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THE EASY INSTRUCTOR;

on,

# A NEW METHOD OF TEACHING SACRED HARMONY.

### CONTAINING,

-I. The Rudiments of Music on an improved Plan, wherein the Naming and Timing of the Notes are familiarized to the weat of Capacity.
-II. A choice Collection of PSALM TUNES and ANTHEMS, from the most celebrated Authors, with a number composed in Europe and America, entirely new; suited to all the Metres sung in the different Churches in the United States.

Published for the Use of SINGING SOCIETIES in general, but more particularly for these who have not the advantage of an INSTRUCTOR.

### BY WILLIAM LITTLE AND WILLIAM SMITH.

The Music Types of this Book are secured by a Patent from the United States.

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### JLBAN'1:

PRINTED BY WEBSTERS & SKINNERS AND OLIVER STEELE,

And sold at their respective Book-Stores, at the corner of State and Pearl-treets, and at No. 437 South Market-street.

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C 1831.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

As the Authors are well aware, that whatever has the appearance of novelty is, from this very circumstance, in danger of meeting with an unfavourable reception; they request nothing more than a critical observation of the certificate annexed, and an impartial examination of the method proposed, being willing to submit the merit of the performance to the determination of the candid and judicious. As the introduction of the four singing syllables, by characters, shewing at sight the name of the notes, may perhaps be considered as subjecting those who are taught in this manner to difficulty in understanding other books, without this assistance—the authors would just observe, that if pupils are made acquainted with the principle here laid down, the objection will be found by experience, more specious than solid. To this it might be added, that in the old way, there are no less than seven different ways of applying the four singing syllables to the lines and spaces, which is attended with great difficulty: But this difficulty is entirely removed upon the present plan; and we know of no objection to this plan, unless that it is not in use; which objection is no objection at all, or at least, cannot be decisive, as this would give currency to the entire rejection and exclusion of all improvements whatever. And as the novelty of a singing book rendered so easy, from its improvements, that any person of a tolerable voice might actually learn the art of psalmody without an instructor, if they could but obtain the sounds of the eight notes, which has led its advocates to request a publication of the same. We have therefore, the pleasure to inform the public, that since subscriptions have been in circulation for this book, we have been honoured with upwards of three thousand subscribers: In consequence of which, we flatter ourselves that this book will meet with a kind reception.

Philadelphia, August 15th, 1798.

WILLIAM LITTLE, WILLIAM SMITH.

The Committee appointed by the URANIAN SOCIETY of Philadelphia, to examine a Singing Book, entitled

## "THE EASY INSTRUCTOR," by William Little,

REPORT—That having carcially examined the same, they find it contains a well digested system of principles and rules, and a judicious collection of tunes: And from the improvement of having only four significant characters, indicating, at sight, the names of the notes, and a sliding rule for timing the same, this book is considered easier to be learned than any we have seen.

Were it possible to acquire the sound of the eight notes but by imitation, they verily believe they might be obtained by the help of this book;

even without an instructor.

The committee are of opinion, the Author merits the patronage and encouragement of all friends to Church Music.

EDWARD STAMMERS, RICHARD T. LEECH.

## PREFACE.

Let under the song of praise is an act of devotion so becoming, delightful and excellent, that we find it coeval with the sense of Deity; authorized by the example of all nations, and universally received into the solemnities of public worship. Under the Jewish Dispensation, the Holy Spirit of God directed this expression of homage, as peculiarly becoming the place where his honor dwellath. The book of Psalms, as the name itself imports, was adapted to the voice of song; and the author of those invaluable odes well knew the sweetness, dignity, and animation that were hereby added to the sacred service of the temple. With what rapture do they describe its effects—with what fervor do they call upon their fellow worshippers to join in this delightful duty—It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O thou Most High. Praise ye the Lord, for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is comely. O sing unto the Lord a new song—sing unto the Lord all the earth—sing unto the Lord—bless his name—shew forth his salvation from day to day. Nor hath Christianity dispensed with religious song as an unmeaning ecremony, or an unprofitable sacrifice. It commands us to address the Father in spirit and in truth; but nevertheless enjoins those outward acknowledgments that fitly express and cherish the pious temper. Our blessed Lord was pleased to consecrate this act of worship by his own example, under circumstances the most affecting. He concluded the celebration of that supper, which was crate this act of worship by his own example, under circumstances the most affecting. He concluded the celebration of that supper, which was crate this act of worship by his own example, under circumstances the most affecting. He concluded the celebration of that supper, which was crate this act of worship by his own example, under circumstances the most affecting. The concluded the celebration of that supper, which was fed deed in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonis

Divine song is undoubtedly the language of nature: It originates from our frame and constitution: Do lofty extemplations, elevated joy and fervor of affection, give beauty and dignity to language, and associate with the charms of poetry, by a kindred law which the Creator hath established? They pleasingly unite with strains of sweet and solemn harmony. And there are two principal views, in which music will appear to render eminent service to the sacrifice of praise:—In the first place, it suitably expresses the sentiments of devotion, and the sublime delight which religion is fitted to inspire. Joy is the natural effect of praise, and song the proper accompaniment of joy. Is any merry or abid let him sing psalms; and singing is not only a general indication of delight, but expressive, also, of the prevailing sentiments and passions of the minding it can accommodate itself to the various modifications of love and joy, the essence of a devotional tamper—it hath lofty strains for the sur limity of admiration—plaintive accents, which become the tear of penitence and sorrow—it can adopt the humble plea of supplication, or swell the bolder notes of thanksgiving and triumph: Yet it hath been properly remarked, that the influence of song reaches only to the amiable and pleasing affections, and that it hath no expression for malignant and tormenting passions; the sorrow, therefore, to which it is attuned, should be mingled with hope—the penitence which it expresses, cheered with the sense of pardon, and the mournful seenes on which it sometimes dwells, irradiated with the glorious views and consolations of the gospel.

