Christmas Carols

NEW & OLD

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CHRISTMAS CAROLS.



LEARNED writer of the last century, the Rev. Arthur Bedford, in his edition of the well-known Christmas Carol, "A Virgin unspotted," gives his readers to understand that the name Carol is derived from

Carolus, the Latin for Charles. "A Christmas Carol," he fays, "because such were in use in King Charles I. reign." * But though it is easy to show from writers who died before Charles I. was born, by whom the word Carol is used in a sense similar to that which it bears at present, that this is not the true derivation, it is by no means fo eafy to give an account of the real origin of Authorities are not agreed upon the point.

The word exists, not only in English, from at least the fourteenth century, but in old French and German, in Italian, in Welsh, and in the Celtic dialects of Brittany and the Scottish Highlands. It feems most probable (according to the opinion of the present Professor of Anglo-Saxon in Oxford), that "the other tribes and nations of Europe, have, like ourselves, taken the word from the French, as was natural: seeing the French were the first leaders off of European dance and fong." †

But how or from what quarter the word came into French feems to be involved in obscurity.

The earliest apparent instance of its occurrence in any form is in S. Ouen's Life of S. Eligius, written in Latin in or about the year 672.‡ S. Eligius, who was Bishop of Noyon, seems to have found his flock much infected with Paganism. So, amongst other things, he forbade any Christian from indulging in solstices (whatever they might be), balls, dances, carols, or diabolical

^{*} Husk's "Songs of the Nativity," p. 30.

[†] MS. letter of Rev. John Earle, December 4, 1877.
† Quoted by Mr. Baring Gould (? from Du Cange) in his Preface to Mr. Chope's "Carols for Use in Church."

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fongs (or perhaps incantations) on the Feast of S. John the Baptist,

or any other festivals of saints.*

There are two points which it may be useful here to note. First, the evident tendency which existed to transfer heathen rites to Christian festivals; and, secondly, the close connexion in early days between dancing and singing. For the first, there is clearly a connexion between the rites of the Solstice (Midsummer Day) and the celebration of the Nativity of S. John Baptist. For the second, the word "vallationes," here translated "balls," is from the same source not only as that word and the French "ballet," but is also the original of our English "ballad," in old Scotch "ballate." And such was the primitive double meaning of Carol.

Before citing authorities for this flatement, there is one other interesting but rather perplexing passage to be mentioned, in which the word Carol in an early form seems to occur. It is in an Anglo-Saxon MS. of about the year 980, in the Bodleian Library.† The author is said to have been a certain Bridsrithus Ramesiensis, or Bridserth of Ramsey. In speaking of the divisions of the day, when he comes to the third hour he says that at that time archbishops with the consecrated ministers worship, and the worthy monks observe the sacred hour "mid kyrriole und engla lof-gesange," i.e., apparently, with carol and angels' lauds, exactly the context

in which we should expect to find our modern Carol.

In Chaucer the word bears the same meaning as it does in old

French and German, of dancing and finging, fometimes the one idea appearing to predominate, and fometimes the other.

Thus, in the "Knight's Tale," we have-

"Caroles and dances Peinted on the wall;"

and in the "Romaunt of the Rose" we have the line-

"Amydde the carole for to daunce,"

and foon after-

"Come, and if it lyke you
To dauncen, daunfeth with us now;"

and then-

"I withoute taryeing Went into the karolyng:"

"I wolde have karolled right fayne
As man that was to daunce ryght blythe;"

^{* &}quot;Nullus (Christianus) in festivitate Sancti Joannis vel quibuslibet Sanctorum solemitatibus Solstitia aut vallationes vel saltationes aut caraulas (for. cor) aut cantica diabolica exerceat." Vita S. Eligii, Ep. Noviomensis ii. 15. Ap D'Acherii Spicileg. Tom. v. p. 215 (Paris, 1661).

† Ashmolean MSS., No. 328, p. 126.

where dancing is clearly the principal idea. On the other hand, in the Dream of Chaucer—

"I faw her daunce fo comely, Carol and fing fo fweetly,"

the word feems to be used more nearly in its present sense, and distinctly so in the Complaint of Creseyde, where she says—

"My clere voice and my courtly carollyng
Is rauke as roke, ful hidous, heer, and hace,"

i.e., hideous, hoarse, and harsh; where there is no allusion to dancing, but only to singing.

In Italian the word appears still to imply a kind of dance accompanied by vocal music. And so it was in old Scotch. Thus, there is a quotation in Dr. Jamieson's Dictionary—

"Fair ladys in ringis, Knychts in caralyngis, Baith danfis and fingis."

Houlate, iii. 12.

The original fource of the word is probably to be fought in the Greek $\chi \delta \rho o c$, our chorus, and also choir; at first a dance in a ring, then a band of dancers who likewise fang; now a company of singers, or their united strains. The modern word seems to come from the mediæval Latin coraula, which would be formed from a verb coraulare, that in its turn being derived from a substantive choraules or choraula, the same as the Greek $\chi o \rho a u \lambda \eta c$, one who accompanies the dance with the music of the flute.* So at first it signified a dance in a round with singing, and then a session. In its modern acceptation it may perhaps be defined as a facred ballad.

Carols have not always been confined to Christmas. There are, or were very lately, Welsh Summer Carols, and there are Easter Carols; † but Christmas Carols have always been most prominent, and are the only kind which has retained any vigorous life up to this present time. As long ago as 1822 Christmas Carols were

^{*} Other derivations, more or less probable, which have been suggested and adopted by various authorities, are corolla, from dancing in a round; cborus, cborea, or in the older writers cboreola, a form which does not seem to exist; and for the Saxon kyrriole, kyrie eleison, or, more plausibly, some root like the Dutch kriolen, Plat. krijolen, our cry. But the derivation given above seems to be most satisfactory, most in accordance with the evidence, and to be supported by the latest and best authorities, including Professor Max Müller.

[†] Sandys' "Christmas Carols," p. 132.

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looked upon as a thing of the past. In that year Hone, the antiquary, heard a new ballad of the good old times, when

"Christmas had its Christmas Carols, And ladies' fides were hoop'd like barrels;"*

but they now feem likely to furvive into another century, and it

may be far beyond that.

Confidering the interest which is taken in them, it may perhaps not be unacceptable to endeavour next to trace the origin and history of the *thing*, as the attempt has been already made to trace, so far as possible, the derivation of the word.

A Christmas Carol originally must have been very much what

Sir Walter Scott speaks of in "Marmion," when he says-

"A Christmas gambol oft would cheer
A poor man's heart through half the year."

It is probably now most exactly represented, though in a very humble shape, by the dancing and singing with which the mummers conclude their performance. "The word mummer," it may be observed in passing, "is said to be derived from the Danish," and to mean "to disguise with a mask." †

In this Christmas custom, which prevails in widely distant parts of the country, we seem to have the relics of various ancient observances. The mystery-play, the masque, and the sword-dance all seem to have left lingering recollections among the mummers.

But to come to Christmas Carols in the ordinary sense.

Mr. Baring-Gould, in his interesting preface to Mr. Chope's collection of "Christmas Carols for Use in Church," attributes their origin to those representations of the Holy Manger which were first introduced by S. Francis of Assisi, A.D. 1223, and which are still usual in Roman Catholic and in some Lutheran churches. He fays, "The præsepio, crèche, or krippe," which are the Italian, French, and German names respectively of what the old English Goolden Letanye spoke of as Our Lord's cold crib, "called forth the first Carols." But it would probably be more accurate to assign to them an earlier, a wider, and at the same time a less definite beginning. The theory just mentioned does not appear to account for all the facts. The earliest known Christmas Carols are more festive than religious. There is one in the British Museum, in the Anglo-Norman dialect, believed to have been written in the thirteenth century, of which different translations have been published, which makes no allusion to the Mystery of the Nativity.

^{*} Hone's "Ancient Mysteries Described." London, 1823. Note, p. 97. † Sandys' "Christmas Carols." 1833. Note, p. 15.

[†] See "A Garland of Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern," p. 161. By Johus Sylvester. J. C. Hotten, Piccadilly, 1861.

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but enlarges chiefly on Christmas hospitality and good cheer, ending with the Wassail and Drinkhail, which were the established form of Saxon toasts; and it is mentioned in a poem of the end of that century, the same in which S. Francis began his exhibition, that Christmas Carols were then commonly cried in the streets of Paris;* facts which are scarcely to be reconciled with the idea that they owe their rise to S. Francis and his Holy Manger. Their true historical origin must be sought in a whole system of solemnities and session festivities connected with Christmas, of which the greater part has passed away; and the remainder has changed and is changing with the alteration of manners circumstances and habits in civilised society.

Among the nations of Northern Europe especially, the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord has always been marked by an amount of public and secular observance which has not been accorded to the more ancient and august solemnities of Easter, Ascension, or Pentecost.

This is no doubt due to the fact that both the Roman Saturnalia, the winter festival of the Druids, and, above all, the great Scandinavian Feast of Yule, which has become fynonymous with Christmas, and which was observed by our Teutonic forefathers before their conversion, sell at this season of the year. It is to these Pagan precursors of Christmas that we must attribute the superior hold which that sessions, such as the decking of houses than certain very general customs, such as the decking of houses and churches with evergreens, the Yule-clog, and the misselect. It is natural, therefore, that we should find, as we do, a great deal of mere feasting and revelry mixed up with the special celebration of the Incarnation, and hence the mixed and diverse character of Christmas Carols. Hence also if we wish to find it, we must seek for an excuse for those who have attempted or desired to abolish the Christmas sessions.

But not to go more deeply into the religious reasons for this commemoration, so long as liberty does not degenerate into licence, a time of relaxation and hospitality is most appropriate at this season, which is necessarily one of comparative leisure to working folks in the country, if not to others; and the news which the Angel brought from heaven were "glad tidings of great joy."

The fong of the heavenly host which followed this announcement is happily styled by Bishop Jeremy Taylor the Christmas Carol of those blessed choristers; "and thus," he says, they taught the Church a hymn to put into her offices for ever in the anniversary

^{*} Sandys, p. 135. + Chambers' "Book of Days," p. 745.

† "Life of Christ," p. 26.

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of this festivity." "Christmas Carols," says Sylvester,* "doubtless had their origin in that celestial music." But although this facred precedent has undoubtedly had great weight in preserving and reviving the practice of singing Carols at Christmas, yet as a matter of fact we cannot derive the custom from so high an original, but must rather trace it to those mixed songs of piety and mirth which formed part of the accustomed sestivities of the season, when our sovereigns and nobles, the prelates, inns of court, colleges, gentry, and householders of every rank, recognised the traditional duty of keeping Christmas with hospitality, choice fare, and general merriment.

Referving what is to be faid about the influence of the Church Services upon Christmas Carols, the next point will be to sketch the course of Christmas social customs in this respect.

The account is largely indebted to Mr. William Sandys' Introduction to his "Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern," published

in 1833.

He fays: "In the grand Christmasses kept up at Court and other places, the singing of Carols always constituted part of the necessary ceremonies." It was the duty of the gentlemen and children of the Chapel Royal to sing them at Court, and they also acted in the masques or plays which were customary at the same season. There are particular directions given for this among the instructions for the regulation of the household of King Henry the Seventh. In the third year of his reign, i.e. a.d. 1487, that Sovereign kept his Christmas at Greenwich, and on Twelsth Night, immediately after the King's first course, those of the King's chapel, says Leland, "sang a carall." †

The Reformation in England does not appear feriously to have affected these traditions. Queen Elizabeth kept Christmas with much the same solemnities as her grandsather; and one of the most elaborate descriptions we possess of Christmas in the olden time was printed in the next reign, in 1607, when Prince Henry, James the First's eldest son, was entertained at S. John's College, in Oxford.

Ten years later his brother, Prince (afterwards King) Charles, gained great applause by his performance in Ben Jonson's mask, "The Vision of Delight; or, the Prince's Mask," on Twelsth Night, 1618, when the Muscovy ambassadors were feasted at Court, and £750 was issued for the necessary preparations.

In the reign of Charles I. an order still existed directing the

^{*} Sylvester's "Garland of Christmas Carols," Introduction, p. 12. † Hone's "Mysteries." Note, pp. 100-101.

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nobility and gentry who had mansion houses in the country to repair to them for Christmas, to keep hospitality meet to their degrees.

As Puritanism gained the upper hand, the observance of Christmas was suppressed by authority in England, as it had been in Scotland nearly a hundred years before, namely in 1555. On the third of June, 1647, it was ordained by the Lords and Commons in Parliament that the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, with other holidays, should be no longer observed; and again, by an order dated December 24, 1652, the Parliament directed "that no observation shall be had of the five-and-twentieth day of December, commonly called Christmas Day, nor any folemnity used or exercised in churches upon that day in respect thereof."

