The Excellency of Divine Musick:

OR A

SERMON

Preach'd at the Parish-Church of

St. Michael's Crooked Lane,

IN THE

City of LONDON,

On Thursday the Fourth Day of October:

Sir George Wheeler's Chapel,

SPITTLE-FIELDS,

On Monday the Fifth of November, in the Year of our LORD, 1733.

BEFORE

Several MEMBERS of fuch Societies who are Lovers of PSALMODY.

To which is added,

A Specimen of Easy, Grave Tunes, instead of those which are used in our Profane and Wanton Ballads.

By ARTHUR BEDFORD, M. A. Chaplain to the most noble John, Duke of Bedford, and to the Haberdasher's Hospital at Hoxton.

LONDON:

Printed by W. Pearson, and Sold by C. Rivington, at the Bible and Grown in St. Paul's Church-Yard; and by the Printer, over-against Wright's Coffee house, in Aldersgate-Street.



TO THE

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES

IN THE

Cities and Suburbs

O F

London and Westminster,

AND THE

Burrough of Southwark;

ASAN

Acknowledgment of the Zeal, which fome of their Members have expressed for the promoting the Glory of GOD by Divine Musick, is this Sermon dedicated, by

Their most bumble and

affectionate Servant,

A. Bedford.

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1 Cor. xiv. 15. latter Part.

I will Sing with the Spirit, and I will Sing with the Understanding also.



HE Apostle, having in the ten first Chapters of this Epistle repeated several Errors, which were of a private Nature between Man and Man, proceeds

in the eleventh Chapter to speak of others, which were more publick, and related to the Worship of God; as the Indecency of their Apparel at such a Time, and their irreverend Behaviour, when they received the Sacrament of the Lora's Supper. In the twelfth Chapter he speaks of those spiritual and extraordinary Gifts, which were conferred on the Apostles, and other primitive Christians at that Time, and which were more necessary for the Church at its first Plant-

Planting. And these were called the Gists of the Holy Ghost, of which the Speaking feveral Languages, which they had never learned, was accounted very confiderable. Thus when St. Peter preached to Cornelius and his Family, (a) They of the Circumcision, who came with him were assonished, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the Gift of the Holy Ghost; and this was known, because they heard them speak with Tongues, and magnify God. In the End of this Chapter he exhorts them, saying, (b) Covet earnestly the best gifts. And yet shew I unta you a more excellent way. This excellent Way is described in the next Chapter, by what we call Charity. The Word in the Greek is eyann, and more properly signifies Love, a true and fincere Love both of God and our Neighbour, as the first Principle of all our Actions. On this (c) hang all the Law and the Prophets, and this, as he faith in another Epistle, (d) Is the fulfilling of the Law. Of this he faith, (e) And tho' I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and have not this Love of God and Man in my Heart, it profiteth me nothing. To this he adds, that this Love never faileth. Charity may fail in this World, because we may not always have fit Objects for it, or especially

⁽a) Act. 10. 45, 46. (b) 1 Cor. 12. 31. (c) Matt. 22. 40. (d) Rom. 13. 8. (e) 1 Cor. 13. 3, 8.

e Gilio eaking never erable. rnelius cilion ecaule out the nown, ngues, Chapt earunta ellent er, by in the gnific of God iple of ıll the e faith ing of tho' I , and io of his he harity ay not

may not have it in our Power to relieve all who are so. In this Sense it will be at an End in the other World; because they, who shall be with us, will be unspeakably happy. and have no need of our Compassion; and as to those who are condemned to everlasting Punishments, it will not be in our Power to relieve them, neither would it be lawful, if it was in our Power. But then our Love to God and one another will increase, and be made perfect and compleat. Well then might he add at the End of the Chapter, (f) And now abideth Faith, Hope, Love, but the greatest of these is Love. Because Faith will be swallowed up in Vision, and Hope in Fruition; but Love will continue to all Eternity. In the Chapter, out of which I have taken the Text, he gives further Directions concerning the publick Offices in the Church, fuch as Preaching, Praying, and Singing, (g) that all should be performed in such a Language, which the People understood, that all things should be done decently and in order; and all things should be done for Edifying, for the Instruction of all in the Faith, and stirring them up to the Practise of their Duty. In his Directions for Praying and Preaching he is more large; but his Directions for Singing are chiefly contain'd in the Text. I

ecially

⁽f) 1 Cor. 13. 13. (g) 1 Cor. 14. 4. 86. 40, and 26.

will fing with the Spirit, and I will fing

with the understanding also.

From these Words we may learn two Particulars: First, That Singing in the publick Congregation is a Duty, which we owe to God. The Apostle hath given us his Example, who saith, I will Sing: And Secondly, The Manner how we must perform this Duty. I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

First, Singing in the publick Congregation is a Duty, which we owe to God. The Apostle hath given us his Example, who faith, I will fing. And he makes it to be of the same Nature, and as necessary as Prayer. Of Prayer, he faith, I will pray with the Spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: And of Singing, he saith, I will fing with the Spirit, and I will fing with the understanding also. By Prayer, we ask for Mercies to be received; and Singing is a very proper Method, whereby we may return our Thanks for fuch Mercies as we have received. that it is a Duty required of us, will appear from many Texts of Scripture, and also from the best Examples.

First, From many Texts of Scripture. In the Old Testament we need look no further than the Book of Psalms, where we are exhorted (h) to Sing praises unto the Lord,

⁽b) Pfal. 9. 11.

who dwelleth in Sion, and declare among the People his Doings. That (i) all the Saints of the Lord should Sing unto him, and give Thanks for a Remembrance of his Holiness. That (k) the Righteous should re-Joyce in the Lord, that they should Sing unto him a new Song, and sing Praises lustily unto him with a good Courage. That we (1) should sing unto God with the Voice of Melody. That we should (m) make a joyful Noise unto God, sing forth the Honour of his Name, make his Praise to be Glorious, and cause the Voice of his Praise to be heard. That (a) the Righteous should be glad and rejoyee before God, that they should be merry and joyful, that they should sing unto God, and fing Praises to his Name, magnify him that rideth on the Heavens, as it were upon un Horse, praise him in his Name, JAH, yea, and rejoyce before him. That we should (0) fing aloud unto God our Strength, and make a Joyful Noise unto the God of Jacob. That we should rejoyce in the Lord, and (p) give Thanks at the Remembrance of his Heliness; and accordingly, that we should (q) fing unto the Lord a new Song, that all the Earth should sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name, and be telling of his Salvation from Day to Day, and thus declare his

