

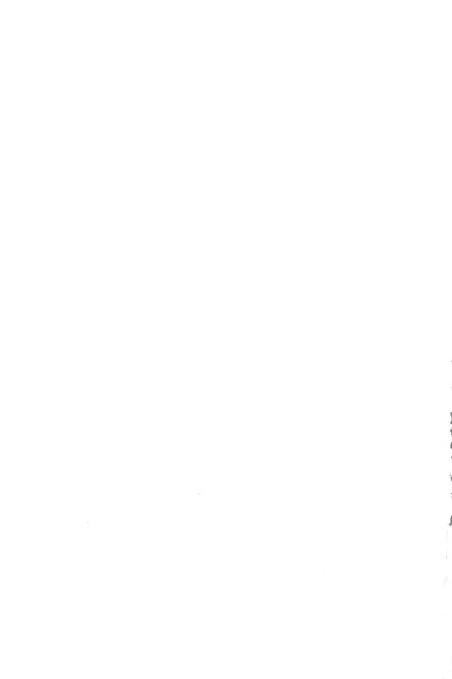


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Vol.

SONG BOOK

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# INTRODUCTION.

### ON THE EARLY AGES OF ENGLISH MUSIC AND SONG.

"History had its origin in poetry," asys an old Danish author, and this is undoubtedly true as to much of the early history of our own country. Without going so far as Lord Macaulay, who ranks Hengist and Horsa, Vortigern and Rowena, Arthur and Mordred, as "mythical persons, whose very existence may be questioned," we may, at least, point to many adventures of our ancient kings and heroes, which, if not altogether inventions of the poet, have undoubtedly reached us only through the medium of song. In the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle," two complete historical ballads, and fragments of eight or ten others are inserted as integral parts of the Chronicle. While some of our earliest writers mix together truth and fiction, without attempting to distinguish between them, others, like William of Malmesbury, divide records for which there was some show of authority from those which were only derived from ballads sung about the country. In this way we learn the subjects of many of the legends and historical songs which delighted our ancestors for successive centuries.

William of Malmesbury wrote his history in the reigns of Henry I. and Stephen, when King Arthur had been dead about six hundred years, yet he says: "It is of this Arthur that the Britons fondly tell so many fables, even to the present day—a man worthy to be celebrated, not by idle fictions, but by authentic history"—"The sepulchre of Arthur is no where to be seen, whence ancient ballads fable that he is still to come." As a specimen of the miracles attributed to this king, he tells us that, "At the siege of Mount Badon, relying on an image of the Virgin, which he had affixed to his armour, Arthur engaged nine hundred of the enemy single-handed, and dispersed them with incredible slaughter!" Even this bold fiction did not die away very rapidly, for Giraldus, the Welshman, who was chaplain to Henry II., improved the miracle, by adding that an image of the Virgin was fixed inside Arthur's shield, that he might kiss it in battle.

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Historia initium sumpsit a poëse."—Bartholinus, De Contemptu Mortis apud Danaicos
 "Antiquitas neniarum adhuc eum venturum fabulatur."—De Gestis Regum Angle var
 [Lib. iii.)

<sup>·</sup> Supposed by some to be Bannesdown, near Bath.

In his history of King Edward, son of Alfred the Great, William of Malmesbury says: "Thus far I have written from authentic testimony; that which follows I have learned more from old ballads, popular through succeeding times, than from books written expressly for the information of posterity. I have subjoined them, not to defend their veracity, but to put my reader in possession of all I know." Again, after recounting the pride of Edgar, in compelling subject kings to be his oarsmen while he sat at the prow, William says: "For this he is justly blamed by history, but the other imputations, which I shall mention hereafter, have rather been cast on him by ballads."

A volume might be filled with the stories which these early chroniclers derived from ballads, and among them not a few that have descended to the present day. For instance, who has not heard of the deception practised upon King Edgar by the nobleman whom he commissioned to offer marriage to Elfrida, if her beanty should prove as remarkable as it was famed—of the disparaging report given to the king by his messenger, while he secretly wood the lady for himself? This narrative, which ends in the discovery of the fraud, and the death of the betrayer at the hand of the emaged king, is one of the many for which, whether wholly true, partly true, or entirely fictitious, there is no higher authority than a ballad.

We have three accounts of warriors who gained access to the camps of their enemies by disguising themselves in the dresses of minstrels. The first is of a Saxon chief, who entered York while it was closely besieged by King Arthur and his Britons; the second of King Alfred in the Danish camp, and the third of Anlaf, the Dane, in that of Alfred's grandson, King Athelstan. The second and third adventures are recounted by William of Malmesbury; but Asser, the friend and biographer of Alfred, takes no notice of his share in any such enterprise. It is therefore probable that the story has been transferred from one hero to another, if it be not altogether an invention, framed for the purpose of exalting the privileged character of the minstrel in the minds of his hearers. It must be admitted that British and early English kings, and knights, and all of gentle blood, were taught to play upon the harp; therefore, so far, there is no improbability in the adventure.

There were then two orders of minstrelsy, between which no sufficient distinction has hitherto been drawn. The first was the Scope (Anglo-Sax, scóp sccop), the bard, or inventor, who combined the arts of poetry and music, singing songs of his own composition. To be a Scope was an honourable distinction, even to men of rank. The second was the Gleeman, who, deriving his name from gleo, (signifying glee, mirth, music, song.) was a musician, and merry-maker, usually singing songs composed by others.

d "Sequentia magis cantilenis per successiones temporum detritis, quam libris ad instructiones posteriorum elucubratis, didicerim."—(Lib. ii., cap. 6.)

e "Inde merito, jureque, culpant eum literæ; nam ceteras infamias, quas post dieam magis resperserunt cantilenæ"—(Lib. ii., cap. 8.)

