



First Violet of Spring

R. S. Taylor
(1838-1918)

Robert Stewart Taylor (1838-1918) was born near Frankfort, Ohio, the son of Presbyterian minister and missionary Isaac Newton Taylor. Isaac was an educator and founded of Liber College near Portland, Indiana. Robert was educated privately by his father and at Liber College. He studied law and moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, as a law clerk. He was admitted to the bar and became a lawyer. In his successful career, he was appointed the first prosecuting attorney of Allen County, appointed a judge of the court of common pleas, and was elected to the Indiana legislature. He declined nomination to run for Congress, but succeeded Benjamin Harrison on the Mississippi Commission; also serving on the Monetary Commission. He ran for U. S. Senate and was a charter member of the American Bar Association. He was known as one of the most expert patent attorneys in the nation. His most significant case established the right of all companies to manufacture electric lamps. He took great interest in literature and music. He studied music at a musical convention at Geneseo, New York, and his song "O, Wrap the Flag Around Me, Boys" was played by a band at Lincoln's funeral. He claimed to have written more songs than any other man in the country other than Stephen Foster. He died in Fort Wayne.

First Violet of Spring

R. S. Taylor

Cantabile

S
Sad and pen - sive I was stray - ing Un - der - neath the bare brown

A
Sad and pen - sive I was stray - ing Un - der - neath the bare brown

T
Sad and pen - sive I was stray - ing Un - der - neath the bare brown

B
Sad and pen - sive I was stray - ing Un - der - neath the bare brown

4
S
trees; — O'er the ground went i - dly play - ing, Air - y feet of A - pril

A
trees; — O'er the ground went i - dly play - ing, Air - y feet of A - pril

T
trees; — O'er the ground went i - dly play - ing, Air - y feet of A - pril

B
trees; — O'er the ground went i - dly play - ing, Air - y feet of A - pril



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First Violet of Spring

8

S breeze. ___ 'Neath the leaves their care - less sweep - ing Brought to view some wee blue

A breeze. ___ 'Neath the leaves their care - less sweep - ing Brought to view some wee blue

T breeze. ___ 'Neath the leaves their care - less sweep - ing Brought to view some wee blue

B breeze. ___ 'Neath the leaves their care - less sweep - ing Brought to view some wee blue

12

S thing— Lo! a Vi - o - let was peep - ing— First blue Vi - o - let ___ of Spring. ___

A thing— Lo! a Vi - o - let was peep - ing— First blue Vi - o - let ___ of Spring. ___

T thing— Lo! a Vi - o - let was peep - ing— First blue Vi - o - let ___ of Spring. ___

B thing— Lo! a Vi - o - let was peep - ing— First blue Vi - o - let ___ of Spring. ___

S All ___ its com - rades yet ___ lay sleep - ing, Wait - ing for ___ the sun and

A All ___ its com - rades yet lay sleep - ing, Wait - ing for the sun and

T All ___ its com - rades yet ___ lay sleep - ing, Wait - ing for the sun and

B All its com - rades yet lay sleep - ing, Wait - ing for the sun and

First Violet of Spring

20

S rain; _____ This a - lone its watch was keep - ing— Brav - est flower of al_____ the

A rain; _____ This a - lone its watch was keep - ing— Brav - est flower of al_____ the

T rain; _____ This a - lone its watch was keep - ing— Brav - est flower of al_____ the

B rain; _____ This a - lone its watch was keep - ing— Brav - est flower of al_____ the

24

S train: _____ First to hear the wild bee's hum - ming— First to hear the Ro - bin

A train: _____ First to hear the wild bee's hum - ming— First to hear the Ro - bin

T train: _____ First to hear the wild bee's hum - ming— First to hear the Ro - bin

B train: _____ First to hear the wild bee's hum - ming— First to hear the Ro - bin

28

S sing— First to tell of Spring's glad com - ing— First sweet Vi - o - let_____ of Spring.

A sing— First to tell of Spring's glad com - ing— First sweet Vi - o - let_____ of Spring.

T sing— First to tell of Spring's glad com - ing— First sweet Vi - o - let_____ of Spring.

B sing— First to tell of Spring's glad com - ing— First sweet Vi - o - let_____ of Spring.

First Violet of Spring

S 'Twas by hap - py chance I found thee, Sly - ly hid - from hu - man

A 'Twas by hap - py chance I found thee, Sly - ly hid from hu - man

T 'Twas by hap - py chance I found thee, Sly - ly hid from hu - man

B 'Twas by hap - py chance I found thee, Sly - ly hid from hu - man

36
S eye; Peep - ing through the brown leaves round thee, Like a bit of bro - ken

A eye; Peep - ing through the brown leaves round thee, Like a bit of bro - ken

T eye; Peep - ing through the brown leaves round thee, Like a bit of bro - ken

B eye; Peep - ing through the brown leaves round thee, Like a bit of bro - ken

40
S sky. But I know where shines a rar - er, Deep - er blue than you can

A sky. But I know where shines a rar - er, Deep - er blue than you can

T sky. But I know where shines a rar - er, Deep - er blue than you can

B sky. But I know where shines a rar - er, Deep - er blue than you can

First Violet of Spring

44

S
bring; On her brow you'll bloom the fair - er, Love - ly Vi - o - let of Spring.

A
bring; On her brow you'll bloom the fair - er, Love - ly Vi - o - let of Spring.

T
bring; On her brow you'll bloom the fair - er, Love - ly Vi - o - let of Spring.

B
bring; On her brow you'll bloom the fair - er, Love - ly Vi - o - let of Spring.

Root & Cady
(1869)

Sad and pensive I was straying
Underneath the bare brown trees;
O'er the ground went idly playing,
Airy feet of April breeze.
'Neath the leaves their careless sweeping
Brought to view some wee blue thing—
Lo! a Violet was peeping—
First blue Violet of Spring.

All its comrades yet lay sleeping,
Waiting for the sun and rain;
This alone its watch was keeping—
Bravest flower of al the train:
First to hear the wild bee's humming—
First to hear the Robin sing—
First to tell of Spring's glad coming—
First sweet Violet of Spring.

'Twas by happy chance I found thee,
Slyly hid from human eye;
Peeping through the brown leaves round thee,
Like a bit of broken sky.
But I know where shines a rarer,
Deeper blue than you can bring;
On her brow you'll bloom the fairer,
Lovely Violet of Spring.

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