I am a Boy

I am a boy though twenty years
Have brought alternate smiles & tears
Have left that joy in heart with sorrow
Or rankling care
On Manhood's threshold it appears
I am still a boy.

But diminutive confess
It brings no sorrow to my breast
To know that life doth not arrest
My care destroy
My joy is mirth. Oh it is blessed
To be a boy

The sweet delight I have obtained
The merry laugh has never restrained
But my Boy Spirit oft has gained
A sweet employ
In tracing [illegible] remained
My heart a boy

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An ancient Roman was found
Astride a broomstick capering round
While urchin bands made all resound
With loud acclaim
He was hailed as a boy renowned
Of classic fame.

Another, man of wondrous power
Was wont to pass a leisure hour
On local mead, or shady bower
In frolic game
Would know him to repeat the name
Lord Franklin's

And one of Genius' gifted ones
The boast of England's fairest sons
Whose Genius never dons
The garb of age
And that "Dance Wisdom" ever shuns
The hearing sage.

For boy, [illegible] tears, sir plan
[illegible] with grief and care
[illegible] never glow
[illegible] allow
[illegible] forever know
Some a boy

[illegible] fame
[illegible] "I'll not remain
[illegible] instead"
A boy again. Ex

I'll now please, and then do with
it as pleases thee. The thought is truth
me that I would rejoice upon
her expression this afternoon and
I have done so.

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I will copy for you those lines
which I made yesterday while working
in trying to repeat the other day.
The tear some unbidden will brought
Deep yet - I know not - I cannot tell why.
No sorrowing thought should these letters awake
Yet it seems that my heart with its woden
would break.

The fair hand since I had traced them
And worship sanctified at Love's shrine
And tis not from grief that the tear
But [illegible]
[illegible]

I have been written [illegible] send to
Rest the eyes, the enchanting eyes
woman of the Lake [illegible] Lorge
and half a dozen other [illegible],
[illegible] upon the [illegible]
[illegible] of letters from [illegible]
[illegible]

H.

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