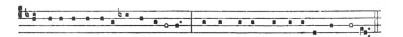


# A WANDERER'S PSALM

[ CANTUS PEREGRINUS ]



SET TO MUSIC FOR

SOLI, CHORUS & ORCHESTRA

by

Horatio Parker

(Op. 50)

Vocal Score

#### **COVER IMAGE**

'Moses Leading the Israelites Out of Egypt'
by
József Molnár
1821



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The "renaissance" in English music is generally agreed to have started in the late Victorian period, beginning roughly in 1880. Public demand for major works in support of the annual choral festivals held throughout England at that time was considerable which led to the creation of many large scale works for orchestra with soloists and chorus.

Although a number of those works were engraved, printed and are regularly performed today, performance scores for a considerable number of compositions, both large-scale and more intimate works, are not available. These works were either never engraved or were engraved and printed but are no longer available in the publishers' catalogues. While the existence of these works is documented in biographies of the composers, the ability to study and, most importantly, to perform these compositions is not possible.

Changes in the International copyright laws, coupled with changing musical tastes, played a pivotal role in creating this void. As a result, music publishers lost the ability to generate revenue from the sale/rental of such music. In 1964, holograph and copyist scores from both Novello and from publishers it represented were offered to the British Library and the Royal College of Music Library (see The RCM Novello Library – The Musical Times, Feb. 1983 by Jeremy Dibble ).

These autograph full score manuscripts along with copies of engraved vocal scores, widely available through various online library sources, are now the only resources available for studying and performing these works.

The English Heritage Music Series has been created to ensure that these compositions are preserved, are accessible for scholarly research and, most importantly, are available for performance by future generations. Its mission is to:

- Source non-engraved/out-of-print English composer compositions that are in the U.S. public domain
- Preserve these compositions through the preparation of performance scores using notation software
- Provide open Internet access to the scores to facilitate study, performance and sharing of performance material (program notes, audio, reviews, etc.)

In preparing the English Heritage Music Series editions, every effort has been made to adhere strictly to the notation contained in the manuscripts. Because of the passage of time and its effect on the condition of the manuscript, the absence of clear information often times by the composer in notating divided instruments, and with emendations in the composer and other hands resulting from use of the manuscript in performance, there were numerous circumstances which required interpretation and decisions for notes, accidentals, dynamics, articulations and tempi. Should questions arise in the use of these editions, the composers' autograph manuscripts and the Novello vocal scores should be consulted for clarification.

#### Matthew W. Mehaffey Editor

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#### THE MUSICAL TIMES

SEPTEMBER 1, 1900 - VOL. 41, No. 691, PP 598-600

#### HEREFORD FESTIVAL NOVELTIES.

Four new works, to be produced at this year's Festival of the Three Choirs, lie before us and invite a few remarks. They are Professor Horatio Parker's setting of the 107th Psalm, Sir Hubert Parry's Te Deum, Professor Stanford's 'Last Post,' and Mr. S. Coleridge-Taylor's cycle of four songs for contralto and orchestra (published collectively under the title of the first of the quartet—viz., 'The Soul's Expression').

#### PROFESSOR PARKER'S PSALM.

The Yale Professor's second contribution to an English Festival claims attention first, because it is the work of a distinguished and most welcome visitor, and, secondly, because it is the largest of the four novelties, occupying 112 pages of vocal score against Sir Hubert Parry's 81, Professor Stanford's 24, and Mr. Taylor's 24 pages. Professor Parker has chosen to call his work 'A Wanderer's Psalm,' Professor Parker with the sub-title of 'Cantus Peregrinus,' designations which may or may not commend themselves to the critical. It is his Op. 50, and we venture to prophesy that the Hereford audience will vote it worthy in every way to mark the esteemed composer's completion of his first half-century of works. It recalls —but in our opinion is a decided advance upon— 'Hora Novissima' by reason of its excellent workmanship, the solidity and strength shown in the choral portions, the splendidly built-up, imposing climaxes, its general effectiveness, and the absence of all brooding, doubt, and hesitation. The music flows along with monderful flows along with wonderful ease, its course directed by a strong and steady hand which never loosens its firm grip. Nor does Professor Parker hesitate to occasionally make the very best use of a phrase of a few notes, or an effect, even if it may perchance have been used by one of his predecessors. But such are the bold swing of the music and the certainty with which all means are used to the ends of legitimate effect and the expression of dignified feeling that few if any will object to being dignified feeling, that few, if any, will object to being momentarily reminded of an old friend in a new

The work is divided into seven numbers, and laid out for the regulation quartet of soloists, chorus—frequently divided into six or eight parts—and a very full orchestra. The dimensions and scope of the orchestral introduction seem an earnest of the serious spirit in which the composer approached his task. In an extended movement of some 110 bars he announces and treats in symphonic style some of the most important themes in the work.

In our first quotation, consisting of the opening bars of the Psalm, Section A will be recognised as the first strain of the Gregorian Tonus Peregrinus—



This might be called the motto phrase of the composition, for it is used again and again in its two broad 'corner-stones,' the massive first and last movements. The two sections A and B are occasionally used in combination, A forming a counterpoint to B. Twenty bars of slow tempo are followed by an Allegro, in which the above themes are discussed in 'grandiose' style, together with this, which forms the second subject proper of the movement—



It will be much in evidence later on, and if No. 1B might be called the 'Praise' motive, this 'second subject' may stand for a 'Prayer' theme.