Many of the clergy indulged in music and poetry, and with little restraint so long as their songs were on historical or other unobjectionable subjects. Aldbelm, first abbot of Malmesbury, and one of the most eminent churchmen of the seventh century, exercised himself daily in playing upon the various musical instruments then in use, "whether with strings, pipes, or any other variety." (Here it may be remarked that the principal musical instruments of the early English were the harp, the rote, the psaltery, the fiddle, (which is of English origin,) the cittern, and the organ. To these were added flutes, single and double, blown at the end-pipes, hornpipes, bagpipes, trumpets, cimbals, tabor, and drum). Aldhelm composed "trivial songs," says his biographer, and stationing himself on the bridge, "like a professed minstrel," he sang them to the people, in order to engage their attention, and having secured it, he gradually intermixed others on more instructive subjects. One of these trivial songs retained its popularity four hundred years, for William of Malmesbury says that it was sung about the country in his own time. The elevation of the ambitious Dunstan may be attributed to his skill in music, for it was by his harping and singing to the king, when wearied with affairs of state, that he first gained the royal favour. Dunstan was skilled in all "the vain songs" of his nation, and sought to calm his excitable temperament by means of his harp. He kept it by him to the last, thinking with Bishop Grosteste, that-

"The vertue of the harpe, with skyll aryght, Will destrye the fendy's [fiend's] might."

It appears however, that some of the clergy were apt to indulge in songs of too convivial a character, for, among the laws made in King Edgar's reign (a.d. 960), the fifty-eighth is, "That no priest shall be a maker of ale-house songs" (literally, "He shall not be an ale-scope,  $calu\ scóp$ "), "nor in anywise act the gleeman, whether alone or with others." About the same date is a similar law for Northumbrian priests, "If a priest indulge in drunkenness, or become a gleeman or ale-scope, let him make satisfaction."

One of Eltric's Canons is curious as showing that early English funerals were conducted somewhat after the manner of modern Irish wakes. The 35th is as follows: "Ye ought not to make merry over dead men, nor to hunt after a corpse except ye are invited to it. When ye are invited, forbid the heathenish songs of

t The portable Harp was strung with wire, the large Harp with sheep-gut. The Rote was a kind of lyre common to the old Saxons and early English. (An engraving of the Rote will be found at p. 767 of Popular Music of the Olden Time.) The Cittern (Citra or Cit.r.;) was of the lute kind, with four (single or double) strings, and strung with wire. The Fiddle had four strings and a bow, as now: its history is traced in Popular Music, p. 761 et seq. An early English Psaltery is engraved in Wackerbarth's Music and the Anglo-Soxons. The Organ was in use in England in the seventh century—it is described in Aldhelm's Laus Virginitatis.

Leges Anglo-Saxonicæ, ed. Wilkins, fol. 86.

Wilkins's Concilia, vol. i. p. 218, canon no. 41

laymen, and their loud cackling, and do not eat and drink over the body in their heathenish manner."

Some of these laws and canons give an insight of the times which could not otherwise be obtained. In one council it is ordered that "neither bishops nor any other ecclesiastics shall keep female harpers, or players of other instruments; neither are they to sanction plays or buffooneries by their presence." In another, "Priests are not to babble in the church like secular bards, nor to dislocate the sacred words by theatrical pronunciation:" and "Monasteries are not to be receptacles of amusing arts—that is, of poets, harpers, musicians, and jesters—but honest retreats for the silent and quiet, and such as labour for God's sake." We may assume that they were sometimes perverted to such uses, or else why make a law against it?

Specimens of early English music are still extant, and among them some that are probably of the 7th and 8th centuries, such as the music to "The Praise of Virginity," and to other poems by Saint Aldhelm. It is to be regretted that they are not intelligible to us, owing to the imperfection of the notation. The same system then prevailed throughout Europe. Over the words are placed certain accents, stops, hooks, and crooks, (like slanting pot-hooks and hangers,) and these were intended to guide the voice up and down to certain notes; but as they are not written upon lines, it is impossible to decide with any certainty how far the voice should ascend or descend. Such notation could only have served with the assistance of a master, for a tune must necessarily be learnt by ear where the length of notes is undefined."

The same remark will apply to later specimens, for, although, about the latter half of the tenth century, a red line was used for F, and, subsequently, a yellow line for C, (the singing-marks, or neumes, being written upon and between these lines,) still the time of all notes was as indefinite as before.

It is curious that, under such disadvantages, any progress should have been made in harmony. Still the nation which used the harp and organ could not be without some practical knowledge of concordant sounds, and the English had organs of large size. One erected in Winchester Cathedral, in the tenth century, is fully described by Wulstan, a contemporary writer, and he states the number of pipes to have been four hundred. This same Wulstan was the author of a treatise "On the Harmony of Tones," a work which was in use for at least a hundred and fifty

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Wilkins's Concilia. vol. i. p. 255.

Concilium Romano-Britannicum, Wilkins's Concilia, vol. i. p. 46

<sup>1</sup> Council of Cloveshoo, near Abingdon, A.D. 747.—Wilkins's Concilia, vol i. p. 94.

Since this was written, the editor has found some early English Latin hymns with notation on four lines and spaces in manuscripts written in the tenth century. These quite antedate anything of the kind yet known abroad, and they precede the time of Guido, who proposed only two lines --a red line for F, and a yellow line for C.

years, for it was known to William of Malmesbury, who styles it "a most useful book." He says, however, that Osberne of Canterbury (who flourished about a century after Wulstan, and outlived the Norman Conquest by about thirty years,) was indisputably the greatest of all musicians, not excepting any then living."

The musical terms used in teaching boys in the tenth century, will be found in Archbishop Alfric's vocabulary, and include Answege sang—Tune for instrument alone, Twegra sang—Duet, Illuddra sang—Chorus, Gedware sang—

Harmony, and Ungeswege sang-Discord.

The good monk who wrote the history of Ely has preserved a fragment of an Anglo-Saxon ballad without music, which he attributes to Canute the Great. This affords a specimen of the measure which this kind of poetry had attained in the early part of the eleventh century, although the language is rather that of the twelfth:—

"Merie sungen the muneches binnen Ely, Tha Cnut ching reu ther by: Roweth, cuites, noer the land, And here we thes muneches sæng." Merry sang the monks in Ely, When Canute, the king, was rowing by: Row, ye knights, near the land, And let us hear these monks' song.