In the second place, music not only decently expresses but powerfully excites and improves the devout affections; it is the prerogative of this noble art to cheer and invigorate the mind—to still the tumultuous passions—to calm the troubled thoughts, and to fix the wandering attention:

And hereby it happily composes and prepares the heart for the exercise of public worship. But it further boasts a wondrous efficacy in leading to that peculiar temper which becomes the subject of praise, and is favorable to religious impression. It can strike the mind with solemnity and awe, or melt with tenderness and love—can animate with hope and gladness, or eall forth the sensations of devout and affectionate sorrows: even separate and unconnected, it can influence the various passions and movements of the soul; but it naturally seeks an alliance, and must be joined with becoming sentiments and language, in order to produce its full and proper effect; and never is its energy so conspicuous and delightful, as when consecrated to the service of religion, and employed in the courts of the living God—Here it displays its noblest use, and brightest glory; here alone it meets with themes that fill the capacity of an immortal mind, and claims its noblest powers and affections. What voice of song so honorable, so elevating and delightful? To whom shall the breath ascend in melodious accents, if not to him who first inspired it? Where shall admiration take its lofticst flight, but to the throne of the everlasting Jehovah? Or what shall awake our glory, and kindle our warmest gratitude, if not the remembrance of his daily mercies, and the praise of redceming love? When the union of the heart and voice are thus happily arranged—when sublime subjects of praise are accompanied with expressive harmony, and the pleasure of genuine devotion heightened by the charms of singing, we participate of the most pure, rational, noble and exquisite enjoyments that human nature is capable of receiving:—The soul forgets the confinement with the body, is elevated beyond the cares and tumults of this mortal state, and seems for a while transported to the blissful regions of perfect love and joy: And it is worthy of remark, that the sacred writings delight to represent the heavenly felicity under this image: And though such language be allowed to be figurative—though eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive the things that God hath prepared for them that love him, yet our most natural—our most just conceptions of the happiness of the beavenly world, is that which we have been describing, viz. sublime devotion, accompanied with rapturous delight.

The human mind is not only capable of extensive knowledge, but is incapable of being entirely in a state of supineness: This thirst for happiness implanted in the human breast, must have some object for its pursuit; therefore the Almighty has made us cryadic of enjoying pure and intellectual pleasures; and we find if improvements are neglected among young people, their manners at once verge towards heathenism. And since it is improved a separate their elildren from meeting among young people, those who wish to promote civilization, will see the importance of bending the young mind to something that will ornament and refine society, even if they have a separate design in it. The funds of knowledge in the minds of most young people, are not sufficient to carry on a discourse of any considerable length: therefore, we find that their evenings are often spent in a very simple manner; nothing more will be heard than insignificant jokes, and vulgarism seems to be the highest entertainment; but when they have tasted the more pure pleasures, such as flow from music, the young circle seems to look with contempt on the former manner in which they spent their time, which then seemed to hover them over the summit of bliss. But besides the more immediate propriety and use of divine song in the ordinances of religion, its indirect advantages have a claim to our regard. It is not only in itself delightful and profitable, but it gives animation to other parts of public worship—it revives the attention—recruits the exhausted spirits, and begets a happy composure and tranquillity. It is peculiarly agreeable as a social act, and that in which every person may be employed. Nor is it the least of its benefits, that it associates pleasing ideas with divine worship, and makes us glad when we go into the house of the Lord. It is also

a bond of union in religious societies, promotes the regular attendance of their members, and seldom fails of adding to their numbers. But there seems to be something more in music to unite with our own experience and the wisdom of past ages. The early Christians found their account in a remarkable attachment to psalmody, and almost every rising sect have availed themselves of its important delights and advantages. It must be confessed, that where pleasure is the sole attention, the motive is of an inferior nature. But is it not a commendable policy to promote regular attendance upon places of worship by any means that are not reprehensible? Will not the most beneficial consequences probably ensue? Is there not every reason to expect that persons who frequent the house of God with this view alone, will not be uninterested in the other services of religion?—That they who come to sing may learn to pray—that they whose only wish it was to be entertained, may find themselves instructed and improved? Such is the happy tendency of well regulated song in the house of God; but alas! how seldom is this part of the service accompanied with its proper effect. It was the remark of an eminent writer, too applicable to the present time, that "The worship in which we should most resemble the inhabitants of heaven, is the worst performed upon earth." His pious labours have greatly enriched the matter of song, and hereby contributed to remove one cause of this complaint; but in the manner there still remains a miserable defect.—Too often does a disgraceful silence prevail to the utter neglect of this duty—too often are dissonance and discord substituted for the charms of melody and harmony, and the singing performed in a way so carelessly and indecently, that as the same writer observes, "instead of elevating our devotions to the most divine and delightful sensations, it awakens our regret, and touches all the strings of uncasiness within us." But is this owing to causes which cannot be removed, or doth it not imply reproach and blame? Will not truth oblige us to confess, that the fault rests not in a want of natural taste and abilities, nor of sufficient leisure, but in a great carelessness and neglect? Moderate attention and application would surmount every difficulty, and lead to a suitable proficiency in this happy art. An exercise so pleasing and attractive, seems only to want regulation and method.

### Time.

THE two first moods of Common Time have four beats in a bar, and may be performed in the following manner, viz. The first beat, strike the end of the fingers on what you beat upon; the second beat, bring down the heel of the hand; the third beat, raise the hand half way up; the tourth beat, raise the hand clear up. The third and fourth moods of Common, and the first and second of Compound Time, have but two beats in a bar, and the best method we know of measuring time in these four moods, is by beating with the hand, saying one with it up and two with it down.

To arrive at an exactness in this mode of calculating, the learner may beat by the motion of a pendulum vibrating in a second, without paying any regard to the notes. For by this method he will become habituated to regularity and exact proportion.

Beating of time should be attended to before any attempt to sounding the notes is made. Counting and beating frequently while learning the rules, will be of great service. A large motion of the hand is best at first, but as soon as the learner can beat with accuracy, a small motion is sufficient.

To attain to exactness, it will be necessary that the learner should name and beat the time of notes in each bar, both of the eight notes and a number of the plain tunes, in the different moods of time set to the eight notes in this performance, without sounding, until a perfect knowledge of their variety is obtained, after which, they may proceed to those that are more complex and difficult.