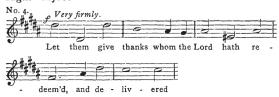
It is quickly followed by—

No. 3.

Pedal D natural in Bass.

which is also largely used in the opening and final numbers.

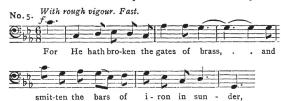
The chorus enters with a broad, dignified phrase and after some fine antiphonal effects we reach thi fugal subject—



After its exposition, however, we pass over a short stretto and a repetition of the opening choral passage to a quartet for the soloists. At the words 'They went astray in the wilderness,' the Tonus Peregrinus makes its re-appearance; and as it recurs throughout the work at every reference to the Wandering of the Redeemed, it might well be called the 'Wanderer' motive. At 'so they cried unto the Lord,' No. 2 is introduced and directly afterwards No. 3. Then the chorus re-enters, and, being quickly reinforced by the solo quartet, the composer leads his full forces over a climax of imposing power and mastery to a short Coda (again introducing the 'Tone'), which triumphantly ends a very fine example of English sacred music.

No. 2 is a long contralto solo, sufficiently vague in its tonality (more especially as regards the rather extraordinary Coda) and principal figures of accompaniment to illustrate the text: 'They that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death,' &c. The 'Praise' and 'Prayer' themes (IB and 2) are both introduced where the text suggests their use.

No. 3 is a fugal movement of rare 'go' and remarkable workmanship. This is the chief subject—

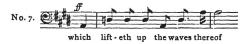


The success of this breezy movement, with choirs and audiences alike, will be instantaneous and genuine, though the reminiscence-hunter may lay his finger on a few notes here and there.

No. 4, bass solo and chorus, 'They that go down to the sea in ships,' is one of the most effective numbers in the work. It is certainly the most dramatic one, as befits the famous text. Its chief subject, first announced in the orchestral introduction in diminution, is in this latter form an important feature in the accompaniments throughout the earlier part of the movement—



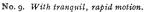
The chorus is at first restricted to tenors and basses, but after their diminuendo descent to 'The wonders of the deep' on the lowest A naturals of their respective registers, the sopranos enter with splendid forte effect in the brightest notes of their compass at the words 'For at His word the stormy wind ariseth,' when the music becomes vividly descriptive and exciting. This short, crisp phrase—

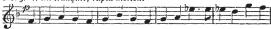


is thrown about from part to part, as the waves themselves are tossed hither and thither in a 'stormy wind.' The orchestra adds to the picture by well tried 'storm' passages in strings and wind. A realistic effect of somewhat doubtful expediency deserves quotation—



It is first sung by the soloist, and then a note higher by the chorus in octaves. The 'Prayer' theme (No. 2) recurs at 'So when they cried unto the Lord in their trouble,' which half sentence is, strange to say, followed by a pause and a fresh orchestral figure of several bars ere the remainder of the sentence is sung! This important new theme seems an old acquaintance—





It is much in evidence, and passes through a rare variety of keys throughout the remainder of this long, strong, and extremely tuneful movement, which, after another huge fff climax, ends peacefully ppp.

The following soprano solo, 'He turneth the floods into a wilderness' (No. 5), is a flowing, melodious piece, grateful to singer and audience alike. It opens in this wise—

No. 10. Andantino.



The Tonus Peregrinus appears yet again, thus rhythmically and harmonically metamorphosed, at "And let them wander out of the way"—



No. 6, 'The righteous will consider this,' is an a capella chorus, with a contrapuntal middle section which seems to promise a regularly developed fugue, but—as is the case with all his other fugal movements in this work—the composer gives us little more than the exposition. The rest is chiefly solid harmony that looks well on paper, and will doubtless prove effective in performance. A charming cadence phrase will please all audiences.

The final chorus and quartet, 'O give thanks unto the Lord,' recalls the opening movement in subject-matter, scope, and effect. It commences with an introduction of sixty-four bars, in which the Tonus Peregrinus is subjected to further changes, the most important being its diminution into staccato crotchets, in which form it becomes an important figure of accompaniment to the chorus. The chief phrase of the soprano solo (No. 10), in double augmentation (the quavers becoming minims), assumes a new and important rôle, and themes Nos. 1A, 1B, 2, and 3 are all subjected to further masterly and effective treatment. The elaborate, strongly welded movement worthily crowns a work of which the American composer has every reason to be very proud.

#### THE MUSICAL TIMES

October 1, 1900 - Vol. 41, No. 692, p. 660

PROFESSOR PARKER'S NEW WORK.

Thursday morning witnessed the first performance of Professor Horatio Parker's setting of Psalm cvii., composed expressly for the Festival. It will be remembered that the distinguished American composer visited the Worcester Festival last year, at which he conducted his 'Hora Novissima' with great success. This novelty, entitled 'A Wanderer's Psalm,' founded on the Tonus Peregrinus, furnishes the chorus with plenty of interesting work, and it occupies just under an hour in performance—a half-programme work, in fact. Of its seven numbers, two only are solos per se. Moreover, there is no difficulty in regard to an unknown tongue, as the music is set to English words. Many interesting features could be referred to did space allow, and had not the work been subjected to careful review in the last issue of this journal. But mention must be made of the vigorous bass solo and chorus, 'They that go down to the sea in ships,' and the melodious and well-written unaccompanied chorus, 'The righteous will consider this.' there can be no doubt that the Yale professor's latest production is not only an interesting, but a very practical production that ought to make its way in popular favour. The chorus gave every evidence of keen enjoyment in regard to their participation in the Psalm, and Professor Parker, who conducted, must have felt very gratified at the result of his labours. The soloists were Madame Albani, Miss Ada Crossley, Mr. William Green, and Mr. Andrew Black.

