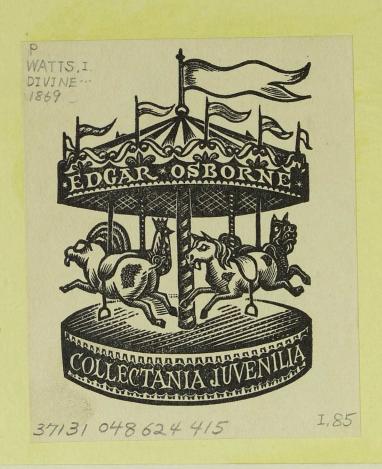
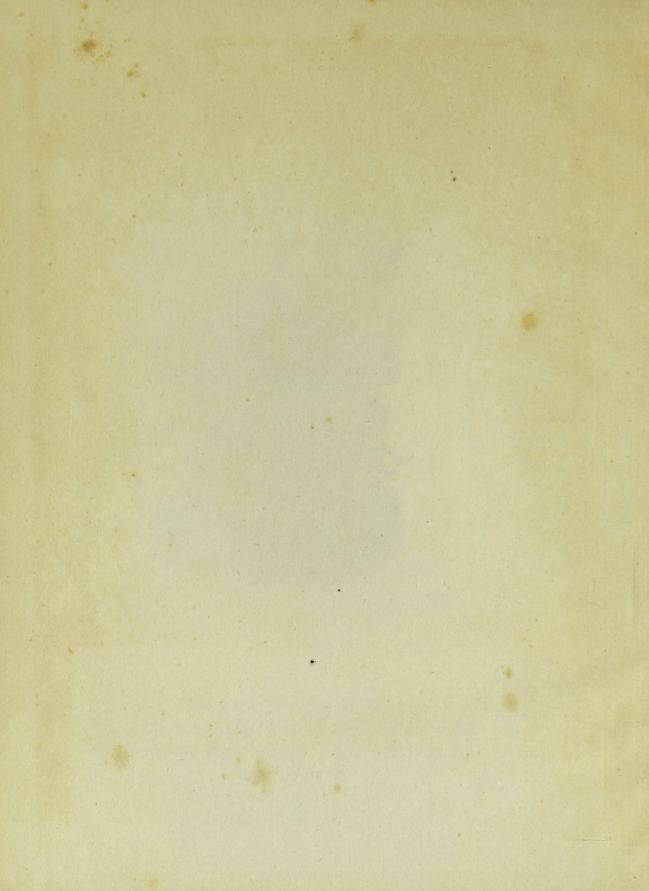


WITH COLOURED HILLUSTRATIONS



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PRAISE for CREATION and PROVIDENCE

DIVINE AND MORAL

SONGS FOR CHILDREN.

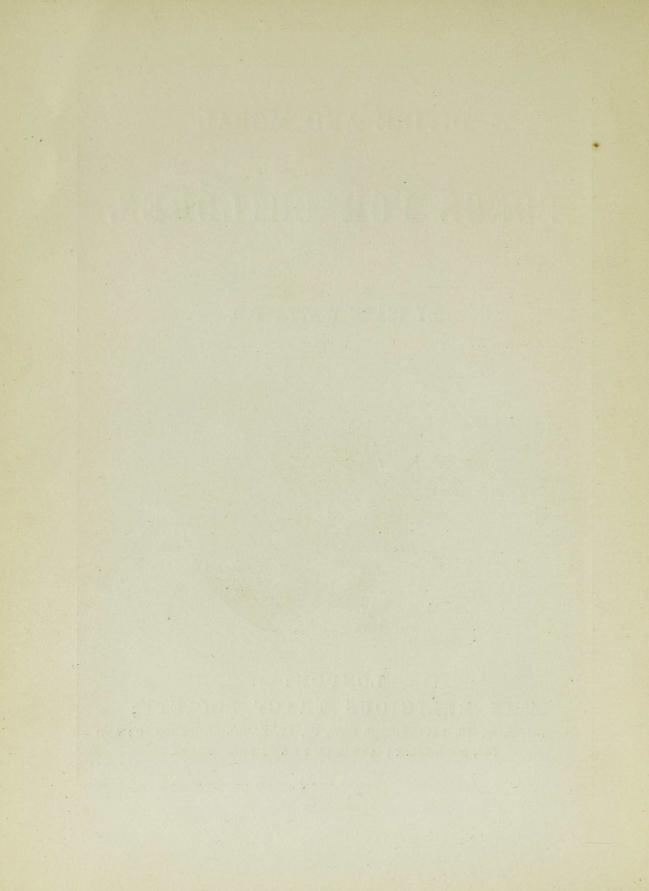
BY ISAAC WATTS, D.D.



LONDON:

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY;

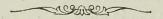
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DIVINE SONGS

FOR CHILDREN.



1.-A GENERAL SONG OF PRAISE TO GOD.

HOW glorious is our heavenly King,
Who reigns above the sky!
How shall a child presume to sing
His dreadful majesty!

- 2 How great his power is none can tell, Nor think how large his grace; Not men below, nor saints that dwell On high before his face.
- 3 Not angels that stand round the Lord Can search his secret will; But they perform his heavenly word, And sing his praises still.
- 4 Then let me join this holy train, And my first offerings bring; The eternal God will not disdain To hear an infant sing.
- 5 My heart resolves, my tongue obeys, And angels shall rejoice, To hear their mighty Maker's praise Sound from a feeble voice.

