



Opus 119
No. 5

The Inkbottle

Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924)

The contents of an inkbottle

WELL of blackness, all defiling,
Full of flattery and reviling,
Ah, what mischief hast thou wrought
Out of what was airy thought,
What beginnings and what ends,
Making and dividing friends!

Colours of the rainbow lie
In thy tint of ebony;
Many a fancy have I found
Bright upon that sombre ground;
Cupid plays along the edge,
Skimming o'er it like a midge;
Niobe in turn appears,
Thinning it with crystal tears.

False abuse and falser praise,
Falsest lays and roundelays!
One thing, one alone, I think,
Never yet was found in ink; —
Truth lies not, the truth to tell,
At the bottom of this well!

Mary Elizabeth Coleridge (1861-1907)

The Inkbottle

C. V. Stanford

Allegro ♩ = 116

S WELL _____ of black-ness, all de-fil - ing, Full of flat-ter - y and re - vil - ing, Ah, what

A WELL _____ of black-ness, all de-fil - ing, Full of flat-ter - y and re - vil - ing, Ah, what

T WELL _____ of black-ness, all de-fil - ing, Full of flat-ter - y and re - vil - ing, Ah, what

B WELL _____ of black-ness, all de-fil - ing, Full of flat-ter - y and re - vil - ing, Ah, what

S mis - chief hast thou wrought Out of what was air - y thought, What be - gin - nings What be -

A mis - chief hast thou wrought Out of what was air - y thought, What be - gin - nings What be -

T mis - chief hast thou wrought Out of what was air - y thought, What be - gin - nings What be -

B mis - chief hast thou wrought Out of what was air - y thought, _____ and what ends, _____



7

S gin - nings Mak - ing and di - vid - - - ing *f*

A gin - nings Mak - ing and di - vid - - - ing *f*

T gin - nings Mak - ing and di - vid - - - ing *f*

B — and what ends, Mak - ing and di - vid - - - ing *f*

10

S friends! Col - ours of the rain - bow lie In thy *p*

A friends! Col - ours of the rain - bow lie In thy *p*

T friends! Col - ours of the rain - bow lie In thy *p*

B friends! Col - ours of the rain - bow lie In thy *p*

13

S tint of eb - o - ny; Ma - ny a fan - cy

A tint of eb - o - ny; Ma - ny a fan - cy

T tint of eb - o - ny; Ma - ny a fan - cy

B tint of eb - o - ny; Ma - ny a fan - cy

15

S have I found *f* Bright up - on that som - bre ground;

A have I found *f* Bright up - on that som - bre ground;

T have I found *f* Bright up - on that som - bre ground;—

B have I found *f* Bright up - on that som - bre ground;

18 *leggiero*

S Cu - pid plays a - long the edge,

A Cu - pid plays a - long the edge,

T Cu - pid plays a - long the edge,—

B Cu - pid plays a - long the edge,

20

S Skim - ming o'er it like a midge;

A Skim - ming o'er it like a midge;

T Skim - ming o'er it like a midge;

B Skim - ming o'er it like a midge;

22

S *mp* Ni - o - be in turn ap - pears,

A *mp* Ni - o - be in turn ap - pears,

T *mp* Ni - o - be in turn ap - pears,

B *mp* Ni - o - be in turn ap - pears,

24

S *pp* Thin - ning it with crys - - - tal tears.

A *pp* Thin - ning it with crys - - - tal tears.

T *pp* Thin - ning it with crys - - - tal tears.

B *pp* Thin - ning it with crys - - - tal tears.

27

S *f* False a - buse and fals - er praise, Fals - est

A *f* False a - buse and fals - er praise, Fals - est

T *f* False a - buse and fals - er praise, Fals - est

B *f* False a - buse and fals - er praise, Fals - est

29 *cresc.* *ff*

S lays and round - e - lays! — One thing, one a - lone, I think, Nev - er

A *cresc.* *ff*

A lays and round - e - lays! One thing, one a - lone, I think, Nev - er

T *cresc.* *ff*

T lays and round - e - lays! — One thing, one a - lone, I think, Nev - er

B *cresc.* *ff*

B lays and round - e - lays! One thing, one a - lone, I think, Nev - er

31 *mf* *cresc.*

S yet was found in ink;— Truth lies not, — the truth to

A *mf* *cresc.*

A yet was found in ink;— Truth lies not, — the truth to

T *mf* *cresc.*

T yet was found in ink;— Truth lies not, — the truth to

B *mf* *cresc.*

B yet was found in ink;— Truth lies not, — the truth to

35 *f* *p*

S tell, — At the bot - tom — of this well!

A *f* *p*

A tell, — At the bot - tom — of this well!

T *f* *p*

T tell, — At the bot - tom — of this well!

B *f* *p*

B tell, — At the bot - tom — of this well!

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