"Still," as Sandys fays, "the Christmas customs and festivities could not be altogether abolished by the harsh measures of the Republicans, though banished from high places." It appears that even in Scotland fuch measures had not been wholly successful. For in 1582 we find an Act of the Scottish Parliament against "finging of 'Caralles' within and without kirks, at certain feafons of the year, and observing of fik uthers superstitious and papistical rites." In England, during the Commonwealth, the best and freest welcome which Christmas received (as is faid in a cotemporary publication) was with fome kind of country farmers in Devonshire: and from that time the Christmas solemnities have lost much of their stateliness and universality, and have been reduced by degrees to what they were half a century ago.

Thus, although Mr. Bedford was decidedly wrong in his etymology of Carol, he had a just sense (as became the author of an

elaborate work on chronology) of the bearings of history.

The Christmas Carol has never recovered the position which it

held up to and in the reign of Charles I.

At the Restoration (as Mr. Sandys says) an effort was made to revive the Christmas amusements at Court at Whitehall, but they do not appear ever to have recovered their former splendour. The habits of Charles II. were of too fenfual a nature to allow him to interest himself in such pursuits; besides which the manners of the country had changed during the fway of the Puritan party.

The contrast between the new and the old fashion of keeping Christmas is frequently drawn in the popular ballads of the

Restoration period. Thus one in 1661 says-

"Gone are those golden days of yore, When Christmas was a high day, Whose sports we now shall see no more— 'Tis turn'd into Good Friday '

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It feems rather remarkable that Bishop Morley, of Winchester, a High Churchman, preaching before the King on Christmas Day, 1662, is said by Pepys to have reprehended in his sermon the common jollity of the Court, for the true joy that shall and ought to be on those days. Probably it was the manner and not the fact of their rejoicing which he reproved. "He did much to press us," his hearer says, "to joy in those public days of joy and to hospitality."

From those days till within some thirty or forty years ago, Christmas festivities have no doubt been declining. Writing in 1833, Sandys says: "In many parts of the kingdom, especially in the northern and western parts, this festival is still kept up with spirit among the middling and lower classes, though its influence is on the wane even with them. The genius of the present age requires work and not play, and since the commencement of the present century a great change may be traced. The modern instructors of mankind do not think it necessary to provide for popular amusements, considering mental improvement the one thing needful."*

Before noticing the reaction which has taken place fince then, it will be well to speak of the influence of the Church and the Church Services on the formation of Christmas Carols.

Although the Feast of the Nativity, with the other commemorations which depend on it or are related to it, does not feem to be of Apostolic origin, like those anniversaries of which Easter is the centre, yet it was fully established (at least throughout Western Christendom) centuries before the conversion of the Saxons. It had, moreover, its own peculiar solemnities.

Sir Walter Scott correctly describes the special honour done to Christmas Eve.

"On Christmas Eve the bells were rung, On Christmas Eve the Mass was sung; That only night of all the year Saw the stoled Priest the Chalice rear."

Marmion.

Of all the days in the year Christmas Day alone had three Masses, each with its own Collect, Epistle, and Gospel; the first to be said at cock-crowing, the second at daybreak, the third at the usual time of High Mass, which seems for ages to have been about the third hour, nine o'clock in the forenoon. The variable parts of these and the other services were, of course, suited to the Festival. There are Christmas hymns by S. Ambrose and Ephraim Syrus in the fourth century; by Prudentius at the very beginning of the

next; and a very popular one, still used in the Roman Church, by Sedulius, a little later in the fifth century (c. A.D. 450).

In that hymn, "A folis ortus cardine," we have a stanza which feems to contain the germ of many Carols.

It is thus translated by Dr. Neale*:-

"The manger and the firaw He bore,
The cradle did He not abhor;
By milk in infant portions fed,
Who gives e'en fowls their daily bread."

At the finging of this hymn, which is appointed for lauds on Christmas Day, there was a custom in Germany described by a writer of the fourteenth century (which is apparently kept up to this day) of making as though they were rocking the cradle of the Holy Child. This was accompanied by the finging of Carols. One in Latin and one in German are mentioned by the monk of Salzburg, who is our earliest authority. This custom was probably independent of S. Francis of Affifi's inftitution. mentioning the continuance of a fimilar usage in some of the Catholic churches of Germany, Dr. Daniel relates on the authority of a friend that fimilar rites were observed in Protestant services. At a village he mentions, one of the boys, dreffed and crowned like an angel, used to be let down from the roof of the church, finging Luther's Carol, "From highest heaven I come to tell," until one year the rope broke, and what became of the poor chorister we are not told. Another Christmas hymn which contains the same idea, and is given in the York, though not in the Sarum Hymnal, is by Venantius Fortunatus, who died in the year 600. The verse referred to is thus rendered by Dr. Neale in the "Hymnal Noted ":-

> "He by whose hands the light was made, Deigns in a manger to be laid; He with His Father made the skies, And by His Mother swaddled lies."

^{* &}quot;Hymnal Noted," Hymn 14, p. 68.

^{† &}quot;Fæno jacere pertulit Præsepe non abhorruit, Et lacte modico pastus est Per quem nec ales esurit."

^{† &}quot;Monachus Salisburgenfis" ap. Daniel. Thes. Hymn, i. p. 144. Crimmitzchaviæ, oppidulo ad Pieissam sito. Daniel, "Thes. Hymn." i. p. 145. Hymn 70 (or 38), p. 222.

[&]quot;Præfepe poni pertulit Qui lucis auctor extitit, Cum Patre cœlos condidit, Sub Matre pannos induit."

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There are other Latin hymns more distinctly of the nature of Carols, which are certainly earlier than the thirteenth century. There are three given by Daniel* in his "Thesaurus Hymnologicus," from a MS. at Paris of the eleventh century, which deserve especial notice. They are thoroughly in the Carol style, and two of them have a recurring refrain or chorus; a sure mark of a popular composition. Dr. Neale also in his "Mediæval Hymns" gives a translation of a Christmas Carol which he attributes to the twelfth century; and there are compositions, more or less similar in character, by Notker, Hildebert, S. Bernard, and Adam de S. Victor, besides others of which the authors are unknown, which are all anterior to the time of S. Francis.

The transition from these popular Latin Hymns to religious Carols in the vernacular was easy; and cannot probably be exactly traced. It is clear that compositions in the language of the country were sung in churches by a special custom on Christmas Day.

An example of a vernacular sequence still used on Christmas Day in one of the cathedral churches of Sardinia is given by Dr. Neale; I and this is only a surviving instance of what was formerly a common practice. Several Councils in the fixteenth and feventeenth centuries permitted it to be retained. At the same time they forbade the use in churches of those hybrid compositions of Latin mixed with German, French, or whatever the language of the country might be, which were so popular as Carols. It has been stated, though upon what authority does not appear, that in the Middle Ages Carols were substituted for Hymns in the Church Offices during the Christmas season. This may not be strictly true, but very probably this was the case, as Sandys says, in country churches in England after the Reformation. It is well known that in Wales Carols composed for the occasion are still fung in churches on Christmas Day at an early service, which is called by a name apparently derived from the Latin for cockcrowing, the hour prescribed for the first Mass.

Hone fays: "In Wales, after the turn of midnight at Christmas Eve, service is performed in the churches followed by the finging of Carols to the harp. Whilst the Christmas holidays continue, they are sung in like manner in the houses, and there are Carols especially adapted to be sung at the doors of the houses by visitors before they enter."

It is chiefly in their religious character that Christmas Carols have revived so remarkably of late years.

" Mysteries," p. 103.

^{*} Tom. iv. pp. 145—148. † Daniel's "Thes. Hymn." v. p. 32. § P. 119.

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Hone, the antiquary, feems first to have started the notion of collecting them, fearing that they would soon be altogether lost. He gives a list of eighty-nine annually printed in his time on broadsheets, or in some other perishable form, for the use of the poor.*

Mr. Davies Gilbert feems to have been the first person in recent times who had Carols with the music printed in a collected and permanent shape. Other collections followed. But probably the persons to whom the practical revival of Carol-singing is in greatest measure due are the late Dr. Neale and Mr. Helmore, whose Christmas Carols were for a long time the best known and most accessible in the country; some of which, especially "Good King Wencessas," seem to promise to be perennial favourities.

That, by the way, is a legendary Carol; a class which has

always been numerous and popular.

There are well-known ancient specimens, such as the Carol for S. Stephen's Day, given by Husk from a MS. of the time of Henry VI., in which a capon ferved up by S. Stephen to Herod upon a dish, rises up and crows to prove that Christ is born. Cherry-Tree Carol, the Holy Well, and the very curious Warwickshire Carol, called "The Carnal and the Crane," † are more modern examples. These Carols are interesting historically; and in them are to be found passages of much simple beauty; in some cases the legends which they contain are taken from the Apocryphal Gospels: but they are not intended, nor ought they, to be introduced into churches, or where Carols are fung, as they certainly may be with advantage, for devotion and edification. feems, however, to be no reason why the graver and better fort of Christmas Carols should not be sung as formerly by choirs, in churches, either in the place of hymns, or at special meetings for that purpose. There is a directness and a simple touching force about them which may have its effect when more correct and elaborate compositions fail.

No history of Christmas Carols however would be complete without some notice of the class of festive songs to which, as has been already remarked, the earliest known Christmas Carol belongs; and of which a considerable number, some extracted from ancient MSS. and printed books, others still in actual use in different parts of the country, may be found in various collections.

Most of them enlarge on eating and drinking, baking and brewing, minced pies, white bread, and brown ale; but the most famous dish, and one which has several Carols all to itself, is "The

^{*} Hone's "Mysteries," p. 97-99. † Carnal, a crow: French, corneille.

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Boar's Head with Mustard." One of these is on a single leaf, the only one that has been preserved, of a collection printed by the samous Wynkyn de Worde in the year 1521. It is simply another form of the Carol which is still sung every Christmas Day at Queen's College in Oxford, as the Boar's Head is brought to the

High Table.

This is faid to commemorate an adventure which befell a student of Queen's as he went to fay Mass on Christmas Day, at Horspath, a little village near Oxford. As he went through the forest of Shotover, which lay between Oxford and Horspath, he was attacked by a wild boar. He had nothing to defend himself with but a volume of Aristotle, which he thrust down the beast's throat, faying Gracum est (it's Greek), which choked the boar. Then when he had faid his Mass, he cut off the beast's head and brought it back in triumph to his College; where, as the story goes, a boar's head has been ferved up at the High Table ever fince, on Christmas Day, in memory of his exploit. This tradition is further corroborated by a window in Horspath Church showing a man with a boar's head on a hunting spear in one hand, and a book in the other; and by a fimilar picture in the gallery of Queen's College Hall. This is probably not the real origin of the custom, though the tradition may have some foundation; but it has no doubt been chiefly instrumental in keeping up the Boar's Head at Queen's, when it feems to have died out everywhere elfe. It is quite clear that formerly it was a much-efteemed dish, not only at Christmas, but at other feasts. This might be partly owing to the dangers which had to be encountered in obtaining it; which form the subject of a Carol preserved in a MS. of the fifteenth century, and given by Mr. Husk in his "Songs of the Nativity."

It is recorded by Holinshed that King Henry II. at the coronation of his son as heir apparent, on June 15, 1170, himself brought

up the boar's head, with trumpets before it.

The Wassail Song* is a specimen from a different class of society, of the Christmas sessive song. Here, instead of waiting at the tables of great personages, the singers are dependent upon their richer neighbours for the means of enjoyment. Such has always been the attitude of the lower to the higher orders in society on such occasions: though in former days they were entertained within the house, and not left "wandering in the mire." But "no song no supper" was a very general rule, and to this custom of singing before or at the hospitable board we may attribute many of this class of Carols.

^{*} No. xxxvii. in this collection.

The Wassail bough or Wassail bowls were different forms of the Christmas ensigns which the privileged revellers carried about with them. The bough seems to be connected with the Christmas Tree, which has become so popular since it was introduced into this country from Germany in the time of the late Prince Consort: and it seems to have accompanied the "Milly boxes" or My Lady's boxes, still common in the West Riding of Yorkshire, which are really a degenerate representation of the Nativity; the dolls being intended, though it seems often to have been forgotten, for "Mary and Joseph and the Babe lying in a manger."

The Wassail bowl, of lamb's wool, was carried about and offered at every house for people to drink, and in return the bearers expected something more substantial for their civility. According to one

Carol they were properly girls:

"Good dame, here at your door,
Our Waffail we begin:
We are all maidens poor,
We now pray let us in,
With our Waffail."

In another, lately fung in Gloucestershire, they are young men, as appears from the following verse:

"Be here any maids? I fuppose there be some.

Sure they'll not let young men stand on the cold stone;

Sing heighho, maids, come troll back the pin,

And the fairest maid in the house let us all in." †

The word "Wassail" carries us back to very early days. It is formed of two Saxon words, wæs, the imperative of wesen, to be, which appears in our was, were; and bæl, an adjective, from which comes our health, the same as hale, in "hale and hearty," "a hale old man," and such phrases, and means literally "be well!" This was the Saxon form of drinking a health, and so "to wassail" means to go about drinking healths. The meaning of the word has no doubt long been lost, and so we cannot expect any great propriety of usage in a composition like the Wassail Song, which must be partly modern in form: though the two verses beginning—

"God bless the master of this house," &c.,

are printed with little variation, by Ritson, as a separate Carol of the time of James I. or Charles I.