II.-PRAISE FOR CREATION AND PROVIDENCE.

I SING the almighty power of God,
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
And built the lofty skies.

2 I sing the wisdom that ordain'd

The sun to rule the day;

The moon shines full at his command,

And all the stars obey.



3 I sing the goodness of the Lord,
That fill'd the earth with food;
He form'd the creatures with his word,
And then pronounced them good.

- 4 Lord, how thy wonders are display'd Where'er I turn mine eye;
 If I survey the ground I tread,
 Or gaze upon the sky!
- 5 There's not a plant or flower below,
 But makes thy glories known;
 And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
 By order from thy throne.
- 6 Creatures (as numerous as they be)
 Are subject to thy care;
 There's not a place where we can flee,
 But God is present there.
- 7 In heaven he shines with beams of love,
 With wrath in hell beneath;
 'Tis on His earth I stand or move,
 And 'tis his air I breathe.
- 8 His hand is my perpetual guard,
 He keeps me with his eye;
 Why should I then forget the Lord,
 Who is for ever nigh?



III .- PRAISE TO GOD FOR OUR REDEMPTION.

BLESS'D be the wisdom and the power,
The justice and the grace,
That join'd in council to restore,
And save our ruin'd race.

- Our father ate forbidden fruit,
 And from his glory fell;
 And we his children thus were brought
 To death, and near to hell.
- 3 Bless'd be the Lord that sent his Son To take our flesh and blood; He for our lives gave up his own, To make our peace with God.

- 4 He honour'd all his Father's laws,
 Which we have disobeyed;
 He bore our sins upon the cross,
 And the full ransom paid.
- 5 Behold him rising from the grave, Behold him raised on high; He pleads his merits there to save Transgressors doom'd to die.
- 6 There on a glorious throne he reigns, And by his power Divine, Redeems us from the slavish chains Of Satan and of sin.
- 7 Thence shall the Lord to judgment come, And, with a sovereign voice, Shall call and break up every tomb, While waking saints rejoice.
- 8 Oh may I then with joy appear
 Before the Judge's face;
 And with the bless'd assembly there,
 Sing his redeeming grace.



IV.—PRAISE FOR MERCIES SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL.

WHENE'ER I take my walks abroad,
How many poor I see!
What shall I render to my God
For all his gifts to me?

2 Not more than others I deserve, Yet God hath given me more; For I have food while others starve, Or beg from door to door.

- 3 How many children in the street
 Half naked I behold;
 While I am clothed from head to feet,
 And cover'd from the cold!
- 4 While some poor wretches scarce can tell
 Where they may lay their head,
 I have a home wherein to dwell,
 And rest upon my bed.
- 5 While others early learn to swear,
 And curse, and lie, and steal;
 Lord, I am taught thy name to fear,
 And do thy holy will.
- 6 Are these thy favours day by day,
 To me above the rest?
 Then let me love thee more than they,
 And try to serve thee best.



V.—PRAISE FOR BIRTH AND EDUCATION IN A CHRISTIAN LAND.

GREAT God, to thee my voice I raise;
To thee my youngest hours belong;
I would begin my life with praise,
Till growing years improve the song.

- 2 'Tis to thy sovereign grace I owe, That I was born on British ground; Where streams of heavenly mercy flow, And words of sweet salvation sound.
- 3 I would not change my native land For rich Peru with all her gold A nobler prize lies in my hand Than east or western Indies hold.

- 4 How do I pity those that dwell Where ignorance and darkness reign; They know no heaven, they fear no hell Those endless joys! those endless pains
- 5 Thy glorious promises, O Lord, Kindle my hopes and my desire; While all the preachers of thy word Warn me to escape eternal fire.
- 6 Thy praise shall still employ my breath, Since thou hast marked my way to heaven; Nor will I run the road to death, Nor waste the blessings thou hast given.

VI.-PRAISE FOR THE GOSPEL.

LORD, I ascribe it to thy grace, And not to chance, as others do, That I was born of Christian race, And not a heathen or a Jew.

2 What would the ancient Jewish kings,
And Jewish prophets, once have given,
Could they have heard those glorious things
Which Christ reveal'd and brought from
heaven!



3 How glad the heathen would have been, That worshipp'd idols, wood and stone, If they the book of God had seen, Or Jesus and his gospel known!

4 Then if this gospel I refuse, How shall I e'er lift up mine eyes? For all the Gentiles and the Jews Against me will in judgment rise.



VII.—THE EXCELLENCY OF THE BIBLE.

GREAT God, with wonder and with praise On all thy works I look; But still thy wisdom, power, and grace Shine brightest in thy book.

2 The stars that in their courses roll
Have much instruction given;
But thy good word informs my soul
How I may climb to heaven.

- 3 The fields provide me food, and show The goodness of the Lord; But fruits of life and glory grow In thy most holy word.
- 4 Here are my choicest treasures hid,
 Here my best comfort lies,
 Here my desires are satisfied,
 And hence my hopes arise.
- 5 Lord, make me understand thy law, Show what my faults have been; And from thy gospel let me draw Pardon for all my sin.
- 6 Here would I learn how Christ has died,
 To save my soul from hell;
 Not all the books on earth beside
 Such heavenly wonders tell.
- 7 Then let me love my Bible more,
 And take a fresh delight,
 By day to read these wonders o'er,
 And meditate by night.



VIII.-PRAISE TO GOD FOR LEARNING TO READ.

