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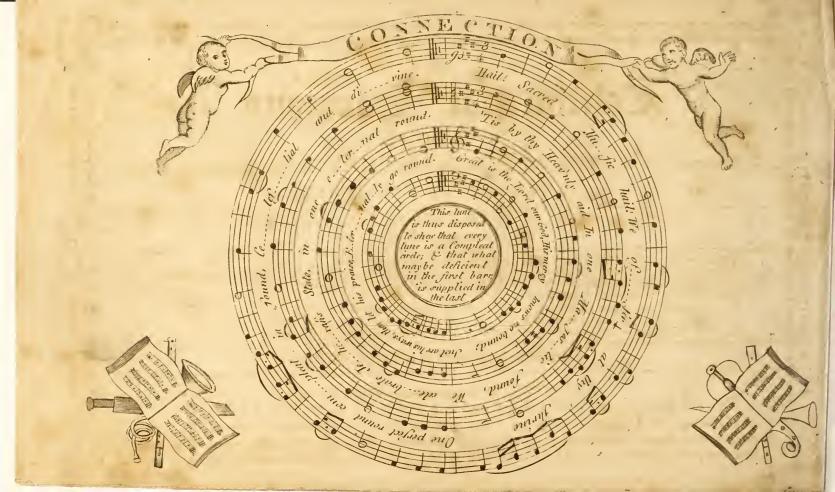






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# Continental Harmony,

CONTAINING,

A Number of ANTHEMS, FUGES, and CHORUSSES, in feveral Parts.

NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED.

## COMPOSED BY WILLIAM BILLINGS,

AUTHOR of various Music Books.

Pfalm lxxxvii. 7. As well the Singers as the Players on instruments shall be there.

Pfalm lxviii. 25. The Singers went before, the Players on instruments sollowed after, amongst them were the Damsels.

Luke xix. 40. I tell you that if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

Rev. xix. 3. And again they said Alleluia.

Come let us fing unto the Lord, And praise his name with one accord, In this defign one chorus raise; From east to west his praise proclaim, From pole to pole extol his fame, The sky shall echo back his praise.

# Published according to Ad of Congress.

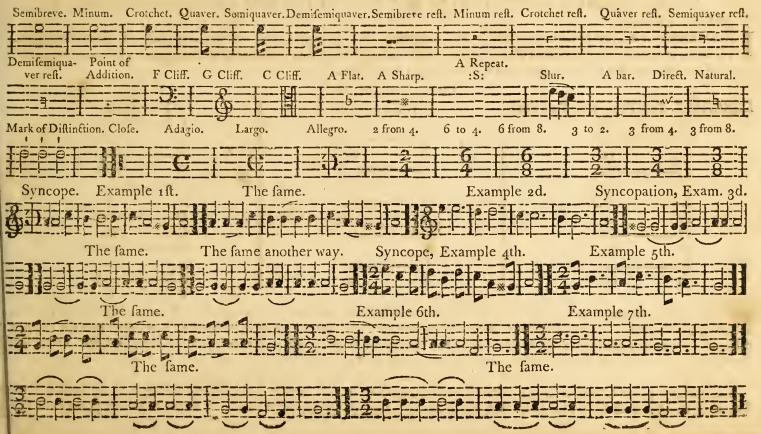
PRINTED, Typegraphically, at BOSTON,

BY ISAIAH THOMAS and EBENEZER T. ANDREWS.

Sold at their Bookstore, No. 45, Newbury Street; by said Thomas in Worcester; and by the Booksellers in Boston, and elsewhere.—1794.

The second secon The state of the s - The Frankling Little House is a line of the

# Musical Characters.



To the several Teachers of M U S I C, in this and the adjacent States.

My BRETHREN,

I HAVE drawn up the rules of practical music, as concise as the nature of the thing would admit, and have inserted them in course, as they should be taught; I recommend it to you to teach after the manner they are inserted; it being the best method I have yet found, from long experience.

	THE GAMUT.	
LESSON I. For TENOR or TREBLE.	For Counter.	For Bass.
G fol.	A la.	C——fa.
F——fa.	. G	B mi.
E la.	F fa.	Ala.
D———fol.	E——la.	G fol.
C fa.	D fol.	F——ta.
B ——mi.	Cfa.	E la.
A la.	B mi.	D——lol.
Gfol.	A——la.	C ta.
F fa.	G fol.	B———mi.
E——la.	F——fa.	A ia.
D fol.	E la.	G—lol.
		F fa.

Observe, that from E to F, and from B to C, are half notes ascending, and from F to E, and from C to B, descending; so that an octave consists of five whole, and two half notes. Likewise be very careful to make a proper distinction between the sound of B mi, and C sa; for many singers, who have not curious ears, are apt to strike B mi, as high as C sa, in sharp keyed tunes, which ruins the composition.

LESSON II. On TRANSPOSITION.

The natural place for mi is in B; but if B be flat, mi is in E; if B and E be flat mi is in A; if B E and A be flat, mi is in D; if B E A and D be flat, mi is in G. If F be flarp, mi is in F; if F and C be flarp, mi is in C;

if F C and G be sharp, mi is in G; if F C G and D be sharp, mi is in D. And when you have found mi in any of these variations, the notes above are fa, sol, la, fa sol, la, and then comes mi again; and the notes below mi, are la, sol, fa, la, sol, fa, and then comes mi again.

### LESSON III. ON CLIFFS.

The bass cliff is always fixed on the upper line but one; it gives the line it stands upon the name of F. The tenor cliff is fixed in my work on the lowest line but one; it gives the line it stands upon the name of G; and is it be removed to any other line, it removes G with it. The counter cliff stands upon the middle line, in my work, but if it is removed to any other line, it gives the line it stands upon the name of C. The treble cliff is fixed on the lower line but one, and gives the line it stands upon the name of G. This cliff is never removed, but stands fixed an octave above the tenor.

N. B. According to these cliffs, a note on the middle line in the tenor, is a fixth above a note on the middle line of the bass; a note on the middle line of the treble, is a thirteenth above the middle line of the bass, and an eighth above the middle line of the tenor; a note on the middle line of the counter, is a seventh above the middle line of the bass, and one note above the middle line of the tenor, and a seventh below the middle line of the treble.

To find the octave to any found, add feven to it, viz. The octave to a third, is a tenth, and the octave to a

fourth, is an eleventh, &c. &c.

LESSON IV. On CHARAGTERS. For the Notes, Rests and other Characters, see page 3.

THE names of the fix musical notes now in use, and how they are proportioned from each other, together with

their respective rests.

1st. The Semibreve, which is the longest note now in use, though formerly the shortest; this note when set in the adagio mood, is to be sounded sour seconds, or as long as sour vibrations of the pendulum, which is 39½ inches long. This is the measure note, and guideth all the rest; it is in shape something like the letter O.

2d. The Minum is but half the length of the semibreve, having a tail to it. 3d. The Crotchet is but half the length of the minum, having a black head.

4th. The Quaver is but half the length of the crotchet, having the tail turned up at the end, except there are two or three, or more together, and then one stroke serves to tie them all.

5th. The Semiquaver is but half the length of the quaver, having the tail turned up with two strokes. 6th.

6th. The Demisemiquaver is but half the length of the semiquaver, having the tail turned up with three strokes; this is the shortest note now in use.

A Rest is a note of silence, which signifies that you must rest, or keep silence as long as you would be sounding one of the notes it is intended to represent. The rest which is set to the semibreve should be called a bar rest, be-

cause it is used to fill an empty bar in all moods of time.

A Prick of Perfection is not well named in my opinion, because a note may be perfect without it; a Point of Addition is the best name; because it adds one third to the time of any note; for a pointed semipreve contains three minumes, a pointed minum contains three crotchets, a pointed crotchet contains three quavers, a pointed quaver contains three semiquavers, and a pointed semiquaver contains three demissional three demissions.

### LESSON V. On the second Lesson of CHARACTERS.

1st. A Flat serves to fink a note half a tone lower than it was before, and flats set at the beginning serve to flat all notes that are inserted on that line or space, unless contradicted by an accidental sharp or natural. Likewise they are used to drive mi, from one place to another.

2. A Sharp serves to raise a note half a tone higher than it was before, and sharps set at the beginning of the staff ferve to sharp all notes which occur on that line or space, unless contradicted by an accidental stat or natural. They

are also used to draw mi from one place to another.

3d. A Repeat is to direct the performer, that such a part is to be repeated over again, that is, you must look back to the first repeat, and perform all the notes that are between the two repeats over again; it is also used in canons to direct the following parts to fall in at such notes as it is placed over.

4th. A Slur is in form like a bow, drawn over, or under the heads of two, three, or more notes, when they are

to be fung to but one fyllable.

5th. A Bar is to divide the time in music, according to the mood in which the tune is set; it is also used to direct the performers in beating time; for the hand must be always falling in the first part of a bar, and rising in the last part, both in common and triple time; it is also intended to shew where the accents fall, which are always in the first and third part of the bar, in common time, and in the first part of the bar in triple time.

6th. A Direct is placed at the end of the flaff, to direct the performer to the place of the first note in the next staff.

7th. A Natural is a mark of restoration, which being set before any note that was made flat, or snarp, at the beginning, restores it to its former natural tone; but not to its natural name, as many have imagined, unless it is set at the beginning of a strain, which was made flat, or sharp, and then it restores it to its former natural key.

8th. A Mark of Distinction is set over a note, when it is to be struck distinct and emphatic, without using the grace

of transition.

N. B. This character, when properly applied and rightly performed, is very majestic.

9th. A close is made up of three, four or more bars, and always set at the end of a tune; it signifies a conclusion.

# L E S S O N VI. An Explanation of the several Moods of Time.

THE first, or slowest mood of time, is called Adagio, each bar containing to the amount of one semibreve: four seconds of time are required to perform each bar; I recommend crotchet beating in this mood, performed in the following manner, viz. first strike the ends of the fingers, secondly, the heel of the hand, then thirdly, raise your hand a little and shut it up, and fourthly, raise your hand still higher and throw it open at the same time. These motions are called two down and two up, or crotchet beating. A pendulum to beat crotchets in this mood should be thirtynine inches and two tenths.

The second mood is called Largo, which is in proportion to the adagio as 5 is to 4. You may beat this two several ways, either once down and once up, in every bar, which is called minum beating, or twice down and twice up, which is called crotchet beating; the same way you beat the adagio. Where the tune consists chiefly of minums, I recommend minum beating; but where it is made up of less notes, I recommend crotchet beating: the length of the pendulum to beat minums in this mood, must be seven feet, sour inches and two tenths; and the pendulum to beat crotchets, must be twenty-two inches and one twentieth of an inch.\*

\* And here it may not be amifs to inform you, how the length of pendulums are calculated; take this inftance, suppose a pendulum of thirty-nine inches and two tenths, will vibrate in the time of a second, then divide 39 \frac{7}{10} by four, and it will give you the length of a pendulum that will vibrate twice as quick; and multiply thirty-nine \frac{2}{10} by 4, and it will give the length of a pendulum that will vibrate twice as show. Make a pendulum of common thread well waxed, and instead of a bullet take a piece of heavy wood turned perfectly round, about the bigness of a pullet's egg, and rub them over, either with chalk, paint or white-wash, so that they may be seen plainly by candle-light.

N. B. When I think it adviseable to beat largo in minum beating, I write "minum beating," over the top of the

tune, and where these words are not wrote, you may beat crotchet beating.

The third mood is called Allegro, it is as quick again as adagio, so that minums are sung to the time of seconds. This is performed in minum beating, viz. one down and one up; the pendulum to beat minums must be thirty-nine inches and two tenths.

The fourth mood is called Two from Four, marked thus,  $\frac{2}{4}$ , each bar containing two crotchets; a crotchet is performed in the time of half a fecond; this is performed in crotchet beating, viz. one down and one up. The pendulum to beat crotchets in this mood must be nine inches and eight tenths long.

N. B. The four above mentioned moods are all common time.

The next mood is called Six to Four, marked thus,  $\frac{6}{4}$ , each bar containing fix crotchets; three beat down and three up. The pendulum to beat three crotchets in this mood, must be twenty-two inches and one twentieth.

The next mood is called Six from Eight, marked thus, 6/3, each bar containing fix quavers, three beat down and three

up. The pendulum to beat three quavers, in this mood, must be twenty-two inches and one twentieth.

N. B. The two last moods are neither common nor triple time; but compounded of both, and, in my opinion, they

are very beautiful movements.

The next mood is called Three to Two, marked thus,  $\frac{3}{2}$ , each bar containing three minums, two to be beat down and one up; the motions are made after the following manner, viz. let your hand fall; and observe first to strike the ends of your fingers, then secondly the heel of your hand, and thirdly raise your hand up, which finishes the bar: these motions must be made in equal times, not allowing more time to one motion than another. The pendulum that will beat minums in this mood, must be thirty-nine inches and two tenths long.

The next mood is called Three from Four, marked thus, \frac{3}{4}, each bar containing three crotchets, two beat down and

one up. The pendulum to beat crotchets in this mood, must be twenty-two inches and one twentieth long.

The same motion is used in this mood, that was laid down in 3, only quicker, according to the pendulum.

The

The next mood is called three from eight, marked thus  $\frac{3}{8}$ , each bar containing three quavers, two beat down and one up. The pendulum to beat whole bars in this mood must be four feet, two inches, and two tenths of an inch long. The same motion is used for three from eight, as for three from four, only quicker; and in this mood you must make three motions of the hand, for every swing of the pendulum. N. B. This is but an indifferent mood, and almost out of use in vocal music.

