"Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell?"

A COLLECTION

OF

Antient Christmas Carols

ARRANGED FOR FOUR VOICES

BY

EDMUND SEDDING,

PRECENTOR OF S. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, BRISTOL; SOMETIME ORGANIST OF S. MARY, B. V. SOHO.

Price Eighteen Pence.

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A.D. 1860.



J. ALFRED NOVELLO,

TYPOGRAPHICAL MUSIC AND GENERAL PRINTER,

DEAN STREET, SOHO, LONDON.

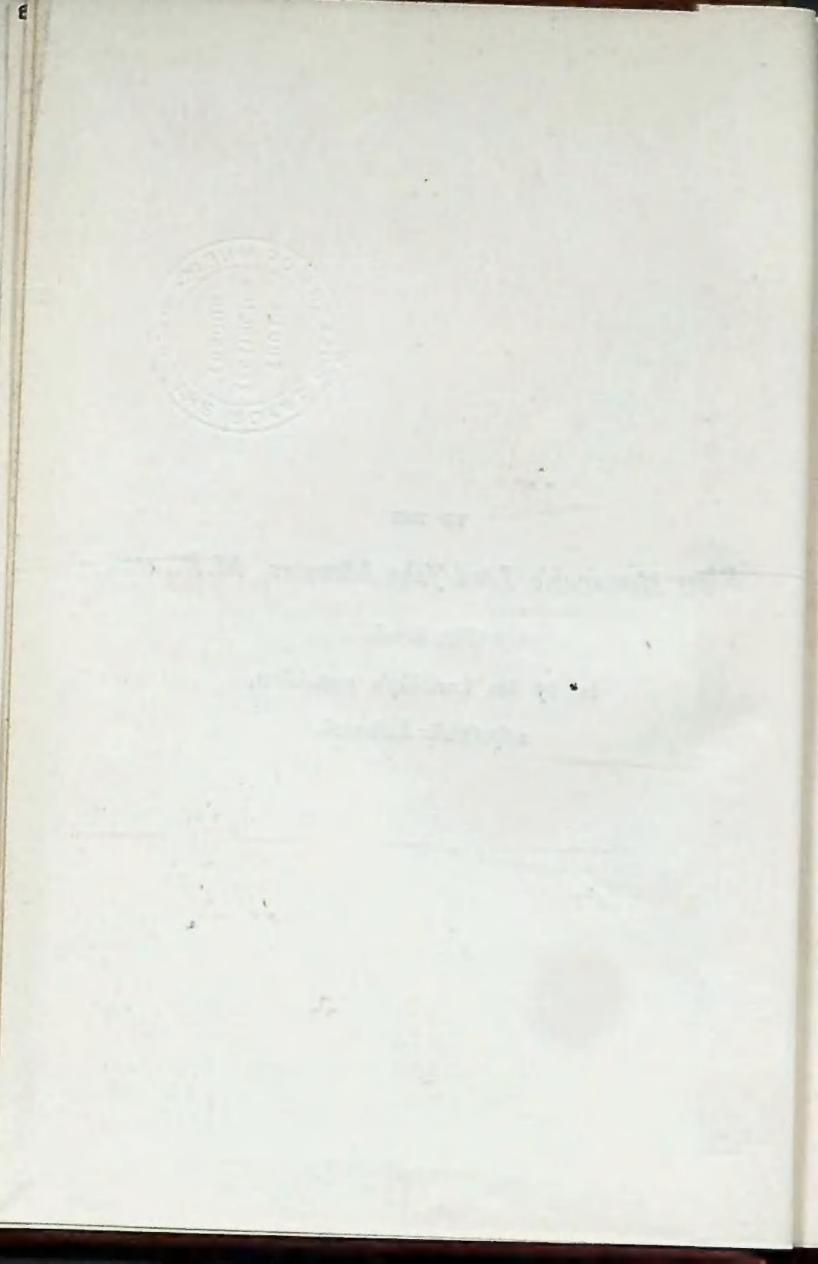
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TO THE

Right Honourable Lord John Manners, M.P., etc.,

This Work

Is, by his Lordship's permission,
respectfully dedicated.



PREFACE.

IT would be supersluous to introduce this unpretending work with any preliminary account of the origin and use of Carols, or to quote authorities and facts which abler pens have reiterated in the many volumes on the subject already published. Neither do I think any apology is necessary in presenting this set of Carols to the publick, now that the excellent works of Mr. Sandys, Dr. Rimbault, the Revds. T. Helmore and J. M. Neale, Mr. Wright, Dr. Gauntlett, and others, have succeeded in opening the way to a more general revival of the venerable and joyous custom—so long held in comparative abeyance—of heralding forth the tidings of Christ's Birth to the Faithful.

This pious and laudable practice, as is well known, has in fome parts of the kingdom never been relinquished; and, for my own part, I have been wont from early childhood to regard the "Carol-singing" as one of the chief joys and accompaniments of dear old Christmas. A few years ago, London retained scarcely more than the shadow of the antient use; then, occasionally might be heard itinerant singers, who (from motives not altogether disinterested, and in strains as uncouth as they were illsuited to the theme and object) annually wished their neighbours a merry Christmas, and announced "tidings of comfort and joy;" now, it is gratifying to know, a great portion of our Parochial Choirs have discerned one of their principal offices as true heralds of the Church, and hasten "very early, very early," to spread the "tydynges that ben swul gode," how "Christ our Saviour He was born on Christmas

Condo Condo

Day in the Morning." And thus the great fact is established, that the present century is ready to admit that the celebration of the Holy Season consists not only in its round of social enjoyments, but in a due share of religious rites and grateful offices which appertain to this and all other High Festivals of the Church.

And here I would deferentially mention the disappointment which is commonly selt, that the Capitular bodies of the respective Chapels Royal seem averse to, or disposed to discourage, similar pious and loyal solemnities on the part of their Lay Clerks and Choristers at this Season. But for this, or other latent causes, the Holy Festival of Christmas would be observed by a Choral body duly appointed, and not to be excelled in professional skill, and the incongruous substitution of an instrumental band be obviated,—a usurpation by the latter of sunctions which the Church has in all ages assigned to those who minister in Holy Places, and an assumption of invested inalienable rights granted by our august Sovereigns from time immemorial. (a)

I should, perhaps, make a few observations upon the word "Nowell" or "Noël" extensively used in this Collection. This word is commonly understood to be derived from the Latin natalis ("the dies natalis of our Lord"), and is said by Mr. Wright to have been introduced into England at the time of the Norman Conquest. (b) But, as Mr. Sandys remarks in his interesting book on "Christmas-tide," the term is often used in the sense of news or tidings, and was moreover a cry of joy not absolutely confined to the season of the Nativity. (c)

⁽a) It is customary at Windsor, early on Christmas morning, for Her Majesty's band to perform musical pieces under the walls of the Castle.

⁽b) Preface to "Specimens of old Xmas. Carols."

⁽e) Page 190.

In some cases the word actually takes the form of "Novels," and the line "Nowell, nowell, good news, good news, of the Gospel," forming the burthen of Carols sung in the Churches of Cornwall after Service, (a) seems in a very marked manner to strengthen the above interpretation.

Again, in an old pageant of the fifteenth century, one of the "dramatis persona" says:—

"Novellis, novellis of wonderful marvellys, * * * *

Asse Scripture tellis these strange novellis to you I bring." (b)

And in an old Carol of the time of Henry VIII., (c) the first lines are:—

"Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, Tydynges gode y thyngke to telle."

"Ane Sang of the Birth of Christ," from "Ane compendious Booke of Godly and Spirituall Sangs," Edinburgh, A.D. 1621,(d) commences:—

"I come from Hevin to tell
The best nowellis that ever besell;
To yow this tythinges trew I bring,
And I will of them say and sing."

In all these passages the term appears to convey no other meaning than that of glad news; "The first Nowell the Angel did say," being "Fear not: for behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy."

But perhaps one of the cleverest and most literal explanations of the word "Nowell" is in the first line of an old Carol from Sloane MSS., 2593 (e):—

"Nowel - el - el - el - now is wel that evere was woo."

I need hardly fay that in France "Noël" is the term used

⁽a) Page 184, ibid. (b) Page 181, ibid.

⁽c) Add. MSS. Brit. Mus. 5665.

⁽d) Brand's Antiquities, vol. 1, p. 487.

⁽e) Wright's Specimens of old Xmas. Carols, p. 13,

to express Christmas Songs or Carols, as well as the Tide of Yule itself.

M. Fertiault, in his description of Christmas in Burgundy, (a) says:—"This magic word resounds on all sides; it seasons every sauce; it is served up with every course. Of the thousands of canticles which are chanted on this samous Eve, ninety-nine in a hundred begin and end with this word."

I have been compelled to curtail the verses of some of the Carols, as they would have been far too long for actual performance, and have interfered considerably with the arrangements for the singers, but I have put forth, at the same time, a complete set of the words in a cheap form.

The English words to the French Noëls have been kindly written for me by the Revds. J. M. Neale, M.A., and F. G. Lee, S.C.L., F.S.A., and William Morris, Esq., B.A., to whom I here express my sincere gratitude. The melodies of Nos. VI. and VII. were kindly given me by my friend, Mons. l'Abbé Nary, Organist of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Chartres, and are from a Collection of Noëls sung there during the High Celebration, from Christmas-Eve to Candlemass. Another form of the melody of No. VI. is given in "L'Echos du temps passé," published by J. Wekerlin (vol. 1, p. 14).

The air of No. VII. is given in a Collection of Noëls published by Mons. Mine, late Organist of Chartres.

The use of the melody of "The First Nowell" has been kindly granted me by Dr. Rimbault, and is taken from his "Little Book of Christmas Carols."

The melodies of Nos. II. and III. are taken, by the kind confent of Mr. Sandys, from his Book on "Christmas-tide" (J. R. Smith and Co., Russell-square); and Nos. IV. and V. from a Collection of "Antient Christmas Carols, with the Tunes to which they

⁽a) See note to the Christmas Carol in Longfellow's Poems.

ix.

were formerly fung in the West of England," published by the late Davies Gilbert, F.R.S., F.A.S., A.D. 1823.