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## A WANDERER'S PSALM.

(CANTUS PEREGRINUS.)

No. 1. CHORUS AND QUARTET.—"O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD."









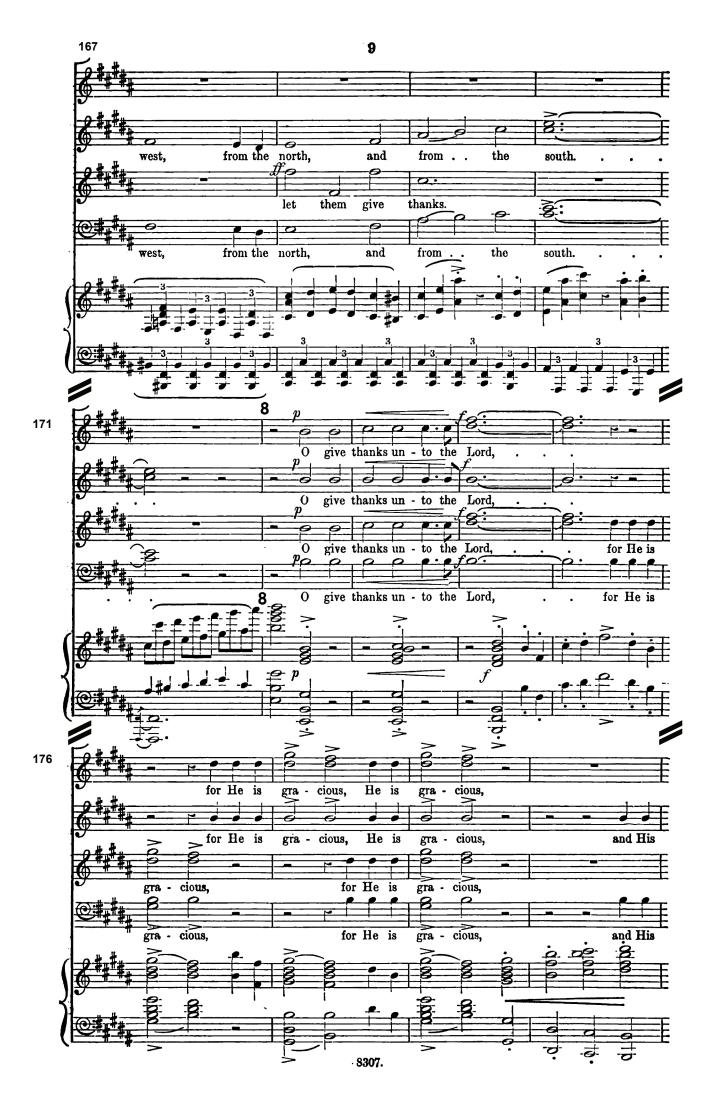




















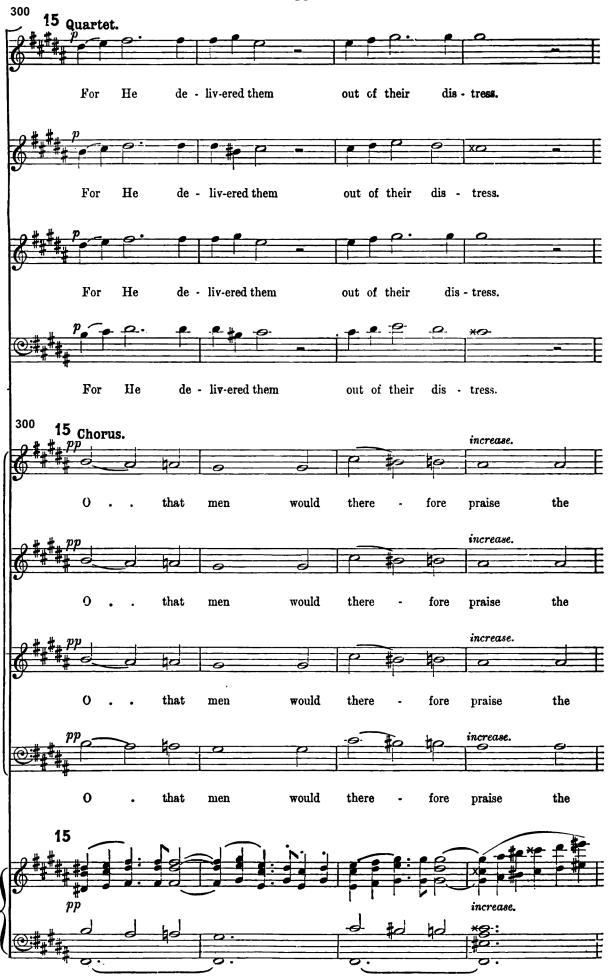


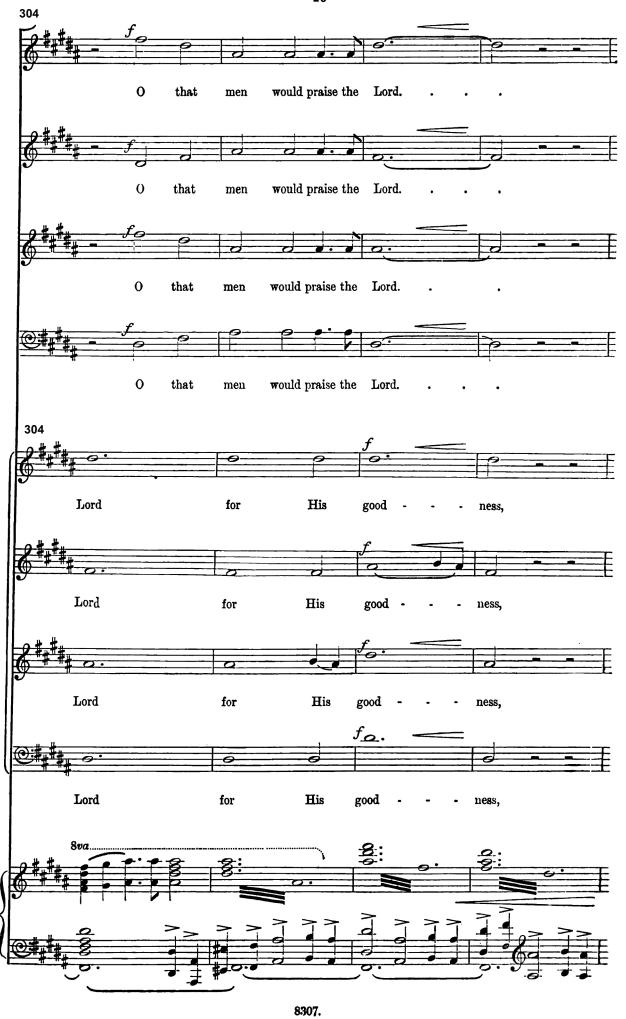






