

SCENES FROM

# The Molden Regend

for

A Cantata for Soli, Chorus & Orchestra

Poem By

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Set to Music By

Charles Villiers Stanford

[1875]

**VOCAL SCORE** 

### **COVER IMAGE**

"Couple Embracing" by William Ladd Taylor Cover of Ladies Home Journal, Vol. XXI, no. 11 - October 1904



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The "renaissance" in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880. Public demand for major works in support of the annual choral festivals held throughout England at that time was considerable which led to the creation of many large scale works for orchestra with soloists and chorus.

Although a number of those works were engraved, printed and are regularly performed today, performance scores for a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works were either never engraved or were engraved and printed but are no longer available in the publishers' catalogues. While the existence of these works is documented in biographies of the composers, the ability to study and, most importantly, to perform these compositions is not possible.

Changes in the International copyright laws, coupled with changing musical tastes, played a pivotal role in creating this void. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. In 1964, holograph and copyist scores from both Novello and from publishers it represented were offered to the British Library and the Royal College of Music Library (see The RCM Novello Library – The Musical Times, Feb. 1983 by Jeremy Dibble ).

These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of engraved vocal scores, widely available through various online library sources, are now the only resources available for studying and performing these works.

The English Heritage Music Series has been created to ensure that these compositions are preserved, are accessible for scholarly research and, most importantly, are available for performance by future generations. Its mission is to:

- Source non-engraved/out-of-print English composer compositions that are in the U.S. public domain
- Preserve these compositions through the preparation of performance scores using notation software
- Provide open Internet access to the scores to facilitate study, performance and sharing of performance material (program notes, audio, reviews, etc.)

In preparing the English Heritage Music Series editions, every effort has been made to adhere strictly to the notation contained in the manuscripts. Because of the passage of time and its effect on the condition of the manuscript, the absence of clear information often times by the composer in notating divided instruments, and with emendations in the composer and other hands resulting from use of the manuscript in performance, there were numerous circumstances which required interpretation and decisions for notes, accidentals, dynamics, articulations and tempi. Should questions arise in the use of these editions, the composers' autograph manuscripts and the Novello vocal scores should be consulted for clarification.

Matthew W. Mehaffey Editor

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### **Source Information**

Autograph Manuscript: Vocal Score: Royal College of Music Library Manuscript Transcription & Score Preparation Royal College of Music Library, London: MS 4145

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### Reference Material and Software

Notation Software: Dorico Pro Version 5.1.81.2225 Audio Software: NotePerformer 4 Graphic Software: Affinity Photo 2

Document Software: Affinity Publisher 2 Music Notation Reference: Behind Bars by Elaine Gould, Faber Music © 2011



### **CHARACTERS**

### Lucifer

Fallen Angel *Baritone* 

### Henry

Prince of Hoheneck *Tenor* 

### Elsie

Daughter of Ursula and Gottlieb Soprano

### Ursula

Mother of Elsie Alto

### Gottlieb

Vassal of the Prince - Father of Elsie Baritone

### Bertha

Sister of Elsie *Alto* 

### Max

Brother of Elsie *Tenor* 

Approximate
Performance Time
60 minutes

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Prince Henry of Hoheneck, lying sick in body and mind at his Castle of Vautsberg, on the Rhine, has consulted the famous physicians of Salerno, and learned that he can be cured only by the blood of a maiden who shall, of her own free will, consent to die for his sake. Regarding the remedy as impossible, the Prince gives way to despair, when he is visited by Lucifer, disguised as a traveling physician. The Fiend tempts him with alcohol to the fascination of which he ultimately yields in such measure as to be deprived of place and power, and driven forth as an outcast. Prince Henry finds shelter in the cottage of one of his vassals, whose daughter, Elsie, moved by great compassion for his fate, resolves to sacrifice her life that he might be restored. The prayers of her mother, Ursula, are of no avail to turn her from this purpose, and, in due time, Prince Henry, Elsie, and their attendants set out for Salerno. On then- way they encounter a band of pilgrims, with whom is Lucifer, in the garb of a friar, who also is journeying to Salerno. On reaching their destination, Prince Henry and Elsie are received by Lucifer, who has assumed the form of Friar Angelo, a doctor of the medical school. Elsie persists in her resolve to die, despite the opposition of the Prince, who now declares that he intended to do no more than test her constancy. Lucifer draws Elsie into an inner chamber, but the Prince and attendants, breaking down the door, rescue her at the last moment. Miraculously healed, Prince Henry marries the devoted maiden, and is restored to his rightful place.

In the Prologue, the defeat of Lucifer is foreshadowed by an impotent attempt to wreck the Cathedral of Strasburg. In the Epilogue, the beneficent devotion of Elsie is compared to the course of a mountain brook, which cools and fertilizes the arid plain.



Source: The Golden Legend, piano/vocal score, Novello & Co. 1886, plate 8045

# The Molden Regend

### Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

1851

### STANFORD'S "PART I"

- **Prince Henry's Despair:** The poem opens with Prince Henry of Hoheneck, afflicted with a malady, seeking a cure from the physicians of Salerno, who tell him the only cure is the blood of a maiden willing to die for him.
- Lucifer's Temptation: Despairing, Henry is tempted by Lucifer, disguised as a traveling physician, who leads him to a life of excess and eventually, an outcast state.
- Elsie's Sacrifice: Henry finds refuge with Ursula, a former vassal, and her daughter Elsie, who, moved by compassion, offers herself as a sacrifice to cure Henry, believing it will bring her closer to Christ.

### BALANCE OF LONGFELLOW'S POEM

- **Journey to Salerno:** Elsie and Henry embark on a journey to Salerno, where they encounter a band of pilgrims, including Lucifer disguised as a friar, who gloats over Elsie's fate.
- **Miraculous Healing:** During the journey, Elsie is kidnapped by Lucifer, but Henry rescues her, and in the process, is miraculously healed. Henry and Elsie return to Hoheneck and marry.

### THEMES & ANALYSIS

- Themes of Faith and Sacrifice: The poem explores themes of faith, sacrifice, and redemption, with Elsie's willingness to die for Henry serving as a powerful example of Christian selflessness.
- Light vs. Darkness: The poem contrasts the light of faith and hope with the darkness of despair and temptation, embodied by Lucifer's machinations.
- **Historical and Mythical Elements:** Longfellow weaves together historical and mythical elements, drawing from Christian traditions and legends to create a rich and evocative narrative.
- **Existential Themes:** The poem delves into existential themes, exploring the nature of suffering, the search for meaning, and the promise of salvation.
- Longfellow's Style: Longfellow's signature style is evident in the poem's lyrical language, beautiful imagery, and focus on moral and spiritual themes.

Source: Google Generative AI

After completing Part I on December 27, 1875, Stanford never returned to the project. We can only imagine how he would have chosen to portray the rest of the story. Only the full score manuscript has survived (Royal College of Music Library MS 4145). The composer did not prepare a piano reduction and no vocal score was created at the time. This vocal score and associated piano reduction were created by Dave Fielding (English Heritage Music Series) in April 2025.



### SCENE I Prologue

### THE SPIRE OF STRASBURG CATHEDRAL

Night and Storm. LUCIFER, with the Powers of the Air, trying to tear down the Cross

### LUCIFER.

HASTEN! hasten!

O ye spirits!

From its station drag the ponderous

Cross of iron, that to mock us

Is uplifted high in air!

VOICES.

O, we cannot!

For around it

All the Saints and Guardian Angels

Throng in legions to protect it;

They defeat us everywhere!