It may be worth while in conclusion to give some account of the puzzling word "Noel," which occurs so frequently in old English Carols. It is, as is well known, the French for Christmas, and also

^{*} Sandys, p. 50. Husk, p. 148. † Sylvester, p. 108. Husk, p. 151.

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for a Christmas Carol. The word was also used at an early period as a cry of joy, without any reference to Christmas; and so some writers have attempted to trace it to a source unconnected with the Nativity. Novellæ, in the sense of news, and Yule, or some similar word, have been suggested. But the latest French philologers seem to have decided upon satisfactory grounds (one of which is the clearly parallel case of the proper name Natalia, which has become Noële) that Noel comes from Natalis (dies being understood), and so means the birthday, that is, of our Lord Jesus Christ.* The word probably came into England at the Norman Conquest, and is ordinarily used in Carols very much as we now use Christmas.



^{*} Noel, du Latin natalis (sc. dies). Ce qui confirme cette transformation de natalis en noel c'est qu'une forme derivée Sancta Natalia a également donnée Sainte Noële.—Brachet's "Dict. Etymol." sub verbo.

Christmas Carols



- 2 In Bethlehem, in Jewry,
 This blessed Babe was born.
 And laid within a manger,
 Upon this blessed morn;
 The which His Mother Mary,
 Did nothing take in scorn.
 O tidings, &c.
- 3 From God our Heavenly Father,
 A blessed Angel came;
 And unto certain Shepherds
 Brought tidings of the same:
 How that in Bethlehem was born
 The Son of God by Name.
 O tidings, &c.
- 4 "Fear not then," said the Angel,
 "Let nothing you affright,
 This day is born a Saviour
 Of a pure Virgin bright,
 To free all those who trust in Him
 From Satan's power and might."
 O tidings, &c.
- The shepherds at those tidings
 Rejoicèd much in mind,
 And left their flocks a-feeding,
 In tempest, storm, and wind:
 And went to Bethlehem straightway.
 The Son of God to find.
 O tidings, &c.
- 6 And when they came to Bethler.
 Where our dear Saviour lay,
 They found Him in a manger,
 Where oxen feed on hay;
 His Mother Mary kneeling down,
 Unto the Lord did pray.
 O tidings, &c.
- 7 Now to the Lord sing praises,
 All you within this place,
 And with true love and brotherhood
 Each other now embrace;
 This holy tide of Christmas
 All other doth deface.
 O tidings, &c.



The stars of heaven still shine as at first
They gleamed on this wonderful night;
The bells of the city of God peal out,
And the Angels' song still rings in the height;
And love still turns where the Godhead burns,
Hid in Flesh from fleshly sight.

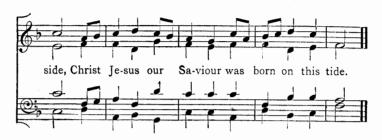
Faith sees no longer the stable-floor,
The pavement of sapphire is there,
The clear light of Heaven streams out to the world:
And Angels of God are crowding the air;
And Heaven and earth, through the spotless Birth,
Are at peace on this night so fair.



Now a new Power has come on the earth, A match for the armies of Hell: A Child is born who shall conquer the foe, And all the spirits of wickedness quell; For Mary's Son is the Mighty One Whom the prophets of God foretell.

3





- 2 At Bethlehem city in Jewry it was
 That Joseph and Mary together did pass,
 All for to be taxed with many one moe,
 Great Cæsar commanded the same should be so.
 Aye and therefore, &c.
- 3 But when they had entered the city so fair,
 A number of people so mighty was there,
 That Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small,
 Could find in the inn there no lodging at all.
 Aye and therefore, &c.
- 4 Then were they constrained in a stable to lie,
 Where horses and asses they used for to tie:
 Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn,
 But against the next morning our Saviour was born.
 Aye and therefore, &c.
- 5 The King of all kings to this world being brought, Small store of fine linen to wrap Him was sought; But when she had swaddled her young Son so sweet, Within an ox manger she laid Him to sleep. Aye and therefore, &c.
- 5 Then God sent an angel from Heaven so high,
 To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie,
 And bade them no longer in sorrow to stay,
 Because that our Saviour was born on this day.
 Aye and therefore, &c.
- 7 Then presently after the shepherds did spy
 Vast numbers of angels to stand in the sky;
 They joyfully talked and sweetly did sing,
 To God be all glory, our heavenly King.

 Aye and therefore, &c.
- 8 To teach us humility all this was done, And learn we from thence haughty pride for to shun: A manger His cradle who came from above, The great God of mercy, of peace, and of love. Aye and therefore, &c.



Come, ye poor, no pomp of station
Robes the Child your hearts adore:
He, the Lord of all salvation,
Shares your want, is weak and poor:
Oxen, round about behold them;
Rafters naked, cold, and bare,
See the shepherds, God has told them
That the Prince of Life lies there.

3.

Come, ye children, blithe and merry,
This one Child your model make;
Christmas holly, leaf, and berry,
All be prized for His dear sake;
Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender,
Come, ye spirits, keen and bold;
All in all your homage render,
Weak and mighty, young and old.

4.

High above a star is shining,
And the Wisemen haste from far:
Come, glad hearts, and spirits pining:
For you all has risen the star.
Let us bring our poor oblations,
Thanks and love and faith and praise:
Come, ye people, come, ye nations,
All in all draw nigh to gaze.

5.

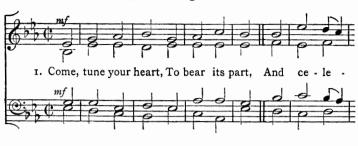
Hark! the Heaven of heavens is ringing "Christ the Lord to man is born!"

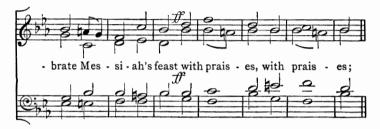
Are not all our hearts too singing,
"Welcome, welcome, Christmas morn?"

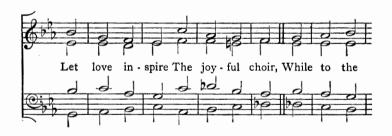
Still the Child, all power possessing,
Smiles as through the ages past;

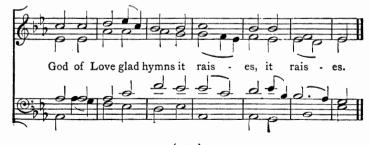
And the song of Christmas blessing,
Sweetly sinks to rest at last.

5 Come, tune your beart.









Exalt His Name; With joy proclaim,

God loved the world, and through His Son forgave us;

Oh! what are we,

That, Lord, we see

Thy wondrous love, in Christ who died to save us!

3.

Your refuge place
In His free grace,
Trust in His Name, and day by day repent you;
Ye mock God's Word,
Who call Him Lord,

And follow not the pattern He hath lent you.

4.

O Christ, to prove
For Thee my love,
In brethren Thee my hands shall clothe and cherish;
To each sad heart
Sweet Hope impart,
When worn with care, with sorrow nigh to perish.

5.

Come, praise the Lord;
In Heaven are stored
Rich gifts for those who here His Name esteemed;
Alleluia,
Alleluia;

Rejoice in Christ, and praise Him, ye redeemed.





2

They looked up and saw a Star,
Shining in the East, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, &c.

3.

And by the light of that same Star,
Three Wisemen came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the Star wherever it went.
Nowell, &c.

4

This Star drew nigh to the north-west, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Nowell, &c.

5.

Then entered in those Wisemen three, Full reverently upon their knee, And offered there, in His Presence, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Nowell. &c.

6.

Then let us all with one accord,
Sing praises to our Heavenly Lord,
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought,
And with His Blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell, &c.

7 Jesu, bail! © God most boly. Semi-Chorus.

I. Je - su, hail! O God most ho - ly, Gen - tle Lamb, an

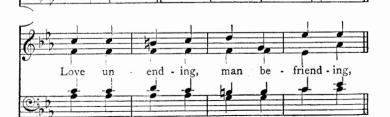


In fant low ly; Born, great God, a hu man stran-ger,











2.

To enrich my desolation, To redeem me from damnation, Wrapt in swathing-bands Thou liest, Thou in want and weakness sighest: Might transcending, &c.

3.

Low abased, where brutes are sleeping, God's belovèd Son is weeping; Judge supreme, true Godhead sharing, Sinner's likeness for us wearing! Might transcending, &c.

4.

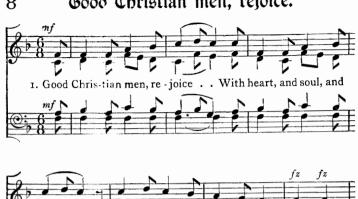
Jesu, Thine my heart is solely, Draw it, take it to Thee wholly: With Thy sacred Fire illume me, Let it inwardly consume me.

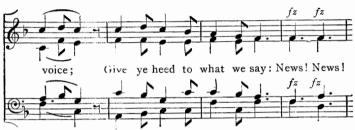
Might transcending, &c.

5.

Hence let idle fancies vanish, Hence all evil passions banish; Make me like Thyself in meekness, Bind to Thee my human weakness.

Might transcending, &c.











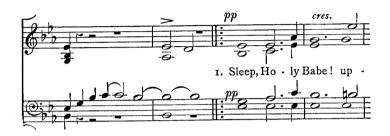
2.

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
 Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath oped the heav'nly door.
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!

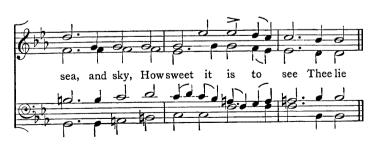
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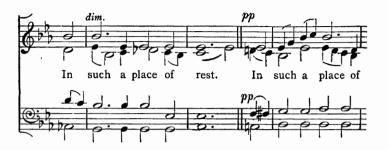
Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all.
To gain His everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save!













2.

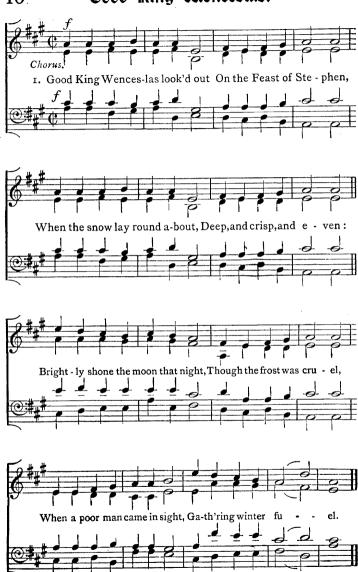
Sleep, holy Babe! Thine Angels watch around, All bending low with folded wings, Before the Incarnate King of kings, In reverent awe profound.

3.

Sleep, Holy Babe! while I with Mary gaze
In joy upon that Face awhile,
Upon the loving infant smile
Which there divinely plays.

4.

Sleep, holy Babe! ah! take Thy brief repose; Too quickly will Thy slumbers break, And Thou to lengthened pains awake, That Death alone shall close.



Tenor Solo. "Hither, page, and stand by me.

If thou know'st it, telling.

Yonder peasant, who is he?

Where and what his dwelling?"

Treble Solo. "Sire, he lives a good league hence
Underneath the mountain;
Right against the forest fence.
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

3.

Tenor Solo. "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine.

Bring me pine-logs hither;

Thou and I will see him dine.

When we bear them thither."

Chorus. Page and monarch forth they went.

Forth they went together;

Through the rude wind's wild lament?

And the bitter weather.

4.

Treble Solo. "Sire, the night is darker now.

And the wind blows stronger;

Fails my heart, I know not how,
I can go no longer."

Tenor Solo. "Mark my footsteps, my good page
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

5.

Chorus. In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing.
Ye who now will bless the poor.
Shall yourselves find blessing.

11 When I view the Mother bolding.

















The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of two;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ
Making the lame to go.
Making the lame to go, Good Lord;
And happy, &c.

3.

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of three;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ
Making the blind to see.
Making the blind to see, Good Lord;
And happy, &c.

4.

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of four;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ
Reading the Bible o'er.
Reading the Bible o'er, Good Lord;
And happy, &c.

5.

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of five;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ
Raising the dead to life.
Raising the dead to life, Good Lord;
And happy, &c.

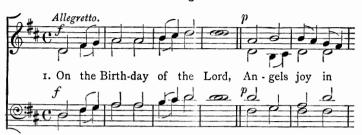
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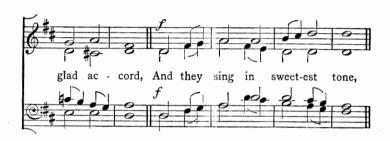
The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of six;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ
Upon the Crucifix.
Upon the Crucifix, Good Lord;
And happy, &c.