⁽i) Pfalm 30. 4 (k) Pfalm 33. 1, 3. (1) Pfalm 47. 1. (m) Pfalm 66. 1, 2, 8. (n) Pfalm 68. 3, 4. (o) Pfalm 81. 1, (p) Pfalm 30. 41 (q) Pfalm 96. 1, 2, 3, B Glory

Glory among the Heathen, and his Wonders among all the People. That we should (r) fing unto the Lord with Thanksgiving, and fing Praises upon the Harp unto our God. That we should (s) sing unto the Lord a new Song, and his Praise in the Congregation of the Saints. That Israel should rejoyce in him that made him, and that the Children of Zion should be joyful in their King, and fing Prases unto him with the Timbrel and Harp. And therefore I may more especially exhort you, who are here present, in the Words of the Psalmist, (t) O give Thanks unto the Lord, and call upon his Name, make known his Deeds among the People, fing unto him, fing Psalms unto him, and talk ye of all his wondrous Works. Rejoyce in his holy Name, let the Heart of them rejoyce, who feek the Lord. Seek the Lord and his Strength, feek his Face for evermore. (u) O give Thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious, and his Mercy endureth for ever. (x) Praise the Lord, praise ye the Name of the Lord, praise him, O ye Servants of the Lord, ye that stand in the House of the Lord, in the Courts of the House of our God. Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good, sing Praises unto his Name for it is pleasant. For I know that the Lord bath chosen Jacob for himself, and Israel for

⁽r) Pf. 147. 7. (s) Pf. 149. 1, 2, 3. (t) Pf. 105. 1, 2, 3, 4. (u) Pf. 106. 1, and 107. 1, and 128. 1, and 136. 1. (s) Pf. 135. 1, 2, 3, 4.

his own Possession. Or especially from the Words of those Psalms, which our Church hath chosen to be Portions of her daily Service. (y) 0 come, let us fing unto the Lord, let us heartily rejoice in the Strength of our Salvation; let us come before his Presence with Thanksgiving, and shew our selves glad in him with Psalms: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all Gods: (2) O be joyful in the Lord all ye Lands, serve the Lord with Gladness, and come before his Prefence with a Song. O go your way into his Gates with Thanksgiving, and into his Courts with Praise, be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name. (a) O sing unto the Lord a new Song, for he hath done marvellous Things. And shew your selves joyful in the Lord all ye Lands, sing, rejoyce, and give Thanks. In the New Testament, St. Paul gives us this Exhortation, (b) Let the Word of God dwell plenteously in you, in all Wisdom, teaching and exborting one another in Pfalms, and Hymns and spiritual Songs, singing with Grace in your Hearts unto the Lord. And what sever ye do in Word and Deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving Thanks unto God and the Father by him. And St. James is to the same Purpose, (c) Is any among you Afflicted? let him pray. Is any Merry? let him fing Psalms. So that the Texts of Scripture, which exhort to this Duty are many and undeniable.

⁽b) Coloff. 5, 16, 17 (c) James 5, 13. (a) Pf. 98. 1, 4.

B 2. Besides

Beside the Texts, the Examples are as many. (d) When the Children of I/rael had passed the Red Sea, and saw their Enemies dead on the Shore, Moses joyned with the whole Congregation in this Song, I will fing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the Horse and his Rider hath he thrown into the Sea. And (e) his Sister Miriam with all the Women repeated the same. When (f) God gave the Isralites Water at Beer-elim, they lung a Song, which is recorded in the Book of Numbers. And when all other Methods seemed inessectual to restrain the Israelites from Idolatry, (g) Moses composed a Song for their use, which was one of the last things that he did, and which he thought would be of special use to keep them sincere in the Worship of God. When (h) Deborah and Barak had conquer'd Jabin, King of Canaan, they fung Praise unto the Lord for the avenging of Israel. Hannab (i) did the same, at the Dedication of her Son Samuel to the Service of the Sanctuary. David was a Man intirely after God's own Heart, and he was called the (k) sweet Psalmist, or Singer of Israel, and he seems to have Divine Musick more at Heart, than any one else. Most of the Pfalms go under his Name, and it is certain that (1) several were composed by him,

⁽a) Expd. 15. 1. (a) Expd. 15. 20, 21. (f) Num. 21. 16, 17, 18. (g) Deut. 31. 19, 22, 30, and Chap. 32. (b) Judg. Chap. 5. (i) 1 Sam. 2. 1, to 11. (k) 2 Sam. 23. 1. (l) Con pure Pf. 2. 1, 2. with Ads 4. 25, 26. and Pf. 95. 7, 8. with Heb. 4. 7.

which have no Title at all. The Care, which he took to fettle and improve this noble Science at the Building of the Temple is unexpressible. The (m) settling of the Levites and Singers in their Order, the providing of Mufical Instruments of all forts for this Purposes. and giving them particular Psalms for their use, were thought such Matters, which more especially required his royal Care. He tells us the Method, when they carried the Ark in Procession, (n) The Singers went before, the Players on Instruments followed after, and among them were the Damsels playing with Timbrels. He encourageth himself, and declared his Resolution. (6) Praise the Lord, Q my Soul, while I live will I praise the Lord, yea, as long as I have any Being, I will fing Praises unto my God. And (p) I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God, while I have my Being; and so shall my Words please him, my Joy shall be in the Lord. When (q) Solomon brought up the Ark into the Temple, he set all the Singers in the Order, which David his Father had appointed, much like the Method, which hath been used ever fince in all Cathedrals, the Priests joyned in one Body with the Singers, and their Sons, or finging Boys, who were placed under them, being all arrayed in whire

Linnen,

⁽m) 1 Chron. 23. 6, 27, 28, 30. Chap. 25, throughout, and Chap. 15, and 16. (n) Pf. 68. 24, 25. (o) Pf. \$46. 1, 20. (p) Pf. 1c4. 33, 34. (q) 1 Kings 8. 6, 2 Chron. 5. 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 2 Chron. 7. 4, 5, 6, 7.

