



The Abbot's

Blessing

(BENEDICITE)

T. Wilkinson Stephenson

(1855-1936)

# The Abbot's Blessing

T. Wilkinson Stephenson

Vivace ♩. = 92

S  
A  
T  
B

And Pe - ter the lay - broth - er  
And Pe - ter the lay - broth - er  
The Ab - bot of Lan - er - ton rode o'er the sea, And Pe - ter the lay - broth - er  
The Ab - bot of Lan - er - ton rode o'er the sea, And Pe - ter the lay - broth - er

S  
A  
T  
B

ran by his side, For St. Ur - su - la's sis - ter-hood shriv - en must be, No  
ran by his side, For St. Ur - su - la's sis - ter-hood shriv - en must be, No  
ran by his side, For St. Ur - su - la's sis - ter-hood shriv - en must be, No  
ran by his side, For St. Ur - su - la's sis - ter-hood shriv - en must be, No



# The Abbot's Blessing

7

S mat - ter what weath - er be - tide, no mat - ter what weath - er be -

A mat - ter what weath - er be - tide, no mat - ter what weath - er be -

T mat - ter what weath - er be - tide, no mat - ter what

B mat - ter what weath - er be - tide, no mat - ter what

10 *mp*

S tide; The rain pat - tered down, and the wind whis - tled cold, The

A tide; The rain pat - tered down, and the wind whis - tled cold, The

T weath - er be - tide; The rain pat - tered down, and the wind whis - tled cold, The

B weath - er be - tide; The

13

S Ab - bot was shriv-elled, and wrin - kled and old, So he tight - ened his cowl o'er his

A Ab - bot was shriv-elled, and wrin - kled and old, So he tight - ened his

T Ab - bot was shriv-elled, and wrin - kled and old, So he tight - ened his

B Ab - bot was shriv-elled, and wrin - kled and old, So he tight - ened his

# The Abbot's Blessing

16

S thin hoar - y hair, And the prayer that he mut-ter'd scarce seemed like a prayer— *Ben - e -*

A cowl o'er his hair, And his prayer scarce seemed a prayer— *Ben - e -*

T cowl o'er his hair, And his prayer scarce seemed a prayer— *Ben - e -*

B cowl o'er his hair, And his prayer scarce seemed a prayer— *Ben - e -*

*dim. e rit.* *p* *maestoso*

19

S dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - - - te! *rall.* *a tempo*

A dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - - - te! *rall.* *a tempo*

T dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - - - te! *rall.* *a tempo* Sir

B dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - - - te! *rall.* *a tempo* Sir

22

S And he thought of his love at St.

A And he thought of his love at St.

T Ralph walked a - lone on the bar - bi-can's height, And he thought of his love at St.

B Ralph walked a - lone on the bar - bi-can's height, And he thought of his love at St.

*p*

# The Abbot's Blessing

25

S Ur - su - la's shrine— "Good mor - row, Sir Ab - bot! I pray you a - light And

A Ur - su - la's shrine— "Good mor - row, Sir Ab - bot! I

T Ur - su - la's shrine— "Good mor - row, I pray you a - light And

B Ur - su - la's shrine— "Good mor - row, Sir Ab - bot! I

28 *cresc.*

S emp - ty a fla - gon of wine! \_\_\_\_\_ And emp - ty a fla - gon of

A *cresc.* pray you a - light And emp - ty a fla - gon, a

T *cresc.* emp - ty a fla - gon of wine! \_\_\_\_\_ And emp - ty a fla - gon of

B *cresc.* pray you a - light And emp - ty a fla - gon, a

31 *ff* *mf*

S wine, a fla - gon of wine!" \_\_\_\_\_ The Ab - bot was will - ing, and Pe - ter was fain, They

A *ff* *mf* fla - gon, a fla - gon of wine!" \_\_\_\_\_ The Ab - bot was will - ing, and Pe - ter was fain, They

T *ff* *mf* wine, a fla - gon of wine!" \_\_\_\_\_ The Ab - bot was will - ing, and Pe - ter was fain, They

B *ff* *mf* fla - gon, a fla - gon of wine!" \_\_\_\_\_ The Ab - bot was will - ing, and Pe - ter was fain, They

