



The California Gold-Hunter

**Wm. B. Bradbury
(1816-1868)**

William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868) was born in York, Maine, where his father was the leader of a church choir. He spent much time as a child studying music on his own. The family moved to Boston and he began organ lessons. He attended singing classes taught by Lowell Mason, was admitted to Mason's Bowdin Street church choir, and quickly became known as an organist. With Mason's help, he taught a singing school in Machias, Maine. He lived in St. Johns, New Brunswick, Canada, returned to Boston, then went to Brooklyn, New York City, as organist at the First Baptist Church. He became organist at the Baptist Tabernacle in NYC and began teaching singing classes. He went to London and Germany, where he studied harmony, composition, and vocal and instrumental music with prominent teachers of the time. Returning to New York, he devoted his time to teaching, conducting conventions, composing, and editing music books. With his brother, Edward G. Bradbury, he started the Bradbury Piano Company. He died in Montclair, New Jersey. He was the author and compiler of fifty-nine books and wrote many hymns and Sunday school songs. His church songs were models for many song writers that followed. In 1862, he wrote the music to the poem "Jesus Loves Me" and added the chorus: "Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus Loves me."

Come listen to me Yankee boys, a story I'll relate,
That happened in the valley of the California state.
'Twas far down in the bottom lands we hunters went so bold,
And worked like busy bees when we thought about the gold.

*O the gold, the gold! they say
'Tis brighter than the day;
And now 'tis mine,
I'm bound to shine
And drive dull care away!*

My creditors gave me a year to pay them what I owe,
I thanked them very kindly, and then leaned for Francisco;
And as I scraped the valleys deep where once the waters rolled,
I filled up all my pockets with the bright and shining gold.

By the steep banks of the river where we stoop and bend so low,
The flakes we find above the ground, the lumps are down below;
But far off is another spot, where, sometimes, we are told,
That when the tide is very low we find great heaps of gold!

Beneath a hot and scorching sun I've worked for many a day,
Quite happy that I've grown so rich, and soon was going away;
For there is one in Yankee-land I'm longing for to see,
I've got for her a heap of gold— she's got a heart for me.

Asahel Abbott (1805-1889)

The California Gold-Hunter

W. B. Bradbury

S *mf*
Come lis - ten to ___ me Yan - kee boys, a stor - y I'll ___ re -

A *p*
La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,

T *p*
La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, ___ la,

B *p*
La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,

S ⁶
late, That hap - pen'd in ___ the val - ley of the Cal - i - for - nia state. ___ 'Twas

A
la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, ___ 'Twas

T
la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, ___ 'Twas

B
la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, ___ 'Twas



The California Gold-Hunter

11

S far down in the bot - tom lands we hunt - ers went — so bold, And

A far down in the bot - tom lands we hunt - ers went — so bold, And

T far down in the bot - tom lands we hunt - ers went so bold, And

B far down in the bot - tom lands we hunt - ers went so bold, so bold, And

15

S worked like bus - y bees when we thought a - bout the gold, And

A worked like bus - y bees when we thought a - bout the gold, And worked, and

T worked like bus - y bees when we thought a - bout the gold, And worked, and

B worked like bus - y bees when we thought a - bout the gold, And worked, and

19

S worked like bus - y bees when we thought a - bout the gold. _____

A worked like bus - y bees when we thought a - bout the gold. _____

T worked like bus - y bees when we thought a - bout the gold. _____

B worked like bus - y bees when we thought a - bout the gold. _____

The California Gold-Hunter

CHORUS

23

S *mp* O the gold, the gold! they say 'Tis bright - er than the day; And *f*

A *pp* O the gold, the gold! they say 'Tis bright - er than the day; And *f*

T *pp* O the gold, the gold! they say 'Tis bright - er than the day; And *f*

B *pp* O the gold, the gold! they say 'Tis bright - er than the day; And *f*

27

S now 'tis mine, I'm bound to shine And drive dull care a - way!

A now 'tis mine, I'm bound to shine And drive dull care a - way!

T now 'tis mine, I'm bound to shine And drive dull care a - way!

B now 'tis mine, I'm bound to shine And drive dull care a - way!

31

S *pp* O the gold, the gold! they say 'Tis bright - er than the day; And *ff*

A *pp* O the gold, the gold! they say 'Tis bright - er than the day; And *ff*

T *pp* O the gold, the gold! they say 'Tis bright - er than the day; And *ff*

B *pp* O the gold, the gold! they say 'Tis bright - er than the day; And *ff*

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49

S
owe, I thanked them ver - y kind - ly, and then leaned for Fran - cis - co; And

A
la, And

T
la, And

B
la, And

54

S
as I scraped the val - leys deep where once the wa - ters rolled, I

A
as I scraped the val - leys deep where once the wa - ters rolled, I

T
as I scraped the val - leys deep where once the wa - ters rolled, I

B
as I scraped the val - leys deep where once the wa - ters, wa - ters rolled, I

58

S
filled up all my pock - ets with the bright and shin - ing gold, I

A
filled up all my pock - ets with the bright and shin - ing, shin - ing gold, I

T
filled up all my pock - ets with the bright and shin - ing, shin - ing gold, I

B
filled up all my pock - ets with the bright and shin - ing, shin - ing gold, I

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76

S far off is an - oth - er spot, where, some - times, we — are told, That

A far off is an - oth - er spot, where, some - times, we — are told, That

T far off is an - oth - er spot, where, some - times, we are told, That

B far off is an - oth - er spot, where, some - times, we are told, are told, That

80

S when the tide is ver - y low we find great heaps of gold, That

A when the tide is ver - y low we find great heaps of gold, of gold, That

T when the tide is ver - y low we find great heaps of gold, of gold, That

B when the tide is ver - y low we find great heaps of gold, of gold, That

84

S when the tide is ver - y low we find great heaps of gold! —

A when the tide is ver - y low we find great heaps of gold! —

T when the tide is ver - y low we find great heaps of gold! —

B when the tide is ver - y low we find great heaps of gold! —

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102

S
got for her a heap of gold— she's got a heart for me, I've

A
got for her a heap of gold— she's got a heart for me, for me, I've

T
got for her a heap of gold— she's got a heart for me, for me, I've

B
got for her a heap of gold— she's got a heart for me, for me, I've

106

S
got for her a heap of gold— she's got a heart for me. _____

A
got for her a heap of gold— she's got a heart for me. _____

T
got for her a heap of gold— she's got a heart for me. _____

B
got for her a heap of gold— she's got a heart for me. _____

Newman & Ivison
(1852)

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