NOVELLO'S ORIGINAL OCTAVO EDITION.

Georg Friedrich' HANDEL'S

ORATORIO,

BELSHAZZAR,

(COMPOSED IN THE YEAR 1744),

IN VOCAL SCORE,

WITH A SEPARATE ACCOMPANIMENT FOR THE ORGAN OR PIANOFORTE.

EDITED BY

G. A. MACFARREN.

Ent. Sta. Hall.

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PREFACE.

The original manuscript of Belehazzor is pre-served in the library of Buckingham Palace. It is written continuously throughout the first and second parts, one piece, in many cases beginning on the page on which the previous piece ends; the third part is not thus connected, the regular nam-bering of the pages ceasing, and the different pieces being written on separate sheets, with allusions, but not distinct references, to the order in which they are to stand. At the bottom of the first page, in the right hand corner, is written "Angefangen den 23 Agost 1744." At the end of the first part is written "Septembr 3, 1744, fine della Parte prima den 15 dicess völlig geendigt." The second part has no date.

The third part, being fragmentary, has also no date.

It shows many erasures, sometimes of a single bar, sometimes of two or three, and sometimes of very extensive passages, but these occurring more fre-quently in some than in other pieces. In the cancelled bars, the voice and bass parts are written, but not those for the other instruments, which proceed continuously from the bar before to the bar after the cut. Thus is revealed Handel's process of composition, which was to write unin-terruptedly the skeleton of an entire part, to date the conclusion, then to fill up the score and make his improvements, and then to put another date of when the task was "fully ended." We learn, too, from this MS. that the musician must have had a completely dramatic, though not theatrical, purpose in his work, from the curious fact that the descriptions of scenes, the entrances and exits, and the directions for the action, are as minutely written in the score as if the oratorio had been intended for stage representation.

Through the kindness of Dr. Rimbsult, I am enabled to print the following highly interesting series of letters, which from the coincidence of their dates with those in the manuscript of Belshazzar, and from allusions they contain, bear evident reference to this oratorio. They are addressed to Charles Jennens, Esq., Jun., of Gopsall Hall, Leicestershire, who had compiled the text of the Messiah, and who is thus proved to be the author of the present work.

Lendon, Juis 9, 1744. DEAR SIR.—Now should I be extremely giad to receive the first Act, or what is ready, of the New Oratorio with which you intend to favour me, that I might employ all my statention and time, in order to answer in some measure the great obligation I lay under. This new favour will greatly increase my Obligations. I remain with all possible gratitude and respect, Dear Sir, yours obliged, GRORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL.

CHARLES JEMMERS, Esq., Jun.

July 19, 1744.

July 19, 1744. DEAR SIR, —At my arrival in London, which was yesterday, I famodiately perused the Ast of the Oratorio with which yes favor'd me, and the little time only I had it, gives me great pleasure. Your reasons for the length of the first Act are initially astisfabetory to me, and it is likewise my opinion to have the following Acts short. I shall be very glad, and much obliged to you, if you will soon favour me with the remaining Acts. Bu pleased to point out those paragrees in the Hessela which you think require sitering. I desire my humble Respects and thanks to My Lord Guanney, for his many Civility's to me, and believe me to be, Dear Sir, your's with sincers respect, GEORGE FARDERLO HAMPEL.

CHARLES JEWNERS, Eoq., Jun.

London, Agost ys 21, 1744. DRAR STR.—The second Act of the Oratorio I have received safe, and own myself highly obliged to you for it. I am greatly pleased with it, and shall use my best andeavours to do it Justice. I can enly say that I impatiently wait for the third Act, and desire to believe me to be, Dear Sir, yours, &c. GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL. CHARLES JENNERS, Eeq., Jun.

London, September 13, 1744. Duan SIL. - Your most excellent Oratorio has given me great de-light in setting it to Musick, and still engages me warmly. It is indeed a Noble Piece, very grand and uncommon; it has furnished me with expressions, and has given me Opportunity to some very particular Ideas, besides so many great Chorus. I entrest you heartily to favour me soon with the last Act, which I expect with anxiety, that I may regulate myself the better as to the Length of it. I profess myself highly obliged to you for so generous a Freeent, and desire you to believe me to be, with great esteem and respect, Sir, yours, da. GEORGE TENDERIC HANDEL. CHARLES JENHERS, Eeq., JEL.

CHARLES JERNESS, Ecq., Jun.

CHARLES JEXNESS, Esq., Jun.

Belshazzar was first performed at Covent Garden Theatre, on Wednesday, March 27, 1745, being the twelfth of a series of subscription performances the 29th of the same month, and on the 23ml of April. It had been announced for some time as Belteshazzar (the Babylonian name of the Prophet Daniel), and the title was altered to Belshazzar on the day of the first performance.

The original copy of this orstorio contains no memorandum, as is frequent in Handel's MSS., of who were to sing the various parts. In an edition of the songs, however, printed by Walsh, Signora Francessina is stated to have sung the music be-longing to the character of Nitocris; Miss Bobinson

that of Daniel, and the part of Cyrus in the duet of the editor, of the original orchestral parts, "Great Victor;" Mr. Beard that of Belshazzar, and the song "Oppress'd with never-ceasing grief," in G, which belongs to Gobrias; Mr. Reinhold the re-mainder of the music of Gobrias, and also that of Different states which were composed twice; and this, be-precess which were composed twice is and this, be-Cyrus; although this last is written by Handel in the Soprano clef.

The songs alone were printed by Walsh. The MS. in many important particulars, but has two most authoritative confirmations of its being in accordance with Handel's final intention,—firstly, a transcript dated 1767, in the writing of Johann Christopher Smith (or Schmidt), the friend, factotum and copyist of the composer; secondly, a copied MS. containing remarks, corrections, alterations, and interpolations, in the handwriting of Handel, and interpolations, in the handwriting of Handel, which is believed to be the copy whence the com poser conducted the performance. The last-named inestimable volume is one of a collection of 160, sixty or seventy of which are conducting copies like itself, which were bequeathed by Handel to his so-called pupil—the younger John Christopher Smith, son of the before-named. They were left by Smith to his step-daughter, who became Lady Rivers. The books were for a time supposed to be lost, but were discovered in the hands of Mr. to be lost, but were discovered in the hands of Mr. Kerslake, a Bristol bookseller. They were pur-chased of him, in 1857, by Handel's laborious biographer Mons. Victor Scheelcher. When he had fully examined them for the purposes of his book, M. Scheelcher offered them for sale to the library of the British Museum, thinking—and who can think otherwise?—that these highest of all authorities, for the correctness of Handel's works, and for the form in which they should be presented, ought to have a permanent depository in the country in which and for which those works were composed, and in which they are most frequently performed. Failing in this negotiation, he finally disposed of the collection to Dr. Chrysander, for the public library in Hamburg, wherein all the volumes may now be consulted. Randall's score of *Belshazzar* was reprinted, with many inaccuracies, in Dr. Arnold's extensive edition of the composer's works. The issued in 1847-48, of which I was the editor. In this were printed for the first time, in addition to the whole of Randall's matter—(1.) the Recitative "The fate of Babylon;" (2.) the Air, " Lament not thus;" (3.) Another version of the Air, "Dament hot with never ceasing grief;" (4.) the Air, "Great God who yet;" (5.) a far longer version of the Chorus, "Oh, glorious Prince," consisting of three move-ments instead of one; (6.) a totally different setting ments instead of one; (6.) a totally dimerent setting of the Air, "Alternate hopes; (7.) also of the Air, "To Power immortal;" (8.) also of the Duet, "Great victor;" (9.) also of the Recitative, "Yes, I will build;" (10.) some large passages in other pieces that are erased in the MS. and omitted in Randall's edition; and (11.) some more or less important occasional differences in the unaccompanied Recitatives,—all these variations from Randall being on the authority of the autograph. The latest printed score is that of the German Handel Society, 1864, edited by Dr. Chrysander, the purchaser of the conducting copies, which accords with the Handel Society's edition, save that it includes the final Chorus with Solos, "I will magnify Thee," which was never before printed.

pieces which were composed twice; and this, be-cause, from the omission of the others in Smith's transcript, in the MS. conducting copy, and in Randall's edition, it is evident that Handel pre-ferred and finally adopted these resettings, and that hence-however curious, and in that sense interesting, the originals,—these resettings and these only should be used in performance. It retains the Re-citative, "The fate of Babylon," p. 11; the Air, "Lament not thus," p. 13; and the Air, "Great God, who yet," p. 41; all of which were first printed in the edition of the Handel Society; and retains them be-cause, though omitted in Randall—seemingly on Handel's cours and performance of the Handel's own authority, and perhaps because of the too great length of the Oratorio-they are still available for performance under circumstances of other abbreviations, and they are certainly far too good to be totally rejected. Some curtailments, according to Randall's copy, of the unaccompanied Recitative are preserved, and a careful choice has been made between the various readings in that edition and the autograph, of a few less important passages also in unaccompanied Recitatives. The voice parts are printed according to the Handel Society's edition, with indications of differences between the MS. and Randall's edition, and of some slight but necessary changes by the editor. He introduces some obviously needed accidentals, which are printed within brackets. So also are some directions for piano and forte that are not in the MS., but seem to be desirable for good effect.