No. IX. cannot be strictly called a Christmas Hymn, but a Carol suited for all seasons in the Christian year: the air is taken from a "Collection of Christmas Carols, and Hymns and Songs for High Seasons and Holy Days," edited by J. A. and L. J. Alberdingk Thijm, Amsterdam, 1852. The translation is taken (with the publisher's permission) from the "Ecclesiologist" for February, A.D. 1856.

This Collection, as will be seen, comprises melodies and words chiefly composed and in use since the time of the Reformation, and it will be a matter of congratulation to many, I feel sure, to see how the simplicity of construction, quaintness of expression, and, what is of more importance still, the grand conception of sterling Catholick Truth, have never been allowed to die out in these precious compositions.

EDMUND SEDDING.

F. of S. Andrew, A.D. 1860.



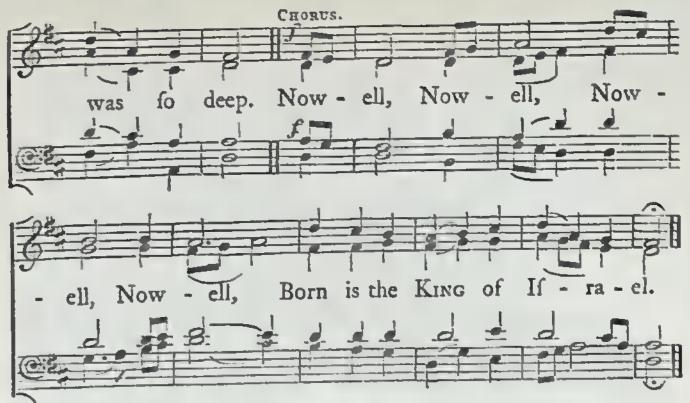
Antient Christmas Carols.

" The First Nowell."

"The herdes herdyn an Aungele cry,
A merye fong then fungyn he,
Owy arn ye fo fore agast
Jam ortus solis cardine.

"The Aungele comyn doun with on cry,
A fayr fong then furgyn he,
In the worchepe of that Chyld,
Gloria tibi, Domine."





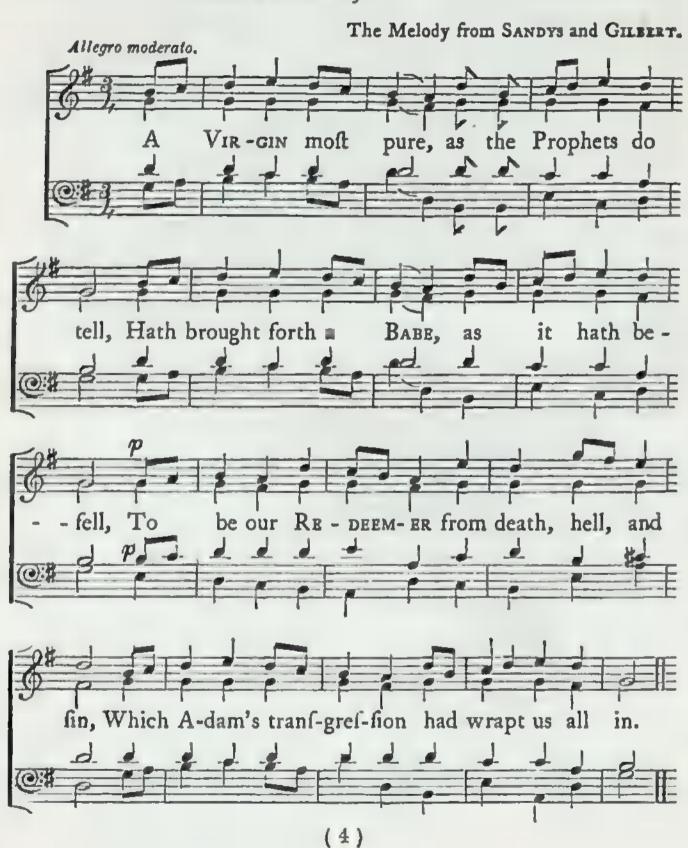
- 2. They looked up and saw a Star,
 Shining in the East, beyond them far,
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 And so it continued both day and night.
 Chorus. Nowell, &c.
- 3. And by the light of that same Star,
 Three Wise Men came from country sar;
 To seek for a King was their intent,
 And to sollow the Star wherever it went.

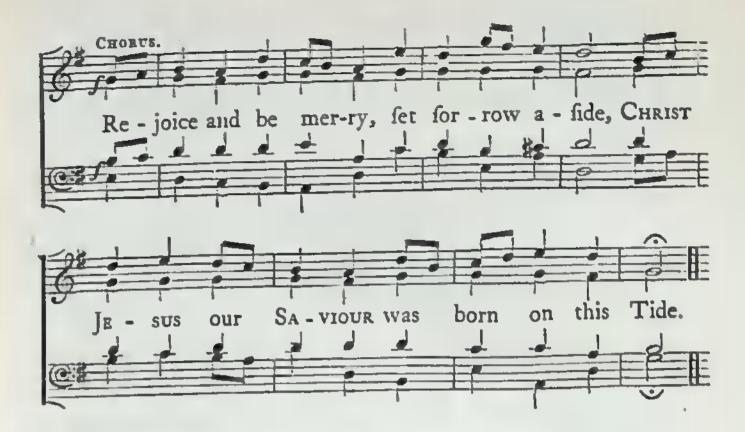
 Chorus. Nowell, &c.
- 4. This Star drew nigh to the north-west,
 O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
 And there it did both stop and stay,
 Right over the place where Jesus lay.
 Chorus. Nowell, &c.
- 5. Then enter'd in those Wise Men three,
 Most reverently upon their knee,
 And offer'd there, in His Presence,
 Both gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

 Chorus. 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.
 Chorus. Nowell, &c.

"A Virgin most pure."

"On Chrystmas nyght an Angel it tolde, To the Shephardes, kepyng theyr folde, That into Betheleem with bestes wolde, Salvator mundi natus est."





- 2. The King of all Glory to the world being brought, Small store of fine linen to wrap Him was bought; When Mary had swaddled her young Son so sweet, Within an ox-manger she laid Him to sleep.

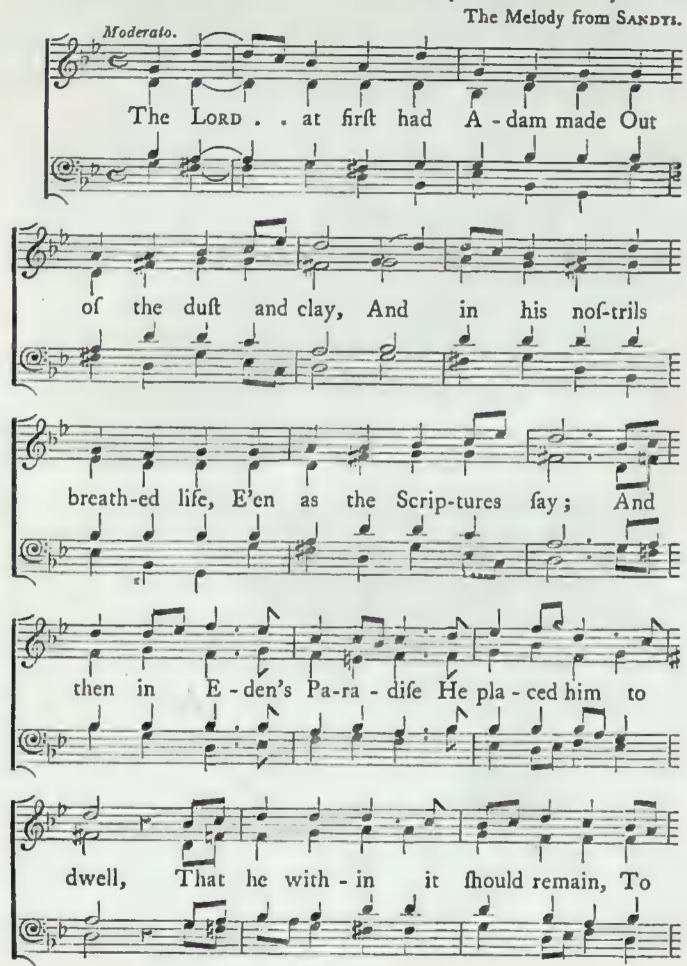
 Chorus. Rejoice, &c.
- Then God sent an Angel from Heaven so high,
 To certain poor Shepherds in fields where they lie,
 And bid them no longer in sorrow to stay,
 Because that our Saviour was born on this day.

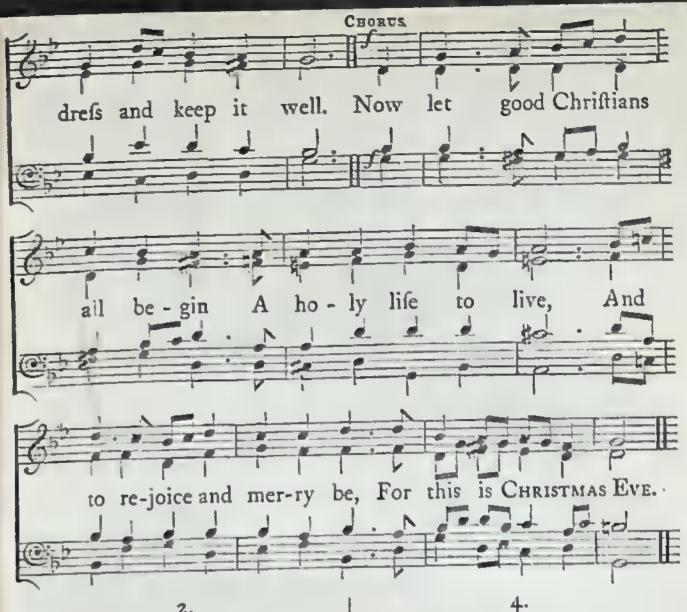
 Chorus. Rejoice, &c.
- 4. Then presently after the Shepherds did spy A number of Angels appear in the sky, Who joyfully talked, and sweetly did sing, To God be all glory, our Heavenly King. Chorus. Rejoice, &c.
- Three certain Wise Princes, they thought it most meet, To lay their rich off'rings at our Saviour's Feet; Then the Shepherds consented, and to Bethl'em did go, And when they came thither, they found it was so.

