THE PSALMODY

The Free Church of Scotland.

WITH AN ACCOMPANIMENT FOR THE PIANOFORTE.

PREPAREI

UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF GEORGE HOGARTH, ESQ.

BY T. L. HATELY,

PRECENTOR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.



Issued by Buthority of the Committee on Psalmody,

EDINBURGH: JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER.

M.DCCC.LV.



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Pry., 14.

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EDINBURGH:

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ADDRESS.

For several past years, the improvement of Congregational Singing has engaged the attention of the Church of Scotland, by whose authority the charge of this subject was intrusted to a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Education. The General Assembly of 1844, deeming it sufficiently important to require the attention of a separate Committee, passed the following Resolution on 24th May in that year:—" The General Assembly called for the Overture by certain Members of the House anent the improvement of Church Music. The Assembly, having heard the Overture, cordially concur therewith, remit to a Committee, with power to add to their number, to adopt such measures as may seem best for carrying out the desirable object which it contemplates; and to report to next Assembly."

The matter of this Remit being the Singing of the Psalms, it was at once determined in the Committee, that these ought to be sung in four parts. 1st, Because, according to a provision of nature, there exist in every miscellaneous meeting of human beings, the four classes of voices represented by the musical terms, Treble, Counter-Tenor, Tenor, and Bass,—the first embracing the highest, and the others the gradually descending pitches, down to the last, which, as its name imports, is the lowest. 2dly, Because, were all these classes of voices to sing the same part, viz. the melody, there would be confusion, of which God is not the author, but man, causing a screeching, groaning, risping, and uncertain sound, which is not harmony, and is scarcely music—though this is the singing of too many of our Congregations; whereas, if the melody were sung by females and children, whose voices are treble, and all the others took the respective parts natural to them, there would be, in our Churches, such a "breaking forth into singing," as would place this branch of devotional exercise on its true level, in so far as this can be effected by natural means. And lastly, Because this was the practice of the Church in its best days,—one of the earliest fruits of the Reformation, both on the Continent and in this country, being the singing of the Psalms by the Congregation at large, and in parts.

That this was especially true of Scotland—in all ages a musical land—is proved by the still existing copies of "John Knox's Psalms," arranged for four parts, two fronting one way in the book, and two the other, for the convenience of greater numbers reading together from them; and likewise by various historical facts recorded in our Church histories.

The practice, it is true, declined during last century. But this took place just as the Church declined; and with the abandonment of Part-singing, Singing itself sunk by degrees, till at length, in many Churches, it in substance died away altogether. It is equally true, however, of singing, as of religious conviction itself, that "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh." It has pleased God, of late years, to revive His work in the midst of us; and a revived desire for congregational singing has not failed to be the consequence. The Committee, accordingly, has not so much felt it necessary to stimulate this desire, as to regulate and guide it; and the present Work may be regarded as the first step in this direction.

The possession of a Book of Psalm Tunes for the use of the Church, may be justly regarded as preliminary to every other step; because, whatever may be the case with a few, the people at large are unacquainted with Part-singing; and it is important, if not necessary, that, when proceeding to learn, they should adopt some one book, without which, unity of singing cannot be attained; while it is quite certain, that though in this department of art, it is emphatically true, that of making many books there is no end, still there exists no one of such pre-eminent excellence as to command universal acceptance. But it may not unreasonably be expected, that a book published expressly for the use of the Free Church may, even without

pretending to perfection, more effectually attract the notice of our people, and tempt them all, old and young, to sing, than any general book; and it is with the people of the Free Church that the Committee have primarily to do.

There are two characteristics of the present publication, which will, it is trusted, render it a means of promoting this desirable end of unity in singing, in the Free Church. In the first place, it discards all theatrical and jig-like, and almost all repeating Tunes; which, if admissible in secular meetings, are justly deemed out of place in the House of God; and it limits itself very much to that more solid and simple class, of which the established Tunes of Scotland are the type and specimen. And, in the second place, its harmonies are constructed on a plain and simple principle, not requiring the foreign aid of instruments, or of a trained band, (whether acting as the substitute, or as the leader of the people,) but adapted to the easy use of the mass of the people themselves; so that they may come forward, with heart and mouth, and, in the full force and volume of their numbers, declare the praises of their God, and of His Christ, in the meetings of his Saints.

That such is the character of the Book, is sufficiently established by the following certificates, which are of equal scientific and practical value:—

"CLOISTERS, WESTMINSTER, Dec. 25, 1844.—I have seen the two first Numbers of the Free Church Paalmody, and a careful examination of the Tunes they contain, enables me to speak most favourably of the Work. The Tunes are exceedingly well harmonized, and, in my opinion, as Psalm Tunes ought to be; that is, in simple counterpoint. This plain and easy manner of arranging the Parts, allows of a larger portion of a Congregation to join in devotional singing; and, on this account, such a Work is deserving of every encouragement.

