FOLK SONGS

OF THE

AMERICAN NEGRO

Edited by

FREDERICK J. WORK, B. A.

Introduction by

JOHN W. WORK, M. A.

Number Two

WORK BROTHERS
NASHVILLE, TENN.

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 a ay down in the Negro's heart there has been a smouldering coal of love for his own peculiar song which has been gradually fanned into a burning flame by two forces, education and the knowledge that musicians of other peoples 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 inmost 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 pictured 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: Syn-

copated, 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 inch worm 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 a patting of feet, the swaying of body. To all of which this music is eminently adapted.

This 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 up his face and throws an audience into convulsions singing plantation melodies. But he and the 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.

right spirit, he will turn his show into a revival.

To sing these songs effectively, 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. The 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.

Mis John Caliman

FOLK SONGS

Le, Curchiff

AMERICAN NEGRO

NUMBER TWO

EDITED BY

FREDERICK J. WORK, B. A.

INTRODUCTION BY

JOHN W. WORK, JR., M. A.

PUBLISHED BY

WORK BROTHERS

NASHVILLE, TENN.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY
2825 LEXINGTON ROAD LOUISVILLE, KY.

FOLK SONGS

BHIRD

AMERICANINEGRO

NUMBER TWO

Ye lestion

FREDERICK J. WORK B. A.

YE MOITS US ONTHI

JOHN W. WORK, JR. IN. A.