The words of the Air, "Oppressed with never-ceasing grief," were set twice—originally in the key of E flat, and for a bass voice, as is all the rest of the music of Gobrias, to which character this piece belongs; subsequently in the key of G, and for a tenor, but retaining the chief theme and much more of the original matter; and finally, Handel wrote with pencil over the latter, "Una terza pith basso Ez dis," and marked the signature of three basso Ex dis,*" and marked the signature of three flats in the violin and bass parts, showing that after the first performance when Mr. Beard sang it, this Air was assigned to a bass who probably sang the whole part of Gobrias; and Dr. Chrysander states that the conducting copy warrants the transposi-tion. With the view of keeping the entire part within the compass of one singer, the air is here printed according to the second and improved ver-eion but transposed as Handel directed with some sion, but transposed as Handel directed, with some necessary changes in the few passages which would extend below the compass of the violin if notally transcribed in the lower key.

The last of the letters of Handel, above quoted, shows that he, with regard to his librettist's purshows that he, with regard to his libretist's pur-pose of incorporating in this work the entire of the two Chandos Anthems, "Tell it out," and "I will magnify," he at first thought to use the one com-plete and to compress the other. He afterwards, however, improved upon this idea, and, in-stead of including the whole of those two works with their several movements, recast them both, omitting a large portion of the text of each, and contracting each into a single movement

Chorus with Solos, "I will magnify Thee," which was never before printed. It is now to speak of the present edition of the vocal score with an arrangement for the piano-vocal score with an arrangement for the piano-

printed in the edition of the German Handel Society, on the authority of the conducting copy. This is given here and in the corresponding edition of the choral and orchestral parts, so that the conclusion of Belshazzar in public performance may now be in conformity with the composer's intention.

The form of repeating, Da Capo, the entire first part of an Air, after the second part, which was common though not universal in the compositions of Handel's time, is less congenial with the use of our own day. Some suggestions are therefore offered as to how the first part of some of the Airs may be compressed on their recurrence, so that the

The custom of Handel's period was for the organ or harpsichord to sustain a very considerable part in the performance of works like the present, and for this part not to be written by the composer, but left to the improvisation of the player. The organ part was not a mere filling up of the har-monies denoted by the profuse figuring of the bass, which adorns all the printed music of the age, but, in Handel's case at least, appears most sparsely in the author's MSS.; it is said to have had great interest of its own, to have abounded in contrapuntal figures, and to have strongly tested and ad-vantageously displayed the skill of the organist. Handel was specially famous for his extemporaneous accompaniment of his operas and oratorios. When, in 1753, his loss of sight seemed to render this important task impracticable to him, he deputed it to the younger Smith, in the Lenten performances which he annually gave. He resumed it, however, in 1754, whence may be inferred that he was not content with the doings of his representative, and he accomplished the notable feat of bearing in memory all the oratorios given during the season, and this so perfectly that he could interweave his extempore part with those for the voices and orchestral instruments so as to complete and beautify the whole. Because there was no organ in the hall in which *Messiah* and other of Handel's works were first given in Vienna, the Baron van Swieten engaged Mozart to write for the orchestra such additional accompaniments as he would have played upon the organ had there been one at command. To this circumstance we owe those masterpieces of orchestration which are now inseparable from the works upon which they were engrafted, that are as admirable for the extra ideas they introduce into the original compositions and for their masterly instrumental combination, as they are perhaps to be regretted for the precedent they es-tablish of departing from the purpose of Handel. Mendelssohn must have been of this latter opinion, when, in 1844, he refused the request of the Handel Society to write additional wind instruments for Israel in Egypt, and wrote, rather, his inestimable organ part, in order to produce effects more closely similar to, if not exactly identical with, those designed by the composer; and under this conviction, he had previously also written a like organ part for Solomon. However remote from those great models, an organ part upon the same principle has been attempted for the present work, and this in-dependent part, as has been said, is here incor-his librettist, display the sound judgment of the

for its place in the oratorio. "Tell it out," porated in the pianoforte arrangement. Handel's thus re-modelled, appears in Randall's, in Arnold's, improvisations died with him; the additions by and in the Handel Society's editions; not so the final Chorus, "I will magnify," which was first plete scores do not extend to the present oratorio: it is hoped then that an apology may not be needed for emulating the example of these great musicians in supplying an essential to the work, nor for adopting the views of the latter in leaving the original orchestration untouched, while filling poser would have employed, and thus aiming more directly at the effect he intended, than could have been done by the introduction of other orchestral elements than those for which he wrote.

The treatment of the Recitative needs explanation. I have the best authority as to the manner in which this portion of his works was accompanied important incident of the return to the Inst subject in Lemma in October, 1866, about tour months provided for the song, without compelling the repetition of the whole, the great length of which is sometimes from Joah Bates, the conductor of the Ancient Concerts, previously the projector and conductor of the formation of Handel, and still earlier the ear witness of performances under the composer's own direction. The bass semibreves, which, in the original copies, are tied on from bar to bar, show what harmony is to prevail for the extent of each note's continuance, but certainly do not imply that these harmonies are to be sustained for the entire length of the printed bass notes. The old custom of the theatre, as well as the concert room, was to play these chords upon the harpsichord, spreading them so as to produce the utmost fulness of effect, repeating them wherever the punctuation of the words indicated a breathing point, or the singer wanted support, and "sprink-ling," (I remember Sir George's word) the notes of the harmony, so as to prevent heaviness or monotony, and so as to feed the voice, or nourish, or prompt it, with the more emphatic notes it had to utter. The custom was further for the double-bass and violoncello to play the bass notes, but the bass notes only, to make up for the non-sustaining character of the keyed instrument of those days. This two-fold custom dates back at least to the time of Purcell. The practice of playing the chords upon the violoncello is entirely modern, and, I believe, peculiar to England; and that of omitting the keyed instrument is of still later date, probably within these forty-one years. The far richer within these forty-one years. The far richer sonority and the greater sustaining power of the present pianoforte than of the harpsichord or virginals, render the support of the bowed instruments dispensable, so there is no need now-a-days ments dispensable, so more is no more a players to play for the triple discretion of three players to play each his note more or less frequently, under which unanimity was scarcely possible. A pianoforte accompaniment to the Recitatives has then been written, consisting of the harmonies indicated in the old figured basses, but repeating these as often as the current of the voice-part seems to require. As the now obsolete plan, of writing the two final chords under the voice notes which are intended to musicians, the arrangement of notes and rests is so disposed in this pianoforte part as to show where the accompaniment is to follow the voice, and this has sometime necessitated the apparent extension of the music by a bar, but no more than apparent, because this method of placing the notes brings them exactly where they are played by those who understand the old system.

