

The Last Leaf

Jas. McGranahan
(1840-1907)

James McGranahan (1840-1907) was born in Adamsville, Pennsylvania. Growing up on the farm, his father sent him to singing school and he soon became assistant and played bass viol. At age 19, he started his own singing school. He attended the Normal Music School in Geneseo, New York, and later studied with George F. Root, James G. Webb and others. He also studied under Sir George A. Macfarren of London. He taught at music institutes throughout the region, many with his friend C. C. Case, and considered a career as an opera singer. He chose to pursue a life of evangelism, traveling throughout the United States and Great Britain. He wrote many hymns, in particular with co-authors Major Daniel Webster Whittle and Ira D. Sankey. Much of his music was popular with the ministries of Dwight Moody. He is noted for writing the music to the hymn "I Left It All With Jesus." An early missionary to Hawaii, Rev. Lorenzo Lyons, wrote alternative lyrics and the song became known as "Hawaii Aloha," a song often sung at the close of public political, spiritual, educational and sporting events. His nephew, H. H. McGranahan, was also a successful musician and composer. He died in Kinsman, Ohio.

I saw him once before,
As he passed the cottage door,
And again
The pavement stones resound,
As he totters o'er the ground
With his cane.

They say that in his prime,
Ere the pruning-knife of Time
Cut him down,
Not a better man was found
By the Crier on his round
Through the town.

But now he walks the streets,
And he looks at all he meets
Sad and wan,
And he shakes his feeble head,
That it seems as if he said,
"They are gone."

The mossy marbles rest
On the lips that he has prest
In their bloom,
And the names he loved to hear
Have been carved for many a year
On the tomb.

My grandmamma has said—
Poor old lady, she is dead
Long ago—
That he had a Roman nose,
And his cheek was like a rose
In the snow;

But now his nose is thin,
And it rests upon his chin
Like a staff,
And a crook is in his back,
And a melancholy crack
In his laugh.

I know it is a sin
For me to sit and grin
At him here;
But the old three-cornered hat,
And the breeches, and all that,
Are so queer!

And if I should live to be
The last leaf upon the tree
In the spring,
Let them smile, as I do now,
At the old forsaken bough
Where I cling.

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)

The Last Leaf

Jas. McGranahan

S I saw him once be - fore, As he passed the cot - tage door, And a -

A I saw him once be - fore, As he passed the cot - tage door,

T I saw him once be - fore, As he passed the cot - tage door,

B I saw him once be - fore, As he passed the cot - tage door,

S gain, and a - gain The pave - ment stones re - sound, As he

A and a - gain The pave - ment stones re - sound, As he

T and a - gain The pave - ment stones re - sound, As he

B And a - gain, and a - gain The pave - ment stones re - sound, As he



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7

S tot - ters o'er the ground With his cane.

A tot - ters o'er the ground With his cane.

T tot - ters o'er the ground With his cane, With his cane.

B tot - ters o'er the ground With his cane, With his cane.

10

S They say that in his prime, Ere the prun - ing - knife of Time Cut him

A They say that in his prime, Ere the prun - ing - knife of Time

T They say that in his prime, Ere the prun - ing - knife of Time

B They say that in his prime, Ere the prun - ing - knife of Time

13

S down, cut him down, Not a bet - ter man was found By the

A Cut him down, Not a bet - ter man was found By the

T Cut him down, Not a bet - ter man was found By the

B Cut him down, cut him down, Not a bet - ter man was found By the

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16

S Cri - er on his round Through the town.

A Cri - er on his round Through the town.

T Cri - er on his round Through the town, Through the town.

B Cri - er on his round Through the town, Through the town.

19

S But now he walks the streets, And he looks at all he meets Sad and

A But now he walks the streets, And he looks at all he meets

T But now he walks the streets, And he looks at all he meets

B But now he walks the streets, And he looks at all he meets

22

S wan, sad and wan, And he shakes his fee - ble head, That it

A Sad and wan, And he shakes his fee - ble head, That it

T Sad and wan, And he shakes his fee - ble head, That it

B Sad and wan, sad and wan, And he shakes his fee - ble head, That it

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25

S seems as if he said, "They are gone."

A seems as if he said, "They are gone."