"James Turle, Organist, Westminster Abbey."

"GRESHAM COLLEGE, Jan. 28, 1845.—I beg to thank you for a sight of the 1st and 2d Parts of the 'Free Church Psalmody,' in which I think you have displayed equal judgment in selecting and arranging the Tunes of which the collection is composed. The reprehensible practice of mutilating the compositions of eminent authors, and of introducing Song Tunes, and other secular (sometimes profane) Airs, you have avoided, and made your selection from those admirable models of Metrical Psalmody, which the best native and foreign writers have bequeathed to us. Psalm singing, in the parochial service of the Church of England, and, I presume, in the universal service of the Church of Scotland, was intended to be-and was-the singing of the Congregation—in parts, as distinguished from that of the Cathedral, which is conducted by two antiphonal choirs; and to a recurrence to a practice so well adapted to excite and strengthen devotional feelings, your Work is well calculated to lead. The harmonies are pure, and—as they ought to be—easy to sing. There is only one point in which I differ with you; and that is the substitution of the G for the C cleff in the Tenor line, a practice which must embarrass any player, while it affords no additional facility to the singer; for I never knew a Tenor or a Bass singer in my life, who could not read the cleffs used for the Tenor or Bass part. Probably as to this point you may have given way to the opinion of others; and I only mention it, because it is the only one which can qualify my sincere approbation of the Work. You know that in sending me this publication, you are encountering a rival Editor-since my good friend, the organist of Westminster Abbey and I, have recently published (as part of the 'People's Music Book') a collection of Psalm Tunes. Self-conceit and interest would lead me to endeavour-if I could-to pull yours to pieces; but I hope that such motives will never influence my judgment, or prevent me from bidding a hearty 'God speed,' to every well directed " EDW. TAYLOR, Gres. Prof. Mus." effort to improve Congregational Psalmody.

In this Address, the Committee has directed its principal attention to the material or natural elements of Church singing; and for the obvious reason, that the right direction of these is its leading business. But they themselves reverently bear in mind—and it must never be forgotten—that the singing of Psalms, however perfectly executed, like the making of prayers, however eloquently expressed, is utterly worthless, without grace in the heart. This great matter, however, is the work and business of the Church itself; and it shall here only be added, that the blessing of the Great Head of the Church is fervently invoked, as upon all the efforts of the Free Church, so upon this humble attempt to promote His glory, by improving the singing of His praise.

February, 1845.

PREFACE.

The limits within which these introductory remarks must be confined, preclude any minuteness of detail respecting the history of Metrical Psalmody. In the religious worship of the earliest Christians, it was unquestionably the custom of the whole Congregation to unite their voices in psalms and hymns of praise and supplication to God. But these strains, which must necessarily have been plain and simple, were superseded by the complex and pompous music of the Romish Church;—music performed by choirs of trained voices, and accompanied by instruments, in which the Congregation can take no part, and to which they listen rather as a gratification of sense, than an act of devotion in which they partake. This abuse was one of those which attracted the attention of the Reformers of the sixteenth century; at which period the Psalmody now used in the Protestant Churches had its origin.

Luther—himself an accomplished musician—entertained exalted notions of the art, and laboured to purify and strengthen it as an instrument of devotion. He declared it to be his intention, according to the example of the Prophets and ancient Fathers of the Church, to make psalms or spiritual songs for the people, that the Word of God might continue among them in psalms, if not otherwise. In pursuance of this object, he published at Wittemberg, in 1524 and 1525, three collections of psalms in the German language, partly (at least) versified and set to music by himself: and these were followed by many other similar works, produced by his fellow-labourers in the same vineyard. At a period somewhat later, Calvin directed his attention to the subject of Psalmody. In 1543, a French metrical version of fifty of the psalms was published at Geneva, with a preface from the pen of Calvin himself. It was made by Clement Marot, the celebrated poet, who, having been suspected of heresy, had fled from France to Geneva. The remainder of the psalms were versified by Theodore Beza; and the whole-including those of Marot-were published at Strasburg in 1545. These Collections contained Tunes, without harmony, composed by Guillaume Franc, a musician of whom nothing else is known. They were subsequently harmonized by other musicians, and some of them are in use among us to the present day. The most remarkable Continental collection of harmonized Psalm Tunes, is that of the celebrated Claude le Jeune, published in 1627. Tunes in this collection were generally used in the Calvinist Churches, and—according to Burney—it "went through more editions, perhaps, than any musical work since the invention