# The Abbot's Blessing

35

S tossed off the fla - gon, and filled it a - gain; And the lay - broth - er chuck - led "This

A tossed off the fla - gon, and filled it a - gain; And the lay - broth - er chuck - led "This

T tossed off the fla - gon, and filled it a - gain; And the lay - broth - er chuck - led "This

B tossed off the fla - gon, and filled it a - gain; And the lay - broth - er chuck - led "This

*ff* *jovially*

38

S cheer - eth the way, But St. Ur - su - la's nuns will have short shrift to - day" — Ben - e -

A cheer - eth the way, But St. Ur - su - la's nuns will have short shrift to - day" — Ben - e -

T cheer - eth the way, But St. Ur - su - la's nuns will have short shrift to - day" — Ben - e -

B cheer - eth the way, But St. Ur - su - la's nuns will have short shrift to - day" — Ben - e -

*p* *rall.* *f* *maestoso*

41

S dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! — The

A dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! — The

T dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! — The

B dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! — The

*rall.* *a tempo*

# The Abbot's Blessing

45

S The wind whis - tled cold as "Sir

A The wind whis - tled cold as "Sir

T por - tress flun o - pen St. Ur - su - la's gate, The wind whis - tled cold as "Sir

B por - tress flun o - pen St. Ur - su - la's gate, The wind whis - tled cold as "Sir

48

S Ab - bot" rode through, So still clos - er he gath - ered his hood o'er his pate, And his

A Ab - bot" rode through, So still clos - er he gath - ered his hood o'er his pate, And his

T Ab - bot" rode through, So still clos - er he gath - ered his hood o'er his pate, And his

B Ab - bot" rode through, So still clos - er he gath - ered his hood o'er his pate, And his

51

S man - tle a - round him he drew, his man - tle a - round him he

A man - tle a - round him he drew, his man - tle a - round him he

T man - tle a - round him he drew, his man - tle a -

B man - tle a - round him he drew, his man - tle a -

# The Abbot's Blessing

54

S drew, "Bring hith - er the La - dy May, A

A drew, "Bring hith - er the La - dy May, A

T round him he drew, "Bring speed - i - ly hith - er the fair La - dy May, A

B round him he drew, "Bring hith - er the La - dy May, A

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

57

S mes - sage I bear her!" The la - dy came quick - ly— she

A mes - sage I bear her!" The la - dy came quick - ly— she

T mes - sage I bear her that brooks do de - lay!" The la - dy came quick - ly— she

B mes - sage I bear her!" The la - dy came quick - ly— she

*cresc.*

*accel.*

*cresc.*

*accel.*

*cresc.*

*accel.*

*cresc.*

*accel.*

60

S sprang to his side, And in tri - umph Sir Ralph gal - loped

A sprang to his side, And in tri - umph Sir Ralph gal - loped

T sprang to his side, And in tri - umph Sir Ralph gal - loped

B sprang to his side, And in tri - umph Sir Ralph gal - loped

*ff* *rall.*

*a tempo*

*ff* *rall.*

*a tempo*

*ff* *rall.*

*a tempo*

*ff* *rall.*

*a tempo*



# The Abbot's Blessing

62

S home with his bride— *f* *maestoso* Ben - e - dic - i - te! *p* *rall.* Ben - e - dic - i - te! *a tempo*

A home with his bride— *f* *maestoso* Ben - e - dic - i - te! *p* *rall.* Ben - e - dic - i - te! *a tempo*

T home with his bride— *f* *maestoso* Ben - e - dic - i - te! *p* *rall.* Ben - e - dic - i - te! *a tempo* “A

B home with his bride— *f* *maestoso* Ben - e - dic - i - te! *p* *rall.* Ben - e - dic - i - te! *a tempo* “A

65

S The stir - rup cup's brew - ing, the

A The stir - rup cup's brew - ing, the

T boon now, Sir Ab - bot! I crave you a boon; The stir - rup cup's brew - ing, the

B boon now, Sir Ab - bot! I crave you a boon; The stir - rup cup's brew - ing, the

68

S chap - el is nigh— This fair la - dy and I must be wed - ded ere noon, And your

