

for what will best become him—for his return victorious, or defeated without dishonour, or for the tidings that he has been faithful to death, and has laid down his life ungrudgingly when God and his country required it of him, as a sailor should. I maintain, Sally, this custom of wives and daughters living for any length of time on board ship with the officers, their relatives, is an abuse of the rules of the service, however much a lucky dog like me may have profited by it. It is a practice which will speedily be abolished."

There was no appearance of the long-boat, and not a sign of the *Hercules* or the *Oberon* on the lowering horizon. With regard to the two ships, we could come to no other conclusion than that they had suffered shipwreck in the tempest, or fallen a prey to the enemy, or, as we found afterwards was the truth, been driven on a widely different track.

As to the boat, she was sufficiently well manned, while the sea had calmed down to such an extent, that it sounded as improbable as it would have been utterly dispiriting, that she could have been swamped. We were rather inclined to suppose that in its pursuit of less inhospitable shores than those of the first island, she had run into the jaws of one of the French ships in the neighbourhood. There was another danger lying in wait for us, but even if the worst came to the

worst in this sense, captivity in France was better, and more capable of being remedied, than soulless bodies drifting on desert coasts, or bones left to bleach at the bottom of the sea.

We had no assurance of the continuance of even the moderately favourable weather; indeed, the aspect of the sky was changing for the worse. Banks of grey cloud, which had never been entirely absent, began again to accumulate, and came up hurrying and pressing together like so many giant armies on the march. Sometimes they presented a lurid, sometimes a livid side, as the light failed, or spears of sunlight shot across the sky for a moment. The swift variable puffs of wind from different points of the compass, which had been remarked before the recent hurricane, were noticed anew with well-founded concern.

Jane, who had managed to come on deck, and to support the sickening swaying rather than rolling of the ship, went up and spoke to father. None of the rest of us, not even Perry and Tom, who were his officers, had ventured to address him on the subject of abandoning his ship, or even to intrude on him as he stood, looking gaunt and grey, still raking sea and sky with his glass.

"Is it not time for us to go, father?" asked Jane quietly and calmly, as if she had been talking of a pleasure excursion. "Ought there to be more risk of human

lives, which are so much more precious than all that is left of the ship, by tarrying till she either founder or break up?"

"Aye, aye, child," answered father mechanically, and gave the order for the launching of the boat.

Jane told me afterwards she had entertained a horrible dread that father's delay might be—whether he knew it or not—partly on her account, that he might shrink from exposing her to hardship and privation, under the belief that in her state of health she could not survive them.

It was a shock to us all, though we might have guessed what was coming when we heard father order Perry to take the command of the boat, and bade Tom join the crew who were named to take her to the dimly discerned land. The officers and crew of the *Sea Serpent* herself had been greatly diminished on account of the casualties which had happened during the storm and the men who had gone in the long-boat.

We had with us Perry and Tom (the ship's surgeon and the chaplain had gone in the long-boat), an old friend of us girls, Combe, the captain of the fore-top-mast, and the number of seamen who were wanted to man the boat. There were not many more left with father than were needed to work the pumps; and working the pumps was the only chance, humanly speaking, of the *Sea*

(Continued on page 182.)

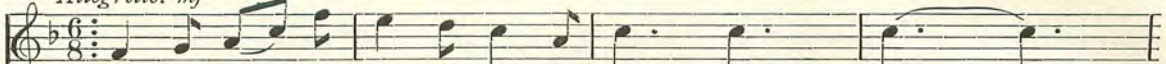
CAROL FOR FEMALE VOICES.

The Refrain from LONGFELLOW'S "Norman Baron."

Music by WILLIAM H. HUNT, Mus. Doc. (Lond.).

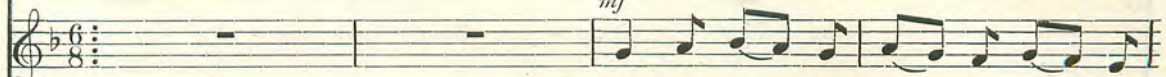
Allegretto. mf

SOPRANI 1.



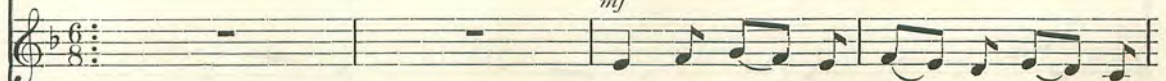
1. Through the air a song is ring - ing, Christ is born! . . .
 2. Let all thoughts of dis - cord per - ish, Christ is born! . . .
 3. Sing ye there - fore, Chris - tian bro - thers, Christ is born! . . .

SOPRANI 2.



mf
 1. Words of peace and glad - ness bring - ing,
 2. Nought but love and kind - ness cher - ish,
 3. Sing, ye mai - dens, sing, ye mo - thers,

CONTRALTI.



mf
 1. Words of peace and glad - ness bring - ing,
 2. Nought but love and kind - ness cher - ish,
 3. Sing, ye mai - dens, sing, ye mo - thers,

ACCOMP. (For Practice Only.)



Wa - ken, Chris - tians, join the cho - rus, Sing the song and joy - ful be.
 Ill for - giv - en, Wrong for - got - ten, Christ - mas - tide must ev - er see.
 Join the cho - rus, swell the sto - ry, Sing of Christ's na - tiv - i - ty.

Wa - ken, Chris - tians, join the cho - rus, Sing the song and joy - ful be.
 Ill for - giv - en, wrong for - got - ten, Christ - mas - tide must ev - er see.
 Join the cho - rus, swell the sto - ry, Sing of Christ's na - tiv - i - ty.

Wa - ken, Chris - tians, join the cho - rus, Sing the song and joy - ful be.
 Ill for - giv - en, wrong for - got - ten, Christ - mas - tide must ev - er see.
 Join the cho - rus, swell the sto - ry, Sing of Christ's na - tiv - i - ty.

Was - sail to the Migh - ty Stran - ger, Born and cra - dled in a man - ger,
 Was - sail to the Migh - ty Stran - ger, Born and cra - dled in a man - ger,
 Was - sail to the Migh - ty Stran - ger, Born and cra - dled in a man - -

CAROL FOR FEMALE VOICES.

King like Da - vid, Priest like Aa - ron, Christ is born to set us free.

King like Da - vid, Priest like Aa - ron, Christ is born to set us free.

- ger, King like Da - vid, Priest like Aa - ron, born to set us free.

Born and cra - dled in a man - ger, Christ is born to set us free.

Born and cra - dled in a man - ger to set us free. . .

Born and cra - dled in a man - ger to set us free. . .

Born and cra - dled in . . . a man - ger to set us free. . .