 Chorus. Rejoice, &c.

"The Lord at first had Adam made."

"Man be joyfulle and myrth thou make, Into this worlde to be thy make;
For Crist ys made man for thy sake. Man bewar how thou Hym trete,
He cam fro Hys Fader sete, For He ys made man for thy sake."





And thus within the garden he Commanded was to stay; And unto him in commandment, These words the Lord did say: "The fruit that in the garden

grows,

To thee shall be for meat, Except the tree in midst thereof, Of which thou shalt not eat." Chorus. Now let, &c.

touch,

Or dost it then come nigh, And if that thou dost eat thereof, Then thou shalt surely die."

And Adam he did take no heed To that same only thing,

But did transgress Gon's Holy Laws, And fore was wrapped in fin. Chorus. Now let, &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 then, for to redeem our fouls From death, and hell, and thrall, He said His own dear Son should The Saviour of us all. [come, Chorus. Now let, &c.

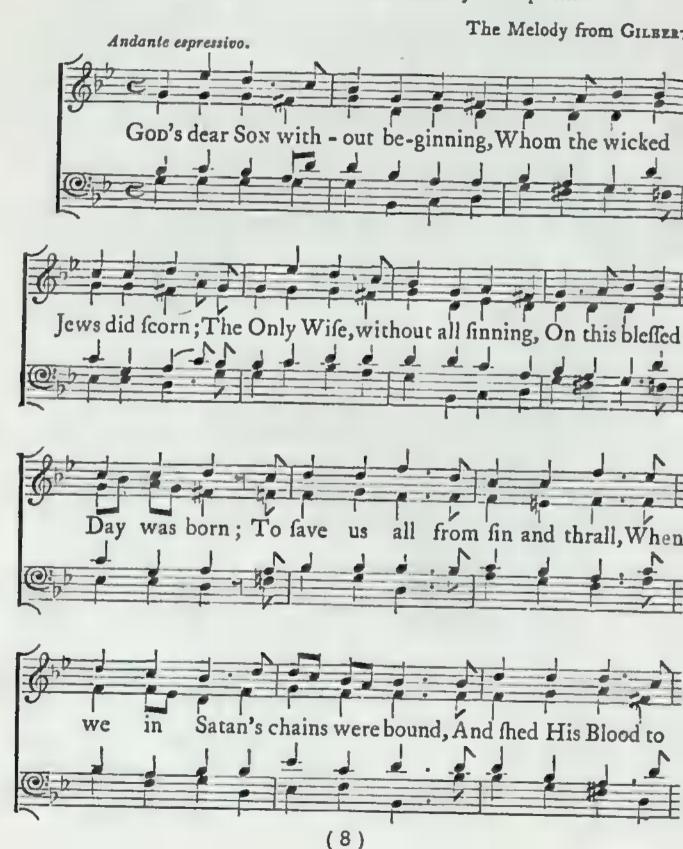
"For in that day that thou dost And now the Tide is nigh at hand, In which our Saviour came; Let us rejoice and merry be, In keeping of the same:

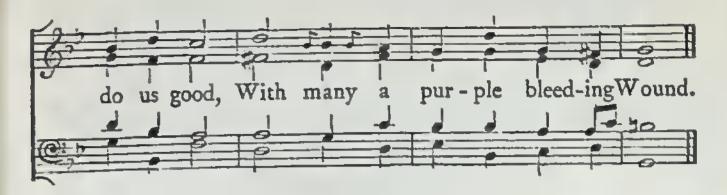
Let's feed the poor and hungry And fuch as do it crave; [fort, And when we die, in Heaven be fure

Our reward we shall have. Chorus. Now let, &c.

"God's dear Son without beginning."

"Where is the golden cradle that Christ was rocked in? Where are the filken sheets that Jesus was wrapt in? A Manger was the cradle that Christ was rocked in, The provender the asses left so sweetly He slept on."





2. 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.

Jeck'd the Birthday of God's Son;
No pompous train at all took pleasure
To this King of kings to run;
No mantle brave could Jesus have,
Upon His Cradle for to lye;
No musick's charms in nurse's arms,
To sing the Babe a lullaby.

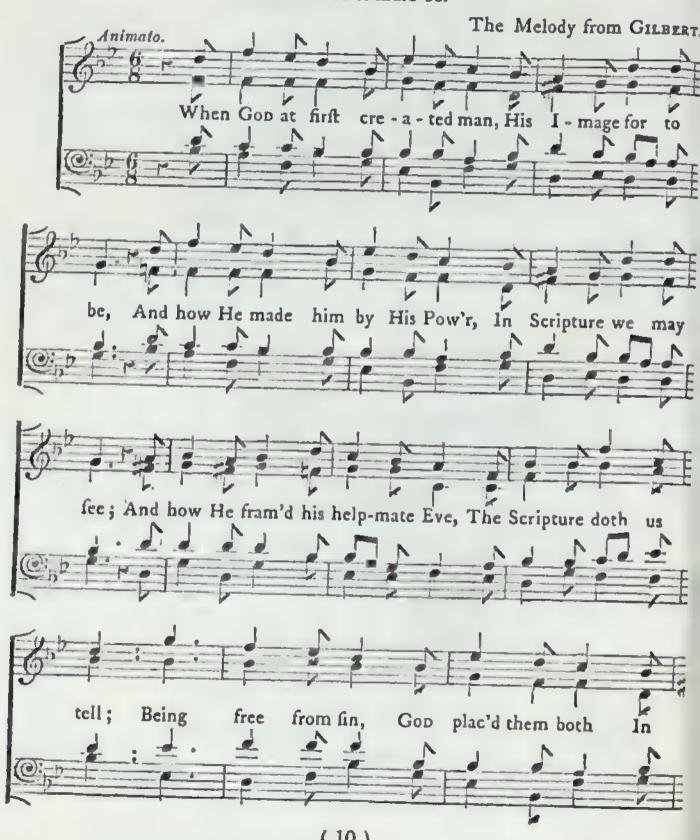
Then with Angel love inspired,
Three Wise Princes from the East,
To Bethlehem as they desired,
Came whereas our Lord did rest:
And there they laid before the Maid,
Before Her Son, our God and King,
Their offerings sweet, as was most meet,
Unto so great a Power to bring.

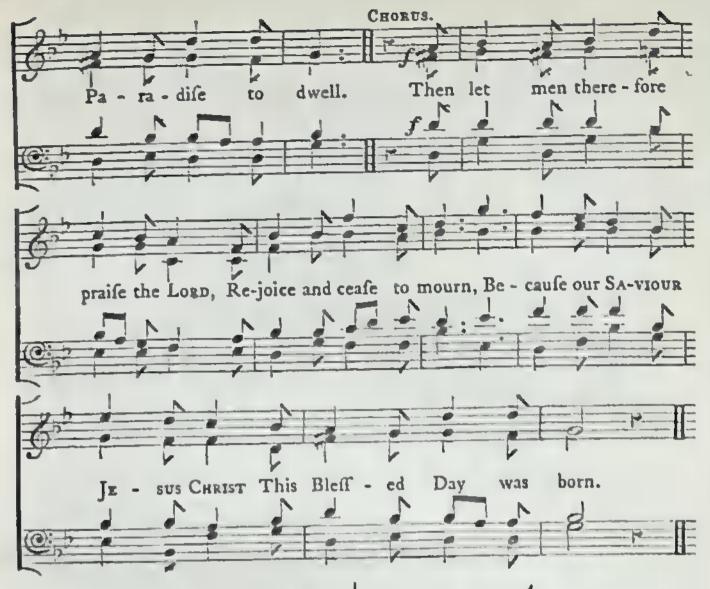
By His Death on Holy Rood;
And us sinners so esteemed us
To buy dearly with His Blood;
Yield lasting same that still the Name
Of Jesus may be honoured here;
And let us say, that Christmass Day
Is still the best Day in the year.

"When God at first created man.

cc An Aungyl fro hefne was sent ful snel, His name is clepyd Gabriel, His ardene he dede ful fnel, He sat on knee and seyde ' Ave!'

"And he feyde 'Mary, ful of grace, Hevene and erthe in every place, With-ine the tyme of lytyl space, Reconfiled it shuld be."





Man being bless'd in this estate,
And blessed sure was he,
Having all things at his command,
But the forbidden Tree;
But then the Serpent soon appear'd
To have beguised Eve,
And said if she should eat thereof
That she should surely live.

Chorus. Then let men, &c.

Man being now with grief op-Not knowing where to go; His foul before being fill'd with Is now oppress'd with woe. [joy,

But see the Goodness of the Lord To save man's soul from hell; His Son He promis'd to send down, That He with us might dwell. Chorus. Then let men, &c.

An Angel then from Heav'n was
For to declare Goo's will; [sent,
And to the Virgin Mary came,

Gop's Words for to fulfil.

A Virgin pure of virtuous life, Of whom the Lord made choice,

To bear our Saviour in her womb, Man's heart for to rejoice.

Chorus. Then let men, &c.

And Mary and her husband kind Together did remain,

And went to Bethl'em to be tax'd

As Scripture doth make plain;

And so it was that they being there,

Her time being fully come,

Within a stable she brought forth Her First-Begotten Son.

Chorus. Then let men, &c.

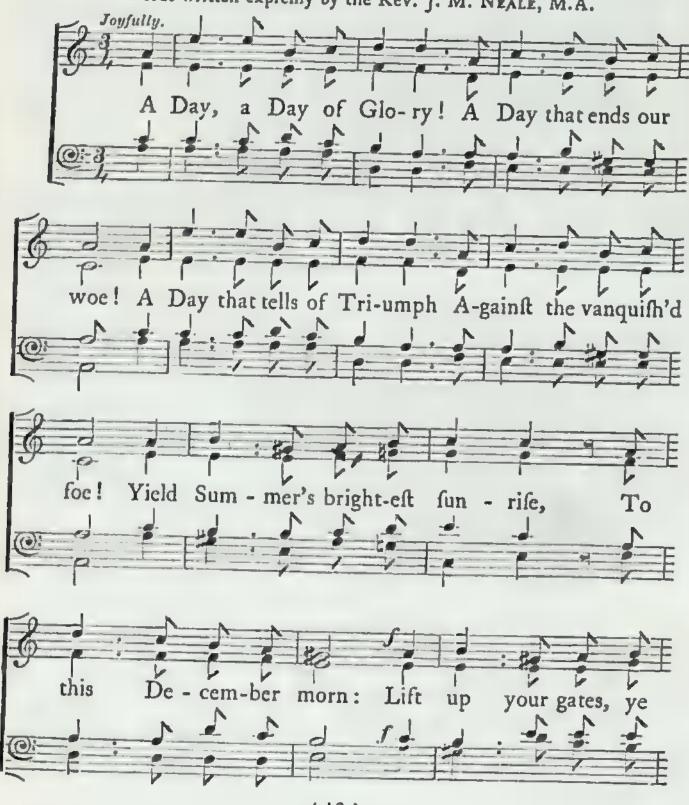
VI.—FRENCH NOEL.