THE BELLS.

Laudo Deum verum

Plebem voco!

Congrego clerum!

### LUCIFER.

Lower! lower!

Hover downward!

Seize the loud, vociferous bells, and Clashing, clanging, to the pavement

Hurl them from their windy tower!

### VOICES.

All thy thunders

Here are harmless!

For these bells have been anointed,

And baptized with holy water!

They defy our utmost power.

### THE BELLS.

Defunctos ploro!

Pestem fugo!

Festa decoro!

### LUCIFER.

Shake the casements!

Break the painted

Panes that flame with gold and crimson!

Scatter them like leaves of Autumn,

Swept away before the blast!

Italicized text included in Longfellow's poem but not used in Stanford's libretto



### VOICES.

O, we cannot!
The Archangel
Michael flames from every window,
With the sword of fire that drove us
Headlong, out of heaven, aghast!

### THE BELLS.

Funera plango! Fulgora frango! Sabbata pango!

### LUCIFER.

Aim your lightnings
At the oaken,
Massive, iron-studded portals!
Sack the house of God, and scatter
Wide the ashes of the dead!

### VOICES.

O, we cannot!
The Apostles
And the Martyrs, wrapped in mantles,
Stand as wardens at the entrance,
Stand as sentinels o'erhead!

### THE BELLS.

Excito lentos!
Dissipo ventos!
Paco cruentos!

LUCIFER.

Baffled! baffled!

Inefficient,
Craven spirits! leave this labor
Unto Time, the great Destroyer!
Come away, ere night is gone!
VOICES.

Onward! onward!
With the night-wind,
Over field and farm and forest,
Lonely homestead, darksome hamlet,
Blighting all we breathe upon!

(They sweep away.
Organ and Gregorian Chant.)

### CHOIR.

Nocte surgentes Vig lemus omnes!

### SCENE II

## THE CASTLE OF VAUTSBERG ON THE RHINE

A chamber in a tower. PRINCE HENRY, sitting alone, ill and restless.

### PRINCE HENRY

I cannot sleep! my fervid brain
Calls up the vanished Past again,
And throws its misty splendors deep
Into the pallid realms of sleep!
A breath from that far-distant shore
Comes freshening ever more and more,
And wafts o'er intervening seas
Sweet odors from the Hesperides!
A wind, that through the corridor
Just stirs the curtain, and no more,
And, touching the aeolian strings,
Faints with the burden that it brings!

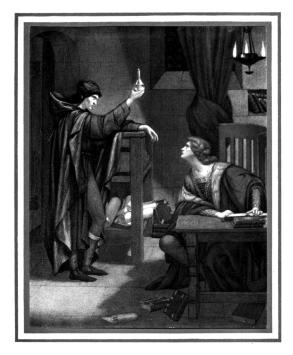
Come back! ye friendships long departed! That like o'erflowing streamlets started, And now are dwindled, one by one, To stony channels in the sun! Come back! ye friends, whose lives are ended! Come back, with all that light attended, Which seemed to darken and decay When ye arose and went away! They come, the shapes of joy and woe, The airy crowds of long-ago, The dreams and fancies known of yore, That have been, and shall be no more. They change the cloisters of the night Into a garden of delight; They make the dark and dreary hours Open and blossom into flowers! I would not sleep! I love to be Again in their fair company; But ere my lips can bid them stay, They pass and vanish quite away! Alas! our memories may retrace Each circumstance of time and place, Season and scene come back again, And outward things unchanged remain; *The rest we cannot reinstate;* Ourselves we cannot re-create, Nor set our souls to the same key Of the remembered harmony! Rest! rest! O, give me rest and peace! The thought of life that ne'er shall cease Has something in it like despair, A weight I am too weak to bear! Sweeter to this afflicted breast The thought of never-ending rest! Sweeter the undisturbed and deep

### SCENE III

Tranquillity of endless sleep!

### THE CASTLE OF VAUTSBERG ON THE RHINE

A flash of lightning, out of which *LUCIFER* appears,in the garb of a traveling Physician.



### LUCIFER.

All hail Prince Henry!
PRINCE HENRY (starting).

Who is it speaks?

Who and what are you?

LUCIFER.

One who seeks

A moment's audience with the Prince.

PRINCE HENRY.

When came you in?

LUCIFER.

A moment since.

I found your study door unlocked,

And thought you answered when I knocked.

PRINCE HENRY.

*I did not hear you.* 

LUCIFER.

You heard the thunder;

It was loud enough to waken the dead.

And it is not a matter of special wonder

That, when God is walking overhead,

You should not have heard my feeble tread.

PRINCE HENRY.

What may your wish or purpose be?

LUCIFER.

Nothing or everything, as it pleases Your Highness. You behold in me Only a traveling Physician; One of the few who have a mission To cure incurable diseases,

Or those that are called so.

PRINCE HENRY.

Can you bring

The dead to life?

LUCIFER.

Yes; very nearly.

And, what is a wiser and better thing,

Can keep the living from ever needing

Such an unnatural, strange proceeding,

By showing conclusively and clearly

That death is a stupid blunder merely,

And not a necessity of our lives.

*My being here is accidental;* 

The storm, that against your casement drives,

In the little village below waylaid me.

And there I heard, with a secret delight,

Of your maladies physical and mental,

Which neither astonished nor dismayed me.

And I hastened hither, though late in the night,

To proffer my aid!

PRINCE HENRY (ironically)

For this you came!

Ah, how can I ever hope to requite

This honor from one so erudite?

LUCIFER.

The honor is mine, or will be when

I have cured your disease.

PRINCE HENRY.

But not till then.

LUCIFER.

What is your illness?

PRINCE HENRY.

It has no name.

A smouldering, dull, perpetual flame,

As in a kiln, burns in my veins,

Sending up vapors to the head,

My heart has become a dull lagoon,

Which a kind of leprosy drinks and drains;

I am accounted as one who is dead,

And, indeed, I think that I shall be soon.

LUCIFER.

And has Gordonius the Divine,

In his famous Lily of Medicine,--

I see the book lies open before you,--

No remedy potent enough to restore you?

PRINCE HENRY.

None whatever!

LUCIFER

The dead are dead,

And their oracles dumb, when questioned

Of the new diseases that human life

Evolves in its progress, rank and rife.

Consult the dead upon things that were,

But the living only on things that are.

Have you done this, by the appliance

And aid of doctors?

PRINCE HENRY.

Ay, whole schools

Of doctors, with their learned rules,

But the case is quite beyond their science.

Even the doctors of Salern

Send me back word they can discern

No cure for a malady like this,

Save one which in its nature is

Impossible, and cannot be!

**LUCIFER** 

That sounds oracular!

PRINCE HENRY

Unendurable!

**LUCIFER** 

What is this remedy?

PRINCE HENRY

You shall see;

Writ in this scroll is the mystery.

LUCIFER (reading).

"Not to be cured, yet not incurable!

The only remedy that remains

Is the blood that flows from a maiden's veins,

Who of her own free will shall die.

And give her life as the price of yours!"

That is the strangest of all cures,

And one, I think, you will never try;

The prescription you may well put by,

As something impossible to find
Before the world itself shall end!
And yet who knows? One cannot say
That into some maiden's brain that kind
Of madness will not find its way.
Meanwhile permit me to recommend,
As the matter admits of no delay,
My wonderful Catholicon,
Of very subtile and magical powers!