N.B. The three last mentioned moods are all in triple time, and the reason why they are called triple, is, because they are three-fold, or measured by threes; for the meaning of the word triple is three-fold: And common time is measured by even numbers, as 2—4—8—16—32—viz. 2 minums, 4 crotchets, 8 quavers, 16 semiquavers, or 32 demissemiquavers, are included in each bar, either of which amounts to but one semibreve: therefore the semibreve is called the measure note; because all moods are measured by it in the following manner, viz. The fourth mood in common time is called two from four, and why is it called so? I answer; because the upper figure implies that there are two notes of some kind included in each bar, and the lower figure informs you how many of the same fort it takes to make one semibreve. And in \frac{3}{3} the upper figure tells you, that there are three notes contained in a bar, and the lower figure will determine them to be quavers; because it takes 8 quavers to make one semibreve.

N. B. This rule will hold good in all moods of time.

Observe, that when you meet with three notes tied together with the figure three over them or under them, you must sound them in the same time you would two of the same fort of notes, without the figure. Note, that this character is in direct opposition to the point of addition; for as that adds one third of the time to the note which is pointed, so this diminishes one third of the time of the notes over which it is placed; therefore I think this characteristic is not the same of the notes over which it is placed; therefore I think this characteristic is not the same of the notes over which it is placed; therefore I think this characteristic is not the same of the notes over which it is placed; therefore I think this characteristic is not the same of the notes over which it is placed; therefore I think this characteristic is not the same of the same of the notes over which it is placed; therefore I think this characteristic is not the same of the same

acter may with much propriety, be called the character of diminution.

Likewise, you will often meet with the figures 1, 2, the figure one standing over one bar, and figure two standing over the next bar, which signifies a repeat; and observe, that in singing that strain, the first time you perform the bar under sigure 1, and omit the bar under sigure 2, and in repeating you perform the bar under sigure 2, and omit the bar under sigure 1, which is so contrived to fill out the bars; for the bar under sigure 1 is not always full, without borrowing a beat, or half a beat, &c. from the sirst bar which is repeated, whereas the bar under sigure 2, is or ought to be full, without borrowing from any other but the sirst bar in the tune, and if the first bar is full, the bar under

figure 2 must be full likewise. Be very careful to strike in proper upon a half beat, but this is much easier obtained

by practice than precept, provided you have an able teacher.

Syncope, fyncopation, or driving notes, either through bars, or through each other, are subjects that have not been sufficiently explained by any writers I have met with; therefore I shall be very particular, and give you several examples, together with their variations and explanations.

Example first. The time is Allegro, and the bar is filled with a minum between two crotchets; you must take half the time of the minum, and carry it back to the first crotchet, and the last half to the last crotchet, and then it

will be equal to two crotchets in each beat.

In the second example the time is Allegro, and the bar is filled with a crotchet before a pointed minum; take half the minum and carry back to the crotchet, which makes one beat; then the last half of the minum, together with the point of addition, completes the last beat.

In example third, you will find a minum in one bar, tied to a point of addition in the next bar, which fignifies that the found of the pointed minum is continued the length of a crotchet into the next bar; but the time which

is occasioned by the point of addition, is to help fill the bar it stands in.

Example fourth is the same in 2 as the first in Allegro.

Example fifth is the same as example second.

Example fixth is the same in \frac{3}{2} as example third in Allegro.

Example feventh is in  $\frac{3}{2}$ , as difficult as any part of syncope; therefore I have given several variations from the example, in which the bar is filled with two pointed minums, which must be divided into three parts, in the sollowing manner, viz. The first minum must be beat with the ends of the fingers; secondly, the point of addition, and the first half of the last minum, must be beat with the heel of the hand; and thirdly, the last half of the last minum, together with the point of addition, must be beat with the hand rising; and in the several variations you must divide the notes into three equal parts, so as to have one minum in each beat: And in all the examples with their variations, you must first inform yourself what particular note goes for one beat, whether minum, crotchet or quaver, and then divide the syncopated note accordingly. As this subject has not been very fairly explained by any of our modern authors, I have great reason to think it is not well understood; I therefore recommend it to all teachers, to insist

very much on this part of practical music; it is a very essential part of their office: And if any who sustain the office of teachers, should not be able to perform this branch of their business by the help of these examples (for their honour and their pupils interest) I advise such semi-teachers to resign their office, and put themselves under some able master, and never presume to commence teachers again, until they thoroughly understand both syncope and syncopation, in all their variations.

N. B. The same examples of syncope and syncopation, which are set down in  $\frac{3}{2}$ , you may have in  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; only observe to substitute minums for semibreves; crotchets for minums; and quavers for crotchets; and in  $\frac{3}{8}$  you must make the

notes as short again as they are in  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

When you meet with two or three notes standing one over the other, they are called chusing notes, and signify that you may sing which you please, or all, if your part has performers enough, and remember that they add not to the time, but to the variety.

### L E S S O N VIII.

THERE are but two natural primitive keys in music, viz. A, the slat key, and C, the sharp key. No tune can be formed rightly and truly, but on one of these two keys, except the mi be transposed by slats or sharps, which bring them to the same effect as the two natural keys. B mi, must always be one note above, or one note below the key; if above, then it is a slat key; and if below, then it is a sharp key. But to speak more simply, if the last note in the bass, which is the key note, is named so, then it is a sharp key, and if la, then it is a slat key; and observe, that it cannot end properly with mi or sol.

N. B. It is very effential that these two keys should be well understood; they must be strictly enquired into by all musical practitioners; for without a good understanding of their different natures, no person can be a judge of music. The different effects they have upon people of different constitutions, are surprizing, as well as diverting. As music is said to cure several disorders, if I was to undertake for the patients, I should chuse rather to inject these two keys into their ears, to operate on their auditory, than to prescribe after the common custom of Physicians.

Chorifters must always remember to set flat keyed tunes to welancholy words, and sharp keyed tunes to

cheerful words.

# 

# A Commentary on the preceding Rules; by way of Dialogue, between Master and Scholar.

Scholar. SIR, I have for some time past been wishing for a favourable opportunity to be better instructed by you; I have read over your rules, and although I think that they are very explicit, yet I confess I am not so well versed in the fundamental parts of music as I wish to be; therefore (if it be not intruding too far upon your patience) I should be very glad to ask you some questions, and I doubt not but your answers will be gratefully accepted by many of your attentive readers, and in a particular manner by your inquisitive Pupil.

Master. It gives me great pleasure to see you so desirous of being better informed, and I can truly say, I never am happier than when I am communicating happiness to others; you may be assured your proposal is so far from being an intrusion, that it gives me great satisfaction; therefore, without any more presace, you may ask as many

questions as you please, and I will endeavour to answer them as plainly and judiciously as I possibly can.

Scholar. Sir, I thank you, and as I have your approbation, I will begin with the gamut, and so go on, in the order in which you have laid the rules down, for I think I have something to ask upon almost every chapter.

Master. I like your method of beginning, and as we have agreed upon the manner, let us come to the matter

in hand without any further ceremony.

Scholar. Sir, I should be glad to know how long the Gamut has been invented, and who was the first inventor? Master. The first invention is attributed to several Grecians; but the form in which the scale now stands, is said to have been projected between 7 and 800 years ago, by Guido Arctinus, a Monk; whose name deserves to be recorded in the annals of same, in capitals of gold: and here I think it worthy of remark, that though this invention of Guido's can never be sufficiently admired, yet it appears from history, that he did not see its extensive use in composition; and as it is said the letters of the alphabet (by which are expressed all words in nature) were handed down to Moses, the great Lawgiver of Israel, by God himself, I think we may with equal propriety say, that it is probable that Guido was inspired with this invention; by Him, who is the Author of harmony itself.

Scholar.

Scholar. Sir, if the scale of music was invented but about 700 years ago, how is it supposed the Royal Psalmist, King David, and his celebrated choir of musicians (both vocal and instrumental) performed by rule or rote?

Master. As it is not in my power to give a positive answer to your question, perhaps it may not be a satisfactory one: but however it is rational to suppose, that King David and his choir, had the benefit of a certain rule or form, which was to them, both communicative and intelligible; and there is a passage in his life which both favours and strengthens this supposition; you may find it recorded in the first book of Chronicles, 15th chap, and 22d verse. And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song; he instructed about the song, because he was skilful. I think this circumstance amounts almost to a demonstration; for it would be absurd to suppose that Chenaniah should be able to instruct so great a number, as we may reasonably conjecture, or gather from scripture, would be under his immediate inspection, or tuition, without a certain form or method, so as to make the performers exactly correspond with each other both in time and sound; therefore I think it is more than probable, that Guido by some means or other availed himself of King David's Scale,\* and by making some sew alterations and amendments, or it may be by climbing a few steps higher on a ladder of king David's raising, he (in spite of the royal author) has unjustly taken all the glory of the sirst invention to himself. But as this is a matter of mere conjecture, or dry speculation, we must be content to leave it, where we found it, and proceed to something more authentic.

Scholar. Sir, is it absolutely necessary for B mi to be transposed so often as I see it i in your explanation? I

think you say there are but seven letters, and yet there fourteen removes for B mi.

Master. Your remark upon that is very just; for as there are but seven letters, so there are but six removes, viz. B slat, B and E slat, B E and A slat, and F sharp, F and C sharp, and F C and G sharp, these are the six removes for B mi, which, together with B mi natural, take up the seven letters; for if you add another slat, or sharp, it will only be going over the same again; as for instance, if B E A and D be slat, mi is in G, which is the same as F C

and

I would not be understood, by the candid reader, to be guilty of so great a piece of absurdity as this may appear to be, at the first glance; viz. the attempting to destroy a monument which (in the answer to the preceding question) I was so industrious and solicitous in erecting, to immortalize the name of Guido; so far from that, I think I reflect great honour on Guido, in supposing him capable of improving, or making any addition to a musical scale of King David's invention; the man who, in scripture, is stilled The Lord's anointed, the man after God's own heart, the chief nussian, &c. The daughters of Israel sang by way of congratulation, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands," and by way of simile, thus sing I, "Guido hath doce well, and David hath done better."

and G sharp, so likewise if F C G and D be sharp, mi is in D, which is the same as B E and A slat, so that after three temoves by slats, and three by sharps, the rest are only a different way of expressing the same thing; therefore all the essential difference is in pitching the tune. Take this instance, suppose you have a sharp key tune, with B and E slatted, ending on B; in order to make the voice conform to an instrument, you must not pitch the tune on B natural, but B slat; because a flat inserted at the beginning of the five lines serves to slat all notes that may happen on that line, or space, unless it is contradicted by an accidental sharp, or natural; and all sharps that are placed at the beginning of the five lines, serve to sharp all notes that may happen to be on that line, or space, unless contradicted by an accidental slat, or natural; therefore in order to raise the tune, without removing the notes, you must take off the two slats, and substitute five sharps; that is, F C G D and A must be sharped, which bring Mi into the same place, and raises the tune a semitone higher; for B is now made natural; and if a tune slands too high, which is sharped at the beginning, you may take off the sharps, and substitute as many slats as will bring Mi into the same place; and in so doing, you will sink the tune a semitone lower without removing the notes.

Scholar. Sir, I am obliged to you for being so explicit, and I doubt not but I shall reap the benefit of it; and now, sir, if you please, we will proceed to the next thing in order, viz. the cliffs: pray sir, why are they so called?

Master. The word cliff is much the same as a key, which serves to unlock, or let into a piece of music; for if there was no cliff marked you would be at a loss to know how to begin, and you might suppose it to be either of the three cliffs, and you have two chances to guess wrong, where you have one to guess right.

Scholar. I see the necessity of them, pray, sir, how many cliffs are in use, and what distance are they from each

other?

Master. Three cliffs are as many as I ever knew, viz. the F, the C, and the G cliffs: The F cliff is the lowest; the C cliff is a fifth higher than the F cliff; and the G cliff a fifth higher than the C cliff; unless the G cliff is set to the tenor, and then it is a fourth below the C cliff, and but one note above the F cliff.

Scholar. Are the cliffs always confined to one place?

Master. The F, and G cliffs are generally (and I believe always) confined, viz. the F cliff to the upper line but one in the bass, and the G cliff to the lower line but one in the treble and tenor, but the C cliff is removed, from one

line

line to another, as the composer pleases, and Mr. Williams informs us that the cliff was formerly made use of to transpose B—Mi in the room of flats and sharps.

Scholar. Pray fir, what is the difference between the Medius and Treble?

Master. When a piece of music is set in sour parts, if a woman sings the upper part, it is called a Treble, because it is threefold, or the third octave from the Bass, but if a man sings it, it is called a Medius, or Cantus, because he sings it an octave below a Treble.

Scholar. Which is the best of these two?

Master. It is sometimes set so, as sor one part to be best, and sometimes the other; but in general they are best sung together, viz. if a man sings it as a Medius, and a woman as a Treble, it is then in effect as two parts; so likewise, if a man sing a Tenor with a masculine and a woman with a seminine voice, the Tenor is as sull as two parts, and a tune so sung, (although it has but sour parts) is in effect the same as six. Such a conjunction of masculine and seminine voices is beyond expression, sweet and ravishing, and is esteemed by all good judges to be vastly preserable to any instrument whatever, framed by human \* invention.

Scholar. And is it a matter of indifference which part is fung, either Medius, or Treble?