English monks were often censured for singing too quickly in the church, and this habit sprung, not improbably, from the natural cheerfulness of disposition which was undoubtedly characteristic of the English. The people delighted in holidays, and, thanks to their numerous saints, these were frequent. Athletic sports, (such as hunting the wild boar and the stag, hawking, wrestling, and riding.) games, tricks, feasting, and music, were the favourite amusements, and as Layamon says, "songs there were merry, and lasted very long."

"The merry, free, and frank disposition of the old English," says Camden, "was thus described by Alfred of Beverley," who died A.D. 1136: 'England, full of sports, a free people, delighting in jokes.'" William of Malmesbury says of the men of East Anglia: "They are a merry, pleasant, jovial race, but apt to carry

their jokes to an irritating excess." q

Neither was this character for cheerfulness confined to the North and East

<sup>&</sup>quot; "Fecit et aliud opus De Tonorum Harmonia, valde utile."—Gesta Regum Anglorum, b. ii. c. 8. This is elsewhere entitled the "Breviloquium Wulstani."

<sup>• &</sup>quot;Plura et non contemnenda de viro [Danstano] volentem dicere revocat Cantuariæ cantor Osbernus, qui ejus vitam Romana elegantia composuit, muli nostro tempore stylo secundus, musica certe onnium sine controversia primus." (Gesta Reg. Angl. b. ii. c. 8.) One of Osberne's treatises v as De Re Musica, and a copy of a second, De Voeum Consonantiis, is stated by M. Fétis to be in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. If this manuscript covid he found it might throw fresh light upon the music of the eleventh century. William of Malmesbury was always esteemed an impartial writer and unbiassed by nationality. One of his parents was English, the other Norman,) so that his unqualified praise of Osberne should have excited the attention of musical historians. Osberne was born at Canterbury.

<sup>» &</sup>quot;Auglia pleua jocis, gens libera, et apta, jocari."—Camden's Remaines.

q "Gens læta et lepida, facetaque festivitate jocorum ad retulantiam pronior."—Gesta Regum Anglorum, b. ü. c. 13.

of England. "Merry Michael, the Cornish poet, piped this upon his oaten pipe for merry England," says Camden,

"For money, dinners, varied drinks, no land will e'er be found Like England, famous England, where the fertile soil is crown'd With countless flocks and herds, and where all social joys abound."

As to London, the first good description of the city and of its customs was written in 1174, by Fitz-Stephen, the friend and biographer of Thomas à Becket. He says that, in summer evenings, the young people danced till dark to the sound of the harp (or cittern), and that some of the maidens acted as musicians. That, on festival days, the boys of the London schools attached to the three principal churches, "contended with each other in verse," and wound up their contests "by recitations of epigrams, ballads, and rhymes, in which the foibles and frailties of their fellows were sarcastically exposed, but without naming the individuals." At this the auditors, who were prepared to enter into the jest, shook the assembly with peals of laughter." The same author tells us that when a Becket went to Paris, as Chancellor to Henry the Second, he was accompanied by about two hundred and fifty English boys, who preceded him "in groups of six, ten, or more, singing something in their own language after the manner of their country."

Fitz-Stephen does not elucidate the meaning of "after the manner of their country," but he intended, in all probability, that, while some sang the tune, others joined in an underpart in harmony to it. This manner of singing seems then to have been peculiar to the English. They had also another system, that of singing Rounds or Roundels, such as the watermen of London made of Sir John Norman, Lord Mayor of London, in 1453, and of which we have an earlier example in "Summer is icumen in." In both styles there is a burden or undersong for some to sing as a bass to support the upper voices.

The harp (strung with wire) being an instrument of little power, when many persons met together, the accompaniment of voices was frequently used to strengthen it. Our early songs and carols have commonly a burthen of two lines at the commencement, and not, as now, at the end of the stanza. This burden was intended to be sung by under-voices throughout the song, to support the time.

<sup>&</sup>quot; Nobilis Anglia pocula, prandia donat, et æra, Terra juvabilis et sociabilis, agmine plena, Omnibus utilis, Anglia fertilis est et amena."—Camden's Remaines.

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Puellarum cithara choros ducit usque imminente luna, et pede libero pulsatur tellus."
 Descriptio Londoniw, ed. T. Pegge, 4to, 1772.

t "Gregatim euntes sex vel deni, vel plures simul, aliquid lingua sua pro more patriæ snæ cantantes."—Stephanides. Vita S. Thomer, Cantuar., p. 21.

The airs and graces of church-singers were strongly reprehended at this time by John of Salisbury, and by Ailred, or Aelred, a Yorkshire abbot. Each alludes to the four qualities of voice—(treble, countertenor, tenor, and base,) and the former says that the parts were so consolidated or intermixed, that no one could distinguish one voice from another. "If you could hear the effeminate modulations of their voices," says he, "you would think them a concert of sirens, not of men." Ailred says, "Sometimes you may see a man with open mouth, not sing but, as it were, breathe out his last gasp: again, by a ridiculous interception of his voice, to seem to threaten silence; then to imitate the agonies of a dying man, or the anguish of those who suffer: in the mean time the whole body is stirred up and down with theatrical gestures, the lips are twisted, the eyes turned round, the shoulders play, and the bending of the fingers answers to every note."

This reprehension proves, at least, that the art of recitation was much cultivated by singers of the time. Both writers tell us that the people were delighted; they complain only that attention was too much absorbed by the singing. Recitation, as already shown, was then taught in the London schools, and we may fairly assume that singers of secular music were not behind those of the church in the art. An accomplished minstrel could secure an audience for fifty verses, but we now, occassionally, find it difficult to listen to three. The minstrel had some story to interest his hearers, and knew how to recite it to nusic; but any ballad tune will cloy, if the words, which give it life and spirit, be inaudible.