### PRINCE HENRY.

Purge with your nostrums and drugs infernal The spouts and gargoyles of these towers, Not me! My faith is utterly gone In every power but the Power Supernal! Pray tell me, of what school are you?

### LUCIFER.

Both of the Old and of the New! *The school of Hermes Trismegistus,* Who uttered his oracles sublime Before the Olympiads, in the dew Of the early dawn and dusk of Time, The reign of dateless old Hephaestus! As northward, from its Nubian springs, The Nile, forever new and old, Among the living and the dead, *Its mighty, mystic stream has rolled;* So, starting from its fountain-head Under the lotus-leaves of Isis, From the dead demigods of eld, Through long, unbroken lines of kings Its course the sacred art has held, Unchecked, unchanged by man's devices. This art the Arabian Geber taught, And in alembics, finely wrought, Distilling herbs and flowers, discovered The secret that so long had hovered Upon the misty verge of Truth, The Elixir of Perpetual Youth, Called Alcohol, in the Arab speech! *Like him, this wondrous lore I teach!* 

### PRINCE HENRY.

What! an adept?

### LUCIFER.

Nor less, nor more!

#### PRINCE HENRY.

I am a reader of such books,
A lover of that mystic lore!
With such a piercing glance it looks
Into great Nature's open eye,
And sees within it trembling lie
The portrait of the Deity!
And yet, alas! with all my pains,
The secret and the mystery
Have baffled and eluded me,
Unseen the grand result remains!

LUCIFER (showing a flask).
Behold it here! this little flask
Contains the wonderful quintessence,
The perfect flower and efflorescence,
Of all the knowledge man can ask!
Hold it up thus against the light!

### PRINCE HENRY.

How limpid, pure, and crystalline, How quick, and tremulous, and bright The little wavelets dance and shine, As were it the Water of Life in sooth!

### LUCIFER.

It is! It assuages every pain, Cures all disease, and gives again To age the swift delights of youth. Inhale its fragrance.

### PRINCE HENRY.

It is sweet.

A thousand different odors meet And mingle in its rare perfume, Such as the winds of summer waft At open windows through a room!

### LUCIFER.

Will you not taste it?

### PRINCE HENRY.

Will one draught Suffice?

### LUCIFER.

*If not, you can drink more.* 

### PRINCE HENRY.

*Into this crystal goblet pour* 

So much as safely I may drink.

LUCIFER (pouring).

Let not the quantity alarm you:

You may drink all; it will not harm you.

PRINCE HENRY.

I am as one who on the brink

Of a dark river stands and sees

The waters flow, the landscape dim

Around him waver, wheel, and swim,

And, ere he plunges, stops to think

Into what whirlpools he may sink;

One moment pauses, and no more,

Then madly plunges from the shore!

Headlong into the *dark* mysteries

Of life and death I boldly leap,

Nor fear the fateful current's sweep ,

Nor what in ambush lurks below!

For death is better than disease!

(An ANGEL with an aeolian harp hovers in the air.)

### THE ANGEL.

Woe! woe! eternal woe!

Not only the whispered prayer

Of love,

But the curses imprecations of hate,

Reverberate

Forever and ever through the air

Above!

This fearful curse

Shakes the great universe!

### LUCIFER (disappearing).

Drink! drink!

And thy soul shall sink

Down into the dark abyss,

Into the infinite abyss,

From which no plummet nor rope

Ever drew up the silver sand of hope!

### PRINCE HENRY (drinking).

It is like a draught of fire!

Through every vein

I feel again

The fever of youth, the soft desire;

A rapture that is almost pain

Throbs in my heart and fills my brain!

O joy! O joy! I feel

The band of steel

That so long and heavily has pressed

Upon my breast

Uplifted, and the malediction

Of my affliction

Is taken from me, and my weary breast

At length finds rest.

### THE ANGEL.

It is but the rest of the fire, from which the air

has been taken!

It is but the rest of the sand, when the hour-glass

is not shaken!

It is but the rest of the tide between the

and the flow!

It is but the rest of the wind between the

flaws that blow!

With fiendish laughter,

Hereafter,

This false physician

Will mock thee in thy perdition.

### PRINCE HENRY.

Speak! speak!

Who says that I am ill?

I am not ill! I am not weak!

The trance, the swoon, the dream, is

o'er!

I feel the chill of death no more!

At length,

I stand renewed in all my strength!

Beneath me I can feel

The great earth stagger and reel,

As it the feet of a descending God

Upon its surface trod,

And like a pebble it rolled beneath his heel!

This, O brave physician! this

Is thy great Palingenesis!

(Drinks again.)

#### THE ANGEL.

Touch the goblet no more!
It will make thy heart sore
To its very core!
Its perfume is the breath
Of the Angel of Death,
And the light that within it lies
Is the flash of his evil eyes.
Beware! O, beware!
For sickness, sorrow, and care
All are there!

PRINCE HENRY (sinking back).
O thou voice within my breast!
Why entreat me, why upbraid me,
When the steadfast tongues of truth
And the flattering hopes of youth
Have all deceived me and betrayed me?
Give me, give me rest, O, rest!
Golden visions wave and hover,
Golden vapors, waters streaming,
Landscapes moving, changing, gleaming!
I am like a happy lover
Who illumines life with dreaming!
Brave physician! Rare physician!
Well hast thou fulfilled thy mission!

(His head falls on his book.)

THE ANGEL (receding).

Alas! alas!
Like a vapor the golden vision
Shall fade and pass,
And thou wilt find in thy heart again
Only the blight of pain,
And bitter, bitter, bitter contrition!

### COURTYARD OF THE CASTLE

None of the text in this scene was set to music by Stanford

### SCENE IV

### A FARM IN THE ODENWALD

A garden; morning; *PRINCE HENRY* seated, with a book. *ELSIE*, at a distance, gathering flowers.

### PRINCE HENRY (reading).

One morning, all alone, Out of his convent of gray stone, *Into the forest older, darker, grayer,* His lips moving as if in prayer, His head sunken upon his breast As in a dream of rest, Walked the Monk Felix. All about The broad, sweet sunshine lay without, Filling the summer air; And within the woodlands as he trod, The twilight was like the Truce of God With worldly woe and care; *Under him lay the golden moss;* And above him the boughs of hemlock-tree Waved, and made the sign of the cross, And whispered their Benedicites; And from the ground Rose an odor sweet and fragrant Of the wild flowers and the vagrant Vines that wandered, Seeking the sunshine, round and round. These he heeded not, but pondered On the volume in his hand, *A volume of Saint Augustine;* Wherein he read of the unseen Splendors of God's great town *In the unknown land.* And, with his eyes cast down *In humility, he said:* "I believe, O God, What herein I have read, But alas! I do not understand!" And lo! he heard The sudden singing of a bird, A snow-white bird, that from a cloud

Dropped down,

And among the branches brown

Sat singing

So sweet, and clear, and loud,

It seemed a thousand harp strings ringing.

And the Monk Felix closed his book,

And long, long,

With rapturous look,

He listened to the song,

And hardly breathed or stirred,

Until he saw, as in a vision,

The land Elysian,

And in the heavenly city heard

Angelic feet

Fall on the golden flagging of the street.

And he would fain

Have caught the wondrous bird,

But strove in vain; For it flew away, away, Far over hill and dell,

And instead of its sweet singing

He heard the convent bell

Suddenly in the silence ringing

For the service of noonday.

And he retraced

His pathway homeward sadly and in haste.