THE praises of my tongue
I offer to the Lord,
That I was taught, and learn'd so young,
To read his holy word:

That I am brought to know
The danger I was in;
By nature and by practice too,
A wretched slave to sin:

- 3 That I am led to see
 I can do nothing well;
 And whither shall a sinner flee,
 To save himself from hell?
- Dear Lord, this book of thine,
 Informs me where to go,
 For grace to pardon all my sin,
 And make me holy too.
- Here I can read and learn,
 How Christ, the Son of God,
 Did undertake our great concern;
 Our ransom cost his blood.
- 6 And now he reigns above,
 He sends his Spirit down,
 To show the wonders of his love,
 And make his gospel known.
- 7 Oh may that Spirit teach,
 And make my heart receive,
 Those truths which all thy servants preach,
 And all thy saints believe!
- 8 Then shall I praise the Lord In a more cheerful strain, That I was taught to read his word, And have not learn'd in vain.

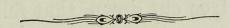


IX.-THE ALL-SEEING GOD.

ALMIGHTY God, thy piercing eye
Strikes through the shades of night;
And our most secret actions lie
All open to thy sight.

2 There's not a sin that we commit,
Nor wicked word we say,
But in thy dreadful book 'tis writ,
Against the judgment day.

- 3 And must the crimes that I have done Be read and publish'd there; Be all exposed before the sun, While men and angels hear?
- 4 Lord, at thy foot ashamed I lie; Upward I dare not look; Pardon my sins before I die, And blot them from thy book.
- 5 Remember all the dying pains That my Redeemer felt, And let his blood wash out my stains, And answer for my guilt.
- 6 Oh may I now for ever fear To indulge a sinful thought; Since the great God can see and hear, And writes down every fault.



X.-SOLEMN THOUGHTS ON GOD AND DEATH.

THERE is a God that reigns above, Lord of the heavens, and earth, and seas; I fear his wrath, I ask his love, And with my lips I sing his praise.

- 2 There is a law which he has writ, To teach us all what we must do; My soul, to his commands submit, For they are holy, just, and true.
- 3 There is a gospel of rich grace, Whence sinners all their comforts draw; Lord, I repent, and seek thy face, For I have often broke thy law.
- 4 There is an hour when I must die, Nor can I tell how soon 'twill come; A thousand children, young as I, Are call'd by death to hear their doom.
- 5 Let me improve the hours I have, Before the day of grace is fled; There's no repentance in the grave, Nor pardon offer'd to the dead.
- 6 Just as a tree cut down, that fell
 To north or southward, there it lies;
 So man departs to heaven or hell,
 Fix'd in the state wherein he dies.



XI.-HEAVEN AND HELL.

A heaven of joy and love;
And holy children, when they die,
Go to that world above.

2 There is a dreadful hell,
And everlasting pains;
Where sinners must with devils dwell,
In darkness, fire, and chains.

23

- 3 Can such a wretch as I
 Escape this cursed end?
 And may I hope, whene'er I die,
 I shall to heaven ascend?
- 4 Then I for grace will pray,
 While I have life and breath;
 Lest I should be cut off to-day,
 And sent to eternal death.

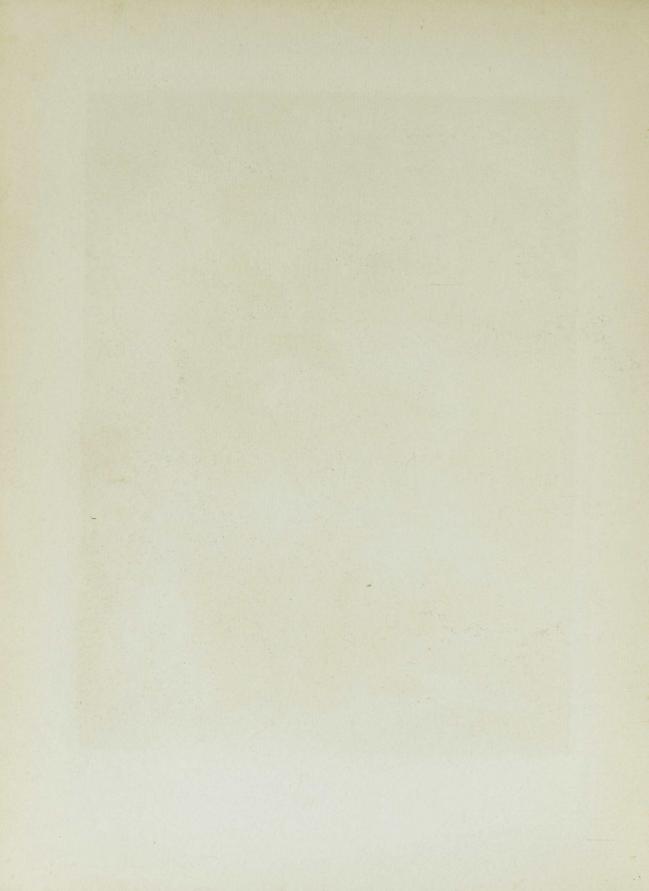
XII.-THE ADVANTAGES OF EARLY RELIGION.

HAPPY the child whose youngest years Receive instruction well; Who hates the sinner's path, and fears The road that leads to hell.