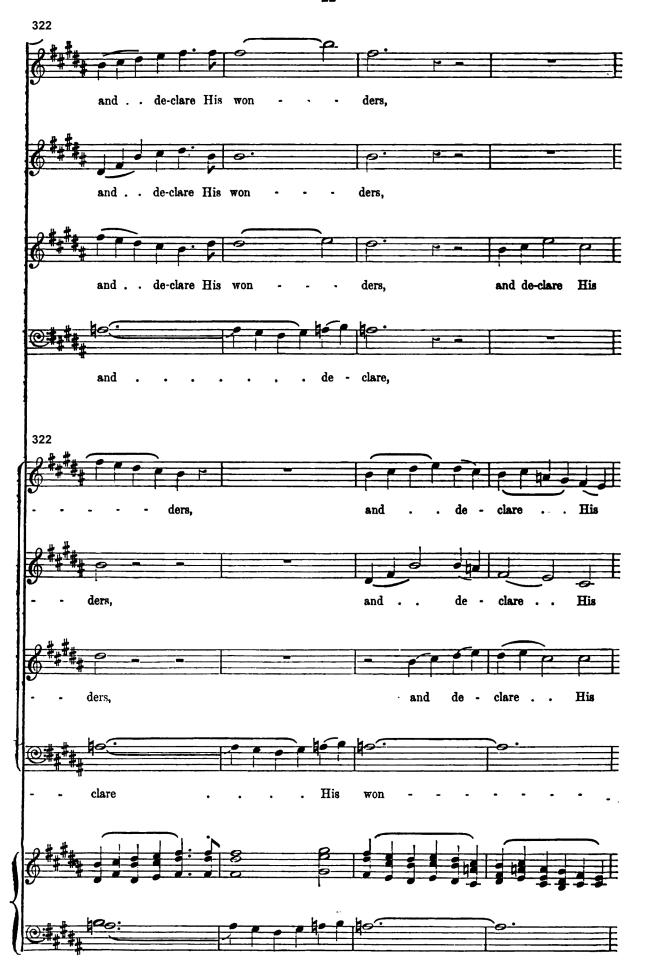


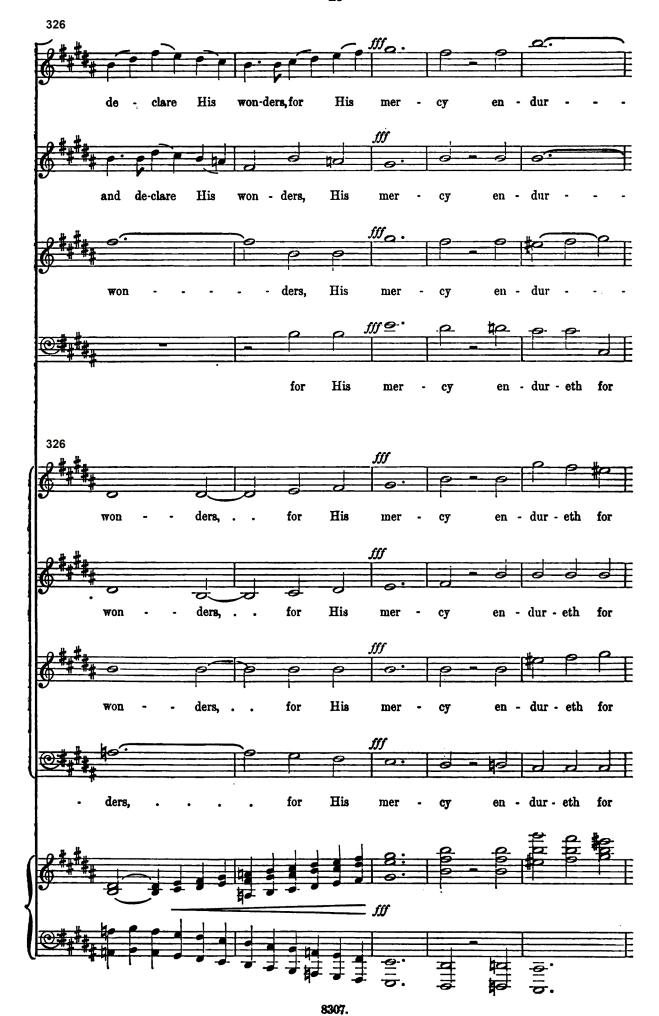


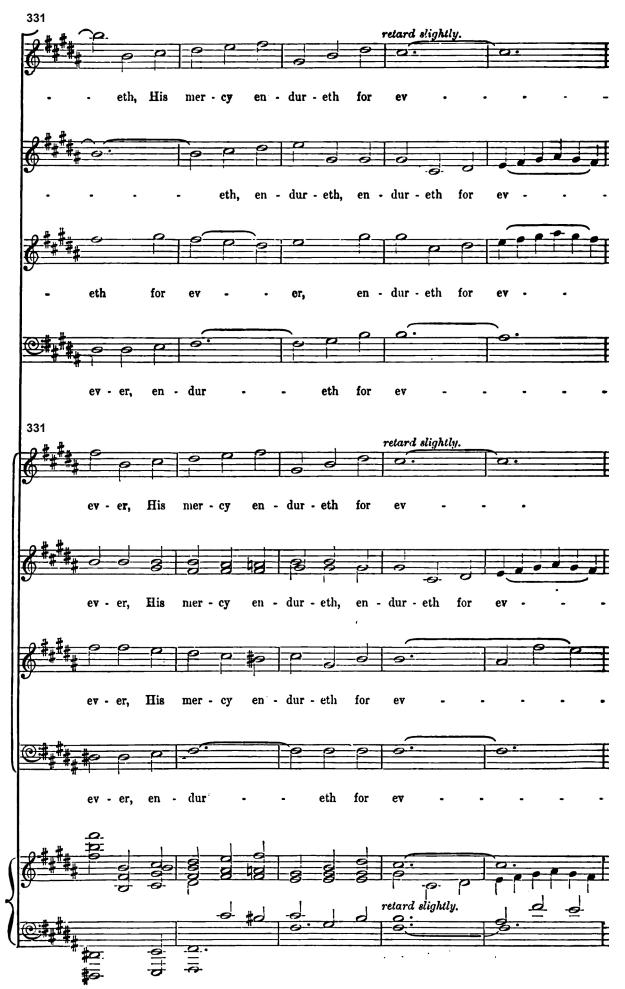




















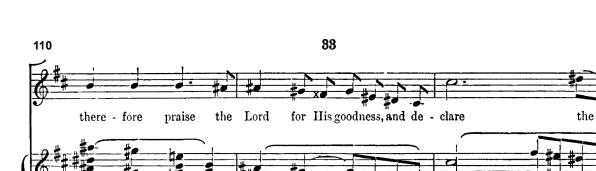






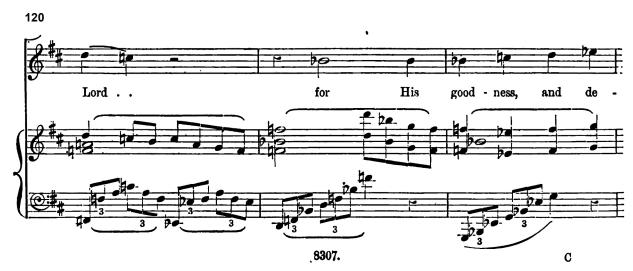
















86 CHORUS.—"FOR HE HATH BROKEN THE GATES OF BRASS." No. 8. With rough vigour. Fast.  $\rightarrow \cdot = 100$ . Piano. Basses. f. For He hath broken the яfz and smit-ten the bars i-ron in sun of of brass, gates 27 For He hath bro-ken the gates of brass, and der, Hе hath bro-ken the gates of brass, and for 27 8fz

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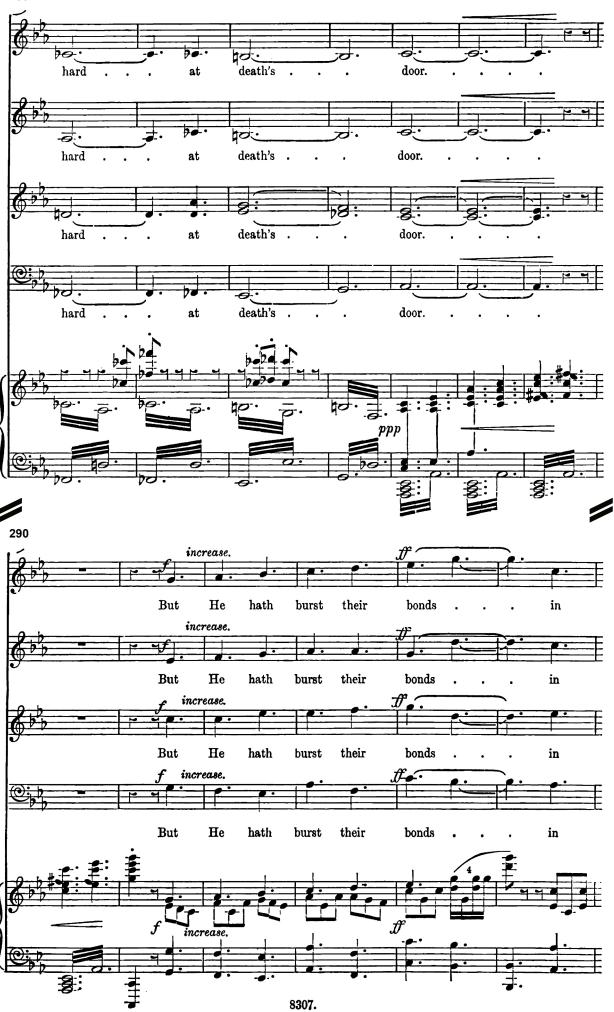














