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She Stood Beside the Altar

She Stood Beside the Altar

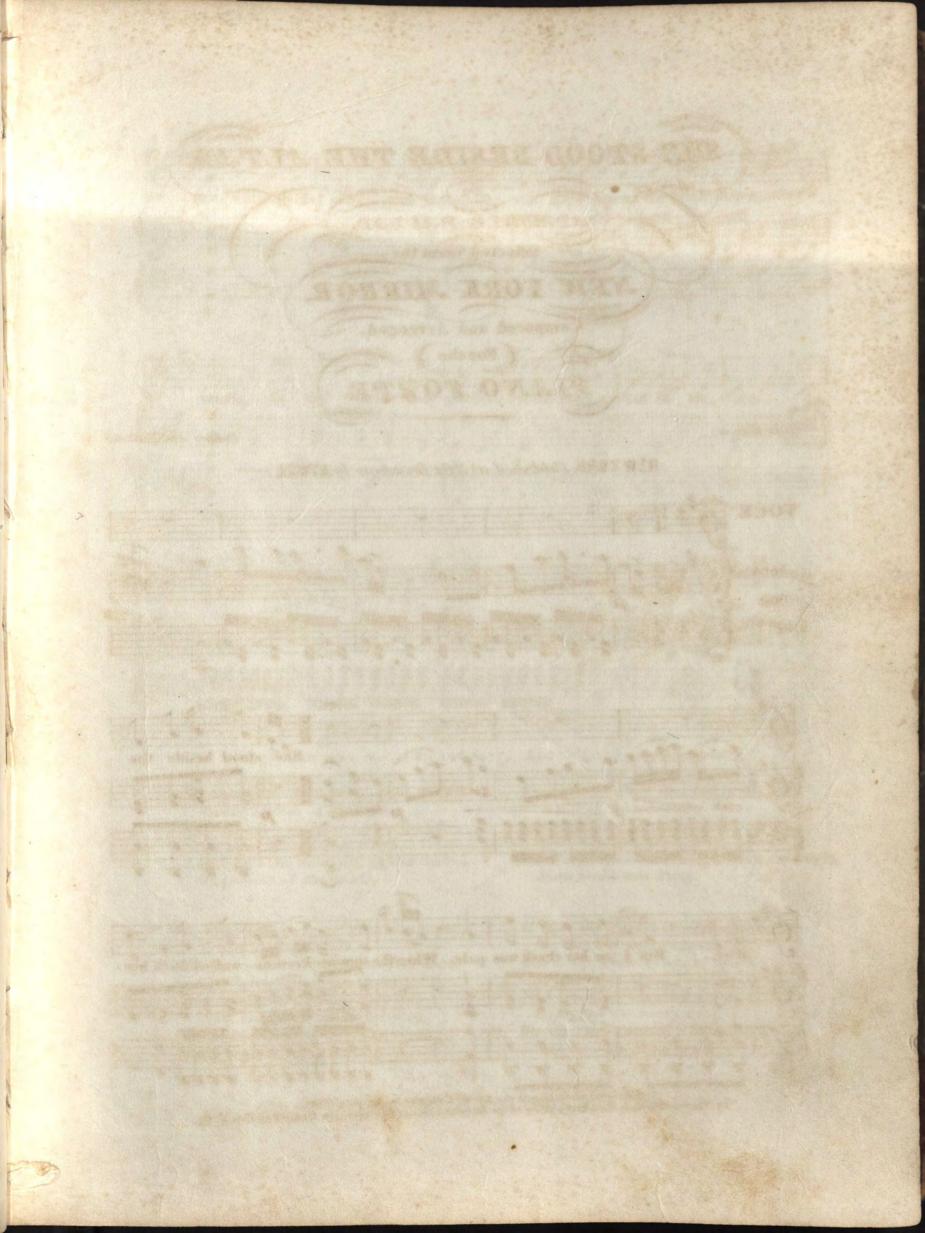
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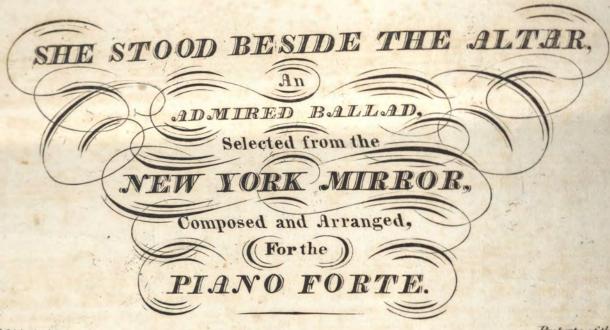
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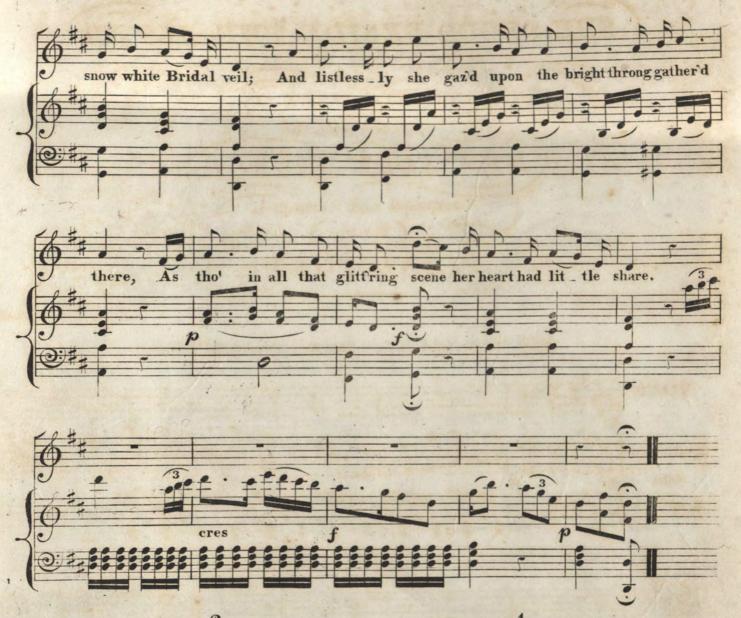


New Edition .

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NEW YORK Published at 201 Broadway by ATWILL.





The bridegroom's mien was stern and dark,
And with an air of pride
He raised the trembling hand of that
Young victim at his side;
And prouder still the father look'd,
As near he took his stand,
And hail'd his lovely daughter there
A peeress of the land!

O, what a glance she gave him then!
It was so full of wo,
There needed not the power of words
Her wretchedness to show;
But quicly, with a quivring lip,
And one deep, mournful sigh,
She turn'd away to hide the tears
That gather'd in her eye.

And well do I remember now

A frank and gallant youth,
Who pledged unto that lovely one
A vow of endless truth;
But their fond dream of tenderness
Full soon has passed away,
And hopes that once seemed fresh and bright
Have turn'd unto decay.

O thou has learn'd that happiness,
On earth is never known,
But in the azure courts of heav'n
It flourishes alone;
And ere its ever verdant leaves
Can greet the weary eye,
We must toil through a wilderness,
And then lie down to die!