WORK STOTHERS
WASHVILLE, TEN

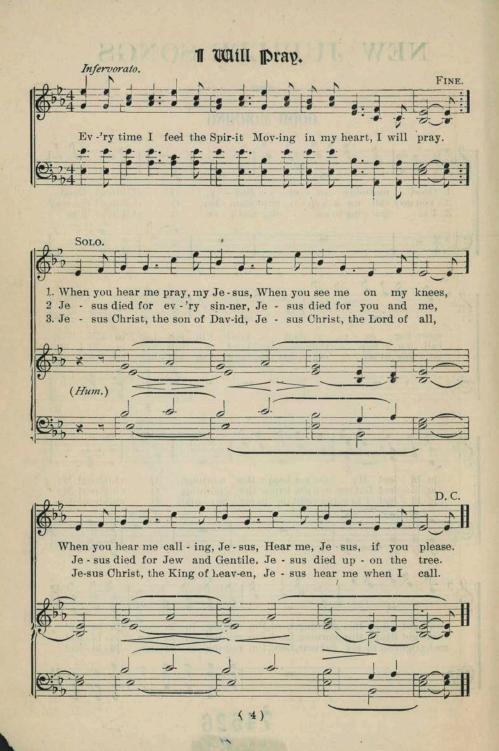
NEW JUBILEE SONGS

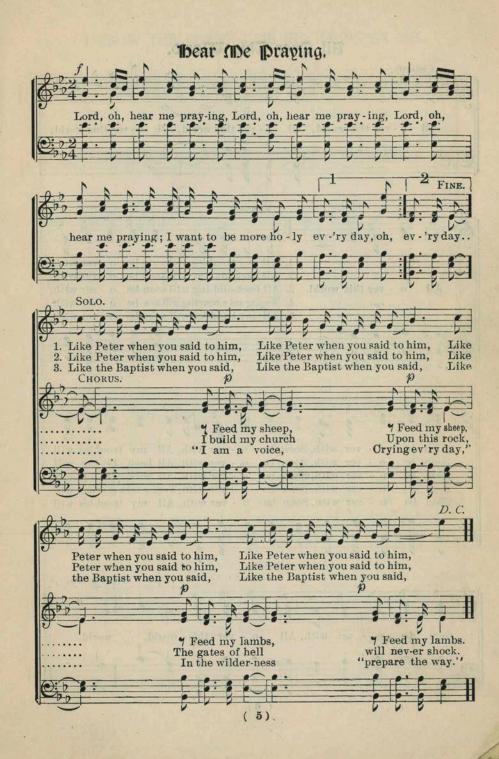
GOOD MORNING



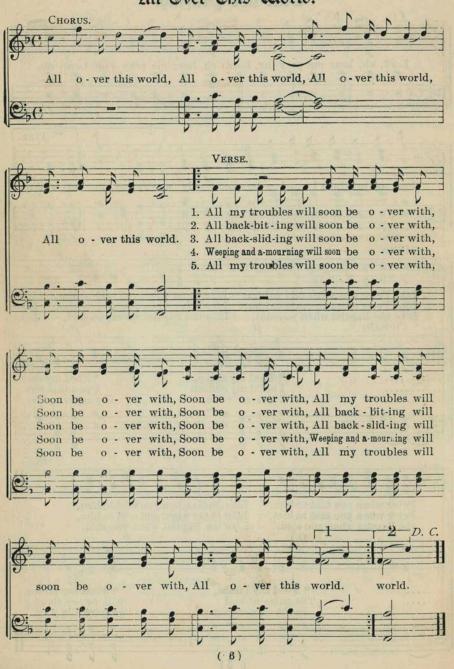
74526

MSL RARE 784.756 .F7190

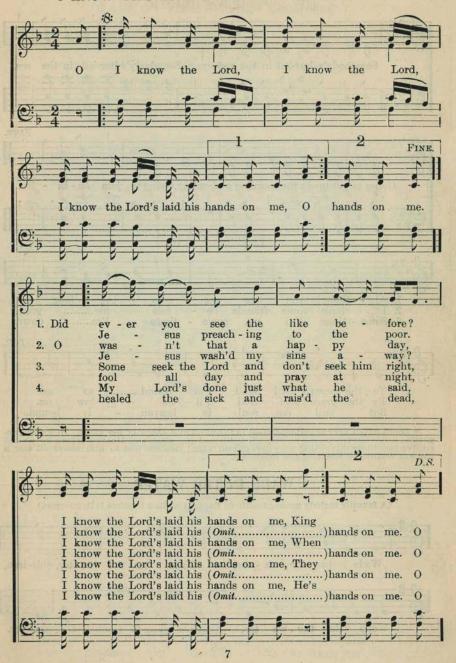




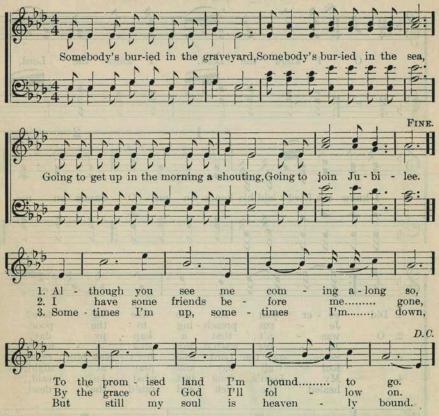
All Over This World.



I KNOW THE LORD'S LAID HIS HANDS ON ME



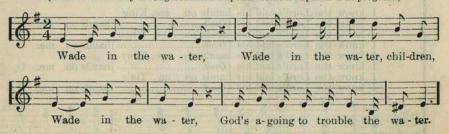
* SOMEBODY'S BURIED IN THE GRAVEYARD



* 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

(A favorite melody among Southern Baptists while a baptism is in progress.)



