



Poems of  
Charles Kingsley  
No. 4

# The Three Fishers

George A. Macfarren  
(1813-1887)

**Sir George Alexander Macfarren** (1813-1887) was born in London. From early youth, he suffered from poor health and weak eyesight. His eyesight continually deteriorated until he became totally blind in 1860. However, his blindness had little effect on his productivity. Macfarren began to study music when he was fourteen and, at sixteen, entered the Royal Academy of Music. Because of his eyesight, he abandoned performance and concentrated on composition. He later taught at the Academy, eventually becoming a principal. He was also appointed professor of music at Cambridge University in 1875. He was conductor at Covent Garden, London; founder the Handel Society; program note writer for the Philharmonic Society; and editor of *Handel and Purcell*. He wrote 18 operas, 13 oratorios and cantatas, 9 symphonies, and 162 songs. He was active as writer of part-songs, literature for the many amateur choirs appearing throughout the country. He was knighted in 1883 on the same day as Arthur Sullivan and George Grove. His brother Walter Macfarren (1826-1905) was a pianist, composer and professor of the Royal Academy.

**The Reverend Charles Kingsley** (1819-1875) was born at Holne Vicarage near Dartmoor, Devonshire. He was a parish priest and became one of the most prolific authors in Victorian England. He wrote poetry, novels, historical works, sermons, religious tracts, scientific treatises, and works of political, social, and literary criticism. He was a prominent social reformer, political activist, and held positions as Professor of Modern History at Cambridge, chaplain to Queen Victoria, the private tutor to the future Edward VII, and the canon of Westminster. He entered into social movements to helping the poor. He was committed to the Christian Socialist movement and sympathetic to the Chartist movement- a working-class movement for political reform in 19th century Great Britain. His writings often addressed the deplorable working and living conditions in England, the need for sanitation, the importance of science, the abolition of slavery, and the role of the artist in society.

Three fishers went sailing out into the West,  
Out into the West as the sun went down;  
Each thought on the woman who lov'd him the best;  
And the children stood watching them out of the town;  
For men must work, and women must weep,  
And there's little to earn, and many to keep,  
Though the harbour bar be moaning.

Three wives sat up in the light-house tower,  
And they trimm'd the lamps as the sun went down;  
They look'd at the squall, and they look'd at the shower,  
And the night rack came rolling up ragged and brown!  
But men must work, and women must weep,  
Though storms be sudden, and waters deep,  
And the harbour bar be moaning.

Three corpses lay out on the shining sands  
In the morning gleam as the tide went down,  
And the women are weeping and wringing their hands  
For those who will never come back to the town;  
For men must work, and women must weep,  
And the sooner it 's over, the sooner to sleep—  
And good-by to the bar and its moaning.

Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)

# The Three Fishers

G. A. Macfarren

Andante con moto ♩ = 100

S *mf* *cresc.* *f* *dim.*  
Three fish-ers went sail - ing out in - to the West,

A *mf* *cresc.* *f* *dim.*  
Three fish-ers went sail - ing out in - to the West, Out\_ in - to the West as the sun went

T *mf* *cresc.* *f* *dim.*  
Three fish-ers went sail - ing out in - to the West,

B *mf* *cresc.* *f* *dim.*  
Three fish-ers went sail - ing out in - to the West, Out\_ in - to the West as the sun went

5

S *p* *mf*  
— went down; Each thought on the wo - man who lov'd him the best; And the

A *p* *mf*  
down, went down; Each thought on the wo - man who lov'd him the best; And the

T *p* *mf*  
— went down; Each thought on the wo - man who lov'd him the best; And the

B *p* *mf*  
down, went down; Each thought on the wo - man who lov'd him the best; And the

# The Three Fishers

9

S chil - dren stood watch - ing them out of the town; *pp* Though the

A chil - dren stood watch - ing them out of the town; *pp* Though the

T chil - dren stood watch - ing them out of the town; *p* For

B chil - dren stood watch - ing them out of the town; *p* For

13

S har - - - - - bour bar be

A har - - - - - bour bar be

T 8 men must work, and wo - men must weep, And there's lit - tle to earn, and man - y to keep, Tho' the

B men must work, and wo - men must weep, And there's lit - tle to earn, and man - y to keep, Tho' the

17

S *cresc.* moan - - - - - ing, moan - - - - - ing,

A *cresc.* moan - - - - - ing, moan - - - - - ing,

T 8 har - bour bar be moan - ing, Tho' the har - bour bar be moan - ing, Tho' the

B *cresc.* har - bour bar be moan - ing, Tho' the har - bour bar be moan - ing, Tho' the

## The Three Fishers

21

S  
moan - - - - - ing, the har - bour\_ bar be\_\_

A  
moan - - - - - ing, the har - bour bar be

T  
har - bour bar be moan - ing, Tho' the har - bour\_ bar be

B  
har - bour bar be moan - ing, Tho' the har - bour\_ bar be

24

S  
moan - ing, tho' the har - bour\_ bar be\_\_ moan - ing.