In England, as well as on the Continent, Metrical Psalmody is coeval with the Reformation. Bishop Burnet, in his History of the Reformation, says—"Some poets, such as the age afforded, translated David's Psalms into verse; and it was a sign by which men's affections to that work were everywhere measured, whether they used to sing these or not." By the Act of Uniformity for the use of the Common Prayer in English, in 1548, the singing of psalms or prayers, taken out of the Bible, is permitted, provided that this is done without omitting any part of the service contained in the Common Prayer Book; and it is on this footing that the practice of Metrical Psalmody continues to stand in the service of the Church of England.

of printing." The harmony is in plain counterpoint, and very grave and masterly.

The first entire English version of the Psalms—that of Sternhold and Hopkins—with the Tunes, was published in 1562. The Tunes were given without harmony, and were chiefly such as were used by the Reformers on the Continent. The first English Collection, with the Tunes harmonized in four parts, is that of William Damon, published in 1579. It was followed by many others, which we must pass over, till we come to the celebrated Collection of Ravenscroft, which was first published in 1621, and another edition of it appeared in 1633. It contains a Tune for each of the Psalms. The greater number are those previously in use among the German and other foreign Protestants; many are composed by Ravenscroft himself; and some are said to have been used in England, Scotland, and Wales. The Tunes in this Collection were harmonized in four parts, by several of the most eminent English musicians, among whom were Tallis, Kirbye, Dowland, Morley, Bennet, and John' Milton, the father of

the great poet. It is hardly necessary to say, that the harmonies of such men are excellent; but they were arranged in a form, universal at that time, but now obsolete; the Tune is given to the Tenor part, the Treble and Counter-Tenor being placed above it. Whatever may have been the original reason for this arrangement, it has long since been universally felt and admitted that it is at variance with the natural order of the different registers of the scale, both vocal and instrumental. From the acute and penetrating quality of the higher sounds, they are found to predominate in harmonic combination. The part, consequently, assigned to the Treble, will always appear to be the principal melody; so that, in a psalm sung according to the old arrangement, we seem to hear another Tune, while the real melody becomes a mere accompaniment. This evil is aggravated when not only one, but two vocal parts are placed above the melody. Of all the four parts, the Tenor, though not the least essential to the beauty of the harmony, is that which, singly, makes the smallest impression on the ear; and of all the four parts, therefore, the Tenor is the least fitted to sustain the principal melody. It is true that in modern music, both vocal and instrumental, we meet with strains of melody given to an under part, while the accompanying parts rise above it; but it is hardly necessary to say, that this is only done occasionally, for the sake of some peculiar effect, and is an exception from the general practice. This change of system has necessarily led to great alterations in the harmonies of Ravenscroft and his contemporaries. Every musician knows that it is impossible to invert the order of the parts, by singing any one of them an octave higher or lower than the composer intended, without dislocating the harmony, and throwing it into confusion; and the utmost that can now be preserved—and that not always—is an approximation to the ancient harmonies.

Another remarkable English Collection is that of Playford, published in 1670. It contains a large body of standard Tunes, and had a very extensive currency all over the kingdom. Its peculiarity is, that the Tunes are harmonized, not in four parts, but in three; for the sake, of course, of greater facility of performance. This method has been recommended by Avison, who, in his Essay on Musical Expression, says—" when Psalm Tunes are sung in parts, there should not be any more than three, i.e. treble, tenor, and bass; as too complex a harmony would destroy their natural air." Avison's opinions are entitled to weight; but, whatever ground there may be for his opinion, the reason he himself assigns for it is not a good one. Harmony in four parts, provided it is clearly and simply written, can have no greater effect in destroying the "natural air" of the Tunes than harmony in three. Harmony in three parts, moreover, though it may be rendered sufficiently full and satisfactory by the introduction of what is called florid counterpoint, is not adapted to plain counterpoint, of note against note, where each note carries a prolonged chord. In such a case, chords in three parts are unavoidably thin and meagre; in proof of which it is sufficient to remark (what every harmonist knows) that all the three parts must frequently close of necessity upon the key note, without the possibility of introducing the major or minor third which determines the key. The only real reason for Avison's recommendation would be the greater ease of performance by uneducated singers; but this reason is less valid at present than it was when he wrote, an hundred years ago; a knowledge of vocal harmony being much more general now than it was then. And besides, it is the object of the present work to promote this knowledge, by giving the public a body of Psalmody harmonized in the most complete as well as the simplest manner. It may be added, too, that, in so doing, we have adhered to the general practice; for, though some books of Psalmody in three parts have appeared, they have never been used to any extent.