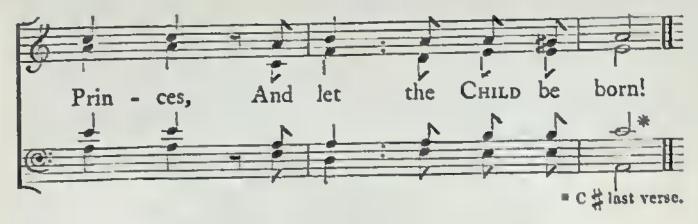
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" A Day, a Day of Glory."

"A new yer! ■ new yer! a CHYLD was i-born
Us for to fave that all was forlorn,
So blyffid be the tyme!"

The Melody as sung in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Chartres. The English Words written expressly by the Rev. J. M. NEALE, M.A.





2.

With Gloria in Excelsis
Archangels tell their mirth:
With Kyrie Eleison
Men answer upon earth:
And Angels swell the triumph,
And mortals raise the horn,
List up your gates, ye Princes,
And let the Child be born!

3.

He comes, His Throne the manger
He comes, His Shrine the stall;
The ox and as His Courtiers,
Who made and governs all:
The "House of Bread" His Birth-place,
The Prince of Wine and Corn:
Lift up your gates, ye Princes,
And let the Child be born!

4.

Then bar the gates, that henceforth
None thus may passage win,
Because the Prince of Israel
Alone hath entered in:
The earth, the sky, the ocean,
His glorious way adorn:
Lift up your gates, ye Princes,
And let the Child be born!

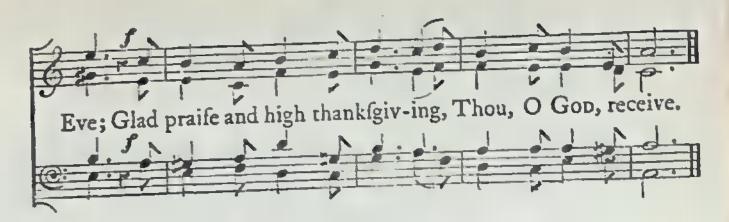
VII.—FRENCH NOËL.

"Sing of Maiden Mary."

"Blyffid be that Lady bryght,
That bare a CHYLD of great myght,
Withouten peyne, as it was right,
Mayd Mother Marye."

The English Words written by the Rev. F. G. Lzz, S.C.L., F.S.A.





2.

Sing of Maiden Mary,
And of Joseph too,
Loving Foster-father,
Mary's chosen Spouse.
O Wondrous Incarnation!
Kneel thee down in awe,
To worship thy Creator
Lying on the straw.

3.

Sing of Maiden Mary,

Now the holly gleams;

As we keep our Christmas,

And the snow is deep;

Yea: when the wreaths are sparkling—

When the lamps are hung,

And at the midnight knelling,

Ere the Mass is sung.

4.

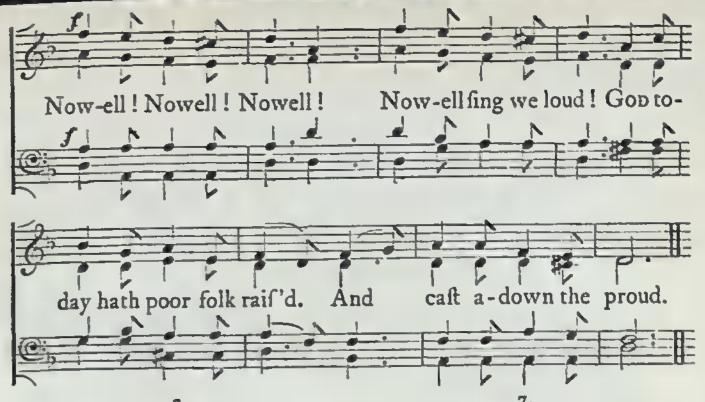
Sing of Maiden Mary,
Once a Virgin poor,
David's Royal Daughter,
Eden's Lily Flower.
Sing aye of Maiden Mary
Kneeling on the fod,
And pray that we may see Her
Near the Throne of God.

VIII .- PRENCH NOEL.

" Masters in this Hall."

"To Bethlem did they goe, the shepheards three;
To Bethlem did they goe, to see where it were so or no,
Whether Christ were borne or no,
To set men free."

The English Words written expressly by William Morris, Esq., B.A. Andante. Mas-ters in Hall, Hear ye news Brought from o CHORUS. you pray. - ell fing we clear! Hol - pen are all folk on earth, Born is God's Son (16)



Going over the hills,

Through the milk-white fnow,

Heard I ewes bleat

While the wind did blow.

Chorus. Nowell, &c.

Shepherds many an one
Sat among the sheep,
No man spake more word
Than they had been asleep.

Chorus. Nowell, &c.

Quoth I, "Fellows mine,
Why this guife fit ye?
Making but dull cheer,
Shepherds though ye be?"
Chorus. Nowell, &c.

"Shepherds should of right
Leap and dance and sing,
Thus to see ye sit,
Is a right strange thing."
Chorus. Nowell, &c.

Quoth these sellows then,
"To Bethlem Town we go,
To see a Mighty Lord
Lie in manger low."

Chorus, Nowell, &c.

"How name ye this LORD, Shepherds?" then said I, "Very God," they said,

"Come from Heaven high."

Chorus. Nowell, &c.

Then to Bethlem town

We went two and two,
And in a forry place
Heard the oxen low.

Chorus. Nowell, &c.

Therein did we see

A sweet and goodly May,
And a fair old man,
Upon the straw She lay.

Chorus. Nowell, &c.

IO.

And a little CHILD
On Her arm had She,
"Wot ye Who This is?"
Said the hinds to me.
Chorus. Nowell, &c.

Ox and as Him know,
Kneeling on their knee,
Wondrous joy had I
This little Babe to see.

Chorus. Nowell, &c.

This is CHRIST the LORD,
Masters be ye glad!
Christmass is come in,
And no folk should be sad.

Chorus. Nowell, &c.

(17)

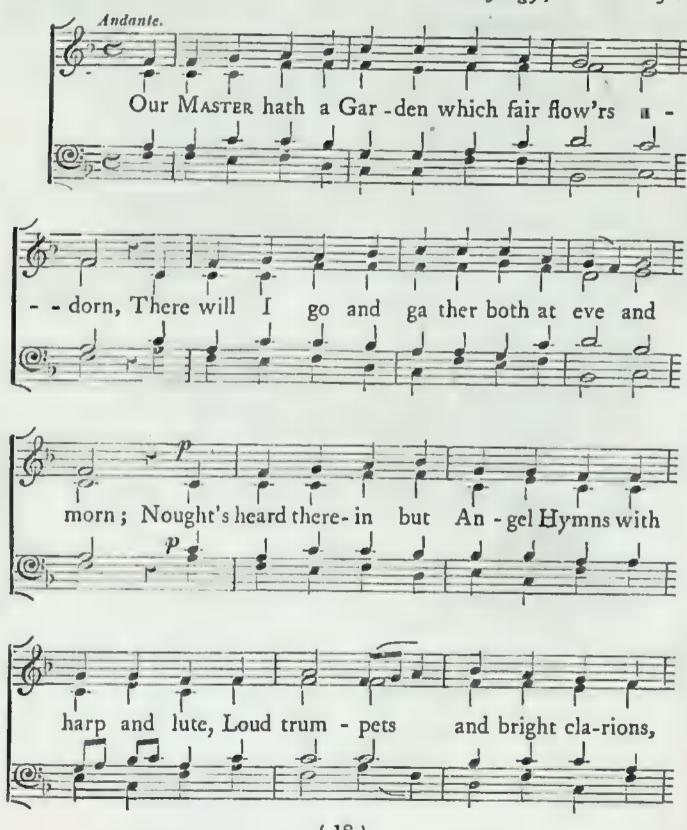
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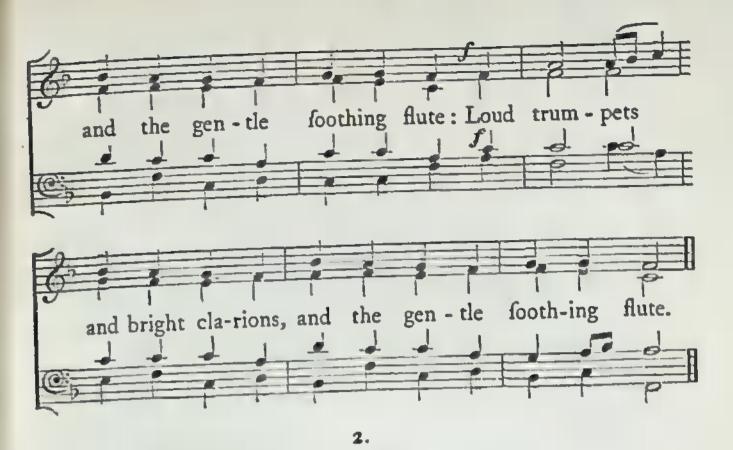
IX.—Dutch Carol.

"Our Master hath a Garden."

"My Beloved is gone down into His Garden, to the beds of Spices, to feed in the Gardens, and to gather L lies."

The Melody from Thijm; the translation from the Ecclesiologist, Feb. A.D. 1856.





The Lily white that bloometh there is Purity, The fragrant Violet is surnamed Humility; Nought's heard therein, &c.