Linnen, and the Event is particularly described; It came to pass, as the Trumpeters and Singers were as one, to make one Sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lift up their Voice with the Trumpets, and Cymbals, and Instruments of Musick, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good, for his Mercy endureth for ever, that then the House was filled with the Cloud, and the Glory of the Lord appeared in a miraculous Manner to shew his Approbation. And (r) the Afcent, by which he went up into the House of the Lord, being one of the things, which the Queen of Sheba so much admired, plainly shewed, that it was his frequent Practice to be present at those Devotions. When he composed a whole Book to shew the great Love and Affection, which was between Christ and his Church, it was intitled (s) The Song of Songs, which is Solomons. the Prophet Isaiah described the calling of the Gentiles, he adds a joyful Thanksgiving, for such great, unexpected, and undeserved Eavours, in which are these Words, (t) The Lord Jehovah is my Strength and my Song. Sing unto the Lord, for be hath done excellent Things, this is known in all the Earth. And certainly, we who are Gentiles, and partake of those Bleslings, have the utmost Reason to practice the Duty, which he recommends

⁽r) 1 Kings 10. 5, and 2 Chron. 9, 4. (s) The Song of Sommon 1. 1. (r) Isaiab 12. 2. 5.

to us. And when he tells us the Judgments of God upon the Enemies of his Church, he adds (u) that in that Day another Song, which he also hath given us, should be sung in the Land of Judah. The (x) Jews at their Passover in their private Families were used to sing the 113th with the five following Psalms, which they called The great Hallelujah; and (y) at their solemn Feasts. the Priests and Levites sung the 120th and the 14th following Psalms, on the fifteen Steps of the Gate of Nicanor, or the beautiful Gate of the Temple. The (%) Prophet Habakkuk having set forth the Majesty of God, and a Confidence in him, with the most pathetick Expressions, dedicates (a) the whole To the chief Singer upon his stringed Instruments, which looks as if he had a Confort in his own Family. After the Return from the Captivity (b) when Exra had built the Temple, he set the Priests in their Divisions, and the Levites in their Courses for the Service of God, in the same manner as it was before. And (c) after Nehemials had fortified the City, they fought for the Levites out of all their Places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the Feast of the Dedication with Gladness, both with Thanksgiving and with Singing. When our bleffed Saviour

⁽u) Isaiab 26. 1. (x) Pesachin. per. 10. (y) Succab. per. 5. This was performed at the Feast of Tabernacles. (2) Chap. 3. (2) ver. 19. (b) Ezra 3. 10, 11, and Chap. 6. 16, to the End. (c) Neb. 12. 27, 28.

was upon the Earth, he (d) gave us an Exemple, that we should do as he bath done. And after the Administration of his last Supper, (e) he fung an Hymn with his Disciples, before he went forth unto the Mount of Olives. Among (f) the Corinthiam, St. Paul faith it was a Custom, that when they came together to the publick Worship, every one of them had a Pfalm; and tho! he blames their Abuse of such a noble Dury by an affected Singularity, yet he was forfar from laying the Duty itself aside, that he only directs that all Things should be done for Edification, and gives them his Example in the Text, that the Singing should be continued, as certain. ly as Praying, (g) Phuy, the Heathen, iq an Epittle to Trajan the Emperor, informs him, that the Christians in those Times of Persecution did usually rife before Day, and joyn together in finging an Hymn to Christ as When the Storms of Persecution were over, we soon hear of Cathedrals erected for the improving of Divine Musick, particularly at Nilan, where St. Ambrose the Bishop thereof composed that most excellent To Deum, which we still retain in our daily Ser-And Gregory Nazianzen composed several Jambick and other Poems, which feem deligned for a more private Use. There is no doubt, but the Heathens learned this

⁽d) John 13: 15. (e) Maub. 26. 30, and Mark 14. 26. (f) 1: Cor. 14. 26. (g) Lib. 10. Epift, 974

Method

Method from the Jews; and hence it was, that (h) Homer, the most ancient Greek Poet, who lived in the Time of the Judges, composed so many Hymns in praise of their false Gods. And the (i) Hymns of Orpheus plainly shew, that he had it from thence, because he expresly mentions Moses, and the Ten Commandments with Respect and Esteem. (k) Strada an Enemy to our Reformation tells us, that it was principally carried on in Holland, by finging of Psalms and Hymns; and others (1) say the same of England, France, and Germany. And the (m) Account of the poor distressed Prote-Stants, who came from Saltsbourg, doth evidently shew, that finging of Hymns is one of their greatest Comforts in their Banishment, many of which were composed at the first by Luther himself. So that finging of Psalms, Hymns, and other Parts of Divine Musick is a Duty, which we owe to God.

The Qualifications of this Duty are two, First, We must sing with the Spirit. Here St. Paul gives us his Example in the Text, and if he may be allowed to be the best Expositor of his own Words, he hath explained it in another Place, where he exhorts us to (n) teach and admonish one another in Psalms.

⁽h) Printed at the End of his Odysses. (i) As printed in the Book intituled Minores Poetæ. (k) De Bello Relgico.
(1) An Hsay on Psalmody. (m) See the Account printed by The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge. (n) Col. 3. 16.

Hymns, and Spiritual Songs, singing with Grace in our Hearts unto the Lord. That is. Wen uit fing with a true Spirit of Zeal and Devotion, and endeavour to be affected with what we fing, that it may influence us for the future in our Lives and Conversations. The Apostle saith, that he will sing with the Spirit, and he will pray with the Spirit; fo that the same Graces are necessary for the right Performance of one of these Duties, which are necessary for the other. If we pray with a careless Indifference, our Prayers may be an Abomination, and we provoke God to give a denial; and if we fing in the same Manner, it cannot be acceptable to him. True Grace in our Hearts is the Incense, in which God delights, and the tame Qualification when we fing, makes the belt Melody in his Ears. The Design of every Malter of Musick in his Composition is to move the Passions by Accomodating of Notes to Words; if the Words express Sorrow, Repentance or Humiliation, they are utually attended with long Notes, fost Movements, and most frequently in a flat Close or Key; If the Words express Joy, Praise, or Thanksgiving, they are usually attended with swifter Notes, lively Movements, and most frequently in a sharp Close or Key; and he is reckoned the greatest Artist, who can best affect the Passions. We find the esfect of this in the Theatrical Entertainments, and

and if our Hearts were but carried towards the Things of a better Life, as much as they are towards this, it would be impossible that it had not the same Effects in our more heavenly Enjoyments. Here are three Advantages at once to raile our Devotion, the Excellency of the Matter, the Genius of the Author, and the Art and Fancy of the Musical Composer; and therefore, as (o) Solomon observes, if we could withstand one of them, yet two might prevail; and therefore it is more strange, if fuch a Three-fold Cord should at last be eafily broken. Let us then fing Davia's Plalms with David's Heart, and make use of St. Paul's Direction, with the same Spirit which St. Paul had, and then shall we find by Experience the Excellency of this Heavenly Ordinance. I may well call it an Heavenly Ordinance, if thus perform'd; because it is the only Duty, that we know of, which the Saints and Angels now perform in Heaven. There Prayer ceases, because they have all which they can ask for; there Faith ceases, because it is swallowed up in Vision; and Hope, because it is swallowed up in Fruition; but there they relt not Day nor Night from finging perpetual Hallelujahs to God on high. St. John (p) tour

⁽o) Ecclef. 4. 12. (p) Rev. 4. 8. Rev. 5. 11. Rev. 5. 8, 2. Rev. 15. 2, 3. Rev. 19. 1, 2, 3, 4.

