FOLK SONG

OF

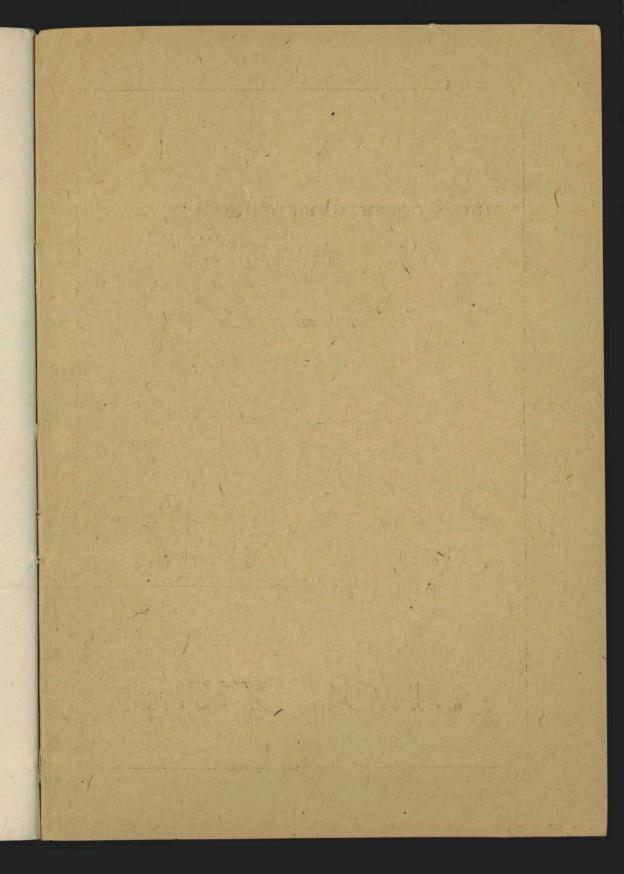
AMERICAN NEGRO



Published by

JOHN W. WORK AND FREDERICK J. WORK

Nashville, Tenn.



FOLK SONGS

OF THE

AMERICAN NEGRO.

EDITED BY

FREDERICK J. WORK, B. A.

INTRODUCTION BY

JOHN W. WORK, JR., M. A

INTRODUCTION

The Plantation Melodies first given to the world by those famous Jubilee singers sent out by Fisk University in 1871 have steadily, even slowly gained favor with all classes of people. Even the Negro himself, whose music this is, has little by little overcome his resentment against it, notwithstanding this resentment sprang from the idea that these songs were very closely connected with slavery and all that slavery meant. These two, plantation music and slavery, have always been so intimately interwoven that it has been impossible for the first generation after slavery to separate them, and so, to keep the thoughts of bondage out of their minds, these folk songs have outwardly almost been despised. Still away down in the Negro's heart there has been a smouldering coal of love for his own peculiar songs which have been gradually fanned into a burning flame by two forces, education and the knowledge that musicians of other people are studying it seriously.

Indeed, it augurs auspiciously that the educated Negro is learning to appreciate duly these songs, for it is his duty to preserve them, with their best and truest interpretation. Since they tell faithfully the Negro's innermost life, both intellectually and spiritually, they are the only true source of our history. If any man would read the Negro's life, let him study his songs. Never was a character more accurately portrayed than that picture herein. And naturally enough it is strengthening its hold upon the Negro's religious nature and has a peculiar influence over him. If our ministers would more largely recognize this and act upon it, their

power for saving souls would be correspondingly enlarged.

If there is any expression to describe this music fitly, this seems to be it:

Syncopated, Rhythmic, Sacred Melody.

This syncopation gives it a peculiar advantage in representing musically the idea of the words. For instance in the song "Inching Along" one can really see the inchworm as he crawls. So it is with a large number of the songs. Rhythm; omit that and you have lost an essential attribute. The very soul of the Negro is linked with rhythm. So important a factor is this that in every imitation of the Negro's folk song great stress is placed upon it. Every "rag" (which is a counterfeit of this music) is conspicuous for its rhythm.

So natural is it, and such a powerful hold has it upon the nature of the Negro that when he really sings in earnest, he sings not only with his voice, but with his head, hands, feet, and even his whole body. There is a clapping of hands and patting of feet, the swaying of body. To all of which this music is eminently

adapted.

The bodily singing or timekeeping contributes much amazement to strangers who visit the Negro churches where these songs are sung. The Negro is in dead earnest when he does it, but the stranger thinks it is fun. It is this idea that leads many people to imitate mockingly this music. The minstrel man blacks uphis face and throws an audience into convulsions singing plantation melodies. But he and his audience, too, have missed the point; for if he ever sings these songs in the right spirit, he will turn his show into a revival.

To sing these songs correctly, the stranger must be in a spiritual frame of mind. Then, too, he must not try to sing—that is, he must not try to impress people with his voice, or voice culture, but must abandon himself entirely to his

spiritual nature. This done, there is no need for fear or failure.

These songs are still being hunted and found. We think there are in this little book some songs that have not been generally known save in certain small localities. This pleasure gained from the search is inexpressible—and the first public rendition is always the keenest delight.

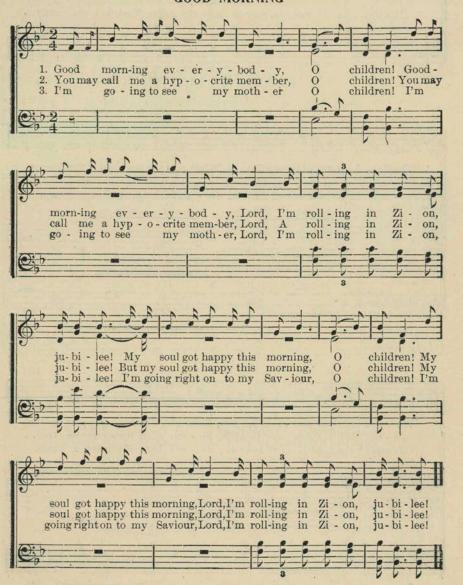
They are sources of great joy as well as sources of history.

J. W. WORK.

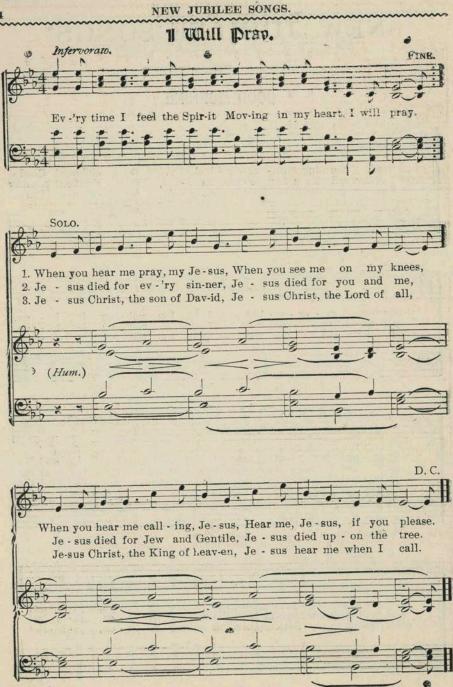
Fisk University, May 15, 1907.

NEW JUBILEE SONGS

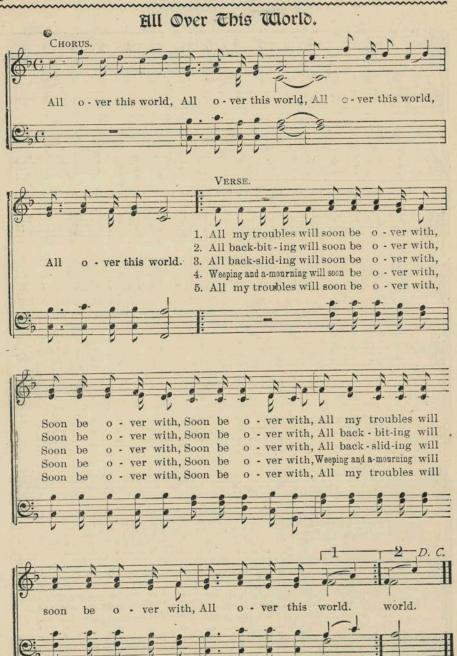
GOOD MORNING





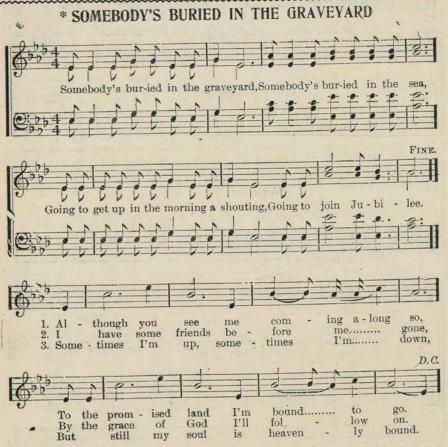






I KNOW THE LORD'S LAID HIS HANDS ON ME





* Death held a very prominent place in the mind and songs of the slave. In exact proportion to his hardships, did he sing of death and the glories of Heaven where he should receive just those things that were here denied him. Heaven was to him above all else a place of rest and of shouting and jubilation.