WADE IN THE WATER-Concluded

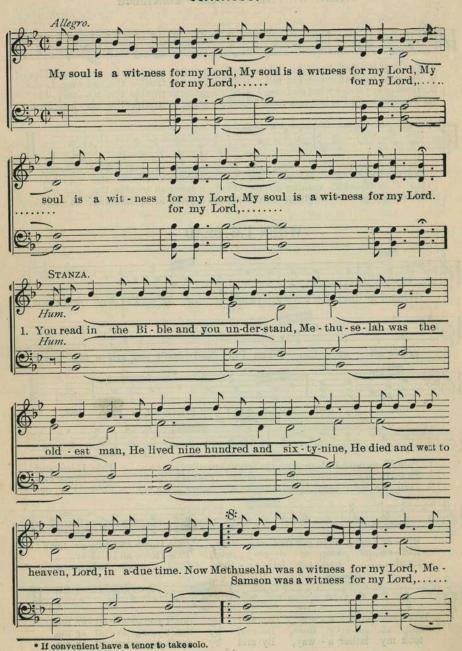


by

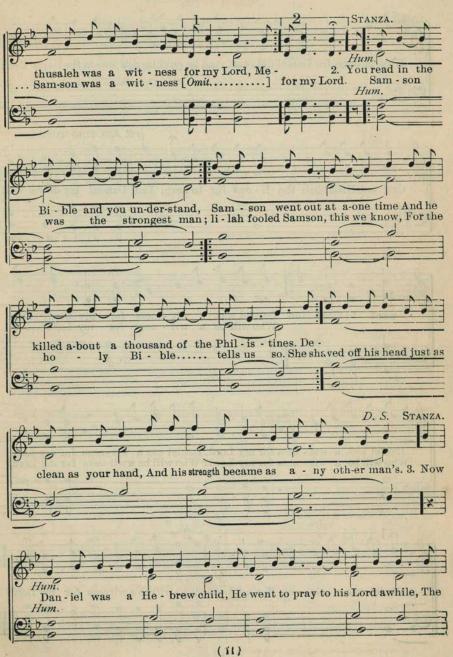
don't you grieve aft - er me.

took my father a - way,

Witness.*



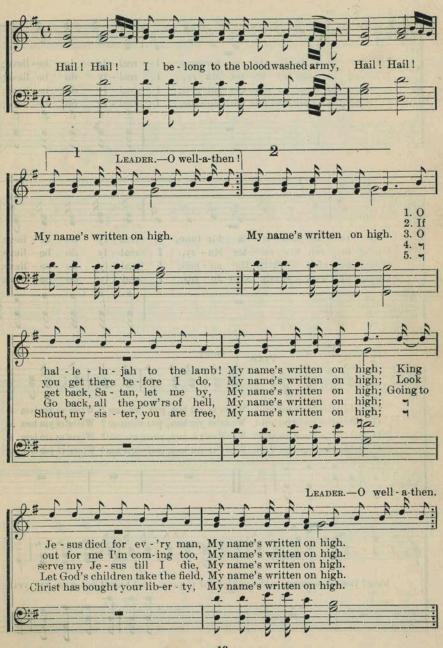
Witness. Continued.



Witness. Concluded.



