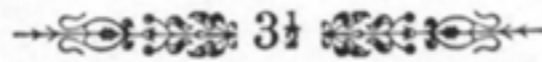


**THE HAPPY  
CONTRABAND**



As Composed and Sung at the  
ACADEMY OF MUSIC, NEW ORLEANS,  
BY  
**BILLY EMERSON,**  
THE POPULAR ETHIOPIAN COMEDIAN.



NEW ORLEANS:  
Published by **BLACKMAR & CO.,** 167 Canal Street.

Louisville:  
D. P. FAULDS.

Memphis:  
BLELOCK & CO.

Augusta:  
BLACKMAR & BRO'

# THE HAPPY CONTRABAND

EMERSON.

Piano.

The first system of piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, featuring a rhythmic melody of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff is in bass clef, providing a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

The second system of piano accompaniment continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system, maintaining the same rhythmic and harmonic structure.

The third system features a vocal line on a single staff in treble clef and piano accompaniment on two staves. The vocal line begins with a rest for four measures, then enters with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

1. I'm a hap - py con - tra -  
 2. Be - - fore this war broke

The fourth system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "band, late - ly come from Old Vir - gin - ny, For Mas - ter there I used to dig and out, I had al - ways peace and plen - ty, I had nothing for to trou - ble my poor". The piano accompaniment provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes.

hoe, But as "Secesh" he was rated, And his things was con\_fis-ca\_ted, And I  
head, But now I feel quite old, Though my age is on\_ly twen\_ty, Oh

don't know where the deb\_il for to go; I haven't got no clothes, My  
Lord, I of\_ten wish that I was dead; But it's no use to grieve, I'd

feet are al\_most froze, Cold win\_ter, you know, is com\_ing on, But I  
just as soon live, And that you can see at a glance, So

nev\_er died yet, So I'll just get up and "git", I'll sing and dance to  
keep you eye on me, And I'll soon let you see How the poor col\_lord

keep my-self warm, For I tell you I'm a Hap-py Con-tra-band.  
folks can sing and dance, For I tell &c

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment with treble and bass staves. The second system continues the piano accompaniment. The third system concludes the piano accompaniment with a final cadence.

3.

I know a little gal way down in Old Virginny,  
And I love her dearly as I love my life,  
She squints with both her eyes and she's got a piccaninny  
And I'spect some day to make that gal my wife,  
When this cruel war is over, O wont we live in clover,  
To think of it makes my heart feel bigger,  
Then away with 'mancipation, give me back the old plantation,  
'Tis the best place in the world for the nigger,  
That's the idea of the Happy Contraband.

4.

I have heard that Horace Greely lets his tongue go pretty freely  
Says he'd like to free the niggers everywhere,  
But such men they ought to check, put a rope around his neck  
And swing him up to dance upon the air;  
Such silly "white trash" should all be sent to smash  
For lying so about emancipation,  
For I tell you white folks, the poor black mokes  
Are better off down on the old plantation,  
That's the idea of the Happy Contraband.