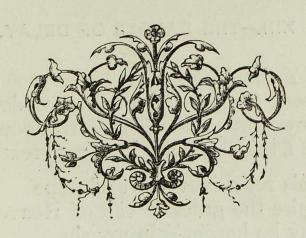
- When we devote our youth to God,
 'Tis pleasing in his eyes;
 A flower, when offer'd in the bud,
 Is no vain sacrifice.
- 3 'Tis easier work if we begin
 To fear the Lord betimes;
 While sinners, that grow old in sin,
 Are harden'd in their crimes.



ADVANTAGES OF EARLY RELIGION



- 4 'Twill save us from a thousand snares
 To mind religion young;
 Grace will preserve our following years,
 And make our virtues strong.
- 5 To thee, Almighty God, to thee
 Our childhood we resign;
 'Twill please us to look back and see
 That our whole lives were thine.
- 6 Let the sweet work of prayer and praise
 Employ my youngest breath;
 Thus I'm prepared for longer days,
 Or fit for early death.



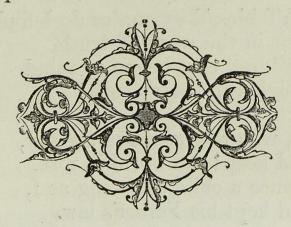


XIII,-THE DANGER OF DELAY.

WHY should I say, "'Tis yet too soon To seek for heaven, or think of death?" A flower may fade before 'tis noon, And I this day may lose my breath.

2 If this rebellious heart of mine
Despise the gracious call of Heaven,
I may be harden'd in my sin,
And never have repentance given.

- 3 What if the Lord grow wroth and swear, While I refuse to read and pray, That he'll refuse to lend an ear To all my groans another day!
- 4 What if his dreadful anger burn,
 While I refuse his offer'd grace;
 And all his love to fury turn,
 And strike me dead upon the place!
- 5 'Tis dangerous to provoke a God;
 His power and vengeance none can tell:
 One stroke of his almighty rod
 Can send young sinners quick to hell
- 6 Then 'twill for ever be in vain
 To cry for pardon and for grace;
 To wish I had my time again,
 Or hope to see my Maker's face.





XIV.-EXAMPLES OF EARLY PIETY.

WHAT bless'd examples do I find Writ in the word of truth, Of children that began to mind Religion in their youth!

2 Jesus, who reigns above the sky,
And keeps the world in awe,
Was once a child as young as I,
And kept his Father's law.

- 3 At twelve years old he talk'd with men,
 (The Jews all wondering stand;)
 Yet he obey'd his mother then,
 And came at her command.
- 4 Children a sweet hosanna sung,
 And bless'd their Saviour's name;
 They gave him honour with their tongue,
 While scribes and priests blaspheme.
- 5 Samuel, the child, was wean'd, and brought
 To wait upon the Lord;
 Young Timothy betimes was taught
 To know his holy word.
- 6 Then why should I so long delay
 What others learn'd so soon?
 I would not pass another day
 Without this work begun.

XV.-AGAINST LYING.

OH, 'tis a lovely thing for youth To walk betimes in wisdom's way, To fear a lie, to speak the truth, That we may trust to all they say!

- 2 But liars we can never trust,
 Tho' they should speak the thing that's true;
 And he that does one fault at first.
 And lies to hide it, makes it two.
- 3 Have we not known, nor heard, nor read, How God abhors deceit and wrong? How Ananias was struck dead, Caught with a lie upon his tongue?
- 4 So did his wife Sapphira die, When she came in, and grew so bold As to confirm the wicked lie That just before her husband told.
- 4 The Lord delights in them that speak
 The words of truth; but every liar
 Must have his portion in the lake
 That burns with brimstone and with fire.
- 6 Then let me always watch my lips, Lest I be struck to death and hell; Since God a book of reckoning keeps For every lie that children tell.



XVI.-AGAINST QUARRELLING AND FIGHTING.

LET dogs delight to bark and bite,
For God hath made them so;
Let bears and lions growl and fight,
For 'tis their nature too.

2 But, children, you should never let Such angry passions rise; Your little hands were never made To tear each other's eyes.

- 3 Let love through all your actions run, And all your words be mild; Live like the blessed Virgin's Son, That sweet and lovely Child.
- 4 His soul was gentle as a lamb;
 And, as his stature grew,
 He grew in favour both with man
 And God his Father too.
- 5 Now Lord of all, he reigns above, And from his heavenly throne, He sees what children dwell in love, And marks them for his own.

XVII.-LOVE BETWEEN BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

WHATEVER brawls disturb the street,
There should be peace at home;
Where sisters dwell, and brothers meet,
Quarrels should never come.

- 2 Birds in their little nests agree,
 And 'tis a shameful sight,
 When children of one family
 Fall out, and chide, and fight.
- 3 Hard names at first, and threatening words,
 That are but noisy breath,
 May grow to clubs and naked swords,
 To murder and to death.
- 4 The devil tempts one mother's son To rage against another! So wicked Cain was hurried on, Till he had kill'd his brother.
- 5 The wise will let their anger cool,
 At least before 'tis night!
 But in the bosom of a fool
 It burns till morning light.
- 6 Pardon, O Lord, our childish rage, Our little brawls remove; That as we grow to riper age, Our hearts may all be love.



XVIII.-AGAINST SCOFFING AND CALLING NAMES.

OUR tongues were made to bless the Lord,
And not speak ill of men;
When others give a railing word,
We must not rail again.

2 Cross names and angry words require
To be chastised at school;
And he's in danger of hell fire,
That calls his brother, Fool!