Master. No, for if one part must be omitted, I chuse it should be the Medius, because oftentimes notes in the Treble which are fifths above the Tenor, or Bass, when sung as a Medius, are converted into sourchs below; an in-

ftance

\*We find it recorded in facred writ, that "Jubal was the Father of all fuch as handled the harp and organ." But who was the father, or rather the former of the human voice it The Lord God Omnipotent it Then furely a greater than Jubal is here; we know that neither Jubal, or any of his fucceffors were ever able to frame an organ, that can diffindly articulate thele words, "Hear my prayer O Lord," or change the key and fay; "Praife the Lord O my foul," furely not. The most curious instrument that ever was constructed, is but found, and found without sense: while man, who is bless and endued with the faculties of speech can alternately sing of mercy and of judgment as duty bids, or occasion may require. The Royal Plainist, who calls upon every thing that hath breath to praise the Lord," has made this very beautiful distinction, where he says, "the Singers went before, the Players on infruments followed after." Here you see the singers took the lead, while the instrumental practitioners humbly followed after. Lord what is man that thou hast thus distinguished him, for thou hast made him but a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and bonour. To return, I think it no great encomium upon the Creator of heaven and earth, to a knowledge his superiority in constructing a vehicle for the conveyance of sounds, which is at once both capable of vociferation and articulation; for indeed I think it not much short of blasshemy, to set up Jubal as a competitor with the Almighty of Heaven. Repent ye Jubalites, less his jealously awake and punish the presumption. "O Lord how manifold are thy works, in wisdom hast thou made them all." Help us O Lord to admire Jubal for thy sake, and adore thee for thine own sake. Then shall we render unto Jubal the things that are Jubal's, and unto God the things which are God's.

stance of which is in that admirable piece (composed by the ingenious Mr. Stephenson) commonly known by the name of the 34th Psalm: where the Tenor and Bass begin in unison upon C, and the Treble on G Sol-re-ut line, which if sung as a Treble is a fifth above the Tenor and Bass, but if sung as a Medius is a fourth below; and also notes which are thirds above, when sung as a Treble, are converted into fixes below, when sung as a Medius, which frustrates the design of the composer; but when they are both sung together, one serves to hide the impersection of the other.

Scholar. Sir, I think you say that rests are notes of silence, which signify that you must rest or keep silence, as long as you would be sounding one of the respective notes to which they belong; but it seems to me this rule does not hold good in a semipreve rest, for in some moods of time, it contains more, and in some other, it contains less than

a semibreve. I should be glad if you would set that matter right.

Master. This would be more properly called a bar rest, which is sometimes longer, and sometimes shorter, according to the variation of the time, for it will fill an empty bar in any mood of time; so that in  $\frac{3}{2}$  it is half as long as a semibreve, and in  $\frac{3}{4}$  it is but just half as long as a semibreve; but for the suture, I advise you to call it a bar rest; because it is not always a semibreve rest, but in every mood of time, it is used as a bar rest.

Scholar. Sir, I do not well understand the true intent of a Hold; for Mr. Arnold saith, that a note under a Hold must be holden something longer than the time it contains, and Mr. Tansur, does not say positively that it must, but that it may be holden longer than the note contains, if the performer please; he tells us that the French call it

a Surprize.

Master. And in my opinion, it it very rightly named; for it is a matter of very great surprize to me, that any author should give license, and such room for dispute, as may (and to my certain knowledge does daily) arise from such a paltry insignificant thing; which is so far from being any benefit, that I have known a company of musicians to break off in the middle of a piece, because they were divided in sentiment, at the occurrence of a Hold; some were for holding on the sound something longer than the time; some were for stopping to take breath, and perhaps in this party, no two would be agreed about the length of time they purposed to stop, but would begin one after another, as if they were performing a Fuge; others would be for going on without taking any notice of the Hold, which (in my opinion) is much the best way; for certainly if you hold on the note any longer than the time, it is impossi-

ble

ble to beat the Bars; if the bar is full (as it ought to be) without it, there is no room for it, and if the bar be not full without it, certainly it is deficient with it; and if any two should dispute upon it, there is authority for them to contradict each other; for one may say he has a right to observe it, another will say he has a right to omit it, and both will refer each other to the same author, to prove what each one has afferted; so that in fact they are both right, and yet disagree at the same time; therefore I think it so absurd, that it is best to take no notice of it; for my own part I never observe it, and I find upon enquiry that most judges of music are of my opinion.

Scholar. Sir, I have heard many dispute about double Bars; for some authors say that a double Bar dotted on each side signifies a Repeat; and some say, that a double Bar without dots stands for a Repeat; and others say you may stop at a double Bar, in psalm tunes, the time of one or two beats, to take breath, if you please; which sometimes occasions as much confusion, as the occurrence of a Hold; for if I am disposed to stop, and another to

proceed, Ido not see how the time is to be preserved.

Master. I do not see any more rule for stopping at a double Bar, than at a single Bar, unless there be a rest inserted; because it cannot be done without losing time; and in my definition of a double Bar,\* instead of saying, that you may stop to take breath, I should have said that you may stop to catch breath; and even that must be done without losing time; but double Bars in Psalm tunes are placed at the end of the lines, for the benefit of the sight, to direct the performer, where to stop, in congregations, where they keep up that about † practice of reading between the lines, which is so destructive to harmony, and is a work of so much time, that unless the performers have very

\* I never place a double Bar for a repetition of notes, but always make use of an :S: though I sometimes make use of a double Bar doted for a real and saves a great deal of labour and room.

<sup>†</sup> Among the many other absurdaties which always take place, where this contemptible practice of reading between the lines is still kept up, this one may be added, viz. the great tendency it has to shut such an excellent body of divine poetry (as is contained in the psalm and hymn book now in vogue the other hand, there are many who excuse themselves from procuring books in this manner, viz. why should I be at this unnecessary expense, when I am ourselves with perusing it at home, so long as we may, by going to meeting once a week, hear a claster or two gratis. (I consess this remark should have been inserted in the body of the work, but it did not take place in my mind till the pages were full; therefore I plead benefit of neugin, a glorious privit

good memories, they are apt to forget the tune, while the line is reading. I defy the greatest advocates for reading between the lines, to produce one word of scripture for it, and I will leave it to all judicious people, whether it is founded on reason; and certainly, whatever is sounded on neither reason, nor religion, had better be omitted. The practice of retailing the psalm line by line, was introduced so long ago as when very sew people had the knowledge of reading; therefore a reader was substituted for the whole congregation, who was called a Clerk; but at this time when every man is capable of reading for himself; and when we consider the consustion that is caused in the music, by reading the lines, and the destruction it occasions to the sense of the psalm, I can see no reason for keeping up so absurd a practice. Consider further, that according to the practice in country churches, the psalm is three times repeated. First the minister reads it audibly alone, secondly the clerk, or deacon, line by line, and thirdly, it is sung by the congregation; now if we are obliged to repeat the psalm three times over, why are we not obliged to repeat our prayers as often before they would be deemed to be acceptable. I expect this doctrine will meet with some opposition in the country, but let who will concur or diffent, I think myself highly honoured in having the approbation of the pious and learned Dr. Watts\* (that great master of divine song) who in his writings has declared himself to be of the same opinion.

Scholar. Sir, I should be glad to know how many notes were formerly used when a semibreve was the shortest. Master. The ancients made we of three other characters, viz. the Large, the Long, the Breve, and then the Semibreve; but the moderns have struck out the three first, and substituted some lesser notes, viz. the Minum, the Crotchet, the Quaver, &c. therefore the semibreve, which was formerly the shortest note, is (under the present system) become the longest.

Scholar.

<sup>†</sup> Whatever Mr. Clerk, or Mr. Deacon, or Mr. Any-body-elfe, who sustains the office of retailer may think; I shall take the liberty to tell them, I think it a very gross affront upon the audience, for they still go upon the old supposition, viz. the congregation in general cannot read; therefore they practically say, we men of letters, and you ignorant creatures.

Here take the Dostor's own words. "It were to be wished that all congregations and private families would sing as they do in foreign protestant churches, without reading line by line, though the author has done what he could to make the sense complete in every line or two, yet many inconveniences will always attend this unhappy manner of singing," &c. Thus he, the Rev. Dostor, does not tarry upon this subject long enough to enumerate the many inconveniences he seems to refer to. I imagine his reasons for declining the task, were, the great tendency such an undertaking would have to swell each page to a treatise, or rather a volume; therefore we may reasonably conclude that the omission was merely for want of room, not for want of reason.

that they seem to excel each other; \* for when we are just about to declare ourselves in favour of one, the other comes and pleads its own cause so powerfully upon our nerves, that it not only staggers, but sometimes sets us quite beside our purpose; for the one is so sublime, so grand, and so majestic, the other, so soft, so soothing, so pathetic; in fact, the key which comes last seems to be the best, and generally leaves the greatest impression. History gives us an account very similar to this in the Life of Alexander the Great, viz. that while he was sitting at table (calmly and quietly) his musician would strike upon a majestic strain on the sharp key, sounding to arms, to arms, in such animating and commanding sounds, that the king being silled with martial rage, would start from table, draw his sword, and be just about to fally forth, in order to slay his enemies, when none were near him; but even while martial sury had the ascendency over reason, the musicians would change the key, and play such moving and melting airs; viz. Darius is fall'n, fall'n, that the king (being melted into pity) would let his sword drop out of his hand, sit down and weep heartily for him, whose destruction he had been always seeking, and whose ruin he had but just accomplished. For my own curiosity I have been very critical in my observations, and very industrious in my inquiries, and I find that most men who are lovers of music, are affected in the same manner (though not often to such a degree) as Alexander was; but at the same time, if all, who are lovers of music, were to decide the point by vote, I am positive the slat key would have the preference by a great majority.

Scholar. Sir, I do not well understand you, for you have but just given it as your opinion, that the two keys, were

to most men equally pleasing; therefore I should be glad to hear you explain yourself further.

Master. When I spoke in that manner, I meant to confine the observation to the male sex: but you may take it for granted, that the semale part of the creation are much the greatest lovers of music; for I scarcely ever met with one but what was more or less entertained with musical sounds, and I am very positive that nine tenths of them

are

<sup>\*</sup> It is probable that at the first glance, this may appear inconsistent, viz. that any two things opposed should be said to excel each other; but I presume (upon second shought) all who are judges of music will allow that the sharp and the stat key are so excellent each in its own way, that considering them in this light, though so different, they may (without any impropriety) be said to excel each other.

<sup>+</sup> I think it may not be amiss to rank the sharp key (by reason of its majesty and grandeur) in the masculine, and stat key (by reason of its softness and effeminacy) in the seminacy) in the seminacy) in the seminacy in the neuter.

are much more pleased and entertained with a flat, than a sharp air; and I make no doubt, but that the musical world (if upon reading what I have now afferted, they should be induced to make some observations that way) must unavoidably fall into my opinion.

Scholar. Sir, I dont well understand the transposition of keys, or the removal of B-mi from one place to another;

I should be glad to have it explained.

Master. In the first place, Mi is in B, and now the question is, where is B? and that you must find out by the cliffs; and you will find it to be the next letter but two above the F cliff, the next letter below the C cliff, and the next letter but one above the G cliff; fo that for instance, suppose the G cliff, to be on the lower line but one, then B-mi is on the middle line, and in that case you must always suppose it to be there; but if there is a flat \* fet on B. it removes it to E; that is, B is then where E was, when B was on the middle line; and E is removed into the place of some other letter in order to make room for B; for when B removes, all the other letters must move with it, like so many attendants; so that when B is in the place of E, C being always one letter higher, must consequently be in the place of F, and A being one letter below, B must be in the place of D; fo that you fee by placing a flat or B the whole scale is removed either a fourth higher than what it was before; or a fifth below. The next remove is effected by adding another flat, and that must be put on the place where B-mi is, viz. on E, and that removes B into the place of A, and in order to make room for B, A modefully steps down into the place of G; and here you fee the remove is either a fourth above, or a fifth below: the next remove is by placing another flat on A, and that removes B into the place of D, and this remove is either a fourth above, or fifth below; fo you fee placing a flat on the place where B stands, always removes it either a fourth above, or a fifth below. The next remove is by placing a sharp on F, which draws B out of its native place into its own place, which removes it either a fifth above, or a fourth below; the next remove is made by placing a sharp on C, which draws B out of F into C, and this remove is either a fifth aabove, or fourth below; the next remove is made by placing a sharp on G, which draws B out of C into G, and this remove is either a fifth above, or a fourth below: these are all the removes of B-mi: and I would have you observe, that

\* The reason why B is the first letter statted, is, because it is the sharpest tone in the whole octave, and E is the next sharpest tone, and A the next, and so on as they are laid down in the rules of transposition: and the reason why F is first sharped, is, because it is the stattest tone in the whole octave, C is the next, So. For it is a maxim with musicians to flat the sharpest tones first, and sharp the stattest.

that by inferting a flat you drive B either a fourth higher, or a fifth lower; whereas by inferting a sharp, it is just the contrary, for that draws B either a fifth higher, or a fourth lower; and I would have you take notice that flats drive B out of any letter, and sharps draw it into any letter; for instance, suppose B to be on the middle line, then by placing a flat on the middle line, you drive B into E, then by placing a flat on E, you drive B into A, then by placing a sharp on F, you draw B into F, then by placing a sharp on C, you drive B into C, then by placing a sharp on G, you draw B into G; so you see the last sharp always carries B with it, whereas the last slat always drives B from it; and that is the reason why slats are said to drive, and sharps to draw. The Poet expresses it thus:

" By flats the mi is driven round,

"Till forc'd on B to stand its ground.
"By sharps the mi's led through the keys,

" Till brought home to its native place."

You must likewise remember that where Mi is, there is B; for sa, sol, la, mi, are only other names for the letters, but when you pitch a tune by a pitch pipe, you must draw out the pipe to the key note, without paying any regard to transposition, that is, if the key note stands upon the G-sol-re-ut line although G is removed to some other place, by the transposition of B-mi, yet it is always considered as in its native place on a pitch pipe, and so are all the other letters, unless there is a flat or sharp set on the letter the tune is pitched on, which raises it, or lowers it a semitone; thus you see, that no tune can end on any other letter but C, or A, for when B-mi is removed to any other place in the scale, A is always the next letter under it, and C, the next letter above it; and I have told you elsewhere that your tune must always end one note above, or one note below B-mi, which brings the key always into C or A.

