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Leaf and the Fountain

H. R. Bishop

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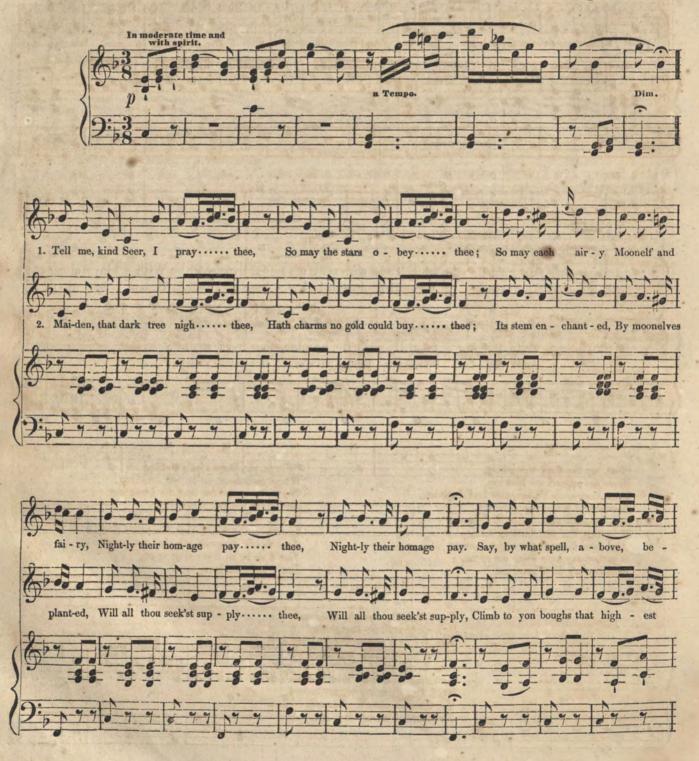
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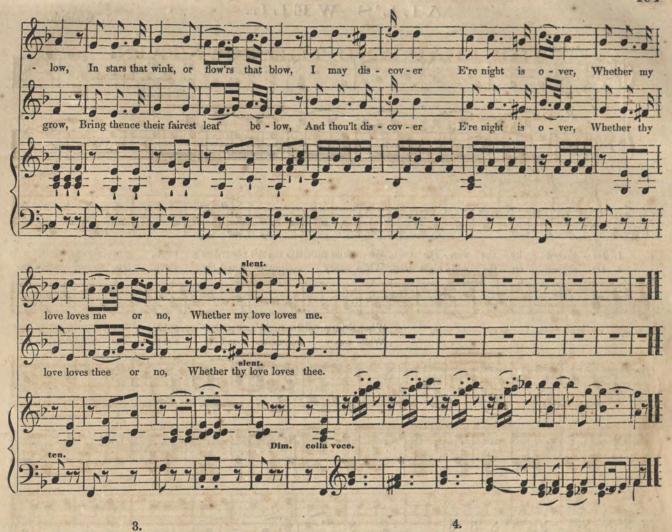
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THE LEAF AND THE FOUNTAIN.

Del Mark Hotel Birth Charles and Surface

H. R. Bishop.





"See, up the dark tree going,
Blossoms around me blowing,
From thence oh Father, this leaf I gather,
Fairest that there was growing,
Say, by what sign I now shall know
If in this leaf lies bliss or woe;
And thus discover ere night is over,
Whether my love loves me or no,
Whether my love loves me."

"Fly to yon fount that's welling
Where moonbeam ne'er had dwelling,
Dip in its water that leaf, oh Daughter,
And mark the tale 'tis telling;
Watch thou if pale or bright it grow,
List thou, the while, that fountain's flow,
And thou'lt discover, whether thy lover,
Lov'd as he is, loves thee or no,
Lov'd as he is, loves thee.

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Forth flew the nymph, delighted,
To seek that fount benighted;
But, scarce a minute the leaf lay in it,
When, lo, its bloom was blighted,
And as she asked, with voice of woe,—
Listening, the while, that fountain's flow,
Shall I recover, my truant lover?
The fountain seem'd to answer "No;"
The fountain answered "No."