No. 4 Bass Solo and Chorus.—"THEY THAT GO DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS."

























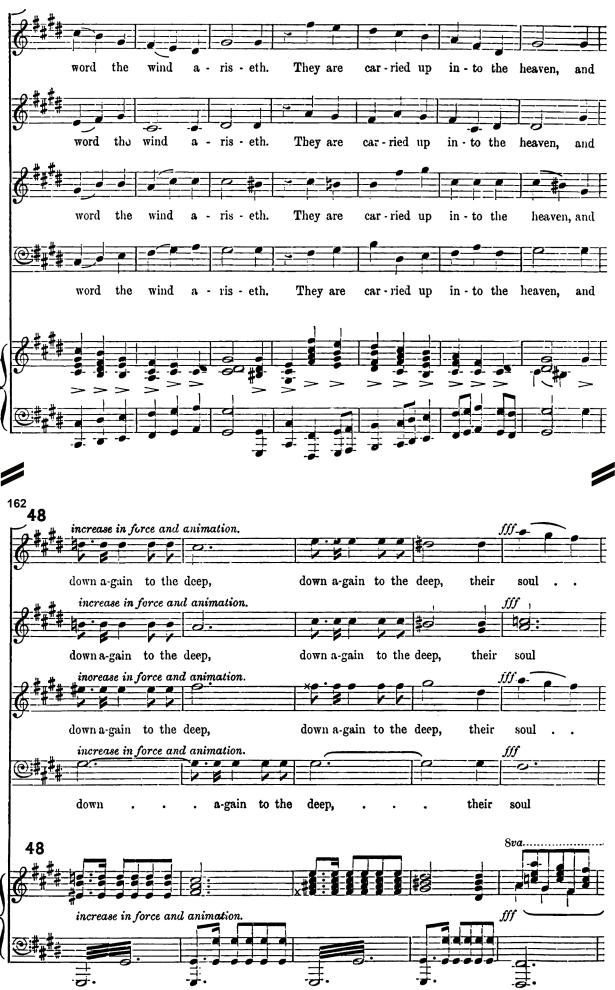






















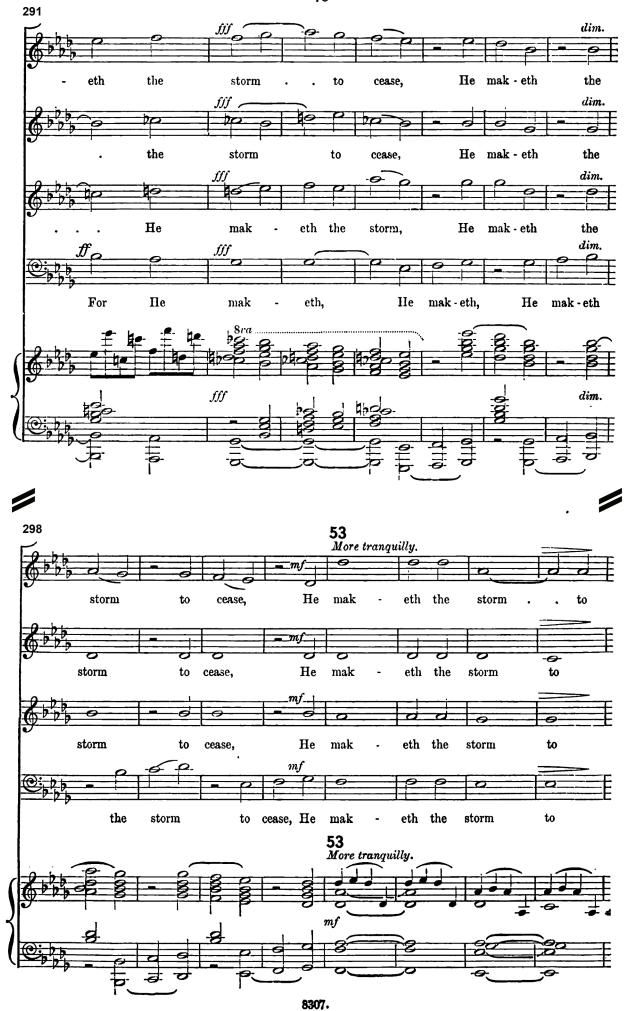














No. 5. Soprano Solo .- "HE TURNETH THE FLOODS INTO A WILDERNESS."