Scholar. Sir, I do not see the necessity of transposing B-mi from one place to another, for if the tune must always end on A or C, I do not see any great difference between a tune that is set in its native place and one that is transpos-

ed, and I am fure it would be much easier for the learner if it was always confined to one place.

Master. The transposing of B-mi oftentimes serves to keep the tune more in the compass of the sive lines, than it could possibly be, if B-mi stood in its native place, and likewise gives a variety of airs. For any one who is acquainted

quainted with music will allow that a sharp key tune ending on D, is much more sprightly and expresses a shout better than one which stands on C; so likewise, a slat key tune ending on G is more pensive and melancholy, than one which stands on A, and every letter has its own peculiar air, which air is very much hurt if the tune is not rightly pitched; for instance, if a tune is set on A natural, and in pitching the tune, you set it a tone too low, you transpose the key into G, which is perhaps quite different from the intention of the author, and oftentimes very desiructive to the harmony, for there is a certain pitch for every tune where it will go smoother and pleasanter than it would on any other letter whatsoever.

Scholar. Sir, I think I have read in some authors, that if the performers can found the highest and lowest note

in a tune clear, the tune may be faid to be well pitched.

Master. There is no general rule without some exceptions, and I think in this rule there is room for a very great one, for perhaps in a company of singers, one may be able to strike several notes above G-sol-re-ut in Alt, another perhaps can strike double B in the Bass; now can that tune always be said to be well pitched, because these two extraordinary voices can strike the two extreme notes? So far from it, that by this rule there is room to pitch the tune perhaps sive or six notes too high, or too low.

Scholar. Sir, I should be glad to know what rule I am to be governed by in this case.

Master. The best general rule I know of, is, to set the tune on the \* letter the author has set it, unless he has given directions to the contrary; for it is to be supposed that any one, who has skill enough to compose a piece of music, has likewise judgment enough to set it on a proper key. But although this rule is good in general, yet it is not infallible; for ofsentimes the greatest masters of composition set some of their pieces too high or too low, which you will soon discover by making yourself master of the tune.

Scholar. Sir, I want to know if there are not some principal or dominant tones besides the key note which serve

to regulate the rest?

Master. In the first place, you must pay great attention to the key note, and the sound of B-mi which constitutes the key note, and causes it to be either flat or † sharp; the next principal tone to be regarded, is the third above the

\* The utility of that little infirmment, called a Pitch Pipe, is so universally known and acknowledged, that it would be needless for me to engross the reader's time in proving a thing which is already granted.

+ It may not be amil's here to trace this matter back to the fountain head, viz. the cliffs, for the cliffs afcertain the place of B-m'r, and B-mi constitutes

the key note, and that determines the tones above or below it to be either flat or sharp, according to the scale.

key note, which contains a great part of the true air of the tune, for by the found of the third, we are enabled to tell whether the key is flat or sharp; another principal tone is the fixth above the key note, which is either slat or sharp, according to the key of the tune; for the fixth above A, the natural slat key, contains but eight semitones, viz. from A to F, which is a flat and melancholy sound; whereas the fixth above C, the natural sharp key, contains nine semitones, viz. from C to A, which is very martial and sprightly, and I think is almost as great a mark of distinction as the third: the feventh is likewise a guide in this case, for the feventh above the slat key contains but ten semitones, whereas the feventh above the sharp key contains eleven semitones. The fourth is no guide in this case, for there are the same number of semitones included in the fourth above the slat key as there is above the sharp, viz. from A to D is sive semitones, and from C to F is sive semitones: the fifth is no guide in this case, for the same number of semitones are included in the sisth above the slat, as there are above the sharp key, viz. from A to E is seven semitones, and trom C to G is seven semitones: the offave is no guide at all in this case, for every offave contains twelve semitones.

N. B. Experience will teach you that great advantages will arise from these observations.

Scholar. Sir, I have observed in a sharp key tune, most people are apt to strike B-mi too sharp, so as to make

but little distinction between B-mi and C-sa; can you render any reason for it?

Master. I believe it is the power of attraction in the key note, which is naturally very drawing. A proof of this you may observe in a flat key tune, where the note before the close stands on G sol, which is a whole tone below the key; but it is so natural to sharp it, that it seems to be doing violence to nature to strike it without the sharp; and I presume all masters of music, both vocal and instrumental, will allow this to be sact, and as a surther proof of what I have afferted, you may observe that B-mi is easy to strike in a slat key, and so is G-sol, in a sharp key.

Scholar. Sir, I have observed that strangers who are well skilled in the rules of music, do not harmonize so well at first trial, as those who are better acquainted with each others voices; I cannot conceive the reason, for I always thought the rule was so extensive and infallible as to cause as much harmony between those who never sung togeth-

er before, as between those who were intimately acquainted with each others voices.

Master. Strangers often disagree about the grace of transition, or sliding from one note to another, especially in turning thirds, for some will lean very hard upon the intermediate note, and some will not touch it at all, but will

leap from one note to another as they would in a fourth, or any other distance; but they oftener disagree about the emphatical notes in the tune, for some authors confine the emphatical or accented notes to the first part of the bar, both in common and triple time, and some lay the emphasis on the first and third parts of the bar, in common time, and some others let them fall where they may happen, without any restraint at all; but it is much the best way (I think) to lay the emphasis on the first part of the bar in triple time, and on the first and third parts of the bar in common time, though sometimes it is very difficult for the composer to accent the bars without losing the air, especially in suging music;\* but if the air can be preserved, and the bars properly accented also, it discovers much more ingenuity in the composer, and adds a greater lustre to the composition, and it would likewise have a tendency

\* It is an old maxim, and I think a very just one, viz. that wariety is always pleafing, and it is well known that there is more variety in one piece of suging music, than in twenty pieces of plain fong, for while the tones do most sweetly coincide and agree, the words are seemingly engaged in a musical wartare; and excuse the paradox if I surther add, that each part seems determined by dint of harmony and strength of accent, to drown his competitor in an occan of harmony, and while each part is thus mutually striving for mastery, and sweetly contending for victory, the antience are most luxuriously entertained, and exceedingly delighted; in the mean time, their minds are surprizingly agitated, and extremely finestuated; sometimes declaring in favour of one p rt, and sometimes another.—Now the solemn bass demands their attention, now the manly tenor, now the losty counter, now the volatile treble, now here, now there, now here again.—O inchanting ! O ecstatic ! Push on, push on ye sons of harmony, and

Discharge your deep mouth'd canon, still fraught with Diapasons; May you with Maeitoso, rush on to Choro-Grando, And then with Vigoroso, let fly your Diapentes About our nervous system.

## An EJACULATION of PHILO FUGING.

Grant I beleech thee, O Apollo, that these thy devotees may never want competitors, and let these thy fingers be unanimously disagreed, and sweetly irreconcilable.—

Hark! Hark! hear the voice of reason, who in disguise has attended through the whole controversy, and thus she addresses the contending parties. "Give over your truttels endeavours, ye sons of Consonance, and no longer attempt impossibilities, for we have heard with our ears, and our auditory nerves have informed us, that the author of this composition has ingeniously turned all your efforts for ascendency into the light channel, so that all your extraordinary exertions for supremacy, has but a tendency to animate and stimulate your rival competitors; therefore we do, by and with the advice of the author, both counsel and command that (for the present) you let all musical hostilities subside, and it is our royal will and pleasure, that your thirds and fourths, your fixths and tenths, be resolved into the unison and oftenes, the twelsth and fitneenth from the bass.

By the command of REASON,

The Author, Secretary.

to bring strangers to a better agreement about using Forte and Piano, so that one voice would not be so apt to swallow up the other, as is sometimes the case, when they are at a loss about accenting.\*

Scholar.

\* But fays the critic. Ah I well, what fays the critic? "I think, Mr. Author, your precept is excellent, and your practice but indifferent, for in your New England Pfalm Singer, you feem to take but little notice of either emphasis or accent, and whether the reason is founded either upon ignorance or inattention, I am not able to determine, but I am rather inclined to think the former." Hark you, Mr. Critic, a word in your ear, hear and be affonished, and let me affore you, upon the word and honour of an anthor, that what I am about to confess is neither ambiguous nor ironical, but you may depend upon my fincerity, when I acknowledge, I was fool enough to commence author before I really understood either tune, time, or concord. "Indeed, this from your heart." This from my very foul. "Amazing, what condefcention is this, in an author of your popularity? But fore, Mr. Author, you do not intend to publish this acknowledgement to the world." O, by no means, as I told you before, this is only a word in your ear. "But if my opticks inform me right, I faw this fame confession inserted, verbatim, in a dialogue between you and your pupil, how then do you suppose it possible to conceal it from the world, when it is typically conveyed to every reader." Softly Sir, not quite to loud, if my pupil (who is hard by) should chance to hear your interrogation or my confession, his great opinion of my infallibility, would be entirely destroyed, and instead of respect for my knowledge, he would, no doubt, show his contempt of my ignorance, and he might also (with great propriety) express his indignation at my impudence in attempting to instruct him in a science of which I have consessed myself entirely ignorant; although such teachers are no novelty, yet no doubt the consequences to me would be this; the loss of my character, which would be attended with the loss of my business, and confequently the loss of my bread; therefore Sir, in the name of charity, I must entreat you not to be so clamorous. " But indeed, Mr. Anthor, your manner of answering my last question is very foreign from the purpose, and entitely evalive; but I am resolved your equivocation shall not excuse you from answering this concise question. How do you expect to keep private, what you have already made public?" I do not intend to have it inferted in the body of the work, but by way of whilper in a marginal note, and I intend to order the printer to print it on a very small type, in an obscure part of the book, and as near the bottom of the page as possible. I suppose, Mr. Critic, I need not inform you that all readers may be divided into these two classes, viz. the curious and incurious; the curious reader, by perufing this work, will (without this information of mine) be tuly fatisfied that the composition is both inaccurate and indifferent; therefore, as I tell him no more than he knew before, my popularity will not be digninished by this frank confession; but if he has a spark of generosity, he will beflow large encomiums both on my honefty and modefly; and if he does not (I full further confefs) I shall be prodigiously chaggined, and confoundedly disappointed. As to the incurious readers (by way of gratitude) I confess they are a set of people I have a great respect for; because they constitute the greater part of my admirers; and as they feldom trouble themselves with marginal notes (unless forme Type-Master-General should be so illustured as to inform against me) they would be none the wifer, and (by this artful evasion) I presume I shall be none the worse for this honest declaration. And now Sir, in my turn, I thall take it upon me (however you may receive it) to interrogate you. Proy Sir, how came you fo impertmently officious in your criticilins upon me? You (villable catcher, if you are but half fo honelt as I am condescending, you will acknowledge I have made game out of your own band, and beat you at your own weapons! You comma hunter, did I not inform you that I intended to difcharge you from my fervice, and do my own drudgery; and now Mr. Semi-critic, once more I command you to quit my Consonance, with the velocity of a Demisemi; and

> If you ever be so hardy as to traverse my Quartas, Or score off your Eptachords with my Diapasons, I solemnly protect,

Scholar. Sir, I want to know your opinion of a fourth, for as some call it a concord, and some a discord, and as I

have observed it to be very much used in composition, I am at a loss where to rank it.

Master. I think Mr. Walker is the only author I ever read, who is so fond of a sourth, as to call it a concord, for a sourth, simply considered, without dispute is a discord \* (at least to my ear) though not so harsh and disagreeable as a second or a seventh, for the harsh sound of a sourth may be so mollished and sweetened by a fifth and an eighth, as to induce those, who are led more by the ear than by the understanding, to think that the three sounds were all perfect concords to each other; for instance, let one note struck on the F saut cliff in the bass, another on C saut in the tenor, which is a fifth from the bass, and another on F saut in the counter, which is an eighth from the bass, and a sourth from the tenor, these three sounds harmonize almost as well as any three sounds in nature; but if you take away the bass you mar all the music, because in taking away the bass you take off the fifth and the eighth, which is produced

By the graveness of Adagio, and vivacity of Allegro, The Force of my Canon well charg'd with Septi Nonas, Shall greet your Auditory with terrible Sensations,

And fill you with tremor.
I'll beat your empty bars in the twinkle of a pendulum, By way of Syncopation I'll foore your composition,
And with a single Solo I'll close up your Chorus

In tactiness eternal.

\* Although it is generally supposed by philosophers that the more frequent the coincidences the more agreeable the concord, yet Mr. Martin (in his Philosophical Grammar) says, "there is something else besides the frequency of coincidences, which constitute a concord," otherwise a fourth would have

the preference to a greater third, which is contrary to experience.

† The utility of the bass is as confpicuous in this example, as it can possibly be, for by taking away one note you take away two concords, which were not only concords in themselves, but by their joint force shey converted a discord into a concord; and in order to illustrate this point still more fully, you may select out one of the best tunes that was ever composed, and let the upper parts perform without the bass, the noise would be almost intolerable, but, vice versa, let one of the upper parts be taken off and the bass substituted in its stead, the concert would be agreeable, although it would be diminished from a sull chorus. And here it may not be amiss to inform the reader that in a concert of four parts, with their octaves, there is a great number of chords, or harmonious tones struck at the same time; I have heard between twenty and thirty different tones struck from the four parts, and their octaves; but time would sail me to insist largely upon this subject, for if a man (Bisancus like) had a hundred hands, and a pen in each hand, the ages of all men from Adam down to the present day, multiplied together, would be too little to comment at large upon this subject, and I think I may safely defy all the mathematicians in the universe, to calculate the number of coincidences and vibrations which take place at one and the same instant of time, for there is something magical in it, and ont of the reach of human art. Dr. Bites expresses it very beautifully and emphatically in the following Lines,

"Then rolls the rapture through the air around,

"In the full magic meledy of found."

produced by the bass and tenor, and bass and counter, and leave only the fourth, which is produced by the tenor and counter, and I would advise those persons who are so fond of a fourth, to try this method, and if, after that, they still continue of the same mind, I shall be induced to think that one sound is almost as agreeable to them as another.