former, in deeming that the fancy had been too fer- | valuable assistance in preparing the present volume.* tile of the latter, in producing more verses than could be available for performance. Handel ac-cerdingly made considerable curtailments in the drams before writing his music, and he subse-quently compressed it further by the omission of large portions and three entire pieces (Nos. 4, 5, and 16), which he had already composed. The audiences immediately addressed by Handel must have had a larger capacity of attention than belongs to their successors of a century and a quarter after the first performance of *Belshazzar*; for, even as the composer condensed it at the sacrifice of many musical beauties, the oratorio transcends in length the patience of modern listeners, and it may be requi-site still further to shorten it, therefore, for present performance. Still more than in respect of length, such further compression is now desirable, because the greater space of the buildings wherein large choral works are now often given, than of those edifices for which they were written, makes the distinct enunciation of the words more difficult than it formerly was, if not quite impossible; and on this account, the unaccompanied Recitatives lose so much of their interest as to make their effect tiresome, and hence the contraction of this portion of the work is eminently desirable. How much or little of the oratorio it may be necessary to leave out, must depend on the merits of the solo singers, on the size of the building, on the musical culture of the hearers, and on many accidents that need not be here anticipated. It is requisite to present the main dramatic and musical incidents, which graphically characterize the personages and circumstances of the story; but the detailed explanations that link these together, may well be spared in a performance that should rather give a broad poetical view of the whole subject, than a minute, circumspect exposition of every thread in its woof. To show, however, what were Mr. Jennens' intentions, what Handel's retrench-ments, and what the possible further curtailments by a conductor of our own time, and moreover, to fill up any hiatus that the fastidious may consider to be occasioned by the omissions, the whole of the * The title page of the original edition (strangely contradictory of the secarce and interesting pamphlet, and for other

In the copy of the Libretto here printed, the descriptions of scenes, entrances and exits, and all other stage directions down to the minutest details, are copied from Handel's autograph; they agree, for the most part, with Jennens edition, but fidelity to the composer's MS. is observed, for the sake of showing that a living action must have been in his thoughts when he wrote the music.†

In unformity with other works in "Novello's Octavo Edition," the G clef is here employed for parts were intended in the Choruses. The corresponding space is occupied by the names of the characters in the solo pieces: and the availability of some of these for either female or male voices (as shown by the discrepancy between the singers' names above quoted and the clefs in the original MS.), leaves it to some extent undecided what voices should positively sing them; for these reasons, the statement is not made in the body of the work. Still to show distinctly what was Handel's first intention, however he may have occasionally departed from this, the name of the clef in which each character was originally written is stated in the list of characters.

To conclude. Here is a great work containing many specimens of the composer's finest writing both among the solo and choral pieces, such in-dividualization of character as far excels the general use of his age, and such dramatic conception as has not been surpassed by the most successful efforts of latest musicians. From circumstances that it would be vain to endeavour to trace, this oratorio has been most rarely performed. Let it be hoped that the issue of an edition in a shape and at a cost which may be convenient to every class of music lovers, may facilitate reproductions of this work for the future; and let it be confidently, reverentially and lovingly affirmed, that to render his Belshaszar widely familiar, will add glory even to the name of Handel. G. A. MACFARREN.

LONDON, April, 1878.

BELSHAZZAR.

CHARACTERS.

BELSHAZZAR, King q	f Baby	lon	•		* Tenor.	DANIEL, the Jewish F	rophet	•		Alto.	
NITOCRIS, his Mothe	r -		•		Soprano.	ARIOCH, a Courtier				Tenor.	
CYBUS, Leader of th	e Persia	ın Army			Soprano.	A Messenger .	•	•	•	Bass.	
GOBBILS, a Babylonia	m Nobl	e who ha	s joined	l the	-	Chorus of Babylonian	Nobles,	Persians,	Jews,	and the W	ĩĸ
Army of Cyrus	•	•	•		Bass.	L	len of I	Babylon.			
						•					

Part the First,

OVERTURE.

+ SCENE I.—An Apartment in the Palace. NITOCRIS alone.

RECITATIVE (Accompanied).-Nitocris.

Vain, fluctuating state of human empire ! First, small and weak, it scarcely rears its head, Scarce stretching out its helpless infant arms, Implores protection of its neighbour states, Who nurse it to their hurt. Anon it strives For power and wealth, and spurns at opposition. Arrived to full maturity, it grasps At all within its reach, o'erleaps all bounds, Robs, ravages, and wastes the frighted world. At length grown old, and swell'd to bulk enormous, The monster in its proper bowels feeds Pride, luxury, corruption, perfidy, Contention-fell diseases of a state, That prey upon her vitals. Of her weakness Some other rising pow'r advantage takes, (Unequal match!) plies with repeated strokes Her infirm, aged trunk : she nods-she totters-She falls-alas! never to rise again. The victor state, upon her ruins rais'd Runs the same shadowy round of fancied greatness, Meets the same certain end.

- * These are the clefs in which the several parts are written. The compass of Cyrus is mezzo-soprano, but this was sung originally by a bass, except in the duet "Great Victor," in which it was taken by the lady who sang Daniel.
- † This and all other descriptions of scenes, as likewise all stage directions, are copied from the autograph score.

AIR.

Thou, God most high, and Thou alone, Unchang'd for ever dost remain, Through boundless space extends Thy throne, Through all eternity Thy reign. As nothing in Thy sight The reptile, man, appears, Howe'er imagin'd great ; Who can impair Thy might? In heav'n or earth who dares Dispute Thy power? Thy will is fate.

· RECITATIVE.

' The fate of Babylon, I fear, is nigh.

- 'I have sought t' avert it ; small my skill,
- 'Had not the Hebrew prophet with his counsel
- 'Supported my weak steps. See where he comes :
- 'Wisdom and goodness in his front serene
- Conspicuous sit enthroned.

' Enter DANIEL.

'O much belov'd

'Of God and man! say, is there aught can save 'This sinking state?

‡ Jennens prints the following, instead of the first two lines of this piece :-

- " O Babylon, how fast thy fate approaches !
- " Of all the spacious east no place remains "Yet unsubdu'd, but this. The rapid Cyrus
- "Has, like the ancient universal deluge, "O'erflowed the subject earth. What strength is left
- " To stem the torrent ?-Brazen gates-thick walls-
- "A river deep.—Vain strength, to guard a people "Who court their ruin! He whom it most concerns,
- "To sloth abandon'd and immers'd in pleasure,
- " Is to his people lost-and to himself.
- " The people, by his high example led,

[&]quot;Let loose the reins to vice. Idolatry, "Rankest of weeds, has long o'errun the soil, "And for excision calls. What I could do, "I have done to avert it. Small my skill,"

BELSHAZZAR.

' Da**nie**l.

'Great queen, 'tis not in man

"To pry into the counsels of omniscience; *

- 'But you have done your duty, I mine.
- 'No more remains but to submit to what
- 'God, only wise and just, ordains.

'AIR.

'Lament not thus, O queen, in vain! ' Virtue's part is to resign 'All things to the will divine,

'Nor of its just decrees complain.

- "The sins of Babylon urge on her fate; 'But virtue still this comfort gives,
- "On earth she finds a safe retreat, 'Or bless'd in heav'n for ever lives.'

Excunt.

- SCENE II.—The Camp of Cyrus before Babylon. A view of the City with the River Euphrates running through it. CYRUS, GOBRIAS; MEDES and PERSIANS.
- CHORUS of Babylonians upon the Walls, deriding Cyrus, as engaged in an impracticable under taking.

Behold, by Persia's hero made In ample form, the strong blockade !

How broad the ditch ! how deep it falls !

What lofty tow'rs o'erlook the walls!

 Jennens prints the following, instead of the last three lines :--

" Nilocris.

"I know, for thou hast taught me, wisdom dwells

" In none but God ; in Him alone is power :

- " He at His will removes and sets up kings.
- "Yet oft some rays of the divine foreknowledge
- " On man have shown : to thee He has laid open
- " The deep and secret things of providence :
- " For thou hast looked into the seeds of time,

" Foretold the fate of empires, this for one,

" To my great father. I remember well

" His vision of the four successive kingdoms,

- "Which thou alone couldst tell; and couldst interpret.
- "All things concur to show the time is near,

"When this shall end ;---perhaps thou knowest, how near. " Daniel.