WADE IN THE WATER—Concluded

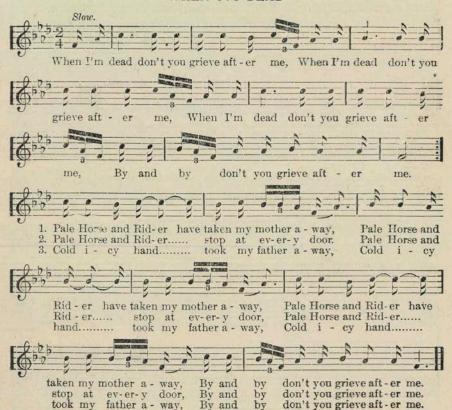


- See that band all dressed in white, God's a-going to trouble the wa-ter, The
 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-going to trouble the wa-ter, Looks
 Look over yonder what do I see? God's a-going to trouble the wa-ter; The
- 4. You don't believe I've been redeemed? God's a-going to trouble the wa ter, Just

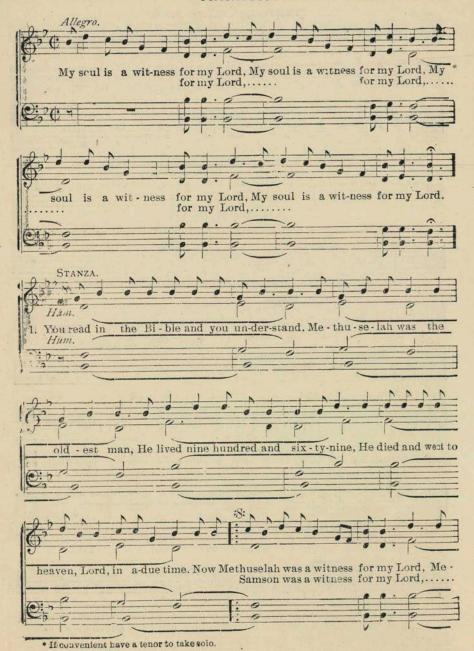


Lead-er looks like the Is - rael - ite, God's a-going to trouble the wa - ter. like the band that Mo-ses led, God's a-going to trouble the wa - ter. Ho - ly Ghost a - coming on me, God's a-going to trouble the wa - ter. fol-low me down to Jordan's stream, God's a-going to trouble the wa - ter.

WHEN I'M DEAD



Witness.*



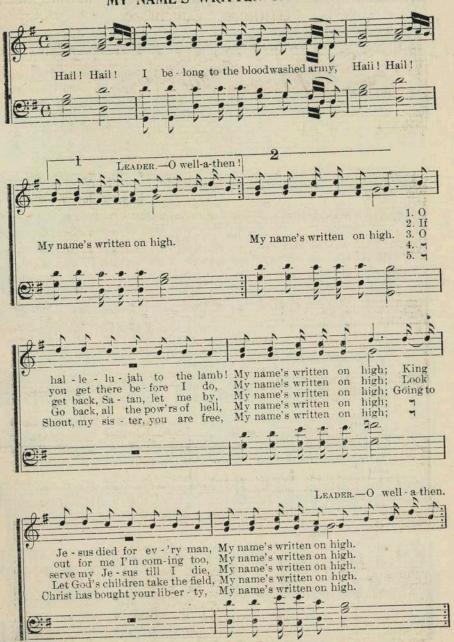
Witness. Continued.



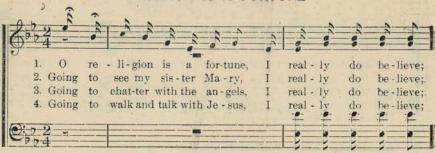
Witness. Concluded.



MY NAME'S WRITTEN ON HIGH



RELIGION IS A FORTUNE







- O Sabbaths have no end. Where've you been, poor mourn-er? Where've you been so
- O Sabbaths have no end. Where've you been, young con-vert? Where've you been so
- O Sabbaths have no end. Where've you been, good chris-tian? Where've you been so

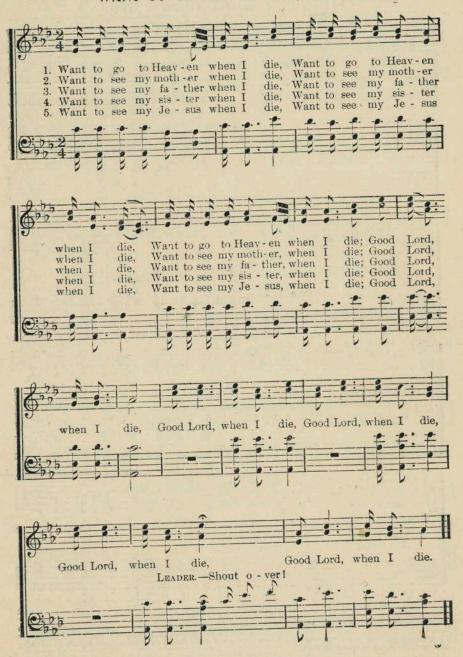


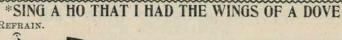


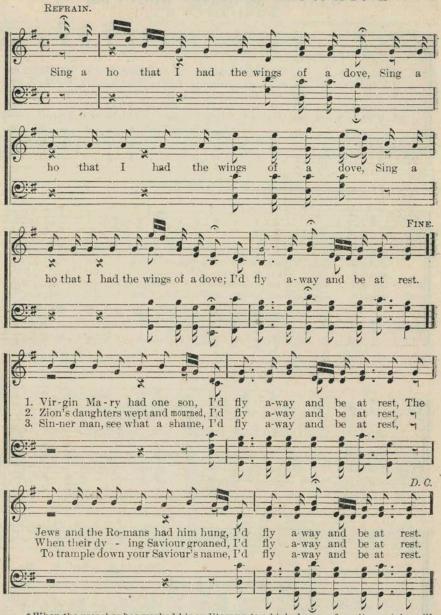
long? Been low down in the val-ley for to pray, And I ain't got wea-ry yet.



WANT TO GO HEAVEN WHEN I DIE

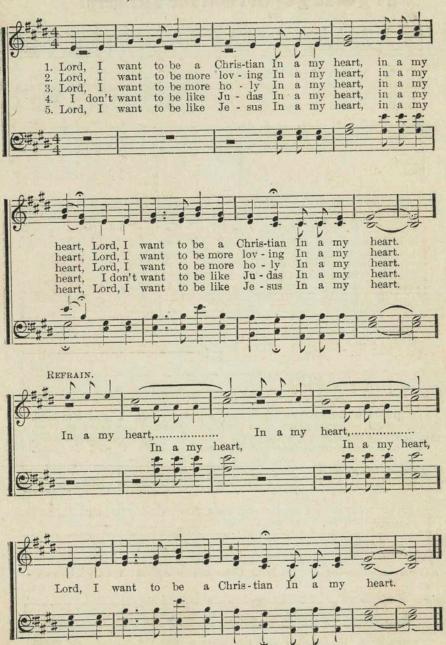






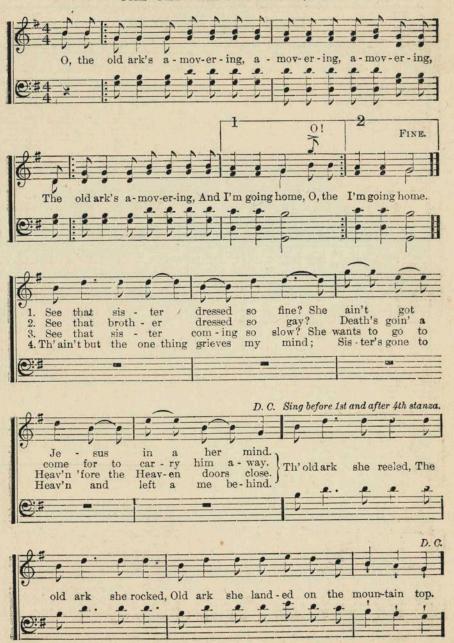
*When the preacher has worked his auditors up to a high degree of excitement, he will often break off and extemporize some song, with his text as its basis, in which the audience joins, and then at the end of it will go on "exhorting" again. This song, which is one of the most beautiful of our collection, was composed in this way in Robertson County, Tennessee. It seemed at first crude and unavailable but as it was sung over and over again gradually reached its present musical form.

LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN



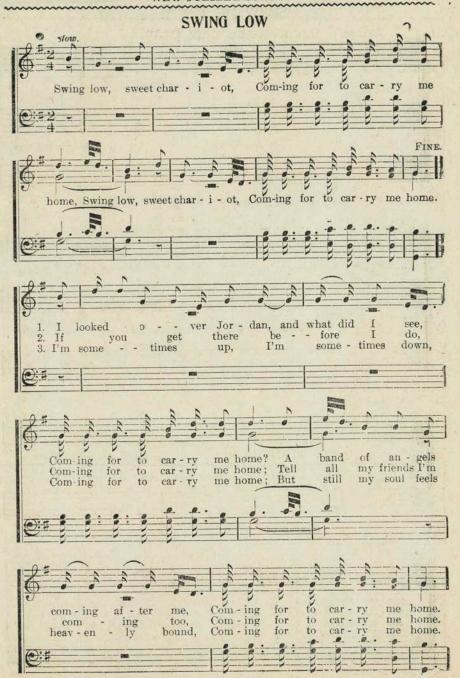


THE OLD ARK'S A-MOVERING

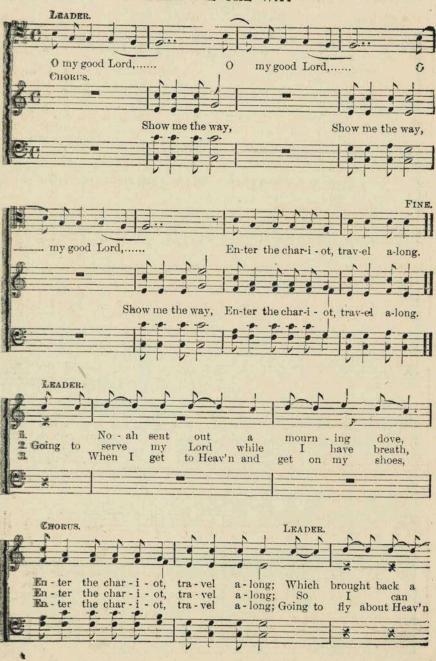


Steal Away and Pray.