The study of music progressed greatly during the following century (the 13th), before the middle of which we find a round, or canon in unison, for four voices, with a foot or undersong for two more. It is accompanied by directions as to the proper way of singing, and by these the musical notation is incidentally explained. The melody stands first in the following pages, viz. "Summer is icumen in." It has been sung in public recently as a round, and with general approval. The undersong or burthen was omitted on these occasions (with one exception), because it makes a succession of fifths and octaves, in contravention of our laws of harmony. No such law existed at the time it was written, and, as there are still some who listen to Scotch tunes like Tullochgorum, which cause perpetual fifths and octaves, we cannot suppose that the burthen would, even now, be disagreeable to their less fastidious ears.

With all its faults, "Summer is icumen in," is incomparably in advance of any music of the thirteenth century that the continent of Europe has produced, and it bears out the assertion of John Tinctor, the earliest Flemish writer on music, that Counterpoint had its origin among the English.

At the end of this same thirteenth century there was a company or brother-hood established by the merchants of London, among themselves, for periodical festive meetings, and for the encouragement of musical and poetical composition, "to the end that the city of London might be renowned for all good things, and

that mirth, peace, gaiety, and good fellowship might be maintained." Each of the brotherhood paid sixpence as entrance fee, and twelvepence on the day of meeting unless he had composed a new song. In that case "his song did acquit him thereof." The constitution of their society resembled in many respects those of the present city companies. They had a Master (called a prince) and twelve companions, chosen anually; also a clerk and a chaplain. They built a chapel "in honour of God and Our Lady, near the Guildhall," and called themselves The brotherhood of the Pui. To be elected prince of the year soon became an expensive honour, for one of the statutes complains that the munificence of the feasts had so increased from year to year, each prince endeavouring to surpass the other, and at his own cost, that limits thenceforth should be placed upon the expenditure, and the entire cost of the feasts be defraved by the Company. The following extract from the statutes will best explain the objects of the association. "And whereas the royal feast of the Pui is maintained and established principally for crowning a royal song; inasmuch as it is by song that it is honoured and enhanced; all the gentle companions of the Pui, by right reason, are bound to exalt royal songs to the utmost of their power, and especially the one that is crowned by assent of the companions apon the day of the great feast of the Pui. Wherefore it is here provided, as concerning such songs, that each new Prince, the day that he shall wear the crown and govern the feast of the Pui, and so soon as he shall have had the blazon of his arms hung in the room where the feast of the Pui shall be held, shall cause to be set up beneath his blazon the song that was crowned, on the day that he was chosen as the new prince, plainly and correctly written without default. For no singer ought by right to sing any royal song, or to proffer the same, until he shall have seen the song that was last crowned in the year just passed, honoured according to its right, in the manner aforesaid." "And that, for deciding as to the songs, there be chosen two or three, who well understand singing and music, for the purpose of trying and examining the notes and the points of the song, as well as the nature of the words composed thereto. For without singing no one ought to call a composition of words a song, nor and ought any royal song to be crowned without the sweet sounds of melody sung." The seat where the singers sang the royal song was covered with cloth of gold, and when the Company had given the crown to him who had produced the best song, all mounted their horses and rode in procession through the city, (the king of the day riding between the old prince and the new,) and then escorted their new prince to his house, where they alighted and had a dance, by way of a loath to depart. After the dance, they were, according to the statutes, to take but one drink, and then each to return to his own house on foot.

Secular music seems always to have been greatly in advance of sacred, and so

Liber Custumarum, edited by T. H. Riley, M.A., pp. 589, 590.

secular tunes were frequently appropriated as hymns. The case of St. Aldhelm, on the bridge, may not be strictly in point; but we may at least date the habit from the Norman Conquest. It is recorded of Thomas, Archbishop of York under William the First, that whenever he heard any song sung by Gleeman, he wrote immediately a religious parody upon the words, to be sung to the same tune. There remains at Ossory a manuscript, known as the Red Book, which contains many Latin Hymns written to popular tunes by the English bishop of that see from 1318 to 1360. The original names are there given, such as "Sweetest of all, sing." How should I with that old man," Do, do, nightingale, sing full merry," Good day, my leman dear," etc. These were all stage songs (Carmina Theatralia) and the good bishop substituted hymns to the airs in order that the throats of his clergy might not be defiled by singing "profane" words.

Some writers have asserted that the popular tunes of different countries sprang from the church; but this is mere assertion, without even an atom of proof. The better feelings of man have ever revolted at such appropriations. To sing them would have been thought the extreme of ribaldry. On the contrary, in all countries, the case has been reversed. In the Vatican library at Rome there are now eighty volumes of masses constructed upon popular tunes by composers of various countries. Our Scottish brethen have their "Compendious Book of Godly and Spiritual Songs, turned out of profane Ballads," and, curiously enough, these are chiefly parodies upon English songs, such as "John, come kiss me now," and sung to English tunes. The custom of singing "psalms to hornpipes" has not died away even yet, for we may still point to instances whichever way we turn, and whether we look abroad or at home.

A Latin proverb was current from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century, which professed to characterize the singing of the principal nations of Europe, and gave the English the palm for joyous songs. The proverb is supposed to be of French orign, because not only are the French placed first, but also, are said to be the only people who then understood the true art. Galli cantant, Angli jubilant, Hispani plangant, Germani ululant, Itali caprizant. In English—"The French sing, the English carol, the Spaniards wail, the German howl, the Italians quaver like goats." We have no other verb by which we can translate the word "jubilent" except "to carol," although we have a more literally corresponding noun in the word "jubilee"—Carols were songs for mirthful and festive occasions, to tunes litted for dancing, such as:

"All you that love good fellows, Come listen to my song," &c.

Even the semi-religious Christmas carols were in old times sung to tunes of this

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Si quis in auditu ejus arte jocularia aliquid vocale sonaret, statim illud in divinas laudes effigiabat."— W. Malmes. De Gestis Pontij, col. 1709.

class. The earliest extant with music is to the tune of "Bring us in good ale."
"To carol" meant also to sing a tune whilst others danced.