- 3 But lips that dare be so profane,
 To mock, and jeer, and scoff
 At holy things, or holy men,
 The Lord shall cut them off.
- 4 When children, in their wanton play,
 Served old Elisha so;
 And bade the prophet go his way:
 "Go up, thou bald-head, go!"
- 5 God quickly stopp'd their wicked breath,
 And sent two raging bears,
 That tore them limb from limb to death,
 With blood, and groans, and tears.
- 6 Great God, how terrible art thou
 To sinners e'er so young!
 Grant me thy grace, and teach me how
 To tame and rule my tongue.



XIX.—AGAINST SWEARING, CURSING, AND TAKING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN.

ANGELS, that high in glory dwell, Adore thy name, Almighty God! And devils tremble down in hell, Beneath the terrors of thy rod.

2 And yet how wicked children dare Abuse thy dreadful, glorious name; And when they're angry, how they swear, And curse their fellows, and blaspheme!

- 3 How will they stand before thy face, Who treated thee with such disdain, While thou shalt doom them to the place Of everlasting fire and pain!
- 4 Then never shall one cooling drop
 To quench their burning tongues be given;
 But I will praise thee here, and hope
 Thus to employ my tongue in heaven.
- 5 My heart shall be in pain to hear Wretches affront the Lord above: 'Tis that great God whose power I fear, That heavenly Father whom I love.
- 6 If my companions grow profane, I'll leave their friendship, when I hear Young sinners take thy name in vain, And learn to curse, and learn to swear.

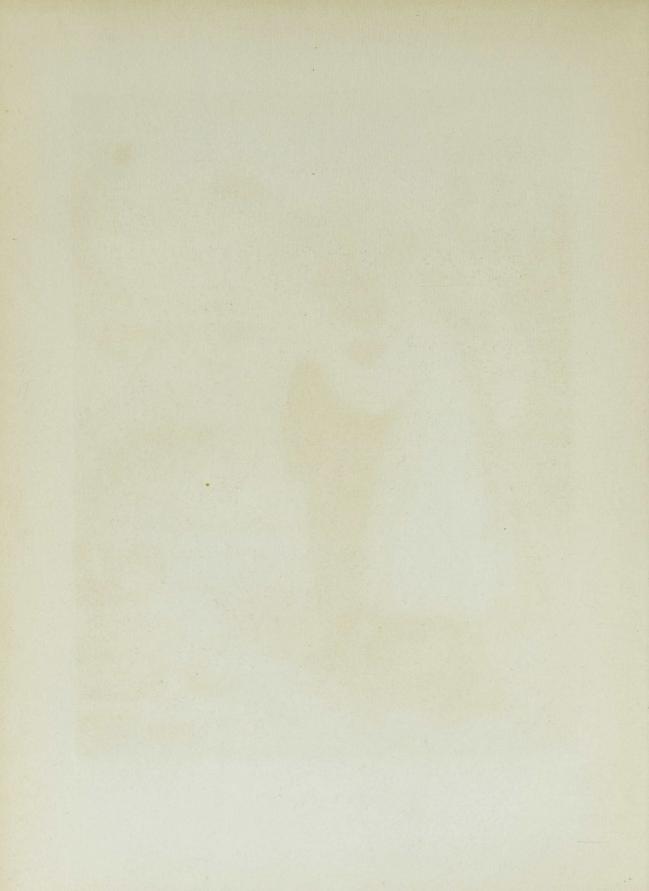
XX.-AGAINST IDLENESS AND MISCHIEF.

HOW doth the little busy bee Improve each shining hour, And gather honey all the day From every opening flower!

- 2 How skilfully she builds her cell!
 How neat she spreads the wax!
 And labours hard to store it well
 With the sweet food she makes.
- 3 In works of labour or of skill
 I would be busy too;
 For Satan finds some mischief still
 For idle hands to do.
- 4 In books, or work, or healthful play,
 Let my first years be past;
 That I may give for every day
 Some good account at last.



IDLENESS and MISCHIEF



XXI-AGAINST EVIL COMPANY.

WHY should I join with those in play In whom I've no delight; Who curse and swear, but never pray; Who call ill names and fight?

- 2 I hate to hear a wanton song,
 The words offend mine ears;
 I should not dare defile my tongue
 With language such as theirs.
- 3 Away from fools I'll turn mine eyes,
 Nor with the scoffers go;
 I would be walking with the wise,
 That wiser I may grow.
- 4 From one rude boy that's used to mock,
 They learn the wicked jest:
 One sickly sheep infects the flock,
 And poisons all the rest.
- 5 My God, I hate to walk or dwell With sinful children here; Then let me not be sent to hell, Where none but sinners are.



XXII.-AGAINST PRIDE IN CLOTHES.

WHY should our garments, made to hide Our parents' shame, provoke our pride? The art of dress did ne'er begin, Till Eve, our mother, learn'd to sin.

- 2 When first she put the covering on, Her robe of innocence was gone; And yet her children vainly boast In the sad marks of glory lost.
- 3 How proud we are, how fond to show Our clothes, and call them rich and new; When the poor sheep and silkworm wore That very clothing long before!