In the convent there was a change!
He looked for each well known face,
But the faces were new and stranger

But the faces were new and strange; New figures sat in the oaken stalls,

New voices chaunted in the choir, Yet the place was the same place,

The same dusky walls Of cold, gray stone,

The same cloisters and belfry and spire.

A stranger and alone Among that brotherhood The Monk Felix stood "Forty years," said a Friar.

"Have I been Prior

Of this convent in the wood,

But for that space

Never have I beheld thy face!"
The heart of the Monk Felix fell:

And he answered with submissive tone,

"This morning, after the hour of Prime,

I left my cell,

And wandered forth alone, Listening all the time To the melodious singing

Of a beautiful white bird,

Until I heard

The bells of the convent ringing Noon from their noisy towers,

*It was as if I dreamed;* 

For what to me had seemed Moments only, had been hours!" "Years!" said a voice close by. It was an aged monk who spoke,

From a bench of oak

Fastened against the wall;--He was the oldest monk of all.

For a whole century

Had he been there,

Serving God in prayer,

The meekest and humblest of his creatures.

He remembered well the features

Of Felix, and he said,

Speaking distinct and slow:
"One hundred years ago,

When I was a novice in this place,

There was here a monk, full of God's grace,

Who bore the name

Of Felix, and this man must be the same."

And straightway

*They brought forth to the light of day* 

A volume old and brown, A huge tome, bound

With brass and wild-boar's hide,

Therein were written down
The names of all who had died
In the convent, since it was edified.

And there they found, Just as the old monk said,

That on a certain day and date,

One hundred years before,

Had gone forth from the convent gate
The Monk Felix, and never more
Had entered that sacred door.

,

He had been counted among the dead!
And they knew, at last,
That, such had been the power
Of that celestial and immortal song,
A hundred years had passed,
And had not seemed so long
As a single hour!

(ELSIE comes in with flowers.)

ELSIE.

Here are flowers for you, But they are not all for you. Some of them are for the Virgin And for Saint Cecilia.

### PRINCE HENRY.

As thou standest there, Thou seemest to me like the angel That brought the immortal roses To Saint Cecilia's bridal chamber.

ELSIE

But these will fade.

### PRINCE HENRY.

Themselves will fade,
But not their memory,
And memory has the power
To re-create them from the dust.
They remind me, too,
Of martyred Dorothea,
Who from celestial gardens sent
Flowers as her witnesses
To him who scoffed and doubted.

ELSIE.

Do you know the story
Of *Christ and* the Sultan's daughter?
That is the prettiest legend of them all.

PRINCE HENRY.

Then tell it to me.
But first come hither.
Lay the flowers down beside me.
And put both thy hands in mine.
Now tell me the story.

ELSIE.

Early in the morning The Sultan's daughter



Walked in her father's garden, Gathering the bright flowers, All full of dew.

### PRINCE HENRY.

Just as thou hast been doing This morning, dearest Elsie.

ELSIE.

And as she gathered them,
She wondered more and more
Who was the Master of the Flowers,
And made them grow
Out of the cold, dark earth.
"In my heart," she said,
"I love him; and for him
Would leave my father's palace,
To labor in his garden."

### PRINCE HENRY.

Dear, innocent child!
How sweetly thou recallest
The long-forgotten legend,
That in my early childhood
My mother told me!
Upon my brain

It reappears once more,
As a birth-mark on the forehead
When a hand suddenly
Is laid upon it, and removed!

### ELSIE.

And at midnight, As she lay upon her bed, She heard a voice Call to her from the garden, And, looking forth from her window, She saw a beautiful youth Standing among the flowers. *It was the Lord Iesus:* And she went down to him, And opened the door for him; And he said to her, "O maiden! Thou hast thought of me with love, And for thy sake Out of my Father's kingdom Have I come hither: I am the Master of the Flowers. My garden is in Paradise, And if thou wilt go with me, Thy bridal garland Shall be of bright red flowers." And then he took from his finger A golden ring, And asked the Sultan's daughter If she would be his bride. And when she answered him with love, His wounds began to bleed, And she said to him, "O Love! how red thy heart is, And thy hands are full of roses," "For thy sake," answered he, "For thy sake is my heart so red, For thee I bring these roses. *I gathered them at the cross* Whereon I died for thee! Come, for my Father calls. Thou art my elected bride!" And the Sultan's daughter

Followed him to his Father's garden.

### PRINCE HENRY.

Wouldst thou have done so, Elsie? ELSIE.

Yes, very gladly.

### PRINCE HENRY.

Then the Celestial Bridegroom
Will come for thee also.
Upon thy forehead he will place,
Not his crown of thorns,
But a crown of roses.
In thy bridal chamber,
Like Saint Cecilia,
Thou shall hear sweet music,
And breathe the fragrance
Of flowers immortal!
Go now and place these flowers
Before her picture.

### SCENE V

### A ROOM IN THE FARMHOUSE

Twilight; *URSULA* spinning, *GOTTLIEB*, asleep in his chair

### URSULA.

Darker and darker! Hardly a glimmer Of light comes in at the window-pane; Or is it my eyes are growing dimmer? I cannot disentangle this skein, Nor wind it rightly upon the reel. Elsie!

### GOTTLIEB (starting).

The stopping of thy wheel

Has wakened me out of a pleasant dream.

I thought I was sitting beside a stream,

And heard the grinding of a mill,

When suddenly the wheels stood still,

And a voice cried "Elsie" in my ear!

It startled me, it seemed so near.

### URSULA.

I was calling her: I want a light. I cannot see to spin my flax. Bring the lamp, Elsie.

Dost thou hear?

ELSIE (within).

*In a moment!* 

### GOTTLIEB.

Where are Bertha and Max?

### URSULA.

They are sitting with Elsie at the door. She is telling them stories of the wood, And the Wolf, and Little Red Ridinghood.

### GOTTLIEB.

And where is the Prince?

#### URSULA.

In his room overhead;
I heard him walking across the floor,
As he always does, with a heavy tread.

(ELSIE comes in with a lamp. MAX and BERTHA follow her; and they all sing the Evening Song on the lighting of the lamps.)

### EVENING SONG.

O gladsome light

Of the Father Immortal,

And of the celestial

Sacred and blessed

Jesus, our Saviour!

Now to the sunset

Again hast thou brought us;

And, seeing the evening

Twilight, we bless thee,

Praise thee, adore thee!

Father omnipotent!

Son, the Life-giver!

Spirit, the Comforter!

Worthy at all times

Of worship and wonder!

PRINCE HENRY (at the door).

Amen!

URSULA.

Who was it said Amen?

### ELSIE.

It was the Prince: he stood at the door, And listened a moment, as we chaunted The evening song. He is gone again. I have often seen him there before.

URSULA.

Poor Prince!

### GOTTLIEB.

I thought the house was haunted! Poor Prince, alas! and yet as mild And patient as the gentlest child!

### MAX.

I love him because he is so good, And makes me such fine bows and arrows,

To shoot at the robins and the sparrows, And the red squirrels in the wood!

### BERTHA.

I love him, too!

### GOTTLIEB.

Ah, yes! we all

Love him, from the bottom of our hearts; He gave us the farm, the house, and the grange,

He gave us the horses and the carts,
And the great oxen in the stall,
The vineyard, and the forest range!
We have nothing to give him but our love!

### BERTHA.

Did he give us the beautiful stork above On the chimney-top, with its large, round nest?

### GOTTLIEB.

No, not the stork; by God in heaven, As a blessing, the dear, white stork was given;

But the Prince has given us all the rest. God bless him, and make him well again.