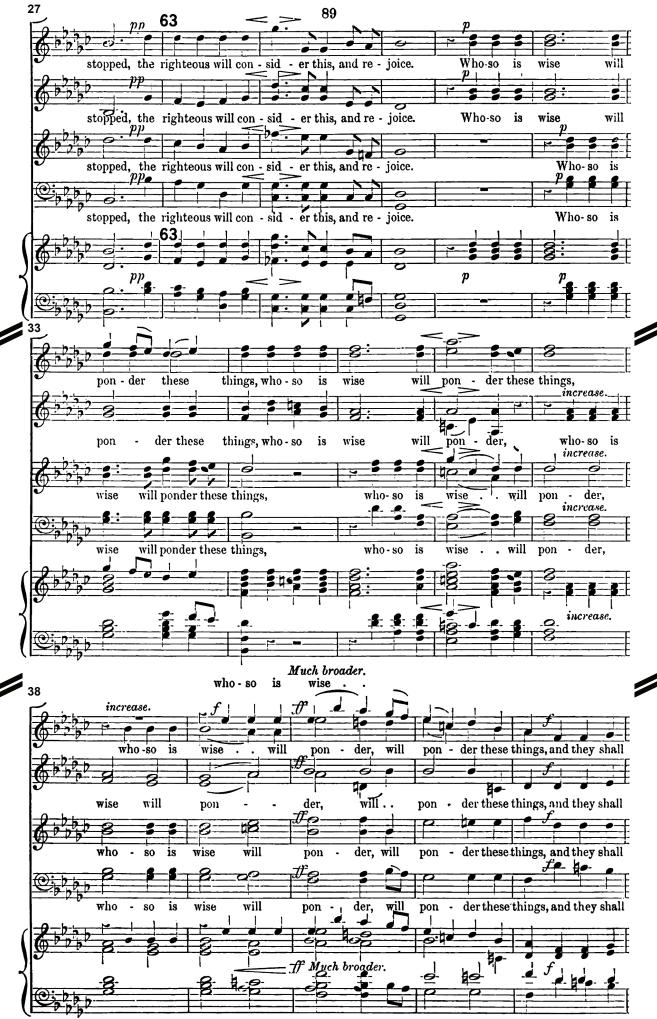






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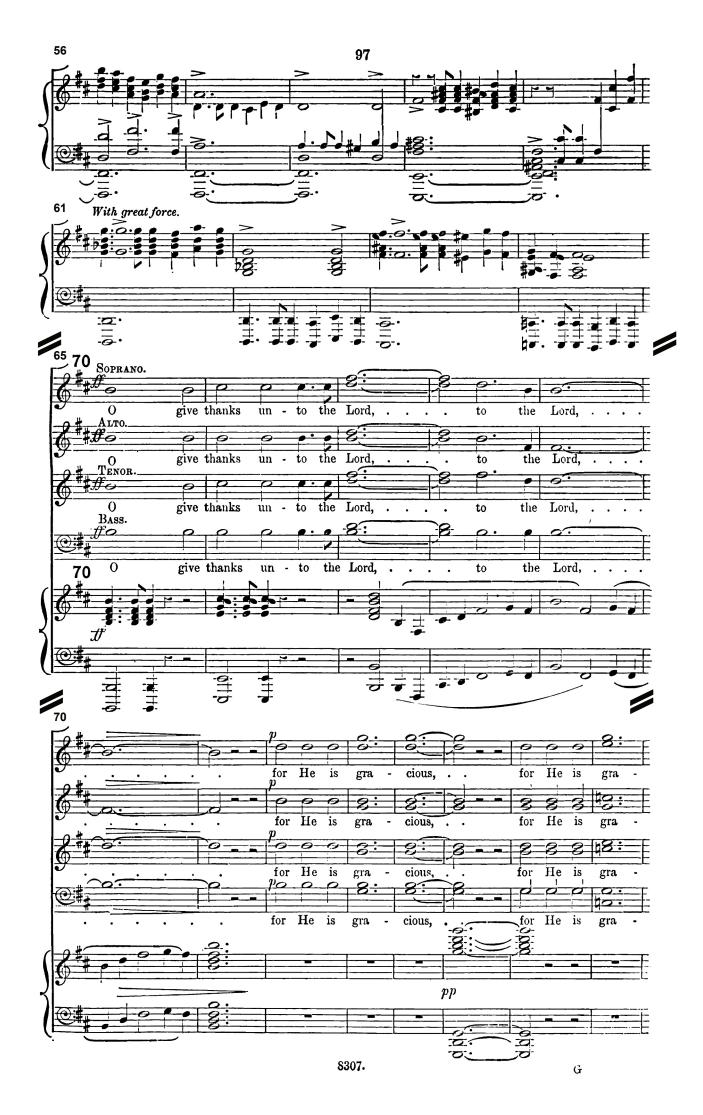




No. 7. CHORUS AND QUARTET .- "O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD."













