



Proverb Song

Oraz

[H. R. Palmer (1834-1907)]

Horatio Richmond Palmer (1834-1907) was born in Sherburne, New York. His sister taught him how to read music and he sang in his father's choir. He studied music on his own then pursued studies in music, metaphysics and the languages in New York, Germany and Italy. He was an organist, conductor and composer by age 18. He studied at the Richmond Academy of Music and, at age 23, he became its Principal. He was organist and choir director at Rushford Baptist Church and started a singing school in Centerville, NY. Its success led to teaching singing classes throughout the region. In 1861 he relocated to Chicago, Illinois, where he was choir director at the Second Baptist Church. In Chicago he published the magazine "Concordia" and two very successful choral collections, "The Song-Queen" and "The Song-King." He also conducted festivals and associations. His music conventions became the social events of city, town and country districts. His music schools, normal courses in training and conventions extended through the Northern states and into Canada. He returned to New York and travelled to Europe to study in the various musical centers. He became recognized as one of the most expert teachers of music in the U. S. In 1881 he organized the Church Choral Union to elevate the class and quality of music used in churches. In one of their convention performances, he had a choir of 4,000 singers on the stage of Madison Square Gardens. He organized similar groups in New York state, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. He was conductor of the Chautauqua chorus and became Dean of the School of Music. He also directed the choir at the Broome Street Tabernacle in New York City. Other experiences included working in the Madison, Wisconsin, Assembly for 7 years; working in the De Funiack Springs, Florida, Assembly for 6 years; was the first leader of the Georgia Assembly, conducting for a number of years; and worked with the Cortland, NY, Festival 19 times. He died at his home in Park Hill-on-Hudson, NY. He wrote and compiled more than fifty volumes of choral collections and the texts including "Theory of Music" and "Manual for Teachers." Most of his compositions were for choral education and often tailored to teach a specific concept. Of his many hymns, his best known is probably "Yield not to Temptation." He also wrote under the pseudonyms Florence Le Claire, Frank Forest, Oraz, and P. Rankin Hollingsworth.

As poor as a church-mouse,
 As thin as a rail;
 As fat as a porpoise,
 As rough as a gale;
 As brave as a lion,
 As spry as a cat;
 As bright as a sixpence,
 As weak as a rat;
 As proud as a peacock,
 As sly as a fox;
 As mad as a March hare,
 As strong as an ox;
 As fair as a lily,
 As empty as air;
 As rich as a Cræsus,
 As cross as a bear.

As pure as an angel,
 As neat as a pin;
 As smart as a steel-trap,
 As ugly as sin;
 As dead as a doornail,
 As white as a sheet;
 As flat as a pancake,
 As red as a beet;
 As round as an apple,
 As black as your hat;
 As brown as a berry,
 As blind as a bat;
 As mean as a miser,
 As full as a tick;
 As plump as a partridge,
 As sharp as a stick.

As clean as a penny,
 As dark as a pall;
 As hard as a millstone,
 As bitter as gall;
 As fit as a fiddle,
 As clear as a bell;
 As dry as a herring,
 As deep as a well;
 As light as a feather,
 As hard as a rock;
 As stiff as a poker,
 As calm as a clock;
 As green as a gosling,
 As brisk as a bee;
 And now I will stop,
 Lest you weary of me.

Mrs. Mary Ann Kidder,
 née Pepper (1820-1905)

Proverb Song

Oraz

For rapid enunciation- first time slowly, then each verse more and more rapidly.

S
A
T
B

As poor as a church - mouse, As thin as a rail; As

S
A
T
B

fat as a por - poise, As rough as a gale; As brave as a li - on, As spry as a cat; As

S
A
T
B

bright as a six - pence, As weak as a rat; As proud as a pea - cock, As

Proverb Song

10

S sly as a fox; As mad as a March hare, As strong as an ox; As

A sly as a fox; As mad as a March hare, As strong as an ox; As

T sly as a fox; As mad as a March hare, As strong as an ox; As

B sly as a fox; As mad as a March hare, As strong as an ox; As

13

S fair as a lil - y, As emp - ty as air; As rich as a Croe - sus, As cross as a bear.

