

**GEORGE MOSES HORTON: CRAFTING VIRTUAL FREEDOM THROUGH POETRY**

STUDENT HANDOUT 2: ANALYZING "FOR THE FAIR MISS M. M. MCL[EAN]"

The following is an acrostic poem written by George Moses Horton for Mr. Torrance. Horton wrote the poem between 1853-1855 at the request of Mr. Torrance who wished to give the poem to the woman he loved, Ms. M. M. McLean. In 1997, this poem was published in *The Black Bard of North Carolina: George Moses Horton and his Poetry* by George Moses Horton and Joan R. Sherman.

**"For the Fair Ms. M. M. McL[ean]"**

<p>May this inspired acrostic prove A perfect token of my love Return thy torch allmost expired Yet find by whom thou art admired</p> <p>My soul of love would fly to thee Constrained thy winning form to see</p> <p>Like <b>pan</b> whose destiny was grief Exploring nature for relief And sure when thee my love has found <b>Nought</b> els[e] in life can heal the wound</p> <p>When on the constelations i cast my eyes afar Then i can tell My <b>bonny belle</b> The queen of every star</p> <p>When i look from the mountain Or nature's lofty tower Then i can tell My bonny belle The queen of every flower</p> <p>When gazing from the window On blooms both low and tall Then i can tell My charming belle The fairest one of all</p>	<p>pan: Greek god of shepherds and flocks; rural music; and the only god to die</p> <p>nought: nothing</p> <p>bonny belle: a beautiful woman</p>
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