

LORENA

1857 fiancée ended their engagement

lyrics-Rev. Henry De Lafayette Webster of Zanesville, OH

music-Joseph Philbrick Webster rec. John Hartford

Oh, the years creep slowly by, Lorena
The snow is on the ground again
The sun's low down the sky, Lorena
The frost gleams where the flow'rs have been

*But the heart beats on as warmly now
As when the summer days were nigh
Oh, the sun can never dip so low
A-down affection's cloudless sky*

A hundred months have passed, Lorena
Since last I held that hand in mine
And felt the pulse beat fast, Lorena
Though mine beat faster far than thine

*A hundred months, 'twas flowery May
When up the hilly slope we climbed
To watch the dying of the day
And hear the distant church bells chime*

We loved each other then, Lorena
Far more than we ever dared to tell
And what we might have been, Lorena
Had but our loving prospered well

*But then, 'tis past, the years are gone
I'll not call up their shadowy forms
I'll say to them, "Lost years, sleep on
Sleep on! nor heed life's pelting storms*

key of G GGCCDDGG

orig. E GGCCDDGG

Em Em B7 B7 B7 B7 Em D

The story of that past, Lorena
Alas! I care not to repeat
The hopes that could not last, Lorena
They lived, but only lived to cheat

*I would not cause even one regret
To rankle in your bosom now
For if we try we may forget
Were words of thine long years ago*

Yes these were words of thine, Lorena
They burn within my memory yet
They touched some tender chords, Lorena
Which thrill and tremble with regret

*'Twas not thy woman's heart that spoke
Thy heart was always true to me
A duty, stern and pressing, broke
The tie which linked my soul with thee*

It matters little now, Lorena
The past is in the eternal past
Our heads will soon lie low, Lorena
Life's tide is ebbing out so fast

*There is a future! Oh thank God
Of life this is so small a part
'Tis dust to dust beneath the sod
But there, up there, 'tis heart to heart*