



Sugar Making

T. Martin Towne
(1835-1912)

Thomas Martin Towne (1835-1912) was born in Coleraine, Massachusetts, where he grew up on a farm and attended the district school and the local singing school. He studied music at Willston Seminary and a convention in Shelburne. He moved to Hudson, New York, to study with W. F. Sherwin and then to Albany as a tenor in St. Peter's Church. He moved west and taught in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and in the Detroit public schools. During this time, he also studied with Lowell Mason, George F. Root, and William B. Bradbury at a North Reading, MA, normal school. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he left teaching and sang with the Continental Vocalists, eventually settling in Janesville, Wisconsin. After teaching a year, he enlisted and became musician in the 40th Wisconsin Infantry. After the war, he went to Milwaukee and taught music at the Female College and sang in Plymouth Church. A few years later, he moved to Chicago, Illinois. He led choirs, composed, held music conventions, taught in many normal schools, and was musical editor for the David C. Cook publishing house. He died in Chicago. After his first wife died, he married Isabella Electa Kellogg, who wrote Sunday school books and edited several Sunday school papers besides writing lyrics for some of her husband's songs using the pseudonyms Mrs. Thomas Martin Towne, Mrs. E. S. Kellogg, and Belle Kellogg. They were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He composed hundreds of sheet songs, duets, quartets, part-songs, gospel songs, Sunday school songs, hymns, and anthems.

Now the wintry winds retire,
At the ford the ice is breaking,
And the old folks by the fire,
Sit, and talk of sugar making;
'Tis the busy, bustling March,
And the month the question settles,
That 'tis time to mend the arch,
Time to scour the rusty kettles.

*O the gladest time of year
Is the merry sugar making,
When the swallows first appear,
And the sleepy buds are waking.*

Soon the bluebirds and the bees
O'er the stubble will be winging,
So 'tis time to tap the trees,
And to set the axe a-ringing;
Time to hew and shape the trough,
And to burn the pile so hollow,
For the snow is melting off
And the sugar-thaw must follow.

Crocuses are peeping out
All along the southern border,
So 'tis time to stir about,
Time to put the camp in order;
Time to set the hut to rights,
Where the boys and girls together,
Tend the furnace fire o' nights,
In the rough and rainy weather.

Words arranged from the "Youth's Companion"

Sugar Making

T. Martin Towne

S
Now the win - try winds re - tire, At the ford the ice is break - ing,

A
Now the win - try winds re - tire, At the ford the ice is break - ing,

T
Now the win - try winds re - tire, At the ford the ice is break - ing,

B
Now the win - try winds re - tire, At the ford the ice is break - ing,

5
S
And the old folks by the fire, Sit, and talk of su - gar mak - ing;

A
And the old folks by the fire, Sit, and talk of su - gar mak - ing;

T
And the old folks by the fire, Sit, and talk of su - gar mak - ing;

B
And the old folks by the fire, Sit, and talk of su - gar mak - ing;



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Sugar Making

9

S 'Tis the bus - y, bust - ling March, And the month the ques - tion set - tles,

A 'Tis the bus - y, bust - ling March, And the month the ques - tion set - tles,

T 'Tis the bus - y, bust - ling March, And the month the ques - tion set - tles,

B 'Tis the bus - y, bust - ling March, And the month the ques - tion set - tles,

13

S That 'tis time to mend the arch, Time to scour the rust - y ket - tles.

A That 'tis time to mend the arch, Time to scour the rust - y ket - tles.

T That 'tis time to mend the arch, Time to scour the rust - y ket - tles.

B That 'tis time to mend the arch, Time to scour the rust - y ket - tles.

CHORUS

17

S O the glad - est time of year Is the mer - ry su - gar mak - ing,

A O the glad - est time of year Is the mer - ry su - gar mak - ing,

T O the glad - est time of year Is the mer - ry su - gar mak - ing,

B O the glad - est time of year Is the mer - ry su - gar mak - ing,

Sugar Making

21

S When the swal - lows first ap - pear, And the sleep - y buds are wak - ing.

A When the swal - lows first ap - pear, And the sleep - y buds are wak - ing.

T When the swal - lows first ap - pear, And the sleep - y buds are wak - ing.

B When the swal - lows first ap - pear, And the sleep - y buds are wak - ing.

VERSE 2

25

S Soon the blue - birds and the bees O'er the stub - ble will be wing - ing,

A Soon the blue - birds and the bees O'er the stub - ble will be wing - ing,

T Soon the blue - birds and the bees O'er the stub - ble will be wing - ing,

B Soon the blue - birds and the bees O'er the stub - ble will be wing - ing,

29

S So 'tis time to tap the trees, And to set the axe a - ring - ing;

A So 'tis time to tap the trees, And to set the axe a - ring - ing;

T So 'tis time to tap the trees, And to set the axe a - ring - ing;

B So 'tis time to tap the trees, And to set the axe a - ring - ing;

Sugar Making

33

S Time to hew and shape the trough, And to burn the pile so hol-low,

A Time to hew and shape the trough, And to burn the pile so hol-low,

T Time to hew and shape the trough, And to burn the pile so hol-low,

B Time to hew and shape the trough, And to burn the pile so hol-low,

37

S For the snow is melt - ing off And the su - gar - thaw must fol - low.

A For the snow is melt - ing off And the su - gar - thaw must fol - low.

T For the snow is melt - ing off And the su - gar - thaw must fol - low.

B For the snow is melt - ing off And the su - gar - thaw must fol - low.

VERSE 3

41

S Cro - cus - es are peep - ing out All a - long the south - ern bor - der,

A Cro - cus - es are peep - ing out All a - long the south - ern bor - der,

T Cro - cus - es are peep - ing out All a - long the south - ern bor - der,

B Cro - cus - es are peep - ing out All a - long the south - ern bor - der,

Sugar Making

45

S So 'tis time to stir a - bout, Time to put the camp in or - der;

A So 'tis time to stir a - bout, Time to put the camp in or - der;

T So 'tis time to stir a - bout, Time to put the camp in or - der;

B So 'tis time to stir a - bout, Time to put the camp in or - der;

49

S Time to set the hut to rights, Where the boys and girls to - geth-er,

A Time to set the hut to rights, Where the boys and girls to - geth-er,

T Time to set the hut to rights, Where the boys and girls to - geth-er,

B Time to set the hut to rights, Where the boys and girls to - geth-er,

53

S Tend the fur - nace fire o' nights, In the rough and rain - y weath - er.

A Tend the fur - nace fire o' nights, In the rough and rain - y weath - er.

T Tend the fur - nace fire o' nights, In the rough and rain - y weath - er.

B Tend the fur - nace fire o' nights, In the rough and rain - y weath - er.

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