All nations did not agree with this French estimate of themselves. The old English rendering of the proverb was "The French pipe," in allusion to their facility in executing vocal passages, and this seems still to be both characteristic and just. Pietro Arone took up the cudgels for the Italians in his Lucidario in Musica, and attributed the proverb to spite and malevolence, but it is still characteristic, in that tremulousness which many Italian singers intend as an ornament but carry to excess. The Germans, no doubt, thought it equally malevolent to them, although one of their writers (Jerom Turler), admits its justice when applied to "some parts" of Germany.

The name of "Old England," dates from the cival war between Charles the First and his parliament. Its first use in print seems to date from a pamphlet published in 1641—just twenty-one years after the name of our colony of North Virginia had been changed to New England. Before that time the usual expressions were "Fair England" when applied only to the country, and "Merry England," when to both country and people. During the reign of puritanism England could no longer be appropriately called merry, and at last the national character became affected by that taint. The puritans decried maypoles as abominations; the festivities of harvest home, (especially the figure of Ceres carried in the hock cart,) were fearful idolatry; and dancing on the village green in summer evenings, was "galloping the broad way to hell." Although a violent revulsion of public feeling ensued on the accession of Charles the Second, yet, much of this active heat expended itself after a time, and the puritan element remained unextinguished.

Before the time of Cromwell every parish in town or country, if moderately populous, had its resident musicians, called waits, who were sometimes dignified by the name of minstrels. As there was scarcely a sport or festivity unaccompanied by music, these men found profitable employment. The evening dances on the village green were from Whitsuntide to Lammas day. Harvest was then close at hand, and with harvest came rejoicings from farm to farm. Christmas furnished its indoor amusements and dances; Easter its holiday gambols. Musicians were in request at Fairs, and especially so on famous old May Day, which, corresponding with our 13th of May, was more genial to outdoor amusement than May Day according to the new style. In the intervals the waits found employment at roadside inns, where they were engaged to do honour to visitors. Fynes Moryson says that it was a custom peculiar to England that, if a gentleman had company at a highway inu, he would be offered music (which he might freely take or refuse), and if solitary, the musicians would give him the good day with music in the morning. (Itinerary, folio, 1617, book iii. p. 151.) Now, on the contrary, owing to an absurd piece of over-legislation in George the Second's time, the innkeeper cannot

have musicians to sing or play in his house without the trouble and expense of annual application for license.

We now give too little to relaxation, and the overtaxing of mental and bodily energies is not without its effect upon the national character. "All work and no play," proverbially "makes Jack a dull boy."

The airs in the following volume belong in a greater proportion to "Merry" than to "Old" England, and we are rarely left to such doubtful evidence as tradition for proof of their antiquity. In numerous cases the original printed copies of the ballads are still to be found in public libraries, while the tunes may also be traced in some early collection of Country Dances. The sources from which all have been derived may be seen in Popular Music of the Olden Time.

Some of the old ballads are so long that few would now venture to sing them. These have been compressed, and some have been partially or entirely rewritten, by Mr. Oxenford. In other cases, the old words were thought unsuitable to the drawing-room, and new songs have been substituted. In writing these Mr. Oxenford has admirably retained the character suggested by the airs. The accompaniments are entirely new, and Mr. Macfarren's name will be a sufficient guarantee for their excellence and appropriateness. For the versions of the airs and their barring, the writer is alone responsible.

W. CHAPPELL, P.S.A.

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# SUMMER IS A COMING IN.





### MY LITTLE PRETTY ONE.

= 126. AIR FROM A MANUSCRIPT, TIME OF HENRY VIII.





### NOW, ROBIN, LEND TO ME THY BOW.

AIR, BEFORE 1568.





#### THE HUNT IS UP.

AIR, TIME OF HENRY VIII.





### AH! THE SIGHS THAT COME FRO' MY HEART.





### OH! WILLOW, WILLOW!

WORDS AND MUSIC FROM A MANUSCRIPT OF SHAKESPEARE'S TIME.

= 100.

Desdemona's song in Othelle.

Rather slowly, and expressively.











### IT WAS A LOVER AND HIS LASS.

PRINTED IN 1600.





### OH, MISTRESS MINE!

PRINTED IN 1599,





## PHILLIDA FLOUTS ME.

POPULAR BEFORE 1612.



Lightly, gracefully, and quick.





1. Oh, what a plague is love! 1 can not bear it, She will in -constant prove, 1 great-ly
2. I of -ten heard her say, That she lov'd po - sies; In the last month of May 1 gave he





fear it; It so torments my mind, That my heart fail - eth, She wa-vers with the wind, As a ship ro - ses, Cowslips and gil - lythow'rs And the sweet li - ly. I got to deck the bow'rs Of my dear







## A LEGEND OF THE AVON.





## THE THREE RAVENS.





## TO THE MAYPOLE HASTE AWAY.

TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.





## THE BAILIFF'S DAUGHTER OF ISLINGTON.

TUNE FROM TRADITION.





#### DRIVE THE COLD WINTER AWAY.

AN OLD CHRISTMAS SONG.







## SINCE FIRST I SAW YOUR FACE.

COMPOSED BY FORD, AND PRINTED IN 1607.





## CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR.

BEFORE 1580.





## THE BLIND BEGGAR'S DAUGHTER OF BETHNAL GREEN.

(Part the First.)





## A POOR BEGGAR'S DAUGHTER ONCE DWELT ON A GREEN.

(Second Part of the Ballad, "The Blind Beggar's Daughter.")





## YOU GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND.

DATE, ABOUT 1630.





# SWEET DAY, SO COOL, SO CALM, SO BRIGHT.











## ONCE I LOV'D A MAIDEN FAIR.





#### THE SPANISH LADY'S LOVE,

SIXTEENTH CENTURY.









## TO CARRY THE MILKING PAIL.

TUNE OF SHAKESPEARE'S TIME.



Pastoral style and gracefully.