The metrical psalmody of the Scottish Church (like that of the English) is derived from the Reformers of the Continent. Our illustrious Knox, like Calvin, provided for the musical service of the Church, by compiling a body of Psalmody, an edition of which, published in 1615 by "Andro Hart," is the most remarkable ancient Scottish Collection now extant. It contains many of the Geneva Tunes of Theodore Beza; and others, which being found in no other collection (as far as we know) of so early a period, may fairly be considered as of Scottish origin. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, music was highly cultivated throughout Europe, and there is no doubt that Scotland, like other countries, possessed learned and skilful harmonists, though their names have passed into oblivion; Scotland not being, in those days, a country (like England) in which music had become a regular profession, from

the exercise of which, in its highest branches, present emolument and posthumous reputation could be acquired. That some of the Tunes in Knox's Collection were really Scotch, may be inferred from the circumstance, that Ravenscroft inserted them in his Collection with the designation of "Scotch," which he would not have done had he found them in any of the Continental collections used by him in compiling his work.

These ancient Collections may be regarded as the foundation, or nucleus, of the Parochial Psalmody, both of England and Scotland, to this day. Collections have subsequently accumulated in both countries, but especially in the former, till they have become innumerable. Many valuable additions have been gradually made to the original stock by the greatest English composers of the ecclesiastical school. In the old English collections, the Tunes of the Continental Reformers are mingled with those of native composers, among whom may especially be mentioned Thomas Tallis, who shares with Palestrina the title of father of ecclesiastical harmony; George Kirbye, one of the great madrigalists of Elizabeth's time; and John Milton, who transmitted to the author of the Paradise Lost, along with his name, his enthusiastic love of music, and skill in the art. Among those who have successively contributed to English Psalmody may be enumerated Purcell, Handel, Croft, Greene, Boyce, Battishill, Arnold, Jackson; almost every great composer, in short, who has devoted his talents to the service of religion. Tunes of sterling merit, and, consequently, in general use, have been produced by persons of whom little is known, such as Wainwright, Wheall, Isaac Smith, &c.; and such additions have continued to be made, almost to the present day.

But, in most modern Collections, the ore is buried and lost among the dross. A spurious kind of Psalmody has been gradually introduced, which threatens to destroy the character and pervert the object of Church music. The grave simplicity of the Psalm has been exchanged for a light and florid—and often mean and vulgar—melody, garnished with the airs and graces of secular music, full of unmeaning iteration of words, solos, and responses, and all the tricks and devices resorted to in order to tickle the ear, and reduce the praise of God to an amusement. Not only are multitudes of such things composed every day, but, even in Collections appearing under the auspices of distinguished musical names, we see, with indignation, Psalm Tunes made out of popular ballads, and even out of airs taken from the gayest and most profane productions of the Opera Stage! And, to make room for trash of this sort, the fine old standard Tunes are almost entirely excluded!

In the modern Collections, there is no uniformity in the manner in which the Tunes are harmonized. This is necessarily the case, from the circumstance already mentioned, that the old harmonies were constructed according to a vocal arrangement which is now universally abandoned. Every modern editor, therefore, arranges the harmonies, well or ill, according to his own skill and judgment; and among the numerous collections which we have consulted, we have not found two with the same harmonies. These collections, of course, are of very different degrees of merit; but there is not, either in England or Scotland, any one which possesses the authority of a standard work.

Such a standard is imperatively called for. In England, its want has been long felt and lamented, both by religious and musical writers, who have again and again urged upon the Church some measure for the purpose of obtaining a pure and uniform Psalmody. In Scotland, such a measure is even more indispensable than in England; because, in Scotland, psalmody is the sole music of the Church. Such a measure, accordingly, has been adopted by the Free Church of Scotland, and the present publication is its result.

In the execution of this task, two considerations were involved; the selection of the Tunes, and their arrangement. In regard to the first, it has been our object that the contents of this little book shall consist chiefly of the old and venerable Tunes, established in this country since the days of the Reformation, with the addition only of such, among the more modern Tunes, as are in the true style and spirit of Psalmody, and have been sanctioned by general use. In regard to the second, though we (in common with all modern editors,) have found it impossible to adopt the arrangement of the old masters, yet we have endeavoured to preserve the character of their harmony; its breadth, simplicity, and adaptation to the voices of a large assembly. To the accomplishment of both objects our utmost care and attention have been devoted; and we anxiously hope that our efforts will not be found unsuccessful.

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DIRECTIONS.

THE First Line is the Air or Melody, and should invariably be sung by *Treble voices*; that is to say, by Females and Boys.