Scholar. Sir, I should be glad to know whether you have any particular rule for introducing discords, in musical composition; I think you say that you have not tied yourself to any rules laid down by others, and I want to know

whether you have formed a fet of rules in your own mind, by which you are governed in some measure.

Master. Musical composition is a fort of something, which is much better felt than described, (at least by me) for if I was to attempt it, I should not know where to begin or where to leave off; therefore considering myself so unable to perform it, I shall not undertake the task; but in answer to your question, although I am not confined to rules prescribed by others, yet I come as near as I possibly can to a set of rules which I have carved out for myself; but when sancy gets upon the wing, she seems to despise all form, and scorns to be confined or limited by any formal prescriptions whatsoever; for the first part is nothing more than a slight of sancy, the other parts are forced to comply and conform to that, by partaking of the same air, or, at least, as much of it as they can get: But by reason of this restraint, the last parts are seldom so good as the first; for the second part is subservient to the first, the third part must conform to first and second, and the fourth part must conform to the other three; therefore the grand difficulty in composition, is to preserve the air through each part separately, and yet cause them to harmonize with each other at the same time.

Scholar. Which of the concords is most useful in composition?

Moster. I believe the third is the most in use of any concord in nature, for it seldom comes amis; the sixth is also in great request, but it does not so often take place between the tenor and bass, as between the tenor and counter, tenor and treble, counter and treble, &c. But in my opinion the octave to a greater third, viz. a tenth, is the grandest concord in nature; the fifth is by far the sweetest, but not so durable as the tenth, because it is so suscious and sulfome that it is apt to cloy, and that I suppose to be one reason which sorbids two of them from succeeding each other, either rising or falling; the same may be said of two eighths. I believe most people think that a unison is very easily struck; but I would have them keep this truth in mind, viz. if one voice vibrates a thousand times in a second, and the other nine hundred and ninety nine, they are not in unison.

Scholar.

Scholar. Sir, I should be glad to know which you think is to be preferred in a singer, a good voice or a good ear. Master. A good ear is as much preferable to a good voice, as good eye sight is to a good looking glass, for the ear is governour of the voice as much as the helm is governour of the ship; for when I attempt to strike a certain sound, my ear informs me whether I am right or wrong, and if wrong, whether I am too high or too low; without which information, I should not be able to sing one tune, nor strike one note rightly, but by mere chance, for any one that has not a musical ear\* is no better judge of musical sounds, than a blind man is of colours, and you may take it for granted, that any one who has a curious ear, with an indifferent voice, will harmonize much better in concert, than one who has an excellent voice with an indifferent ear.

Scholar. Have you ever heard it observed what part of this globe is most productive of musical performers.

Master. I have often heard it remarked by travellers, that the people who live near the torrid zone, are in general more musical than those who border upon the frigid. I have made one observation which induces me to believe this remark to be just, viz. the blacks who are brought here from Africa, are in general better constituted for music, than the natives of North America; indeed nature seems to have lavishly bestowed on them, all the mechanical powers requisite to constitue musical performers, for they have strong lungs, they are remarkably long winded, they have musical ears, and very melodious voices. N. B. This remark will not apply to blacks born in this country, for their voices are but indifferent.

Scholar. What is an Anthem?

Master. It is a divine # song, generally in prose, and although I have often heard it disputed, yet I think any piece of divine music, that is not divided into metre (excepting canons and chanting pieces) may with propriety be called an Anthem.

Scholar.

<sup>\*</sup> I think we may with propriety make a distinction between those who (are said to) have a musical ear, and those who have an ear for music; for any who are pleased and entertained with musical sounds, may be said to have an ear for music, but before they can justify be said to have a musical ear, they must be able to make very nice distinctions.

I have heard some object to this definition, because it was a partial one, for they say that all divine words when set to must, may with propriety be called divine songs, whether in prose or verse—In answer, I grant that the remark is very pertinent; but as words were made to convey ideas, and different names were given to different things, for the sake of distinguishing one thing from another: I have (for the sake of convenience) distinguished Anthons from Psalm-tures in the manner above mentioned.

Scholar. Why may not the Italians be deemed uncharitable who fay, that "God loves not him who loves not

music?"

Master. Because they well know that there are no such beings. For as our organs of sense, are differently constructed; so our notions of sensitive things are proportionably various, and this variety gave birth to a proverb which is common among us, viz. "What is one man's meat is another man's poison." Therefore the psalmodish hears music, in a composition of church music: The valiant foldier, in the sound of the sife and drum, in the roaring of cannon and whistling of bullets: The fearful foldier, in the midnight cry of "all is well:" The huntsman, in the sound of the horn and cry of the hounds: The stageplayer, in the clap of applause: The centinel, in the found of "relief guard:" The merchant, in the sound of cent per cent: The usurer, in the sound of interest upon interest: The miser, in the sound of his double jo's, moidores and guineas. To the two last mentioned, we may add another animal by far the noblest of the three, viz. the horse, who hears music, in the sound of his provender, rattling from the pottle to the trough. Therefore as music is nothing more than agreeable founds, certainly that sound which is most pleasing is most musical. These things considered; let us exclude those only who are not blest with the faculty of hearing, and then we may (without presumption) join the Italians and say, "God loves not them who love \* not music."

Scholar. Sir, I thank you, for your kind instructions; I think I have no more questions to ask + at present, but

your advice will always be gratefully received by your much obliged pupil.

Masier.

\* I think the Friends are the only religious sea, who exclude music from their devotions; but, although it is against their principles, yet it is not always against their constitutions: which sometimes occasions their getting behind doors, or under windows, to gratify an itching ear—which they happened to be born with. One of this sect was once so catholic as to allow two of her neices to attend my school, and I observed that she came almost every evening, "to see the girls safe home," as she expressed it; and what is most diverting is, that she always came an hour or more before school broke up, and that was, as she said, "to be there in season;" but her pretentions were so thin, they were easily seen through, for if I am not much out of my conjectures, she was as highly entertained as any of the audience. And yet this woman would never acknowledge that music was any gratification to her, nor would she allow it to be practifed in her house. An arch Wag brought her a fiddle to play on, she resented it highly; upon which he told her the following story. "Once on a time all the beasts met together in order for diversion, they were all for music but the Devil and the Ass, chuse which you will."

\*\*Facebolar\*\*. Farewell Preceptor\*\*!

Master. Farewell! dear pupil, your pertinent interrogations, have sweetly extorted many remarks and digressions from your loving preceptor; and if you are as much edified in the reception, as I was delighted, in the conveyance of these broken hints and impersect ideas, the satisfaction on my side will fully compensate for all my trouble; and I take this opportunity to recommend your inquisitive turn of mind to all my pupils, for the answers edily (not only the interrogator, but) all within hearing.

F

Master. I advise you to be neither too consident, nor too distinct, that is, do not be too ready to give up your argument, when your cause may be just and well grounded, and on the other hand, do not be swallowed up, in self-will nor self-conceit, but let your mind be always open to conviction, diligently enquiring after truth; for Solomon says, "instruct a wise man and he will yet be wiser." Therefore you must never think yourself too wise \* to be taught, nor too old to learn; but be always ready to receive instruction from any one; and I hope you will be able to say with the Psalmiss, "I have more understanding than all my teachers." At the same time you must not be so taken up with the found as to neglect the substance, but strive to sing in the spirit as well as with the understanding: and God grant we may so conduct ourselves here, as to be admitted into that land of Harmony, † where we may in tuneful Hosannahs and eternal Hallelujahs, Shout the Redeemer.

THE

There is a very striking passage recorded in Ecclesiasticus, viz. "be that is not wife will not be taught," a conclusive argument that ignorance and conceit are inseparable companions. To illustrate this more fully, take one instance. In my musical excussions through the country, I became acquainted with a superannuated old Deacon, who had officiated as chorist r in his parish upwards of thirty years successively. He frequently told me, that he understood the scale of music perfectly: and by close application and severe study, he had sound out that there was no half tones in nature, but that their imaginary existence was introduced by pedantic singing masters to keep people in ignorance in order to sleece them of their money. This same gentleman happening to be at some distance from home was invited to attend a monthly lecture: where, without being desired, he undertook to set the plasm, which happened to be long metre. The Deacon struck St. Martin's, "that wont do.". Then New-Gloucester—"for that." Then Wantage—"never the nearer."—He then made an effort to sing Bangor, but was sagacious enough to discover his mistake, by the time he had ended the second line. In this interval or cessation of sound one of the congregation set Buckland, which relieved the poor Deacon for that time.—After divine service was ended, one of his acquaintance interrogates the Deacon in the following manner. "How now I Deacon, what a man of your vast abilities in music make such intolerable blunders? To which the Deacon (by way of resentment) made the following reply. "Do not blame me, blame the minister, for it is vastly out of character in him to give out a long metre Psalm, on a Lecture day."

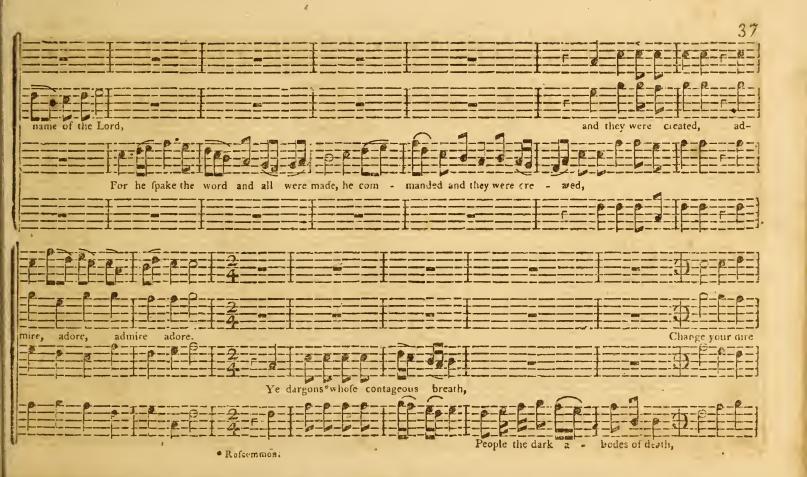
†——"where they introduce
The facred fong; and waken raptures high:
No one exempt, no voice but well could join
Melodicus part: fuch concord is in heaven."—MILTON.

THE

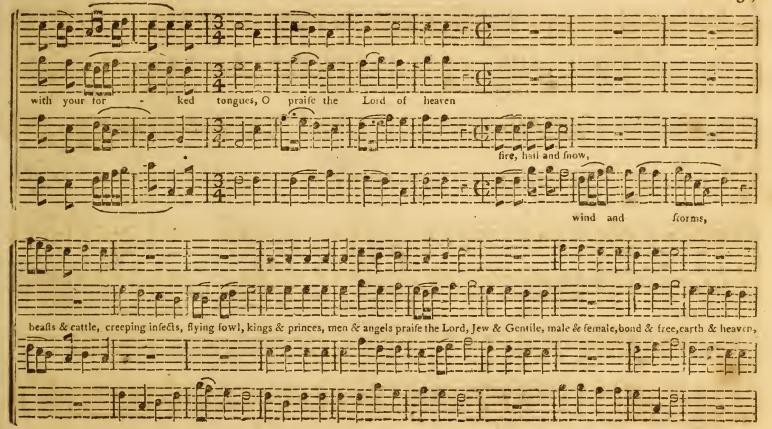
## CONTINENTAL HARMONY, &c.