Times in the Revelations describes them as engaged herein. He faith, that they rest not Day nor Night from Saying, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, who was and is, and is to come; and thus they give Glory, and Honour, and Thanks to him, who fate on the Throne, and who liveth for ever and ever. That the Number of them was Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand, and Thoufands of Thousands, who sung a new Song in praise of the Lamb, who was slain, and had redeemed them to God by his Blood out of every Kindred and Tongue, and People and Nation, that they had the Harps of God in their Hands, and sung the Song of Moses and of the Lamb, and ascribed Sal-vation, and Honour and Power, and Glory unto the Lord their God; and certainly it is worth our while to confider, with what Humility, Zeal, Fervency, and Devotion they perform this Duty now in Heaven, and learn to do it in the same Manner, whilst we are upon the Earth. And if we have any innocent Pleasure here, which might draw our Thoughts thither, it must be this. Perhaps there is not a nearer resemblance in this World of the God, whom we worship, as he is an invisible Being, and consits of Three Perfons in one Substance, than the three Concords in one Sound, as they are joyned together in a Confort of four Parts; and

this might make some of the Heathens, who were destitute of Divine Revelation, fallely to imagine, that the Godhead was. nothing but Harmony itself. Here we may observe, how unsatisfactory all the Enjoy-ments of this World are. In our three Concords, one of them is always imperfect, and very often two of them are lo; but in Heaven there is a perfect Trinity, fuch as Ear hath not heard, neither can it enter into the Hearts of Man to conceive. Here our noblest Concords must be introduced by Passages from others of a different Nature, to shew, that we are not lensible of our Happiness here below, but by a Motion from a less Degree thereof; but in Heaven, we shall have no Occasion of any fuch thing, fince our Delights will be eternally the same. Here our upper Parts are commonly Discords to each other, to shew, that this is not our Rest, and our sublimest Joys do meet with an Allay. Let then the Fuges, which we so often hear in our Musick, cause us to wish like the holy Pfalmist, (q) Oh that I had Wings like a Dove, for then would I flee away to that Place, where I shall be at rest! Here our Discords to the Bass, when well prepared for and cleanly carried off, do set off the following Harmony with the greatest

⁽q) Psalm 55. 6.

Lustre. This shews us the Necessity of Adversity in our present State, and the great Advantage of it, when a Heart is well prepared by Humility and felf Resigna-tion, for any succeeding Felicity; and how happy we shall be, when through many Tribulations we shall enter into the King-dom of God, where there is not so much as the least Disfallowance, or the Occasion for any Jars to sweeten our Pelicity. Here we also see the Necessity of a Change in our Natures, to make us capable of Entering into the Kingdom of God, and that Flesh and Blood, as now it is, cannot take any great Enjoyment therein. There are certain Dispositions of Soul necessary to enjoy the Comforts of a future State, and without which Heaven itself could be no Heaven at all. This we find to be true even in other fensible Matters. The blind Man cannot be delighted by the noblest Colours. The Palate must be rightly disposed to find any Pleasure in the fweetest Delicacies, and the Ear must be tuneably set to relish the Charms of Mufick. If then these grosser Objects, which have a nearer Affinity with the sensible Parts of Man, and strike hard upon them, will not affect us, without some particular inward Preparation; there is greater Reason to think, that the Delights of Heaven, which are so pure and refined, and (Q

so far above the Level of our Natures. cannot be tasted but by a suitable Change of the Soul. Besides, whilst we are here below, the fame thing cannot long delight us: The most stately Palace, if we were always to be confined to it, would foon become a Prison. The most dainty Fare would foon surfeit; and at a Feast, when one Dish is taken away, we should be displeased, if another was brought of the fame Nature. In the fame manner our Ears must be delighted with the like Variety, and no Sound can long please us. What a wonderful Change then must there be in our Natures, when we shall be for ever with him, who is unchangeable, and made as capable of Enjoying him for ever, as we were the first Minute? Let then our poor, impersed Divine Melody here below give us juster Notions of the Comfort above, and enflame in us a Defire and Longing to joyn with them, and a zealous Resolution to practice those Duties, which will bring us thither; and so shall we be truly said to fing with the Spirit.

The other Qualification is, that we must sing with the Understanding also. When the Apostle saith, that he will pray with the Understanding, there is no doubt but he means two Things, First, Understanding what he prays for, and Secondly, Understanding

standing how to pray. And the other Part of the same Text, must also be meant in the same Sense. We must understand first, what we fing, and secondly, how to fing. First, what we fing. Thus he saids in the same Chapter, (r) How is it, Brethren, when ye come together, every one of you hath a Psalm. Let all Things be done to edifying; by which he means, in a known Tongue, where the Words and Sense are plain and clear to the Apprehension of the meanest. Thus he speaks after the Text, I will fing with the Understanding also. (s) Else when thou shalt bless with the Spirit, how shall he, who occupieth the Room of the unlearned, say, Amen, at thy giving of Thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest. For thou verily givest Thanks, or performest any other Duty well, but the other is not edified.

And as the Words must be plain and intelligible, so they must also be proper for all to joyn in: They should be upon the most divine and excellent Subjects, adapted to the Case of all, and sit for an Angel to sing, and for a Martyr, or rather for God himself to hear. This is the Reason (as we are told in the Title Page) that the Book of Psalms was

⁽r) I Cor. 14, 26. (s) I Cor. 14, 16.

translated at first into English Metre, that it might be sung in publick Churches, and also in private Houses by all People, for their godly Solace and Comfort, laying aside all ungodly Songs and Ballads, which tend only to the Nourishing of Vice, and Corrupting of Touth. And the Number of leud, profane, and blasphemous Songs, which swarm in all Parts of the Nation, makes it highly necessary to attempt, if possible, that the Stream of our Musical Recreations should be converted into another Channel.