## IN SAD AND ASHY WEEDS.

[This old ballad was the solace of Anne, Coun'ess of Arundel, on the death of the Earl, her husband, who died a prisoner in the Tower of London, in 1595. A copy, in the handwriting of the Countess, is among the Howard papers in the Herald's College.]





# COLD'S THE WIND AND WET'S THE RAIN

ABOUT 1600.





PHILLIS ON THE NEW-MADE HAY. TIME OF CHARLES I. = 116.Smoothly, and in moderate time. Words altered. the new-made hay, hea - vy slum-bers lay, Was - ting all the - lan-cho - ly dream - ing: beam - ing." Fic - kle Da - mon, so she thought. Blue-eyed Daphne's cot-tage sought, And a store of



## AUTUMN'S GOLDEN LEAF.

TUNE, "THE GATHERING OF THE PEASCODS"-ABOUT 1600.





## THE BRITISH GRENADIERS.

FOUNDED ON AN AIR OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.





#### I LIVE NOT WHERE I LOVE.

TUNE FROM TRADITION.





## WHEN AUTUMN SKIES ARE BLUE.

AIR, "JOAN'S ALE IS NEW"-SIXTEENTH CENTURY.





## THE SPRING IS COMING.

TUNE, "THE SPRING'S A COMING," ABOUT 1700, PROBABLY EARLIER.





## LITTLE MUSGRAVE AND LADY BARNARD.





## FAIR HEBE.

FUNE OF "PRETTY POLLY OLIVER."





## THE ROAST BEEF OF OLD ENGLAND.

TUNE BY LEVERIDGE, ABOUT 1728.





## THE QUEEN OF MAY.

вегоке 1650.





## COME, COMPANIONS, JOIN YOUR VOICES.

(DULCE DOMUM.)





## OH, COME YOU FROM NEWCASTLE.

SIXTEENTH CENTURY.





#### KING JOHN AND THE ABBOT.

TUNE OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.





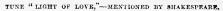
## DEAR KITTY.

THE AIR POPULAR BEFORE 1605.





# LIGHT OF LOVE.







# COLD AND RAW'S THE NIGHT WITHOUT.

TUNE OF "STINGO,"-BEFORE 1640.





## "ROUSE THEE, YOUNG KNIGHT."

TUNE, "THE HUNTER IN HIS CAREER, -ABOUT 1600.





### THE BEGGAR BOY.

TUNE, "THE BEGGAR BOY,"-BEFORE 1620.





# EARLY ONE MORNING.

#### TRADITIONAL.







# DRINK TO ME ONLY WITH THINE EYES.





# "COME LASSES AND LADS."







### I AM CALLED THE JOVIAL MILLER.





### MY DEAREST LOVE, WHY WILT THOU ASK!

TUNE, "I'LL NEVER LOVE THEE MORE,"-ABOUT 1610.





### THE NAME OF MY TRUE LOVE,

TUNE, "TOM TINKER'S MY TRUE LOVE,"-SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.





# A SOLDIER SHOULD BE JOLLY.





#### NORTHERN NANCY.





### THERE WAS A SIMPLE MAIDEN.

TUNE, "THE NOBLE SHIRVE," -- SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.





# OH! THE OAK, AND THE ASH, AND THE BONNY IVY TREE.

THE AIR POPULAR BEFORE 1650, =100.Old Bullad abbreviated by J. Ovenford Rather slowly, and with expression. pp A North Country maid up to London had stray'd, Although with her na - ture it did not agree, She 2. Of parks they may talk Where its fashion to walk, I'll own the gay throng is a wonderful sight, But wept and she sigh'd, And she bit-ter - ly cried, "I wish once a - gain in the North I could be. Oh! the nought have I seen Like the Westmoreland green, Where all of and anc'd from the morning till night. Oh! &c. pp ritard. coun-try. oak, and the ash, and the bonny i-vy tree, They flou - rish at home in my ow a a tempo, colla parte.



### WHEN THE KING ENJOYS HIS OWN AGAIN.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.







#### LOVE WILL FIND OUT THE WAY

EARLY IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.







# BARBARA ALLEN.

TUNE FROM TRADITION.





#### BLACK-EYED SUSAN.





# UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE.

TUNE AND WORDS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.





# FAIRIES, HASTE, THE SUMMER MOON IS BRIGHT.





# LOVE ME LITTLE, LOVE ME LONG.





#### NOUGHT I PRIZE BEYOND HER.





#### THERE WAS AN OLD FELLOW AT WALTHAM CROSS.

TUNE OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

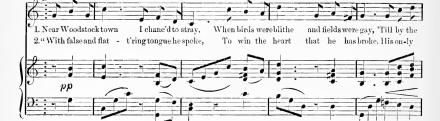




# NEAR WOODSTOCK TOWN TUNE, "THE OXFORDSHIRE TRAGEDY,"-PROBABLY AN ANCIENT MINSTREL TUNE,

=66. Plaintively. Written on a fragment of the old ba'lad by J. Oxenford.













#### I SIT UPON THE MOUNTAIN SIDE.





#### OH, LIST TO ME, MY ONLY LOVE.

TUNE, "THE FRIAR IN THE WELL,"-SIXTEENTH CENTURY = 60.Rather slowly, and gracefully. Words by J. Oxenford. "Oh! list to me, my on - ly love, No star shines a-bove, With 2. "You'll hear your doat-ing trou - ba-dour; Cold he'll catch, I'm sure; By "Oh, has - ten! fas - ter falls the rain:  $D_0$ sing in vain? Thy wel - come ray my to cheer, While  $\Gamma$ m sight war - bling here. This yon - der moon, my heart is thine: Ah! no moon will shine. The heart is mar - ble,  $\Gamma_{\rm m}$ a-fraid, OrPray thon'rt deaf. sweet maid. dis night, so damp and chill. mine, would kill: love. less warm than skv with clouds is The rain driz - zle fast; ver-cast; be - gins to speak word to my woe, Orhome bed once I'll go,



#### THE PARTING





#### BENEATH THE WILLOW TREE.

TUNE, "I SOW'D THE SEEDS OF LOVE,"-TRADITIONAL.