- 4 The tulip and the butterfly
 Appear in gayer coats than I;
 Let me be dress'd fine as I will,
 Flies, worms, and flowers exceed me still.
- 5 Then will I set my heart to find Inward adornings of the mind; Knowledge and virtue, truth and grace, These are the robes of richest dress.
- 6 No more shall worms with me compare, This is the raiment angels wear; The Son of God, when here below, Put on this bless'd apparel too.
- 7 It never fades, it ne'er grows old,
 Nor fears the rain, nor moth, nor mould;
 It takes no spot, but still refines;
 The more 'tis worn, the more it shines.
- 8 In this on earth would I appear,
 Then go to heaven and wear it there;
 God will approve it in his sight,
 'Tis his own work and his delight.





XXIII.-OBEDIENCE TO PARENTS.

LET children that would fear the Lord Hear what their teachers say: With reverence hear their parent's word, And with delight obey.

2 Have you not heard what dreadful plagues
Are threaten'd by the Lord,
To him that breaks his father's laws,
Or mocks his mother's word?

3 What heavy guilt upon him lies!
How cursed is his name!
The ravens shall pick out his eyes,
And eagles eat the same.

4 But those that worship God, and give
Their parents honour due,
Here on this earth they long shall live,
And live hereafter too.

XXIV. -THE CHILD'S COMPLAINT.

WHY should I love my sport so well,
So constant at my play;
And lose the thoughts of heaven and hell,
And then forget to pray?

2 What do I read my Bible for, But, Lord, to learn thy will? And shall I daily know thee more, And less obey thee still?

3 How senseless is my heart, and wild!

How vain are all my thoughts!

Pity the weakness of a child,

And pardon all my faults.

4 Make me thy heavenly voice to hear, And let me love to pray; Since God will lend a gracious ear To what a child can say.



XXV.-A MORNING SONG.

MY God, who makes the sun to know His proper hour to rise, And, to give light to all below, Doth send him round the skies.

2 When from the chambers of the east
His morning race begins,
He never tires nor stops to rest,
But round the world he shines.

3 So, like the sun, would I fulfil
The business of the day;
Begin my work betimes, and still
March on my heavenly way.

4 Give me, O Lord, thine early grace,
Nor let my soul complain,
That the young morning of my days
Has all been spent in vain.

XXVI.-AN EVENING SONG.

AND now another day is gone,
I'll sing my Maker's praise;
My comforts every hour make known
His providence and grace.

2 But how my childhood runs to waste!
My sins, how great their sum!
Lord, give me pardon for the past,
And strength for days to come.

3 I lay my body down to sleep,
Let angels guard my head,
And through the hours of darkness keep
Their watch around my bed.

4 With cheerful heart I close mine eyes,
Since thou wilt not remove;
And in the morning let me rise
Rejoicing in thy love.

45



XXVII.-FOR THE LORD'S DAY MORNING.

THIS is the day when Christ arose
So early from the dead;
Why should I keep mine eyelids closed,
And waste my hours in bed?

- 2 This is the day when Jesus broke
 The powers of death and hell;
 And shall I still wear Satan's yoke,
 And love my sins so well?
- 3 To-day with pleasure Christians meet,
 To pray and hear thy word;
 And I would go with cheerful feet,
 To learn thy will, O Lord.

4 I'll leave my sport to read and pray,
And so prepare for heaven:
Oh may I love this blessed day
The best of all the seven!

XXVIII.-FOR THE LORD'S DAY EVENING.

LORD, how delightful 'tis to see A whole assembly worship thee! At once they sing, at once they pray; They hear of heaven, and learn the way.

- 2 I have been there, and still would go, 'Tis like a little heaven below;
 Not all my pleasure and my play
 Shall tempt me to forget this day.
- 3 Oh, write upon my memory, Lord,
 The texts and doctrines of thy word;
 That I may break thy laws no more,
 But love thee better than before.
- 4 With thoughts of Christ, and things divine Fill up this foolish heart of mine;
 That, hoping pardon through his blood,
 I may lie down and wake with God.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

- 1 THOU shalt have no other gods but me;
- 2 Before no idol bow thy knee;
- 3 Take not the name of God in vain;
- 4 Nor dare the sabbath day profane;
- 5 Give both thy parents honour due;
- 6 Take heed that thou no murder do;
- 7 Abstain from words and deeds unclean;
- 8 Nor steal, though thou art poor and mean;
- 9 Nor make a wilful lie, nor love it;
- 10 What is thy neighbour's dare not covet.

THE SUM OF THE COMMANDMENTS.
WITH all thy soul love God above,
And as thyself thy neighbour love.

OUR SAVIOUR'S GOLDEN RULE.-MATT. VII. 12.

BE you to others kind and true, As you'd have others be to you; And neither do nor say to men Whate'er you would not take again.

DUTY TO GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOUR.

LOVE God with all your soul and strength,
With all your heart and mind;
And love your neighbour as yourself:
Be faithful, just, and kind.

2 Deal with another as you'd have
Another deal with you:
What you're unwilling to receive,
Be sure you never do.

THE HOSANNA; OR, SALVATION ASCRIBED TO CHRIST.

HOSANNA to king David's Son, Who reigns on a superior throne. We bless the Prince of heavenly birth, Who brings salvation down to earth.

2 Let every nation, every age, In this delightful work engage; Old men and babes in Sion sing The growing glories of her King.

HOSANNA to the Prince of grace:
Sion, behold thy King!
Proclaim the Son of David's race,
And teach the babes to sing.



2 Hosanna to the eternal Word, Who from the Father came: Ascribe salvation to the Lord, With blessings on his name.

HOSANNA to the Son
Of David and of God,
Who brought the news of pardon down,
And bought it with his blood.

