



The widow's only son

**George James Webb
(1803-1887)**

The widow's only son

G. J. Webb

Affetuoso

S *mp* She wrapp'd her in her sa - ble cloak, And walk'd be - side the sea; _____ But

A *mp* She wrapp'd her in her sa - ble cloak, And walk'd be - side the sea; But

T *mp* She wrapp'd her in her sa - ble cloak, And walk'd be - side the sea; _____ But

B *mp* She wrapp'd her in her sa - ble cloak, And walk'd be - side the sea; But

S ⁶ sel - dom of her sor - row spoke, — Too full of grief was she! _____ 'Twas

A sel - dom of her sor - row spoke, — Too full of grief was she! 'Twas

T sel - dom of her sor - row spoke, — Too full of grief was she! _____ 'Twas

B sel - dom of her sor - row spoke, — Too full of grief was she! 'Twas



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10

S this that made her heart so sad, To view the o - cean wide: _____ The

A this that made her heart so sad, To view the o - cean wide: The

T this that made her heart so sad, To view the o - cean wide: The

B this that made her heart so sad, To view the o - cean wide: The

14

S on - ly son, that wid - ow had, Went *dim.* out to sea and died. _____

A on - ly son, that wid - ow had, Went *dim.* out to sea and died.

T on - ly son, that wid - ow had, Went *dim.* out to sea and died. _____

B on - ly son, that wid - ow had, Went *dim.* out to sea and died.

S *mp* And of - ten, when she mark'd a ship With full, re - turn - ing sail, _____ The

A *mp* And of - ten, when she mark'd a ship With full, re - turn - ing sail, The

T *mp* And of - ten, when she mark'd a ship With full, re - turn - ing sail, _____ The

B *mp* And of - ten, when she mark'd a ship With full, re - turn - ing sail, The

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22

S col - or would for - sake her lip, And speech and sight would fail. _____ For,

A col - or would for - sake her lip, And speech and sight would fail. For,

T col - or would for - sake her lip, And speech and sight would fail. _____ For,

B col - or would for - sake her lip, And speech and sight would fail. For,

26

S O! she thought a - bout the one That spread its can - vass white, _____ To

A O! she thought a - bout the one That spread its can - vass white, To

T O! she thought a - bout the one That spread its can - vass white, To

B O! she thought a - bout the one That spread its can - vass white, To

30

S waft a - way her on - ly son For - ev - er from her sight! _____ *dim.*

A waft a - way her on - ly son For - ev - er from her sight! *dim.*

T waft a - way her on - ly son For - ev - er from her sight! _____ *dim.*

B waft a - way her on - ly son For - ev - er from her sight! *dim.*

34 *mp*

S But still, a - mid the bit - ter grief Which wrung that wid - ow's heart, — Her

A But still, a - mid the bit - ter grief Which wrung that wid - ow's heart, Her

T But still, a - mid the bit - ter grief Which wrung that wid - ow's heart, — Her

B *mp* But still, a - mid the bit - ter grief Which wrung that wid - ow's heart, Her

39

S spir - it felt the sweet re - lief That faith and hope im - part. — She

A spir - it felt the sweet re - lief That faith and hope im - part. She

T spir - it felt the sweet re - lief That faith and hope im - part. — She

B spir - it felt the sweet re - lief That faith and hope im - part. She

43

S knew her son had ev - er kept The path to heav'n - ly rest — That,

A knew her son had ev - er kept The path to heav'n - ly rest — That,

T knew her son had ev - er kept The path to heav'n - ly rest — That,

B knew her son had ev - er kept The path to heav'n - ly rest — That,

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47

S when he sank in death, he slept Up - on a Sa - viour's breast. *dim.*

A when he sank in death, he slept Up - on a Sa - viour's breast. *dim.*

T when he sank in death, he slept Up - on a Sa - viour's breast. *dim.*

B when he sank in death, he slept Up - on a Sa - viour's breast. *dim.*

51

S She then would lift her lan - guid eye And send hethoughts a - bove, _____ Where *mp*

A She then would lift her lan - guid eye And send hethoughts a - bove, _____ Where *mp*

T She then would lift her lan - guid eye And send hethoughts a - bove, _____ Where *mp*

B She then would lift her lan - guid eye And send hethoughts a - bove, _____ Where *mp*

56

S an - gel voic - es sound on high, Their songs of praise and love. _____ "My

A an - gel voic - es sound on high, Their songs of praise and love. "My

T an - gel voic - es sound on high, Their songs of praise and love. _____ "My

B an - gel voic - es sound on high, Their songs of praise and love. "My

60

S
heav'n - ly Fa - ther," she would say, "The deep and trou - bled sea But

A
heav'n - ly Fa - ther," she would say, "The deep and trou - bled sea But

T
heav'n - ly Fa - ther," she would say, "The deep and trou - bled sea But

B
heav'n - ly Fa - ther," she would say, "The deep and trou - bled sea But

64

S
holds from me the pre - cious clay: My child's at home with thee!" *dim.*

A
holds from me the pre - cious clay: My child's at home with thee!" *dim.*

T
holds from me the pre - cious clay: My child's at home with thee!" *dim.*

B
holds from me the pre - cious clay: My child's at home with thee!" *dim.*

Wilkins, Carter, & Co.
(1847)

George James Webb (1803-1887) was born at Rushmore Lodge, near Salisbury in Wiltshire, England. He trained early in England and was an organist in Falmouth, England. He emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1830. He was organist at the Old South Church in Boston for nearly 40 years and was organist at the Boston Church of the New Jerusalem. With Lowell Mason, he founded the Boston Academy of Music. He was president of the Handel and Haydn Society. In 1871, he left Boston, taught in New York from 1876-1885, and retired to Orange, New Jersey. He was an editor for the journals "The Music Library" and "The Music Cabinet." He published the books "Vocal Techniques" and "Voice Culture," and was editor and arranger of the collections "Young Ladies' Vocal Class Book," "The Glee Hive," "The New Odeon," "The Vocalist," the "Little Songster," and "Cantica Laudis." He composed organ music, choral music, songs, and hymns. His most well-known composition is his part-song "'Tis Dawn, the Lark is Singing." The original song was well received and later adapted as a hymn with the addition of sacred words "Stand up, stand up for Jesus."

She wrapped her in her sable cloak,
And walked beside the sea;
But seldom of her sorrow spoke,—
Too full of grief was she!

'Twas this that made her heart so sad,
To view the ocean wide:
The only son, that widow had,
Went out to sea and died.

And often, when she marked a ship
With full, returning sail,
The color would forsake her lip,
And speech and sight would fail.

For, O! she thought about the one
That spread its canvass white,
To waft away her only son
Forever from her sight!

But still, amid the bitter grief
Which wrung that widow's heart,
Her spirit felt the sweet relief
That faith and hope impart.

She knew her son had ever kept
The path to heavenly rest—
That, when he sank in death, he slept
Upon a Saviour's breast.

She then would lift her languid eye
And send her thoughts above,
Where angel voices sound on high,
Their songs of praise and love.

“My heavenly Father,” she would say,
“The deep and troubled sea
But holds from me the precious clay:
My child's at home with thee!”

Hannah Flagg Gould (1789-1865)

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