

28 GERALDINE

When the summer, crowned with blossoms,
 Robes with beauty all the trees,
And, with perfumed breath and fragrant,
 Loads the idly-floating breeze,
Then, with cheerful steps and airy,
 O'er the fields with flowers upspringing,
Comes our pleasant household fairy,
 Fragrant blossoms round her flinging,
While the birds that haunt the tree-tops
 Pause to listen to her singing.
Ever cheerful, ever smiling,
 Is the gay, warm-hearted maiden;
And her sunny presence gladdens
 Hearts with deepest sorrow laden.
Very few there are, I ween,
Quite as Fair as Geraldine.

When the autumn, -- nut brown autumn, --
 With its wealth of golden sheaves,
Lends a new flush to the apples
 Peeping from the orchard leaves,
Forth unto the sunny harvest
 Rides she in the farmer's wain,
Who, with busy hand and tireless,
 Gathers in the golden grain;
And she cheers his pleasant labor
 With a gay, unstudied strain.
Ever cheerful, ever smiling,
 Is the gay, warm-hearted maiden;
And her sunny presence gladdens
 Hearts with deepest sorrow laden.
Ah! there can be none, I ween,
Quite so fair as Geraldine.

Sources:

Illustrated News, April 16, 1853.

Bertha's Christmas Vision, 1856.

Alger Street, 1964. (Title shortened to "The First Tree")