And as it is necessary to understand what we sing; so it is requisite, where it can conveniently be had, that we also understand how to sing, I mean according to the Rules of Art. St. Paul, (t) who was bred up at the Feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect Manner of the Law of the Fathers, and had lived a great Time at Jerusalem, (where the Singing at the Temple was performed with the greatest Exactness) could not be ignorant of the best Methods then in Use; and he tells us, that he would not only sing with the Spirit, but he would sing with the Understanding also. The Gospel

⁽t) Ads 22. 3.

brings us nearer to the Heavenly State than all the former Dispensations of God among Men; and from thence we learn, that the bleffed Saints and Angels do fet forth the Praises of God in the most perfect Manner, and therefore we should in the mean time endeavour to come as near to it, as possibly we can in this imperfect State. Whilst we sing to the Glory of our God in his Church, we are employed in that Part of Worship, which of all others is the nearest of Kin to Heaven, and therefore it is pity, that this of all others should be performed the worst upon Earth. David, the Man after God's own Heart, took a particular Care of this Matter. He directs many of his Pfalms To the chief Musician. (u) He order'd a Choir to fing Thanksgivings, of which Alaph was the Chief, Heman and Jeduthun with others were ordered to preside over and direct the rest. Their Business was to minister before the Ark, and to record, or fet down in the exactest Manner what was to be done. and thus to thank and praise the Lord God of Israel; these were joyned with Pfalteries, Trumpets, Harps, and Cymbals,

⁽w) 1 Chron. 16. 4, 5, 6, 37, 41, 42,

and if they had not been all taught and instructed in the best Manner, there must have been a Confusion instead of a Mufical Performance. They had their (x)Brethren, or Singers to joyn with them, and their (y) Sons or Singing Boys.

(z) David gave his Psalms to Asaph, that he should teach the rest. He him-self was called (a) the sweet Psalmist of Israel. He saith, (b) O God, my Heart is fix'd, I will sing and give Praise even within my Glory, or in the most glorious Method. The other Translation hath it, I will sing and give Praise with the best Member that I have; and if this was taken from some Greek Translation, where the Word wing was used, it might as well have been rendered, with the best Melody that I can, And (c) in a Psalm directed to the chief Musician, and for the Sons of Korah, who performed before the Ark, he gives this Direction, Sing Praises to God, sing Praises, sing Praises to our King, sing Praises; For God is the King of all the Earth, sing ye Praises with Understanding. In the Margin it is, Every one who hath Understanding. The He-

⁽x) 1 Chron. 16. 37. (y) 1 Chron. 16. 42. (z) 1 Chron. 16. 7. (a) 2 Sam. 23. 1. (b) Pfalm 103. 1. (c) Pfa m 47. 5.

brew is, Sing Maschil, a Word used (d) in the Title of some of the Psalms, and seems to direct to some particular Musick, or Tune in principal Use among them. But as there is no Doubt of the Lawfulness and Excellency of such Musick in Cathedral Churches; so if it was well managed, tho in a lesser Degree, it might be as commendable in other Places.

There is indeed, an Abuse, which cannot be concealed, and which hath given great Offence in Parochial Congregations, which is; when a few felect Singers meet together in one Part of the Church, and engross the whole Singing to themselves. Singing of Psalms is certainly a Christians Right, and we ought no more to be debarred from that, than from Joyning in Prayers, in Receiving the Lora's Supper, or in Hearing the Word of God. Such People have no Authority to exclude others; and what they do at such a Time springs from Conceitedness, and an Affectation of vain Glory, which as it is bad in all Times and Places; fo it is worse in the House of God, and when we meet together for his immediate Worship. And therefore it is much to be wished, that

⁽d) Pfalm 32. 42, 44, 52, 53, 54, 55, 74, 78, 88, 89, and 142.

the Abuse was regulated, and the good Use

hereof improved.

And this I think may effectually be done after this Manner: Let those Persons, who have learned to sing in any Parochial Church disperse themselves on a Sunday into their respective Seats, and by Singing all together in a single Part, they may foon teach the Congregation any of the common plain Tunes, which they afterward design to sing in Consort. In such a Method it hath been known by Experience, that where there is a Sermon twice every Sunday, and any Tune is constantly sung twice every Day, there the faid Congregation will learn in Six Weeks Time to fing any fingle Tune, or even double Tunes, after they have been some Time used to such a Method; and so they may introduce as great a Variety of Grave Tunes, as shall be thought expedient. And the Shewing of such Perions the Notes, who never learned in a regular Manner, will be of great use on fuch an Occasion. When a whole Congregation hath thus learned, the Singers may with-draw to a Place, where they can be together, and sing the first Line of any Tune in a single Part, that the Congregation may know the Tune, and take the exact Pirch, and then they may after-

afterwards let the Clerk read the Lines. and the Singers may joyn with the rest, in as full a Consort as they can make. This they will as easily joyn with as with an Organ, and if the Congregation can be prevailed with not to fing too loud, fo as to drown the Voices of the Singers, it will foon be as pleasant as an Organ, and much more grave and ferious than such, as they are generally managed. If the Singers could be prevailed to yield to this, they might, after Evening Service is over, have the Liberty to tarry in the Church, and fing whatever Psalms, Hymns, or Anthems they pleased, and for as long time as they thought fit, at which no one could be offended, because every one might take his own Choice either to tarry or withdraw. And if such a Society of Singers did agree to have a short Anthem on every Sunday both Morning and Afternoon before the beginning of Divine Service, it would not only be an Obligation to them to be there betimes, but be an Inducement to others to do the same. and especially such who loyter at the Tombs in the Church-Tards, until the Liturgy is half ended.

Before I conclude, I cannot but make another Observation, namely, that whilst Pfalm-Singing was kept up in private Families,

milies, there seemed to be a Sense of Religion in this Kingdom; and as that hath declined, or grown out of Fashion, so the Spirit of Piety and Virtue hath declined with it. How much therefore is it to be wished, that every one would endeavour to restore this delightful and easy Exercise. Particularly, that every one, who hath learned to fing, would on every Sunday Evening bring their Families together, and after the reading of a Psalm, and two Chapters, they would then fing a Pfalm, and joyn together in Family Prayer. This is no hard Task, but the Satisfaction would foon be greater than the Pains. And thus like the Primitive Christians, there would be a Church in every House. The Boys and Girls in all the Charity Schools learn the common plain Psalm-Tunes. It might be an easy Matter for the Trustees to oblige the Parents to such a Method by the Help of fuch Children; and fo God may again (e) perfect his Praise even from the Mouth of Babes and Sucklings.