3.

The lovely damask Rose is here called Patience, The rich and cheerful Marigold, Obedience; Nought's heard therein, &c.

4.

One plant is there with crown bedight, the rest above, With crown imperial, and this plant is holy Love;
Nought's heard therein, &c

5.

But still of all the flowers the Fairest and the Best, Is Jesus Christ, the Lord Himself, His Name be blest. Nought's heard therein, &c.

6.

O Jesus, my chief good and sole selicity,
Thy little Garden make my ready heart to be;
So may I once hear Angel Hymns with harp and lute,
Loud trumpets and bright clarions, and the gentle soothing slute.



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Carols for Christmas.

THE WORDS ONLY.

Sewed - - - - 1½d.

Preparing for publication,

Dedicated by permission to the

REV. THOMAS HELMORE, M.A.

A

Second Set of Canticles Noted,

RY

EDMUND SEDDING.

London: J. Masters & Co.

Powell nowell nowell thys ys the salutacyoun of ye Aungell Gabryell.



NTIENT CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS AND OTHER TIDES ARRANGED FOR FOUR VOICES BY EDMD. SEDDING ARCHT. MEMBER OF YEMOTETT OVIRE& SOMETIME CANTOR OF S. RAPHL. BRISTL.

LONDON: Printed and Published by Messrs. Masters and Son, at 33, Aldersgate Street, A.D. 1863.



"The Blessed Vision travailed without pain,
And lodged in an inn,
A glorious Star the sign,
But of a greater Guest than ever came that way,
For there He lay
That is the God of night and day."

BISHOP TAYLOR.

"Worship, ye sages of the East,
The King of gods in meanness drest,
O Blessed Maid, smile and adore
The God Thy Womb and Arms have bore."

BISHOP HALL.

"Cease then, O Queens, who earthly crowns do wear,
To glory in the pomp of earthly things;
If men such high respects unto you bear,
Which daughters, wives, and mothers are of Kings,
What honour can unto that Queen be done,
Who had your God for Father, Spouse, and Son?"
Dr. Donne.



TO THE RIGHT REVEREND

FATHER IN GOD, THOMAS NETTLESHIP,

of LORD BISHOP OF HONOLULU, So-

WITH DEEP REVERENCE AND RESPECT,

THIS WORK IS HUMBLY DEDICATED

BY HIS LORDSHIP'S VERY

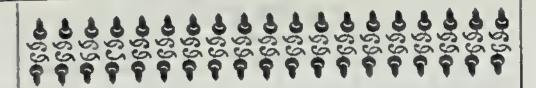
DUTYFULL SERVANT,

ED. SEDDING.



The Contents of this Book.

- 1. The Cedar of Lebanon.
- 2. Let us the Infant greet.
- 3. Tidings true.
- 4. To-day in perfect gladness.
- 5. Who is there that sing= eth so Nowell.
- 6. Wasseyl.
- 7. Joy hath come to Carth again.



THE PREFACE

TO THE COURTEOUS READER.

NCOURAGED by the fingular diftinguishment vouchsafed unto the Set of Antient Christmas Carols, I have judged it convenient to de-

vise a second collection, with Carols to serve for Festal Tides other than Yule.

It is wholesome source of comfort to find the custom of singing Carols making such excellent way throughout the English Communion: there remains now but a scanty stock of Parishes in England without some observance of this delightsome and Catholick practice. But the course of progress and revival should hardly stay here. Carols have been resuscitated out of doors, but there is ill show of reason for their remaining unrestored to their original position in your Offices of Holy Church.

Surely the Carol was never designed to be driven out of the Church altogether, to find sorry shelter in the stale and unsavoury atmosphere of concert rooms, or to be shuffled off upon family gatherings and parochial seasts. The Carol is to be considered part and parcel of the Services appertaining to the Festival of the Nativity, one of the many joyful passages in the Celebration

Revival of Carols,

not yet complete.

The right use of Carols. of the great Eucharistick Sacrifice. In Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, and divers parts of the North and West of England, Carols have never been banished from the Church, while in foreign lands they are used at High Celebration throughout Christmas Tide. We rejoice to be able to record a sew cases in which the restoration of the Christmas Carol to its primitive dignity, has been prosecuted, and that with the sairest success: may these humble remarks tend to provoke others to go and do likewise.

Waffel.

Concerning the word Nowell much has already been discoursed in the Preface to Antient Christ-mas Carols, but I have thought good to print in this work a Wasseling Carol to a melody still used in the shires of Gloucester, Hereford, and Devon, and other places in the west of England, and on this I would adventure a sew remarks.

Origin of the term. The word Wassel or Wassail is derived from the Anglo-Saxon Was bæl, "Be in health." Washaile and Drincheile were the customary antient English drinking pledges, and are equivalent to "Your health," "I'll pledge you" of the present times.

"These two," says Ritson, "are the very first "Saxon words which we know from historical "evidence to have been pronounced in this "country. Vortigern, King of Britain, being "invited to supper by his ally Hengist at his "newly built castle of Sydingbourn, in Kent, "was after supper, approached by Hengist's "beautiful

Wasseling in the reign of K. Henry VII.

to be observed on bringing in of the Wassel were of no mean order:—

"Htem as for the void on ye xiith nyght, ye "Kinge and the Quene ought to have it in the "halle. And as for the wassaile, the steward, the "tressourer, and ye controllere shall com for it "w' y' staves in y' hands; the Kings sewere "and the Quenes havinge faire towelles about y' " neks and disches in y' handes siche as the Kinge "and the Quene shall ete of: the Kings keruers "and the Quenes shall com aftur withe chargi-"ours or disches siche as the Kinge or the "Quene shall ete of, and w' towelles about y' "neks. And y' shall no man bere nothynge for "the Kinge or the Quene, but only fiche as be "sworn . . . and if y' be a bischope, his own "fquyere or els the Kings. . shall serue hym; "and so of all oy" estats, and y" be duks or erles "in lik wyse: and of duchesses and countesses in "the fam maner, and yen y muste cum in the "vichers of the chambre w' the pile of cuppes, "the Kings cupes and the Quenes, and the "bischopes, w' the butlers and wyne, to the "cupbord, and then a squyere for the body to "bere the cupe, and anoy" for the Quenes cupe "fiche as is fworn for hire."

"Item the Chapelle may stond at the on side of the halle: and when the steward comythe in at ye halle dore w' the waissaille he must cry thris, Wassaile, &ca., and then shall the chapelle answere it anon w' a good songe...

" and

The Preface.

"and then whene the Kynge and Quene have done they will go into the chambre: and y' longithe fore the Kinge ij lights w the void, and ij lights w the cupe: and the Quene in like wyse as many."

In the reign of K. Henry VIII. In the second year of King Henry VIII., agaynst the xii daye or the daye of the Epiphanie at nighte, before the banket in the hall at Richemona, was a pageaunt devised like a mountayne, glisteringe by night as thoughe it had been all of golde and set with stones ... and then it was drawen backe, and then was the wassaill or banket brought in, and so brake up Christmas."

K. Chas. I.

Father Herrick, in one of his most delectable Christmas Songs^b writes:—

"Come then, come then, and let us bring Unto our prettie twelfth-tide King Each one his feverall offering;

Chos. And when night comes wee'l give Him wasfailling;

And that His treble honours may be seen Wee'l chuse Him King, and make His Mother Queen."

Alluded to by old English writers. The allusions to this one of the most important accompaniments of Yule-tide are very frequent in the works of Spenser, Wither, Ben Jonson, Bamfylde, and other old English writers.

The incomparable Shakespeare makes mention of Wits Pedler, who

"Retailes his wares
At Wakes, and Wassels, Meetings, Markets, Faires."

A carp-

A Hall's Chronicle.

b The
Star Song,
fung in the
prefence of
K. Chas.
Mar. at
Whitehall.

c Loue's Labour's loft, act iv.

The Preface.

Wassel nauseous to the Puritan.

A carping puritan knave takes offence at this as well as fundry other exercises and spectacles sanctioned by the Church:—

Thus they (this rabble of worshippers) celebrate the Nativity, Circumcision, Epiphany, and Resurrection of Christ, with gay clothes, clean houses, good cheer, the viol in the feast, to stir up sust instead of devotion, eating and drinking, and rising up to play and dance... with their lords of misrule, commonly called Christmas lords, games, interludes, mummeries, masks, wasfal cupes, with thousands of abominations which chaste and Christian hearts abhor to hear or think of."

Carrying round the Wassel.

The custom of carrying round the Wassel from house to house with songs, still observed in many parts of England, does not appear to be older than the seventeenth century. A specimen of one of these Wassel songs is given by Ritson from a Manuscript in the Ashmolean Museum, and commences thus;—

"A jolly wassail Bowl,

A wassail of good ale,

Well fare the butler's soul,

That setteth this to sale,

Our jolly wassail.

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

Discouri
of the
False
Church

b Antic Songs.

For

No. I.

No. II.

No. III.

For the melody of the first Carol I am indebted to William Chappell, Esq., F.S.A., editor of "Musick in the Olden Time;" and for that of No. II. to S. Smith, Esq., Organist and Director of the Quire at S. John's, Windsor. The latter is from a collection made in Hereford-shire during Christmas, A.D. 1858, but has been of late knitted to such bald poverty-stricken verse that I was at no pains to dissolve the unmeet connection.

The use of the melody of No. III. has been kindly granted me by Thomas Wright, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., and is taken from a manuscript aforetime in his possession. The Carol is set to sacred words, but thereto is appended this note;—

This is the tewyn for the song foloyng, yf so be that ye wyll have another tewyn, it may be at your plesure, for I-have set all the song.

This fong foloyng is n right quaint drinking chanson, and that the reader may at bis plefure enjoy the fulsome ravishment of both words and musick of the antique times I have reprinted the whole of it:—

"Bryng us in good ale, good ale,
For our Blyffyd Lady fak,
Bryng us in good ale.

"I. Bryng us in no browne bred, fore that is made of brane,

Nor bryng us in no whyt bred, fore therin is no game,

" But

" made.

But bryng us in good ale, &c.

"8. Bryng us in no capons flesch, for that is ofte der,f Nor bryng us in no dokes slesche, for thei slober in the mer,

But bryng us in good ale, &c."