Having complied with these directions, the learner will acquire the time of the notes with much greater ease and exactness, than if his atten-

tion was directed to three things at once—the name, the time, and the sound of the notes.

As much depends on a proper knowledge of time, I would recommend to teachers to make use of a sliding rule, or something that will cover the notes, so as to admit to the view of the pupil only such note or notes, as shall determine the first half of a bar at a time; by which means they will acquire exactness in beating, and give to each its due proportion.

This may be considered by some as an useless novelty, but we can assure them, from long experience, that the effect will convince them of its

being worthy of attention, and much the quickest and casicst method to ascertain the exact time of the notes.

## Of Managing the Voice.

Ir directions, given by ancient and modern critics, (for the modulating of the voice) to those who are desirous of excelling in public speaking, are necessary, directions are particularly requisite to enable the student in music to sing with grace and energy; therefore,

1st. Above all things affectation should be guarded against—for whilst it is contrary to that humility which ever ought to characterise the de-

vout worshipper, it must be an enemy to the natural ease which always distinguishes the judicious performance.

2d. Care should be taken to begin with a proper pitch of the voice, otherwise it is impossible to preserve the melodious connexion of the notes, or the harmony of the parts; for if at the commencement of a tune the voice is too low, languor must prevail; if too high, an unnatural endeavour to maintain a proportioned elevation throughout the whole performance.

3d. The articulation must be as distinct as the sound will possibly admit; for in this, vocal music has the preference of instrumental—that

while the ear is delighted, the mind is informed.

4th. Though it is the opinion of most writers, that the learners should take the parts best adapted to their respective voices; let them occasionally try the different parts; not only because it makes them better acquainted with the nature and degrees of sounds, but because it has a tendency to improve the voice, to file off what is too rough, and what is too effeminate to render more energetic; whereas monotony is otherwise apt to take place. By attending to this direction the evil will be greatly guarded against.

5th. Those who have but indifferent voices, will find great benefit, if after faithfully trying an easy tune themselves, they can get a good singer to sing with them; and by attending to his performance they will instantly perceive a difference—the ear will soon experience a pleasing superiority, and the learner, at every succeeding effort, will find that his mechanical sensibility, if we may be allowed the expression, is greatly improved.

### General Observations.

The learner must endeavor to know the characters, with their time, in the eight notes. Learning twenty or thirty of the plain tunes well by note, before he attempts to sing by word, after which he may sing them over by word.

In keeping time on the rests, or silent beats, I would recommend not to count the whole, and thus commit them to memory; but to beat one bar at a time, and thus continue throughout the tune. This we find is the most easy and accurate method of keeping time on the rests, particu-

larly fuged tunes.

Teachers commit an imperceptible error in singing too much with their pupils, and in allowing them to unite in concert, before they can readily name and time the notes themselves, without assistance. If voices are ever so good, there can be no music, where ignorance in these particulars occasions frequent interruption. This mortifying circumstance has induced us to try this experiment of gaining fluency in maning the notes, and an accuracy of keeping of time, before we suffered our pupils to attempt to unite in the parts; and the effect convinced us that it is the most effectual method to correct the error; which we flatter ourselves all who make a trial of will find to exceed their most sanguing expectations.

The high notes in all parts should be sung soft and clear, but not faint: The low notes full and bold, but not harsh. The best general rule of singing in concert is, for each individual to sing so soft as to hear distinctly the other parts. The practice of singing soft will be greatly to the advantage of the learner, not only from the opportunity it will give him of hearing and imitating his teacher, but it is the best, and most ready

way of cultivating his own, and making it melodious.

When music is repeated, the sound should increase together with the emphasis: In tunes that repeat, the strength of voice should increase in the parts engaged, while the others are falling in with spirit; in which case, the pronunciation should be as distinct and emphatical as possible.

When singing in concert, no one, except the teacher or leader, should attempt a solo which does not belong to the part which he is singing; it destroys the very intent of the composition, and intimates to the audience, that the person or persons to whom the solo particularly belongs, was inadequate to the performance.

All solos should be sung softer than the parts when moving together.

Notes tied with each other, should be sung softer than when one note answers to a syllable, and should be swelled in the throat, with the teeth and lips a little asunder, and sung if possible to one breath, which should be taken previously, at the beginning of each slur which is continued to any considerable length.

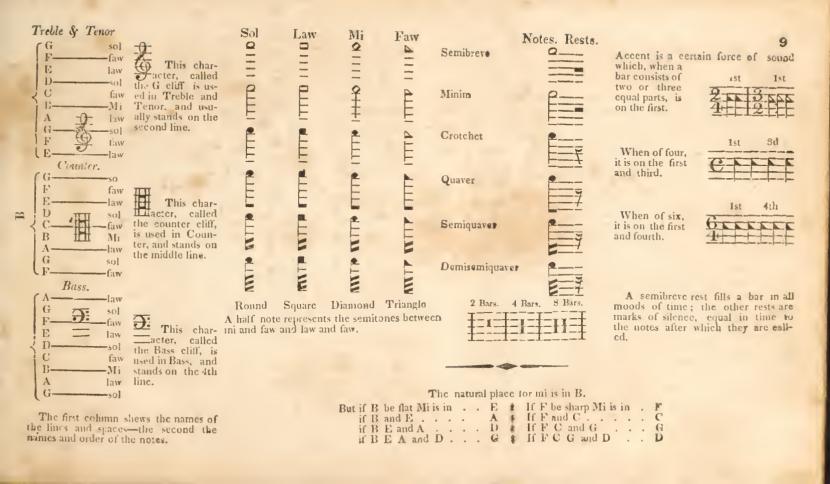
To obtain the true sounds of the intervals, the learner will find great advantage by repeating the sound over and over from the last notes he is attempting to sound, until he can obtain the sounds he would wish to retain: Proceeding in this manner, an indifferent voice may be greatly cut-

tivated, when a hasty performance would not only be to no advantage, but discouraging indeed.

