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1973

# O WOULD I WERE A FLY

As Sung by

## BILLY BIRCH.

OF

### Birch, Wambold, Backus & Bernards

## SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS

Words by

### JOHN F. POOLE ESQ.

ARRANGED BY

## C. F. SHATTUCK.



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# O, WOULD I WERE A FLY.

Words by JOHN F. POOLE.

Arr'd. by C. F. SHATTUCK.

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 2/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

The first system contains the vocal melody and piano accompaniment for the first two verses. The vocal line is written on a single staff, and the piano accompaniment is on two staves. The lyrics are as follows:

1. O, would I were a fly, To buzz a - bout all day, O  
 2. O if I were a fly A buzz - ing I would keep, And  
 3. O if I were a fly Id on a gin - glass light, Then

The second system contains the vocal melody and piano accompaniment for the final verse. The vocal line is written on a single staff, and the piano accompaniment is on two staves. The lyrics are as follows:

wouldn't I live high With - out a cent to pay; And  
 hunt un - til I'd find Some bum - mer chap a - sleep; So  
 I would sip a - way, And nev - er would get tight; Nor

in store windows I, Would bask it in the sun, And lick mo-lass-es  
*Jo-ly it would be Up-on his nose to light, Or drop in-to his*  
 fear to be ar-rested Or thro' the streets to reel, For a fly can sip his

candy, O wouldn't that be fun; I'd nev-er mind the taxes No  
*car And there I'd buzz and bite; And if a-way he'd drive me I*  
 toddy And ne'er a head-ache feel; O then how I would puzzle With no

mat-ter how they'd rise, For while there's stamps on ev'rything There's none upon the flies.  
*would come back a-gain, For flies are mighty lively, When plaguing sleepy men.*  
 fear of hu-man woes, And nev-er have a pimple, Or strawberry on my nose.

CHORUS.

5

O would I were a fly, To buzz a - bout all day, O  
 wouldn't I live high, With - out a cent to pay.

4.

O if I were a fly  
 From place to place I'd roam,  
 I'd have no rent to pay,  
 I'd have no care of home;  
 For unlike married men  
 Then I would laugh at fate,  
 And have no wife to scold me  
 If I should stop out late.  
 No falsehood I should try,  
 Or no excusive dodge,  
 By telling "Mrs Fly,"  
 That I was at the "Lodge."

5.

O if I were a fly  
 Some pretty girl I'd seek,  
 And just beneath her eye  
 I'd perch upon her cheek;  
 And I would linger there,  
 And fellers passing by,  
 Would all be sure to envy  
 The happy little fly.  
 If with a gal a feller  
 A game like that e'er tries,  
 She'd smack him—in the snoot,  
 Or else she'd scratch his eyes.

# **Scanning Target**

## **Edison Sheet Music**

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