Plaintively, and in moderate time.











### CAN LOVE BE CONTROLLED BY ADVICE!

авоит 1680.





#### IN THE SPRING-TIME OF THE YEAR.

TUNE, "THE POACHER," -TRADITIONAL.



\* By permission of Messrs, D'Almane and Co.



#### THE DUSKY NIGHT RIDES DOWN THE SKY.

TUNE, ABOUT 1750.  $\cdot = 100.$ Words by Fielding, 1733. Gaily. 1. The dus - ky night rides down the sky, And ush - ers in the morn; The hounds all join in her husband throws Herarms to make him stay-"My dear! itrains, 2. The wife a-round 3. The uncavern'd fox like lightning tiles, His cun-ning's all a - wake, To gain the race he glo-rious cry; The hounds all join glorious cry, The huntsman winds his horn, The hails, it blows; My dear! it rains, hails, it blows, You can - not hunt to - day, You ea-ger tries, To gain. the race he ea - ger tries, His for - feit life the stake, His Then a hunt-ing we will go, huntsman winds his horn; a hunt-ing we will go, a hunt-ing we will can-nothunt to-day." But a hunt-ing we will go, a hunt-ing we will go, a hunt-ing we will the stake. When a hunt-ing we do go, a hunt-ing we do go. a hunt-ing we do



LET ME LIST TO THE BILLOWS. TUNE, " ADMIRAL BENROW." = 100.Rather slowly. Words by John Oxenford, 1. Let me list to the bil - lows as thev break . . at my feet. For the 2. Hark! they bring me glad ti - dings youth far from a way, And the 3. 'Mid the moon's scat - ter'd sil - ver still the spot can Where the see, ne'er to me song of the min-strel was sweet As the wild 80 rug ged spar - kle ofplea-sure I be-hold in their spray, Rol-ling for - ward to ship va-nish'd that has borne him from But I'll weep not, I'llslow me; mu - sic I can hear in their When my heart is de voice, greet me-See! ex - ul ting they And my love's mes come, sage sigh not,it were sense When the waves less to mourn tell me



MY LODGING IS ON THE COLD GROUND. SUNG BY MARY DAVIS, BEFORE KING CHARLES II., IN SIR W. DAVENANT'S PLAY, "THE BIVALS," 1668. Slowly and gracefully. very hard is my But My lod - ging is cold ground, And hard, that which grieves dear. more, still turn, love, love,



#### OH, WEEL MAY THE KEEL ROW.





#### CEASE. RUDE BOREAS.





### THERE WAS A JOLLY MILLER ONCE.





## GOLDEN SLUMBERS KISS YOUR EYES.

#### A LULLABY OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.





#### WHAT IF A DAY, A MONTH, OR A YEAR.





#### SALLY IN OUR ALLEY.

TUNE, ABOUT 1620.





### THE VICAR OF BRAY.

TUNE, SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.





# MAY HE WHO WEARS A SULKY FACE.





#### TILL MARY WON MY HEART.

TUNE, "THERE WAS A PREITY LASS,"-ABOUT 1700.





# AMID THE NEW-MOWN HAY.









# THE GIRL I'VE LEFT BEHIND ME.

ENGLISH MARCH-EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.





### DOROTHY'S A BUXOM LASS.

TUNE, "NEAR THE TOWN OF TAUNTON DEAN."





# PAST THREE O'CLOCK !-- [THE LONDON WAITS.]

TUNE, "LONDON WAITS,"-REIGN OF CHARLES II. =116.Smoothly, and rather slowly. Words by J. Ovenford, retaining the old burden. Past three o' clock !- Young maidens are sleep - ing, Scarcely they close their bright beaming eyes; 2. Past three o' clock !- Brave warriors are sleep - ing, Me - na-cing foes in dreams they de-spise: May our soft num-bers cheer you, but break not In - no - cent slum-bers-Hear us, but wake not . Ban-ners wave proud-ly while we are sing-ing, Trumpets are loud - ly Through the air ring-ing: Past three o' clock, and a cold fros-ty morn-ing! Past three o'clock!--Good morrow, Masters all!





# OLD KING COLE.





# AT HER COTTAGE DOOR MARY.





### DOWN AMONG THE DEAD MEN.

SONG OF QUEEN ANNE'S REIGN.





YES, TO-MORROW MY LOVE. TUNE, "JOAN'S PLACKET IS TORN,"-SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. Slowly and expressively. Words by J. Oxenford. Yes, to morrow my love will a-gain be here, And the sun of his smile will my cot-tage cheer, And I feel that my heart is a bea-ting, beating: Is it with pleasure, or is't with fear? Do not one moment your course delay! Break now, awake now, fair Morning, ador-ning The



# SEND ME A LOVER, ST. VALENTINE!





#### AS DOWN IN THE MEADOWS.





# MY SECRET I WILL SAFELY KEEP.

TUNE BY HENRY CARRY, -ABOUT 1720.





# THE LEATHER BOTTÉL.

TUNE, TRADITIONAL.





Then what do you say of those flaggons fine? Oh, they shall have no praise of mine! For when a lord is about to dine, And sends them to be fill'd with wine, The man with the flaggon doth run away, Because it is silver most gallant and gay. So, I hope, &c.

6.
A leather bottel we know is good,
Far better than glasses or cans of wood,
For when a man's at work in the field,
Your glasses and pots no comfort will yield,
But a good leather bottle standing by,
Will raise his spirits whenever he's dry.

So, I hope, &c.

At noon the hay-makers sit them down, To drink from their bottles of ale nnt-brown; In summer, too, when the weather is warm, A good bottle-full will do them no harm. Then the lads and lasses begin to tattle, But what would they do without this bottle? So, I hope, &c.

There's never a lord, or earl, or knight, But in this bottle doth take delight, For when he's hunting the fox or deer, He oft doth wish for a bottle of beer; Likewise the man that works in the wood, A bottle of beer will oft do him good. So, I hope, &c.

