

The Way of the World

Words Henry Lawson 1896

Tune David Johnson 2000

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The first staff has a common time signature. Above the first staff are the chords: Bm, A, Bm, A, D, F#m, Bm. The second staff has the same chord sequence above it. The third staff has the chords: G, D, G, D, G, D, A7. The fourth staff has the chords: Bm, A, Bm, A, Bm, A, Bm.

When fairer faces turn from me and gayer friends grow cold,
And I have lost through poverty the friendship bought with gold;
When I have served the selfish turn of some all-wordly few,
And Folly's lamps have ceased to burn, then I'll come back to you.

When my admirers find I'm not the rising star they thought,
And praise or blame is all forgot my early promise brought;
When brighter rivals lead a host where once I led a few,
And kinder times reward their boast, then I'll come back to you.

You loved me, not for what I had or what I might have been.
You saw the good, but not the bad, was kind for that between.
I know that you'll forgive again - that you will judge me true:
I'll be too tired to explain when I come back to you.