The air of No. V. is taken from a manuscript of the reign of King Henry VIII., and may have been

No V.

foften

dear.

been sung in the presence of that Sovereign. It is of such superexcellent quaintness and beauty that it seemed to me an act of desecration to divorce the antient words from the musick to which they have been for generations wedded in comely accordance. Unhappily it was found impossible to set the entirety of the old words to the melody, so that they might run smoothly together, and after long and serious deliberation, I resolved to contrive some sew alterations in the text; but this ungracious travail, as the reader will himself discover, has been very delicately carried out with the least possible license of ink, so that the sense and drift of the original should not be wantonly disturbed.

For the convenience of Quires and Scholars, whom I am with pleasure bounden to style my chief patrons and supporters, the orthography has been charactered in modern English, but in like manner I am desirous to give good content unto those, my singular good friends, who have a reverend regard for the preservation of antient reliques, and I have therefore appended an exact copy of the original:—

- "Nowell nowell who ys there that fyngith so nowell Nowell."
- "I am here, fyre Crystemasse,
 Wellcome my lord fyre Crystemasse,
 Wellcome to us all bothe more and less,
 Come ner Nowell.

"DIEU

The Preface.

- "Dizu wous garde byewe syre tydynges y you bryng
 A Mayde hath born
 Chylde full yong,
 The weche caufeth you for to fyng
 Nowell.
- "CRISTE is now born of a pure Mayde
 In an oxe stalle HE ys layde,
 Wherefor syng we all atte a brayde
 Nowell.
- "Bevvez bien par tutte la company,
 Make gode chere and be ryght mery,
 And fyng with us now joyfully

Nowell."

No. VII.

The air of the last Carol is from Swiss Book of the sixteenth century.

In conclusion, I humbly beg to express my fincere gratitude for the many kind and gracious tokens of approbation bestowed upon my former work; also to tender my warmest acknowledgments to the Reverend Doctor R. F. Littledale, who has kindly supplied me with words for the present Collection, the fitness and beauty of which it would be presumptuous in me to A tribute of thanks is likewise due commend. to the Reverends H. L. Jenner and S. S. Greatheed for divers valuable services rendered to me on this and past occasions; and finally I most humbly pray that these unworthy labours may be blessed by Almighty God to the good of His Holy Church.

ED. SEDDING.

Hallowmass,

ANTIENT CAROLLES,

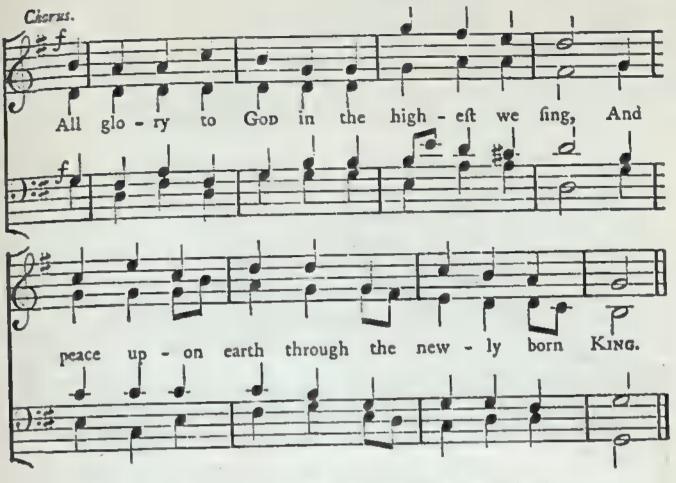
FOR CHRISTMASS, &c.

"The Cedar of Lebanon."

"The golden tyme ys nowe at bande,
The daye of joye from Heaven doth springe,
Salvacyone over-slowes the lande,
Wherefore all faithfull thus may singe,
Glorye to GOD most hie,
And peace on the earth continuallye!
And unto men rejoysinge!"



2



From the Star of the Sea the glad SUNLIGHT hath shined,
Springs the Lion of Judah from Naphtali's Hind,
The Life from the dying, the Rose from the thorn,
The Maker of all things of Maiden is born.

Chorus—All glory, &c.

The manger of Bethlehem opens once more
The gates of that Eden where man dwelt of yore,
And He Who is lying, a Child, in the Cave,
Hath conquer'd the foeman, hath ranfom'd the flave.

Chorus—All glory, &c.

In the midst of the Garden the Tree of Life stands,
And offers His twelve fruits to lips and to hands,
For the Lord of Salvation, the Gentiles' Desire,
Hath ta'en from the Cherubs their sword-blade of fire.

Chorus—All glory, &c.

On the hole of the aspic the sucking Child plays,
And His Hand on the den of the cockatrice lays,
And the Dragon, which over a fallen world reign'd,
By the Seed of the Woman is vanquish'd and chain'd.

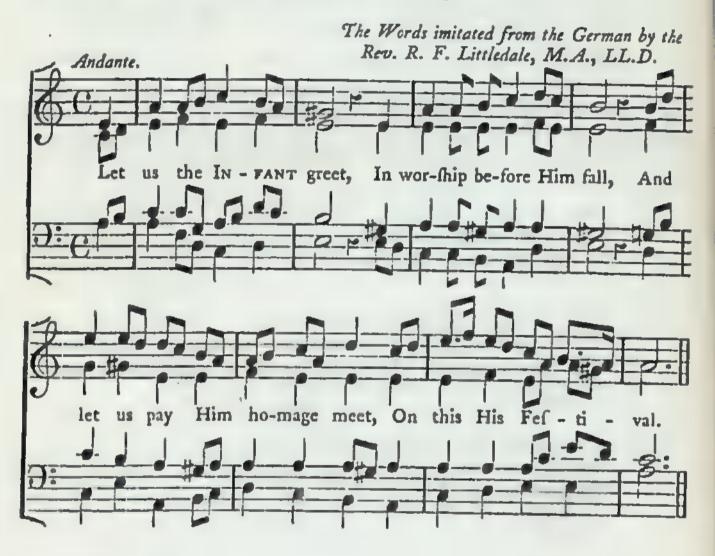
Chorus—All glory, &c.

To Him Who hath lov'd us, and fent us His Son,
To Him Who the Victory for us hath won,
To Him Who sheds on us His Sevenfold rays,
Be honour and glory, salvation and praise.

Chorus—All glory, &c

"Let us the Infant greet."

"O my deir bert, young JESUS sweit, Prepare Tby creddill in my spreit, And I sall rocke Thee in my bert, And neuer mair from Thee depart."



Let us to the INFANT fing,
And bring Him of gifts rich store,
Let us honour our INFANT King,
With praise for evermore.

3.

Let us to the Infant kneel, And love Him with faithful love, And let our joyous anthems peal, For Him who reigns above. 4.

Glad hymns in the INFANT's laud, Sing we to Him while we may, In Heaven, where He is throned as God, Our service He will pay.

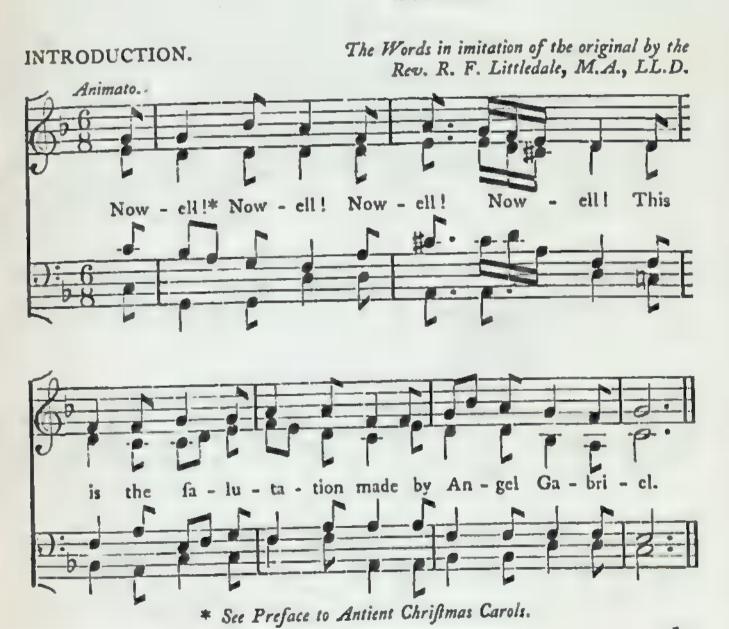
4.

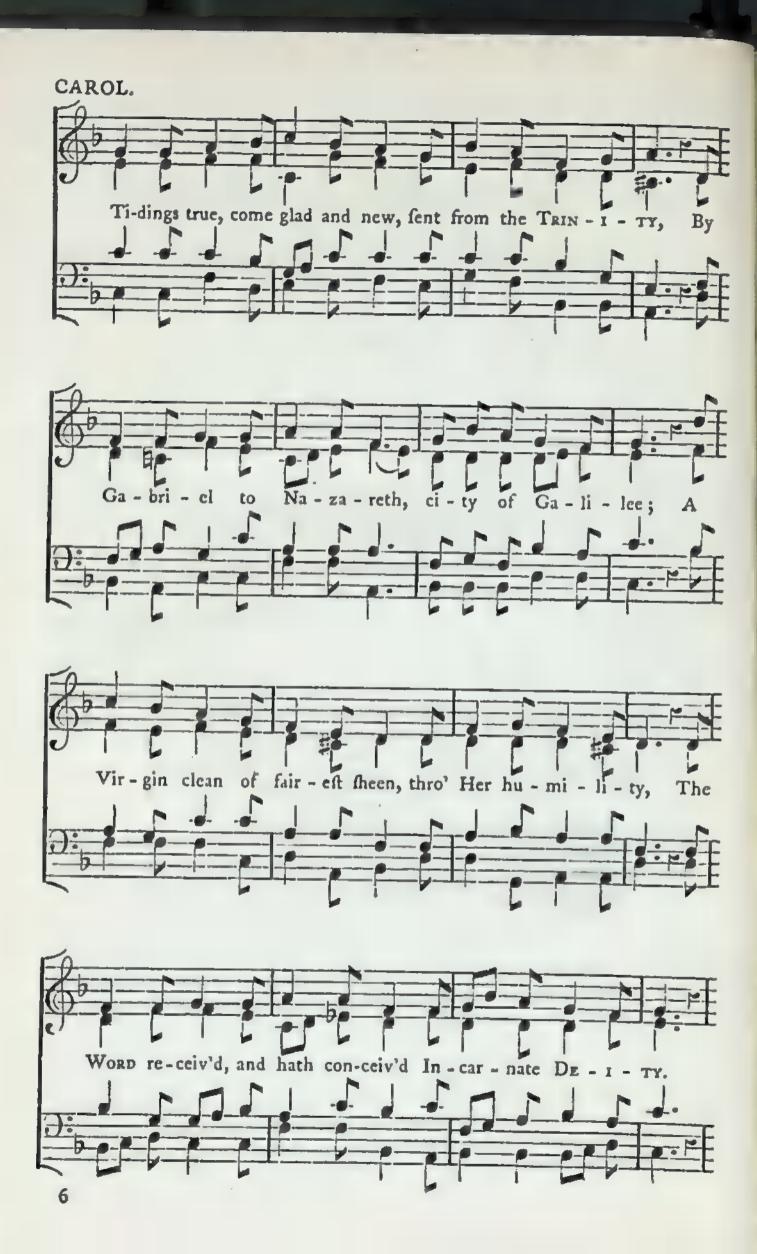
Be we to the Infant true,
While we are dwelling on mould,
And He will give us our wages due,
A crown of purest gold.