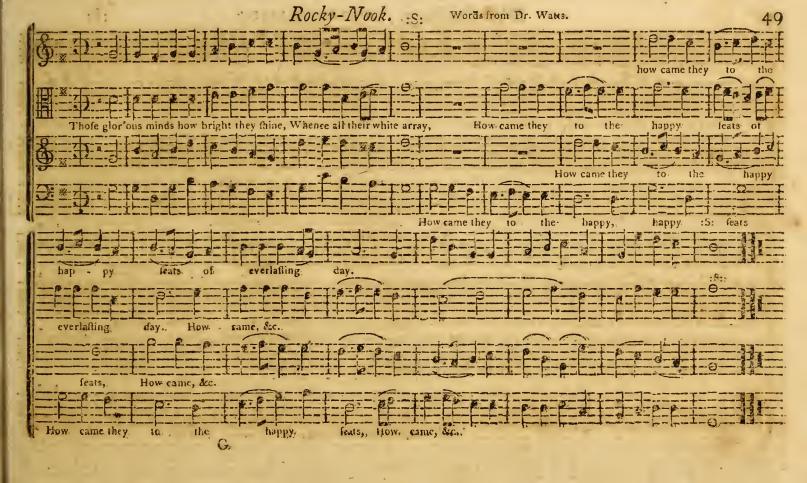






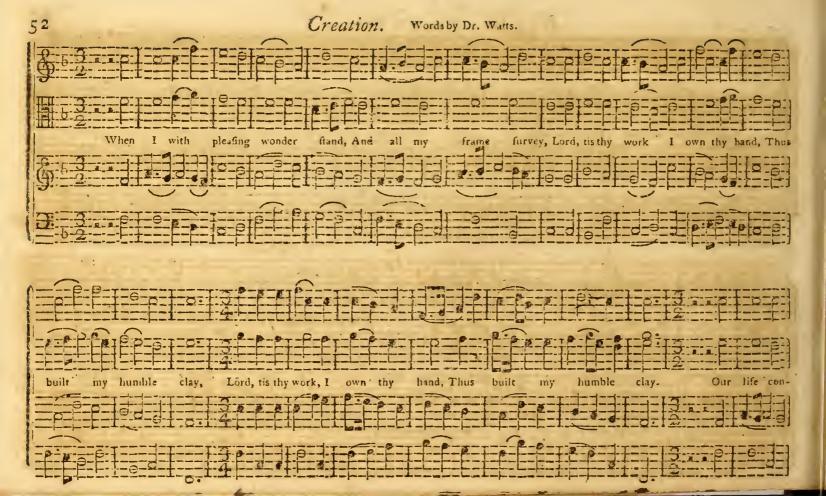










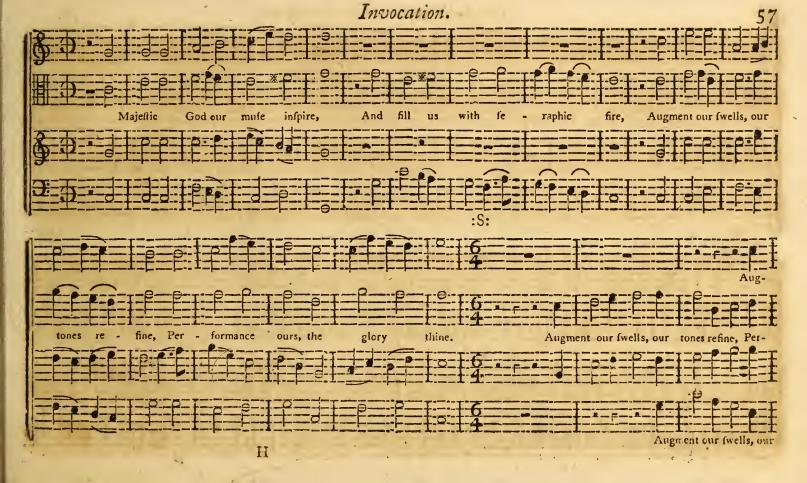








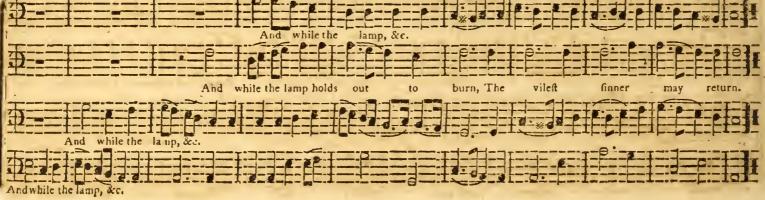












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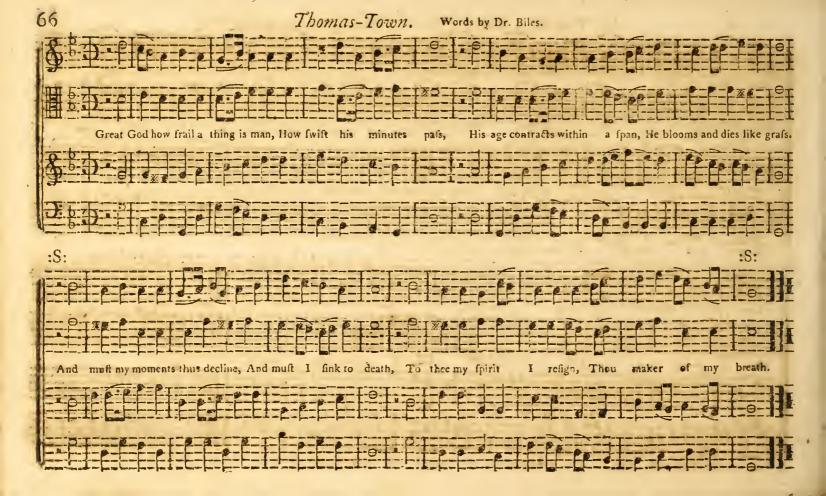




















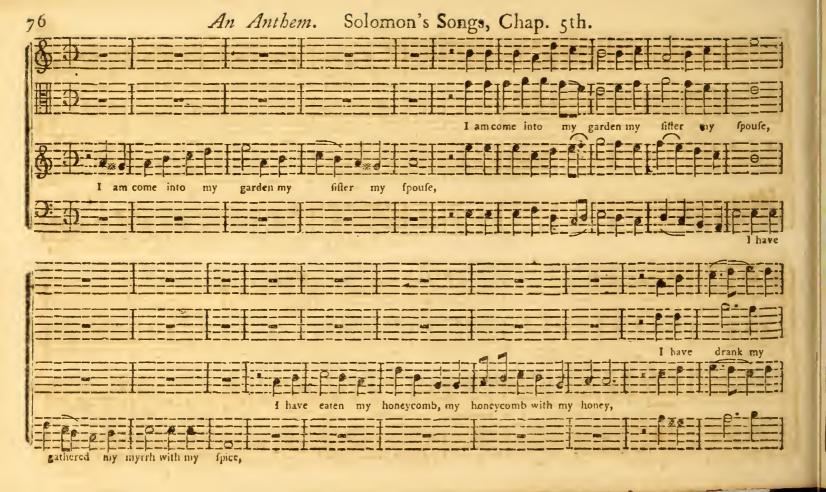




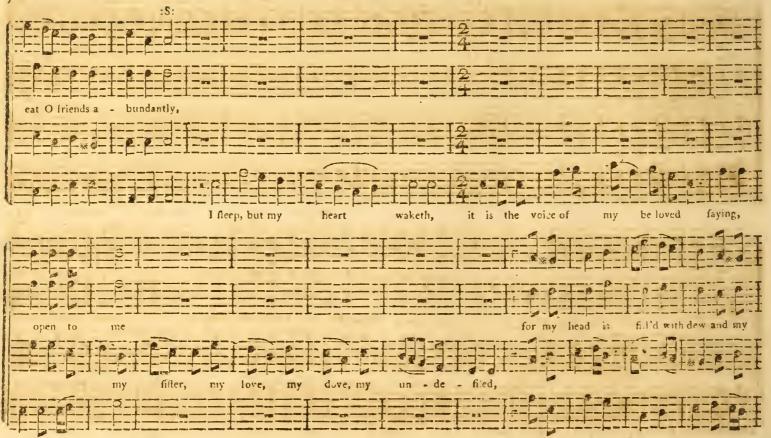


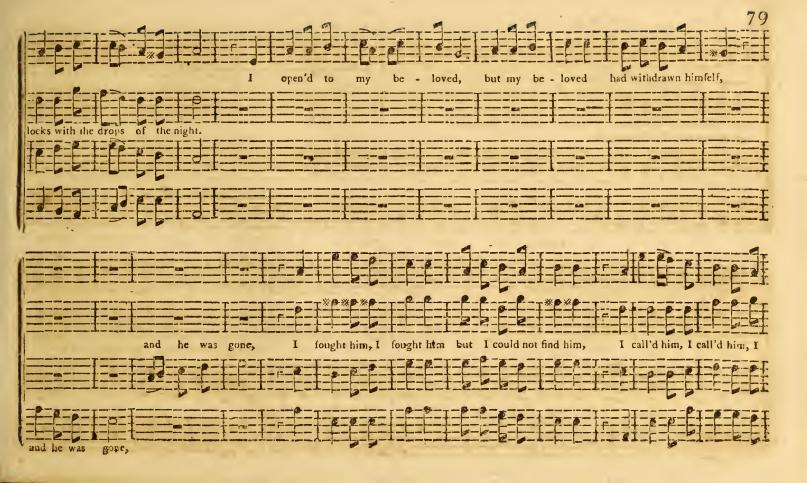
















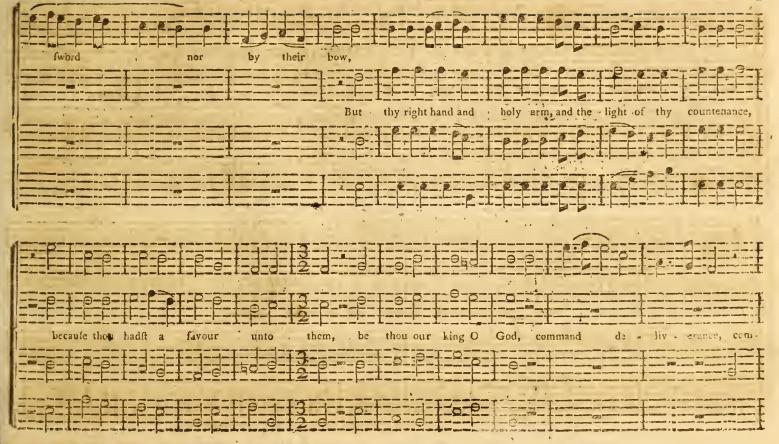




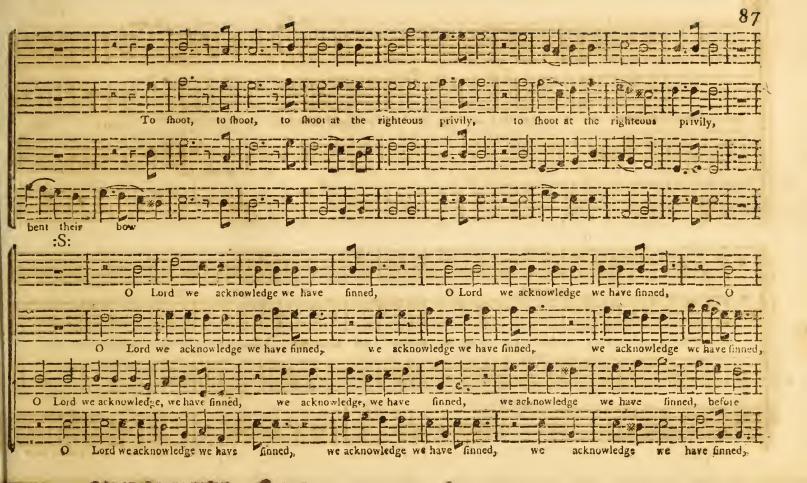
## An Anthem. Pfalm 44th.

Suitable to be fung on the anniversary of our Fore-fathers' landing, and for Thanksgiving.