"'Tis true, oh Queen, God by my mouth reveal'd

" To that great prince the end of human states; " But not the time precise. The times and seasons

" In His own pow'r reserv'd th' eternal mind,

" Nor shew'd to man. For what He has imparted,

"Tis ours to praise Him, to use that aright, "And rest contented. Yet you well observe

"An apt concurrence of events to point

" The time not far.—But you have done your duty, " I mine. No more remains, but to submit

"To what God only wise and just ordains. "AIR.—Nitocris.

- " ▲h ! falling country !—Ah ! my son ! "You think not of impending fate,
- " Nor fear to bring the judgments down " That crimes like yours await;

" But trust, unseasonably brave,

- " In walls, in gates, in depth of wave,
- " In idol gods that cannot save ! " Alas ! that I should live to hear
- " The loss of all I hold most dear!"

Hark, Cyrus !--- Twenty times the sun Round the great year his course shall run, If there so long thy army stay, Not yet to dogs and birds a prey, No succour from without arrive, Within remain no means to live, We then may think it time to treat. And Babylon capitulate. A tedious time !- to make it short, Thy wise attempt will find us sport.

RECITATIVE. - Gobrias.

Well may they laugh, from meagre famine safe, In plenteous stores for more than twenty years; From all assaults secure in gates of brass, And walls stupendous ; in Euphrates' depth Yet more secure.

Cyrus.

'Tis that security Shall aid me to their ruin. I tell thee, Gobrias, I will revenge thy wrongs upon the head Of this inhuman king.

RECITATIVE (Accompanied).-Gobrias.

O memory ! Still bitter to my soul! Methinks I see My son, the best, the loveliest of mankind, Whose filial love and duty above all sons, Made me above all other fathers happy, I see him breathless at the tyrant's feet, The victim of his envy!

AIR.

Oppress'd with never-ceasing grief, I drag a painful, weary life ; Of all that made life sweet bereft, No hope, but in revenge, is left.

AIR. - Cyrus.

Dry those unavailing tears, Haste your just revenge to speed; I'll disperse your gloomy fears, Dawning hope shall soon succeed.

RECITATIVE.

Be comforted. Safe though the tyrant scem Within those walls, I have a stratagem Inspir'd byheav'n (dreams oft descend from heaven) Shall baffle all his strength. So strong my mind Th' impression bears, I cannot think it less.

RECITATIVE (Accompanied).

Methought, as on the bank of deep Euphrates I stood, revolving in my anxious mind Our arduous enterprise, a voice divine, In thunder uttered, to the bottom seem'd To pierce the river's depth ; the lofty tow'rs Of yon proud city trembling bow'd their heads, " Thou deep," As they would kiss the ground. it said,

Be dry. No more, but instant, at the word, The stream forsook his banks, and in a moment Left bare his oozy bed. Amaz'd I stood,

Horror, till then unknown, uprais'd my hair, And froze my falt'ring tongue. The voice renew'd, Cyrus, go on, and conquer, 'tis I that rais'd thee, I mill direct thy way. Build thou my city, And without ransom set my captives free.

RECITATIVE.

Now tell me, Gobrias, does not this Euphrates Flow through the midst of Babylon?

Gobrias.

It does.

Cyrus.

And I have heard you say that on the west A monstrous lake on every side extended Four hundred furlongs, while the banks were made, Receiv'd th' exhausted river.

Gobrias.

'Tis most true.†

• Jennens prints the following before the beginning of the next piece :-

" Gobrias.

" It was a vision fair and fortunate,

" And calls to my remembrance strange events,

"Before almost forgot. The Jewish people, "Of old the favourites of heav'n, so prov'd

" By various signs, miraculous protections,

"Nor less miraculous vengeance on their foes, Egyptian or Assyrian, tell their crimes,

- " Heap'd to the popular sum, incens'd their God 44
- To leave them, and expose their land, their city,
- " His temple gloriously magnificent,

"With all His sacred things, a scorn and prey "To that proud city that now braves your arms:

" This people by our late victorious king " Nebuchadnezzar, from their native land

" To this were carried captive. Some of these, " For beauty, science, prudence most remark'd,

" Chose from their fellows, stood before the king :

" Daniel, above the rest, for virtue fam'd, " And by his God belov'd, whose holy spirit

" In his pure breast, as in a temple dwelling,

" Enriches it with knowledge more than human.

" The king's prophetic dream himself forgot,

"He knew, and did interpret. O'er this province

"He was for this made ruler ; and though he,

"Who now unworthy reigns, regards him not

" Scarce knows his name, awake to pleasure only,

" Unmindful of whate'er is great and good,

" The queen, his mother, to whose government

"He slothful leaves the state, well knows his merit, "And by his counsel moves. If ought of weight "Is in your dream, this sure must be the people,

" And theirs the city meant.

" AIR.

" Thy wondrous tale with rapture fills my breast !

" O Cyrus, more than mortals blest!

" At once a tyrant's reign to end

" Avenge thy wrongs, my injured friend,

"Restore a people long opprest, "From exile to their native land,

" And execute divine command !"

† Jennens prints the following continuation of Gobrias's speech

- The lake, you see, remains, and the canal
- "Through which the water flow'd : for still Euphrates, "Swell'd once a year above his banks by snow,
- " In summer, melted from Armenian mountains,

" Would deluge all the country, but that these

' Divert his raging course."

Cyrus.

Might not we then by the same means now drain Euphrates dry, and through its channel march Into the city?

• Gobria**s**.

Suppose this done, yet still the brazen gates, Which from the city to the river lead,

Will bar our passage, always shut by night

When we must make the attempt. Could we suppose

Those gates unshut, we might indeed ascend With ease into the city.

Cy**rus**.

Said you not

ix.

This is the feast to Sesach consecrate, And that the Babylonians spend the night In drunken revels, and in loose disorder?

Gobrias.

They do; and 'tis religion to be drunk On this occasion.

AIR.

Behold the monstrous human beast Wallowing in excessive feast. No more his maker's image found,

But self-degraded to a swine,

He fixes grov'lling on the ground His portion of the breath Divine.

RECITATIVE. — Cyrus.

Can you then think it strange, if drown'd in wine, And from above infatuate, they neglect The means of their own safety?

٬ AIR.

'Great God ! who yet but darkly known, 'Thus far hast deign'd my arms to bring,

'Support me still, while I pull down 'Assyria's proud, injurious king.

'So shall this hand Thy altars raise, This tongue for ever sing Thy praise;

'And all Thy will, when clearly shown, 'By Thy glad servant shall be done.'

RECITATIVE

My friends, be confident, and boldly enter Upon this high exploit. No little cause We have to hope success, since not unjustly We have attack'd, but being first attack'd, We have pursu'd th' agressor. Add to this, That I proceed in nothing with neglect ‡ Of Pow'r Divine. Whate'er I undertake I still begin with God, and gain His favour By sacrifice and pray'r.

CHORUS.—Persians.

All empires upon God depend, Begun by His command, at His command they end. Look up to Him in all your ways ; Begin with pray'r, and end with praise.§

† Xenophon's Cyropedeia. Bk. I.

- § Jennens prints these omitted lines :-
 - "Without His aid you war in vain :
 - " Be subject :--- 'tis the way to reign."

SCENE III.

Daniel's House.

DANIEL, with the Prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah open before him. Other JEWS.

AIR.—Daniel.

O sacred oracles of truth,

O living spring of purest joy,

By day be ever in my mouth,

And all my nightly thoughts employ ! Whoe'er withhold attention due, Neglect themselves, despising you.

RECITATIVE (Accompanied).

Rejoice, my countrymen, the time draws near, The long expected time herein foretold.* Seek now the Lord your God with all your heart, And you shall surely find Him. He shall turn Your long captivity, He shall gather you From all the nations whither you are driven, And to your native land in peace restore you. + For long ago, Whole ages ere this Cyrus yet was born Or thought of, Great Jehovah, by His Prophet, In words of comfort to His captive people, Foretold, and call'd by name, the wondrous man. Thus saith the Lord to Cyrus, His anointed, ‡ Whose right hand I have holden to subdue Nations before him, I will go before thee, To loose the strong-knit loins of mighty kings, Make straight the crooked places, break in pieces The gates of solid brass, and cut in sunder The bars of iron, for my servant's sake, Israel My chosen. Though thou hast not known Me, I have surnam'd thee, I have girded thee, That from the rising to the setting sun The nations may confess I am the Lord, There is none else, there is no God beside Me. Thou shalt perform my pleasure to Jerusalem, Saying, Thou shalt be built, and to the Temple Thy raz'd foundation shall again be laid.