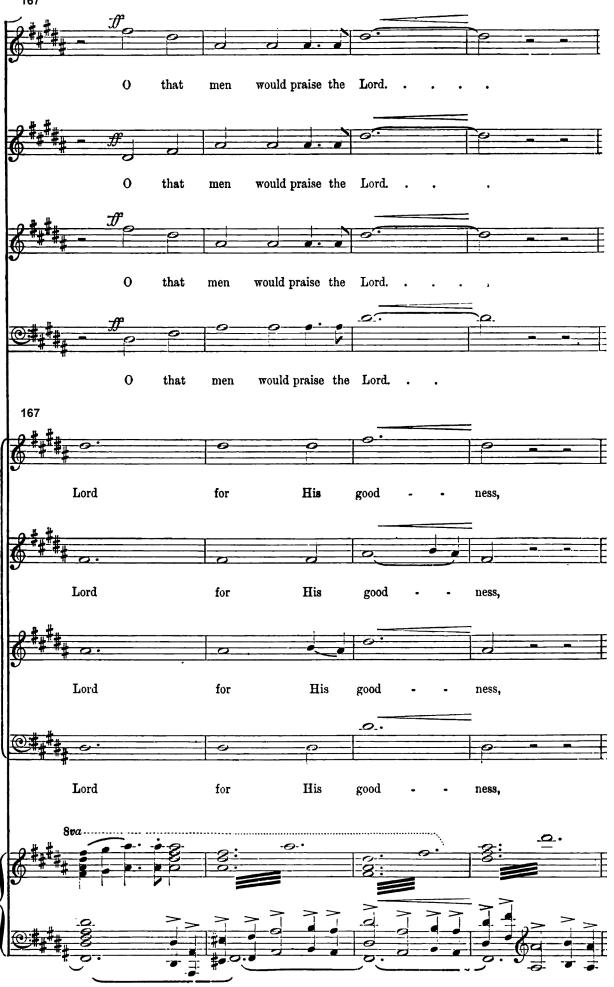










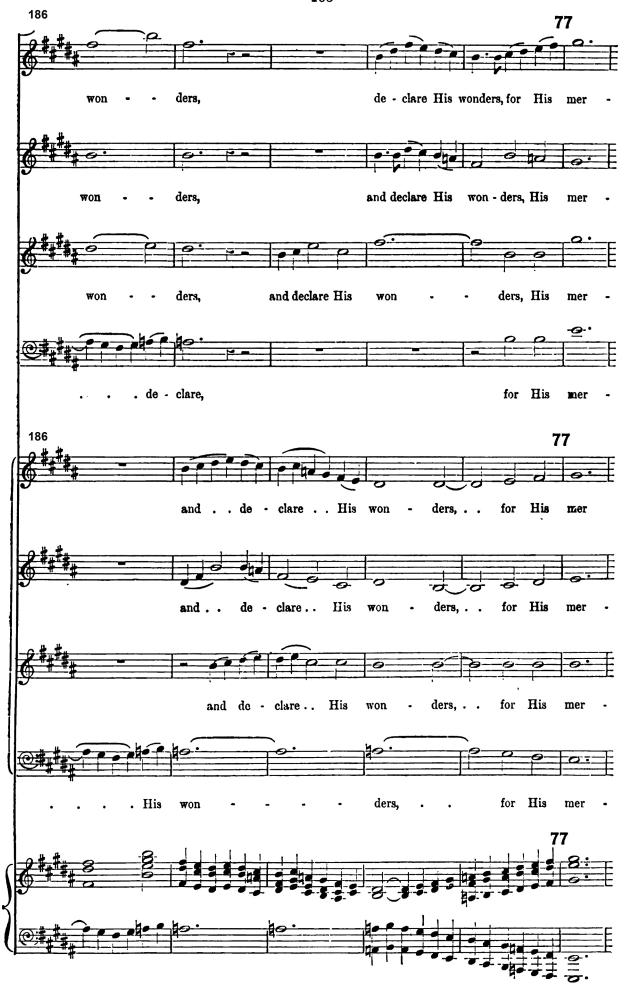






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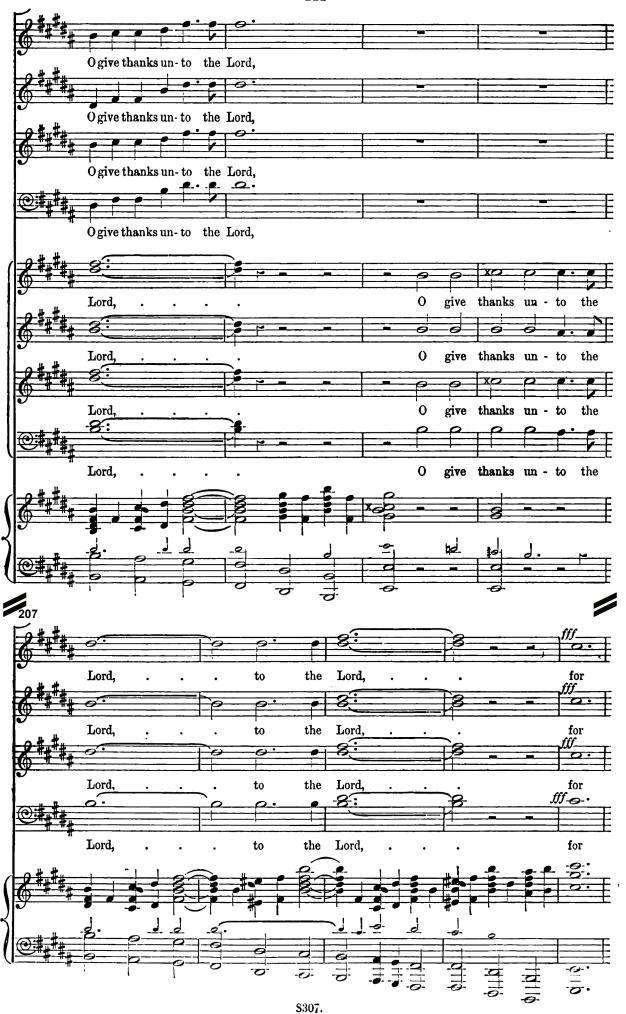






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