### ELSIE.

Would I could do something for his sake,

Something to cure his sorrow and pain! GOTTLIEB.

That no one can; neither thou nor I, *Nor any one else.* 

ELSIE.

And must he die?

URSULA.

Yes; if the dear God does not take Pity upon him, in his distress, And work a miracle!

GOTTLIEB.

Yes, or unless

Some maiden, of her own accord, Offers her life for that of her lord, And is willing to die in his stead.

ELSIE.

I will!

URSULA.

Prithee, thou foolish child, be still! Thou shouldst not say what thou dost not mean!

ELSIE.

I mean it truly!

MAX.

O father! this morning,

Down by the mill, in the ravine,

Hans killed a wolf, the very same

That in the night to the sheepfold came,

And ate up my lamb, that was left outside.

### GOTTLIEB.

I am glad he is dead. It will be a warning To the wolves in the forest, far and wide.

MAX.

And I am going to have his hide!

BERTHA.

I wonder if this is the wolf that ate Little Red Ridinghood!

URSULA.

O, no!

That wolf was killed a long while ago. Come, children, it is growing late.

MAX.

Ah, how I wish I were a man,
As stout as Hans is, and as strong!
I would do nothing else, the whole day long,
But just kill wolves.

#### GOTTLIEB.

Then go to bed,
And grow as fast as a little boy can.
Bertha is half asleep already.
See how she nods her heavy head,
And her sleepy feet are so unsteady
She will hardly be able to creep upstairs.

#### URSULA.

Good-night, my children. Here's the light. And do not forget to say your prayers Before you sleep.

GOTTLIEB.

Good-night!
Max and Bertha.
Good-night!

(They go out with ELSIE.)

URSULA, (spinning).

She is a strange and wayward child,
That Elsie of ours. She looks so old,
And thoughts and fancies weird and wild
Seem of late to have taken hold
Of her heart, that was once so docile and mild!

### GOTTLIEB.

She is like all girls.

### URSULA.

Ah no, forsooth!

Unlike all I have ever seen.

For she has visions and strange dreams,
And in all her words and ways, she seems
Much older than she is in truth.

Who would think her but fourteen?
And there has been of late such a change!
My heart is heavy with fear and doubt
That she may not live till the year is out.
She is so strange,--so strange,--so strange!

### GOTTLIEB.

I am not troubled with any such fear! She will live and thrive for many a year

### SCENE VI

### ELSIE'S CHAMBER

Night; ELSIE praying.

ELSIE.

My Redeemer and my Lord,
I beseech thee, I entreat thee,
Guide me in each act and word,
That hereafter I may meet thee,
Watching, waiting, hoping, yearning,
With my lamp well trimmed and burning!

Interceding
With these bleeding
Wounds upon thy hands and side,
For all who have lived and erred
Thou hast suffered, thou hast died,
Scourged, and mocked, and crucified,
And in the grave hast thou been buried!

If my feeble prayer can reach thee,
O my Saviour, I beseech thee,
Even as thou hast died for me,
More sincerely
Let me follow where thou leadest,
Let me, bleeding as thou bleedest,
Die, if dying I may give
Life to one who asks to live,
And more nearly,
Dying thus, resemble thee!

### SCENE VII

## THE CHAMBER OF GOTTLIEB & URSULA

Midnight; *ELSIE* standing by their beside, weeping

### GOTTLIEB.

The wind is roaring; the rushing rain
Is loud upon roof and window-pane,
As if the Wild Huntsman of Rodenstein,

Boding evil to me and mine,
Were abroad to-night with his ghostly train!
In the brief lulls of the tempest wild,
The dogs howl in the yard; and hark!
Some one is sobbing in the dark,
Here in the chamber!

It is I.

### URSULA.

ELSIE.

Elsie! what ails thee, my poor child? ELSIE.

I am disturbed and much distressed, In thinking our dear Prince must die, I cannot close mine eyes, nor rest.

### GOTTLIEB.

What wouldst thou? In the Power Divine His healing lies, not in our own; It is in the hand of God alone.

ELSIE.

Nay, he has put it into mine, And into my heart!

GOTTLIEB.

Thy words are wild!

URSULA.

What dost thou mean? my child! my child! ELSIE.

That for our dear Prince Henry's sake I will myself the offering make, And give my life to purchase his.

### **URSULA**

Am I still dreaming, or awake? Thou speakest carelessly of death, And yet thou knowest not what it is.

ELSIE.

T is the cessation of our breath.

Silent and motionless we lie;

And no one knoweth more than this.

I saw our little Gertrude die,

She left off breathing, and no more

I smoothed the pillow beneath her head.

She was more beautiful than before.

Like violets faded were her eyes;

By this we knew that she was dead.

Through the open window looked the skies
Into the chamber where she lay,
And the wind was like the sound of wings,
As if angels came to bear her away.
Ah! when I saw and felt these things,
I found it difficult to stay;
I longed to die, as she had died,
And go forth with her, side by side.
The Saints are dead, the Martyrs dead,
And Mary, and our Lord, and I
Would follow in humility
The way by them illumined!

### URSULA.

My child! my child! thou must not die!

### **ELSIE**

Why should I live? Do I not know
The life of woman is full of woe?
Toiling on and on and on,
With breaking heart, and tearful eyes,
And silent lips, and in the soul
The secret longings that arise,
Which this world never satisfies!
Some more, some less, but of the whole
Not one quite happy, no, not one!

### URSULA.

It is the malediction of Eve!

### ELSIE.

In place of it, let me receive The benediction of Mary, then.

### GOTTLIEB.

Ah, woe is me! Ah, woe is me!

Most wretched am I among men!

### URSULA.

Alas! that I should live to see
Thy death, beloved, and to stand
Above thy grave! Ah, woe the day!

### ELSIE.

Thou wilt not see it. I shall lie
Beneath the flowers of another land,
For at Salerno, far away
Over the mountains, over the sea,
It is appointed me to die!
And it will seem no more to thee
Than if at the village on market-day

I should a little longer stay Than I am used.

#### URSULA.

Even as thou sayest!

And how my heart beats, when thou stayest!

I cannot rest until my sight

Is satisfied with seeing thee.

What, then, if thou wert dead?

### **GOTTLIEB**

Ah me!
Of our old eyes thou art the light!
The joy of our old hearts art thou!
And wilt thou die?

### URSULA.

Not now! not now!

### **ELSIE**

Christ died for me, and shall not I
Be willing for my Prince to die?
You both are silent; you cannot speak.
This said I, at our Saviour's feast,
After confession, to the priest,
And even he made no reply.
Does he not warn us all to seek
The happier, better land on high,
Where flowers immortal never wither,
And could he forbid me to go thither?

### GOTTLIEB.

In God's own time, my heart's delight! When he shall call thee, not before!

### ELSIE.

I heard him call. When Christ ascended
Triumphantly, from star to star,
He left the gates of heaven ajar.
I had a vision in the night,
And saw him standing at the door
Of his Father's mansion, vast and splendid,
And beckoning to me from afar.
Nay, I cannot stay!

### GOTTLIEB.

She speaks almost
As if it were the Holy Ghost
Spake through her lips, and in her stead!
What if this were of God?

### URSULA.

Ah, then Gainsay it dare we not.

GOTTLIEB.

Amen!
Elsie! the words that thou hast said
Are strange and new for us to hear,
And fill our hearts with doubt and fear.
Whether it be a dark temptation
Of the Evil One, or God's inspiration,
We in our blindness cannot say.
We must think upon it, and pray;
For evil and good in both resembles.
If it be of God, his will be done!
May he guard us from the Evil One!
How hot thy hand is! how it trembles!
Go to thy bed, and try to sleep.

