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Poetical.

WORDS FOR MUSIC.

BY GEORGE F. MORRIS.

Fare thee well—we part forever!
All regrets are now in vain!
Fate decrees that we must sever,
Ne'er to meet on either side.
Other skies will bend above thee,
Other stars will gleam above thee,
But the shadow of our parting
Lingers still on our hearts!
Fare thee well—we part forever!
All regrets are now in vain!
Fate decrees that we must sever,
Ne'er to meet on either side.
Fare thee well!

UPHOLD THE GLORIOUS BANNER.

Uphold the glorious banner,
Let it wave upon the breeze,
The emblem of our country's pride,
On land, and on the sea.
The emblem of our liberty,
Born proudly in the wars,
The hope of every free man,
The gleaming sword of stars.
The glorious hand of patriots
Who gave the flag its birth,
Have writ with steel in history,
The record of our nation's worth.
From East to West, from sea to sea,
From pole to tropic sun,
Will glow bright, and hearts throbb high
At the name of Liberty.
Ah! proudly should we bear it,
And guard this flag of ours;
Born bravely in its infancy,
But its enemies are now its foes.
Only the brave may bear it,
A guardian it shall be,
For those who love the Nation,
The right to boast of liberty.
The motor flag of seventy six,
Long may it wave in pride,
To tell the world how brave
The patriot's blood has died;
When from the shadows of their night
Outburst the brilliant sun,
It bathed in light the stars and stars,
And lo! the field was won.

Miscellaneous.

BOB-O-LINK.

BY FITZ-JAMES O'BRIEN.

It was noon in summer. The earth lay
leafless in the heat, with its thousand
tongues in wood and field to faint for their
astonished, low, mysterious speech. The
Long Island shore, white and crescented,
bared its bosom to the sun, and the green
embroidery of the sea was visible in the
meadows of the shore. The meadows
were crested with nodding heads beat time
to the sweet wash of waves upon the beach.
Yellow spires of the golden rod pierced the
sea like scepters. The tulip tree, robed like
a priest in formal robes, held up to Heaven
with branching arms a thousand golden chal-
ices. Far away across the Sound lay the
Connecticut shore, trembling through mist,
while behind me, from the green recesses of
a deserted garden, the oriole poured forth his
monotone of sorrow.
As I sauntered down the little path that
led from the old house where I was boarding
for the summer, to my favorite haunt by the
sea-shore, with clouds of insects springing
from the grass like a living spray at every
step I took, I suddenly heard the easy notes
of that low comedian of birds, the Bob-o-link.
As I have always been a friendly feeling to-
wards this orthologous favorite, I used to
work to obtain an interview with him.
I was not long in discovering his whereabouts.
He was sitting on the stump of a rail chat-
tering volubly, and as well as I under-
stood his language, he was repeating
"Bob-o-link, bob-o-link, bob-o-link."
I had a passion for seeing Nature upside
down, and shaking his wings as though he
contemplated immediate migration to the
const of Africa. About every half minute
he would suddenly leave his perch, and
flying a little distance, drop into the long
meadow grass, whence instantly would pro-
ceed a most astounding vocal effort, after
which he would reappear and resume his
rail in triumph. His frequent journeys to
the same spot led me to suspect that he had
some private interest in that quarter—a nest,
or a young bird, perhaps, and that he was,
in fact, passing his honey-moon, so to speak,
toward the place in which I saw him dis-
appear last, determined to be a witness of his
domestic bliss.
It seemed to me that a human head was
lying alone and motionless in the deep green
sea of grass that surrounded the deep green
youth's head, blonde and spiritual, looking
up at me with a calm, unfrightened look,
hushed and rather astonished by my appear-
ance, at Master Bob-o-link. My appear-
ance, at Master Bob-o-link.
The head, however, was not without a body.
The long, bounding grass mat over the
form, leaving exposed only a pale, beautiful
face, which looked as though it were a
picture framed in gold and green.
"Good morning, sir," said the youth in a
sweet voice, as I bent over him, looking, I
suppose, a little bewildered at this sudden
apparition of a human head, and at the same
time Master Bob-o-link with long, slender fin-
gers.
"Good morning," I answered. "You seem
to be taking things quietly here."
He gave a sudden glance downward toward
his feet, and a sad smile flickered over his