T seems as if he said, "They are gone," "They are gone."

B seems as if he said, "They are gone," "They are gone."

28

S The moss - y mar - bles rest On the lips that he has prest In their

A The moss - y mar - bles rest On the lips that he has prest

T The moss - y mar - bles rest On the lips that he has prest

B The moss - y mar - bles rest On the lips that he has prest

31

S bloom, in their bloom, And the names he loved to hear Have been

A In their bloom, And the names he loved to hear Have been

T In their bloom, And the names he loved to hear Have been

B In their bloom, in their bloom, And the names he loved to hear Have been

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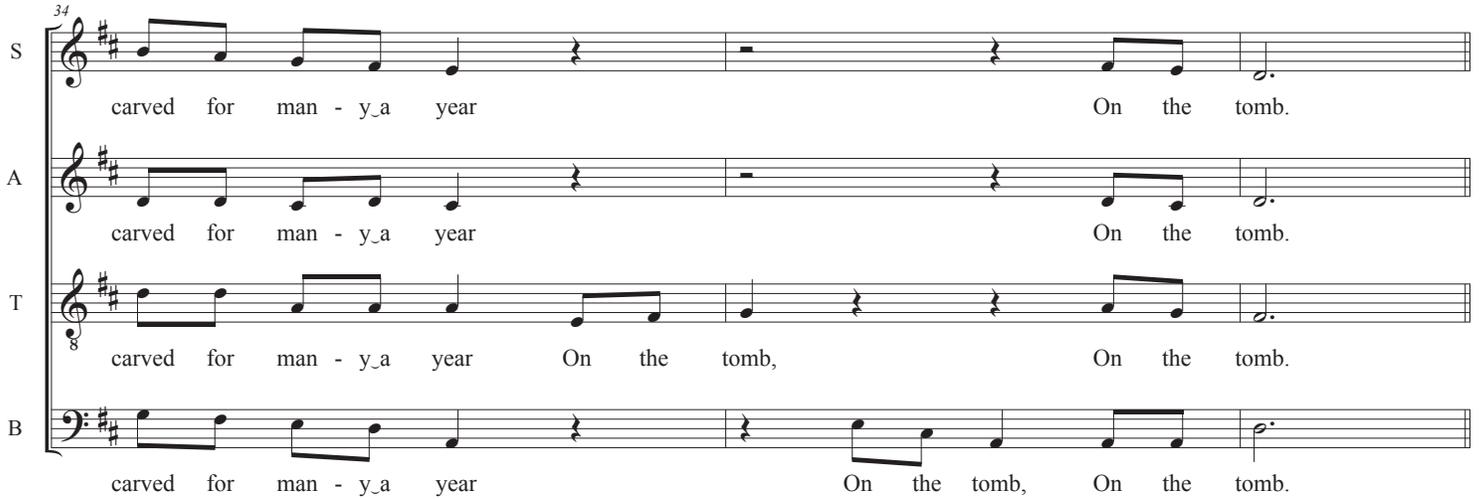
34

S carved for man - y_a year On the tomb.

A carved for man - y_a year On the tomb.

T carved for man - y_a year On the tomb, On the tomb.

B carved for man - y_a year On the tomb, On the tomb.



