



# **Gentle Words**

**Cyrus C. Pratt**  
**(1835-?)**

**Cyrus Cornelius Pratt** (1835-?) was born in Johnson, Vermont. He went to Boston at age 12 to study music, was known as a vocalist with a number of Boston musical institutions. When he was 25, he moved to Springfield, Illinois. He was involved in musical business and managed a concert company called Harmonious Bards, partnering with Burr Robbins (1837-1908), a showman who later became known for his circus. The venture failed and he established musical concerts in connection with the U. S. Sanitary Commission (veteran's aid). He enlisted as Captain of Company A, 117th Illinois Volunteer Infantry but was discharged due to disability. He continued to conduct a sanitary concert troupe until the end of the war. After the war, he conducted musical conventions and institutes, moving to Kansas as agent for the King Iron Bridge & Manufacturing Company of Cleveland, Ohio. He then worked as a real estate agent, still conducting musical institutes throughout the South. He moved to Iowa City, Iowa, as agent for the Burlington Insurance Company, then back to Kansas to become secretary of the Vigilant Insurance Company. He was also secretary of the Broom Corn Alliance of Mitchell County, Kansas. He moved to Nampa, Idaho and was engaged in the mining business at the turn of the century then retired to Portland, Oregon. He died before 1920. His few known compositions were part-songs for pedagogy at his conventions and institutes.

The fair, bright flowers of summer time  
Are beautiful to me,  
And glorious are the many stars  
That glimmer on the sea;  
But gentle words and loving smiles,  
And hands to clasp my own  
Are better than the fairest flowers,  
Or stars that ever shone.

The sun may warm the buds to life,  
The dew the drooping flowers,  
And eyes grow bright and watch the light  
Of autumn's opening hour;  
But words that breathe of tenderness  
And love we know is true  
Are warmer than the summer sun,  
And brighter than the dew.

It is not much the world can give  
With all its show and art,  
And gold and gems are not the things  
To satisfy the heart;  
But, oh, if those who cluster 'round  
The altar and the hearth  
Have gentle words and loving smiles,  
How beautiful is earth?

# Gentle Words

C. C. Pratt

S  
The fair, bright flow'rs of sum - mer time Are beau - ti - ful to me, And

A  
The fair, bright flow'rs of sum - mer time Are beau - ti - ful to me, And

T  
The fair, bright flow'rs of sum - mer time Are beau - ti - ful to me, And

B  
The fair, bright flow'rs of sum - mer time Are beau - ti - ful to me, And

5  
S  
glo - rious are the ma - ny stars That glim - mer on the sea; But

A  
glo - rious are the ma - ny stars That glim - mer on the sea; But

T  
glo - rious are the ma - ny stars That glim - mer on the sea; But

B  
glo - rious are the ma - ny stars That glim - mer on the sea; But

## Gentle Words

9

S gen - tle words and lov - ing smiles, And hands to clasp my own Are

A gen - tle words and lov - ing smiles, And hands to clasp my own Are

T gen - tle words and lov - ing smiles, And hands to clasp my own Are

B gen - tle words and lov - ing smiles, And hands to clasp my own Are

13

S bet - ter than the fair - est flow'rs, Or stars that ev - er shone.

A bet - ter than the fair - est flow'rs, Or stars that ev - er shone.

T bet - ter than the fair - est flow'rs, Or stars that ev - er shone.

B bet - ter than the fair - est flow'rs, Or stars that ev - er shone.

S The sun may warm the buds to life, The dew the droop - ing flow'rs, And

A The sun may warm the buds to life, The dew the droop - ing flow'rs, And

T The sun may warm the buds to life, The dew the droop - ing flow'rs, And

B The sun may warm the buds to life, The dew the droop - ing flow'rs, And

# Gentle Words

21

S eyes grow bright and watch the light Of au - tumn's op - 'ning hour; But

A eyes grow bright and watch the light Of au - tumn's op - 'ning hour; But

T eyes grow bright and watch the light Of au - tumn's op - 'ning hour; But

B eyes grow bright and watch the light Of au - tumn's op - 'ning hour; But

25

S words that breathe of ten - der - ness And love we know is true Are

A words that breathe of ten - der - ness And love we know is true Are

T words that breathe of ten - der - ness And love we know is true Are

B words that breathe of ten - der - ness And love we know is true Are

29

S warm - er than the sum - mer sun, And bright - er than the dew.

A warm - er than the sum - mer sun, And bright - er than the dew.

T warm - er than the sum - mer sun, And bright - er than the dew.

B warm - er than the sum - mer sun, And bright - er than the dew.

## Gentle Words

S It is not much the world can give With all its show and art, And

A It is not much the world can give With all its show and art, And

T It is not much the world can give With all its show and art, And

B It is not much the world can give With all its show and art, And

37 S gold and gems are not the things To sat - is - fy the heart; But,

A gold and gems are not the things To sat - is - fy the heart; But,

T gold and gems are not the things To sat - is - fy the heart; But,

B gold and gems are not the things To sat - is - fy the heart; But,

41 S oh, if those who clus - ter 'round The al - tar and the hearth Have

A oh, if those who clus - ter 'round The al - tar and the hearth Have

T oh, if those who clus - ter 'round The al - tar and the hearth Have

B oh, if those who clus - ter 'round The al - tar and the hearth Have

# Gentle Words

45

S  
gen - tle words and lov - ing smiles, How beau - ti - ful is earth?

A  
gen - tle words and lov - ing smiles, How beau - ti - ful is earth?

T  
8  
gen - tle words and lov - ing smiles, How beau - ti - ful is earth?

B  
gen - tle words and lov - ing smiles, How beau - ti - ful is earth?

E. T. Pound  
(1885)

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