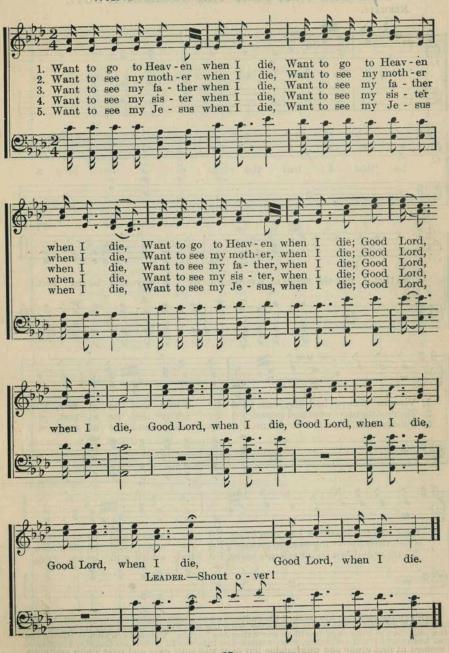
MY NAME'S WRITTEN ON HIGH



RELIGION IS A FORTUNE

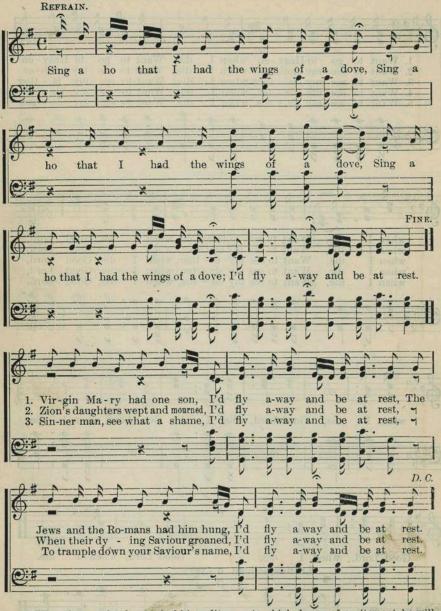


WANT TO GO HEAVEN WHEN I DIE



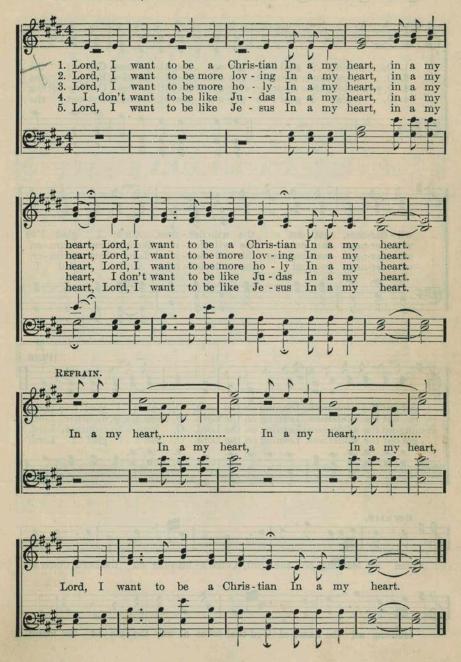
15

*SING A HO THAT I HAD THE WINGS OF A DOVE

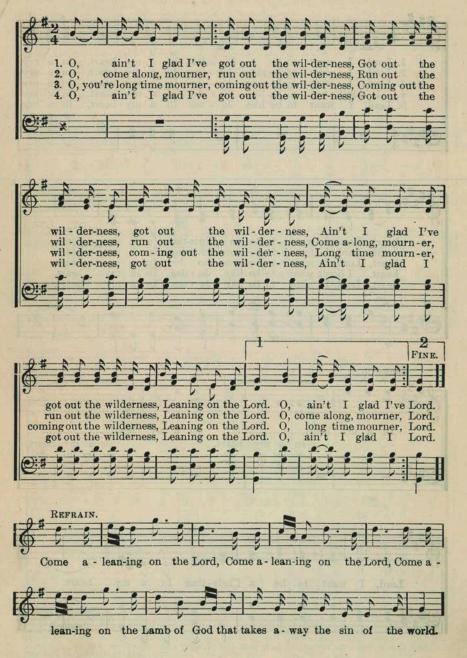


*When the preacher has worked his auditors up to a high degree of excitement, he will often break off and extemporize some song, with his text as its basis, in which the audience joins, and then at the end of it will go on "exhorting" again. This song, which is one of the most beautiful of our collection, 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.

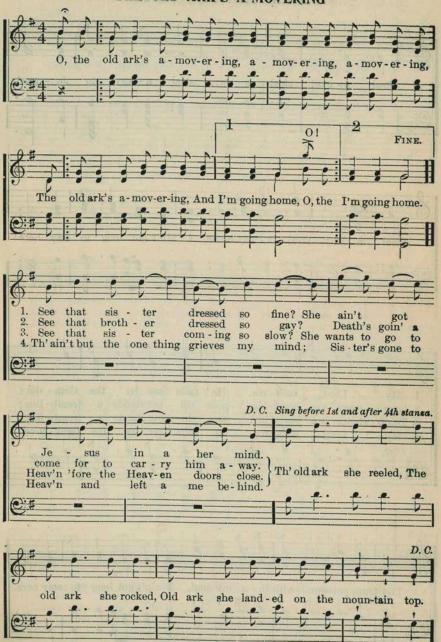
LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN



