

The New York Ledger
XIV:25:3 Aug 28, 1858

"CLAUDE MELNOTTE."+

Inscribed to Col. _____

BY SALLIE M. BRYAN.

Oh, I had loved him for the glorious gleams
Of poetry that from his lip would break,
The fairy palace that he built in dreams
For the sweet shores of Como's lonely lake;
And those wild tempests of the heart whose flame
His young impassioned breast so fiercely burned—
Yet when I heard the romance of his name
Upon *thy* voice, to love him *more* I learned.

Softly, my friend, I've heard his radiant words
Fall from thy lip at twilight's haunted hour,
And their sweet spell has hushed my bosom's chords
Into the silence of a dream whose power
Will linger with my spirit evermore.
Ay, evermore—on earth it cannot flee,
And I will pray that to the angel-shore
That wild'ring music may ascend with me.

My *almost brother*, though within thine eye
The darkness grows half mournful, and thy brow
Is gathering shadows—in the years gone by
Thou couldst not have entranced me more than now
And when I hear thy soft-attuned guitar
And softer voice in star-light cadence blend,
I send a tone of murmured joy afar
To thank the angels that thou art *my friend*.

+ "Claude Melnotte" is the name of the romantic protagonist of *Lady of Lyons; or Love and Pride*, a play by Edward Bulwer-Lytton (1838).