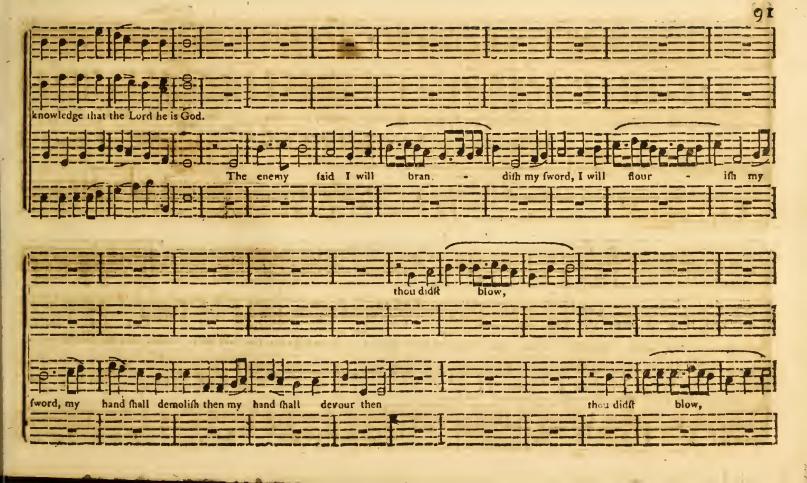












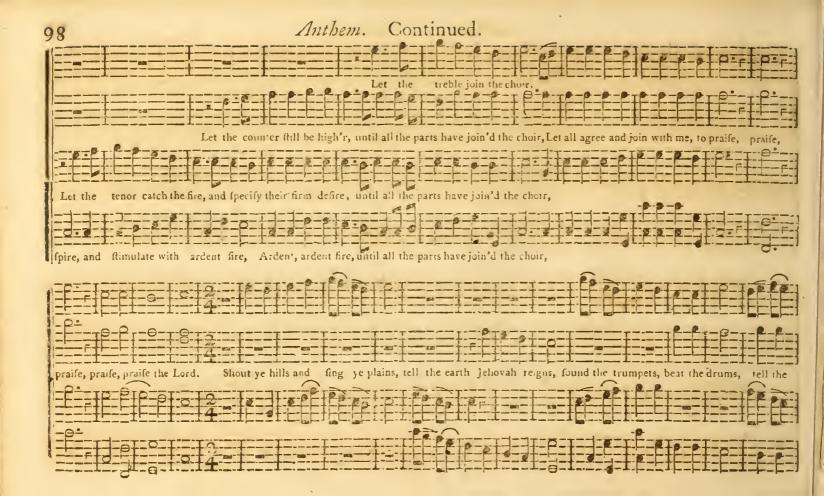


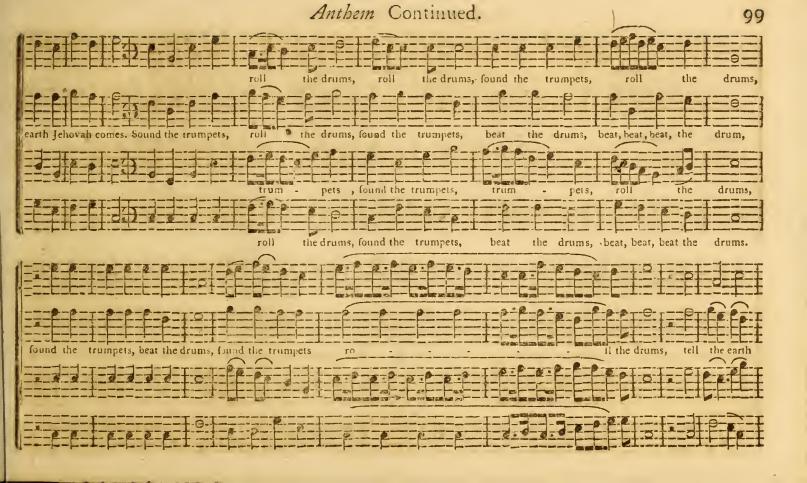








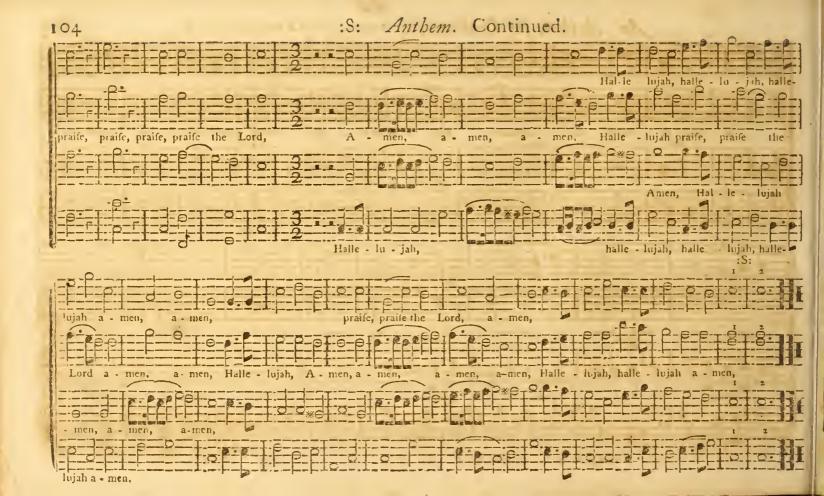








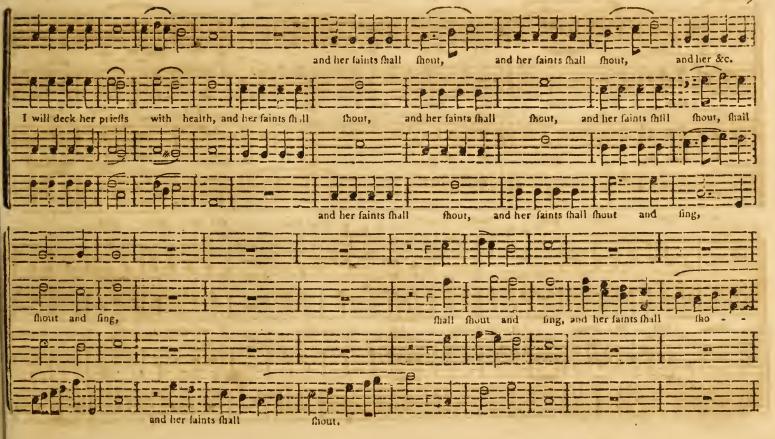












































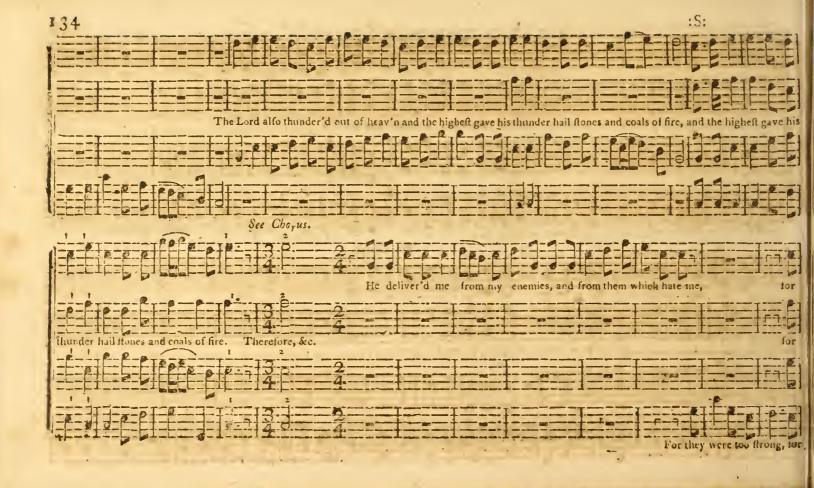


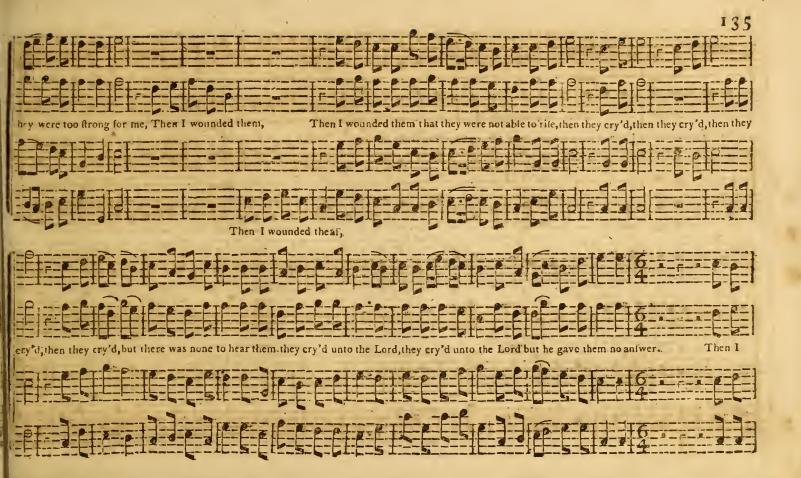






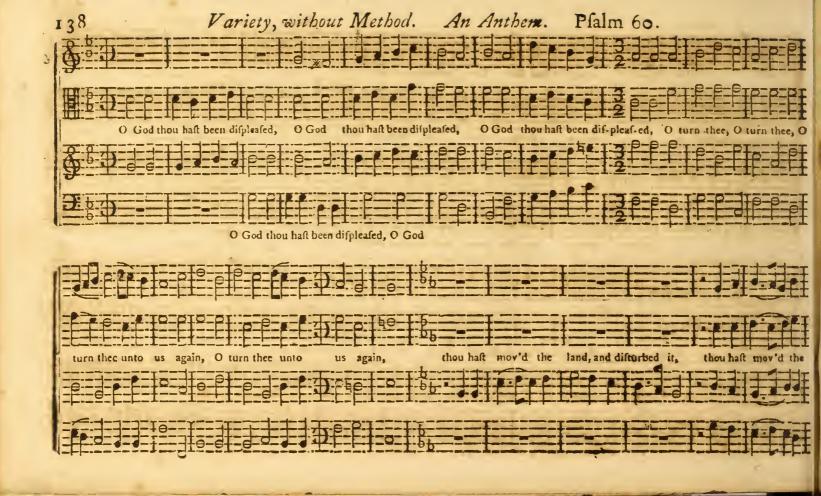


















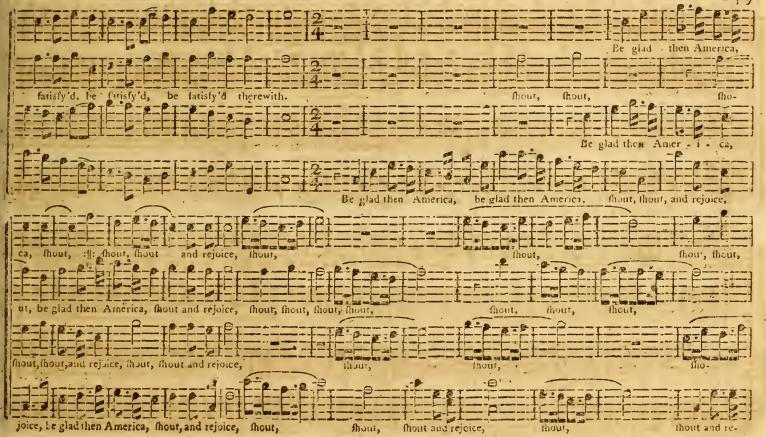






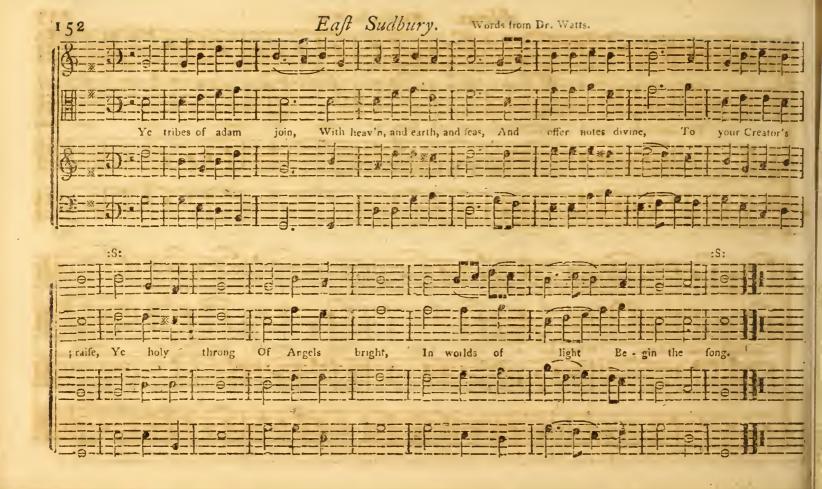




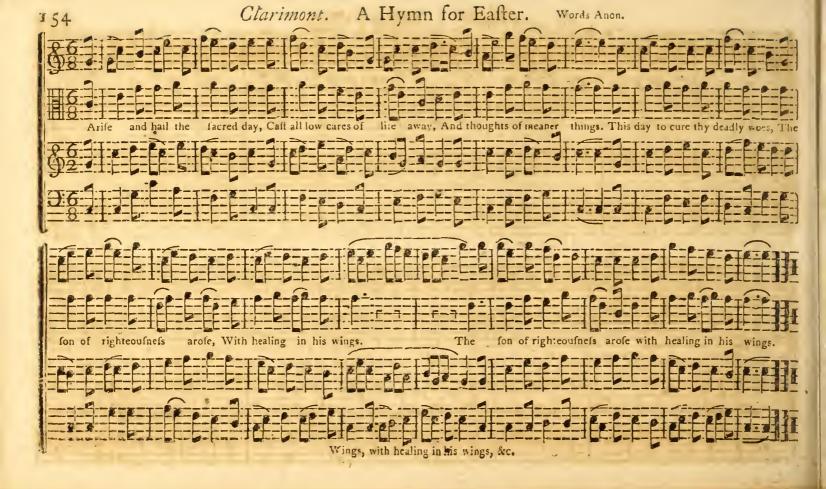


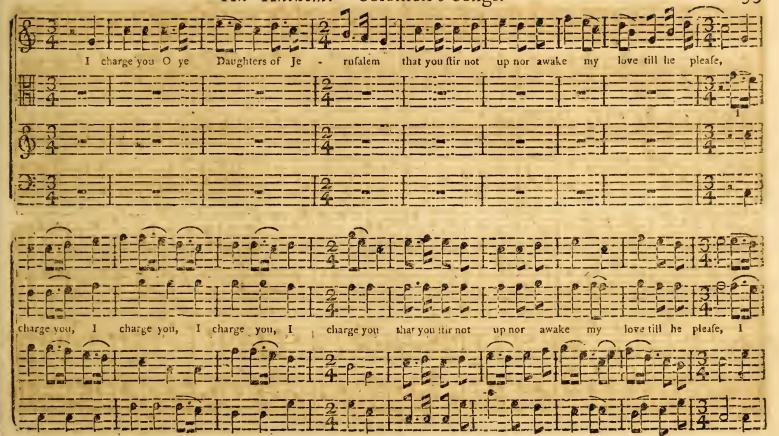


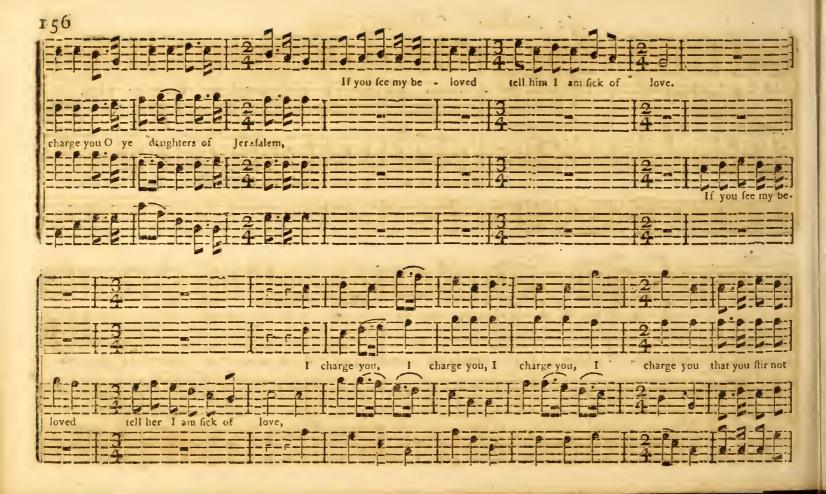
















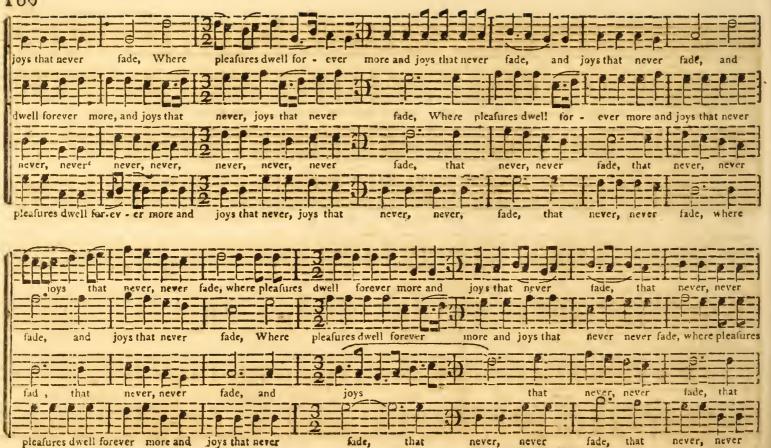




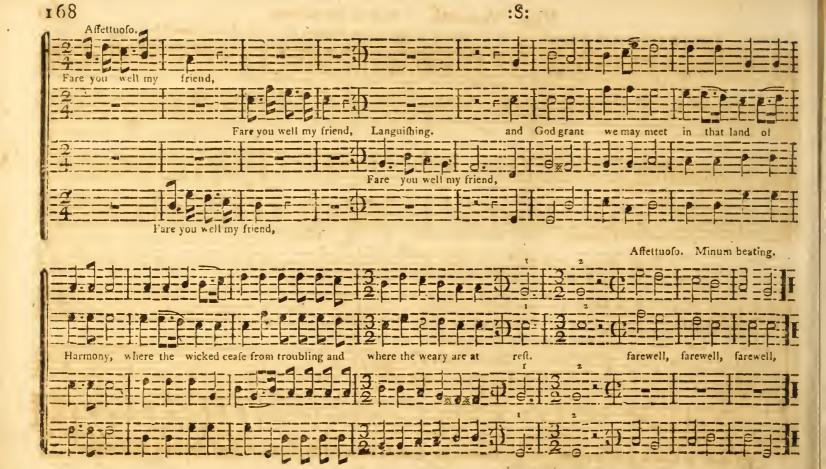












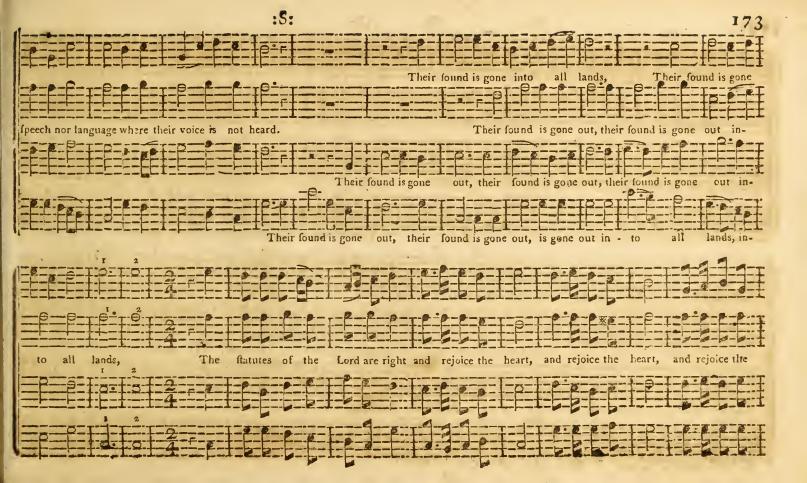
Suitable to be fung on the Anniversary of our Foresathers' landing in New England, Nov. 20th. Anno Domini 1528. ears, The wonders in their days