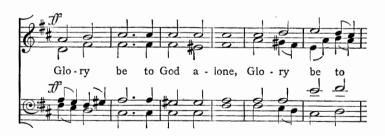
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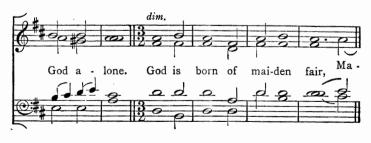
The next good joy that Mary had
It was the joy of seven;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ
Ascending into Heaven.
Ascending into Heaven, Good Lord;
And happy, &c.

13 On the Birthday of the Lord.











These good news an Angel told
To the shepherds by their fold,
Told them of the Saviour's Birth,
Told them of the joy for earth.
God is born, &c.

3.

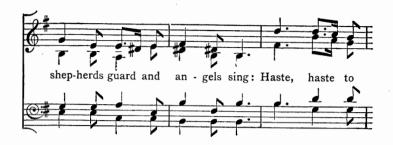
Born is now Emmanuel,
He, announced by Gabriel,
He, Whom Prophets old attest,
Cometh from His Father's Breast.
God is born, &c.

4.

Born to-day is Christ the Child, Born of Mary undefiled, Born the King and Lord we own; Glory be to God alone. God is born, &c.

(31)







Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading:
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through,
The Cross be borne, for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

3.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, King to own Him;
The King of kings, salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise, the song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

15 Glorious, beauteous, golden=bright.



But the stars' sweet golden gleam Faded quickly as a dream, 'Mid the wondrous glory-stream, That illumined all the earth, When Christ's angels sang His birth.



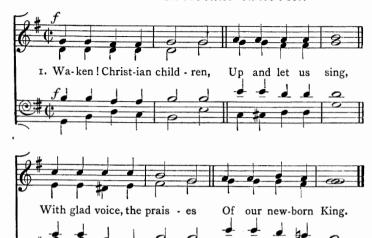
But that light no more availed, All its splendour straightway paled In His light whom angels hailed: Even as the stars of old, 'Mid the brightness lost their gold.

5.

Now no more on Christmas night, Is the sky with angels bright, But for ever shines the Light; Even He whose birth they told To the shepherds by the fold.



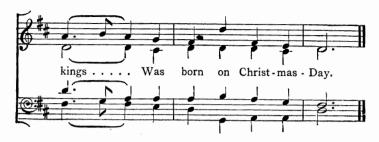
Waken! Christian children.



- 2 Up! 'tis meet to welcome, With a joyous lay, Christ, the King of Glory, Born for us to-day.
- 3 Come, nor fear to seek Him, Children though we be; Once He said of children, "Let them come to Me."
- 4 In a manger lowly,
 Sleeps the Heavenly Child;
 O'er Him fondly bendeth
 Mary, Mother mild.
- 5 Far above that stable, Up in Heaven so high, One bright star out-shineth, Watching silently.

- 6 Fear not then to enter,
 Though we cannot bring
 Gold, or myrrh, or incense
 Fitting for a King.
- 7 Gifts He asketh richer, Offerings costlier still, Yet may Christian children Bring them if they will.
- 8 Brighter than all jewels
 Shines the modest eye;
 Best of gifts He loveth
 Infant purity.
- 9 Haste we then to welcome, With a joyous lay, Christ, the King of Glory, Born for us to-day.





These tidings shepherds heard
Whilst watching o'er their fold;
Twas by an Angel unto them
That night revealed and told.
Glad tidings, &c.

3.

Then was there with the Angel
An host incontinent*
Of heavenly bright soldiers,
All from the highest sent.
Glad tidings, &c.

4.

They praised the Lord our God.
And our celestial King:
All glory be in Paradise,
This heavenly host do sing.
Glad tidings, &c.

5.

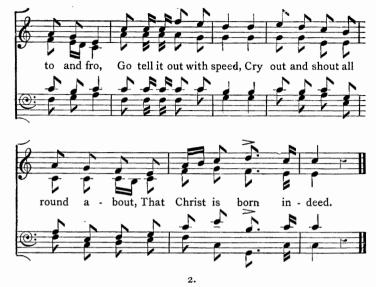
All glory be to God,
That sitteth still on high,
With praises and with triumph great,
And joyful melody.
Glad tidings, &c.

* Immediately.

immediately.

Carol for Christmas=Eve.





In the inn they found no room; a scanty bed they made:
Soon a Babe from Mary's womb was in the manger laid.
Forth He came as light through glass; He came to save us all.
In the stable ox and ass before their Maker fall.
Sing high, sing low, &c.

3.

Shepherds lay afield that night, to keep the silly sheep,
Hosts of Angels in their sight came down from heaven's high steep.
Tidings! tidings! unto you: to you a Child is born,
Purer than the drops of dew, and brighter than the morn.
Sing high, sing low, &c.

4.

Onward then the Angels sped, the shepherds onward went, God was in His manger bed, in worship low they bent. In the morning, see ye mind, my masters one and all, At the Altar Him to find who lay within the stall.

Sing high, sing low, &c.

19 When Christ was born of Mary free.





Herdsmen beheld these Angels bright, To them appearing with great light, Who said God's Son is born to-night. "In excelsis Gloria."

3.

The King is come to save mankind,
As in Scripture truths we find,
Therefore this song we have in mind,
"In excelsis Gloria."

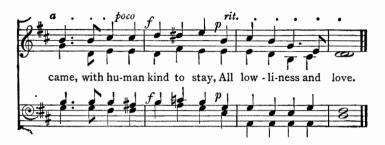
4

Then, dear Lord, for Thy great grace, Grant us in bliss to see Thy face, That we may sing to Thy solace: "In excelsis Gloria."

'Twas in the Winter cold.

A CHRISTMAS MORNING HYMN.

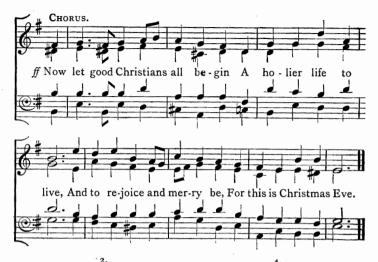




- 2 Then in the manger the poor beast Was present with his Lord; Then swains and pilgrims from the East Saw, wondered, and adored. And I this morn would come with them This blessed sight to see, And to the Babe of Bethlehem Bend low the reverent knee.
- 3 But I have not, it makes me sigh,
 One offering in my power;
 'Tis winter all with me, and I
 Have neither fruit nor flower.
 O God, O Brother, let me give
 My worthless self to Thee;
 And that the years which I may live
 May pure and spotless be:
- 4 Grant me Thyself, O Saviour kind,
 The Spirit undefiled,
 That I may be in heart and mind
 As gentle as a child;
 That I may tread life's arduous ways
 As Thou Thyself hast trod,
 And in the might of prayer and praise
 Keep ever close to God.
- 5 Light of the everlasting morn,
 Deep through my spirit shine;
 There let Thy presence newly born
 Make all my being Thine:
 There try me as the silver, try,
 And cleanse my soul with care,
 Till Thou art able to descry
 Thy faultless image there.

21 A Carol for Christmas Eve.





And thus within the garden he
Was set, therein to stay;
And in commandment unto him
These words the Lord did say:
"The fruit which in the garden grows
To thee shall be for meat,
Except the tree in midst thereof,
Of which thou shalt not eat."
Now let good Christians, &c.

3•

"For in the day thou shalt it touch
Or dost to it come nigh,
If so thou do but eat thereof,
Then thou shalt surely die."
But Adam he did take no heed
Unto that only thing,
But did transgress God's holy Law,
And so was wrapt in sin.
Now let good Christians, &c.

Now mark the goodness of the Lord, Which He to mankind bore; His mercy soon He did extend, Lost man for to restore:

And therefore to redeem our souls From death and hell and thrall, He said His own dear Son should be The Saviour of us all.

Now let good Christians, &c.

5.

Which promise now is brought to pass:
Christians, believe it well:
And by the death of God's dear Son,
We are redeemed from Hell.
So if we truly do believe,
And do the thing that's right,
Then by His merits we at last
Shall live in Heaven bright.
Then let good Christians, &c.

6.

And now the tide is nigh at hand,
In which our Saviour came;
Let us rejoice and merry be
In keeping of the same;
Let's feed the poor and hungry souls,
And such as do it crave;
And when we die, in heaven we
Our sure reward shall have.
Then let good Christians, &c.





Mother, yet a Virgin still: [est, Sad, with eyes bedimmed Thou weepad, with eyes bedimmed Thou weep-Eyes, which Heaven with gladness Bound, Who only can deliver; fill.

O what works, &c.

Weak the Strong, of strength the Giver:

Born is He Who ne'er began. O what works, &c.





The holly bears a blossom,
As white as lily-flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet Saviour.
O the rising of the sun, &c.

3.

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To do poor sinners good.
O the rising of the sun, &c.

4.

The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
On Christmas Day in the morn.
O the rising of the sun, &c.

5

The holly bears a bark,
As bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
For to redeem us all.
O the rising of the sun, &c.

6.

The holly and the ivy

Now both are full well grown,

Of all the trees that are in the wood.

The holly bears the crown.

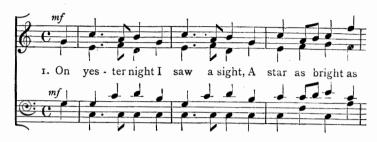
O the rising of the sun, &c.



- 2 Awake, awake, good people all, Awake, and you shall hear, The Lord our God died on the Cross, For us He loved so dear.
- 3 O fair, O fair Jerusalem, When shall I come to thee? When shall my sorrows have an end, The joy that I may see?
- 4 The fields were green as green could 8
 When from His glorious seat [be,
 Our blessed Father watered us
 With His heavenly dew so sweet.
- 5 And for the saving of our souls Christ died upon the cross, We ne'er shall do for Jesus Christ, As He hath done for us.

- The life of man is but a span, And cut down in its flower, We're here to-day, to-morrow gone, The creatures of an hour.
- Instruct and teach your children well, The while that you are here; It will be better for your soul, When your corpse lies on the bier.
- To-day you may be alive and well, Worth many a thousand pound; To-morrow dead and cold as clay, Your corpse laid underground.
- 9 With one turf at thine head, O man, And another at Thy feet; Thy good deeds and thy bad, O man, Will all together meet.
- My song is done, I must be gone, I can stay no longer here; God bless you all, both great and small, And send you a joyful new year!

25 The Virgin and Child.*







^{*}Note.—The words of the Alto part are those immediately below it. The words of the Tenor are those immediately above it. Words occasionally written above the Treble stave are to be sung by the Trebles. Words occasionally written below the Bass stave are to be sung by the Basses.







The Child then spake, whilst she did sing, And to the maiden said,
"Right sure I am a mighty King,
Though in a crib my bed:
For angels bright,
Down to Me light;
Thou canst not say me nay:
Then why so sad?

Thou mayest be glad To sing by by, lullay."

"Now, sweetest Lord, since Thou art Why liest Thou in a stall? [King,

Why didst Thou not Thy cradle bring
To some great royal hall?

Methinks 'tis right, That king or knight Should lie in good array; And them among, It were no wrong To sing by by, lullay."

5•

"My Mother Mary, Thine I be,
Though I be laid in stall,
Both lords and dukes shall worship Me,
And so shall monarchs all;
Ye shall well see
That princes three
Shall come on the twelfth day:
Then let Me rest
Upon thy breast,
And sing by by, Iullay."

"Now tell me, sweetest Lord, I pray,
Thou art my love and dear,
How shall I nurse Thee to Thy mind,
And make Thee glad of cheer?
For all Thy will
I would fulfil,
I need no more to say;
And for all this
I will Thee kiss.

6.

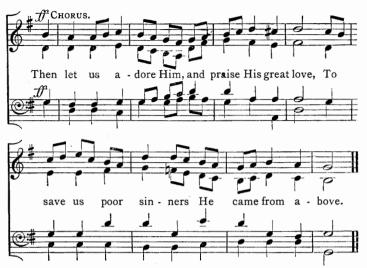
And sing by by, lullay."
7.

"My Mother dear, when time it be
Then take Me up aloft,
And set Me up upon thy knee,
And handle me full soft;
And in Thy arm,
Thou wilt Me warm,
And keep Me night and day:
And if I weep,
And may not sleep,
Then sing by by, lullay."

8.

"Now, sweetest Lord, since it is so,
That Thou art most of might,
I pray Thee grant a boon to me,
If it be meet and right;
That child or man
That will or can,
Be merry on this day;
To bliss them bring,
And I shall sing,
Lullay, by by, lullay."