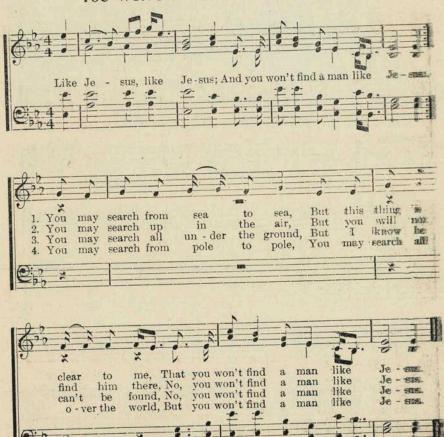
SHOW ME THE WAY

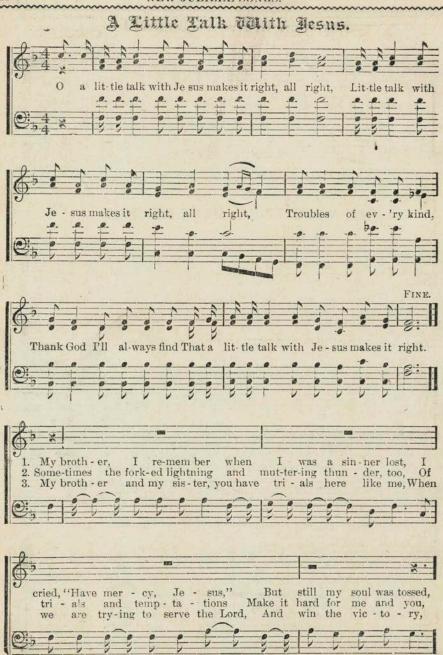


SHOW ME THE WAY-Concluded



YOU WON'T FIND A MAN LIKE JESUS

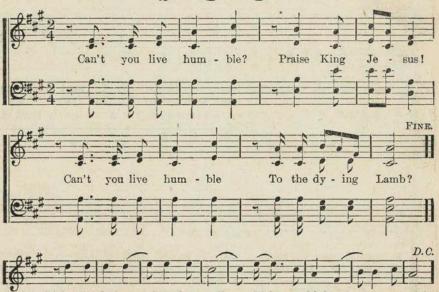




A Little Talk With Jesus-Concluded.

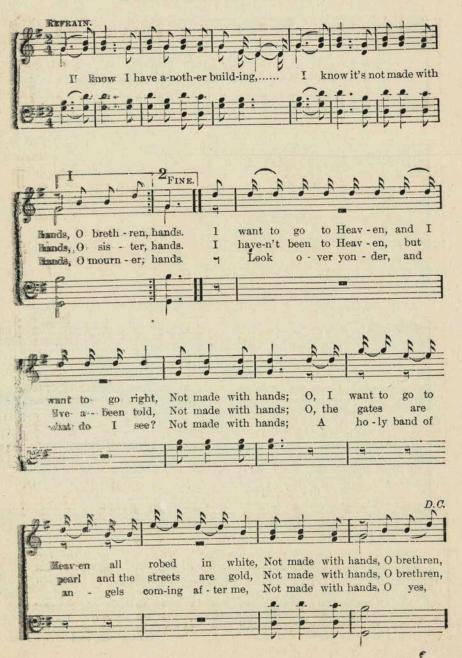


Can't You Live Humble?

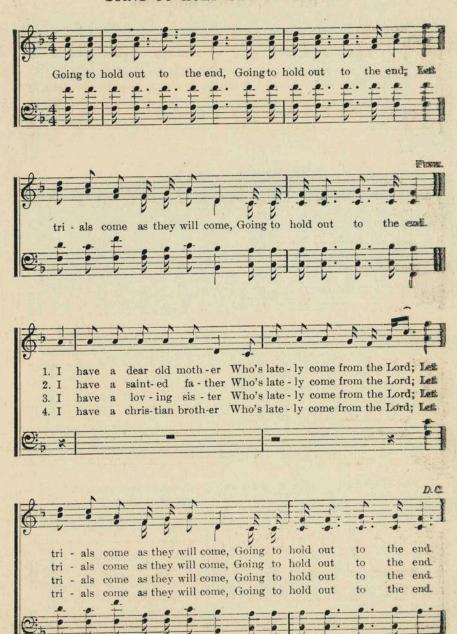


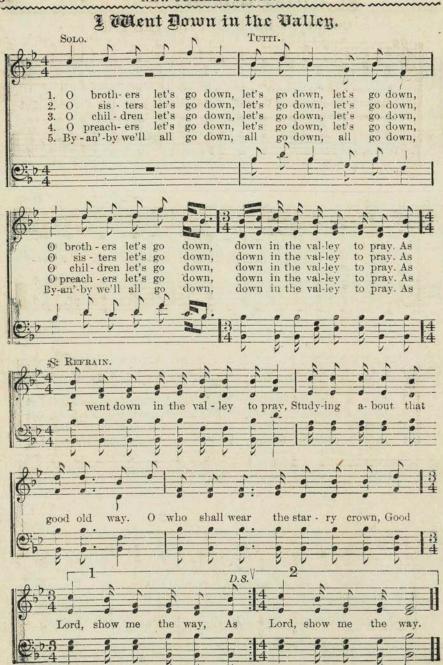
- 1. Lightning flashes, thun-ders roll,
- 2. Come here, Je-sus, Ev-'ry-bod-y
- 4. Came down here and talked to me,
- Make me think of my poor soul. come here, please, come and see, A man's been here from Gal - i - lee;
 - Went a way and left me free.

I HAVE ANOTHER BUILDING

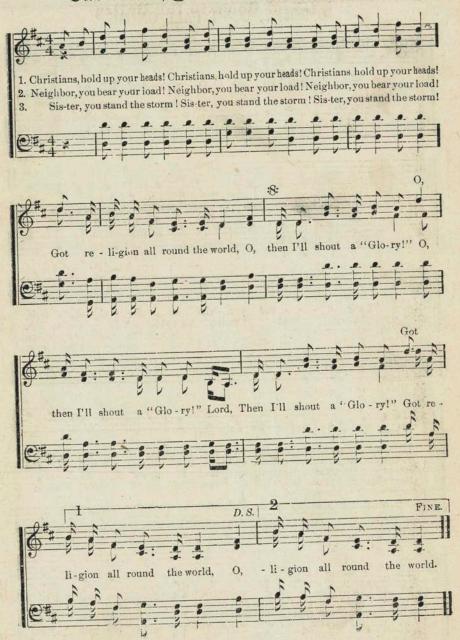


GOING TO HOLD OUT TO THE END



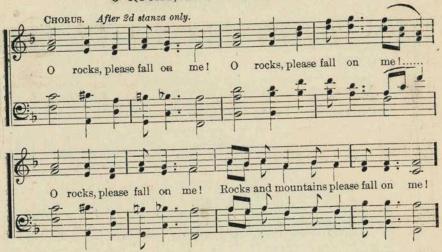


Christians, Hold Ap Your Heads.





