



# **A catastrophe**

**Nathan B. Sprague  
(1863-1938)**

**Nathan Brown Sprague** (1863-1938) was born in Greenville, Rhode Island. He was educated in the public schools and in the English and Classical schools of Providence, studied in New York and graduated from Harvard. He also studied music overseas in Germany and England. Returning to the United States, he taught piano, organ, voice and theory in Providence. He was organist and director of music at Grace Episcopal Church, conductor of the Narragansett Choral Society of Peacedale, President of the Rhode Island Music Teachers' Association, and an executive, organist, and pianist of the Arion Club, the leading musical association of Providence. His compositions include four operas, pieces for violin, piano and orchestra, church music, and songs.

There was a boy, there was a tack,  
There was a teacher new.  
The tack sat down upon its head,  
The teacher sat down too!  
Then up he rose, and seized that boy,  
Who shook in every joint;  
(boy) I only meant it for a joke,  
(teacher) I failed to see the point!

Charles Monroe Sheldon (1857-1946)

# A catastrophe

N. B. Sprague

Allegro vivace

S  
There was a tack, There was a tack,

A  
There was a tack, There was a tack,

T  
There was a boy, There was a boy,

B  
There was a boy, There was a boy,

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S There was a boy, There was a tack, There was a teach - er new. *rit.* *a tempo* *repeat pp*

A There was a boy, There was a tack, There was a teach - er new. *rit.* *a tempo* *repeat pp*

T There was a boy, There was a tack, There was a teach - er new. *rit.* *a tempo* *repeat pp*

B There was a boy, There was a tack, There was a teach - er new. *rit.* *a tempo* *repeat pp*

S The tack sat down up - on its head, *mf*

A The tack sat down up - on its head, *mf*

T The tack sat down up - on its head, *mf*

B The tack sat down up - on its head, *mf* The

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S The tack sat down up - on its head,

A The tack sat down up - on its head,

T The tack sat down up - on its head,

B tack sat down up - on its head, The

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17 *accel.* *molto rit.*

S The tack sat down up - on its head,

A The tack sat down up - on its head,

T The tack sat down up - on its head,

B *accel.* *molto rit.* *Very slow*  
tack sat down up - on its head, The

21 *p* *rit.*

S The teach - er sat down too!

A The teach - er sat down too!

T The teach - er sat down too!

B tack sat down up - on its head, The teach - er sat down too!

25 *a tempo*

S and seized that boy, Then

A Then up he rose,

T and seized that boy,

B Then up he rose,

## A catastrophe

30

S up he rose, Who *a tempo*

A and seized that boy, Who *a tempo*

T Then up he rose, Who *a tempo*

B and seized that boy, Who

*pp* *rit.* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

34

S shook in ev - 'ry joint, Who shook in ev - 'ry joint; Then *cresc.*

A shook in ev - 'ry joint, Who shook in ev - 'ry joint; Then *cresc.*

T shook in ev - 'ry joint, Who shook in ev - 'ry joint; Then *cresc.*

B shook in ev - 'ry joint, Who shook in ev - 'ry joint; Then *cresc.*

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S up he rose and seized that boy, Who shook in ev - 'ry joint.

A up he rose and seized that boy, Who shook in ev - 'ry joint.

T up he rose and seized that boy, Who shook in ev - 'ry joint.

B up he rose and seized that boy, Who shook in ev - 'ry joint.

# A catastrophe

(The Boy)

42

S *p* I on - ly meant it for a joke, I on - ly meant it for a joke,

A *p* I on - ly meant it for a joke, I on - ly meant it for a joke,

T

B

46

S *f* I on - ly meant it for a joke. *rit.* *Allegro* *pp* the point!

A *f* I on - ly meant it for a joke. *rit.* *Allegro* *pp* the point!

T *f* I on - ly meant it for a joke. *rit.* *Allegro* *pp* the point!

B *f* I on - ly meant it for a joke. *rit.* *Allegro* (The Teacher) *pp* I failed to see the point, the point!

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