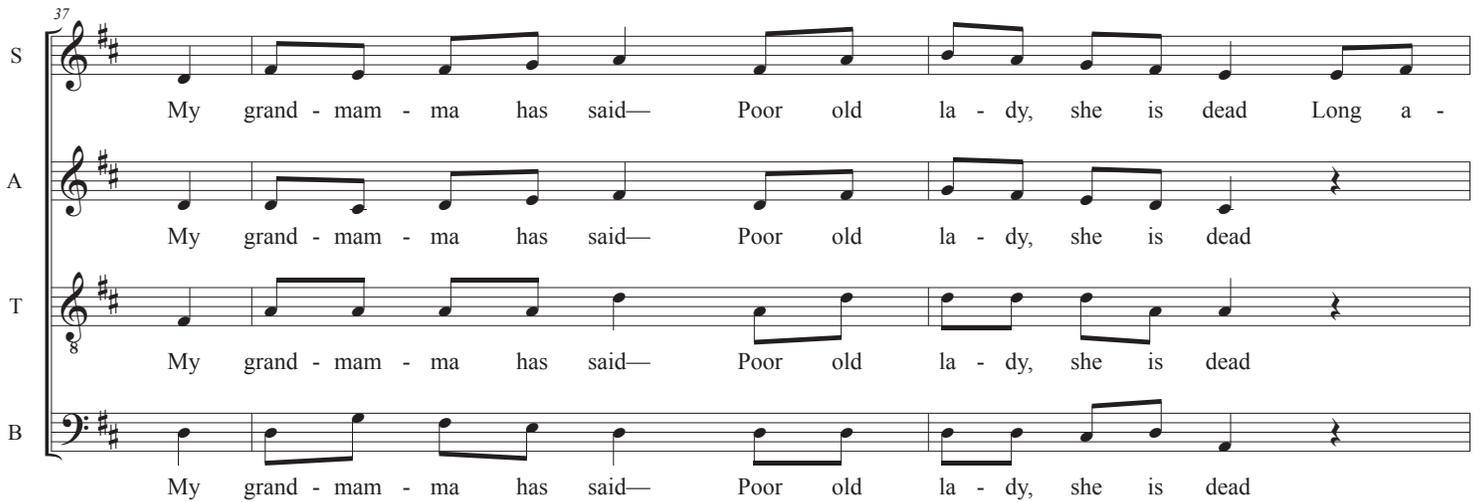
37

S My grand - mam - ma has said— Poor old la - dy, she is dead Long a -

A My grand - mam - ma has said— Poor old la - dy, she is dead

T My grand - mam - ma has said— Poor old la - dy, she is dead

B My grand - mam - ma has said— Poor old la - dy, she is dead



40

S go, Long a - go— That he had a Ro - man nose, And his

A Long a - go— That he had a Ro - man nose, And his

T Long a - go— That he had a Ro - man nose, And his

B Long a - go, Long a - go— That he had a Ro - man nose, And his



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43

S
cheek was like a rose In the snow;

A
cheek was like a rose In the snow;

T
cheek was like a rose In the snow, In the snow;

B
cheek was like a rose In the snow, In the snow;

46

S
But now his nose is thin, And it rests up - on his chin Like a

A
But now his nose is thin, And it rests up - on his chin

T
But now his nose is thin, And it rests up - on his chin

B
But now his nose is thin, And it rests up - on his chin

49

S
staff, like a staff, And a crook is in his back, And a

A
Like a staff, And a crook is in his back, And a

T
Like a staff, And a crook is in his back, And a

B
Like a staff, like a staff, And a crook is in his back, And a

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52

S mel - an - chol - y crack In his laugh.

A mel - an - chol - y crack In his laugh.

T mel - an - chol - y crack In his laugh, In his laugh.

B mel - an - chol - y crack In his laugh, In his laugh.

55

S I know it is a sin For me to sit and grin At him

A I know it is a sin For me to sit and grin

T I know it is a sin For me to sit and grin

B I know it is a sin For me to sit and grin

58

S here, at him here; But the old three - corn - ered hat, And the

A At him here; But the old three - corn - ered hat, And the

T At him here; But the old three - corn - ered hat, And the

B At him here, at him here; But the old three - corn - ered hat, And the

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61

S
brech - es, and all that, Are so queer!

A
brech - es, and all that, Are so queer!

T
brech - es, and all that, Are so queer, Are so queer!

B
brech - es, and all that, Are so queer, Are so queer!

64

S
And if I should live to be The last leaf up - on the tree In the

A
And if I should live to be The last leaf up - on the tree

T
And if I should live to be The last leaf up - on the tree

B
And if I should live to be The last leaf up - on the tree

67

S
spring, in the spring, Let them smile, as I do now, At the

A
In the spring, Let them smile, as I do now, At the

T
In the spring, Let them smile, as I do now, At the

B
In the spring, in the spring, Let them smile, as I do now, At the

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70

S
old for - sak - en bough Where I cling.

A
old for - sak - en bough Where I cling.

T
old for - sak - en bough Where I cling, Where I cling.

B
old for - sak - en bough Where I cling, Where I cling.

John Church & Company
(1878)

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