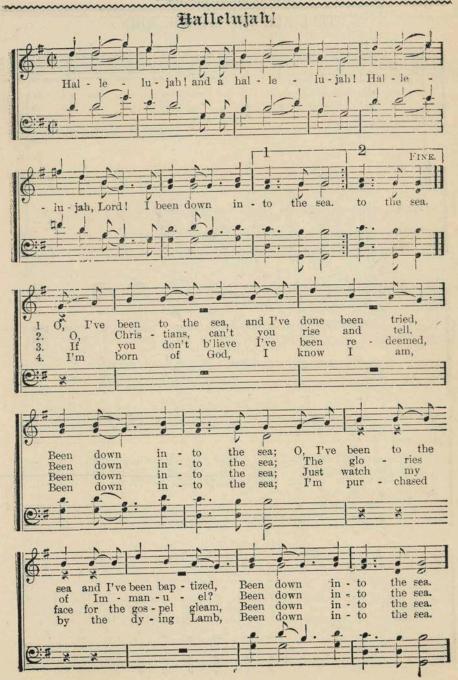
O ROCKS, DON'T FALL ON ME



BEFORE THIS TIME ANOTHER YEAR







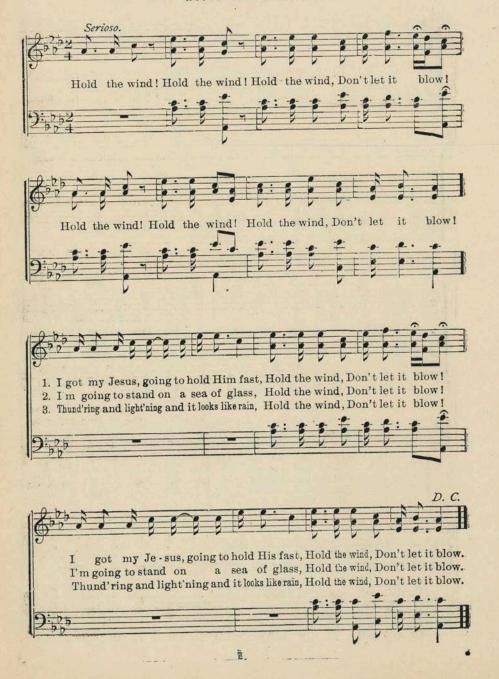
TELL ALL THE WORLD, JOHN



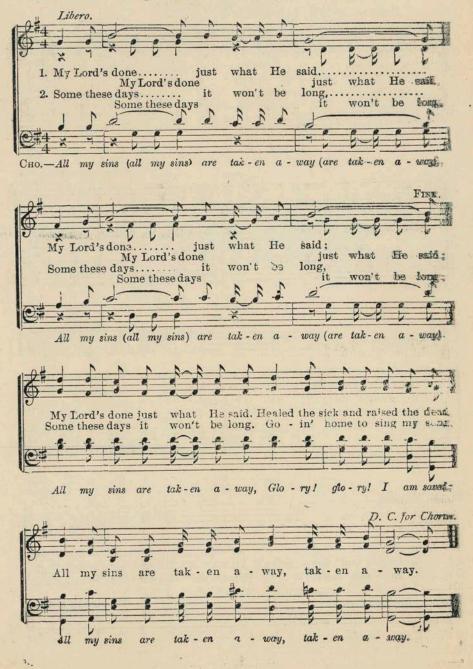
JESUS IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD



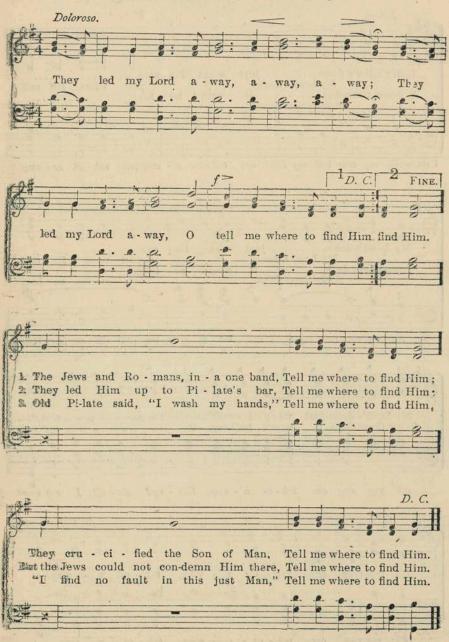
Mold the Wind.



My Sins Are Taken Away.



They Led My Lord Away.



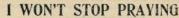
There's Preaching Ibere.



It's Me.

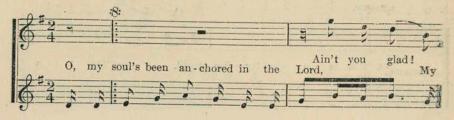


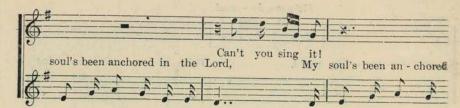




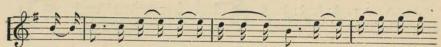


*MY SOUL'S BEEN ANCHORED IN THE LORD









1. Where've you been, poor sin - - ner? O, where've you
2. You may talk a-bout me just as much as you please, You may spread my
3. See my fa-ther in the gos - - - pel Come † wagging up the



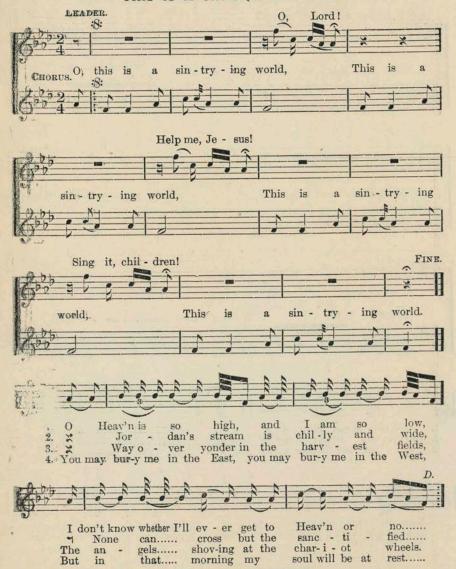
been so long? Been working out of the sight of man, And my name a - broad; I'll pray for you when I get on my knees, For my hill so slow, He's cry - ing now as he cried be - fore, My

Exclamations for Verses

- 1. O, I'm happy! Found my Jesus! On my knees!
- 2. You can't hurt me! For I'm sheltered! In my Jesus!
- 3. Left my burden! At the river! In the valley!

- *See note on page 12.
- †I.e., toiling, moving slowly.

* THIS IS A SIN-TRYING WORLD



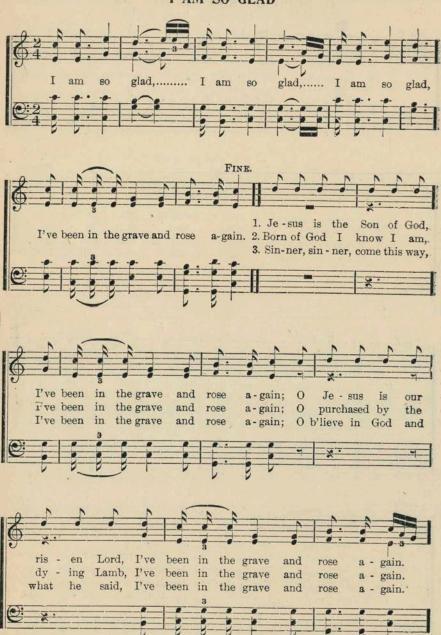
Exclamations for Verses

High Heaven! 2. Cold Jordan! 3. O the harvest! Few laborers! With my mother! Can't you cross it? Won't you join them? 4. In the Heavens! With my mother! And my Saviour!

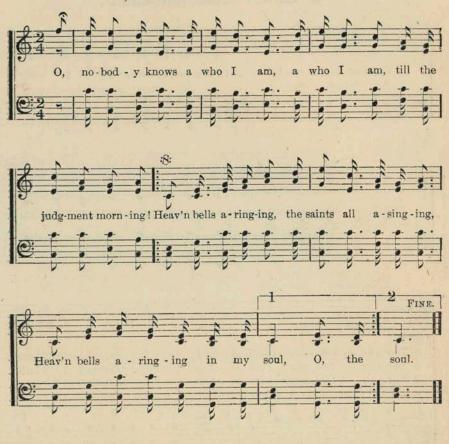
BY AND BY

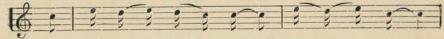


I AM SO GLAD



O. NOBODY KNOWS WHO I AM



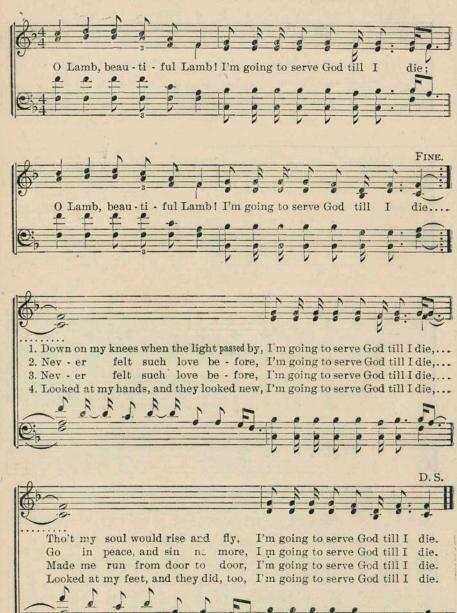


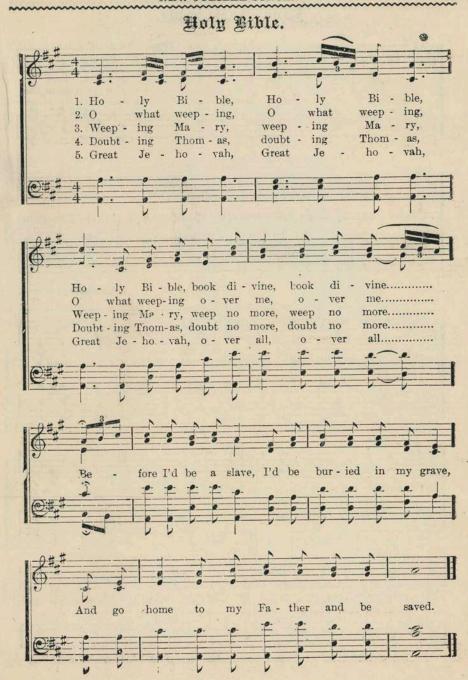
- Want to go to Heav en, Want to go Don't want to stum ble, Don't want
- to fall, you don't be - lieve that I've been re - deemed,



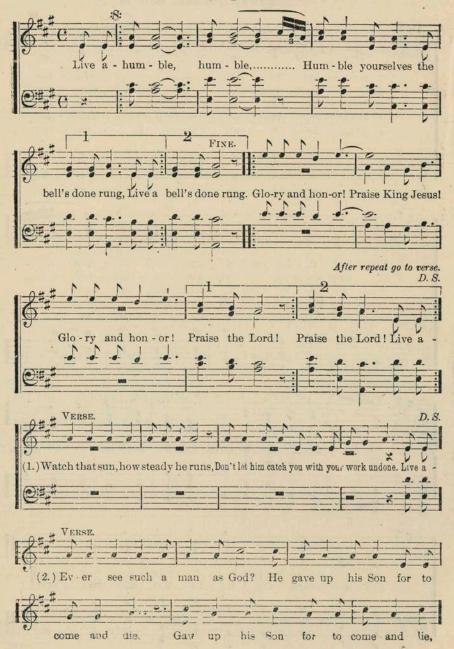
All dressed in white. The to Heav - en Want to 20 The in Heav-en When the roll is Want to be The To Jor - dan's stream. Fol - low me down.....