CHORUS.-Jews.

Sing, O ye heavens! for the Lord hath done it : Earth, from thy centre shout, Break forth, ye mountains, into songs of joy,

 Jeremiah xxix, + " Chorus of Jews. " O Lord ! the great and dreadful God ! " Justly Thou hast thy curses pour'd " On our rebellious heads: " For ours and for our father's sins, "Thy people are become the scorn "Of all the nations round. "Yet in Thy wrath remember mercy : "O! be Thy fury turn'd away : "Not for our righteousness "But for Thy own great mercies sake ! "O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive: "Defer not, for Thine own sake, O our God !-----"For we are Thine, and bear Thy Name." Recitative accompanied. **†** Isaiah xliv. and xlv.

O forest and each tree therein ! Jehovah hath redeemed Jacob. And glorified Himself in Israel. Hallelujah ! Amen.

SCENE IV.— The Palace.

BELSHAZZAR, NITOCRIS, BABYLONIANS, JEWS, &C.

AIR.—Belshazzar.

Let festal joy triumphant reign, Glad ev'ry heart, in ev'ry face appear, Free flow the wine, nor flow in vain, Far fly corroding care; Each hand the chime melodious raise, Each voice exult in Sesach's praise. Let order vanish; liberty alone-Unbounded liberty the night shall crown.

RECITATIVE.

For you, my friends, the nobles of my court, I have prepar'd a feast magnificent, Worthy of you and me; § I do invite you To share it with me. Let all my wives And concubines attend. Our royal mother And regent of our empire, we entreat ' Your presence as chief honour to our feast.' Nitocris.

I must prevent thee, son. Who can endure Th' unbridled license of this festival, Miscall'd by the licentious, liberty? When naught prevails but riotous excess, The noisy idiot laugh, the jest obscene, The scurril taunt, and drunken midnight brawl. My soul starts back at such brutality Asserting reason's empire.

AIR.

The leafy honours of the field, Before the furious driving wind, In giddy dissipation fly; To noise and folly forc'd to yield, The fair ideas quit the mind, And lost in wild confusion lie.

RECITATIVE.—Belshazzar.

It is the custom, I may say, the law, By long prescription fixed.

Nitocris.

'I know the custom,

And knowing, must abhor. The wise and good,

Allow no law of force against the law

· Of reason, truth and virtue.

• Belshazzar.

'As likes you best, while we enjoy the night.'

' You may do

- § "Awhile begone "Invidious royalty, unfriendly form,
- " Partial distinction betwixt king and subject,
- "Master and vassal : In their room succeed "Familiar conversation, social mirth,

[&]quot; Equality promiscuous. But this night " I taste of happiness; the year besides " Is sacrific'd to state,"

*These captive Jews, what do they here? They low'r upon our joys, And envy liberty they cannot taste. Yet something your perverse and wayward nation Shall to our mirth contribute. Bring those vessels, Those costly vessels my victorious grandsire Took from the Temple of Jerusalem, And in the Temple of great Bel laid up, But us'd them not :--'tis fit they should be us'd ; And let their God, whose pow'r was found too To save His people, serve the conquerors [weak Of Him and them. We'll revel in his cups-Their rich materials and choice workmanship, Shall well augment the splendour of our feast, And, as we drink, we'll praise our country's gods To whom we owe the prize.

Nitocris.

O sacrilege!

Unheard of profanation !

CHORUS.-Jews.

Recall, O king, thy rash command, Nor prostitute with impious hand To uses vile the holy things Of great Jehovah, King of kings. Thy grandsire trembled at His Name, And doom'd to death who durst blaspheme, For he, like us, His pow'r had tried,

Confess'd Him just in all His ways, Confess'd Him able to abase The sons of men that walk in pride.

RECITATIVE.-Nitocris.

They tell you true :---nor can you be to learn (Though ease and pleasure have engross'd you all) Things done in public view. I'll not repeat The seven-fold heated furnace, by that God Whom you defy made to His faithful servants A walk of recreation; nor the king In height of all his pride, driv'n from his throne, And from the first of men, in thought a god, Reduc'd to brutal rank;---all this and more, Thou know'st as well as I, and should'st consider.

Belshazzar.

Away !—Is then my mother convert grown To Jewish superstition ? Apostate queen ! These idle tales might well become the dotage Of palsied age, but not a queen like you In prime of life, for wisdom far renown'd. On to the feast, I waste my time too long In frivolous dispute ; time, due of right To pleasure and the gods.

DUET .- Nitocris.

O dearer than my life, forbear ! Profane not, O my son,

With impious rites Jehovah's Name, Remember what His Arm has done;

The earth contains not half His fame, Remember and His vengeance fear.

Belshazzar.

O queen, this hateful theme forbear, Join not against your son

With captive slaves, your country's foes, Remember what our gods have done To those who durst their pow'r oppose ;

Remember and their vengeance fear.

Nitocris.

Alas! then must I see my son Headlong to sure destruction run?

Belshazzar.

Not to destruction, but delight

I fly, and all once more invite

To reign with me this happy night.

[Excunt severally.

CHORUS.-Jens.

By slow degrees the wrath of God To its meridian height ascends : There mercy long the dreadful bolt suspends Ere it offending man annoy; Long patient, for repentance waits, Reluctant to destroy, At length the wretch, obdurate grown, Infatuate, makes The ruin all his own, and ev'ry step he takes, On his devoted head precipitates the thunder down.

Part the Second.

SCENE I.—Without the city, the river almost

empty.

CYRUS, Sc.

CHORUS.—Persians.

See, from his post Euphrates flies! The stream withdraws his guardian wave! Fenceless the queen of cities lies. SEMI-CHORUS.

Why, faithless river, dost thou leave Thy charge to hostile arms a prey,

Expose the lives thou ought'st to save, Prepare the fierce invader's way, And, like false man, thy trust betray?

semi-chorus. Euphrates hath his task fulfill'd,

But to Divine decree must yield; While Babel, queen of cities reign'd, Her flood, her guardian was ordain'd; Now to superior pow'r gives place, And but the doom of Heav'n obeys. GEORUS.

Of things on earth proud man must own Falsehood is found in man alone.

RECITATIVE. -- Cyrus.

You see, my friends, a path into the city Lies open;—Fearless let us enter, knowing That those we are to cope with are the same We have already conquer'd;—Strengthen'd then

With aid of great and numerous allies, Wakeful, and sober. rank'd in just array : Now all asleep, or drunk, at best disorder'd; A helpless state ! still worse when they shall hear We are within their walls.

AIR.

Amaz'd to find the foe so near, When sleep and wine their senses drown, All hearts shall faint and melt with fear,

All hands unnerv'd fall feebly down. Useless the hero's valour lies,

Useless the counsel of the wise.

CHORUS.-Persians.

To arms! to arms! no more delay; God and Cyrus lead the way.*

SCENE II.—A banquet-room, adorned with the images of the Babylonian gods.

BELSHAZZAR, his wives, concubines, and lords, drinking out of the Jewish temple-vessels, and singing the praises of their gods.

CHORUS. - Babylonians.

Ye tutelar gods of our empire, look down, And see what rich trophies your victory crown, Let your own bounteous gifts, which our grati-

tude raise, Wine, gold, merry notes, pay our tribute of praise.† Sesach, this night is chiefly thine,

Kind donor of the sparkling wine.

AIR.—Belshazzar.

Let the deep bowl thy praise confess, Thy gifts the gracious giver bless; Thy gifts of all the gods bestow, Improve by use and sweeter grow; Another bowl ! 'Tis gen'rous wine Exalts the human to divine.

RECITATIVE.

Where is the God of Judah's boasted pow'r? Let him reclaim his lost magnificence, Assert his right (prov'd ours by long possession), And vindicate his injur'd honour. Ah!

As he is speaking, a hand appears writing upon the wall over against him; he sees it, turns pale with fear, drops the bowl of wine, falls back in his seat trembling from head to foot, and his knees knocking against each other.]