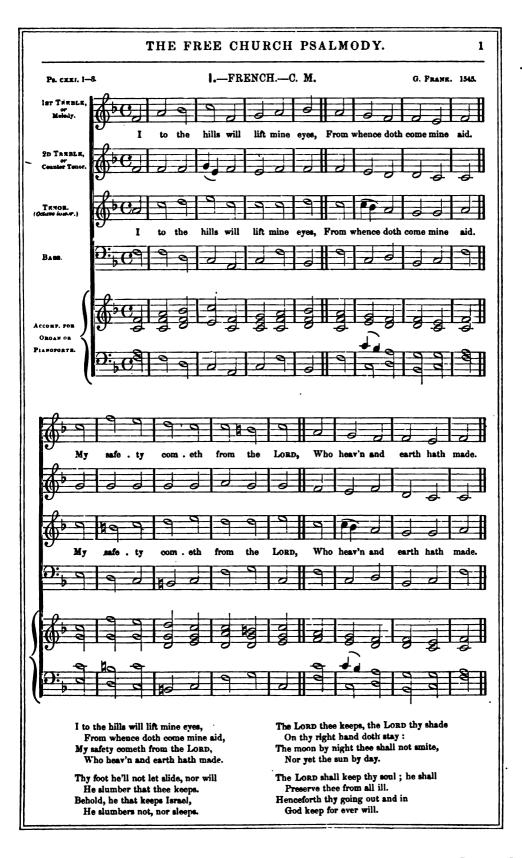
The Second Line may be sung either as a Second Treble or Counter Tenor; that is, by the deeper toned Female, or high set Male voices.

The Third Line is the *Tenor*, although written on the Treble Clef, and must be sung exclusively by *Tenor voices*.

The Fourth Line, the Bass, is appropriated to the deep-toned Male voices.

It is an error to suppose that Tunes written in Semibreves and Minims are always to be sung slowly. Their time should be regulated by the character of the words employed; which may be either of a solemn or joyful description.

Each part should be sung exactly as it is written—discarding all grace notes, or the slightest deviation from the notes assigned to the respective voices.















When Sion's bondage God turn'd back, As men that dream'd were we. Then fill'd with laughter was our mouth, Our tongue with melody:

They 'mong the heathen said, The Lord Great things for them hath wrought. The Lord hath done great things for us, Whence joy to us is brought. As streams of water in the south, Our bondage, LORD, recall. Who sow in tears, a reaping time Of joy enjoy they shall.

That man who, bearing precious seed, In going forth doth mourn, He doubtless, bringing back his sheaves, Rejoicing shall return.









Doth by a law decree !

Our LORD God shall them slay.

















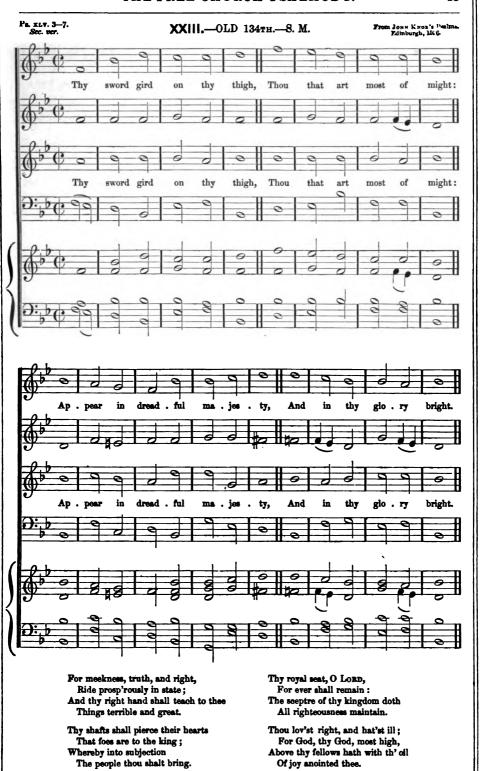




Much like unto the fading grass.

Behold, is now come to an end.







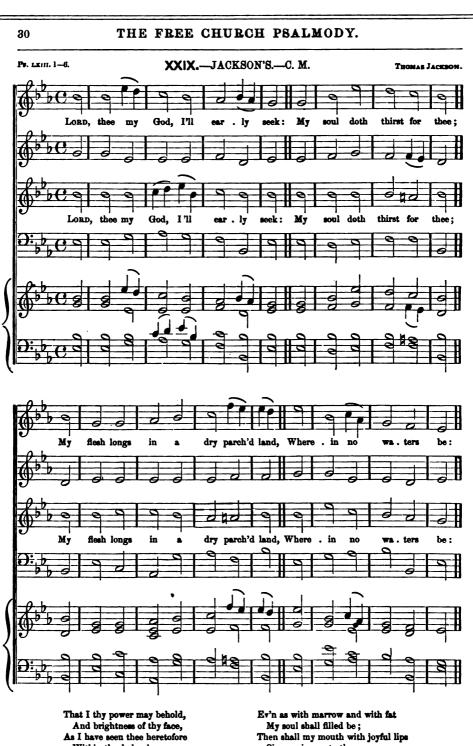












Within thy holy place.