## The Modes of Time expressed by Figures.

The under figure shews into how many parts the semibreve is divided, and the upper figure shews how many of the same parts fill a bar. In the first mood of treble time,  $\frac{3}{2}$ , the upper figure shews that there are three notes contained in a bar; the lower figure determines that they are minims, because two of them make a semibreve. Also, in the second mood,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , the upper figure shews you there are three notes contained in a bar; the lower one that they are crotchets, because four of them will make one semibreve. And so all other modes, which are expressed by figures according to their marks.

Propriety in accenting is rather to be acquired by example than precept; therefore, teachers ought to be exceedingly attentive to this particular: For much of the beauty and energy of music depends upon proper emphasis. To accent such notes as fall on accented syllables, or emphatical words, let them fall on which part of the bar they may, is the best and most natural rule, and the highest perfection of accent. There are several other graces, which have a pleasing effect when executed in an accurate manner; but as they are entirely impracticable for learners, I pass their explanation.



Denotes a repetition of preceding words.

Peace,

10

Brace

line

Flat

flot or

point half its length.

At the right hand of a note adds to it

d d u u

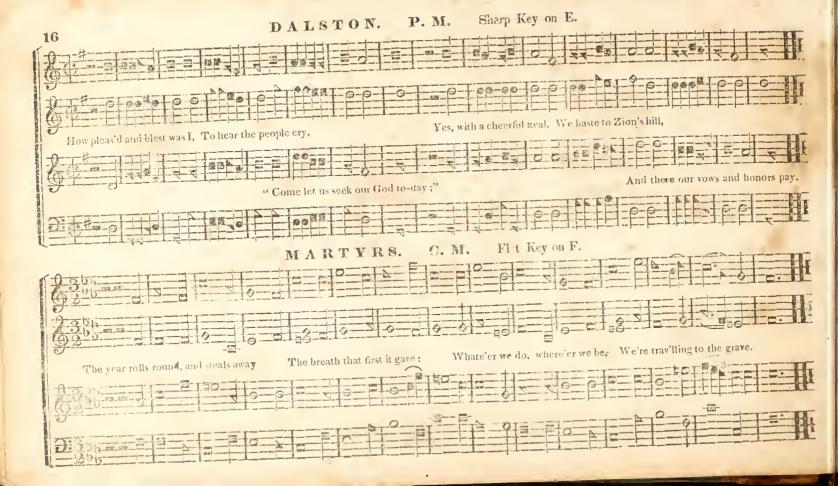
ddu dd

At the end of a strain that is repeated, the note or notes under 1 is sung before the repeat, and those under 2 after; but if tied Shows the end of a tune. with a slur, both are sung after the repeat. Has a semibreve or its quantity in a measure, sung in the time of four seconds: four beats in a bar, two down Kirct and two up. Common Time Moods, Has the same measure note, and beat in the same manner, only half as quick again, Second Third Has the same measure note, and sung as quick again as the first: two beats in a bar, one down and one up. Fourth Has a minim in a measure, and beat as the third mood, only a third quicker. Triple Time Moods. Contains three minims, or their quantity, in a measure, sung in the time of three seconds: two beats down First and one up. 3 Second Contains three crotehets in a measure, and beat in the same manner, only half as quiek again, Third Contains three quavers in a measure, and beat as the second mood, only a third quicker. 64 Contains six erotchets in a measure, sung in the time of two seconds: two beats, one down and one up. First Contains six quavers in a measure, and beat as the first, only half as quick again.

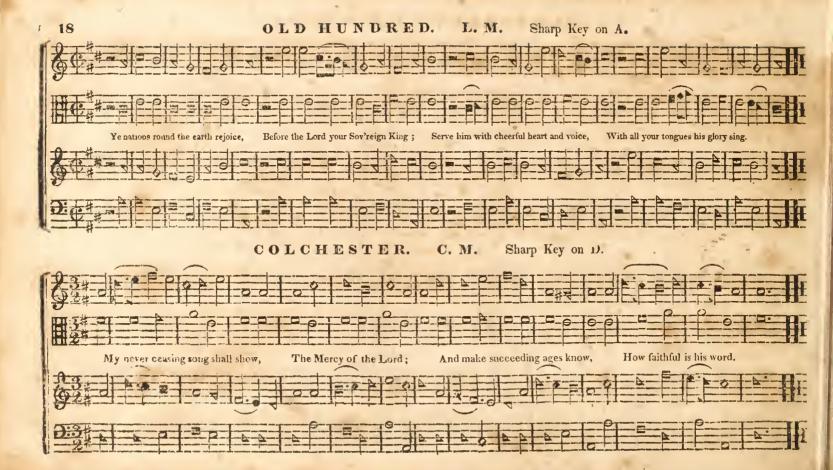
N. B. The hand fulls at the beginning of every bar in all moods of time.