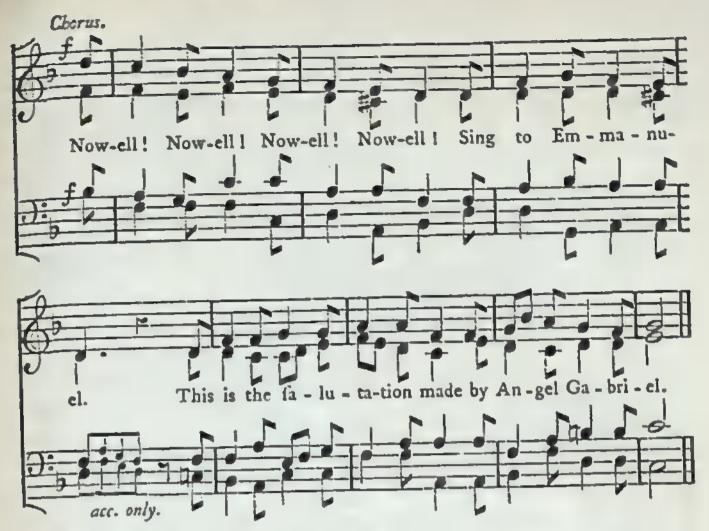
III.

"Tidings true, come glad and new."

"Gabryell of byghe degree,
Cam down from the TRENITE,
To Nazareth in Galilee,
With Nova."







- 2. When appeared Gabriel first before our Lady's eyes,
 He reverence made, and homage paid, in meek and seemly wise,
 And said, Lady, from Heaven on bigb, the Palace of the KING,
 Who born of Thee full soon shall be, a message here I bring.

 Chorus—Nowell, &c.
- 3. Hail! Thou bleffed Maiden, most mild of Human race,
 Hail! sacred Shrine of Godhead, hail, Mirror of all grace,
 Hail! Virgin pure, the word is sure, and quickly shalt Thou bear
 The KING of Kings, Who gladness brings, and does away with care.
 Chorus—Nowell, &c.
- 4. Then at his saying troubled, but in no wise asraid,
 With mind discreet Her answer meet to Gabriel She made,
 Tell unto Me, how this shall be, that I should bear a CHILD,
 Who aye have been a Maiden clean, and am no whit defiled.
 Chorus—Nowell, &c.
- 5. Then the bright Archangel spake unto that lowly May,
 O Lady dear, be of good cheer, nor dread Thou what I say,
 Within Thy holy Body the LORD Himself shall dwell,
 Who by His Birth joins Heaven and Earth, Who is Emmanuel.

 * * * * * *

Chorus-Nowell, &c.

6. Then unto the Archangel full meekly did She say,
When GOD commands, into His Hands I yield Me, and obey;
Behold Me here in lowliness, the Handmaid of the LORD,
And unto Me thus let it be, according to the word.
Chorus—Nowell, &c.

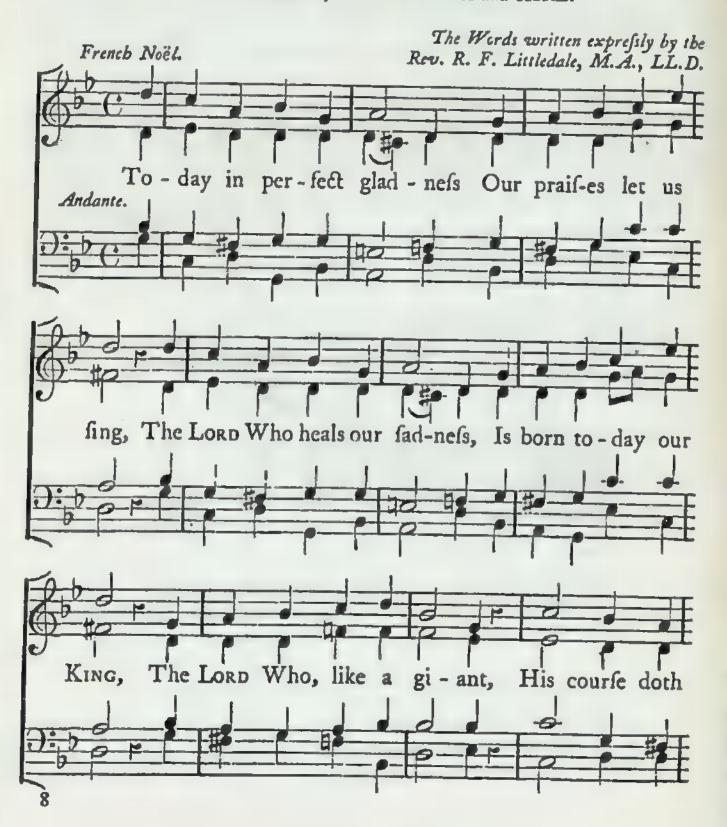
"To-day in perfect Gladness."

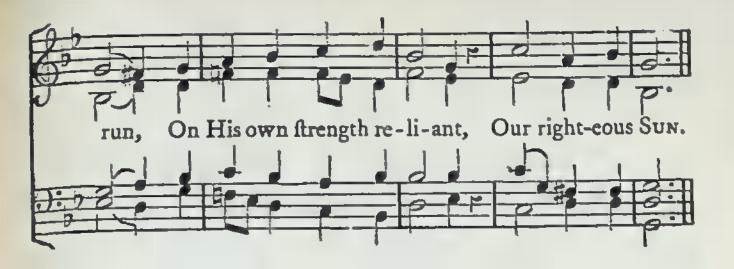
"My fault and lyfe, stand up and see

Quha lyes in ane cribe of tree,

Qubat Babe is That so gude and faire,

IT is CHRIST, GOD'S SONNE and AIRE."





2.

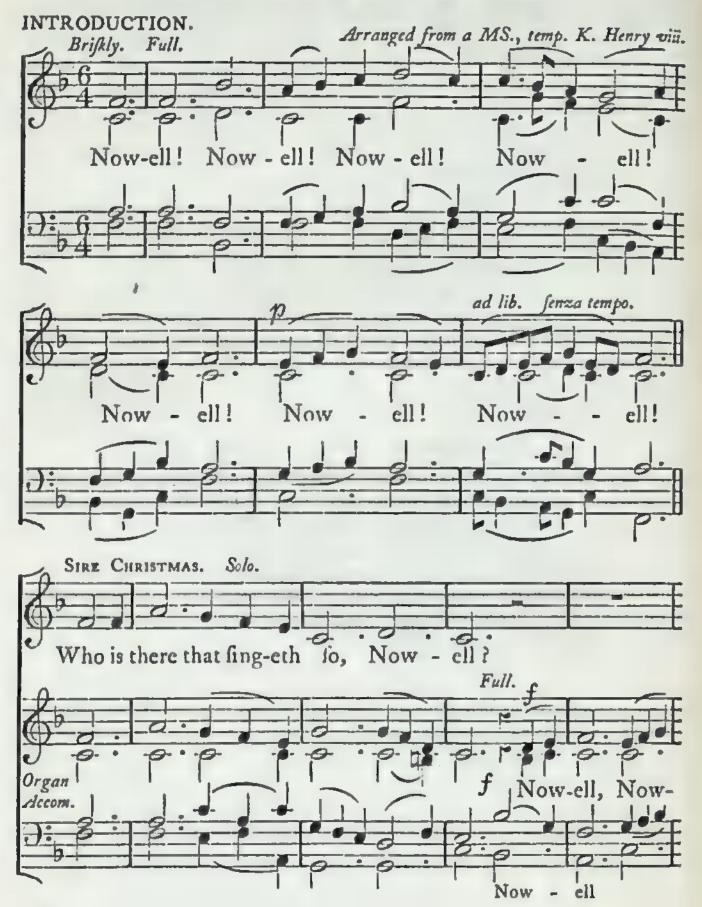
In darkness He is lying
Who gives the sky its light,
He in a stall is crying
Who thunders in His might;
Swathes are those Hands enfolding
Which made the stars,
Him swaddling bands are holding
Who bursts hell's bars.

3.

He comes, redemption bringing,
He comes, the Undefiled,
The Rose from Lily springing,
The FATHER from His Child.
He comes, with kingly banner
Not yet unfurl'd,
He comes, in wondrous manner,
To save the world.