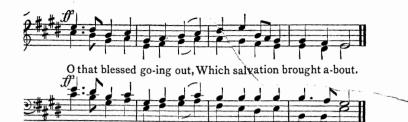


- A Babe on the breast of a maiden he lies, Yet sits with the Father on high in the skies; Before Him their faces the Seraphim hide, While Joseph stands waiting, unscared, by His side. Then let us adore Him, &c.
- 3 Lo! here is Immanuel, here is the Child,
 The Son that was promised to Mary so mild;
 Whose power and dominion shall ever increase,
 The Prince that shall rule o'er a kingdom of peace.
 Then let us adore Him, &c.
- 4 The Wonderful Counsellor, boundless in might, The Father's own Image, the Beam of His Light; Behold Him now wearing the likeness of man, Weak, helpless, and speechless, in measure a span. Then let us adore Him, &c.
- 5 O wonder of wonders, which none can unfold; The Ancient of days is an hour or two old; The Maker of all things is made of the earth, Man is worshipped by angels, and God comes to birth. Then let us adore Him, &c.
- 6 The Word in the bliss of the Godhead remains, Yet in Flesh comes to suffer the keenest of pains; He is that He was, and for ever shall be, But becomes that He was not, for you and for me. Then let us adore Him, &c.

and the second distribution of the second se

Christmas Day.





2.

Let this glorious holiday
Find such holy spending
That the simple-hearted may
Joy without offending,
And sweet charity may stay,
With our concourse blending.
O that blessed going out,
Which salvation brought about.

3.

Give we glory to this Feast,
For man's restoration:
Now the guilty is released,
Freed from condemnation:
By the widow's son deceased,
See Elisha's station!
O that blessed, &c.

4

O how bright is this day made,
Day with radiance glowing,
Which the Light of Light displayed,
Light in darkness shewing;
Chasing thus death's gloomy shade,
Brightness o'er us throwing!
O that blessed, &c.

5.

Risen to-day in splendour bright, Shining to all ages, Beams the Sun, whose distant light Touched the Prophet's pages; Now, to end the reign of night, Christ His power engages. O that blessed, &c.

The Cherry Tree Carol.



2.

As they went a walking
In the garden so gay,
Maid Mary spied cherries
Hanging over yon tree.

3.

Mary said to Joseph,
With her sweet lips so mild,
"Pluck those cherries, Joseph,
For to give to my Child."

"O then," replied Joseph,
With words so unkind,
"I will pluck no cherries
For to give to thy Child."

5.

Mary said to cherry tree,
"Bow down to my knee,
That I may pluck cherries
By one, two, and three."

^{*} This chord will be required for verses 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12.

The uppermost sprig then Bowed down to her knee: "Thus you may see, Joseph, These cherries are for me." "He shall not be clothèd In purple nor pall; But all in fair linen, As wear babies all.

7.

"O eat your cherries, Mary, O eat your cherries now, O eat your cherries, Mary, That grow upon the bough."

"He shall not be rocked,

In silver nor gold,

But in a wooden cradle

II.

12.

That rocks on the mould.

8.

As Joseph was a-walking He heard Angels sing, "This night there shall be born Our heavenly King.

"He neither shall be christened In milk nor in wine, But in pure spring-well water Fresh sprung from Bethine."

9.

"He neither shall be born In house nor in hall, Nor in the place of Paradise, But in an ox-stall.

13.

Mary took her Baby, She dressed Him so sweet. She laid Him in a manger All there for to sleep.

14.

As she stood over Him She heard Angels sing, "Oh! bless our dear Saviour, Our heavenly King."



^{*} This chord will be required for verses 3 and 4.

[†] This chord must be omitted in verses 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Bethlehem, King David's city,
Birth-place of that Babe we find,
God and Man, endued with pity,
And the Saviour of mankind:
Yet Jewry land, with cruel hand,
Both first and last His power denied;
When He was born they did Him scorn,
And shewed Him malice when He died,

3.

No princely palace for our Saviour
In Judea could be found,
But sweet Mary's meek behaviour
Patiently upon the ground
Her Babe did place, in vile disgrace,
Where oxen in their stalls did feed;
No midwife mild had this sweet Child,
Nor woman's help at mother's need.

4.

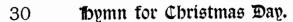
No kingly robes nor golden treasure Decked the birth-day of God's Son; No pompous train at all took pleasure To the King of kings to run; No mantle brave could Jesus have Upon His cradle cold to lie; No music's charms in nurse's arms To sing that Babe a lullaby.

5

Yet, as Mary sat in solace
By our Saviour's cradle side,
Hosts of Angels from God's Palace,
Singing sweet through Heaven so wide;
Yea, Heaven and earth, at Jesu's Birth,
With sweet melodious tunes abound;
And every thing to Jewry's King,
Through all the world gives cheerful sound.

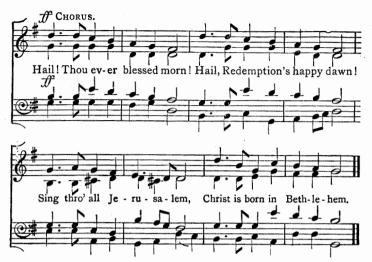
6

Now to Him that hath redeemed us
By His Death on holy Rood,
And as sinners so esteemed us,
As to buy us with His Blood,
Yield lasting fame, that still the Name
Of Jesus may be honoured here;
And let us say that Christmas Day
Is still the best day in the year.





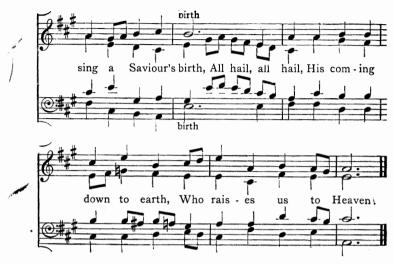
* Treble or Tenor, or alternately.



- 2 Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies; He, who throned in height sublime, Sits amid the Cherubim! Hail, thou ever-blessed, &c.
- 3 Say, ye holy Shepherds, say, What your joyful news to-day; Wherefore have ye left your sheep On the lonely mountain steep? Hail, thou ever-blessed, &c.
- 4 "As we watched at dead of night, Lo, we saw a wondrous light; Angels singing peace on earth, Told us of a Saviour's Birth." Hail, thou ever-blessed, &c.
- Sacred Infant, all Divine,
 What a tender love was Thine;
 Thus to come from highest bliss
 Down to such a world as this!
 Hail, thou ever-blessed, &c.
- 6 Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, By Thy face so meek and mild, Teach us to resemble Thee, In Thy sweet humility! Hail, thou ever-blessed, &c.

31 The Babe of Bethlehem.





- A Saviour! sinners all around Sing, shout the wondrous word; Let every bosom hail the sound, A Saviour! Christ the Lord Noel, Noel, &c.
- For not to sit on David's throne With worldly pomp and joy, He came for sinners to atone, And Satan to destroy. Noel, Noel, &c.
- 4 To preach the Word of Life Divine,
 And feed with living Bread,
 To heal the sick with hand benign,
 And raise to life the dead.
 Noel, Noel, &c.
- 5 He preached, He suffered, bled and died, Uplift 'twixt earth and skies; In sinners' stead was crucified, For sin a sacrifice. Noel, Noel, &c.
- 6 Well may we sing a Saviour's birth, Who need the grace so given, And hail His coming down to earth, Who raises us to Heaven. Noel, Noel, &c.

32 In Bethlehem, that noble place.





2.

On Christmas night an Angel told
The shepherds watching by their fold,
In Bethlehem, full nigh the wold,
"Salvator mundi natus est."
Be we merry, &c.

3.

The shepherds were encompassed right,
About them shone a glorious light,
"Dread ye naught," said the Angel bright,
"Salvator mundi natus est."

Be we merry, &c.

4.

"No cause have ye to be afraid,
For why? this day is Jesus laid."
On Mary's lap, that gentle maid:"
"Salvator mundi natus est."
Be we merry, &c.

5.

"And thus in faith find Him ye shall Laid poorly in an ox's stall." The shepherds then lauded God all Quia Salvator natus est. Be we merry, &c.

(69)

33 A Cradle-song of the Blessed Virgin.



O Lamb, my love inviting,
O Star, my soul delighting,
O Flower of mine own bearing,
O Jewel past comparing!
My Darling, &c.

3.

My Child, of Might indwelling, My Sweet, all sweets excelling, Of Bliss the Fountain flowing, The Dayspring ever glowing. My Darling, &c.

4.

My Joy, my Exultation,
My spirit's Consolation;
My Son, my Spouse, my Brother,
O listen to Thy Mother.
My Darling, &c.

5.

Say, wouldst Thou heavenly sweetness
Or love of answering meetness?
Or is fit music wanting?
Ho! Angels raise your chanting!
My Darling, &c.





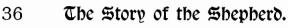
- e Once again the Holy Night
 Breathes its blessing tender;
 Once again the Manger Light
 Sheds its gentle splendour;
 O could tongues by Angels taught
 Speak our exultation
 In the Virgin's Child that brought
 All mankind Salvation?
- Welcome Thou to souls athirst,
 Fount of endless pleasure;
 Gates of Hell may do their worst,
 While we clasp our Treasure:
 Welcome, though an age like this
 Puts Thy Name on trial,
 And the Truth that makes our bliss
 Pleads against denial!
- Yea, if others stand apart,
 We will press the nearer:
 Yea, O best fraternal Heart,
 We will hold Thee dearer;
 Faithful lips shall answer thus
 To all faithless scorning,
 "JESUS CHRIST is GOD with us,
 Born on Christmas morning."
- 5 So we yield Thee all we can, Worship, thanks, and blessing: Thee true GoD, and Thee true Man, On our knees confessing; While Thy Birthday morn we greet With our best devotion, Bathe us, O most true and sweet! In Thy mercy's ocean.
- Thou that once, 'mid stable cold,
 Wast in babe-clothes lying,
 Thou whose Altar-veils enfold,
 Power and Life undying,
 Thou whose Love bestows a worth
 On each poor endeavour.
 Have Thou joy of this Thy Birth
 In our praise for ever.

Jacob's Ladder.

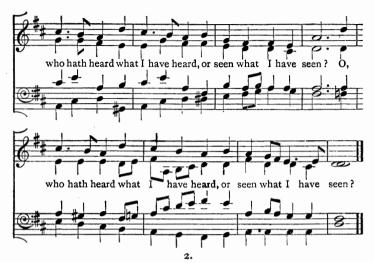




- 2 This ladder is long, it is strong and well-made, Has stood hundreds of years and is not yet decayed; Many millions have climbed it and reached Sion's hill, And thousands by faith are climbing it still. Hallelujah to Jesus, &c.
- 3 Come let us ascend: all may climb it who will;
 For the Angels of Jacob are guarding it still:
 And remember each step, that by faith we pass o'er,
 Some Prophet or Martyr hath trod it before.
 Hallelujah to Jesus, &c.
- 4 And when we arrive at the haven of rest
 We shall hear the glad words, "Come up hither, ye blest,
 Here are regions of light, here are mansions of bliss:"
 O, who would not climb such a ladder as this?
 Hallelujah to Jesus, &c.







O ne'er could nightingale at dawn salute the rising day With sweetness like that bird of song in his immortal lay: O ne'er were wood-notes heard at eve by banks with poplar shade So thrilling as the concert sweet by heavenly harpings made; For love divine was in each chord, and filled each pause between: O, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?

3.

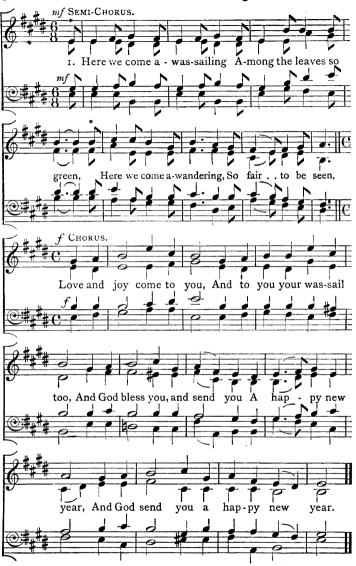
I roused me at the piercing strain, but shrunk as from the ray Of summer lightning: all around so bright the splendour lay. For oh, it mastered sight and sense, to see that glory shine, To hear that minstrel in the clouds, who sang of Love Divine, To see that form with birdlike wings, of more than mortal mien: O, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen!

4.

When once the rapturous trance was past, that so my sense could bind, I left my sheep to Him whose care breathed in the western wind; I left them, for instead of snow, I trod on blade and flower, And ice dissolved in starry rays at morning's gracious hour, Revealing where on earth the steps of Love Divine had been; O, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?

5.

I hasted to a low-roofed shed, for so the Angel bade; And bowed before the lowly rack where Love Divine was laid: A new-born Babe, like tender Lamb, with Lion's strength there smiled, For Lion's strength, immortal might, was in that new-born Child; That Love Divine in childlike form had God for ever been: O, who hath heard what I have heard, or seen what I have seen?



^{*} This note is required for verses 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

Our wassail-cup is made Of the rosemary tree, And so is your beer Of the best barley.

Love and joy, &c.

3.

We are not daily beggars That beg from door to door, But we are neighbours' children Whom you have seen before. Love and joy, &c.

Good Master and good Mistress, As you sit by the fire, Pray think of us poor children Who are wandering in the mire. Love and joy, &c.

We have a little purse Made of ratching* leather skin; We want some of your small change To line it well within. Love and joy, &c.