"I am obliged to take things quietly," he
said.
"All an invalid I suppose. I am sorry."
I am paralyzed, sir.
No words can paint the tone of utter de-
spair in which he made this terrible state-
ment. If you have ever spoken to a man who
had spent twenty years in solitary confine-
ment, you will have noticed the uncertainty
of his voice, the low monotone of sound,
the loneliness of accent. Well, this lad's
voice sounded so. He talked like one shut
out of life. I made a place for myself in
the grass, and sat down beside him.
"I was attracted by your bird," I said; "I
thought he had a nest here, and so followed
him. I trust I am not intruding."
"Not at all, sir; I am glad to have some
one to speak to. As for Bob, he has a nest
here, and I can hear it. He is the only
thing on earth that loves me."
"You take too and a view of life, my friend."
Your calamity is great, no doubt, but still—
"Ah! sir, it's all well enough to talk so
when you have a health and freedom.
When you can work and go out into the
world, and tread the earth with the full consciousness
of being. But when ever since you can remem-
ber you have been but the moiety of a man,
utterly helpless, utterly dependent, an infant
under an infant's heavy unconsciousness.
But what's the use of my talking to you in
this way; here, Bob, show the gentleman
your tricks."
"Bob, on this summons, left his post by the
lady's side, and came forward perfectly
still, taking an inventory of my person with
his round, bright eyes, and apparently meas-
uring me for a suit of clothes, and suddenly
flew into the air, where he summersaulted
and pirouetted and affected to lose the use of
his wings and tumbled from an appalling
height, invariably recovering himself before
he reached the ground, after which he gravely
alighted upon his master's breast and thrust
his little bill affectionately through his lips.
"I said to the boy,
"I has been my amusement during many
solitary hours," he answered with a feeble
smile.
"How is it that you have been so solitary?"
"I asked; "you live in the neighbor-
hood."
"In that house up yonder just peeping from
behind that clump of maples," and he pointed
as he spoke toward a respectable farm house
about a quarter of a mile off.
"Ah! sir, they are kind enough to me;
but they must be very tired of me by this
time."
"Come," said I, encouragingly, laying my
hand on his shoulder, "come, tell me all
about yourself. I'm a good listener, besides,
I am interested in you. Bob here looks as if
he was anxious for a story. This is a charm-
ing nook that we are in, so I'll just light a
cigar, and do you talk."
"My friend," said he, "I assumed some-
one to surprise him. He glanced aside at me
out of his large blue eyes, as if suspicious of
my sincerity; then he heaved a sigh, stroked
his forehead with his fingers, and in the
presence of at least one friend, and saying,
"As you please," commenced:
"I am eighteen, he said; "you would not
think I could know I look younger than I
am. Consider that I am suffering here, and
my complexion pale and transparent, and the
sun and winds that harden other men's
skins and age their features, have had but
little to do with me. Ever since I can re-
member I have been paralyzed in the lower
limbs. For years I lay upon an inclined
plane of board, looking up at the ceiling with
a mind very nearly as blank as the white
plaster I gazed at. My father died when I
was a mere infant, and there was no one left
in the house but mother and Cousin Alice and
me."
"Cousin Alice," I said; "who is she?"
"His eyes wandered timidly toward the
house behind the maples, as if he expected
some apparition to start from thence on the
instant."
"Cousin Alice," he repeated vaguely, well,
she's—Cousin Alice."
"Excessively explanatory," I said, laugh-
ing.
"My Cousin Alice young?"
"Is she pretty?"
"One deep, reproachful look of those large
blue eyes told me no. Poor fellow, there he
lay maimed, useless, passing his days and
nights in a state of suffering, and he was
a creature whom he could never hope to possess,
but loving her with all that concentrated in-
tensity which belongs to the passions of the
deformed.
"He seemed to know what was passing in
my mind, for without a word from me, he
continued:
"She is engaged to Ralph Farnwell, who
lives down yonder. She is very fond of him
and he of her. It is they who bring me down
here, and I sit here with Bob while they go off
and pick nuts, and—and— and here the picture
was too much for him, and the poor fellow
burst into tears.
"To have his misfortune paraded
through necessity before the woman he
loved. To be carried about like a piece of
furniture by her and his rival. How often
those crippled limbs thrilled with agony!
"I took his hand in mine, but did not say a
word. There were tears in his eyes, and he
cried. It was better than all words to let
him feel by the pressure of my hand that he
found a friend. We sat this way for some
time, until I was aroused from a painful rever-
ie into which I had fallen by a long, thick
shadow being projected across the spot in
which we were sitting. I looked up and saw
a tall, handsome young man with bronzed
cheek and curly chestnut hair, on whose arm
was hanging an exceedingly lovely young
girl, whose face was a perfect treasury of
arousal and innocence. They looked rather
surprised at seeing me, but I explained how
I was come to be there, and they seemed to
be satisfied.
"Harry, isn't it time to come home?" said
the young girl. "Ralph and I are come for
you."
"Thank you, Alice, but I'd like to stay an
hour longer. The day is so bright and sunny
and it is a shame to be in doors. You don't
want to go home yet; and he looked at Ralph
as he said this with a bitter expression of
countenance that perhaps I alone observed,
which seemed to say: "It will give you an
hour more to render to God. Of course you
don't want to go home."
"Well, as you please, Harry. Ralph and
I will go off to the pond in the cedar grove
and come back in about an hour. But say,
Harry, look here; isn't this pretty?" and as
he spoke she held out a little box for his inspec-
tion. He opened it, and disclosed a pretty
little ring set with garnets. While he looked
at it, Alice stooped over and with a blush
limb to my knee, and into his ear, which made
him start, she whispered into all that part
of him that was alive. It was but momentary,
however, for she restored the box, saying
politely: "Well, I wish you both every hap-

