



The New Dress

B. R. Hanby
(1833-1867)

Benjamin Russell Hanby (1833-1867) was born near Rushville, Ohio, the son of Bishop William Hanby, a United Brethren minister. At age sixteen, he enrolled at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio. With his father, he helped operate the Underground Railroad in the region. He worked for the college, then served as principal of an academy in Seven Mile, Ohio. He became a pastor in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and served in churches at Lewisburg and New Paris. He also directed a singing school in New Paris. After publishing some of his songs, he was hired by music publishers John Church Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, then he worked for publishers Root & Cady in Chicago, Illinois. He died from tuberculosis in Chicago, Illinois. He wrote between 80-100 songs. One of his most well known songs is "Darling Nelly Gray", written while a student at Otterbein in response to the plight of a runaway slave named Joseph Selby (or Shelby). He also wrote the Christmas songs "Up on the House Top" (originally a Christmas sing-along titled "Santa Claus"), "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas", and the Christmas hymn "Who Is He In Yonder Stall?".

I missed dear little Mabel from her class and school one day
And asked the other children, "Was she sick or gone away?"
When a wee one blushed and stammered, "Neither sick nor any where,
Only her Mother keeps her home, she has no dress to wear."

Well, if sweet little Mabel's mother is so very poor,
How many of these children now will give a dime or more
To buy another school dress so that Mabel shall not stay,
Needing the proper clothing from her school another day?

"I will," cried many little ones, "and I," cried many more,
"We'll softly go some evening dark and hang it on her door,
She will never know who hung it, but will rather think, I guess,
God in His pity for His child has given her this new dress."

The plan at once decided, then, to study as before,
The dress was quickly purchased and was hung on Mabel's door,
And every eye was bright with joy, and every heart was gay
When little Mabel smiling came in her new dress next day.

The New Dress

B. R. Hanby

S
I missed dear lit - tle Ma - bel from her class and school one day And

A
I missed dear lit - tle Ma - bel from her class and school one day And

T
I missed dear lit - tle Ma - bel from her class and school one day And

B
I missed dear lit - tle Ma - bel from her class and school one day And

5
S
asked the oth - er chil - dren, "Was she sick or gone a - way?" When a

A
asked the oth - er chil - dren, "Was she sick or gone a - way?" When a

T
asked the oth - er chil - dren, "Was she sick or gone a - way?" When a

B
asked the oth - er chil - dren, "Was she sick or gone a - way?" When a



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S wee one blushed and stam - mered, "Nei - ther sick nor an - y where,

A wee one blushed and stam - mered, "Nei - ther sick nor an - y where,

T wee one blushed and stam - mered, "Nei - ther sick nor an - y where,

B wee one blushed and stam - mered, "Nei - ther sick nor an - y where,

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S On - ly her Moth - er keeps her home, she has no dress to wear," —

A On - ly her Moth - er keeps her home, she has no dress to wear,"

T On - ly her Moth - er keeps her home, she has no dress to wear,"

B On - ly her Moth - er keeps her home, she has no dress to wear,"

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S "On - ly her Moth - er keeps her home, she has no dress to wear."

A "On - ly her Moth - er keeps her home, she has no dress to wear."

T "On - ly her Moth - er keeps her home, she has no dress to wear."

B "On - ly her Moth - er keeps her home, she has no dress to wear."

The New Dress

S Well, if sweet lit - tle Ma - bel's moth - er is so ver - y poor, How

A Well, if sweet lit - tle Ma - bel's moth - er is so ver - y poor, How

T Well, if sweet lit - tle Ma - bel's moth - er is so ver - y poor, How

B Well, if sweet lit - tle Ma - bel's moth - er is so ver - y poor, How

25 S man - y of these chil - dren now will give a dime or more To__

A man - y of these chil - dren now will give a dime or more To

T man - y of these chil - dren now will give a dime or more To__

B man - y of these chil - dren now will give a dime or more To

29 S buy an - oth - er school dress so that Ma - bel shall not stay,

A buy an - oth - er school dress so that Ma - bel shall not stay,

T buy an - oth - er school dress so that Ma - bel shall not stay,

B buy an - oth - er school dress so that Ma - bel shall not stay,

The New Dress

33

S Need - ing the prop - er cloth - ing from her school an - oth - er day? —

A Need - ing the prop - er cloth - ing from her school an - oth - er day?

T Need - ing the prop - er cloth - ing from her school an - oth - er day?

B Need - ing the prop - er cloth - ing from her school an - oth - er day?

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S Need - ing the prop - er cloth - ing from her school an - oth - er day?

A Need - ing the prop - er cloth - ing from her school an - oth - er day?

T Need - ing the prop - er cloth - ing from her school an - oth - er day?

B Need - ing the prop - er cloth - ing from her school an - oth - er day?

S “I will,” cried man - y lit - tle ones, “and I,” cried man - y more, “We’ll

A “I will,” cried man - y lit - tle ones, “and I,” cried man - y more, “We’ll

T “I will,” cried man - y lit - tle ones, “and I,” cried man - y more, “We’ll

B “I will,” cried man - y lit - tle ones, “and I,” cried man - y more, “We’ll

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45

S soft - ly go some eve - ning dark and hang it on her door, She will

A soft - ly go some eve - ning dark and hang it on her door, She will

T soft - ly go some eve - ning dark and hang it on her door, She will

B soft - ly go some eve - ning dark and hang it on her door, She will

49

S nev - er know who hung it, but will rath - er think, I guess,

A nev - er know who hung it, but will rath - er think, I guess,

T nev - er know who hung it, but will rath - er think, I guess,

B nev - er know who hung it, but will rath - er think, I guess,

53

S God in His pi - ty for His child has given her this new dress." —

A God in His pi - ty for His child has given her this new dress."

T God in His pi - ty for His child has given her this new dress."

B God in His pi - ty for His child has given her this new dress."

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57

S "God in His pit - y for His child has given her this new dress."

A "God in His pit - y for His child has given her this new dress."

T "God in His pit - y for His child has given her this new dress."

B "God in His pit - y for His child has given her this new dress."

S The plan at once de - cid - ed, then, to stud - y as be - fore, The

A The plan at once de - cid - ed, then, to stud - y as be - fore, The

T 8 The plan at once de - cid - ed, then, to stud - y as be - fore, The

B The plan at once de - cid - ed, then, to stud - y as be - fore, The

65

S dress was quick - ly pur - chased and was hung on Ma - bel's door, And

A dress was quick - ly pur - chased and was hung on Ma - bel's door, And

T 8 dress was quick - ly pur - chased and was hung on Ma - bel's door, And

B dress was quick - ly pur - chased and was hung on Ma - bel's door, And

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S ev - 'ry eye was bright with joy, and ev - 'ry heart was gay

A ev - 'ry eye was bright with joy, and ev - 'ry heart was gay

T ev - 'ry eye was bright with joy, and ev - 'ry heart was gay

B ev - 'ry eye was bright with joy, and ev - 'ry heart was gay

73

S When lit - tle Ma - bel smil - ing came in her new dress next day, —

A When lit - tle Ma - bel smil - ing came in her new dress next day,

T When lit - tle Ma - bel smil - ing came in her new dress next day,

B When lit - tle Ma - bel smil - ing came in her new dress next day,

77

S When lit - tle Ma - bel smil - ing came in her new dress next day.

A When lit - tle Ma - bel smil - ing came in her new dress next day.

T When lit - tle Ma - bel smil - ing came in her new dress next day.

B When lit - tle Ma - bel smil - ing came in her new dress next day.

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