Nobles, Sc.

Help, help the king ! he faints-he dies-What envious demon blasts our joys

And into sorrow turns?

Look up, O king-speak, cheer thy friends, Say why our mirth thus sudden ends,

And the gay circle mourns?

+ "Bel first we sing, great Lord of all below: "To Thee our wealth and pow'r we owe.

Belshazzar.

Behold ! see there !

Pointing to the hand upon the wall, which, while they gaze at it with astonishment, finishes the writing and vanishes.]

Nobles, &c.

O dire portentous sight! but see, 'tis gone, And leaves behind it types unknown. Perhaps some stern decree of fate, Big with the ruin of our state : What god, or godlike man can tell The sense of this mysterious spell?

Belshazzar.

Call all my Wise Men, Sorcerers, Chaldeans, Astrologers, Magicians, Soothsayers; They can, perhaps, unfold the mystic words, Dispel our doubts, and ease us of our fears.

SYMPHONY.

Enter WISE MEN OF BABYLON.

RECITATIVE.—Belshazzar.

Ye sages, welcome always to your king, Most welcome now since needed most. **O** minister

To my sick mind, the med'cine of your art. Whoe'er shall read this writing, and interpret, A splendid purple robe behind him flows, A chain of gold his honoured neck shall grace, And in the kingdom he shall rule the third.

Wise Men.

Alas! too hard a task the king imposes, To read the characters we never learn'd.

CHORUS.—Nobles, &c.

O misery ! O terror ! hopeless grief ! Nor God nor man affords relief! Who can this mystery unveil When all our wise diviners fail?

Enter NITOCRIS.

RECITATIVE. __ Nitocris. ±

O king, live for ever!

Let not thy heart its wonted courage lose, Nor let thy countenance be chang'd with fear, Tho' all thy Wise Men fail thee. In thy kingdom There is a man, among the Jewish captives, In whom the Holy Spirit of God resides, And in thy grandsire Nebuchadnezzar's days, Wisdom, like that of God, was found in him,

t" (Aside.)

- " How soon the scene is chang'd! he, who but now
- "Breath'd nought but mirth and gaiety, defy'd "The God of Heav'n, and wilful stopp'd his ears

- " To all advice, now pale and spiritless, " And helpless sits with all his gods about him, " Who know not his distress; and could they know,
- " They could not bring him aid. But I must now
- " Speak comfort to him, nor increase his woes " Too great already." (To Belshazzar.)

xii.

^{* &}quot; They descend into the river."

[&]quot; Thee, Nebo, next, whose wisdom all admire,

[&]quot; For prescience fam'd, of arts the sire."

By which he could interpret mystic dreams, Explain hard sentences, dissolve all doubts; Daniel his native name, but by the king Nam'd Belteshazzar. Let him now be call'd : He'll read the writing and interpret it.

Enter DANIEL.

Belshazzar.

Art thou that Daniel, of the Jewish captives?* I have heard of thee That thou canst find interpretations deep, And dissolve knotty doubts. If thou canst read This writing, and explain, a purple robe Adorns thy body, a gold chain thy neck, And in the kingdom thou shalt rule the third.

AIR. -Daniel.

No; to thyself thy trifles be, Or take thy rich rewards who will. Such glitt'ring trash affects not me,

Intent on greater matters still.

RECITATIVE (Accompanied).

Yet to obey His dread command Who vindicates His honour now, I'll read this oracle, and thou,

But to thy cost, shalt understand. Thou, O king,

Hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heav'n, Whose vessels they have brought before thee, And thou, thy lords, thy wives, and concubines, Have drunk wine in them. Thou hast prais'd the gods

Of gold, and silver, brass, iron, wood and stone, Which neither see, nor hear, nor aught perceive; But Him, the God Whose hand upholds thy life, And in Whose high dispose are all thy ways, Thou hast not glorified, but hast blasphem'd. From Him the hand was sent; by His appointment

* " I have heard of thee, that a spirit divine

" Resides in thee; that light and understanding,

"And wisdom excellent is found in thee. "Thou seest this writing on the wall: The Wise Men,

"Who all were brought before me, could not read it, " Much less interpret

+ The following stood instead of the next four words:
" The Most High, O king, gave to thy grandsire
" A kingdom, majesty, glory and honour;

"All people, nations, tongues trembled before him :

"Whome'er he would he slew or kept alive: "Whome'er he would exalted, or abas'd.

" But when from hence his heart was lifted up,

"His mind harden'd in pride, he was depos'd "His kingly throne, his glory taken from him; "Driv'n from the sons of men with beasts he dwelt,

" Himself became a beast ; nor was restor'd, " Till humbly he confess'd, the Most High God

- "Rules in the kingdom of men, and over it "Appoints whome'er he will. And thou, Belshazzar, "His grandson, though thou knowest all these things,
- "Yet hast not humbled thy proud heart to god,
- " But,"

These words were written :-- MENE, MENE.

TEKEL, UPHARSIN :- ‡ which I thus interpret.

MENE :--- The God Whom thou hast thus dishonour'd.

The days hath numbered of thy reign, and finish'd it.

TEKEL :--- Thou in the balances art weigh'd And art found wanting.

PERES :- Thy kingdom is divided,

And to the Medes and Persians given.

RECITATIVE.—Nitocris.

O sentence too severe ! and yet too sure ! Unless repentance may reverse the doom. §

AIR.

Regard, O son, my flowing tears, Proofs of maternal love; Regard thyself ;--- to cure thy fears, Regard the God above. Repentance sure will mercy find, But wrath pursues th' obdurate mind.

SCENE III.

CYRUS, GOBRIAS, &c., within the City.

AIR.—Cyrus.

O God of Truth ! O faithful guide !

Well hast Thou kept Thy word;

Deep waves at my approach subside,

The brazen portals open wide, Glad to receive their lord.

The hostile nations scatter'd fly,

Nor dare my presence stay;

Where'er I go, sure victory

Attends, for God is always nigh,

And He prepares my way.

† MENE, number'd; TEKEL, weigh'd; UPHAESIE, and they divide, or shall divide; PERES is the participle passive singular, divide; PHABSIN, the active plural.

- "Perhaps, my son, it is not yet too late,
- To take thy mother's counsel erst despis'd
- " Revere the God whose name thou hast blasphem'd,
- " Implore His pardon with repentant tears, " Redeem offences past by righteousness,
- " Show mercy to the poor, and obtain mercy. "God yet may lengthen thy tranquillity,
- " And thou, and I in thee, may yet be happy."

- " Tho' thy interpretation sound so harsh,
- "Yet I'll perform my promise. Let him wear "A splendid purple robe, with a gold chain,
- " His neck be gras'd ; and to complete his greatness,
- " Proclaim him the third ruler in the kingdom.

" Daniel.

- " Your tinsel ornaments forbear :
- Your empty titles wave : the time is near
 - When thou and all thy gaudy train " From sad experience shall confess,
 - (" Great truth ! how little understood !)
- " The robe most splendid, righteousness ;
- " Virtue the only graceful chain;
- " None truly great, except the good."

RECITATIVE.

You, Gobrias, lead directly to the palace, For you best know the way. This revelling herd Cannot oppose our passage; those who would, Fall easy victims. For the rest, they fly, Or take us for their friends, and reeling, shout For joy. We'll be their friends and join the shout. I seek no enemy except the tyrant ; When he is slain, our task is at an end. My worthy friends, let us not stain our swords With needless slaughter. I begin already To count this people mine, myself their shepherd, Whose office is to feed and to protect them, Not to destroy.

CHORUS.—Persians.

O glorious prince ! thrice happy they, Born to enjoy thy future sway. 'To all like thee were sceptres giv'n,

- 'Kings were like gods, and earth like heav'n :
- Subjection, free, unforc'd would prove :
- 'Obedience is the child of love.
- The jar of nations soon would cease,
- 'Sweet liberty, beatific peace,
- "Would stretch their wings from shore to shore,

'And war and slav'ry be no more.'

Part the Third.

SCENE I.- The Palace.

NITOCRIS and DANIEL.

AIR .- Nitocris.

Alternate hopes and fears distract my mind. My weary soul no rest can find.