piness. You will find me here when you re-
turn."
As they walked slowly away, he followed
them with his eyes, then turned and me. "They
are to be married next Sunday," he said.
I felt all the meaning of his words. I pitied
him. Solitude is a need to him at this
moment; I will leave him. As I pulled out
my watch and prepared for my departure, he
said to me: "I am exceedingly obliged to
you, sir, for your company, but I want you
to do me one more favor before you leave.
You are strong and I am light. Please take
me to the giant's chair. I love to sit on it
and dip my hand in the salt wash of the
sea."
"But are you not afraid of slipping and
falling in?" I asked, for the giant's chair was
a fantastically shaped rock a few hundred
yards down the beach, around whose rugged
base the sea at high tide washed clamorously.
"Oh! no," he answered; "there is a cleft in
it where I sit quite safely. And when Ralph
and Alice come to look for me, I can easily
sneak to them from where I am. Do take me,
sir, if you please."
Of course I obeyed his wishes. I lifted
him in my arms, and with Bob flying along-
side of us, carried him down to the huge old
rock which was regally draped in the rich
green tapestry of ferns and mosses. I placed
him in the cleft in which I stowed him away,
and with a promise to come and see him the
following day, I left him, with Bob chattering
away on his shoulder, gazing dreamily across
at the Connecticut shore.
About an hour and three-quarters after this
I was strolling down the rock smoking my
after-dinner cigar, when I heard hurried
steps behind me, and the young man named
Ralph ran up pale and breathless.
"The man was stammered. He was a Presby-
terian, still, as he had signed the books, he
should have been a member of the church, but
he had merely registered his religious be-
lief; but if afterward he declines to attend
chapel, he is told that signing the book was
an undertaking to attend, and that he must
be punished for refusing to do so. No matter
what the man's name, he is a Nonconformist,
and objects as a matter of conscience." At this
time of the year the chapel (which is the
same attended by the felons in the jail), is
intensely cold, but no excess for non-attend-
ance is permitted. "The gentleman during
the present intense frost, begged, in a be-
seeming manner, to be allowed to stay away
from chapel, stating that he was seventy-four
years of age, and that the cold current he
was exposed to was too much for him. The
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