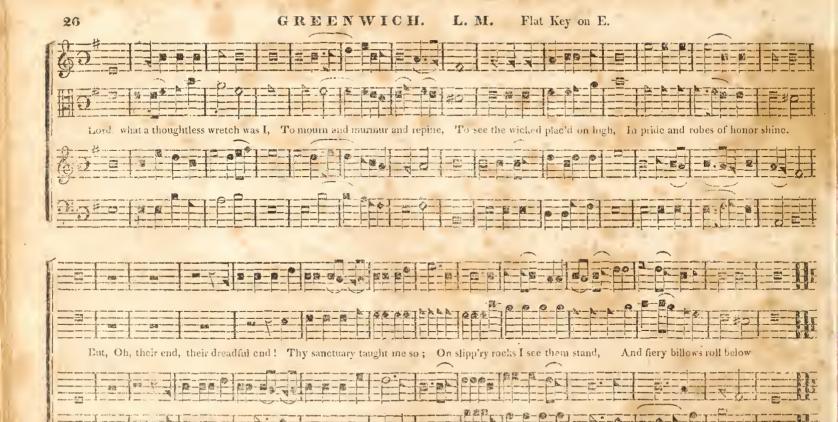












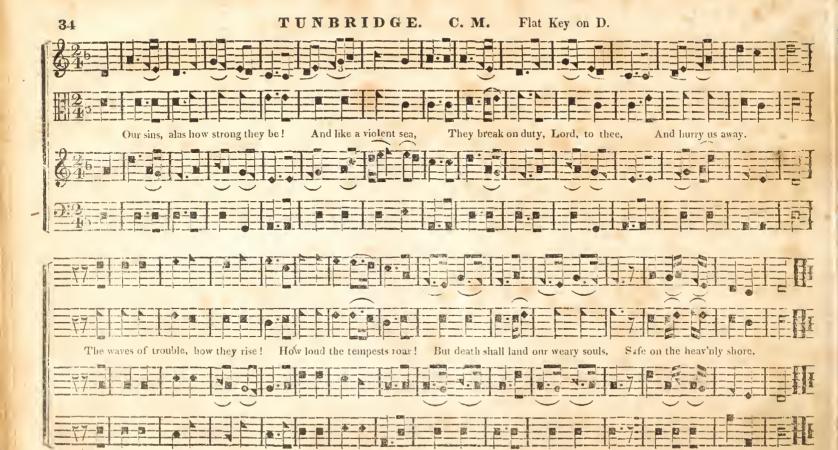




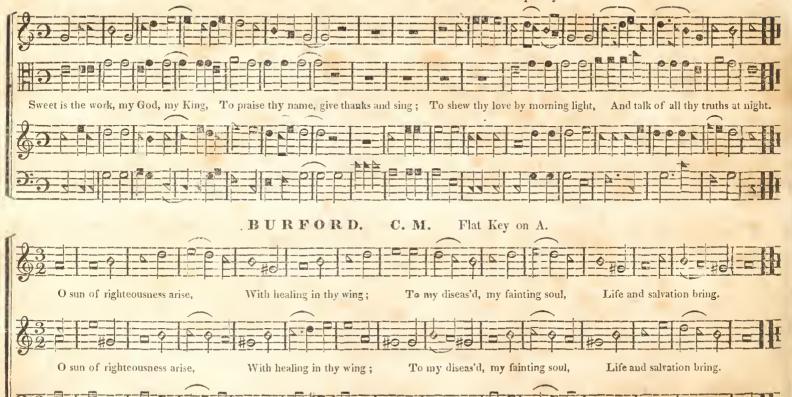








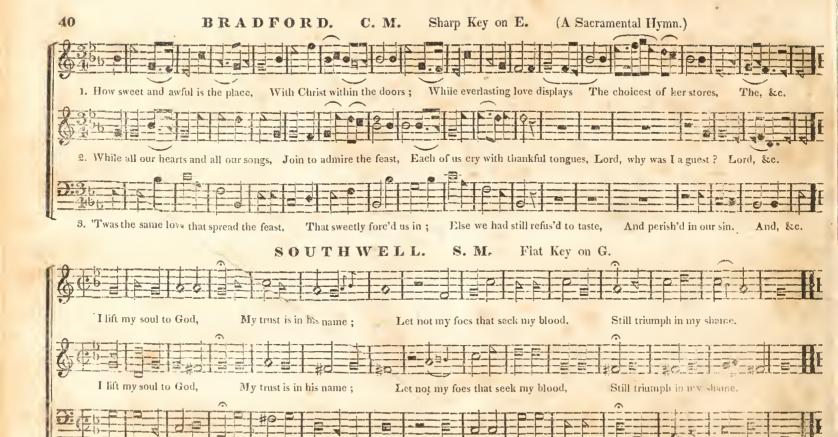






























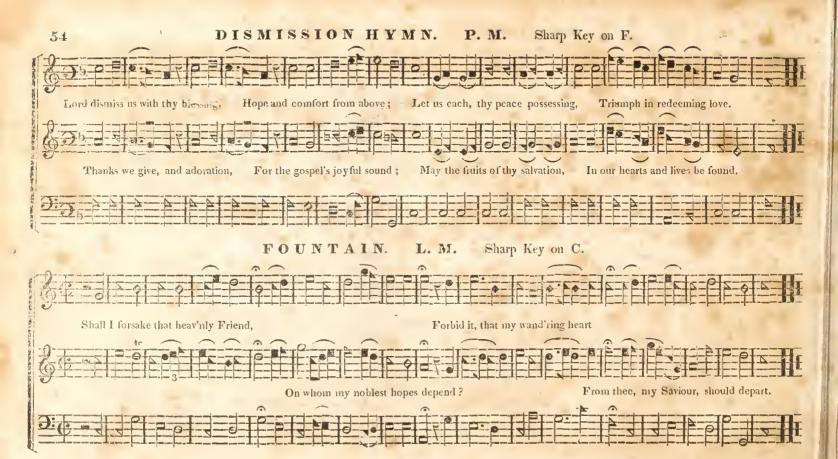






- 2. Jesus our Lord, arise,
  Scatter our enemies,
  And make them fall!
  Let thy almighty aid
  Our sure defence be made,
  Our souls ou thee be stay'd;
  Lord, hear our call!
- c. Come thou inearnate Word, Gird on thy mighty sword, Our pray'r attend! Come and thy people bless, And give thy word success; Spirit of holiness, On us descend!
- 4. Come holy comforter,
  Thy sucred winners bom
  In this glad hour!
  Thou who almighty art,
  Now rule in ev'ry heart,
  And ne'er from us depart,
  Spirit of pow'r!

To the great one in three, Eternal praises be, Hence eveninore! His sov'reign majesty May we in glory see, And to eternity, Love and adore!