Since better is thy love than life, My lips thee praise shall give. I in thy name will lift my hands, And bless thee while I live.

Sing praises unto thee:

When I do thee upon my bed Remember with delight, And when on thee I meditate In watches of the night.



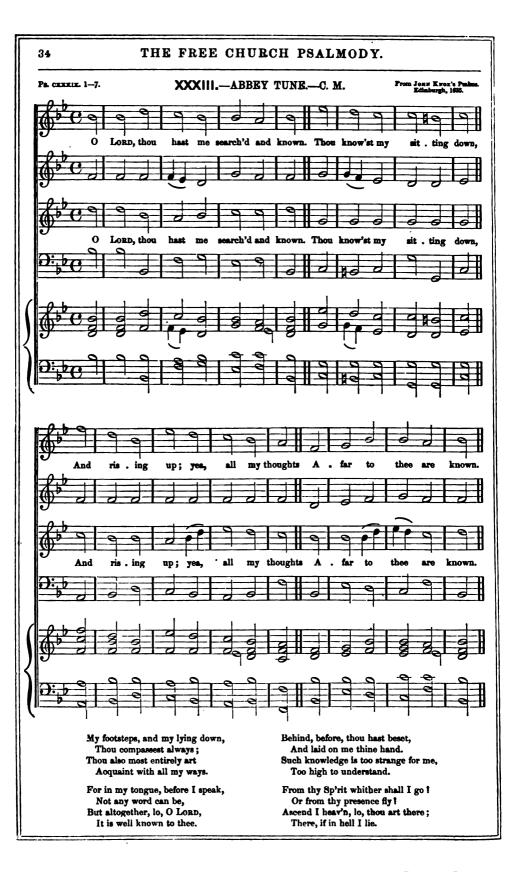


Iniquities, I must confess,
Prevail against me do:
But as for our transgressions,
Them purge away shalt thou.

Bless'd is the man whom thou dost chuse, And mak'st approach to thee, That he within thy courts, O LORD, May still a dweller be: We surely shall be satisfy'd
With thy abundant grace,
And with the goodness of thy house,
Ev'n of thy holy place.

O God of our salvation,
Thou, in thy righteousness,
By fearful works unto our pray'rs
Thine answer dost express.







Together, by have gone.

When she a child doth bear.





God will the just desire fulfil Of such as do him fear and dread: Their cry regard, and hear he will, And save them in the time of need. The LORD preserves all, more and less, That bear to him a loving heart: But workers all of wickedness, Destroy will he, and clean subvert.

Therefore my mouth and lips I 'll frame To speak the praises of the LORD: To magnify his holy name For ever let all flesh accord.













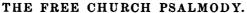
Exalted very far.

Hate ill, all ye that love the Lord:
His saints' souls keepeth he:

Hate ill, all ye that love the Lord:
His saints' souls keepeth he;
And from the hands of wicked men
He sets them safe and free.

Ye righteous, in the Lord rejoice; Express your thankfulness, When ye into your memory Do call his holiness.





45



So do thou make us glad.

Establish them each one.



OLD 137TH-continued.



Remember Edom's children, LORD, Who in Jerus'lem's day, Ev'n unto its foundation, Raze, raze it quite, did say. O daughter thou of Babylon,
Near to destruction;
Bless'd shall he be that thee rewards,
As thou to us hast done.





49



And so we shall be safe.

Thou madest strong to stand.

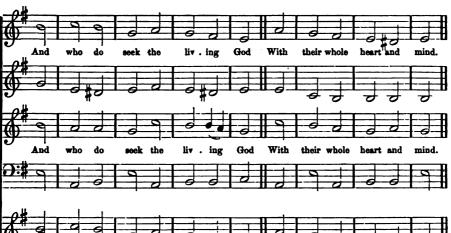


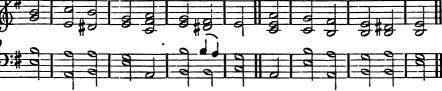












By what means shall a young man learn His way to purify? If he according to thy word Thereto attentive be.

Unfeignedly thee have I sought
With all my soul and heart:
O let me not from the right path
Of thy commands depart.

Thy word I in my heart have hid,
That I offend not thee.
O LORD, thou ever blessed art,
Thy statutes teach thou me.