2 To Christ, the anointed King,
Be endless blessings given:
Let the whole earth his glories sing,
Who made our peace with heaven.

GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, ETC.

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TO God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One, Be honour, praise, and glory given, By all on earth, and all in heaven.

NOW let the Father, and the Son,
And Spirit be adored,
Where there are works to make him known,
Or saints to love the Lord.

GIVE to the Father praise,
Give glory to the Son,
And to the Spirit of his grace
Be equal honour done.

MORAL SONGS.



I.-THE SLUGGARD.

'Tis the voice of the sluggard; I heard him complain,

"You have waked me too soon, I must

slumber again."

As the door on its hinges, so he on his bed, Turns his sides, and his shoulders, and his heavy head.

2 "A little more sleep, and a little more slumber;"

Thus he wastes half his days, and his hours

without number:

And when he gets up, he sits folding his hands, Or walks about saunt'ring, or trifling he stands.

3 I pass'd by his garden, and saw the wild brier, The thorn and the thistle grow broader and higher;

The clothes that hang on him are turning to

rags;

And his money still wastes, till he starves or he begs.

4 I made him a visit, still hoping to find

He had took better care for improving his mind:

He told me his dreams, talk'd of eating and drinking;

But he scarce reads his Bible, and never loves

thinking.

5 Said I then to my heart, "Here's a lesson for me, This man's but a picture of what I might be: But thanks to my friends for their care in my breeding,

Who taught me betimes to love working and

reading."

II.-INNOCENT PLAY.

ABROAD in the meadows to see the young lambs

Run sporting about by the side of their dams,

With fleeces so clean and so white;

Or a nest of young doves, in a large open cage, When they play all in love, without anger and rage:

How much we may learn from the sight!

2 If we had been ducks, we might dabble in mud, Or dogs, we might play till it ended in blood; So foul and so fierce are their natures:

But Thomas and William, and such pretty

names,

Should be cleanly and harmless as doves or as lambs,

Those levely sweet innocent creatures.

3 Not a thing that we do, nor a word that we say, Should injure another in jesting or play;

For he's still in earnest that's hurt:

How rude are the boys that throw pebbles and mire;

There's none but a madman will fling about fire, And tell you, "'Tis all but in sport."



INNOCENT PLAY



III.-THE ROSE.

HOW fair is the rose! What a beautiful flower! The glory of April and May;

But the leaves are beginning to fade in an hour, And they wither and die in a day.

2 Yet the rose has one powerful virtue to boast, Above all the flowers of the field;

When its leaves are all dead, and fine colours are lost,

Still how sweet a perfume it will yield!

3 So frail is the youth and the beauty of man, Though they bloom and look gay like a rose;

But all our fond care to preserve them is vain,

Time kills them as fast as he goes.

4 Then I'll not be proud of my youth or my beauty,

Since both of them wither and fade;

But gain a good name by well doing my duty;

This will scent like a rose when I'm dead.



IV.-THE THIEF.

WHY should I deprive my neighbour Of his goods against his will? Hands were made for honest labour, Not to plunder or to steal.

- 2 'Tis a foolish self-deceiving,
 By such tricks to hope for gain;
 All that's ever got by thieving
 Turns to sorrow, shame, and pain.
- 3 Have not Eve and Adam taught us
 Their sad profit to compute;
 To what dismal state they brought us,
 When they stole forbidden fruit?

- 4 Oft we see a young beginner
 Practise little pilfering ways,
 Till grown up a harden'd sinner,
 Then the gallows ends his days.
- 5 Theft will not be always hidden, Though we fancy none can spy; When we take a thing forbidden, God beholds it with his eye.
- 6 Guard my heart, O God of heaven,
 Lest I covet what's not mine;
 Lest I take what is not given,
 Guard my heart and hands from sin.

V.-THE ANT, OR EMMET.

THESE emmets, how little they are in our eyes!

We tread them to dust, and a troop of them dies,

Without our regard or concern;
Yet, wise as we are, if we went to their school,
There's many a sluggard and many a fool,
Some lessons of wisdom might learn.

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2 They wear not their time out in sleeping or play,

But gather up corn on a sunshiny day,

And for winter they lay up their stores; They manage their work in such regular forms, One would think they foresaw all the frost and

the storms,

And so brought their food within doors.

3 But I have less sense than a poor creeping ant, If I take not good care of the things I shall want,

Nor provide against dangers in time;

When death or old age shall once stare in my face,

What a wretch shall I be in the end of my days, If I trifle away all their prime!

4 Now, now, while my strength and my youth are in bloom,

Let me think what shall serve me when sickness shall come,

And pray that my sins be forgiven:

Let me read in good books, and believe, and obey,

That when death turns me out of this cottage of clay,

I may dwell in a palace in heaven.

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VI.-GOOD RESOLUTIONS.

THOUGH I'm now in younger days,

Nor can tell what shall befall me,
I'll prepare for every place,
Where my growing age shall call me.

- 2 Should I e'er be rich or great,
 Others shall partake my goodness:
 I'll supply the poor with meat,
 Never showing scorn or rudeness.
- 3 Where I see the blind or lame,
 Deaf or dumb, I'll kindly treat them;
 I deserve to feel the same,
 If I mock, or hurt, or cheat them.
- 4 If I meet with railing tongues,
 Why should I return their railing?
 Since I best revenge my wrongs,
 By my patience never failing.
- 5 When I hear them telling lies,
 Talking foolish, cursing, swearing:
 First I'll strive to make them wise,
 Or I'll soon go out of hearing.