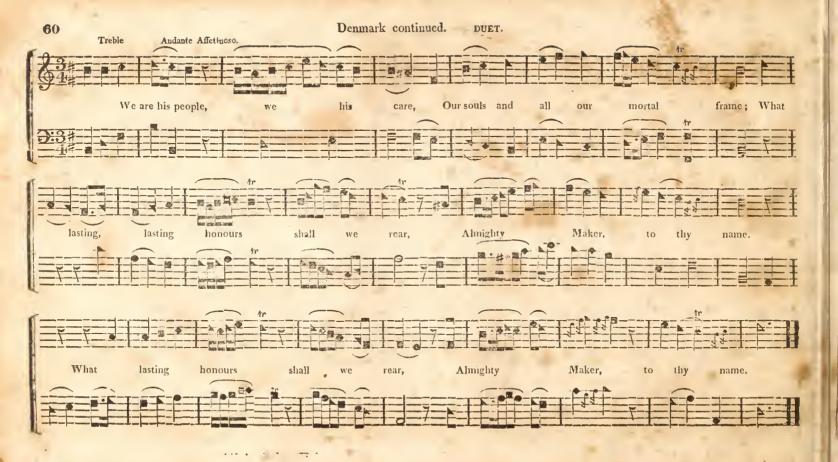






















BEDFORD. C. M. Sharp Key on F.



















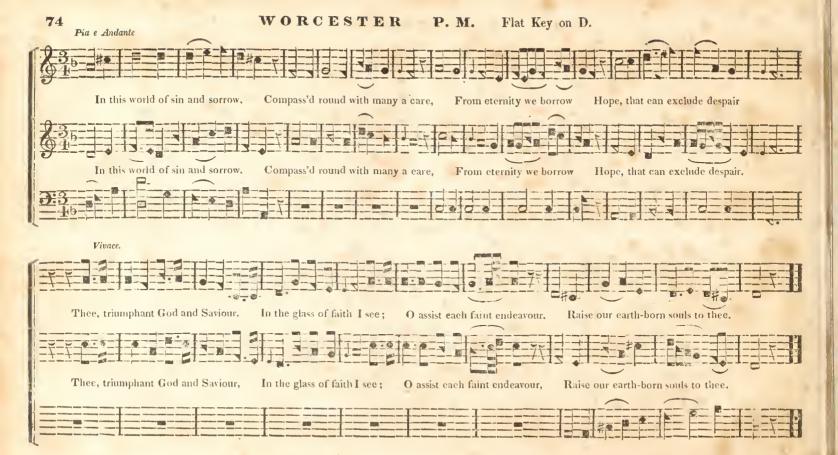
2. Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Heave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me:
All my trust on thee is stay'd,
All my help on three I bring;
Cover my defenceless head,
With the shadow of thy wing.

3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick and lead the blind.

Just and holy is thy name.
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

4. Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sins;
Let the healing streams abound,
Make and keep me pure within:
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of thee;
Spring thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity...