A  
moan - ing, tho' the har - bour\_ bar be moan - ing.

T  
moan - - - - - ing, be moan - ing.

B  
moan - ing, Tho' the har - bour\_ bar be moan - ing.

28

S  
*mf* Three wives sat up in the light - house tow'r, *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

A  
*mf* Three wives sat up in the light - house tow'r, *cresc.* *f* *dim.* And they trimm'd the lamps as the sun went

T  
*mf* Three wives sat up in the light - house tow'r, *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

B  
*mf* Three wives sat up in the light - house tow'r, *cresc.* *f* *dim.* And they trimm'd the lamps as the sun went

# The Three Fishers

32

S *p* — went down; *mf* They look'd at the squall, and they look'd at the show'r, And the

A *p* down, went down; *mf* They look'd at the squall, and they look'd at the show'r, And the

T *p* — went down; *mf* They look'd at the squall, and they look'd at the show'r, And the

B *p* down, went down; *mf* They look'd at the squall, and they look'd at the show'r, And the

36

S night rack came roll-ing up rag - ged and brown! *pp* And the

A night rack came roll-ing up rag - ged and brown! *pp* And the

T night rack came roll-ing up rag - ged and brown! *p* But

B night rack came roll-ing up rag - ged and brown! *p* But

40

S har - - - - - bour bar be

A har - - - - - bour bar be

T men must work, and wo-men must weep, Tho' storms be sud-den, and wa - ters deep, And the

B men must work, and wo-men must weep, Tho' storms be sud-den, and wa - ters deep, And the

## The Three Fishers

44

S  
moan - - - - ing, moan - - - - ing, *cresc.*

A  
moan - - - - ing, moan - - - - ing, *cresc.*

T  
har - bour bar be moan - ing, And the har - bour bar be moan - ing, And the *cresc.*

B  
har - bour bar be moan - ing, And the har - bour bar be moan - ing, And the *cresc.*

48

S  
moan - - - - ing, the har - bour bar be *f*

A  
moan - - - - ing, the har - bour bar be *f*

T  
har - bour bar be moan - ing, And the har - bour bar be *f*

B  
har - bour bar be moan - ing, And the har - bour bar be *f*

51

S  
moan - ing, and the har - bour bar be moan - ing, *sf* *p*

A  
moan - ing, and the har - bour bar be moan - ing, *sf* *p*

T  
moan - - - - ing, be moan - ing. *sf* *p*

B  
moan - ing, And the har - bour bar be moan - ing. *sf* *p*



# The Three Fishers

55 *pp*

S Three cor-pses lay out on the shin - ing sands,

A Three cor-pses lay out on the shin - ing sands, In the morn - ing gleam as the tide went

T Three corps-es lay out on the shin - ing sands,

B Three corps-es lay out on the shin - ing sands, In the morn - ing gleam as the tide went

59 *p*

S — went down, And the wo - men are weep - ing and wring-ing their hands For

A down, went down, And the wo - men are weep - ing and wring-ing their hands For

T — went down, And the wo - men are weep - ing and wring-ing their hands For

B down, went down, And the wo - men are weep - ing and wring-ing their hands For

63 *cresc.* *p*

S those who will nev - er come back to the town, will nev - er come back to the

A *cresc.* *p* those who will nev - er come back to the town, will nev - er come back to the

T *cresc.* *p* those who will nev - er come back to the town, will nev - er come back to the

B *cresc.* *p* those who will nev - er come back to the town, will nev - er come back to the

## The Three Fishers

67

S town; Good - bye to the

A town; Good - bye to the

T town; For men must work, and wo-men must weep, And the

B town; For men must work, and wo-men must weep, And the

*pp*

*p*

71

S bar and its moan - - - - ing,

A bar and its moan - - - - ing,

T soon - er it's o - ver, the soon - er to sleep— And good-bye to the bar and its moan - ing, Good -

B soon - er it's o - ver, the soon - er to sleep— And good-bye to the bar and its moan - ing, Good -

75

S moan - - - - ing, moan - - - - ing, good

A moan - - - - ing, moan - - - - ing, good

T bye to the bar and its moan - ing, Good - bye to the bar and its moan - ing, Good -

B bye to the bar and its moan - ing, Good - bye to the bar and its moan - ing, Good -

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

# The Three Fishers

79

S  
bye\_ to the bar and its moan - - - ing, good - bye, good - bye,

A  
bye to the bar and its moan - - - ing, good - bye, good - bye,

T  
bye\_ to the bar and its moan - - - ing. Good - bye, good -

B  
bye\_ to the bar and its moan - - - ing. Good - bye, good -

83

S  
- good - bye, good - bye, good - bye, good -

A  
- good - bye, good - bye, good - bye, good -

T  
bye, good - bye, good - bye, good -

B  
bye, good - bye, good -

87

S  
bye, and its noan - ing, Good - bye.

A  
bye, and its noan - ing, Good - bye.

T  
bye to the bar and its moan - - - ing, Good - bye.

B  
bye, and its moan - - - ing, Good - bye.

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