May we all then in our feveral Stations and Capacities take the best Care, that this excellent Duty may be promoted and encouraged; that (f) young Men

⁽e) Pfalm 8, 2, (f) Pfalm 148, 12, 13.

praise the Name of the Lord; for his Name alone is excellent, and his Glory ought to be above all Things in Heaven and Earth: That private Persons, Families, and whole Congregations may so praise God with their Voices here on Earth, that after Death they may be admitted to be for ever in that most persect Choir of Saints and Angels in the Kingdom of Heaven.

FINIS.





A

PROPOSAL

For PROMOTING

Divine Musick and Benefactions

FOR

Parochial Libraries.

OME Gentlemen of the City of London taking into their serious Consideration, that the present lewd Songs and Ballads, which abound in every Part of this Nation, have a most pernicious Tendency to the Nourishing of Vice and Corrupting of Youth, as it is rightly expressed in the Title Page of our common finging Pfalms, and being of the Opinion, that the only Way to prevent this Mischief is by the Dispersing of Pious Hymns, and Encouraging the Singing of them in the same Manner (which might also very much conduce to the Promoting of Christian Knowledge, and a Reformation of Manners, and cause the Praises of GOD to be once more sounded sorth by the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings) have resolved to make an Attempt of this Nature, in the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Burrough of Southwark, and afterward (if it should succeed in those Places) throughout the whole Kingdom of Great-Britain; hoping for a Blessing on their Endeavours from the Divine Providence, who alone is able, and (as they trust) willing to prosper such an Undertaking.

The Method, which they propose at present, is by Printing of a Sheet of Paper Monthly, which shall contain three or four Hymns at the Price of a Penny, and is the common Price of a Ballad; on the Back-side whereof shall be printed a pro-

per Tune for each Hymn in Four Parts, which shall be as easy to be learned, and as delightful as possible. And if it pleaseth, GOD to bless this Attempt to promote his Glory, no Endeavours shall be wanting to proceed further in the Improvement of this Science to the uttermost, as Encourage shall be given, and as it shall please the Divine Providence to open a Door for this Purpose; especially since They, who have but little Skill in Musick, do well know, that it is very capable of Improvements in this Method, and perhaps more than in any other whatsoever.

And whereas some Profits may probably arise from hence, the Undertakers hereof do declare, that they desire no Advantage to themselves, but are content, that an exact Account thereof shall be kept, and the same shall be disposed of in the sollowing Manner; viz. The one Half clear of all Expences for the present and suture Benesit of the Clergy of the Church of England, by Erecting and annually Augmenting of Parochial Libraries, in such poor Livings, where the Right Reverend the Bishop of the Diocess shall think, that they can be most serviceable. And the other Half shall be applied to destray all necessary and contingent Charges, Printing and Paper excepted; and the Overplus shall be reserved for a Fund to carty on the same (as it is hoped) with greater Success for the Time to come.

And whereas several Members of the Religious Societies in

and about the City of London, have voluntarily promifed to contribute their Endeavours for the Sale of such Hymus, by Sending proper Persons with them from House to House; therefore one Penny in sive of all Hymus so disposed of by them, shall be applied to any pious or charitable Use, which they themselves shall direct.

Thus whoever lays out but a Six Pente in Buying of such Hymns, may not only, if he pleases, put the Praises of GOD into the Mouths of Four and Twenty Children; but in all Probability he will promote other pious and charitable Designs, and particularly give a considerable Part thereof to enable a Clergy-Man in a poor Living, and his Successors to the End of the World, to preach the Word of GOD more effectually for the Salvation of a whole Parish; and Christ Jesus may say to such at the Day of Judgment, Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me.

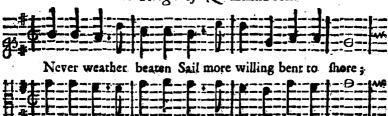
APPENDIX.

SPECIMEN

HYMNS

Divine Musick.

On the Joys of Heaven, set by Dr. Henry Campion, in the Reign of Q. Elisabeth.



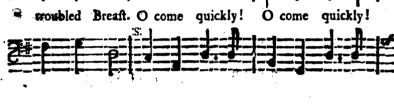
Never weather beaten Sail more willing bent to shore;

Continued.



HYMNS. Continued. troubled Breast. O come quickly! O come quickly!

E 37]





HIMNS.

[38]

Continued.

II.

Ever blooming are the Joys
Of Heav'ns high Paradife;
Old Age deafs not there our Ears,
Nor Vapours dimns our Eyes.
Glory there the Sun out shines,
Whose Beams the blassed only see:
O come quickly! O come quickly!
O come quickly! dearest LORD,
And take my Soul to Thee!

III,

My Soul get Thee to thy Rock,
On high fet there thy Nest;
Beyond all the Storms and Clouds
Faith hath a Seat of Rest.
Ever whilst we dwell below,
We may be oft and soon above.
Oh, how speedy! Oh, how speedy!
Oh, how safely Souls do sty
On Wings of Faith and Love!

IV.

Let thy Heart thus fixed be,

'Twill make Day of dark Nights;
And in Misers wants shall feed

On those unseen Delights.

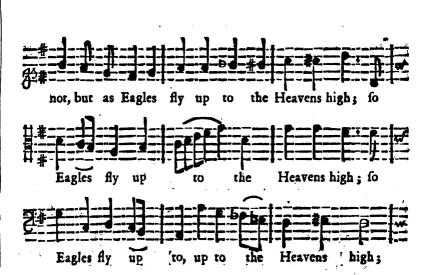
That Soul may have Calms in Storms,

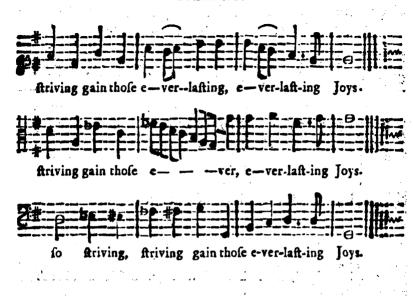
Whose Anchor is within the Vail.
Oh, how safely! Oh, how safely!
Oh, how pleasant may we live,

HYMN II.

In Three Parts, on the same Subject by the same Author.







II.

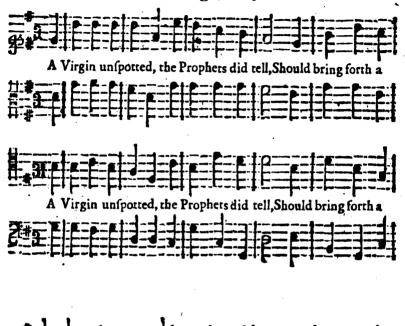
When with Glory there their Heads are crown'd,
New Joys shall so abound in Thee;
Such Lights thy Soul shall see,
That worldly Thoughts shall with their Beams be
(drown'd.