A chap - el is nigh— This fair la - dy and I must be

T chap - el is nigh— This fair la - dy and I must be wed - ded ere noon, And your

B chap - el is nigh— This fair la - dy and I must be

# The Abbot's Blessing

71 *cresc.*

S  
A  
T  
B

ble - ss - ing you will not de - ny, your ble - ss - ing you will not de -  
wed - ded ere noon, And your ble - ss - ing you will not de -  
ble - ss - ing you will not de - ny, your ble - ss - ing you will not de -  
wed - ded ere noon, And your ble - ss - ing you will not de -

74 *ff* *p*

S  
A  
T  
B

ny, you will not de - ny!" Now the fla - gon had passed while the  
ny, you will not de - ny!" Now the fla - gon had passed while the  
ny, you will not de - ny!" Now the fla - gon had passed while the  
ny, you will not de - ny!" Now the fla - gon had passed while the

77 *ff*

S  
A  
T  
B

knight was a - way, And Sir Ab - bot was mel - low, and could not say nay, So he  
knight was a - way, And Sir Ab - bot was mel - low, and could not say nay, So he  
knight was a - way, And Sir Ab - bot was mel - low, and could not say nay, So he  
knight was a - way, And Sir Ab - bot was mel - low, and could not say nay, So he

# The Abbot's Blessing

80 *jovially*

S cheer - i - ly laughed, as he gave his con - sent, "Though I

A cheer - i - ly laughed, as he gave his con - sent, "Though I

T cheer - i - ly laughed, as he gave his con - sent, "Though I

B cheer - i - ly laughed, as he gave his con - sent, "Though I

82 *rall.* *maestoso* *ff*

S wed you in haste, may you nev - er re - pent!"— Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e -

A wed you in haste, may you nev - er re - pent!"— Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e -

T wed you in haste, may you nev - er re - pent!"— Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e -

B wed you in haste, may you nev - er re - pent!"— Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e -

85 *rit.*

S dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te!

A dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te!

T dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te!

B dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te! Ben - e - dic - i - te!

**Rev. Thomas Wilkinson Stephenson** (1855-1936) was born at Bishopton, Ripon, Yorkshire, England. He trained at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge. He was ordained and served as curate of Darrington, Pontefract; as minor canon and precentor of Carlisle Cathedral and master of the choristers' school; and as Vicar of Addingham, Yorkshire. He was also editor of the Diocesan Calendar. He was an organist, composing numerous works for organ as well as liturgical works, anthems, and part-songs. He died at Addingham.

The Abbot of Laneraton rode o'er the sea,  
And Peter the lay-brother ran by his side,  
For St. Ursula's sisterhood shriven must be,  
No matter what weather betide;  
The rain pattered down, and the wind whistled cold,  
The Abbot was shrivelled, and wrinkled and old,  
So he tightened his cowl o'er his thin hoary hair,  
And his prayer that he muttered scarce seemed like a prayer—  
*Benedicite!*

Sir Ralph walked alone on the barbican's height,  
And he thought of his love at St. Ursula's shrine—  
"Good morrow, Sir Abbot! I pray you alight  
And empty a flagon of wine!"  
The Abbot was willing, and Peter was fain,  
They tossed off the flagon, and filled it again;  
And the lay-brother chuckled "This cheereth the way,  
But St. Ursula's nuns will have short shrift today"—  
*Benedicite!*

The portress flung open St. Ursula's gate,  
The wind whistled cold as "Sir Abbot" rode through,  
So still closer he gathered his hood o'er his pate,  
And his mantle around him he drew,  
"Bring speedily hither the fair Lady May,  
A message I bear her that brooks do delay!"  
The lady came quickly— she sprang to his side,  
And in triumph Sir Ralph galloped home with his bride—  
*Benedicite!*

"A boon now, Sir Abbot! I crave you a boon;  
The stirrup cup's brewing, the chapel is nigh—  
This fair lady and I must be wedded ere noon,  
And your blessing you will not deny!"  
Now the flagon had passed while the knight was away,  
And Sir Abbot was mellow, and could not say nay,  
So he cheerily laughed, as he gave his consent,  
"Though I wed you in haste, may you never repent!"—  
*Benedicite!*

J. Walter Brown

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