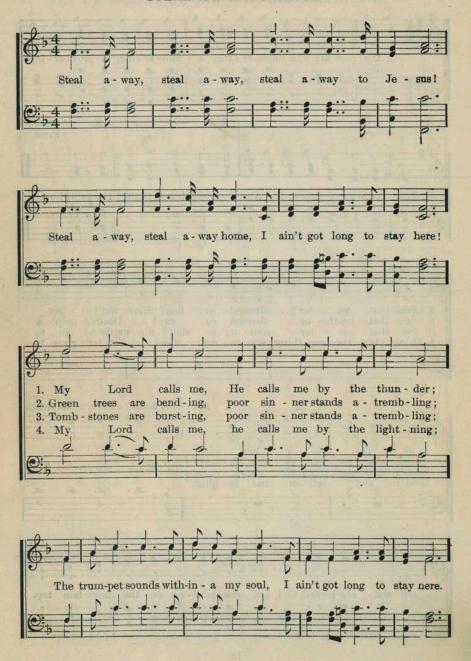
Ain't I Glad I've Got Out the Wilderness!

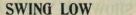


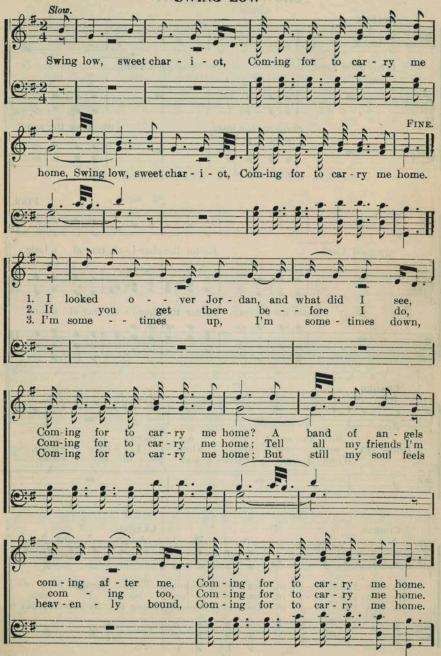
THE OLD ARK'S A-MOVERING



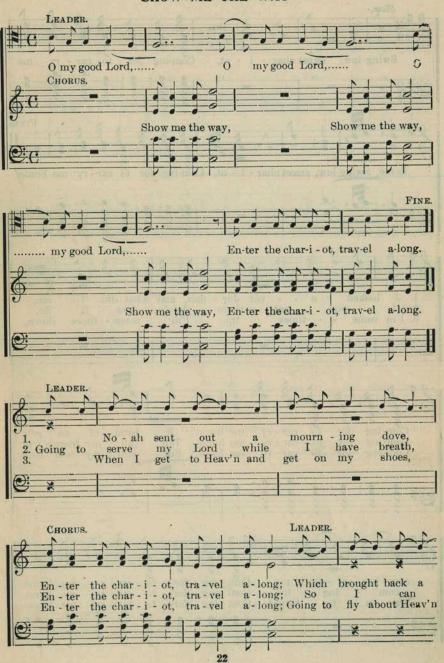
STEAL AWAY TO JESUS



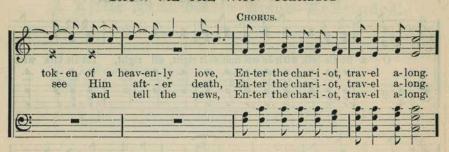




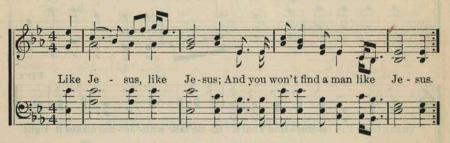
SHOW ME THE WAY

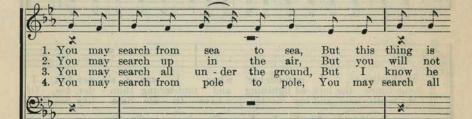