URSULA.

Kiss me. Good-night; and do not weep!

(ELSIE goes out.)

Ah, what an awful thing is this!
I almost shuddered at her kiss.
As if a ghost had touched my cheek,
I am so childish and so weak!
As soon as I see the earliest gray
Of morning glimmer in the east,
I will go over to the priest,
And hear what the good man has to say!

### A VILLAGE CHURCH

None of the text in this scene was set to music by Stanford



# SCENE VIII A ROOM IN THE FARM-HOUSE

### GOTTLIEB.

It is decided! For many days,
And nights as many, we have had
A nameless terror in our breast,
Making us timid, and afraid
Of God, and his mysterious ways!
We have been sorrowful and sad;
Much have we suffered, much have prayed
That he would lead us as is best,
And show us what his will required.
It is decided; and we give
Our child, O Prince, that you may live!



### URSULA.

It is of God. He has inspired
This purpose in her; and through pain,
Out of a world of sin and woe,
He takes her to himself again.
The mother's heart resists no longer;
With the Angel of the Lord in vain
It wrestled, for he was the stronger.

### GOTTLIEB.

As Abraham offered long ago
His son unto the Lord, and even
The Everlasting Father in heaven
Gave his, as a lamb unto the slaughter,
So do I offer up my daughter!

(URSULA hides her face.)

### ELSIE.

My life is little,
Only a cup of water,
But pure and limpid.
Take it, O my Prince!
Let it refresh you,
Let it restore you.
It is given willingly,
It is given freely;
May God bless the gift!

PRINCE HENRY.
And the giver!
GOTTLIEB.
Amen!
PRINCE HENRY.
I accept it!

### PREFACE IMAGES

The Golden Legend by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Hodder & Stoughton, ©1910. Illustrator: Sidney H. Meteyard

### SCORE IMAGES

The Poetical Works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Boston: James R Osgood and Company, 1872
Illustrations by Birket Foster, Jane E. Hay, F.O.C. Darley,
Sir John Gilbert, Sir John Tenniel and others.

## Scenes from "The Golden Legend"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Charles Villiers Stanford

Scene I (Prologue) - The Spire of Strasburg Cathedral Night and Storm. Lucifer, with the Powers of the Air, trying to tear down the Cross



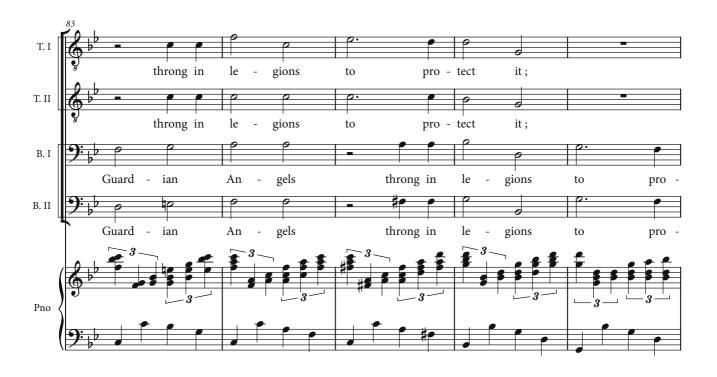
























































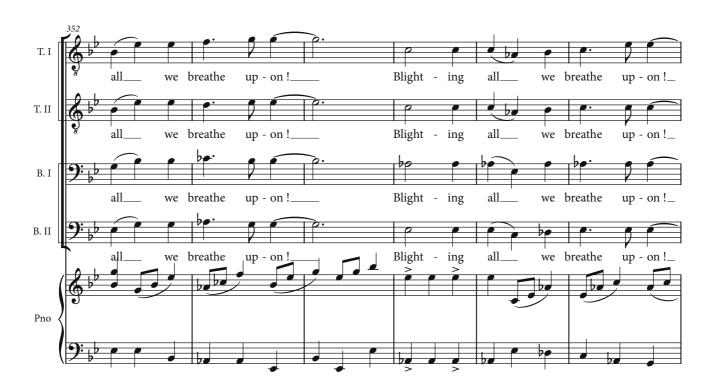




























## Scene II

## The Castle of Vautsberg on the Rhine

A Chamber in a tower. Prince Henry, sitting alone, ill and restless. Midnight





















## Scene III

## The Castle of Vautsberg on the Rhine

A flash of lightning, out of which Lucifer appears, in the garb of a travelling Physician