O Lamb! Beautiful Lamb!



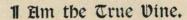


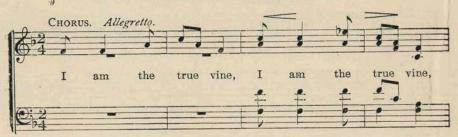
Live A-Humble.

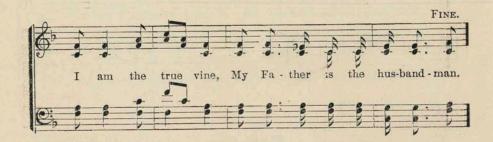


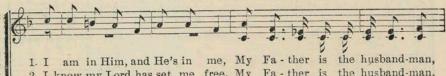












2. I know my Lord has set me free, My Fa-ther is the husband-man,

3. I know my Lord is kind and true, My Fa-ther is the husband-man,

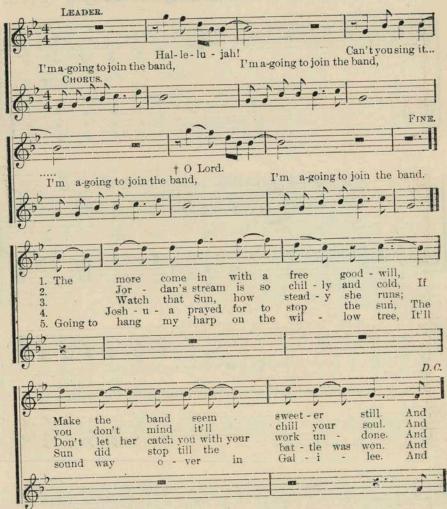




I'm in Him and He's in me, My Fa - ther is the husband-man. For He loves me, and He loves you, My Fa - ther is the husband-man.



* I'M A-GOING TO JOIN THE BAND



Exclamations for Verses

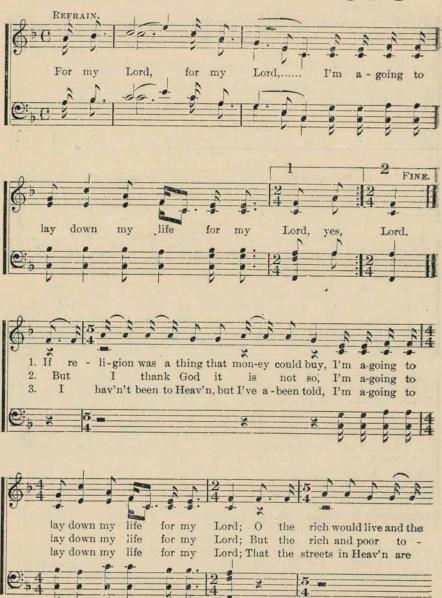
- 2. Cold Jordan! Chilly waters! Watch it, Christians!
- 1. Come children! Join the band! Sing to Jesus!
- 3. Watch that Sun! Steady, traveler! Work, children!
- 4. Going to heaven! With Joshua! And David!
- 5. O the willow!
 And the children!
 Couldn't sing!

^{*} The chorus in this song, as in "This is a Sin-trying World" and "My Soul's been Anchored in the Lord," is continuous, while the leader interjects whatever exclamations seem to him appropriate. These three songs are the only ones of this peculiar variety which are known to exist.

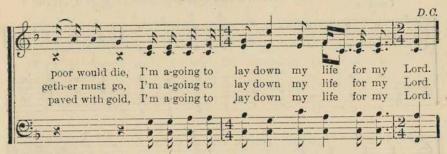
known to exist.

† These exclamations are not the only ones that can be used. Any others which seem-suitable and do not destroy the rhythm may be employed.

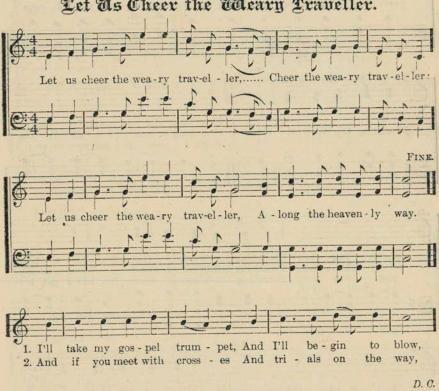
I'm Going to Lay Down My Life for My Lord.



Ym Going to Lay Down My Life for My Lord—Concluded.



Let As Cheer the Meary Traveller.





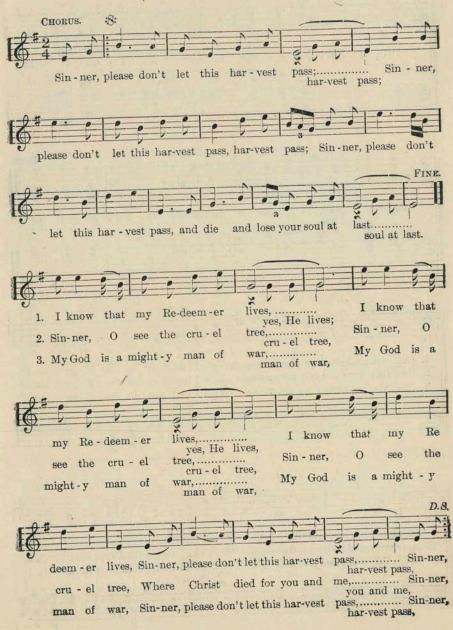
if my Sav-iour helps me, I'll blow wher-ev-er I And Just keep your trust in Je - sus, And don't for - get pray.

I Heard the Frenching of the Elder.

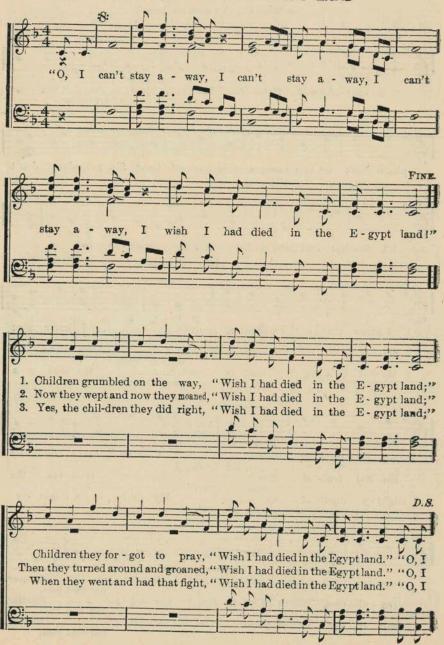


Sinner, Please Don't Let This Harvest Pass.

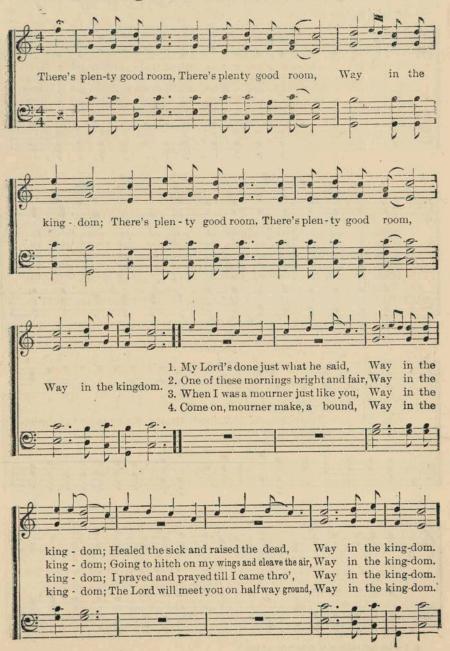
(A Very Popular Revival Song)

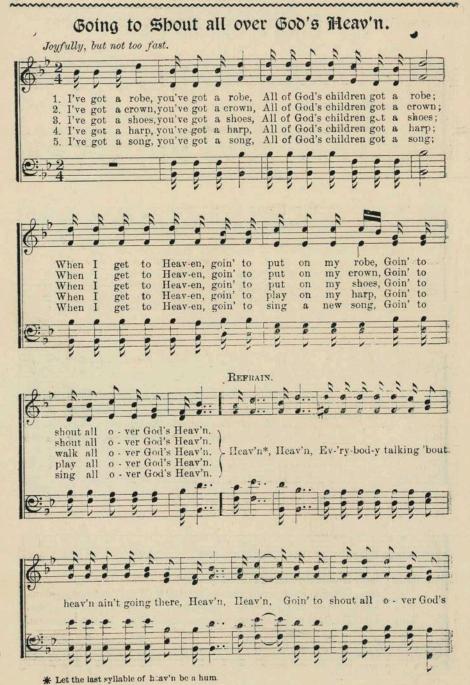


I WISH I HAD DIED IN EGYPT LAND

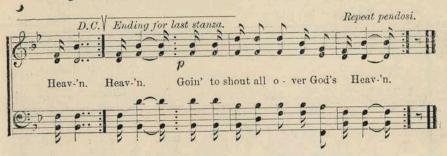


Plenty Good Boom.



