

Female Convict to Her Infant

Thomas Dale, 1819

12 11.12 11. or 12.12.12.12.

Transcribed from *Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony*, 1825.

E minor

Robert Boyd, 1822

5

1. { O sleep not my babe, for the morn of to-mor-row Shall soothe me to slumber more tranquil than thine; The dark grave shall shield me from shame and from sorrow. Though the deed and the doom of the guilty are mine. } Not long shall the arm of af-fec-tion en-

2. { And yet it doth grieve me to wake thee, my dearest. The pangs of thy de-so-late mother to see; Thou wilt weep when the clank of my cold chains thou hearest; And none but the guilty should weep o-ver me. } And yet I must wake thee, and while thou art

3. { A-las, my sweet babe, with what pride I had pressed thee To the bosom that now throbs with terror and shame. If the pure tie of virtue's affection had blessed thee, And hailed thee the heir of thy fa-ther's high name. } But now with remorse that a- vails not I

4. { And when the dark thought of my fate shall a-wa-ken The deep blush of shame on thy in-no-cent cheek. Then by all but God of the orphan for-sa-ken, A home and a father in vain thou wilt seek. } I know that the base world will seek to de-

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Tr. -fold thee; Not long shalt thou hang on thy mother's fond breast; And who with the eye of de-light shall be-hold thee, And watch thee and guard thee when I am at rest?

C. weeping, To calm thee I'll sti- fle my tears for a while. Thou smil'st in thy dreams while thus pla- cid-ly sleeping. And O how it wounds me to gaze on thy smile

T. mourn thee. For-sa-ken and friendless as soon thou wilt be. In a world, if they cannot betray, that will scorn thee. A- ven- ging the guilt of thy mo- ther on thee.

B. -ceive thee With falsehood like that which thy mother beguiled; De- ser- ted and helpless, with whom can I leave thee? O God of the fa- the- rless, pi- ty my child!

A folk hymn (Jackson 1953b, no. 42); similar to English folk songs of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Also in *Southern Harmony*, 1835,

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