The judgments of thy mouth each one My lips declared have:

More joy thy testimonies' way
Than riches all me gave.





His folk with equity.

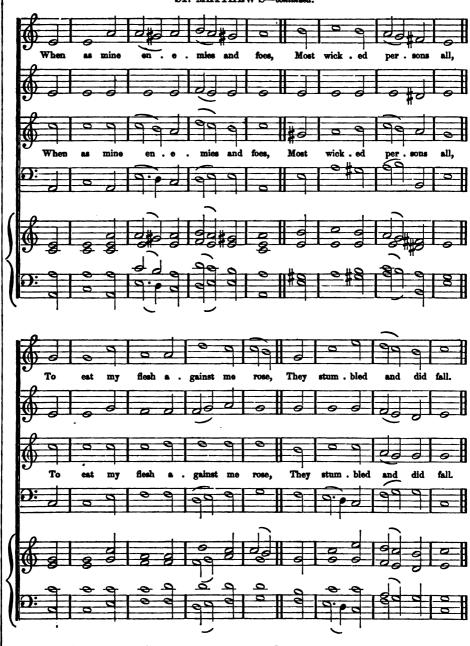
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ST. MATTHEW'S-continued.



And now, ev'n at this present time, Mine head shall lifted be Above all those that are my foce, And round encompass me:

Therefore unto his tabernacle
I'll sacrifices bring
Of joyfulness; I'll sing, yea, I
To God will praises sing.

O LORD, give ear unto my voice, When I do cry to thee; Upon me also mercy have, And do thou answer me.

When thou didst say, Seek ye my face, Then unto thee reply Thus did my heart, Above all things Thy face, LORD, seek will I.





And I upon thee all the day Expecting do attend.

Thy tender mercies, LORD, I pray thee to remember, And loving-kindnesses; for they Have been of old for ever.

After thy mercy think on me, And for thy goodness great.

God good and upright is: The way he'll sinners show. The meek in judgment he will guide And make his path to know.





Of none effect doth make.

His heritage he chose.





Thou shalt thy children's children see,

And peace on Israel.









Because of this my heart is glad, And joy shall be exprest Ev'n by my glory; and my flesh In confidence shall rest. Thou wilt me shew the path of life:
Of joys there is full store
Before thy face; at thy right hand
Are pleasures evermore.





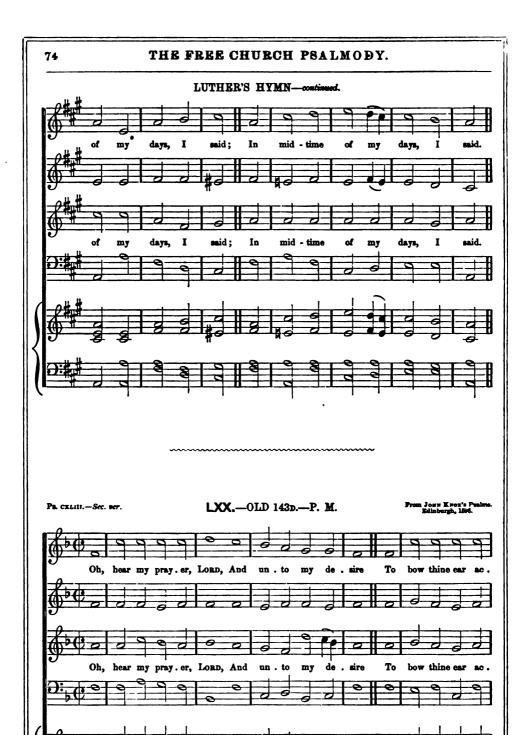
Bless'd be the LORD, who is to us Of our salvation God; Who daily with his benefits Us plenteously doth load.

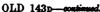
But surely God shall wound the head Of those that are his foes; The hairy scalp of him that still On in his trespass goes.





But from all changes thou art free; Thy endless years do last for aye. Thy servants, and their seed who be, Establish'd shall before thee stay.











In judgment enter not With me thy servant poor; For why, this well I wot, No sinner can endure The sight of thee, O God: If thou his deeds shalt try, He dare make none abode Himself to justify.

Behold, the cruel foe Me persecutes with spite, My soul to overthrow: Yea, he my life down quite Unto the ground hath smote, And made me dwell full low In darkness, as forgot, Or men dead long ago.