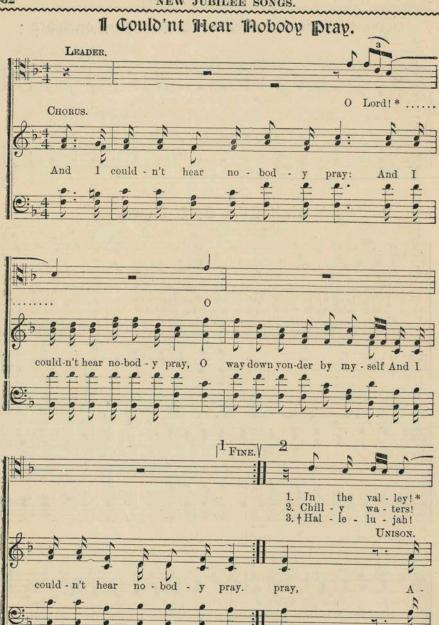


Going to Sbout all over God's Meav'n,--Concluded.









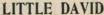
* The interjections used here are not the only ones which can be used, but may be changed according to the emotions of the leader.

† Let this stanza be exceedingly slow, about half as fast as the others, and the chorus very soft. But go into the refrain a tempo.

Used by Permission of Work Bros.

I Couldn't Mear Mobody Pray.—Concluded.





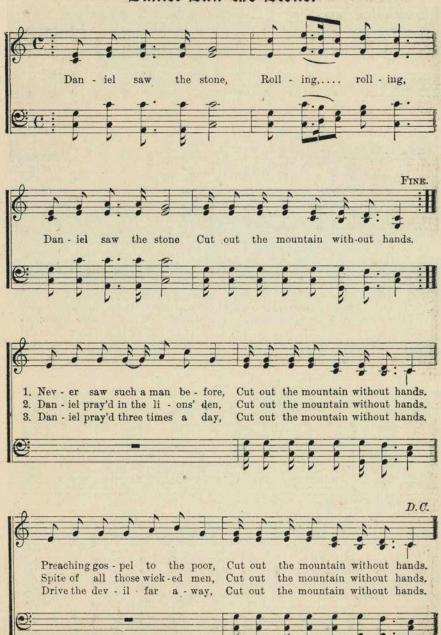


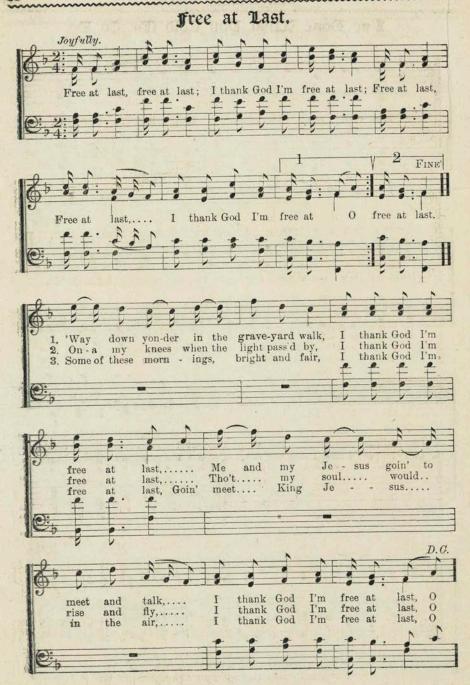
Marching Up the Meavenly Road.



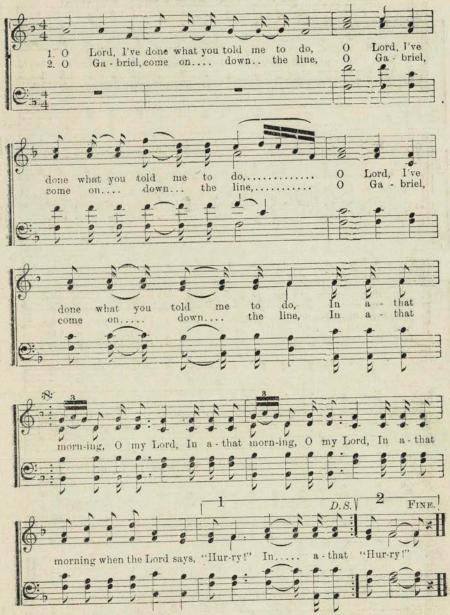


Daniel Saw the Stone.





N've Done What you Told Me To Do.



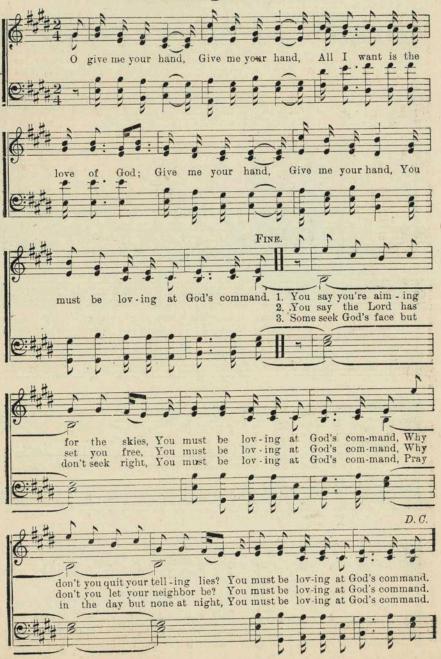
3. O gambler, you can't get on a-this train? etc.

4. O sister, have you got your ticket signed? etc.

Death's Going to Lay His Mand on Me.



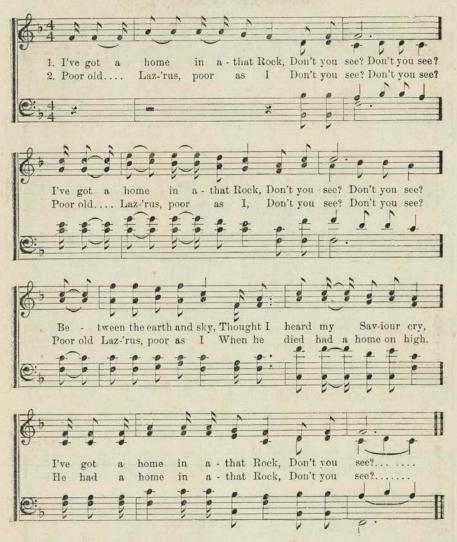
Give Me Your Band.



Most Done Toiling Ibere.



Got a Home in That Rock.



- 3 Rich man, Dives, lived so well, Don't you see?
 Rich man, Dives, lived so well, Don't you see?
 Rich man, Dives, lived so well, When he died he found a home in hell,
 Had no home in that Rock, Don't you see?
- 4 God gave Noah the Rainbow sign, Don't you see?
 God gave Noah the Rainbow sign, Don't you see?
 God gave Noah the Rainbow sign, No more water but fire next time,
 Better get a home in that Rock, Don't you see?

Come Mere, Lord!

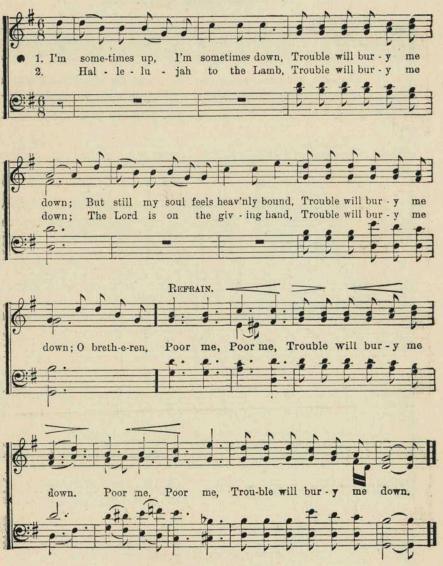


- O mourners, if you will believe, The grace of God you will receive.
- Some seek God's face, but don't seek right, Pray a little by day and none at night.