SHOW ME THE WAY—Concluded



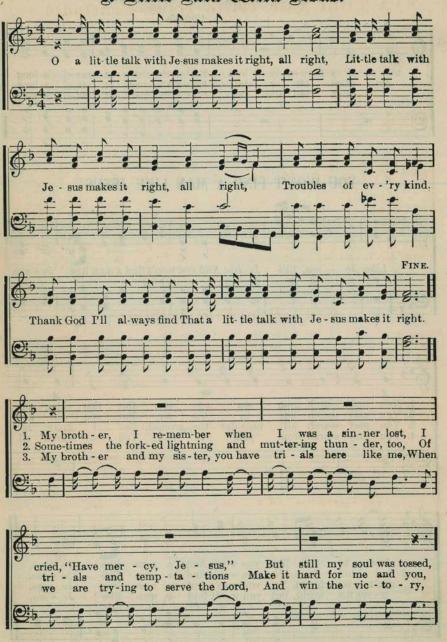
YOU WON'T FIND A MAN LIKE JESUS







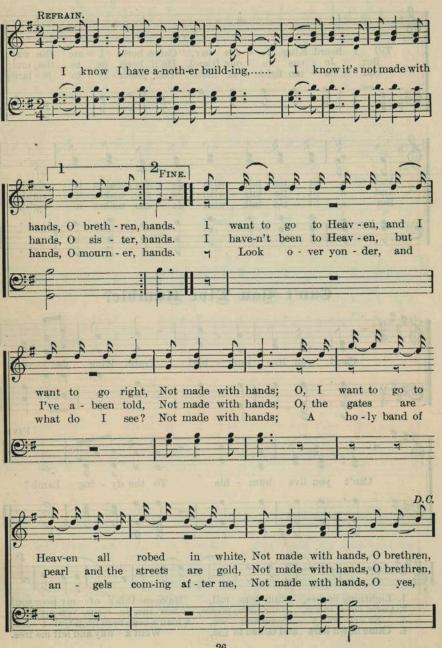
A Little Talk With Jesus.



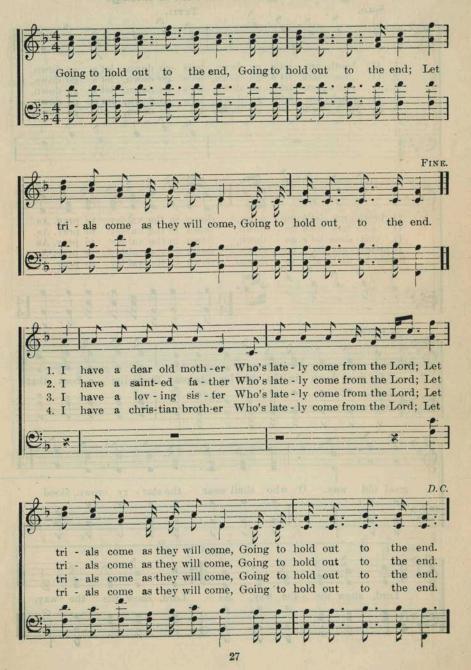
A Little Talk With Jesus-Concluded.



I HAVE ANOTHER BUILDING



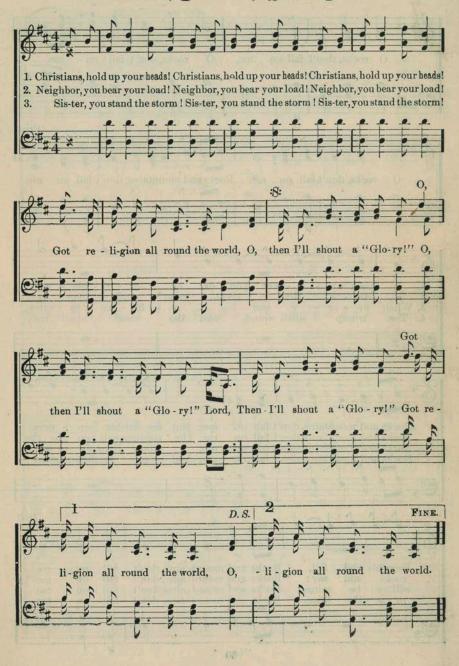
GOING TO HOLD OUT TO THE END



I Ment Down in the Valley.