6.

Call up the butler of this house, Put on his golden ring; Let him bring us a glass of beer, And the better we shall sing. Love and joy, &c.

Bring us out a table, And spread it with a cloth; Bring us out a mouldy cheese, And some of your Christmas loaf. Love and joy, &c.

8.

God bless the master of this house, Likewise the mistress too; And all the little children That round the table go. Love and joy, &c.

^{*} Leather that will stretch.



* S. Luke ii. 14. (80)







"Peace I leave with you," was again
Thy dying Gift to earth;
Sweet echo of the lingering strain

Sweet echo of the lingering strain
Of Christmas morn, the glad refrain
Of Anthems at Thy Birth;

When Angel choirs hymned forth to us,
"In terrâ Pax hominibus!"

O Olive Branch! O Dove of Peace!
Brooding o'er stormy waters!
When shall the flood of woe decrease?
When shall the dreary conflict cease,
And earth's sad sons and daughters
With glad hearts hail Thy word to us,
"In territ Pax hominibus!"



5. Luke xix. 34 (82.)





Then Lazarus laid him down and Then Dives sent out his hungry dogs, And down at Dives' door; [down Some meat, some drink, brother Dives, They had no power to bite at all, Bestow upon the poor.

To bite him as he lay; But licked his sores away.

Thou'rt none of my brother, Lazarus, As it fell out upon a day, That lies begging at my door, Nor bestow upon the poor.

Poor Lazarus sickened and died; Nor meat nor drink will I give to thee, Then came two Angels out of Heaven, His soul therein to guide.

4.

down . And down at Dives' wall; Some meat, some drink, brother Dives,

[Then Lazarus laid him down and [Rise up, rise up, brother Lazarus, And come along with me; There's a place in Heaven prepared for thee. To sit upon an Angel's knee.]

ıı.

Or with hunger starve I shall.]

[Thou'rt none of my brother, Lazarus, As it fell out upon a day, That lies begging at my wall; But with hunger starve you shall.

Rich Dives sickened and died; Nor meat nor drink will I give to thee, There came two serpents out of Hell, His soul therein to guide.

down. And down at Dives' gate; Some meat, some drink, brother Dives, For Jesus Christ His sake.

13. [Then Lazarus laid him down and [Rise up, rise up, brother Dives, And come along with me; There's a place in Hell prepared for To sit upon a serpent's knee.

7.

[Thou'rt none of my brother, Lazarus, Then Dives looked with burning eyes, That lies begging at my gate; Nor meat nor drink will I give to thee, One drop of water, Lazarus, For Jesus Christ His sake.]

And saw poor Lazarus blest: To quench my flaming thirst!

[Then Dives sent out his merry men, Oh! had I as many years to abide To whip poor Lazarus away; But flung their whips away.]

As there are blades of grass, They had no power to strike a stroke, Then there would be an end: but now Hell's pains will never pass.

15.

16.

[Oh! were I but alive again, For the space of one half hour, I would make my peace and so secure That the Devil should have no power!]





For as we wandered far and wide. The snow in the street and the wind on the door, Tus betide? Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

"There was an old man there beside:

wide.

Under a bent when the night was deep, "And as we gazed this thing upon, The snow in the street, &c.

There lay three shepherds tending Those twain knelt down to the little their sheep. Minstrels and maids, &c.

seen,

The snow in the street, &c. To stay your sorrow and heal your teen?"

Minstrels and maids, &c.

"In an ox stall this night we saw, The snow in the street, &c.

A Babe and a Maid without a flaw. Minstrels and maids, &c.

The snow in the street, &c. What hap do you deem there should His hair was white, and his hood was

Minstrels and maids, &c.

The snow in the street, &c. One.

Minstrels and maids, &c.

"O ye shepherds what have ye "And a marvellous song we straight did hear.

> The snow in the street, &c. That slew our sorrow and healed our care."

> > Minstrels and maids, &c.

News of a fair and a marvellous thing. The snow in the street. &c. Nowell, Nowell, we sing.

Minstrels and maids, &c.

N.B.—In the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 9th verses, the melody in the first bar will need the following slight modification, in order to fit it to the accent of the words;



And a corresponding change must be made in the subsequent parts of the melody where the same words recur.

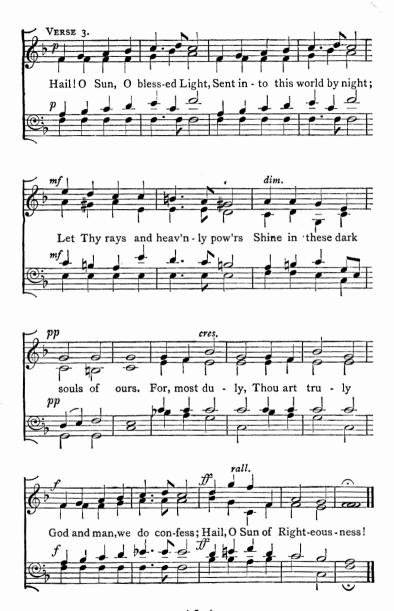
41 Carol for Christmas Day.

....



2 Wake, O earth, wake everything, Wake and hear the joy I bring: Wake and joy; for all this night, Heaven and every twinkling light, All amazing, Still stand gazing; Angels, Powers, and all that be, Wake, and joy this Sun to see!

(88)

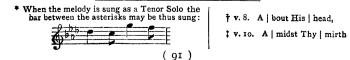


The Child Jesus in the Garden.



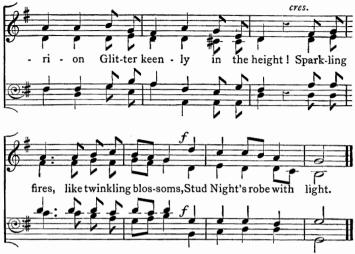


- Soon was His presence missed within His home, His Mother gentle marked His every way: Forth then she came to seek where He did roam, Full of sweet words His trouble to allay.
- p 3 Through chilling snow she toiled to reach His side, Forcing her way 'mid branches black and sere; Hastening, that she His sorrows might divide, Share all His woe, or calm His gloomy fear.
- Solo. 4 "Speak, gentle Lord;" she cried with reverent love,
 "Tell me, I pray, what griefs around Thee press,
 Though I of earth, and Thou from Heaven above,
 I am Thy Mother: what doth Thee distress?"
- Chorus. pp 5 Sweet was her face as o'er His head she bent;
 Longing to melt His look of saddest grief,
 With lifted eyes His ear to her He lent;
 Her kindly solace brought His soul relief.
 - f 6 Then did He smile, a smile of love so deep, Winter himself grew warm beneath its glow, From drooping branches scented blossoms peep, Up springs the grass, the sealed fountains flow.
 - 7 Summer and spring did each with other vie, Offering to Him the fragrance of their store; Chanting sweet notes the birds around Him fly, Wondering why earth had chequered so her floor.
 - Solo. 8 Then round His Mother lilies white entwined, Fresh as her love, and chaste as she was pure; About His head the Passion-flowers did bind, Type of the sufferings He must soon endure.
- Chorus. pp 9 Hid in the wreath was many a cruel thorn;
 Yet on His brow He placed it, full of joy;
 Full well He knew why He on earth was born,
 How by His blood He should our woes destroy,
 - f 10 Know then, dear brother, in these Christmas hours, Sorrow, like snow, will melt, if He but smile; And if He clothe thy wintry path with flowers, Amidst thy mirth, think on His thorns awhile.



43 What soul-inspiring music.





2

Strange forms float hovering o'er

New sounds fall on our ear; God's Angel bids us welcome, His voice says, "Never fear! Born to you in David's city Lies the Saviour, all Divine,

David's Root and David's Offspring, Promised Seed of David's line;

Promised Seed of David's line. He is swathed and in a manger: Take this for a sign."

3.

Straight, crowds of heavenly warriors,
Outshining every star,
Stand forth round that one Herald
Proclaiming peace afar;
Choirs of Angels and Archangels,
Seraphim and Cherubim,
Thrones and Princedoms, Dominations,
[dim;
Powers and Might which wax not
Spirit-hosts in ranks celestial,
Raise one joyous hymn.

"Lord God, to Thee be glory,
In heights all height above;
Peace dwell on earth beneath us,
Towards men goodwill and love!
Heaven and earth are now united,
Man may see his Father's face:
Mary's Son, God's Word incarnate,
Is an endless Fount of Grace:

Therefore Righteousness may
Mercy

And Truth Peace embrace."

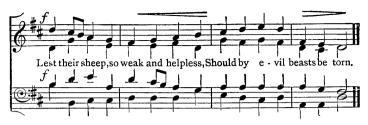
5.

Speed, Shepherds, leave your sheepfolds,
To Bethle'm haste away:
Fall on your knees before Him,
Salute Him while ye may:
Bring your offerings, bring your treasure,

Open wide each simple store:
Pipe and dance in rustic measure.
In His Manger Him adore:
Every deed to give Him pleasure
Be yours evermore.

44 In the Country nigh to Bethlehem.





- 2 Haply, through their long night-watches, They made hill and valley ring With the songs of holy gladness Which King David used to sing. Songs of praise to God their Shepherd, Who defended them from ill, And their weary, wandering footsteps Guided to the waters still.
- 3 As they watched, a burst of glory
 Shone around them from above,
 And a mighty glorious Angel
 Calmed their fears with words of love:
 "Fear not, for behold I bring you
 Tidings full of greatest joy,
 Joy eternal, full of gladness,
 Joy which nothing can destroy.
- 4 "Unto you in David's city,
 As was told by Prophet's word,
 Christ is born, your God and Saviour,
 Christ is born, your King and Lord."
 Suddenly a host of Angels
 Raised their voices high and sang,
 Till the vaulted arch of Heaven
 With the echoing chorus rang:
- 5 "Glory, glory, in the highest,
 Unto God, and peace on earth;
 To all nations joyful bring we
 Tidings glad of Jesus' birth."
 Lift we now our hearts and voices,
 Join we all the cheerful cry,
 Learned by shepherds from the Angels;
 "Glory be to God on high!"

45 We three Kings of Orient are.





Melchior.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring, to crown Him again, King for ever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.

O Star of wonder, &c.

3.

Caspar.

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God most High.
O Star of wonder, &c.

4.

Balthazar.

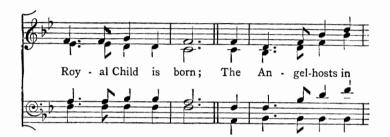
Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. O Star of wonder, &c.

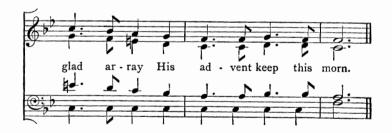
5.

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice, Alleluia, Alleluia; Earth to the heavens replies. O Star of wonder, &c.

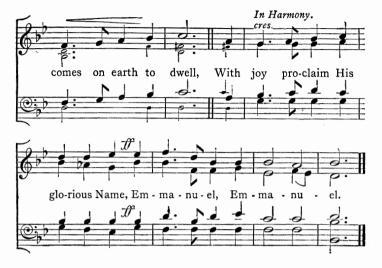
46 Emmanuel, God with us.











Low at the cradle-throne we bend,
We wonder and adore;
And think no bliss can ours transcend,
No rapture sweet before.
The Holy One, &c.

3.

For us the world must lose its charms
Before the manger-shrine,
Where folded in Thy Mother's arms,
Thou sleepest, Babe Divine!
The Holy One, &c.

1.

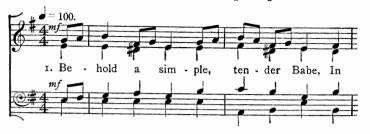
Angels are thronging round Thy bed, Thine infant grace to see; The stars are paling o'er Thy head, The Day-spring dawns with Thee. The Holy One, &c.

5.

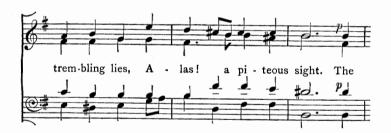
Thou art the very Light of Light, Enlighten us, sweet Child, That we may keep Thy Birthday bright, With service undefiled. The Holy One, &c.

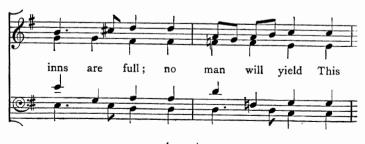
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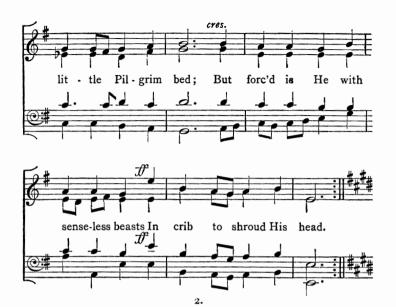
Hew Prince, new pomp.



