ТНЕ

JACKDAW OF RHEIMS:

Cantata.

WRITTEN BY THE LATE

THOMAS INGOLDSBY.

M'JSIC COMPOSED BY

GEORGE FOX.

Ent. Sta. Hall,

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"The Jackdaw of Rheims."

WORDS FROM THE INGOLDSBY LEGENDS.

(By the kind permission of R. BENTLEY, Esq., Burlington Street, W.)

Music Composed by GEORGE FOX.

INTRODUCTION.

(The Feast.)

CHORUS.

The Jackdaw sat on the Cardinal's chair ! Bishop and abbot and prior were there ; Many a monk, and many a friar, Many a knight, and many a squire, With a great many more of lesser degree,— In sooth a goodly company ; And they served the Lord Primate on bended knee. Never, I ween, Was a prouder seen, Read of in books, or dreamt of in dreams, Than the Cardinal Lord Archbishop of Rheims !

ARIA BUFFA (Contralto) and CHORUS.

In and out, through the motley rout, That little Jackdaw kept hopping about ; Here and there, Like a dog in a fair, Over comfits and cates, And dishes and plates, Cowl and cope, and rochet and pall, Mitre and crosier ! he hopp'd upon all ! With saucy air, He perch'd on the chair Where, in state, the great Lord Cardinal sat In the great Lord Cardinal's great red hat : And he peer'd in the face Of his Lordship's Grace With a satisfied look, as if he would say, "We two are the greatest folks here to-day !" And the priests, with awe, As such freaks they saw, Said, "The Devil must be in that little Jackda:v !"

RECIT., QUARTETT and CHORUS.

The feast was over, the board was clear'd, The flawns and the custards had all disappear'd, And six little Singing-boys—dear little souls ! In nice clean faces, and nice white stoles— Came in order due, Two by two, Marching the grand refectory through ! A nice little boy held a golden ewer, Emboss'd and fill'd with water, as pure As any that flows between Rheims and Namur, Which a nice little boy stood ready to catch In a fine golden hand-basin made to match. Two nice little boys, rather more grown, Carried lavender water and eau de Cologne; And a nice little boy had a nice cake of soap, Worthy of washing the hands of the Pope. One little boy more A napkin bore, Of the best white diaper, fringed with pink, And a Cardinal's Hat mark'd in "permanent ink."

AIR (Soprano.)

The great Lord Cardinal turns at the sight Of these nice little boys dress'd in white ; From his finger he draws His costly turquoise ; And, not thinking at all about little Jackdaws, Deposits it straight By the side of his plate, While the nice little boys on his Eminence wait ; Till, when nobody's dreaming of any such thing, That little Jackdaw hops off with the ring !

ARIA BUFFA (Bass) and CHORUS.

There's a cry and a shout, And a deuce of a rout, And nobody seems to know what they're about, But the monks have their pockets all turn'd inside out; The friars are kneeling, And hunting and feeling The carpet, the floor, the walls, and the ceiling. The Cardinal drew Off each plum-coloured shoe, And left his red stockings exposed to the view ; He peeps, and he feels In the toes and the heels ; They turn up the dishes—they turn up the plates— They take up the poker and poke out the grates, They turn up the rugs, They can't find THE RING ! [it, And the Abbot declared that, "when nobody twigged Some rascal or other had popp'd in, and prigg'd it !"

CHORUS (Tenors and Basses).

The Cardinal rose with a dignified look, He call'd for his candle, his bell, and his book 1 In holy anger, and pious grief, He solemnly cursed that rascally thief : He cursed him at board, he cursed him in bed ; From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. He cursed him in sleeping, that every night He should dream of the devil, and wake in a fright ; He cursed him in eating, he cursed him in drinking, He cursed him in sitting, in saneting, in winking ; He cursed him in sitting, in standing, in lying ; He cursed him in hiving, he cursed him in dying !— Never was heard such a terrible curse !

RECIT. (Bass).

But what gave rise To no little surprise, Nobody seem'd one penny the worse !

CHORUS.

The day was gone, The night came on, The Monks and the Friars they search'd till dawn ; When the Sacristan saw, On crumpled claw, Come limping a poor little lame Jackdaw ; No longer gay, As on yesterday ; His feathers all seem'd to be turned the wrong way ;— His pinions droop'd—he could hardly stand,— His head was as bald as the palm of your hand ; His eye so dim, So wasted each limb, That, heedless of grammar, they all cried, "THAT'S HIM ; That's the scamp that has done this scandalous thing ! That's the thief that has got my Lord Cardinal's Ring !"

AIR, Andante lacrimoso (Tenor).

The poor little Jackdaw, When the monks he saw, Feebly gave vent to the ghost of a caw; And turn'd his bald head, as much as to say, "Pray be so good as to walk this way" Slower and slower He limp'd on before Till they came to the back of the belfry door, When the first thing they saw, Midst the sticks and the straw, Was the RING in the nest of that little Jackdaw!

CONCERTED PIECE, QUARTETT and CHORUS.

Then the great Lord Cardinal call'd for his book, And off that terrible curse he took ; The mute expression Served in lieu of confession, And, being thus coupled with full restitution, The Jackdaw got plenary absolution ;— When those words were heard, That poor little bird Was so changed in a moment, 'twas really absurd. He grew sleek and fat ; In addition to that, A fresh crop of feathers came thick as a mat !

His tail waggled more Even than before ; But no longer it wagg'd with an impudent air, No longer he perch'd on the Cardinal's chair.

RECIT. (Contralto, Bass) and CHORUS.

He now hopp'd about With a gait devout ; At Matins, at Vespers, he never was out ; And, so far from any more pilfering deeds, He always seem'd telling the Confessor's beads. If any one lied,—or if any one swore,— Or slumber'd in prayer-time and happen'd to snore, That good Jackdaw Would give a great "Caw," As much as to say, "Don't do so any more !"

While many remarked, as his manners they saw, That they "never had known such a pious Jackdaw!"

RECIT. (Soprano).

He long lived the pride Of that country side, And at last in the odour of sanctity died;

DEAD MARCH.

FINALE, QUARTETT and CHORUS.

When, as words were too faint His merits to paint, The Conclave determined to make him a saint ! And on newly-made Saints and Popes, as you know, It's the custom, at Rome, new names to bestow, So they canonized him by the name of Jim Crow ! .

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No. 2.

ARIA BUFFA-" IN AND OUT."

























"THE FEAST WAS OVER."













No. 4. AIR—"THE GREAT LORD CARDINAL."





















































No. 7.

CHORUS—"THE DAY WAS GONE."





















32 '
No. 8.

SOLO-"THE POOR LITTLE JACKDAW."













































RECITATIVE—"HE LONG LIVED THE PRIDE."

























FINALE—"WHEN, AS WORDS WERE TOO FAINT."











THE JACKDAW OF RHEIMS.















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