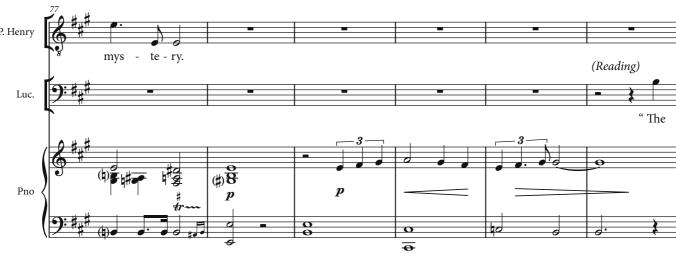


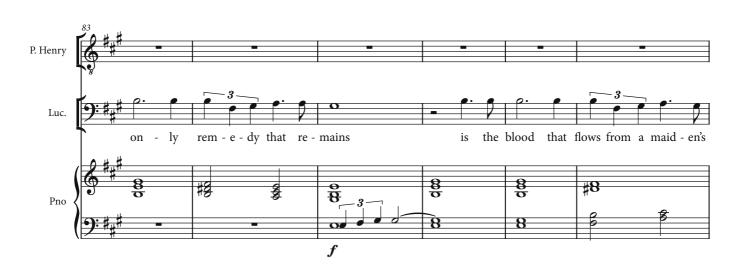


















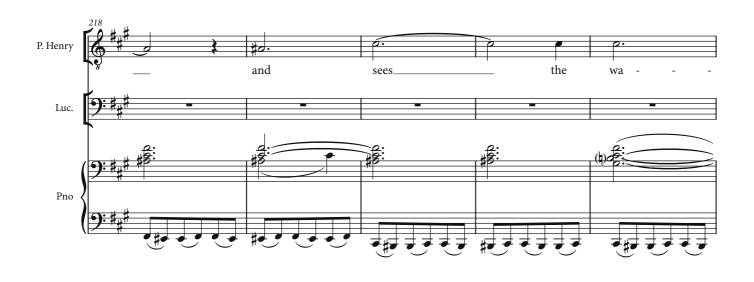
















































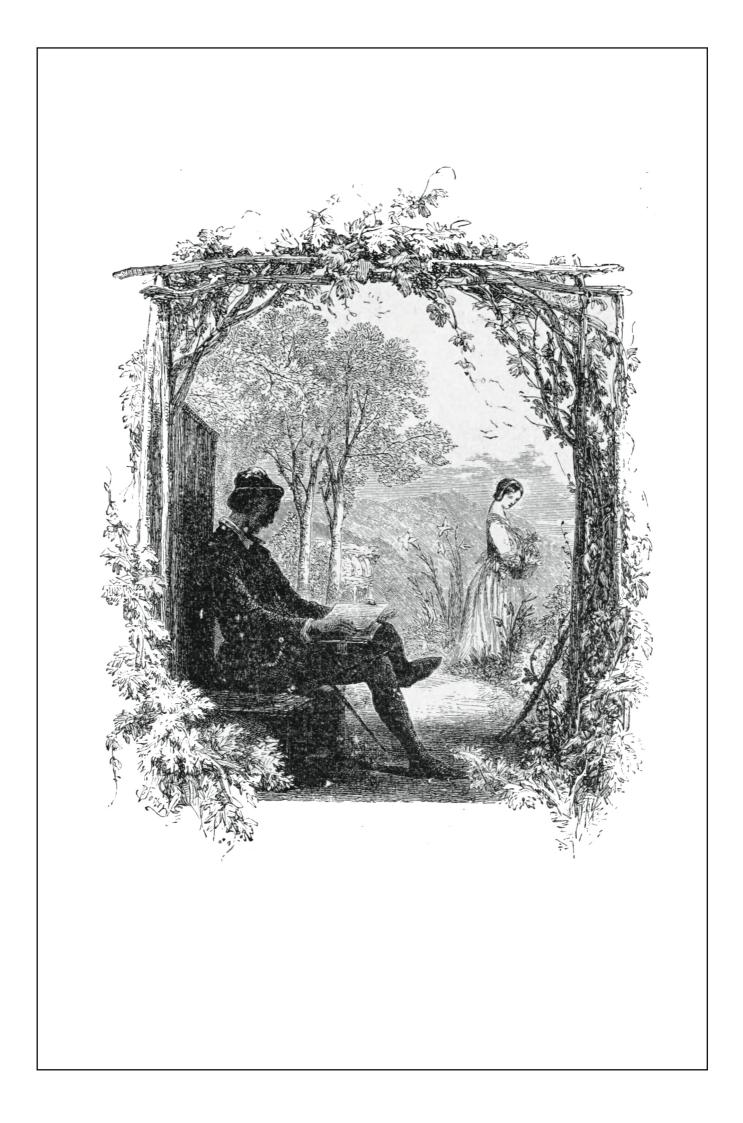












## Scene IV

## A Farm in the Odenwald

A garden; morning; Prince Henry seated with a book. Elsie, at a distance, gathering flowers