perform'd, And el - der times than O Lord our fathers oft have told, In our attentive How thou to plant them here didft drive The heathen from this land. theirs. Dif - peopl'd by re - peated flrokes, Of Rouse ye Yankies and celibrate this Anniversary, and do not say on the 21st day of November, 'I forgot what day it was yesterday.'



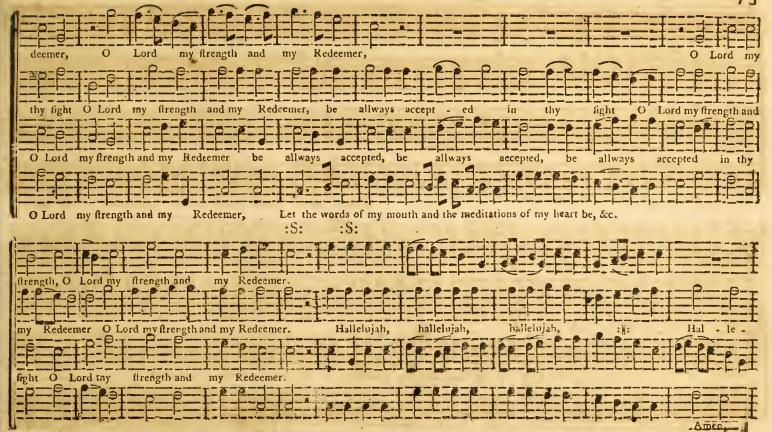


Sublimity, an Anthem. Pfalm 19.
This subject is both Praise and Prayer, it may answer for Thanksgiving or Fast.







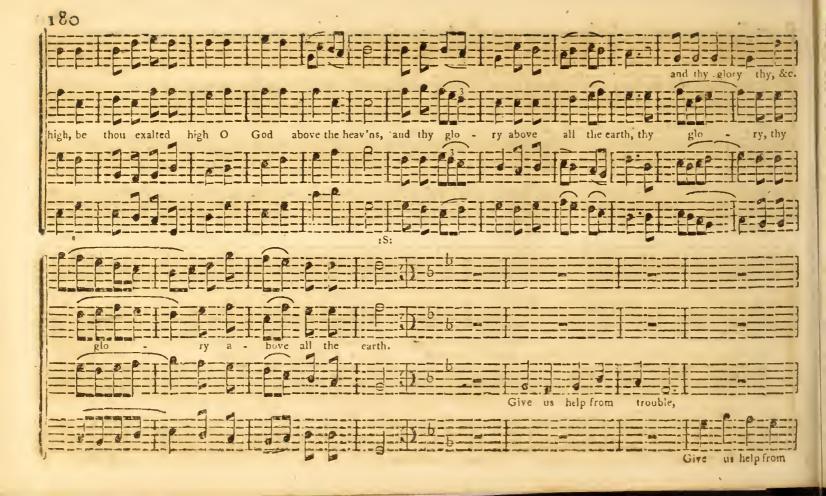


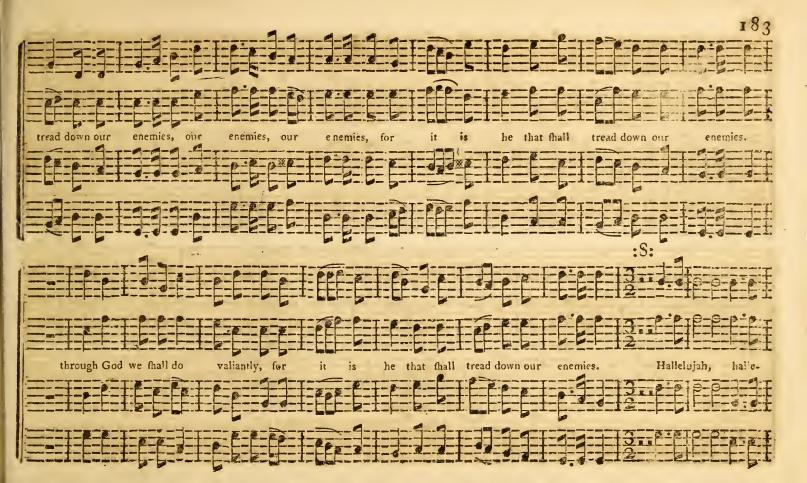






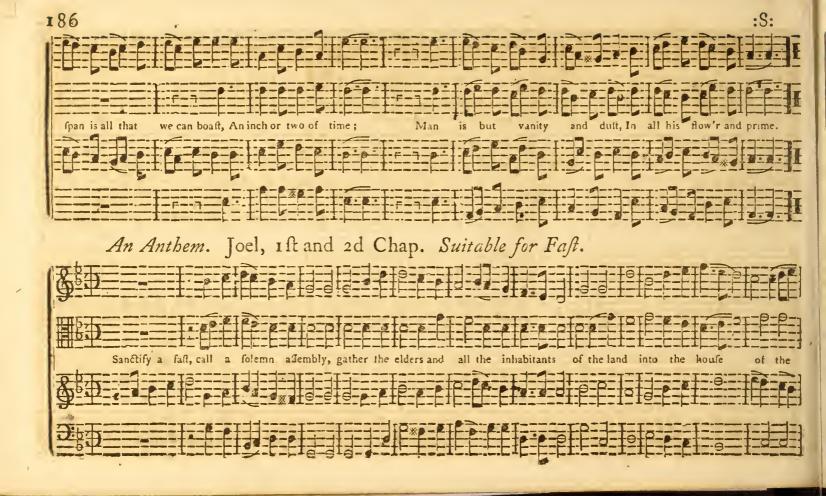


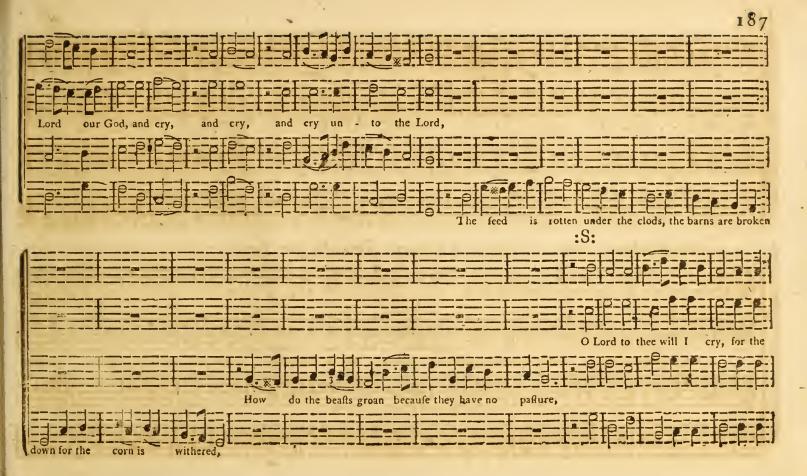










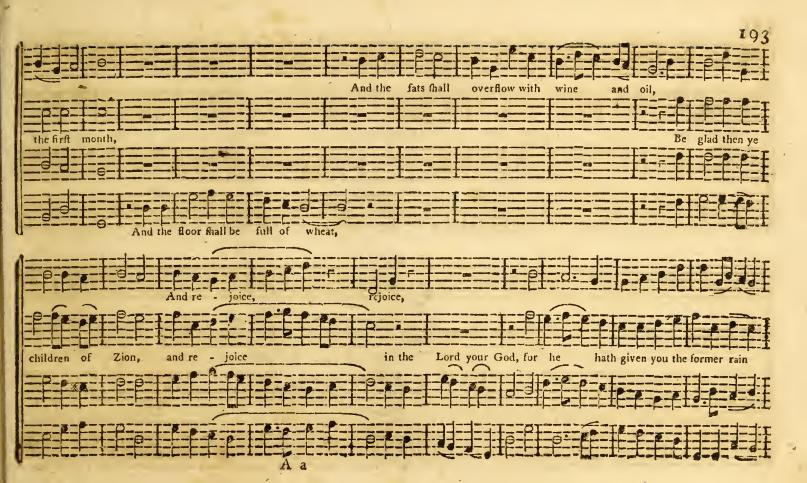






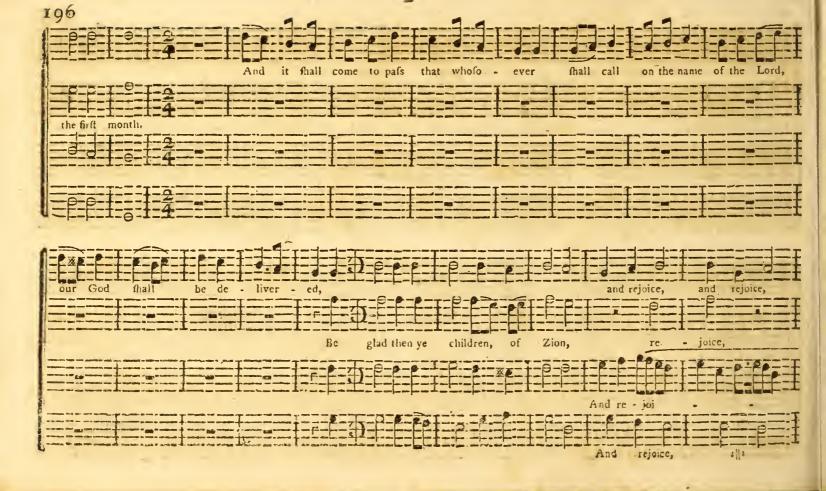




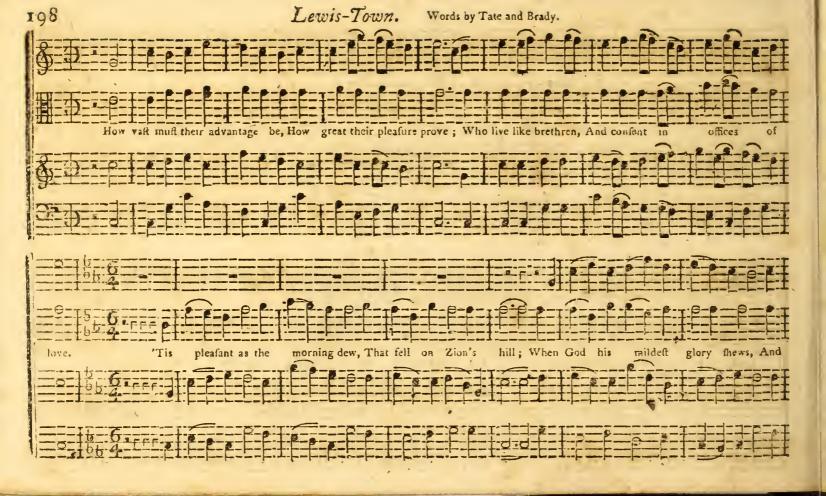














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<sup>?</sup> This tune should be named Sudbury, not West Sudbury.