My busy fancy now presents

A gracious scene; my son repents

And God recalls his doom ;

Now to false shame he quits his fears, False courage takes, and madly dares His impious feast resume.

Then arms and dying groans resound, And streams of blood gush out around.

RECITATIVE.

• Fain would I hope-it cannot surely be?

Daniel.

Oh that it could not ! but if I may judge The future by the past, it were vain flattery To bid you hope for his conversion !

- * The following stood instead of the next line :--
- " Fain would I know the effect of this late prodigy,
- " Of your reproof, and stern prophetic threats,
- " Of my advice inforc'd with tears of love.
- " Fain would I hope--Is there not room for hope?
- " Can he be so insensate to resist
- "Such pow'rful arguments, so strongly urg'd "By his own fears? Can such perverseness dwell
- " In human hearts? It cannot surely be !

AIR.

Can the black Ethiop change his skin? His native spots the leopard lose? Then may the heart, obdur'd in sin,

Grow soft, repent, and virtue choose. Threats or advice but move disdain, And signs and wonders glare in vain.

(Enter ARIOCH.)

RECITATIVE.—*Nitocris.*

My hopes revive-Here Arioch comes. By this 'Tis plain the revels are broke up. Say, Arioch, Where is the king?

Arioch.

When you had left the room, Awhile deep silence reign'd; the king sat pensive, As doubting whether to break up the banquet, Or to continue.—At length some parasites Those insects vile that still infest a court), Began to minister false comfort to him.+ 'With this again they set them down to drink ; 'The bowl went round, the king forgot his fears, 'The wine inspired him, and he blasphemed again; 'Not long we sat, when, from without the gates, 'A noise tumultuous was heard; ' Loud shouts, and cries, and clashing arms. 'The king deputed some to learn the cause; ' I gladly seized the opportunity,

'And fied a place to swift destruction doom'd !

Enter a MESSENGER.

Messenger.

All's lost ! the fate of Babylon is come ! Cyrus is here, ev'n within the palace!

Nitocris.

Cyrus ! impossible :

Messenger.

It is too true ;-A tumult heard without, -the gates unbarr'd, Disclos'd a dreadful scene : the guards, surpris'd By numbers far superior, fell before them With faint resistance. The victorious foe 'No sooner saw the gates set open wide, 'But rush'd at once, and easy entrance gain'd.'

- " Surmis'd, the hand that wrote upon the wall
- " Might be some juggling trick, some pious fraud, " Contriv'd by Jews to vindicate their faith,
- " And save the honour of their God : Suppose " 'Twere no imposture, but the hand of Heav'n,
- "Yet Daniel might mistake the sense: At worst, " No time was fix'd; the judgments he denounc'd
- " Might yet he years to come : the present moment
- Was theirs, their wisest course was to enjoy it,
- " Nor lose the certain present for the future,
- " Uncertain when to come.'

" Daniel.

- Thus is at length fulfill'd what God foretold
- " Long since by His great prophet. Now, oh queen,
- "The time is come. Be strong, and arm yourself "With all your virtue. This empire is no more.
- "Your son-I spare your grief. Convert your thoughts
- "To what may comfort you. The past and present "Are to God's Justice due; the future time, "Hope to His mercy gives. Whate'er He does "Is best. Let this sink deep into your mind, "Assue your work of the future time,

- " Assuage your griefs, and dissipate your fears."

CHORUS.-Jews.

Bel boweth down! Nebo stoopeth! How is Sesach taken ! and how is the praise Of the whole earth surpris'd! Thy counsel stands, O Lord, And Thou dost all Thy pleasure. *

SCENE II.

BELSHAZZAR, his LORDS, and other BABYLONIANS, with their swords drawn.

AIR.—Belshazzar.

I thank thee, Sesach ; Thy sweet pow'r Does to myself myself restore. Thy plenteous heart-inspiring juice All my courage lost renews. I blush to think I shadows fear'd; Cyrus, come on !-I'm now prepar'd.

MARTIAL SYMPHONY,

During which a battle is supposed in which

BELSHAZZAR is slain.

SCENE III.

CYRUS, GOBRIAS, &C. AIR.—Gobrias.

To pow'r immortal my first thanks are due, My next, great Cyrus, let me pay to you, Whose arm this impious king laid low, The bitter source of all my woe. Tears sure will all my life employ, Ev'n now I weep, but weep for joy.

RECITATIVE.—Cyrus.

Be it thy care, good Gobrias, to find out The queen, and that great Jew, of whom thou told'st me;

Guard them in safety hither. If harm befal them, I shall repent, and curse my victory.

Exit GOBRIAS.

ATR.

Destructive war, thy limits know; Here, tyrant death, thy terrors end ; To tyrants only I'm a foe, To virtue and her friends, a friend.⁺

Enter NITOCRIS.

DUET .- Nitocris. Great victor, at your feet I bow. No more a queen, your vassal now. My people spare, forgive my fears; I mourn a son, indulge my tears, Resistless nature bids them flow.

" Elam is come up, Media hath besieged : " All our sighing hast Thou made to cease.

- " For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob,
 - " And, will yet choose Israel
 - " And set them in their own land.
- " Let tyrants keep their slaves in awe,
- "Who hate, yet fear to break their chain;
- "From hence thy glory, Cyrus, draw, "In human hearts to fix thy reign."

Cyrus.

Rise, virtuous queen, compose your mind, Give fear and sorrow to the wind. Safe are your people if they will; Be still a queen, a mother still, A son in Cyrus you shall find.

Enter DANIEL.

RECITATIVE.—Cyrus (to Daniel). Say, venerable prophet, is there aught In Cyrus' pow'r by which he can oblige Thee or thy people?

Daniel.

O victorious prince,

The God of Israel, Lord of heav'n and earth, Long ere thy birth, foretold thee by thy name,

- And shew'd thy conquests! 'Tis to Him thou ow'st.
- To Him thou must ascribe them. Read those lines.

The great prediction which thou hast already In part accomplish'd, and, we trust, will soon Fulfil the rest.[±]

SOLOS AND CHORUS.

Tell it out among the heathen

That the Lord is King ! ||

RECITATIVE (Accompanied).-Cyrus. 'I will release thy captives, not for price, 'Not for reward, but to perform Thy pleasure. 'Thus prostrate I confess, Thou art the Lord, 'There is none else, there is no God beside Thee. 'Thou condescendest to call me Thy shepherd, 'And I will feed Thy flock. To me Thou hast given 'The kingdom of the earth ; and shall I suffer ' Thy kingdoms to lie waste, Thy chosen people 'In exile and captivity to wander? 'Far be from Cyrus such ingratitude ! Yes, I will build Thy city, God of Israel. Hear, holy people, hear, elect of God,' The God of Israel (He alone is God), Hath charg'd me to rebuild His house and city, And let His exil'd captive people go. With transport I obey. Be free, ye captives,

And to your native land in peace return.

Thou, O Jerusalem, shalt be rebuilt;

O Temple thy foundation shall be laid.

No thanks to me.—To God return your thanks,

As I do mine : we all are to His goodness Indebted deep; to Him be all the praise.

SOLOS AND CHORUS.

I will magnify Thee, O God, my King, and I will praise Thy name for ever and ever.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh give thanks unto His holy Name for ever and ever. Amen.

" How false and weak is human policy !

" Preserving empires, not regarding Him

- || "He maketh the devices of the people of none effect,
- "He casteth out the counsels of princes:
- "He putteth down one, and setteth up another."

^{(&}quot; Giving him part of Isaiah's prophecy, which Cyrus reads.)

[&]quot;Which lays deep schemes of raising, governing,

[&]quot; By whom kings reign, and empires rise and fall !

INDEX.

PART THE FIRST.