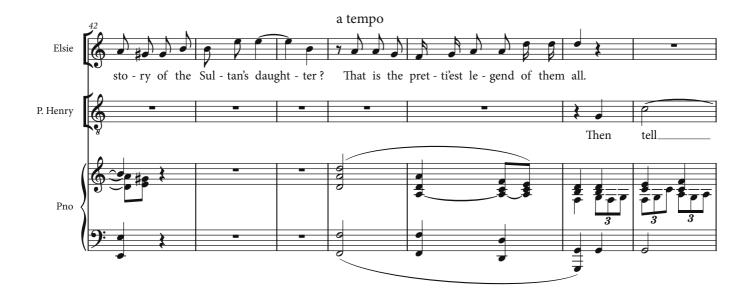


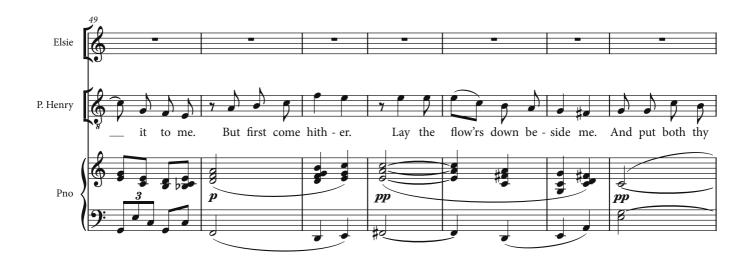


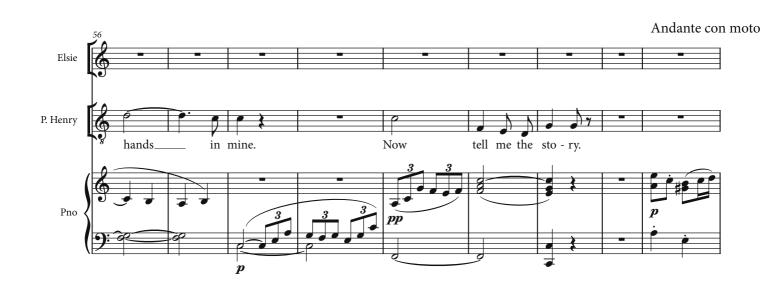






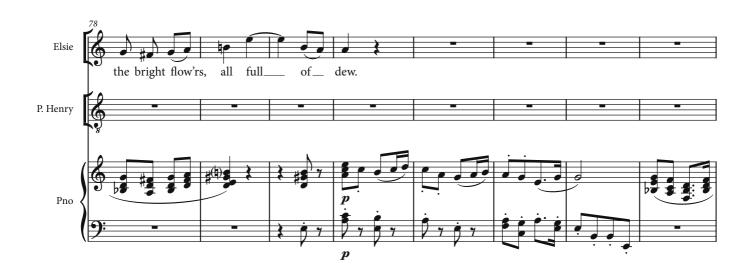


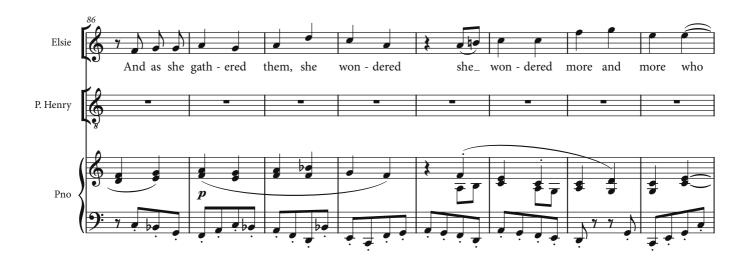


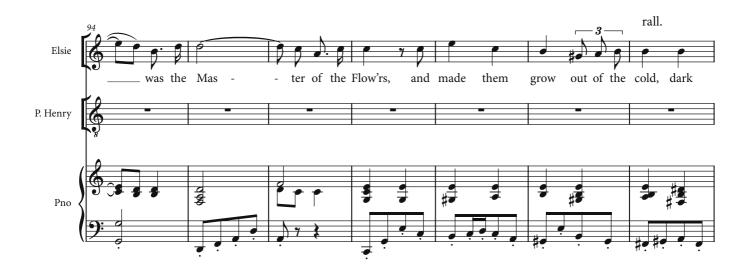






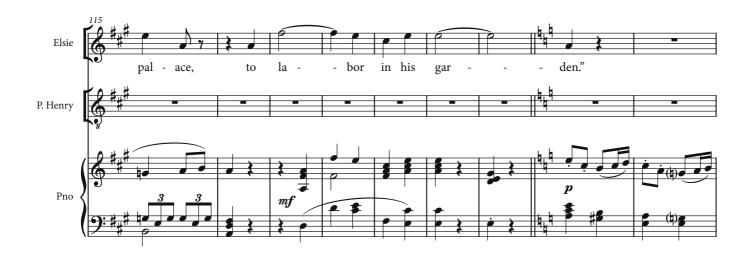




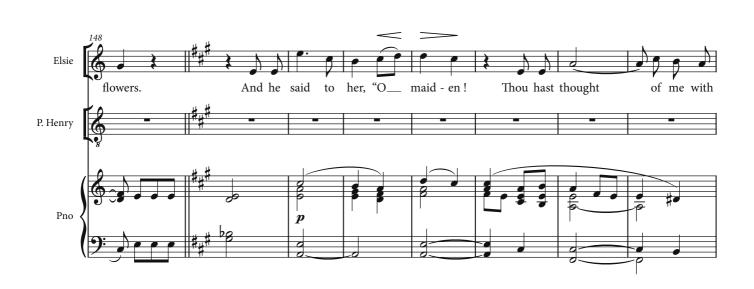




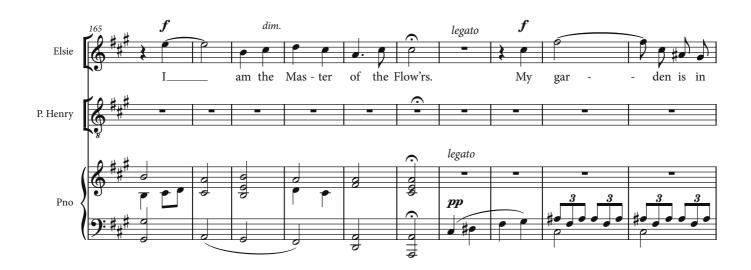




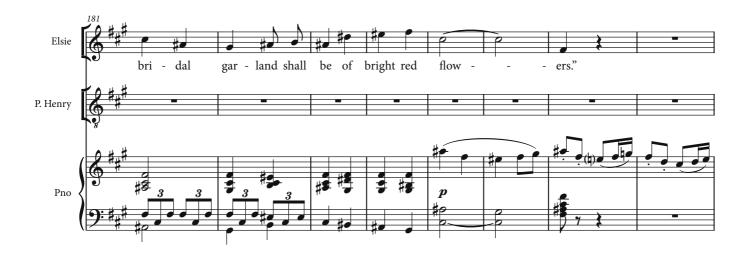




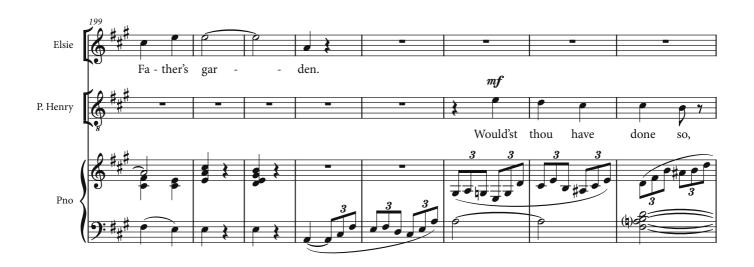


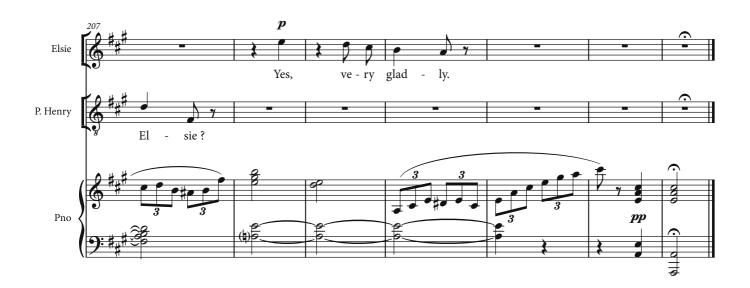


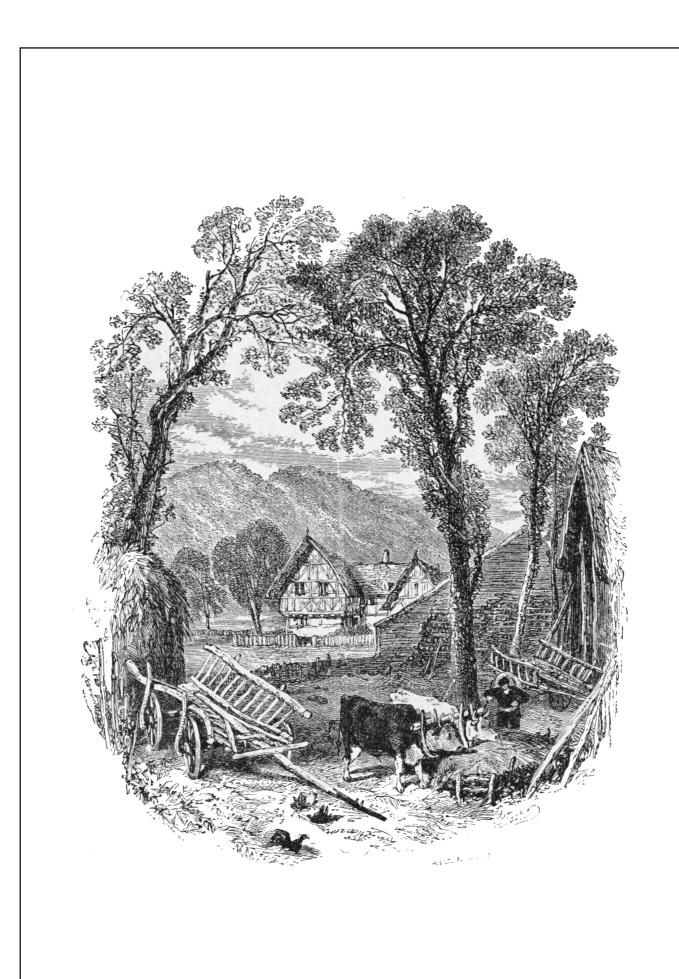












## Scene V

## A Room in the Farm-House

Twilight. Ursula spinning. Gottlieb asleep in his chair













































## Scene VI

### Elsie's Chamber

Night. Elsie praying













# Scene VII The Chamber of Gottlieb & Ursula

Midnight. Elsie standing by their bedside, weeping





































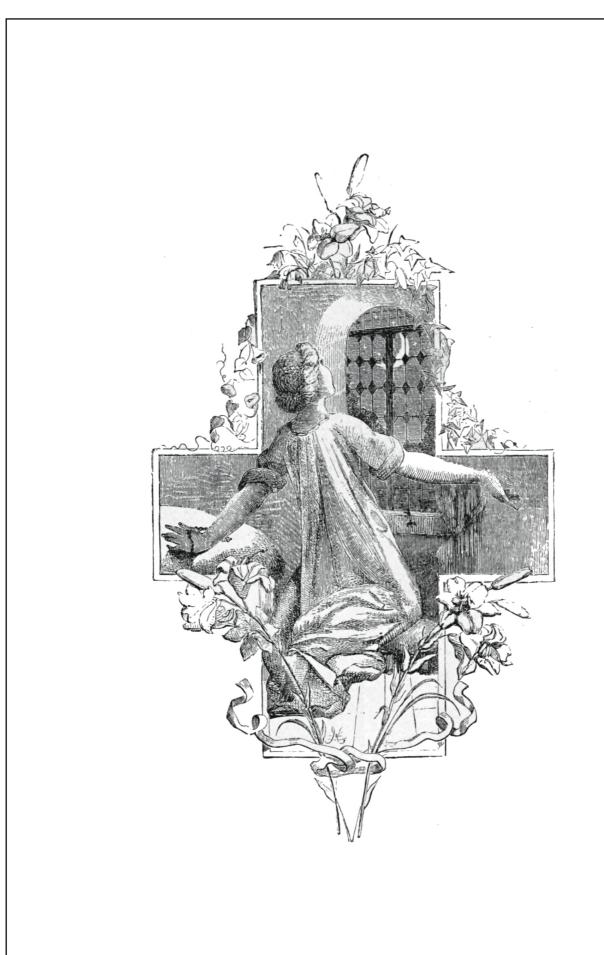








Attacca Scene VIII



### Scene VIII

#### A Room in the Farm-House

Gottlieb and Ursula (hiding her face) resign themselves to the fate that Elsie has chosen











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