



# Merry Greeting

**J. H. Rheem**  
**(1835-1918)**

**John Henry Rheem** (1835-1918) was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He was musical from his youth and started singing in the church choir at age eight. At age 21, he went to Boston to study with Lowell Mason and the other leading teachers in that city. He returned to Pennsylvania and taught school music in Carlisle and Reading. In 1871, he moved to Iowa and taught briefly in Chariton then settled in Ottumwa. There, he taught music for a decade then began a music business, selling musical instruments. He invented and patented the "Rheem Accompanist," a device designed to assist a beginner to play any instrument. He organized a company to manufacture the device, employing many in the area. He was a respected member of the community and active in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He wrote hymns, many songs for school use, and issued music collections for singing schools. He died in Ottumwa.

Awake the song of merry greeting,  
The notes inspiring joy repeating,  
Let mirth to wisdom tribute pay,  
But yet be merry when we may.

'Tis well for thought to find a season,  
For study always there's no reason,  
We gather knowledge from the past  
To make life happy while it lasts.

'Tho care will come and tribulation,  
We'll sigh not in th'anticipation,  
For joy will soon each grief dispel,  
From hearts where love and friendship dwell.

William Edward Hickson (1803-1870)

# Merry Greeting

J. H. Rheem

S A T B

A - wake the song of mer - ry greet - ing, sing

A - wake the song of mer - ry greet - ing, sing

A - wake the song of mer - ry greet - ing, sing

A - wake the song of mer - ry greet - ing, sing

S A T B

tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, The notes in - spir - ing joy re -

la la la la la la la, The notes in - spir - ing joy re -

tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, The notes in - spir - ing joy re -

la la la la la la la, The notes in - spir - ing joy re -

# Merry Greeting

6

S peat - ing, Sing tra la la la, tra la la la la la, Let

A peat - ing, Sing la la la la la la la la, Let

T peat - ing, Sing tra la la la, tra la la la la la, Let

B peat - ing, Sing la la la la la la la la, Let

9

S mirth to wis - dom tri - bute pay, But yet be mer - ry when we

A mirth to wis - dom tri - bute pay, But yet be mer - ry when we

T mirth to wis - dom tri - bute pay, But yet be mer - ry when we

B mirth to wis - dom tri - bute pay, But yet be mer - ry when we

12

S may. Sing tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, sing

A may. Sing la la la la la la la la, sing

T may. Sing la la la la la la la la, sing

B may. Sing la la la la la la la la, sing

## Merry Greeting

15

S tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, sing tra la la la, tra la la la,

A la la la la la la la, sing la la la la

T la la la la la la la, sing la la la la

B la la la la la la la, sing la la la la

18

S la la, sing tra la la la, tra la la la la la.

A la la la, sing la la la la la la la.

T la la la, sing la la la la la la la.

B la la la, sing la la la la la la la.

S 'Tis well for thought to find a sea - son, sing

A 'Tis well for thought to find a sea - son, sing

T 'Tis well for thought to find a sea - son, sing

B 'Tis well for thought to find a sea - son, sing

# Merry Greeting

23

S tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, For stud - y al - ways there's no

A la la la la la la la, For stud - y al - ways there's no

T tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, For stud - y al - ways there's no

B la la la la la la la, For stud - y al - ways there's no

26

S rea - son, sing tra la la la, tra la la la la la, We

A rea - son, sing la la la la la la la, We

T rea - son, sing tra la la la, tra la la la la la, We

B rea - son, sing la la la la la la la, We

29

S gath - er know - ledge from the past To make life hap - py while it

A gath - er know - ledge from the past To make life hap - py while it

T gath - er know - ledge from the past To make life hap - py while it

B gath - er know - ledge from the past To make life hap - py while it

## Merry Greeting

32

S lasts. Sing — tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, sing

A lasts. Sing la la la la la la la, sing

T lasts. Sing la la la la la la la, sing

B lasts. Sing la la la la la la la, sing

35

S tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, sing tra la la la, tra la la la,

A la la la la la la la, sing la la la la

T la la la la la la la, sing la la la la

B la la la la la la la, sing la la la la

38

S la la, sing tra la la la, tra la la la la la.

A la la la, sing la la la la la la la.

T la la la, sing la la la la la la la.

B la la la, sing la la la la la la la.



# Merry Greeting

S 'Tho' care will come and trib - u - la - tion, sing

A 'Tho' care will come and trib - u - la - tion, sing

T 'Tho' care will come and trib - u - la - tion, sing

B 'Tho' care will come and trib - u - la - tion, sing

<sup>43</sup>  
S tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, We'll sigh not in th'an - ti - ci -

A la la la la la la la, We'll sigh not in th'an - ti - ci -

T <sup>3</sup> tra la la la, <sup>3</sup> tra la la la, la la, We'll sigh not in th'an - ti - ci -

B la la la la la la la, We'll sigh not in th'an - ti - ci -

<sup>46</sup>  
S pa - tion, Sing tra la la la, tra la la la la la, For

A pa - tion, Sing la la la la la la la, For

T pa - tion, Sing <sup>3</sup> tra la la la, <sup>3</sup> tra la la la la la, For

B pa - tion, Sing la la la la la la la, For

## Merry Greeting

49

S joy will soon each grief dis - pel, From hearts where love and friend - ship

A joy will soon each grief dis - pel, From hearts where love and friend - ship

T joy will soon each grief dis - pel, From hearts where love and friend - ship

B joy will soon each grief dis - pel, From hearts where love and friend - ship

52

S dwell. Sing tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, sing

A dwell. Sing la la la la la la la, sing

T dwell. Sing la la la la la la la, sing

B dwell. Sing la la la la la la la, sing

55

S tra la la la, tra la la la, la la, sing tra la la la, tra la la la,

A la la la la la la la, sing la la la la

T la la la la la la la, sing la la la la

B la la la la la la la, sing la la la la

# Merry Greeting

58

S  
la la, sing tra la la la, tra la la la la la.

A  
la la la, sing la la la la la la la.

T  
la la la, sing la la la la la la la.

B  
la la la, sing la la la la la la la.

J. C. Crandall  
(1874)

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