

1841

## Old Sexton

Henry Russell

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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

THIRD EDITION.

# THE OLD SEXTON.



*"I gather them in... and their final rest,  
Is here, down here on the earth's dark breast."*

WORDS BY

**PARK BENJAMIN, ESQ.**

Music composed and respectfully dedicated to

**WILLIAM BABCOCK, ESQ.**

BY

**HENRY RUSSELL.**

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# THE OLD SEXTON.

*QUASSI ALLEGRO.*

*gra*

*gra*

*gra*

*gra*

Nigh to a grave that was new - ly made Leaned a Sexton old on his

*Staccato.*

*colla voce.*

earth worn spade His work was done and he paused to wait The

fun' - ral train through the o - pen gate A relic of by-gone

days was he And his locks were white as the foa - my sea - And

these words came from his lips so thin I gather them in I

gather them in gather gather gather

The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The vocal line contains the lyrics "gather them in gather gather gather" with a fermata over the final "gather". The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand.

gather them in . . .

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a fermata over "gather them in" followed by a dotted line. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic and melodic patterns.

I gather them in! for man and boy Year after year of

The third system shows the vocal line with the lyrics "I gather them in! for man and boy Year after year of". The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support.

grief and joy I've builded the houses that lie a - round In

The fourth system concludes the page with the vocal line lyrics "grief and joy I've builded the houses that lie a - round In". The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord.

ev' - ry nook of this bu - rial ground      Mother and daughter

father and son      Come to my sol - i - tude, one by one - But

come they strangers or come they kin      I gather them in

gather them in      *gra* gather      gather

gather I gather them in.....

3

Many are with me but still I'm alone  
 I'm king of the dead—and I make my throne  
 On a monument slab of marble cold  
 And my sceptre of rule is the spade I hold  
 Come they from cottage or come they from hall  
 Mankind are my subjects— all, all, all  
 Let them loiter in pleasure, or toilfully spin—  
 I gather them in! I gather them in!

4

I gather them in—and their final rest  
 Is here down here in the earth's dark breast  
 And the sexton ceased—for the funeral train  
 Wound mutely o'er that solemn plain  
 And I said to my heart—when time is told  
 A mightier voice than that sexton's old  
 Will sound o'er the last trump's dreadful din—  
 I gather them in! I gather them in!