6 What though I be low and mean,
I'll engage the rich to love me;
While I'm modest, neat, and clean,
And submit when they reprove me.

7 If I should be poor and sick,
I shall meet, I hope, with pity;
Since I love to help the weak,
Though they're neither fair nor witty.

8 I'll not willingly offend,
Nor be easily offended;
What's amiss I'll strive to mend,
And endure what can't be mended.

9 May I be so watchful still,
O'er my humours and my passion,
As to speak and do no ill,
Though it should be all the fashion.

10 Wicked fashions lead to hell,

Ne'er may I be found complying;

But in life behave so well,

Not to be afraid of dying.

VII.-SUMMER EVENING.

HOW fine has the day been! How bright was the sun!

How lovely and joyful the course that he run!

Though he rose in a mist when his race he begun,
And there followed some droppings of rain:
But now the fair traveller comes to the west,
His rays are all gold and his beauties are best;
He paints the sky gay as he sinks to his rest,
And foretells a bright rising again.



2 Just such is the Christian: his course he begins Like the sun in a mist, while he mourns for his sins,

And melts into tears; then he breaks out and shines,

And travels his heavenly way:
But when he comes nearer to finish his race,
Like a fine setting sun, he looks richer in grace,
And gives a sure hope at the end of his days
Of rising in brighter array.

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VIII - CRADLE HYMN.

HUSH, my dear, lie still and slumber;
Holy angels guard thy bed;
Heavenly blessings, without number,
Gently falling on thy head.

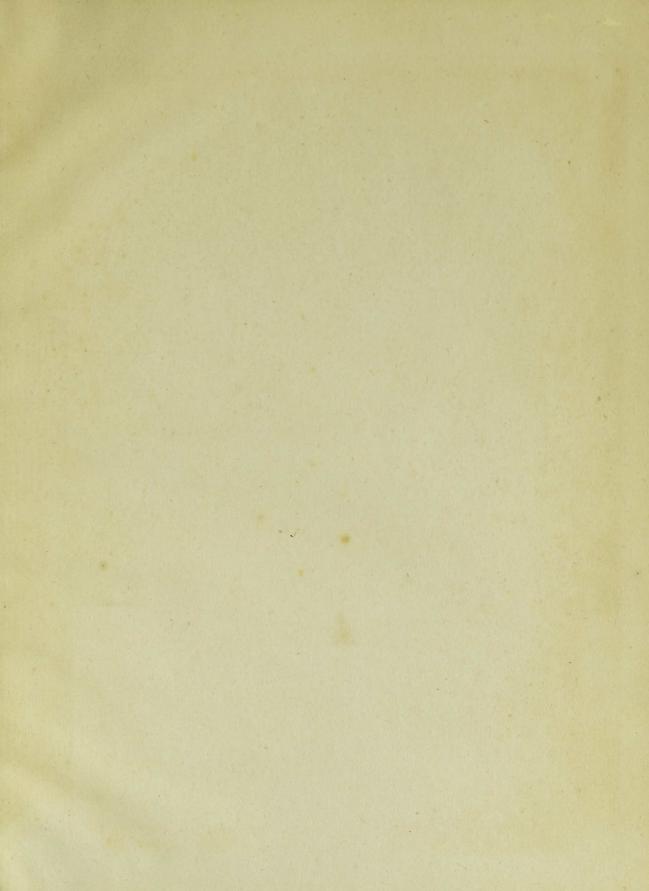
- 2 Sleep, my babe; thy food and raiment, House and home thy friends provide; And, without thy care or payment, All thy wants are well supplied.
- 3 How much better thou'rt attended Than the Son of God could be, When from heaven he descended, And became a child like thee!

- 4 Soft and easy is thy cradle;
 Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,
 When his birth-place was a stable,
 And his softest bed was hay.
- 5 Blessed Babe! what glorious features!
 Spotless fair, Divinely bright;
 Must be dwell with brutal creatures?
 How could angels bear the sight?
- 6 Was there nothing but a manger Cursed sinners could afford, To receive the heavenly Stranger? Did they thus affront the Lord?
- 7 Soft, my child, I did not chide thee,
 Though my song might sound too hard;
 'Tis thy mother* sits beside thee,
 And her arms shall be thy guard.
- 8 Yet to read the shameful story,
 How the Jews abused their King,
 How they served the Lord of Glory,
 Makes me angry while I sing.
- 9 See the kinder shepherds round him,
 Telling wonders from the sky;
 Where they sought him there they found him
 With his virgin mother by.

^{*} Here you may use the words, Brother, Sister, Neighbour, etc.

- 10 See the lovely Babe a-dressing,
 Lovely Infant, how he smiled;
 When he wept, the mother's blessing
 Sooth'd and hush'd the holy Child.
- 11 Lo! he slumbers in the manger,
 Where the horned oxen fed!
 Peace, my darling, here's no danger,
 There's no ox a-near thy bed.
- 12 'Twas to save thee, child, from dying,
 Save my dear from burning flame,
 Bitter groans and endless crying,
 That thy blest Redeemer came.
- 13 May'st thou live to know and fear him,
 Trust and love him all thy days;
 Then go dwell for ever near him,
 See his face and sing his praise.
- 14 I could give thee thousand kisses,
 Hoping what I most desire;
 Not a mother's fondest wishes
 Can to greater joys aspire.







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