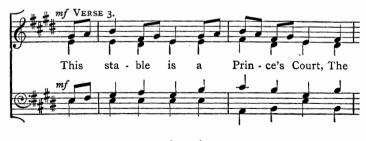




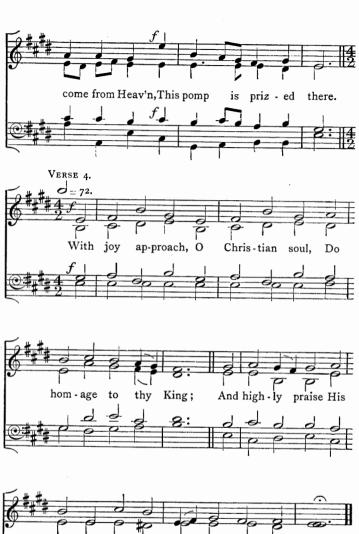


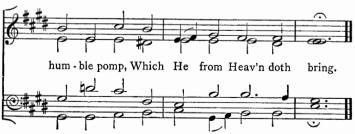


Despise Him not for lying here,
First what He is enquire:
An orient pearl is often found
In depth of dirty mire.
Weigh not His crib, His wooden dish,
Nor beasts that by Him feed;
Weigh not His Mother's poor attire,
Nor Joseph's simple weed.











- 2 At Bethlehem, that blessed place, The Child of bliss then born He was; Him aye to serve God give us grace, O Lux beata Trinitas.
- 3 There came three kings out of the East, To worship there that King so free; With gold and myrrh and frankincense, A solis ortus cardine.
- 4 The shepherds heard an Angel cry, A merry song that night sang he, Why are ye all so sore aghast, Fam lucis orto sidere?
- 5 The Angel came down with a cry, A fair and joyful song sang he, All in the worship of that Child, Gloria Tibi Domine.

49 Come let us all sweet Carols sing.







Now Gabriel sweeping through the sky,

Missus a Deo nuntius,

These tidings beareth from on high,

Lætissimis pastoribus,

Behold your God on earth doth lie,

Invenietis protinus.

3.

On Mary's bosom He is stayed,

Et albo lacte pascitur,

By her to sleep is gently laid,

Somno corpus reficitur,

Sprung from a pure and spotless Maid,

Hic Puer vobis nascitur.









Lantern or torch they needed not,

Stella clara tunc lucebat,

They found an ass within the cot,

Rauca voce qui clamabat,

Oxen were lowing; all the grot

Magno lumine fulgebat.

6.

They entered then the hallowed cave, fesum hic adoraverunt,

The best of all they had they gave,

Puerumque oraverunt,

Pardon for that was lacking crave;

Subitoque abierunt.

50 Let Music break on this blest morn.

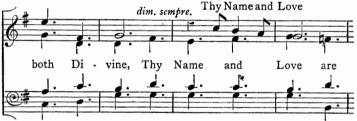




* These two lines are to be sung by the Trebles only, if the Carol be accompanied.









51 Carol for New Year's Day.













Mary anon looked him upon,
And said, "Sir, what are ye?
I marvel much at tidings such
As thou hast brought to me:
Married I am to an old man,
So fell the lot to me;
Therefore, I pray, depart away;
I stand in doubt of thee."
Then sing we, &c.

"Mary," he said, "be not afraid,
But now believe in me:
The power of God the Holy Ghost
Shall overshadow thee.
Thou shalt conceive, but not to grieve
As the Lord told unto me;
God's own dear Son from heaven
shall come,
And shall be born of thee."
Then sing we, &c.

This came to pass as God's will was, Even as the Angel told. About midnight an Angel bright Came to the shepherds' fold, And told them then both where and when

Born was the Child, our Lord; And all along this was their song: "All glory be to God." Then sing we, &c.

Good people all, both great and small,
The which do hear my voice,
With one accord let's praise the Lord,
And in our hearts rejoice;
In love abound to all around,
While we our life-time spend;
While we have space let's pray for
So let my carol end. [grace:
Then sing we, &c.







is laid. [bring; Who came our salvation to Go seek Him, ye shepherds, and be not afraid,

CHORUS.

He is your Redeemer and King. All glory and honour, &c.

A Virgin should bring forth a Go haste to the stable, ye shepherds, and see,

For as it was said it is done. All glory and honour, &c.

The shepherds obeyed, and the Babe did espy, The Angels most sweetly did sing; Let's join in their songs to the great God on high, For sending our Saviour and King. All glory and honour, &c.

Moel! Moel!





In an humble feeding-trough, Within a lowly shed,
With cattle at His infant feet,
And shepherds at His head,
The Saviour of this sinful world
In innocence first lay,
And Wise-men made their offering
Upon an Holy day.—Noel, &c.

He will save the perishing,
Will waft the sighs to heaven
Of guilty men, who truly seek
And weep to be forgiven.
An Intercessor still He shines,
And men to Him should pray,
Before His Altar meekly,
Upon this Holy Day.—Noel, &c.

Flowers, we see, bloom fair again,
Though all their life seems shed,
Thus we shall rise to life once more,
Though numbered with the dead.
Then may our station be near Him,
To whom we worship pay,
And offer hearty praises,
Upon this Holy day.—Noel, &c.

55 I sing the Birth was born to-night.

















Angels with joy sing in the air, No music may with theirs compare; While prisoners in their chains rejoice

To hear the echo of that voice. So now on earth can men be sad, When Jesus comes to make us glad; From sin and hell to set us free, And buy for us our liberty? Let sin depart, while we His grace, And glory see in Jesus' face; For so shall we sure comforts find When thus this day we bear in mind. And from the darkness we have light, Which makes the Angels sing this night:

"Glory to God, His peace to men, Both now and evermore." Amen.

57 The Christmas Celebration.



Christendom at all her Altars
Once again the tale doth tell
Of His Birth, Who came to vanquish
Sin and Satan, Death and Hell,
Virgin-born, and Manger-cradled,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

3.

See the shepherds, heaven-greeted,
Worship, while the Angels sing;
See the Magi, star-directed,
Their most costly treasures bring;
See earth's simple ones and wise ones
Bending o'er their Baby-King.

4.

Happy Mother, ever Virgin,
Mary clasps Him to her breast,
All succeeding generations
Speaking of her call her blest,
And Saint Joseph joins with wonder
In the homage of the rest.

5.

Now, dear Lord, Thy Birth-day keeping,
As we bend before the shrine,
Find Thee life and health bestowing
Veiled beneath the Bread and Wine.
Make us like Thee, child-like, God-like,
Keep, O keep us ever Thine.

58 Arise, and bail the Sacred Day.



If Angels, on that happy morn
The Saviour of the world was born,
Poured forth seraphic songs;
Much more should we of human race
Adore the wonders of His grace,
To whom that grace belongs.

3.

How wonderful, how vast His love,
Who left the shining realms above,
Those happy seats of rest;
How much for lost mankind He bore,
Their peace and pardon to restore,
Can never be exprest.

4.

While we adore His boundless grace,
And pious joy and mirth take place
Of sorrow, grief, and pain,
Give glory to our God on high,
And not among the general joy
Forget good-will to men.

5.

O then let Heaven and earth rejoice, Creation's whole united voice, And hymn the Sacred Day, When sin and Satan vanquished fell, And all the powers of death and hell, Before His sovereign sway.



Sweet Jesus went down to yonder town,
As far as the Holy Well,
And there did see as fine children
As any tongue can tell.
He said "God bless you every one.
May Christ your portion be;
Little children, shall I play with you?
And you shall play with me."

But they made answer to Him, "No,"
They were lords' and ladies' sons;
And He, the meanest of them all,
Was born in an ox's stall.
Sweet Jesus turnèd Him around,
And He neither laughed nor smil'd,
But tears came trickling from His eyes,
Like water from the skies.

Sweet Jesus turnéd Him about,
To His mother's dear home went He,
And said "I've been in yonder town,
As after you may see.
Yea, I have been in yonder town,
As far as the Holy Well;
There did I meet as fine children
As any tongue can tell.

"I bid God bless them ev'ry one,
And Christ their portion be;
Little children, shall I play with you?
And you shall play with me.
But they made answer to me, 'No,'
They were lords' and ladies' sons;
And I, the meanest of them all,
Was born in an ox's stall."

"Though Thou art but a maiden's Child,
Born in an ox's stall,
Thou art the Christ, the King of Heav'n,
The Saviour of them all.
Sweet Jesus, go down to yonder town,
As far as the Holy Well,
And take away those sinful souls,
And dip them deep in hell."

"Nay, nay," sweet Jesus mildly said,
"Nay, nay, that must not be,
There are too many sinful souls
Crying out for the help of Me."
Then spake the Angel Gabriel,
"Upon a good set steven,*
Although Thou'rt but a maiden's Child,
Thou art the King of Heav'n."

^{*} Appointed time.

The Angel and the Shepherds. 60























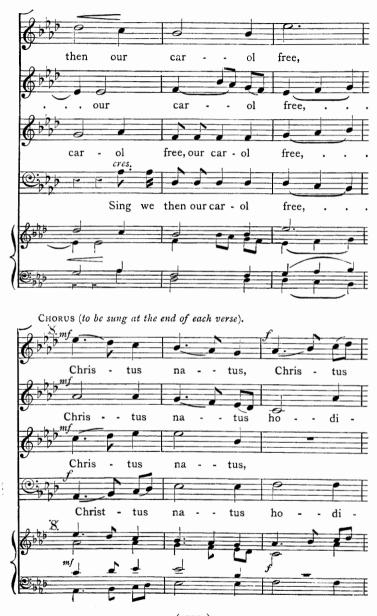
O sisters too, how may we do,
For to preserve this day, [sing,
This poor Youngling for whom we
By, by, fully, fullay?

Herod the king in his raging, Charged he hath this day His men of might, in his own fight, All children young to slay.

Then woe is me, poor Child, for Thee, And ever mourn and say, For Thy parting nor say nor sing, By, by, lully, lullay.

(148)













63 The Shepherds went their hasty way.











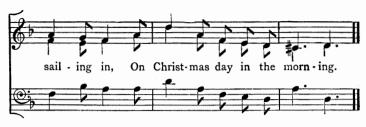








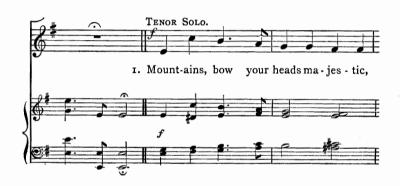


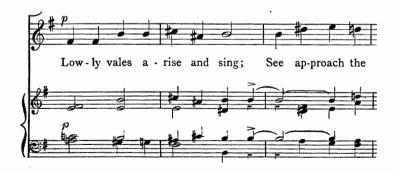


- 2 And what was in those ships all three, On Christmas day, on Christmas day? And what was in those ships all three, On Christmas day in the morning?
- 3 The Virgin Mary and Christ were there, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; The Virgin Mary and Christ were there, On Christmas day in the morning.
- 4 Pray, whither sailed those ships all three, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; Pray, whither sailed those ships all three, On Christmas day in the morning?
- O they sailed into Bethlehem,
 On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
 O they sailed into Bethlehem,
 On Christmas day in the morning.
- 6 And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas day in the morning.
- 7 And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing, On Christmas day in the morning.
- 8 And all the souls on earth shall sing, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; And all the souls on earth shall sing, On Christmas day in the morning.
- 9 Then let us all rejoice amain, On Christmas day, on Christmas day; Then let us all rejoice amain, On Christmas day in the morning.

65 Mountains, bow your beads majestic.











2.

Soprano Solo. Sweetly smiles the Rose of Sharon,
Lofty cedars kiss the ground,
Deserts bloom with great rejoicing,
Isles with glorious mirth resound.

Chorus. Christ has brought us our redemption,
Righteous Saviour, faithful Lord;
Christ has come to save the sinner
From the edge of Judgment's sword.

3.

Tenor Solo. Heavenly throngs His Birth attending,
Angels chant Emmanuel's praise,
Joy pervades the shining myriads,
That above their anthems raise:
Chorus. Earth, with holy joy abounding,
Haste to welcome Zion's King;
And as tokens of affection,
Richest treasures hither bring.

(168)

Soprano Solo. Hark, ye deaf, to words of comfort;

See, ye blind, the source of light;

Speak, ye dumb, the Saviour's praises;

Rise, ye dead, from realms of night!

Chorus. Flee, ye fiends, before His Presence;

Peace, be still, thou sounding sea;

Winds be hushed, in silence slumber;

Rest, ye billows, tranquil be.

5.

Tenor Solo. Christ is come, the weak to succour;

Not to break the bruised reed;

Christ is come to bear the burden

Of the poor that pine in need.

Chorus. Balm to every wound He offers,

Comfort to the restless mind;

Captives from their chains He severs,

He is come lost sheep to find.

6.

Sop. & Ten., Earth, before Thy Lord triumphant,
unis. Bow the head and bend the knee,
Christ, that over death and Satan
Hath obtained the victory;
Chorus. Sing His praises, tell His story,
Bid thy heart with rapture swell;
Let thine own remotest corners
Praise His conquest over hell.