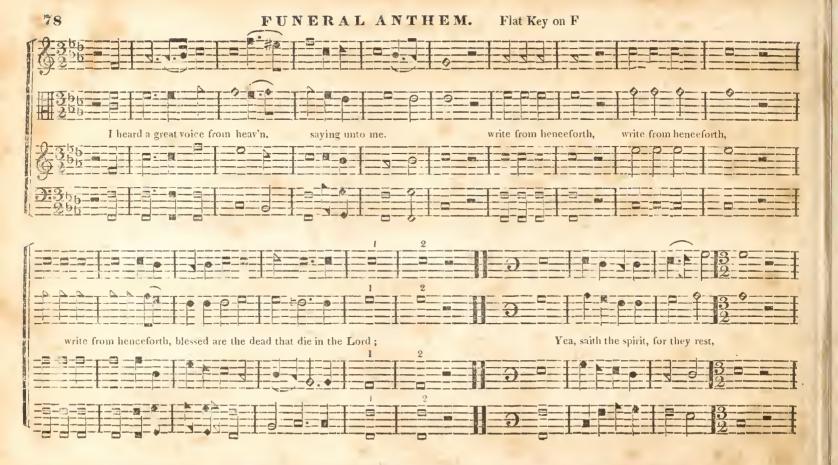




## ITALY. L. M. Sharp Key on B.





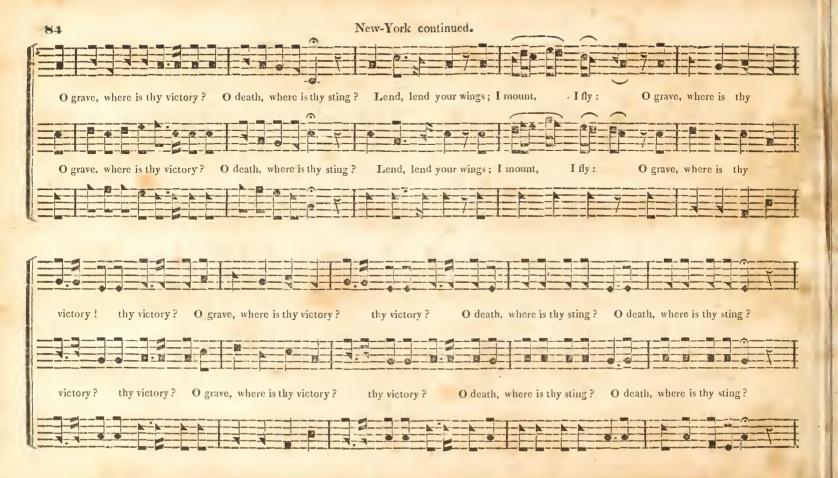








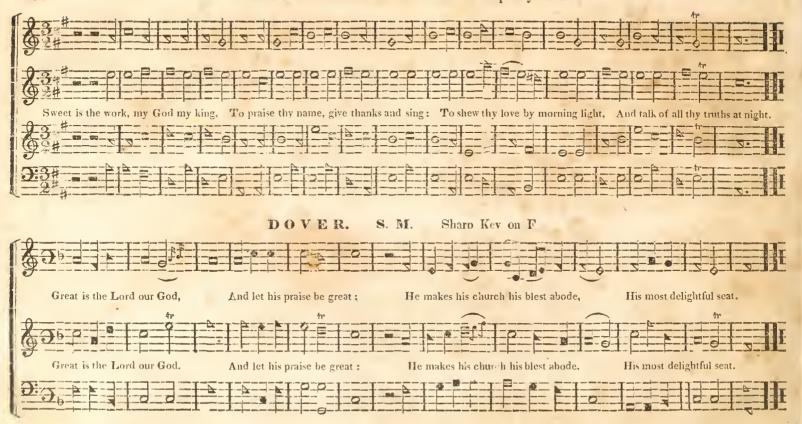






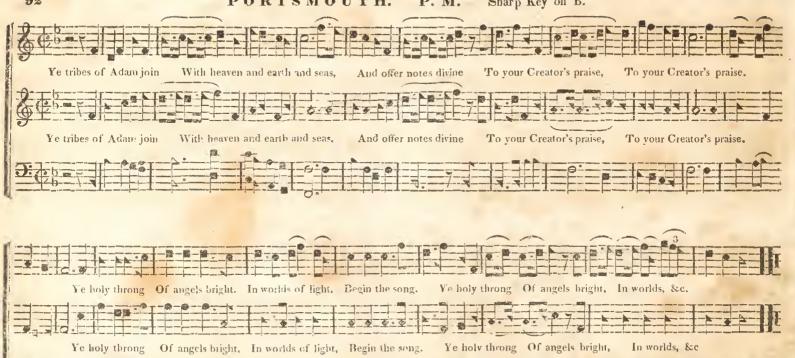


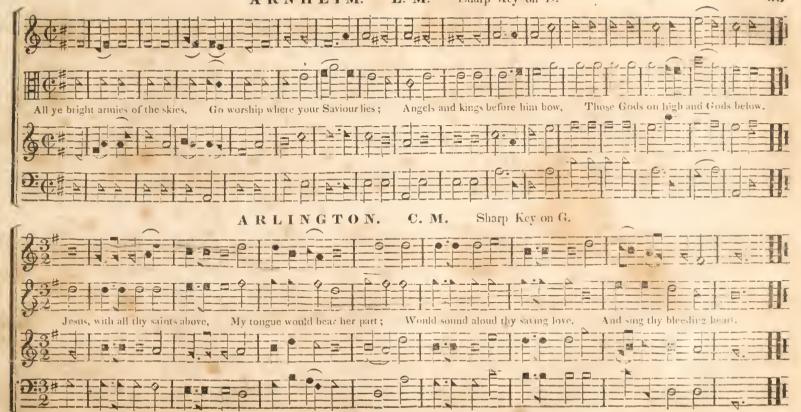






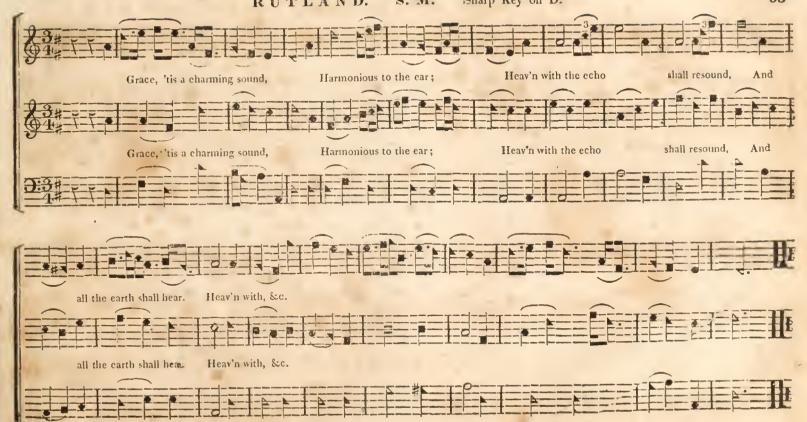












O Jesus, for such wond rous condescension, Our praises and revence are an offering meet: Now is the word made flosh, and dwells among us O come and let us worship at his feet.

Shout his almighty name, ye choirs of angels, And let the celestial courts his praise repeat, Unto our God be glory in the highest; O come and let us worship at his feet.





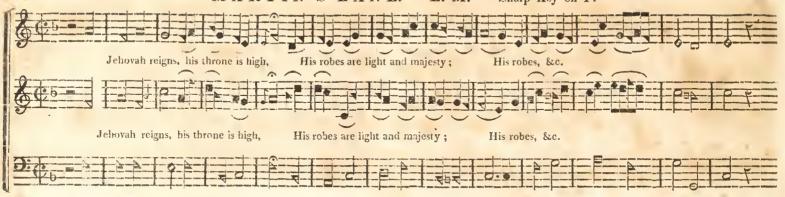


















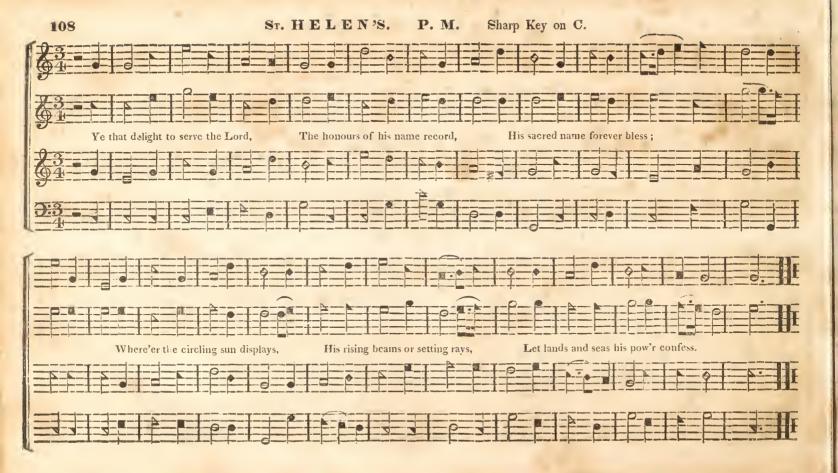


3. All that have motion, life and breath, Proclaim your Maker blest; Yet when my voice expires in death, My soul shall praise him best.

Sing the third verse in the first strain, and end with the Hallelujah



3. Let not the spirits of the air, While I repose, my coul ensuare; But guard thy suppliant free from harms, Class'd in thy everlasting arms.





