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Headnote:

An Introduction to the Martina Dickerson Album

Transcription:

Original

and

Selected Poetry

&c.

Martina Dickerson

1840

J. Forten jnr

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13-3 17. Literature. 11. Spirit of Light! aprung from that source dipine Which gave the heavenly essences to shine Spirit, whose radiant sout-exating ray Apert, where radiants sent canthing ray Pours on the mind a never-taking day Charmoise bleat beams can equal power impart To raise the ntellect and warm the heart To the sum praise inspiring vigour being. And aid the vol're who the chame would sing: Recount the bleasings which the smiles beatom To quide and gild our pilgrimage below. TME ALBEX

Headnote:

Two short poems, "Literature" and "The Album," are observations on writing by James Forten to Martina Dickerson. "Literature" is about heavenly truth through literature bearing down on earthly affairs, while "The Album" is a description of the album as object and process. Forten also contributes a poem to Amy Matilda Cassey's album.

Literature

Spirit of Light! sprung from that source divine Which gave the heavenly essences to shine Spirit whose radiant soul-exalting ray Pours on the mind a never-fading day Thou whose blest beams can equal power impart To raise the intellect and warm the heart To thy own praise inspiring vigour bring. And aid the vot'ry who thy charms would sing: Recount the blessings which thy smiles bestow To guide and gild our pilgrimage below.

J.F.

The Album

Reader! within these folds you'll find Effusions various as the wind From numerous prolific brains, In sorrowful and merry strains, This little book, in prose, or rhyme, Is meant to cheat old father Time, And so a tedious hour beguile, With poetry in every style, Now reader as you find delight In scanning o'er what others write, 'Tis hoped, in gratitude alone, You'll add a tribute of your own, And thus with one choice piece at least, Enrich this mental pic-nic feast.

J.F.



The new not come when fait we level. West them so dear as more than and . They beauty then my senses more to "But more they maters built by head That was but presidenting before. This since have find I undere south Sal though & then might love the more . Trust megat love they better now . Other the my heart in carlie you the Might hindle with more mill desire. Heline and it has gained in faither . Much more Plan it has best in fin The flame new manie my inwest cont. That there but sparshed on me brow And through I seemed to love the more get the S love they better word?" Mary Merethanfortand Rea finne

Headnote:

Mary M. Macfarland transcribed this poem, originally written by the Irish poet Thomas Moore (1779 – 1852), in Martina's album on July 13, 1842.

The poem exemplifies the value placed on sentimentality and sentimental expression by women of this era. The love described by Mary for Martina is based in sisterhood and friendship as opposed to a sensual intimate love.

"Oh, no, not even when first we loved, Wert thou so dear as now thou art; Thy beauty then my senses moved, But now thy pictures bind my heart, What was but passion's sigh before, Has since been turn'd to reasons vow; And though I then might love thee more, Trust me, I love thee better now.

Although my heart in earlier youth, Might kindle with more wild desire; Believe me, it has gained in truth, Much more than it has lost in fire. The flame now warms my inmost core, That then but sparkled o'er my brow; And, though I seemed to love thee more Yet, Oh, I love thee better now.

Mary M. Macfarland

Philada. July 13, 1842

Page 11: Selected pieces from from Thomas Moore, "Oh, No – Not Even When First We Loved," in *Thomas Moore's Complete Poetical Works: Collected by Himself, Volume 1* (London, England: T.Y. Crowell & Company, 1895)



XEX XEAR. unknown fragment of that served When sugart was on Some began ; un when wars some word to will En Sect from nothing fushieved man last them, comment years Alem? declare, what deat there have Fit purchance, to much autile With added moments lifes poor day. With chartery resear to begints Man that appears and haster news? Decetful lite ! they matter wave Bucys him, yet hears him to his gras 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 Philadel place

Headnote:

Written by James Forten, this is his second contribution to the Dickerson Album. His first entries, "Literature" and "The Album," appear earlier in the album. This poem, "The Year," is transcribed by Forten and was originally written by American pastor William Bingham Tappan (1794 – 1849).

The poem describes the challenges of moving forward in life while dealing with the reality of aging.

The Year

Thou unknown fragment of that scroll Whose signet was, ere time began; Ocean, whose waves were wont to roll Ere God from nothing fashioned man --Whence art thou, evanescent year? Atom! declare, what dost thou here? Is it, perchance, to mock awhile With added moments, life's poor day? With cheating vision to beguile Man that appears and hastes away? Deceitful tide! thy meteor wave Buoys him, yet bears him to his grave.

J.F

Philadelphia. 1840

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"Bear ye one unothers bundons, and so palpet the tow of thest " " Hupendieus Love! He who could stell the storm. And ford apsendled thousands at a word, Develt among men, and teck a seconds ferm, Prostincting by inample, through them Lord. With weary steps the Sycan sands to terd, Sunger and theest and test for them he bere; Thereard have to do the project will of Sect. Seaching as men were never taught before. Thall we not a beethers burden bear-Ful for his wes, his evens to juque-In his dack days, in all his sunshine share. And learn in sympathy's sweet bonds to live?" 179

Headnote:

Signed "S.F.V.", the author of the poem "Sympathy" is currently unknown.

The poem starts out with a Biblical quote from Galatians 6:2 about carrying another's burden. The poem stresses the value of helping others by sharing a sentimental viewpoint that combines religion with community service.

Sympathy

'Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ'

"Stupendious Love! He who could still the storm, And feed assembled thousands at a word, Dwelt among men, and took a servants form, Instructing by example, though their Lord. With weary steps the Syrian sands he trod, Hunger and thirst and toil for them he bore; Showed how to do the perfect will of God, Teaching as men were never taught before Shall we not a brother's burden bear – Feel for his woes, his errors too forgive – In his dark days, in all his sunshine share, And learn in sympathy's sweet bonds to live?"

S.F.V