:1

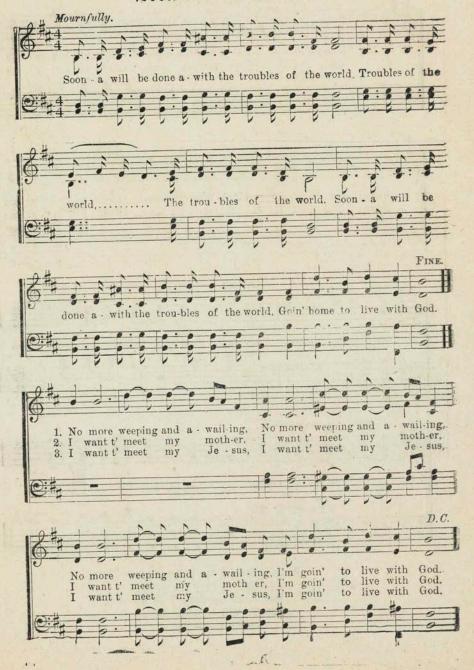
4. O sinner, now you had better pray, For Satan's 'round vou ev'ry day.

poor me.



 Sometimes I think I'm ready to drop, Trouble will bury me down; But thank my Lord, I do not stop, Trouble will bury me down.
 O bretheren!—Ref.

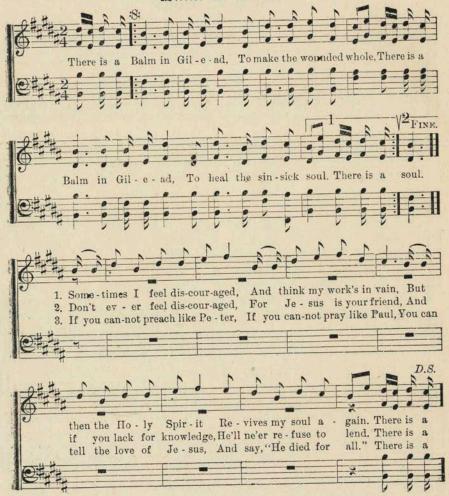
Soon=a Will Be Done.

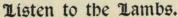


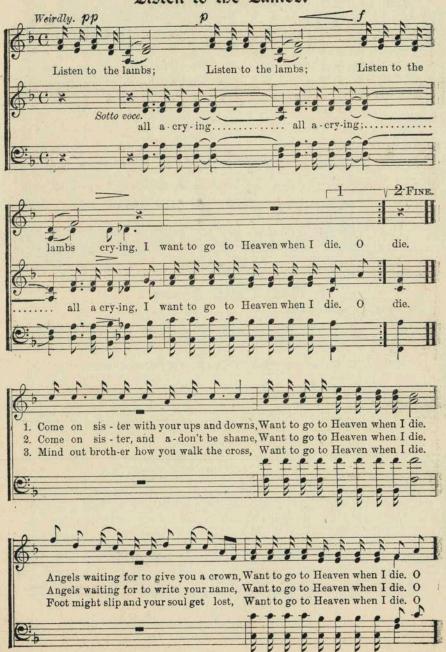
GIVE ME JESUS



Balm in Gilead.







Don't Call the Roll.

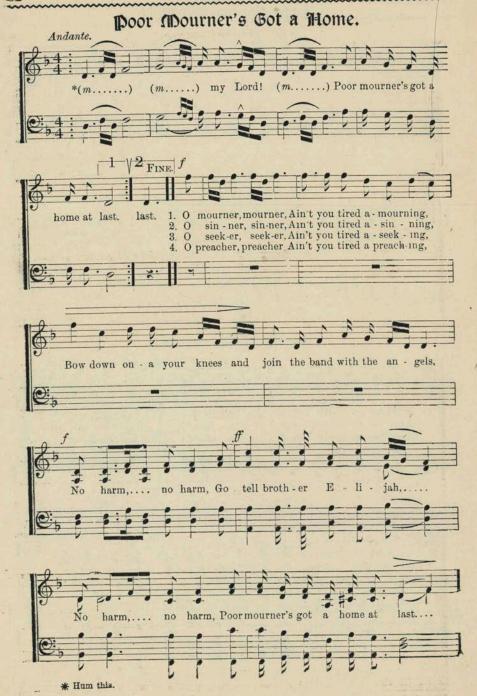




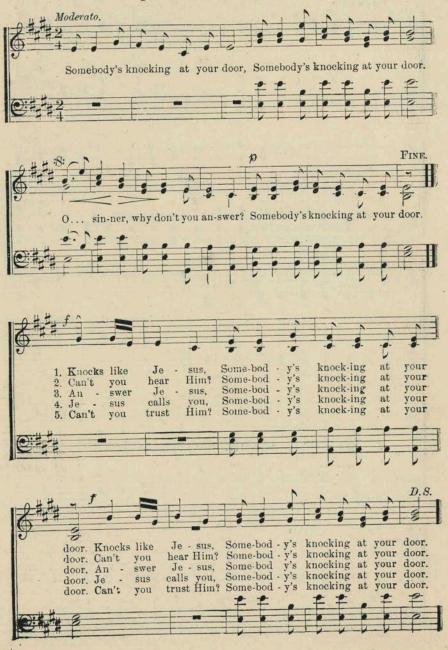
- 3. Man of sorrows, sinner, see, Died for you, died for me.
- 4. Sinner, sinner, in the mire, On you Heaven will rain fire.

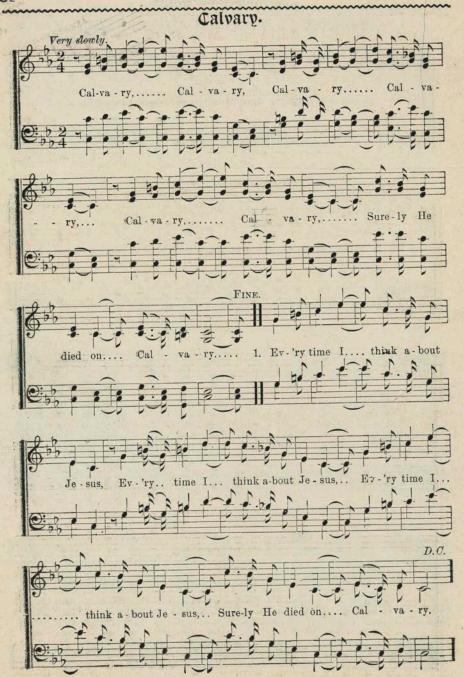
Lead Me to the Rock.





Somebody's knocking at Your Door.



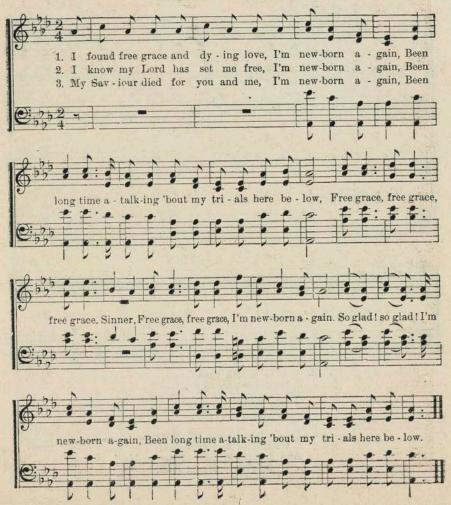


Calvary.—Concluded.

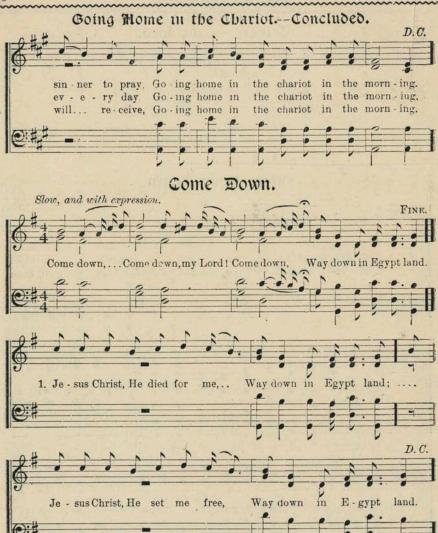
- 2. Sinner, do you love my Jesus? : Surely He died on Calvary.
 Calvary, Calvary, etc.
- 3. We are climbing Jacob's ladder, : Surely He died on Calvary.

 Calvary, Calvary, etc.
- 4. Every round goes higher and higher, : Surely He died on Calvary.
 Calvary, Calvary, etc.

Mew=Born Again.

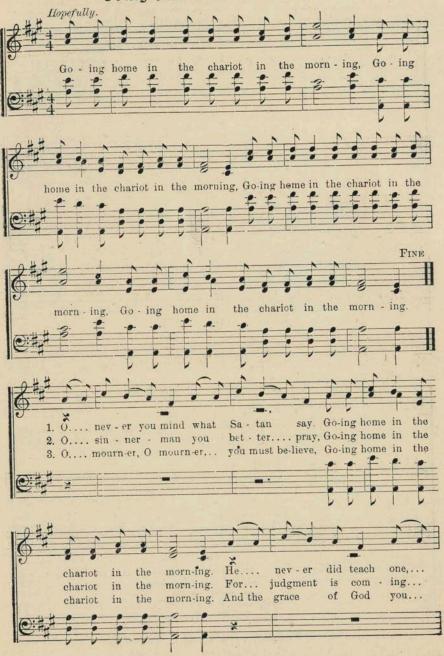


War to Beautiful to



- Born of God I know I am,
 Way down in Egypt land;
 I'm purchased by the dying Lamb,
 Way down in Egypt land.
 Come down, etc.
- Peter walked upon the sea,
 Way down in Egypt land;
 And Jesus told him, "Come to Me,"
 Way down in Egypt land.
 Come down, etc.