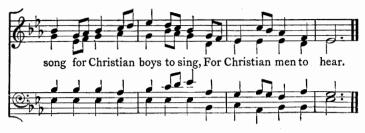


- 2 "To you this day is born a Child, Of Mary, chosen Virgin mild: That blessed Child, so sweet and kind Shall give you joy and peace of mind.
- 3 "'Tis Christ our Lord and God indeed, Your help and stay in every need: Himself your Saviour He will be, From sin and death to set you free.
- 4 "All blessedness to you He bears, Which God the Father's love prepares: The Heavenly Kingdom ye shall gain, And now and ever with us reign.
- 5 "Now hear the sign, and mark with care The swadlding clothes and crib so bare; There shall ye find this Infant laid Who all the world upholds and made."

- 6 Then let us all our gladness shew, And with the joyful shepherds go, To see what God for us has done, And given with His glorious Son.
- 7 Awake, my soul, my heart behold Who lieth in that manger cold, Who is that lovely Baby-Boy? 'Tis Jesus Christ, our only joy.
- 8 Now, welcome, ever-blessed Guest, To sinful souls with guilt opprest; In mercy come to our distress! How can we thank Thy gentleness?
- 9 Ah! Lord, who all things didst create, How cam'st Thou to this poor estate, To make the hay and straw Thy bed, Whereon the ass and ox are fed?
- Nay, were the world ten times so wide, With gold and gems on every side, Yet were it all too small to be A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.
- Thy samite and Thy silk array
 Are swathing-bands and coarest hay,
 Whereon Thou shinest, King most bright,
 As though Thou sat'st in heavenly light.
- 12 And all this woe hath come to Thee,
 That Thou might'st shew the truth to me;
 For all the goods and gifts of earth
 To Thee are vile and nothing worth.
- 13 Ah! Jesu, my heart's treasure blest, Make Thee a clean, soft cradle-nest; And rest and dwell within my heart, That I from Thee may never part.
- So shall I evermore rejoice, And bounding sing, with heart and voice, A lullaby which Thou wilt own, The spirit's song of sweetest tone.
- To God on high all glory be, Who gave His only Son for me; For which the Angels carol clear, And sing us such a glad New Year.



* In verse 4, two crotchets must be substituted for this minim.



2.

"Thy body be at rest, dear boy,
Thy soul be free from sin;
I'll shield thee from the world's annoy,
And breathe pure words within.
The holy Christmas-tide is nigh,
The season of Christ's Birth:
All glory be to God on high,
And peace to men on earth.

3.

"Myself and all the heavenly host
Were keeping watch of old,
And saw the shepherds at their post,
And all the sheep in fold.
Then told we with a joyful cry,
The tidings of Christ's Birth:
Gave glory unto God on high,
And peace to men on earth.

4.

"He bowed to all His Father's will,
And meek was He and lowly;
And year by year His thoughts were still
Most innocent and holy.
He did not come to strive or cry,
But ever from His Birth
Gave glory unto God on high,
And peace to men on earth."

5.

"Like Him be true, like Him be pure,
Like Him be full of love;
Seek not thine own, and so secure
Thine own which is above:
And still when Christmas-tide draws nigh,
Sing thou of Jesus' Birth;
All glory be to God on high,
And peace to men on earth."





- 2 That night when 'mid the cattle herd, Pure as the snow that falls, The Voice that breathed our Father's love Was hushed among the stalls, It was the dreary winter-tide, And dark the hour He came; But such a brightness round Him burned, The East was all aflame.
- Quickened with love and fear,
 The barren straw did swell with grain,
 Ripe in the fruitful ear.
 All round the shed the frozen bees
 Went singing, singing sweet;
 The lowly herd, bowed down with fear,
 Fell kneeling at His feet.
- 4 And Mary on her sleeping Son
 In solemn gladness smiled:
 Remember! 'twas the sacred time
 When Christ was but a Child.
 And yet upon His heaving breast,
 By troubled visions tossed,
 Still folded in a mystic sign
 His tender arms He crossed.
- 5 Though Mary Mother loosed the clasp,
 Her care it was but loss;
 For still the silent Sleeper's arms
 Would form that mystic cross.
 The daylight dawned, and Jesus woke
 And on His mother smiled;
 Remember! 'twas the hallowed time,
 When Christ was but a Child.



That blessed Babe and holy Child of love Came down from heaven that we may reign above: The happy news was brought on angels' wings, Of our redemption by the King of kings. An earthly wonder not to be denied Born of a Virgin mother and a bride; Not like a prince, in worldly pomp and state, But poor and low, to make us heavenly great.

4

The night before that happy day of grace The Virgin mother had no resting place: She and her pious Joseph were so low They knew not whither or which way to go.

5

For they were forced to wander up and down. And could not find a lodging in the town; But in an ox's stall where beasts are fed The mother of our Lord was brought to bed.

6.

No costly silks, no robes of rich attire, Nor gaudy show, which rich ones do admire; But in a manger the great Lord of life Was nourished by a mother, maid, and wife.

7.

Three wise-men by a star were thither brought, And found the blessed Babe they long had sought; The best of spices and rich costly things They humbly offered to the King of kings.

8.

And rather than the Lord of life betray They worshipped Him and went another way: Which so enraged the wicked Herod then, (A Jewish king, but very worst of men),

9.

He caused young harmless infants to be killed; All under two years old, their blood was spilled; Sad cries and groans were heard in every street, With mangled bodies, bleeding hands and feet. Young tender babes with limbs in pieces torn, On soldiers' spears with spite and horrow borne: Dear parents' tears could not their rage prevent, Nor pity move the tyrant to repent.

II.

The Black Decree went all the country round, To kill and murder children sick and sound: They tore young children from their mothers' breast. Thinking to murder Christ among the rest.

12.

But God above, Who knew what would be done, Had sent to Egypt His beloved Son; Where with His earthly parents He was fed, Until the bloody tyrant he was dead.

13.

* [What pains and labours did not Christ endure, To save our souls, and happiness secure! Was always doing good, to let us see By His example, what we ought to be.

14.

He made the blind to see, the lame to go, He raised the dead, which none but He could do; He cured the lepers of injected evils, And by His mighty power cast out devils.

15.

He honoured marriage with a heavenly sign, By turning water to the best of wine; Five thousand hungry souls by Him were fed, With two small fishes and five loaves of bread.

16

Sufficient plenty and a welcome treat The wondering guests with thanks and praises eat, Who gathering up the fragments of the feast, Their wonder, like the loaves, was much increased.

^{*} The remaining verses may be omitted.

Twelve baskets full, not half so much before, Instead of wasting, still increasing more! But yet for all the wonders that He wrought, Ungrateful Jews still His destruction sought:

т8.

And, that their wicked purpose might not miss, Bribed Judas, who betrayed Him with a kiss; Which being done, away they took Him then, And used Him as the very worst of men.

19.

Spit in His face, and with reproachful scorn, They put upon His head a crown of thorn: Cried with one voice, and would not be denied, To Pilate that He should be crucified.

20

This wicked judge, with base injustice now, To please the crowd, did their request allow, Against his conscience, he, to end the strife, Condemned to death the blessed Lord of life.

21.

Then to a cross the Saviour of mankind Was led, a harmless Lamb, as was designed: To save our souls, condemned by Adam's fall, Without His death we had been ruined all.

22.

His blessed hands and feet, with bitter pain, Were nailed to the cross, with sad disdain; With hateful spear they pierced His tender skin, And let out blood to wash away our sin.

23.

Thus blessed Jesus freely did resign His precious soul to save both thine and mine: Then let us all His mercies highly prize, Who for our sins was made a sacrifice.]



Shine, happy Star: ye Angels sing Glory on high to Heaven's King: Run, Shepherds, leave your nightly watch, See Heaven come down to Bethlehem's cratch.

3.

Worship, ye Sages of the East,
The King of goden in meanness dressed:
O blessed Maid, with smiles adore
The God thine arms, thy bosom bore.

Star, Angels, Shepherds, Sages wise, Thou Virgin glory of all eyes, Restored frame of Heaven and Earth, Rejoice in your Redeemer's Birth!

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	Ancient Melody, Harmonized by J. S. 104 Traditional	Arthur S. Sullivan	Arthur Henry Brown	Traditional. Harmonized by J. S.	Traditional	Traditional	Traditional	C. Steggall, Mus. Doc.	J. Stainer	J. F. Bridge, Mus. Doc.	Frank Champneys, M.A., M.B., &c.	The Rev. Sir) (Bart, Sir George J. Elvey, Mus. Doc
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Sou	Fifteenth Century Traditional	William Austin. C. A.D. 1630	"A Good Christmas Box "(Dudley, 1847)	Traditional (Derbyshire)	Traditional	Traditional	Traditional	Robert Southwell, S. J., ob. A.D. 1595	garden bare (The Child Jesus). J. Stainer	E. L. Hervey	Besançon Carol. Translated by H.R.B.	(Translated from the German by) [The Rev. Sir Fred. A. G. Ouseley,	The Rev. Archer Gurney
	A Babe is born all of a Maid A Child this day is born	All this night bright Angels sing	ed Day	As it fell out one May Morning (The Holy Well)	As it fell out upon a Day (Dives)	As Jacob with travel was weary one day (Jacob's Ladder)		Behold a simple tender Babe (New Prince, new pomp)	garden bare (The Child Jesus	Come forth, ye wondering chil-) dren (Legends of the Infancy)	Come let us all sweet Carols sing		IV. Come, ye lofty, come ye lowly
FIRST LINE.	A Babe is born all of a l A Child this day is born	bright A	the Sacı	one May Well)	iponáD s)	s Jacob with travel was we one day (Jacob's Ladder)	otted	chold a simple tender B (New Prince, new pomp)	day wh (The Cl	e wonde	sweet C	V. Come, tune your heart	, come y
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No.	XLVIII.	XI.	LVIII.	LIX.	XXXIX.	XXXV.	H.	XLVII.	XLII.	LXVIII.	XLIX.	Α.	IV.

	SOURCE OF WORDS,	AIR.
From far away we come to you	William Morris	The Rev. J. B. Dykes, Mus. Doc.
	based on an old Scottish version	James Higgs, Mus. Bac
_	Anna M. E. Nichols	Maria Tiddeman
_	Traditional	Traditional
_	Traditional	Traditional
	The Rev. Dr. Neale	Old German
	The Rev. Dr. Neale	Helmore's Christmas Carols
	Traditional	Traditional (Yorkshire)
Immortal Babe Who this dear	Bishop Ḥall. C. A.D. 1597	Traditional
	Old English	The Rev. Sir Fred. A. G. Ouseley,
	Mrs. Alderson	The Rev. J. B. Dykes, Mus. Doc.
In the country nigh to Bethlehem	Kate Bartlett	Gertrude Hine
	Traditional	iire).
_	Ben Jonson	George C. Martin
It was the very noon of night (The story of the Shepherd)	Translated from the Spanish of Gon-) gora by the Ven. Archdeacon Churton	Joseph Barnby
Jesu, hail! O God most holy	Franslated from the Latin by the Rev. H. R. Bramley	John Stainer, M.A., Mus. Doc
	Traditional	Traditional (Yorkshire)
Joy fills our inmost heart to-day) (Emmanuel, God with us))	W. Chatterton Dix	Henry Gadsby
	Traditional	W. H. Monk

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First Line.	(Let Christians all (The Black)	Let music break on this blest morn	(Like silver lamps in a distant)	Listen, lordings, unto me	(Lullay, Thou little tiny Child)	Mountains, bow your heads	Now to God on high be glory (The Christmas Celebration)	Now rise up, ye Shepherds (The	Once again, O blessed time (Christmas Song)	On Christmas Night true Chris-	On the Birthday of the Lord	On yesternight I saw a sight) (The Virgin and Child)	See amid the Winter snow	See the Morning Star is dwelling Sleen. Holy Babe	The Angel Gabriel from God	(The Babe in Bethlehem's man-)
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	Traditional	Traditional	The Rev. H. R. Bramley	Traditional	Traditional Traditional	Ashmolean Library	" A Good Christmas Box"	S. T. Coleridge	Translated from the Latin by the Rev.	Traditional (London)	The Rev. C. J. Black	Translated from the Latin by the Rev.	The Rev. S. C. Hamerton, M.A.	W. C. Dix	Imitation of the original by H. R. B	Harleian MS.	Translated from the Latin by the Rev. H. R. Bramlev	Translated from the Latin by the Rev. H, R, Bramley.
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	The first good joy that Mary	The first Nowell the Angeldid say	(The great God of Heaven is come	The Holly and the Ivy	The Lord at first had Adam made The Moon shines bright	The Old Year now away is fled	The Shepherds amazed	The Shepherds went their hasty	The Virgin stills the crying (Cra-	Tis the day (Noel! Noel!)	'Twas in the winter cold, when	Wake all music's magic powers	Waken, Christian children	What Child is this. Who laid to rest	What soul-inspiring music	When Christ was born of Mary free	When I view the Mother holding	Why, Most Highest, art Thou lying (Jesus in the Manger)
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