1.	Overture .	• .	•	•	•		•	•	•	1
2.	Recitative (acc	omp.)	Nitocris	•	•	Vain fluctuating state	•	•	•	4
3.	Air .		Nitocris	•	•	Thou God most high	•	•	•	8
4.	Recitative	•	Nitocris and	l Daniel	•	The fate of Babylon	•	•	•	11
5.	Air .	•	Daniel	•		Lament not thus	•	•	•	13
6.	Chorus, Babyle	onia ns	•	•		Behold, by Persia's her	o made	•	•	17
7.	Recitative	•	Cyrus and	Gobrias	•	Well may they laugh	•	•	•	24
8.	Recitative (acc	omp.)	Gobrias	•	•	O memory! .	•	•	•	25
9.	Air .	•	Gobrias	•	•	Oppress'd with never-	easing a	grief	•	26
10.	Air .	•	Cyrus	•	•	Dry those unavailing to	Bars	•	•	30
11.	Recitative	•	Cyrus	•	•	Be comforted .	•	•	•	33
12.	Recitative (acc	omp.)	Cyrus	•	•	Methought as on the b	anks	•	•	33
13.	Recitative	•	Cyrus and	Gobria s	•	Now tell me, Gobrias	•	•	•	36
14.	Air .	•	Gobrias	•	•	Behold the monstrous	•	•	•	38
15.	Recitative	•	Cyrus	•	•	Can you then think	•	•	•	41
1 6 .	Air .	•	Cyru s	•	•	Great God, who yet	•	•		41
17.	Recitative	•	Cyrus	•		My friends, be confident	nt	•	•	44
18.	Chorus, Persia	i ns	•	•	•	All empires upon God	•	•	•	45
19.	Air .	•	Daniel	•	•	O sacred oracles		•	•	5 3
2 0.	Recitative (acc	omp.)	Danisl	•	•	Rejoice, my countryme	n	•	•	56
21.	Chorus, Jews	•	•	•	•	Sing, O ye heavens	•	•	•	60
22.	Air .	•	Belshazzar	•	•	Let festal joy .	•	•	•	70
23.	Recitative	•	Nitooris and	Belshazz	ar	For you, my friends	•	•	•	76
24.	Air .	•	Nitocris	•	•	The leafy honours	•	•	•	77
25.	Recitative	•	Nitocris and	Belshazı	ar	It is the custom	•	•	•	84
26.	Chorus, Jews	•	•	•	•	Recall, O King!	•	•	•	86
27.	Recitative	•	Nitocris and	Belshazz	ar	They tell you true	•	•	•	90
28.	Duet .	•	Nitocris and	Belshazz	tar	O, dearer than my life	•	•	•	92
29.	Chorus, Jews					By slow degrees		•	•	99

PART THE SECOND.

[№] о. 30.	Chorus, Persians	•	•	•	See from his post		•	•	Page 112
31.	Recitative .	Cyru s	•	•	You see, my friends	•	•	•	128
32.	Air	Cyrus	•	•	Amaz'd to find.	•	•	•	129
33.	Chorus, Persians	•	•	•	To arms, to arms	•	•	•	1 32
34.	Chorus, Babylonians	•	•	•	Ye tutelar gods	•	•	•	134
35.	Air	Belshazzar	•	•	Let the deep bowl	•	•	•	142
36.	Recitative .	Belshazzar&1	Babylo ni a	i ns	Where is the God	•	•	•	146
37.	Symphony .	•	•	•	• •	•	•	•	150
38.	Recitative .	Belshazzar d	f Wise m	en	Ye sages	•	•	•	152
39.	Chorus, Babylonians	•	•		O misery ! .	•	•	•	154
40.	Recitative .	Nitocris and	Belshazz	ar	O King, live for ever	•	•	•	156
41.	Air	Daniel	•	•	No; to thyself thy trif	les be	•	•	158
42.	Recitative (accomp.)	Daniel	•	•	Yet, to obey .	•	•	•	161
43.	Recitative .	Nitocris	•	•	O sentence too severe	•	••	•	164
44.	Air	Nitocris	•	•	Regard, O son.	•	•	•	164
45.	Air	Cyrus	•	•	O God of truth !	•	•	•	167
46.	Recitative .	Cyrus	•	•	You, Gobrias .	•	•	•	171
47.	Chorus, Persians	•	•	•	O glorious prince	•	•	•	173

PART THE THIRD.

48 .	Air	•	•	Nitocris	•	•	Alternate hopes and fe	ers	•	•	180
49 .	Recitati	ve	•	Nitocris and	l Danie	ı	Fain would I hope	•	•	•	184
5 0.	Air	•	•	Daniel	•	•	Can the black Ethiop	•	•	•	184
51.	Recitati	Ve	•	Nit., Arioch §	Messeng	er	My hopes revive	• •	•	•	188
52.	Chorus,	Jews	•	•	•	•	Bel boweth down	•	•	•	191
53.	Air	•	•	Ģelshazz ar	•	•	I thank thee, Sesach		•	•	195
54.	Martial	Symph	ony	•	•	•	• • •	•	•	•	198
55.	Air	•		Gobria s	•	•	To pow'r immortal	•	•	•	199
56.	Recitati	ive		Cyrus	•		Be it thy care .	• •	•	•	200
57.	Air	•	•	Cyrus	•		Destructive war	•	•	•	2 01
58.	Duet	•	•	Nitocris and	l Cyrus		Great victor .	•	•	•	205
59.	Recitati	ive	•	Cyrus and	Daniel	•	Say, venerable prophet	t.	•	•	2 10
60.	Solos a	nd Cho	rus	Sop., Alto §	· Tenor		Tell it out among the	heathen	•	•	211
61.	Recitati	ive (acc	omp.)	Cyrus	•	•	Yes, I will build thy c	ity	•	•	2 14
62.	Solos a	nd Chor	118	Soprano an	d Alto		I will magnify Thee, C) God	•	•	216

OVERTURE.



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* This har and the next are omitted in Randall's edition. † The Editor proposes this division of the word to the choice of the singer.























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AIR .--- " DRY THOSE UNAVAILING TEARS."



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. with pray'r, and end with praise, end end. and with praise, with praise, and with be-gin with pray'r, , end E ۲ fe. end, and with and end. and end praise, . with praise, • • F nd end with praise, and end with praise, with praise, praise, . and end with praise, O, Be-gin with pray'r, with with pray'r, and end . with praise, and end with • De ŧ be-gin with pray'r, and end with _ E with praise, praise, with be -gin with pray'r, and end praise, -**T**Ö



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 $\mathbf{52}$

AIE .- "O SACRED ORACLES OF TRUTH."









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No. 19.







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58

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AIB .- "LET FESTAL JOY."













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* It is suggested to substitute the small for the large notes, and omit from A to B on the repetition of the First Part, Da Capo.

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CHORUS OF JEWS .- " RECALL, O KING !"



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DUET.- "O DEARER THAN MY LIFE, FORBEAR."



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119

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155























159

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BEGITATIVE (Accompanied) .- "YET, TO OBEY."



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* This and several after passages for the voice, as well as for the instruments, are even semiquavers in the MS.

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* From here to the end is in Randall, but not in the MS.

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CHOBUS OF PERSIANS .-... "O GLORIOUS PRINCE."





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PART III.













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Thy counsel stands. sure, all Thy plea surel and Thou dost all Thy plea sure ! Thy coun sel stands, O sure. 6 and Thou dost Thy counsel stands, O pleasure, All Thy sure ! i. plea Thy counsel stands, O sure, Thou dost all, dost all Thy sure ! 1 Lord ! and Thou dost all Thy plea Lord! and Thou dost all Thy plea Lord! and Thou dost all Thy plea sure. Thy 0, and Thou dost all Thy plea Lord! E and Thou dost all, Thy plea 811PO, dost all sure ! ₽ 0 Thy pleasure, and Thou dost all, dost all Thy plea sure! E all. sure, and Thou dost Thy dost all plea sure ! ŧ and Thou dost all, dost Thy plea sure. all sure ! E

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197

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MARTIAL SYMPHONY.




































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Handel's "Beinhasuar,"--Novello, Ewer and Co.'s Octave Edition.



209 bids them flow, re - sist-less na - ture bids them flow, (com-pose your mind, your mind com - pose. P \odot ŧ ŧ re-sist-less - ture na Ē Ē 25 0 F Ē 6 bids them flow. find. • Cy - rus you shall A son in Į(\odot :

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SOLOS AND CHOBUS .--- " TELL IT OUT AMONG THE HEATHEN."

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No. 60.







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SOLOS AND CHOBUS .- "I WILL MAGNIFY THEE."

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219











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