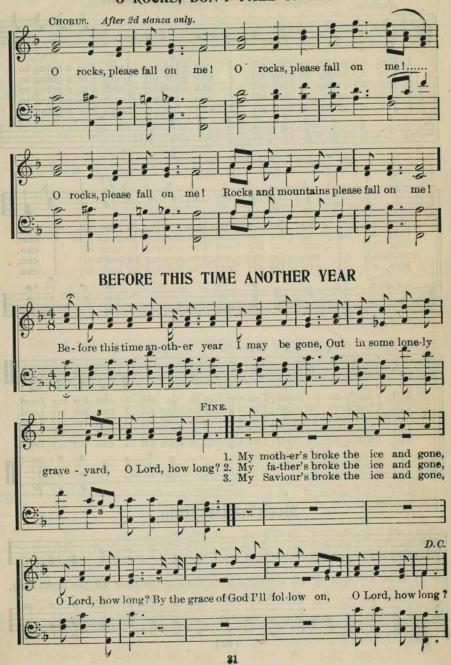
Christians, Hold Up Your Heads.

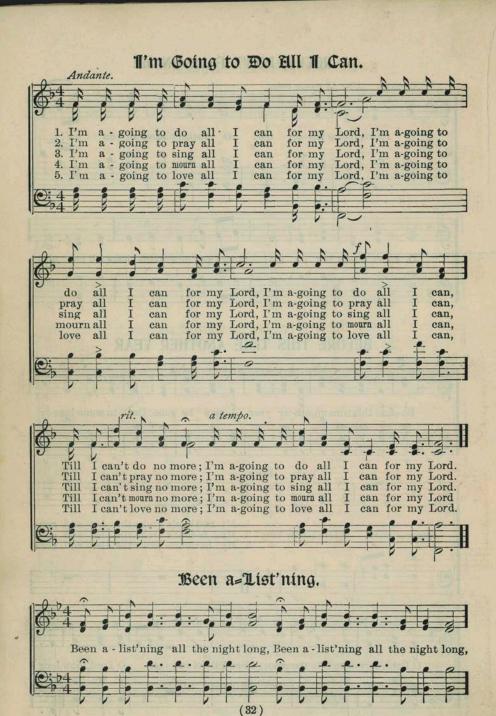


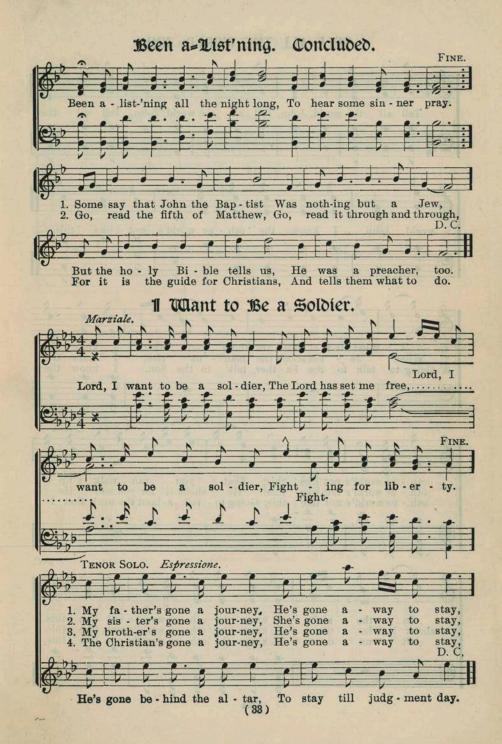
O ROCKS, DON'T FALL ON ME



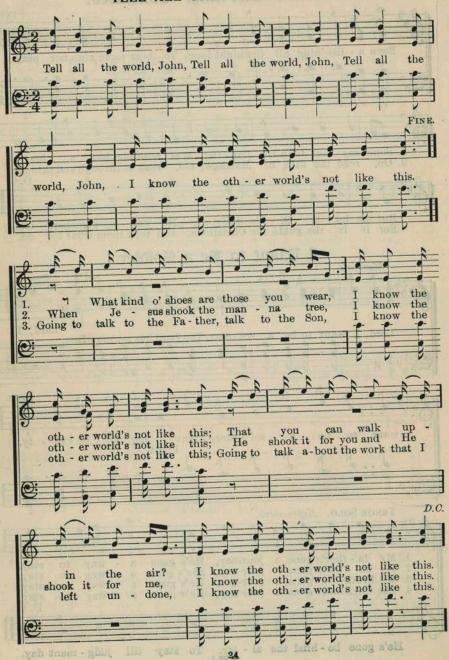