And when the bottle at last grows old, And will good liquor no longer hold, Out of the sides you may make a clout To mend your shoes when they're worn out; Or take and hang it up on a pin, Twill serve to put hinges and odd things in, So, I hope, &c.

# PRINCE CHARLES STUART'S FAREWELL TO MANCHESTER IN 1745.





# OH! FOR A HUSBAND.





### ROW, GALLANT COMRADES, ROW.

TUNE, " ROW WELL, YE MARINERS," -- SIXTEENTH CENTURY,





### THERE WAS A MAID THE OTHER DAY.

TUNE, " WATKIN'S ALE,"-SIXTEENTH CENTURY.





### OH, DEAR! WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?

TUNE AND WORDS, EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.





### SAW YOU, MY FATHER!

TUNE, EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.





### THE MERMAID.

AN OLD SEA SONG.

= 144

Right jovially, and moderately fast.





# FROM OBERON IN FAIRY LAND.

TUNE OF "DULCINA,"-SIXTEENTH CENTURY.









#### THE CARMAN'S WHISTLE.

TUNE, "THE CARMAN'S WHISTLE,"-SIXTEENTH CENTURY.





### THE "BLUE BELL" OF SCOTLAND.

OLD ENGLISH BORDER SONG.





### LOVELY NANCY.

TUNE, ABOUT 1723.





## THE WELL OF ST. KEYNE.

OLD CORNISH AIR.





### IN HIS BARQUE MERRILY.

TUNE, "THE BOATMAN,"-POPULAR IN AND AFTER 1650.





# HERE'S A TRUCE TO IDLE SORROW.





### TAKE ME TO THE NORTH COUNTRY.







#### UNDER THE ROSE.





### THE MOON SHALL BE IN DARKNESS.

TUNE, "THE MOON SHALL BE IN DARKNESS,"-TRADITIONAL.





# WHY, BROTHER SOLDIERS, WHY:

TUNE, 'WHY, SOLDERS, WHY?"-POPULAR BEFORE 1729.





# TO-NIGHT LET'S JOVIAL BE.

TUNE, "HEY, BOYS, UP CO WE,"-1641.





# FAREWELL AND ADIEU TO YOU ALL, SPANISH LADIES!

OLD SEA SONG, "FAREWELL, SPANISH LADIES,"-TRADITIONAL.





#### I WANDERED THROUGH THE GARDEN.

TUNE, "CUPID'S GARDEN,"-TRADITIONAL.





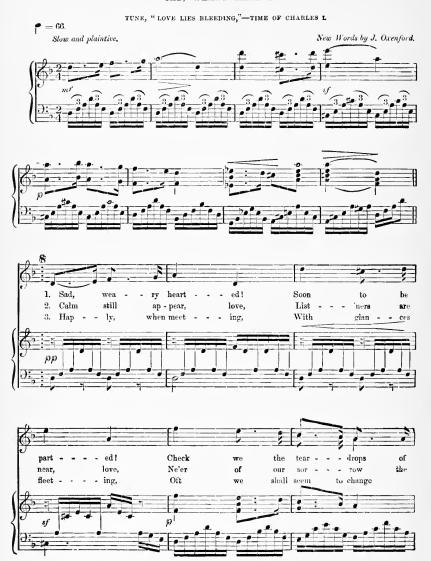
#### GREAT ORPHEUS WAS A FIDDLER BOLD.

TUNE, "STINGO; OR, OIL OF BARLEY,"-POPULAR BEFORE 1650.





#### SAD, WEARY HEARTED!





#### BEGONE, DULL CARE!





### SECOND VOLUME OF

# OLD ENGLISH DITTIES,

SELECTED FROM

## W. CHAPPELL'S

## "Popular Music of the Olden Time."

THE LONG BALLADS COMPRESSED, AND OCCASIONALLY NEW WORDS WRITTEN,

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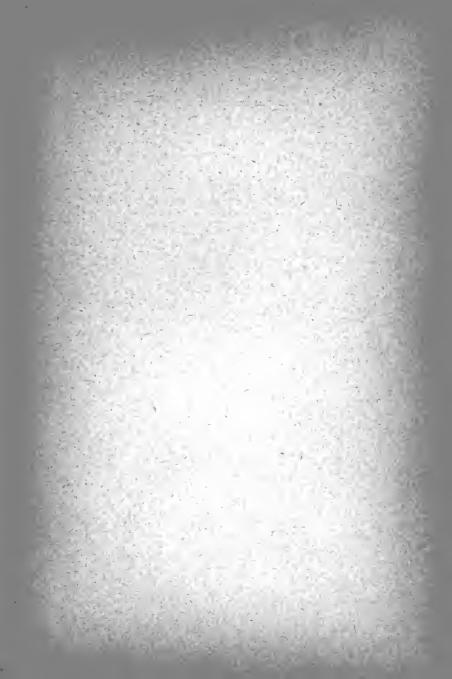
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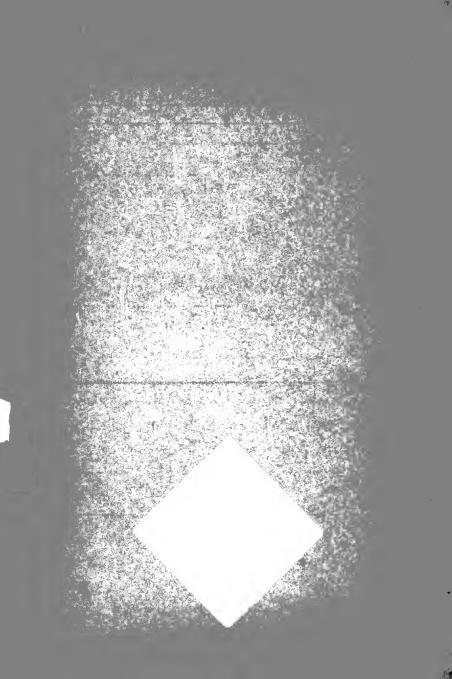
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