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She Stood Beside the Altar

She Stood Beside the Altar

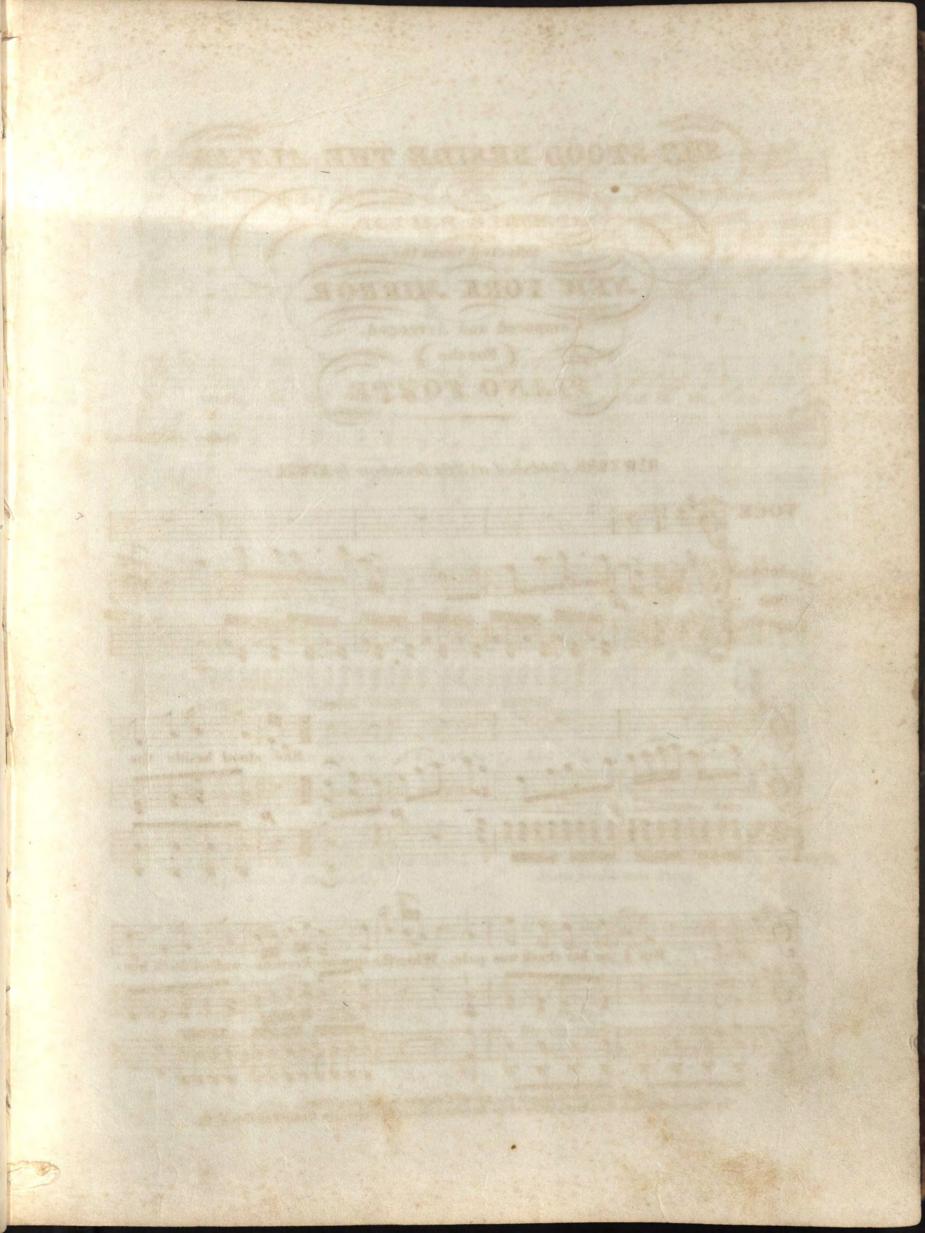
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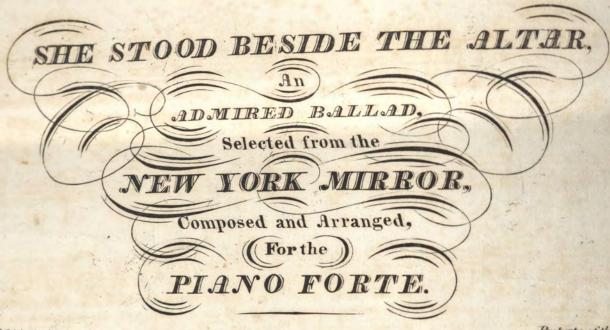
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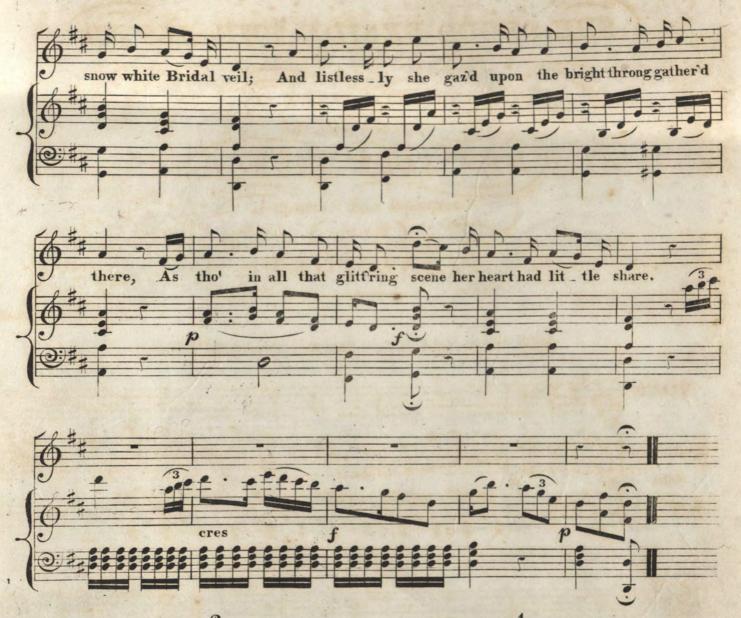


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The bridegroom's mien was stern and dark,
And with an air of pride
He raised the trembling hand of that
Young victim at his side;
And prouder still the father look'd,
As near he took his stand,
And hail'd his lovely daughter there
A peeress of the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