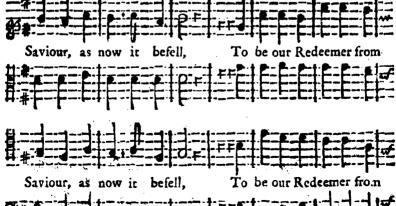
HII.

Farewell, World, thou Mass of meer Consusion,
False Lights with many Shadows dimm'd,
Old Wits with new Tales trimm'd,
Thou deadly Sleep of Charms, and Soul's Delusion.

HYMN III.

A Christmass Carol, so called because such were in use in K. Charles I. Reign, in four Parts.



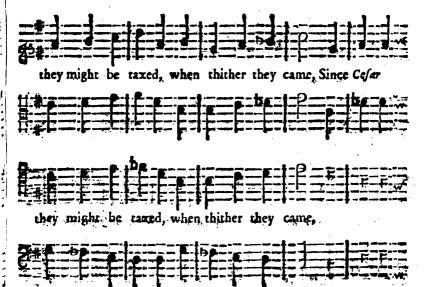


HYMNS. 1. 42]. Continued Death, Hell and Sin, Which Adam's Transgression involved us in-Death, Hell and Sin, Which Adam's Transgression involved us in In Betblebem City in Jewry it was, Whither Joseph and In Bethlehem City in Jewry it was, Whither Joseph and

HTMNS.

Continued.

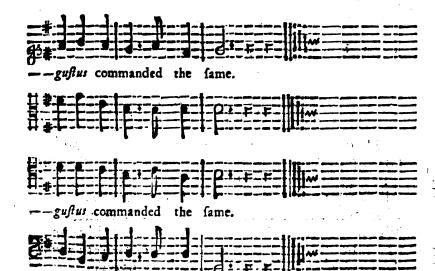




HIMNS.







II.

And when to the City they thus did repair,
They found, that such Numbers of People were there,
That Joseph and Mary, whose Substance was small,
Could get in those Houses no Lodgings at all.
To lie in a Stable they did not distain,
Whence Types of his Suff rings were brought to be slain.
Their Lodging so simple they Thought was no scorn;
But before the next Morning this Saviour was born.

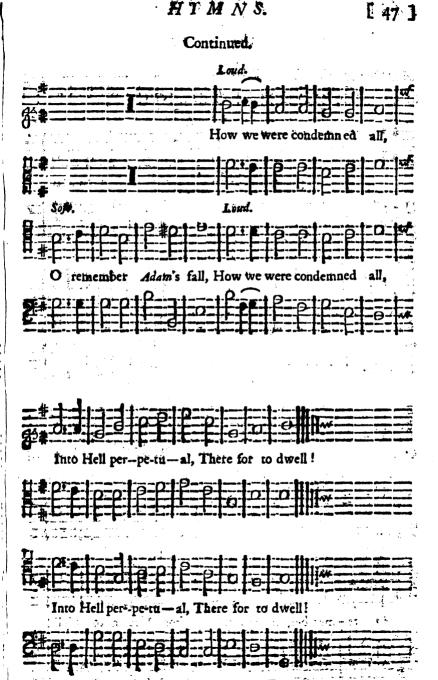
III.

The King of all Glory to Sinners was brought, Small Store of fine Linnen to wrap him was bought: But when she had swaddled her Infant most sweet, Within the hard Manger she laid him to sleep. And then a bless'd Angel came down from on high, To certain poor Shepherds in Fields who did lie, And bid them no longer with Sheep for to stay, Because that our Saviour was born on this Day.

IV.

Then presently after the Shepherds did spy
Great Numbers of Angels, who came from the Sky;
They pleasantly talked, and sweetly did sing;
All Glory to God, to our Lord, and our King
If Angels thus publish'd our Saviour's Praise,
We in the same Manner our Voices should raise;
Since he came from Heaven to save us from Hell,
And cause us in Heaven for ever to dwell.

[46] HTMNS. Hynn IV. Another of the fame, being an ancient Composition, and therefore to be sung swifter. O thou Man! O thou Man remember Adam's fall, Othon Man! O shou Man! Loud. From Heav'n to Hell! from Heav'n to Hell! re-member, Adam's fall,



[48] HYMNS

Continued.

II.

O remember, O thou Man! O thou Man! O thou Man! O remember, O thou Man, Thy Time mispent!

O remember, O thou Man! How thou from thy God didst run, And his Presence thou didst shun! Therefore repent.

III.

O remember God's Goodness! O thou Man! O thou Man!
O remember God's Goodness, And Promise made!
O remember God's Goodness, All our Evils to redress,
(When we were remediless) And be our Aid!

IV.

Oh the Angels all did Sing! O thou Man! O thou Man!
Oh the Angels all did Sing, On Heav'ns high Hill!
Oh the Angels all did Sing, Praise be to our glorious King,
And on Earth in ev'ry thing To Men good Will!

\mathbf{V} .

Oh the Shepherds startled were! O thou Man! O thou Man! Oh the Shepherds startled were At this strange Thing! Oh the Shepherds startled were, When near Bethlehem they did hear, That Christ Jesus was born there To be our King!

VI.

To the Stable they did go, O thou Man! O thou Man! To the Stable they did go This Thing to see; To the Stable they did go, Devoutly asking if 'twas so, If Chill had been born, or no, To set us free.

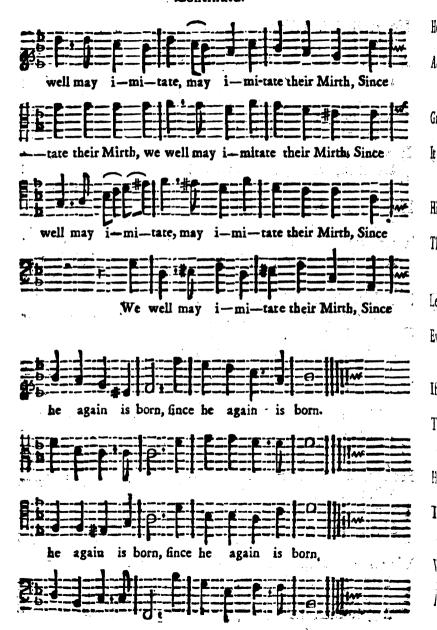
VII.

In a Stable he was born, O thou Man! O thou Man!
In a Stable he was born For loft Man's Sake.
In a Stable he was born, For us Wretches and forlorn
Our Redeemer thought no Scorn Our Flack to take

HYMN V.