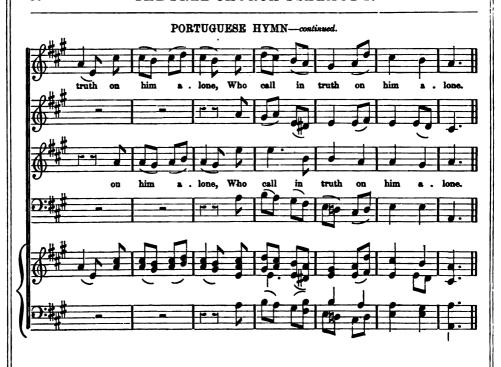


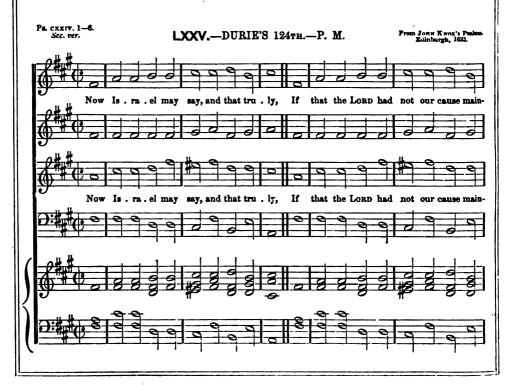


Ev'n unto death us guide.











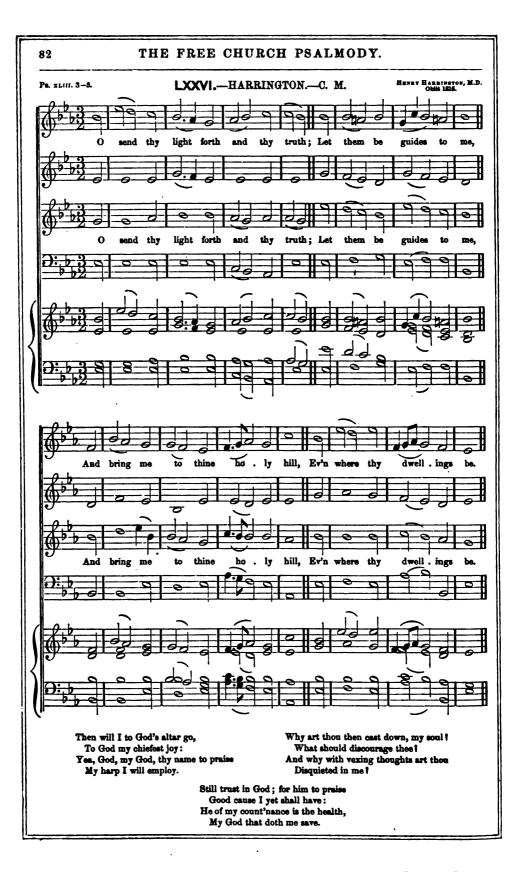
Then certainy
They had devour'd us all,
And swallow'd quick,
For ought that we could deem;
Such was their rage,

As we might well esteem.

And as fierce floods

Before them all things drown,
So had they brought

Our soul to death quite down.









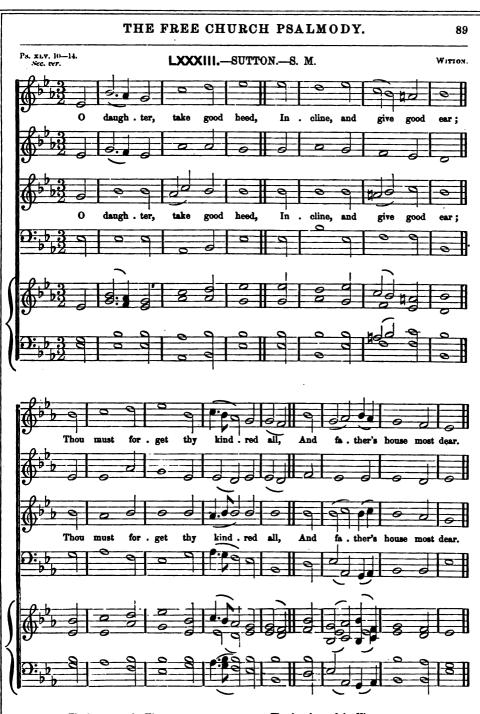
And compass it will I:

Where doth thine honour dwell.









Thy beauty to the King
Shall then delightful be:
And do thou humbly worship him,
Because thy LORD is he.

The daughter then of Tyre
There with a gift shall be,
And all the wealthy of the land
Shall make their suit to thee.

The daughter of the King
All glorious is within;
And with embroideries of gold
Her garments wrought have been.

She cometh to the King
In robes with needle wrought;
The virgins that do follow her
Shall unto thee be brought.





The LORD, when I on him do call, To hear will not refuse. But of thy countenance the light,

LORD, lift on us alway.





And free them that are doom'd to die;

In mid-time of my days, I said.





