143

S wis - dom did not add the deep - er, heav - ier woe, Of choos - ing

A wis - dom did not add the deep - er, heav - ier woe, Of choos - ing

T wis - dom did not add the deep - er, heav - ier woe, Of choos - ing

B wis - dom did not add the deep - er, heav - ier woe, Of choos - ing

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147

S
which of those she loved should be the first to go.

A
which of those she loved should be the first to go.

T
8
which of those she loved should be the first to go.

B
which of those she loved should be the first to go.

John Church & Company
(1878)

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