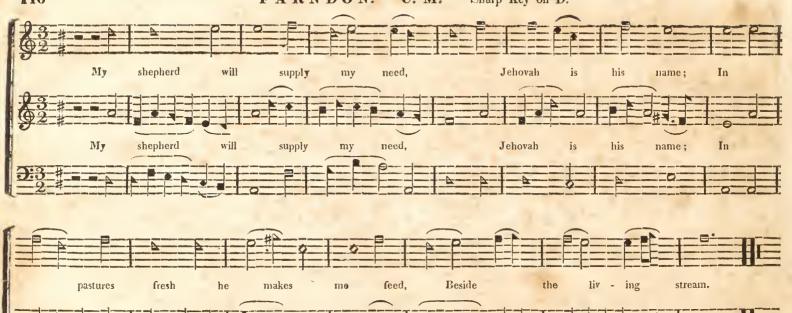
















2. Rivers to the ocean run,

Nor stay in all their course;

Fire ascending seeks the sun,

Both speed them to their course.

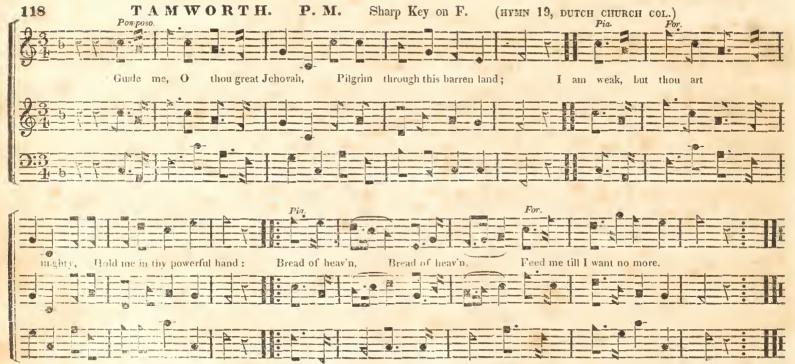
So a soul that's born of God,

Pants to view his glorious face,

Upward tends to his abode,

To rest in his embrace.

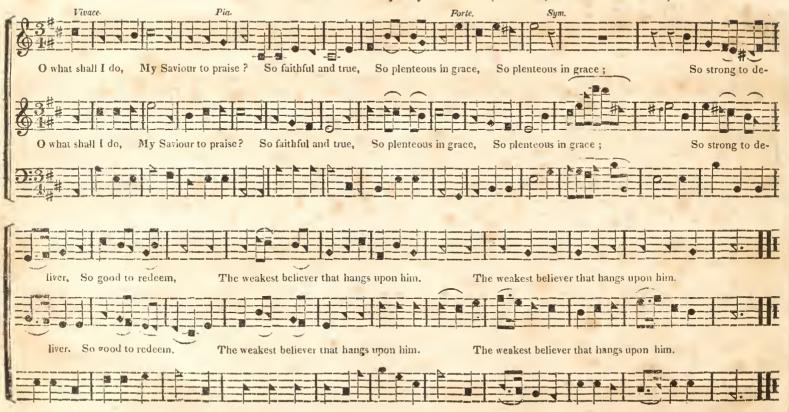
5. Cease ye pilgrims, cease to mourn,
Press onward to the prize;
Soon our Saviour will return,
Triumphant in the skies:
Yet a season, and you know
Happy entrance will be giv'n,
And all our sorrows left below,
And earth exchang'd for heav'n.



2. Open. Lord, thy chrystal fountain,
Whence the healing streams do flow;
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

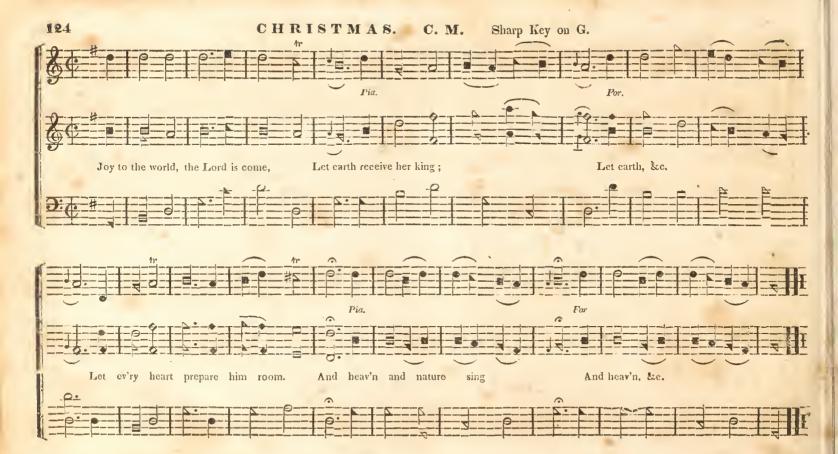














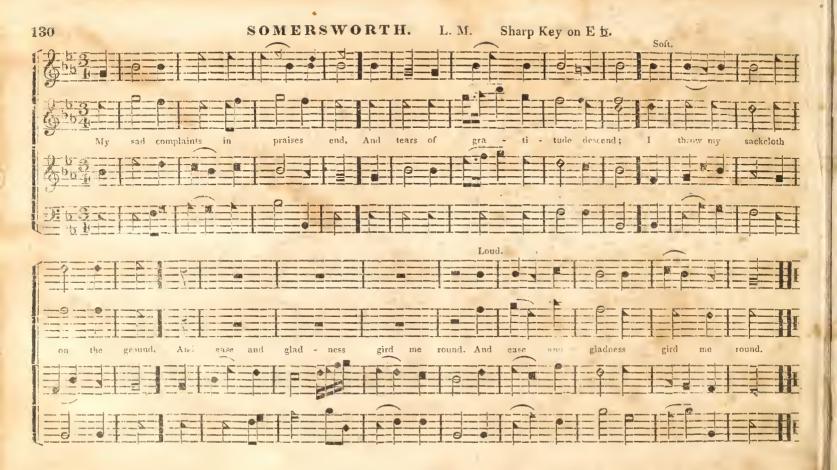




5. Come, almighty to deliver, Let us all thy life receive; Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave! Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thine hosts above; Pray and praise thee without cessing, Glory in thy precious love! 4. Finish then thy new creation,
Pure unspotted may we be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restor'd by thee!

Chang d from glory into glory, Till in heav n we take our place; Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lest in wonder, love, and praise!













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