

# The Man Behind The Plow

Thomas Payne Westendorf,  
1848-1923  
arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen

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I'm not so much at sing-ing as those

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high fa - lu - ten chaps, My voice it may be husk-y and a

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lit - tle loud per - haps. For I have been a - plow-ing with a

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la - zy team, you see. They keep me pret - ty bus - y with my

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get - up whoa, haw, gee. But if you pay at - ten - tion, I have

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just a word to say, A - bout a great mis - take you make and

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do it ev - 'ry day, In deal - ing out your prais - es, and I

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want to tell you now, The great - est of the great men is the

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nam be - hind the plow. 'Tis

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ver - y nice to go to school to learn to read and write, 'Tis

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nic - er still to dress up fine, and sport a - round at night, Your

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mus - ic, paint - ing, po - et - ry may all be hard to beat, But

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tell me what you're going to do for some - thing good to eat. You

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say my boots are mud - dy and my cloth - ing is too coarse. I

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make a good com - pan - ion for the ox - en or the horse. My

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face is red, my hand is hard, 'Tis true, I will allow, But

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don't you be too quick to spurn the man behind the plow.

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I like your great inventions, and I'm

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glad you're getting smart, I like to hear your music for it

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kind-a stirs my heart. But 'twill never touch the stomach of a

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re - al hun - gry man. And so I call at - ten - tion to a

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kind a thing I can. Then boys don't be too anx - ious for to

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leave that good old farm. Your fath - er's strength is fail - ing, soon he'll

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need your youth - ful arm. If you're hon - est in your pur - pose at your

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feet the world must bow, For the great - est of the great men is the

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man be-hind the plow. You

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talk a-bout your learn-ed men, your wit and wis-dom rare. Your

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po-ets and your paint-ers, they get prais-es ev-'ry where. They are

113

well e-nough to make a show, but will you tell me how The

117

world could ev-er do with-out the man be-hind the plow.