

No. XCIV.

BONNIE BESSIE LEE.

ARRANGED BY MR WILSON,

AS SUNG BY HIM IN HIS

**Entertainments on Scottish Song.**



## BONNIE BESSIE LEE.

ALLEGRETTO.

PIANO

FORTE.

Ped.

8

Bon-nie Bes-sie Lee had a

slentando

p e stacc?

face fu' o' smiles, And mirth round her ripe lips was aye dancing sleet, And

light was the foot - fa', and win - some the wiles, O' the flower o' the

pa- roch - in, our ain Bes - sie Lee. Wi' the bairns she wad rin, and the

school lad-dies paik, And o'er the broomy braes like a fai - - ry wad

flee, Till auld hearts grew young a-gain wi' love for her sake. There was

life in the blithe blink o' Bon-nie Bes-sie Lee, Our ain Bes-sie

Lee, Our Bon-nie Bes-sie Lee, There was life in the blithe blink o'

Bon-nie Bes-sie Lee.

*p e cres.* *fz*

*f* *slentando.*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The voice part is on a single staff with a treble clef. The piano accompaniment is on two staves, treble and bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score consists of eight systems of music. The first system begins with the lyrics 'school lad-dies paik, And o'er the broomy braes like a fai - - ry wad'. The second system continues with 'flee, Till auld hearts grew young a-gain wi' love for her sake. There was'. The third system has 'life in the blithe blink o' Bon-nie Bes-sie Lee, Our ain Bes-sie'. The fourth system starts with 'Lee, Our Bon-nie Bes-sie Lee, There was life in the blithe blink o''. The fifth system concludes the phrase with 'Bon-nie Bes-sie Lee.'. The sixth system features piano dynamics: *p e cres.* and *fz*. The seventh system begins with a forte *f* dynamic and includes the instruction *slentando.* The eighth system ends with a double bar line. The piano part includes various musical notations such as chords, arpeggios, and slurs.

## BONNIE BESSIE LEE.

This song was written by ROBERT NICOLL, a Scottish poet of great promise, who died at the early age of twenty-three. His short life was one of hard study. At the early age of seven he was a herd boy, but even then a voracious reader. Part of his life was spent in Perth in a wine-merchant's establishment, and part of it in Dundee, where he presided over a circulating library, and wrote for several of the newspapers. He subsequently became editor of a newspaper in Leeds, the hard labour attendant on which occupation brought him to a premature grave. His poems are illustrative of the manners and customs, and of the condition and feelings, of the Scottish peasantry, and have been published by his friend and patron Mr TAIT of Edinburgh. The volume is replete with gems of all kinds, pathetic as well as humorous.

Bonnie Bessie Lee had a face fu' o' smiles,  
And mirth round her ripe lip was aye dancing slee;  
And light was the footfa', and gracefu' the wiles,  
O' the flower o' the parochin<sup>1</sup>—our ain Bessie Lee!

Wi' the bairns she would rin, and the school-laddies paik,<sup>2</sup>  
And o'er the broomy braes like a fairy would flee,  
Till auld hearts grew young again wi' love for her sake,  
There was life in the blithe blink o' bonnie Bessie Lee!

She grat wi' the waefu', and laugh'd wi' the glad,  
And light as the wind 'mang the dancers was she;  
And a tongue that could jeer, too, the little limmer had,  
Whilk keepit aye her ain side for bonnie Bessie Lee!

And she whiles had a sweetheart, and whiles she had twa—  
A limmer o' a lassie!—but, atween you and me,  
Her warm wee bit heartie she ne'er threw awa',  
Though mony a ane had sought it frae bonnie Bessie Lee!

But ten years had gane since I gazed on her last,—  
For ten years had parted my auld hame and me;  
And I said to mysel', as her mither's door I pass'd,  
“Will I ever get anither kiss frae bonnie Bessie Lee?”

But Time changes a' thing—the ill-natured loon!  
Were it ever sae rightly he'll no let it be;  
But I rubbit at my een, and I thought I would swoon,  
How the carle had come round about our ain Bessie Lee!

The wee laughing lassie was a gudewife growing auld—  
Twa weans at her apron, and ane on her knee;  
She was douce<sup>3</sup> too, and wiselike—and wisdom's sae cauld:—  
I would rather hae the ither ane than this Bessie Lee!

<sup>1</sup> Parish.

<sup>2</sup> Beat.

<sup>3</sup> Quiet.