A fair as a lil - y, As emp - ty as air; As rich as a Croe - sus, As cross as a bear.

T fair as a lil - y, As emp - ty as air; As rich as a Croe - sus, As cross as a bear.

B fair as a lil - y, As emp - ty as air; As rich as a Croe - sus, As cross as a bear.

17

S As pure as an an - gel, As neat as a pin; As smart as a steel - trap, As

A As pure as an an - gel, As neat as a pin; As smart as a steel - trap, As

T As pure as an an - gel, As neat as a pin; As smart as a steel - trap, As

B As pure as an an - gel, As neat as a pin; As smart as a steel - trap, As

Proverb Song

21

S ug - ly as sin; As dead as a door - nail, As white as a sheet; As

A ug - ly as sin; As dead as a door - nail, As white as a sheet; As

T ug - ly as sin; As dead as a door - nail, As white as a sheet; As

B ug - ly as sin; As dead as a door - nail, As white as a sheet; As

24

S flat as a pan - cake, As red as a beet; As round as an ap - ple, As

A flat as a pan - cake, As red as a beet; As round as an ap - ple, As

T flat as a pan - cake, As red as a beet; As round as an ap - ple, As

B flat as a pan - cake, As red as a beet; As round as an ap - ple, As

27

S black as your hat; As brown as a ber - ry, As blind as a bat; As

A black as your hat; As brown as a ber - ry, As blind as a bat; As

T black as your hat; As brown as a ber - ry, As blind as a bat; As

B black as your hat; As brown as a ber - ry, As blind as a bat; As

Proverb Song

30

S mean as a mi - ser, As full as a tick; As plump as a part - ridge, As sharp as a stick.

A mean as a mi - ser, As full as a tick; As plump as a part - ridge, As sharp as a stick.

T mean as a mi - ser, As full as a tick; As plump as a part - ridge, As sharp as a stick.

B mean as a mi - ser, As full as a tick; As plump as a part - ridge, As sharp as a stick.

34

S As clean as a pen - ny, As dark as a pall; As hard as a mill - stone, As

A As clean as a pen - ny, As dark as a pall; As hard as a mill - stone, As

T As clean as a pen - ny, As dark as a pall; As hard as a mill - stone, As

B As clean as a pen - ny, As dark as a pall; As hard as a mill - stone, As

38

S bit - ter as gall; As fit as a fid - dle, As clear as a bell; As

A bit - ter as gall; As fit as a fid - dle, As clear as a bell; As

T bit - ter as gall; As fit as a fid - dle, As clear as a bell; As

B bit - ter as gall; As fit as a fid - dle, As clear as a bell; As

Proverb Song

41

S dry as a her - ring, As deep as a well; As light as a feath - er, As

A dry as a her - ring, As deep as a well; As light as a feath - er, As

T dry as a her - ring, As deep as a well; As light as a feath - er, As

B dry as a her - ring, As deep as a well; As light as a feath - er, As

44

S hard as a rock; As stiff as a po - ker, As calm as a clock; As

A hard as a rock; As stiff as a po - ker, As calm as a clock; As

T hard as a rock; As stiff as a po - ker, As calm as a clock; As

B hard as a rock; As stiff as a po - ker, As calm as a clock; As

47

S green as a gos - ling, As brisk as a bee; And now I will stop, Lest you wea - ry of me.

A green as a gos - ling, As brisk as a bee; And now I will stop, Lest you wea - ry of me.

T green as a gos - ling, As brisk as a bee; And now I will stop, Lest you wea - ry of me.

B green as a gos - ling, As brisk as a bee; And now I will stop, Lest you wea - ry of me.

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