An HYMN for Easter-Day, The Words out of Playford's Divine Companion, the Musick by A. Bedford.





HTMNS.

Continued.

II.

He frail Mortality shook off,
Put Incorruption on;
And he, who once was crown'd with

[51]

Put Incorruption on;
And he, who once was crown'd with Scoff,
Now fills th' eternal Throne.

III.

Grieve not, vain Man, who mortal art,

Grieve not, vain Man, who mortal art, That thou to Earth must fall; It was his Portion, 'twas the Part Of him, that sav'd us all.

Himself he humbled to the Grave,
Made Flesh like us, to shew
That we as certainly shall have
A Resurrection too.

V.
Let Heav'n and Earth in Confort joyn'd
His boundless Mercy sing.
Ev'n Hell doth now a Conqu'ror find,
And Death hath lost its Sting.

If when in Eden, Adam fell,
The whole Creation groan'd;
The whole Creation fure should smile,
Now Justice is aton'd.

Hence, all ye faithless, far away, Who this great Mist'ry slight: They that deny an endless Day, Shall feel an endless Night.

When Time hath pass'd its utmost Bounds,
Thy Soul shall then survive;
And when the last great Trumpet sounds,
You'll then too late believe.

VII.

VIII.

[52]

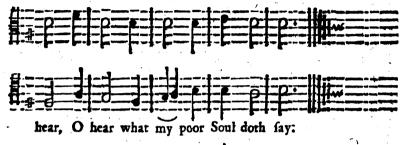
$H \Upsilon M N S.$

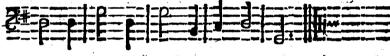
By Sir William Leighton in Q. Elisabeth's Time.

Hymn VI.









II.

My Heart, and Thoughts, Lord, fanctify;
Thy holy Spirit inspire in me.
From all Corruption make me clean;
That I may still rejoyce in Thee.

O let me ask, and have of Thee;
Let me by Faith my Suit obtain:
Thy loving Favour shew to me;
All other Favour is but vain.
IV.

Restrain my vain Imaginations.

Prevent by Grace Satan's Intrusions;

Let him not taint my Cogitations,

Nor blind my Mind with false Illusions.

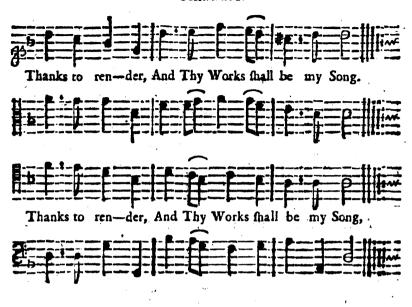
HTMNS. [54]

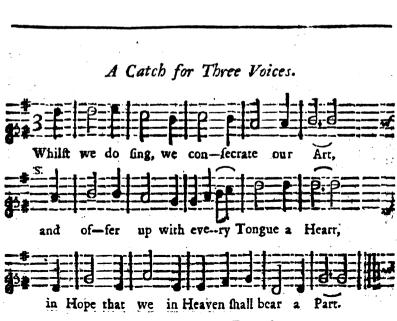
Hymn VII.

A Hymn of Praise set by Arthur Bedsord.





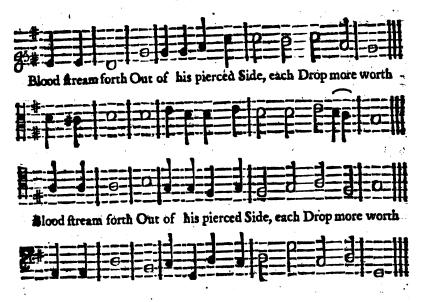




HYMN VIII.

For Good-Fryday, the Words by William Stroud, D. D. fet to Mufick by Mr. John Playford.





II.

Than Tongues of Men and Angels can express. Haste to him cursed Caytiff, and confess All thy Misdeeds, and sighing say, Twas I, That caused Thee, my God and Christ, to die.

III.

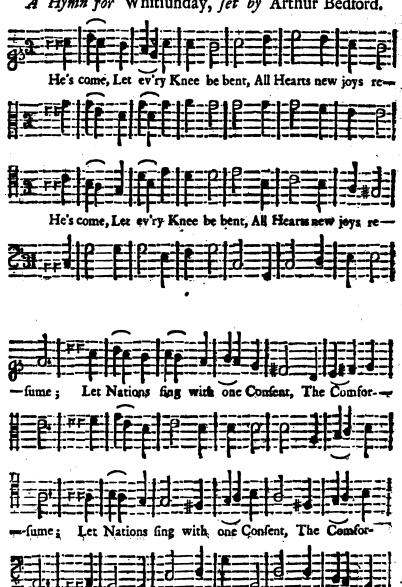
O let thy Death secure my Soul from Fears, And I will wash thy Wounds with brinish Tears. Grant me, sweet Jesus, from that precious Store One cleaning Drop, with Grace to sin no more.

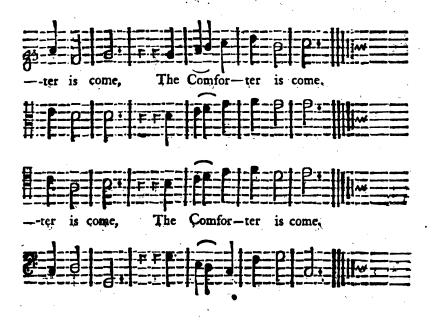
HIMNS

[50]

Нуми ІХ.

A Hymn for Whitsunday, set by Arthur Bedford.





II.

No troubled Thoughts molest our Peace, This Day all Grief retire; Let ev'ry Fear for ever cease, And ev'ry Doubt expire.

IIL

There is no End of the Content,
And Joy the Spirit brings;
Happy the Man to whom tis lent!
That Man fees wondrous Things.

IV.

What greater Gift? What greater Love Can God on Man bestow?

Tis half the Angel's Heav'n above, And all our Heav'n below.

V.

Hail, bleffed Spirit! not a Soul
But doth thy Goodness feel;
Thou dost our darling Sins controul,
And fix our wav'ring Zeal.

VI.

Thou to the Conscience dost conveigh
The Checks, that all must know;
Thy Motions first do shew the Way,
Then give us Strength to go.

VII.

As Pilots by the Compass steer,
'Til they their Harbour find;
So do thy sacred Breathings here
Guide ev'ry wandring Mind.

VIII.

The Flesh may strive our Course t'impeach.
The World's rough Billows roar;
But by thy Help we're sure to reach