Going Mome in the Chariot.



Inching Along."



When the General Roll is Called.

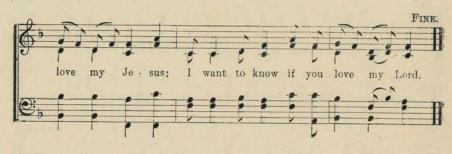


- 3. Goin' to sing with the angels, etc.
- 4. Goin' to put on golden slippers, etc.
- 5. Goin' to play my golden harp, etc.
- 6. Goin' to sing my new song, etc.
- ". Goin' to see my Master Jesus, etc.

Is There Anybody Ibere?





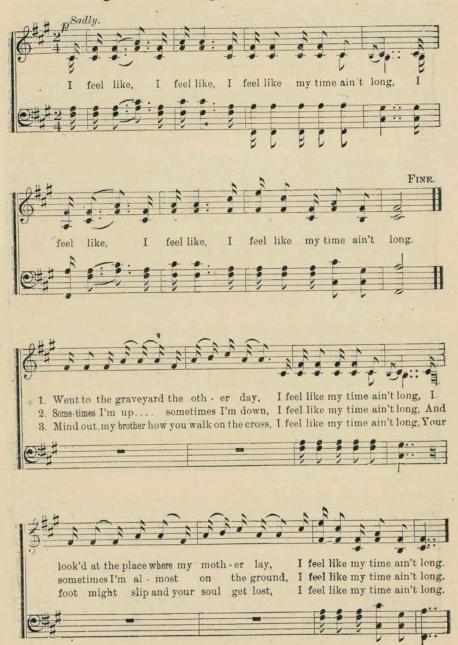




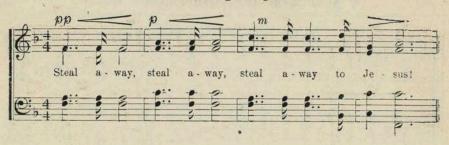
- 1. This world's a wil-der-ness of woe, So let us all to glo-ry go.
- 2. Re · li · gion is a blooming rose, And none but them who feel it know.

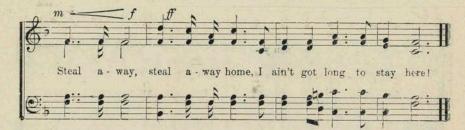
- When I was blind and could not see, King Jesus brought the light to me.
- When ev'ry star refuse to shine,
 know King Jesus will be mine.

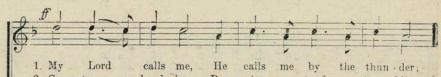
I feel Like My Time Hin't Long.



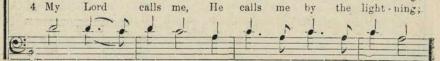
Steal Away to Jesus.



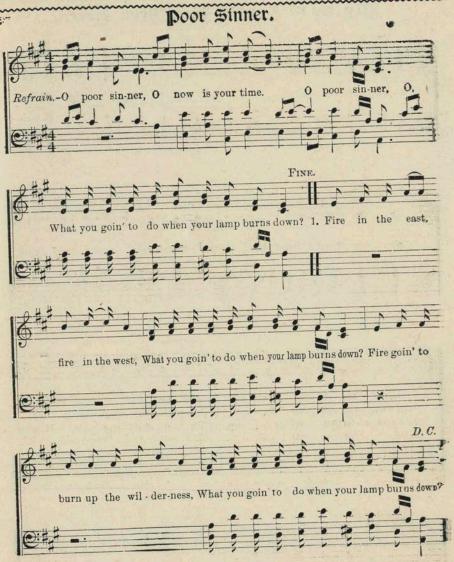




- 2. Green trees are bend-ing, Poor sin ner stands a trem-bling;
 3. Tomb stones are burst-ing. Poor sin ner stands a trem-bling;
- 3. Tomb stones are burst ing, Poor sin ner stands a trem-bling;
 4 My Lord calls me, He calls me by the light ning;



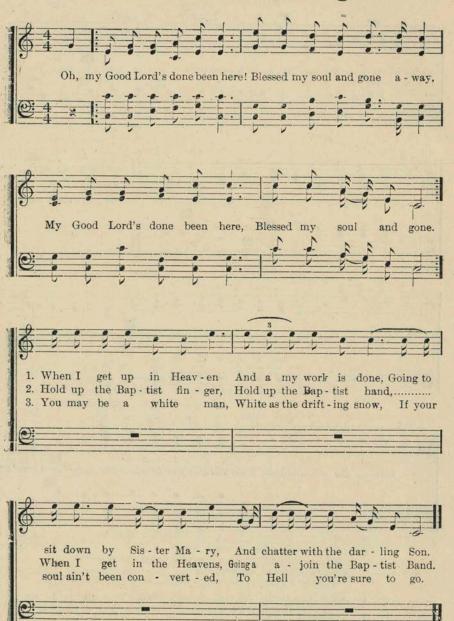




- Head got wet with midnight dew, What you goin' to do when your lamp burns down? Morning star was witness, too, What you goin' to do when your lamp burns down?
- 8. Wind blows hard, wind blows cold. What you goin to do, etc.

 Lord, have mercy on my soul, What you goin to do, etc.
- 4. I done died, don't die no more, What you goin' to do, etc.
 I'm goin' to cross on the other shore, What you goin', etc.

My Good Lord's Jone Been Here.



INDEX OF SONGS.

	O 8
Ain't that Good News	05
Can't You Live HumbleAll Over this World	0
All Over this WorldA Little Talk with Jesus	24
A Little lak with Jesus	78
A Little Talk with Jesus	31
Before this Time Another Tear	45.
By and By	84
By and ByCalvary	25
Can't You Live Humble	29
Can't You Live HumbleChristians, Hold up Your Heads	87
Come Down	7 8
Come Here Lord	07
Come Here Lord Daniel Saw the Stone	01
Daniel Saw the Stone Death's Going to Lay His Hand on Me	10
Death's Going to Lay His Hand on Me Don't Call the Roll	80
Don't Call the Roll	68
Free at LastGive Me Jesus	77
Give Me Jesus	71
Give Me Your Hand	27
Give Me Your HandGoing to Hold Out to the End	60
Going to Shout all over God's Heaven	86
Going to Shout all over God's Heaven Going Home in the Chariot	72
Going Home in the ChariotGot a Home in that Rock	3.
Got a Home in that RockGood Morning	4.1
Good MorningGreat Day	41
Great DayHallelujah	33
HallelujahHear Me Praying	5-
Hear Me Praying	36-
Hear Me PrayingHold the WindHoly Bible	49
Holy Bible	46
I Am So Glad	52
I Am the True Vine	62
I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray	91
I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray I Feel Like my Time Ain't Long	69
I Feel Like my Time Ain't Long I've Done What You Told Me to Do	88
I've Done What You Told Me to Do	26
Inching Along I Have Another Building	E @
I Have Another Building I Heard the Preaching of the Elder	. 00
I Heard the Preaching of the ElderI Know the Lord's Laid His Hands on Me	0
I Know the Lord's Laid His Hands on Me	- 53
I'm A-Goin' to Join the Ball Life for my Lord	- 54
I'm Going to Lay Down my Elic 101 mg	_ 90
Is There Anybody Here	_ 40
It's Me	_ 28
I Went Down in the valley	_ 58
T Wish I had Died in Egypt Land	4
I Wish I had Died in Egypt Land I Will Pray I Won't Stop Praying	42
I Won't Ston Praying	35.
I Won't Stop Praying	91
Jesus is Risen from the Dead	- 01
Lead Me to the Rock	- 55
Let Us Cheer the Weary Travelor	- 19
Let Us Cheer the Weary TravelerListen to the LambLittle David	- 64
Little David	_ 50
Tive A-Humble	_ 17
Lord. I Want to Be a Christian	_ 65
Marching Up the Heavenly Road	_ 72
Most Done Tolling Here	94
Most Done Toiling Here My Good Lord's Done Been Here	13
My Good Lord's Done Been Here My Name's Written on High	37
My Name's Written on High	- 0 :

INDEX OF SONGS.—Continued.

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord	43
New Born Again	85
O Lamb! Beautiful Lamb!	48
O Mary, Don't You Weep	66
O, Nobody Knows Who I Am	
O Rocks, Don't Fall on Me	
Plenty Good Room	
Poor Me	
Poor Mourner's Got a Home	
Poor Sinner	
Religion Is a Fortune	
Rell On	
Rock Mount Sinai	
Show Me the Way	
Sing A-Ho that I Had the Wings of a Dove	
Sinner, Please Don't Let This Harvest Pass	
Somebody's Knocking at Your Door	
Soon—a Will Be Done	
Steal Away and Pray	
Somebody' Buried in the Graveyard	
Steal Away to Jesus	
Swing Low	21
Teli All the World, John	34
The Old Ark's A-movering	
There's Preaching Here	
They Led My Lord Away	
This Is a Sin-Trying World	
Wade in the Water	
Want to Go to Heaven When I Die	
Were You There	
HEAD I'M DOWN	9
When the General Roll Is Called	
Witness	10
You Won't Find a Man Like Jesus	23