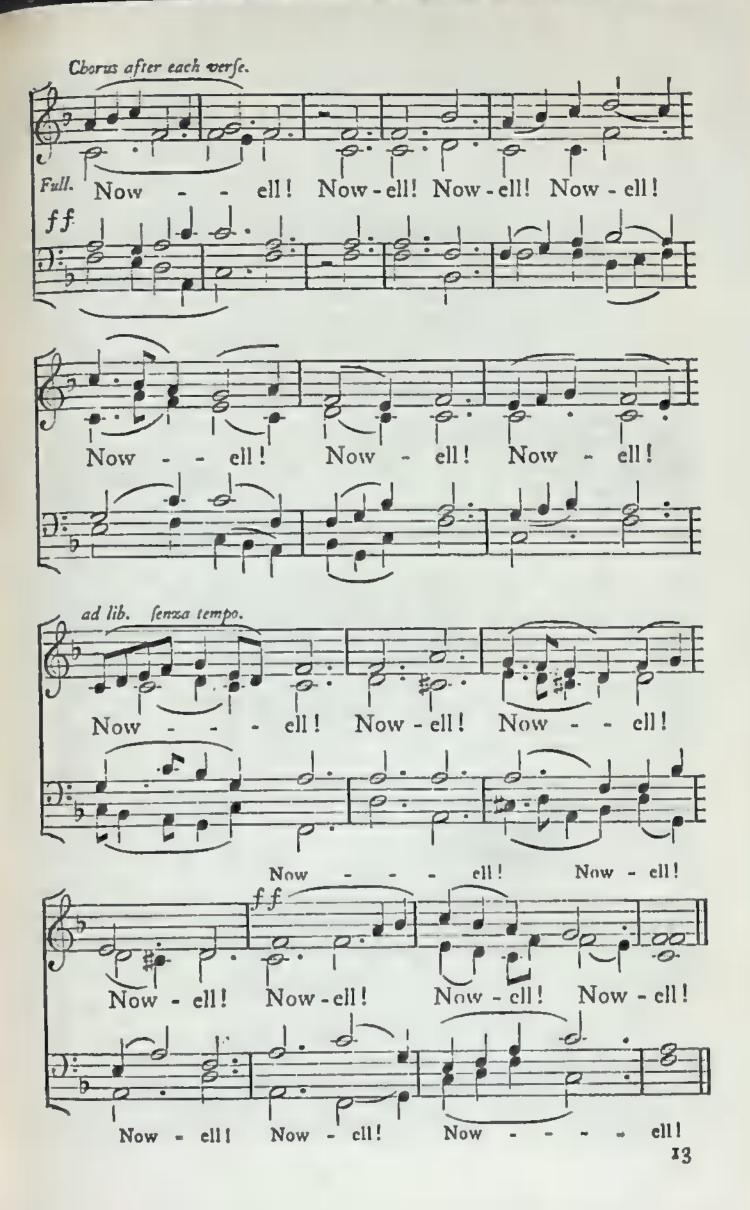
V.

"Mowell and Sire Christmas."









VI.

A Carol for bringing in the Wasseyl Bowl on Mew Pear's Eve and Twelfth Might.

Wolcum be ye, good newe yere,
Wolcum twelthe day bothe in fere,
Wolcum alle and mak good chere,
Wolcum alle another yere."



- 2. Wasseyl! good masters, we tell you true,
 Old Christmas brings nothing but mirth to you;
 His mansion he fills with all manner of store,
 His larders with plenty flow o'er and o'er.
- 3. Wasseyl! Wasseyl! to that King of Might,
 A pure Maiden bore upon Christmas night:
 Wasseyl! to our Lady, Gon's Mother so dear,
 Who brought us Salvation, and cast out fear.
- 4. Wasseyl ! Shepherds three, who the True Shepherd sought, Wasseyl! the three Kings who the Great King gifts brought, Wasseyl! to the Angels, who carolled His Birth, Singing Glory to GOD, Love and Peace on earth.
- 5. Wasseyl! to our host, who feasteth his friends,
 May God give him double, and more than he spends:
 Full well may Sire Christmas keep Festival here,
 Where find we such welcome, such dainty cheer.
- 6. Wasseyl! to the Lady of this fair hall,
 Wasseyl! to her Children, both great and small,
 Wasseyl! to the Steward, who brings us the best,
 Wasseyl! to the Baker, the Maids, and the rest.
- 7. Wasseyl! to the Gentles, Wasseyl! to the Poor, May God fend them comfort, and Christmas store; Wasseyl! to the Holly, whose berries now glow, Wasseyl! to the Ivy and Mistletoe.
- 8. Wasseyl! Wasseyl! all who Christmas love, May God fend them blessings from Heaven above; Let court, city, country, and all folk be glad, Old Christmas hath entered to cheer the sad.
- 9. By Christmas we call on our loving host,
 And all in this mansion to drink to our toast;
 In the name of Sire Christmas we bid you Wassey!!
 Ill luck be to him who will not Drinkhey!!

Chorus.

In the praise of Sire Christmas let Carols be sung:
To Him Who on us His sweet mercies doth pour,
Be honour and worship for evermore.

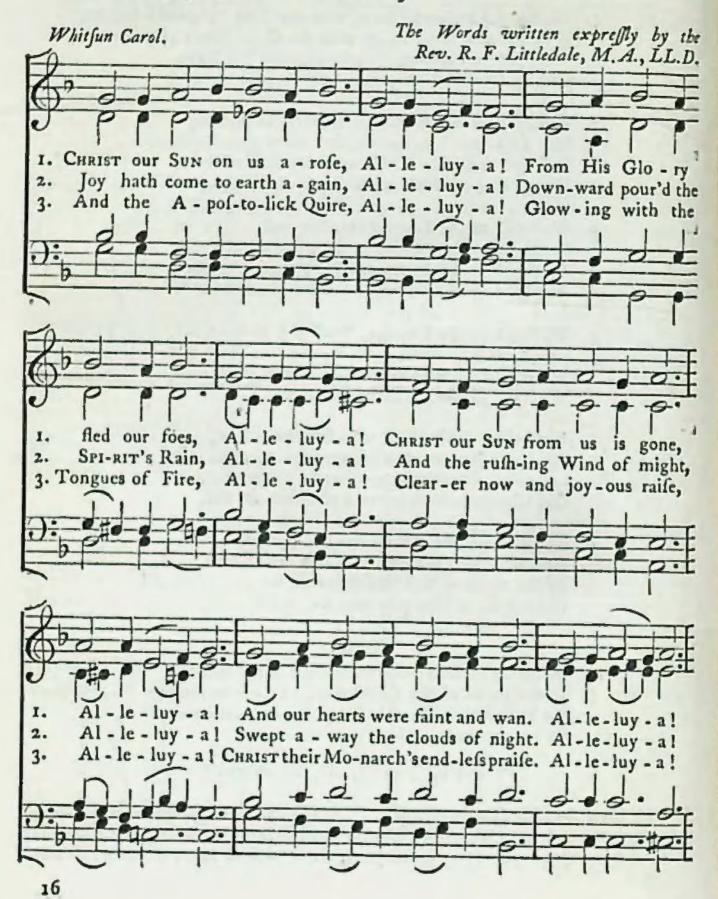
(Verses 6, 7, and 8, may be omitted.)

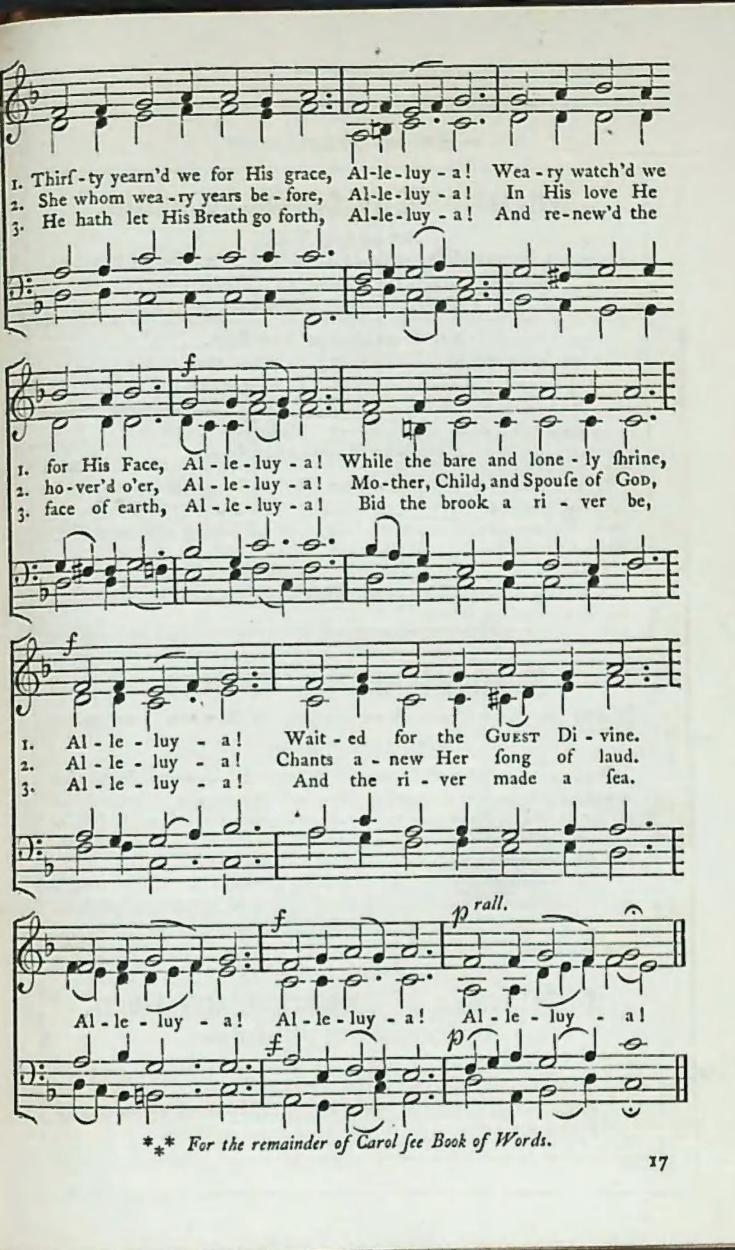
This Carol should be sung in procession. The Wasseyl Bowl garnished with slowers, &c., should be accompanied by taper or torch bearers. The Song concluded, the bowl is handed round to the company, the highest in rank, of course, drinking first

VII.

"Joy hath come to Earth again."

"Thou, O GOD, sentest a Gracious Rain upon Thine inheritance:
And refreshedst it when it was weary."





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God's dear Son.

When God at first.

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Sing of Maiden Mary.

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