O ROCKS, DON'T FALL ON ME



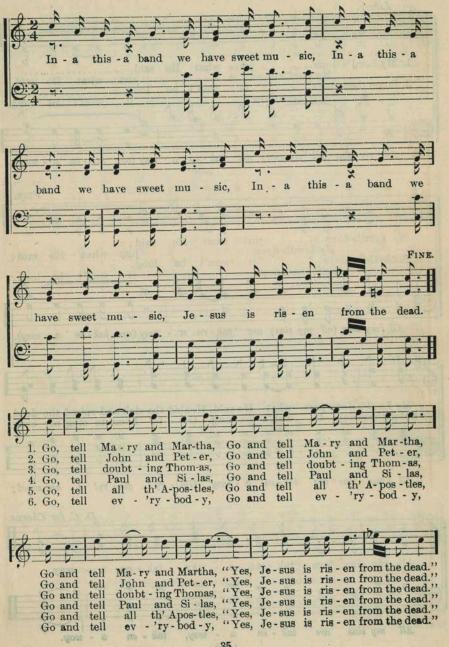




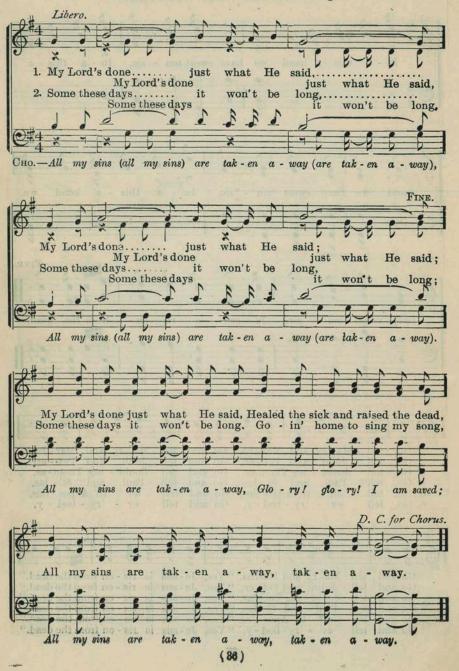
TELL ALL THE WORLD, JOHN



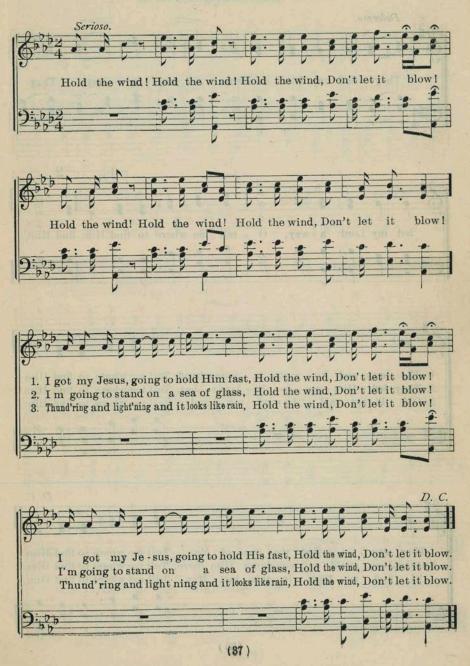
JESUS IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD



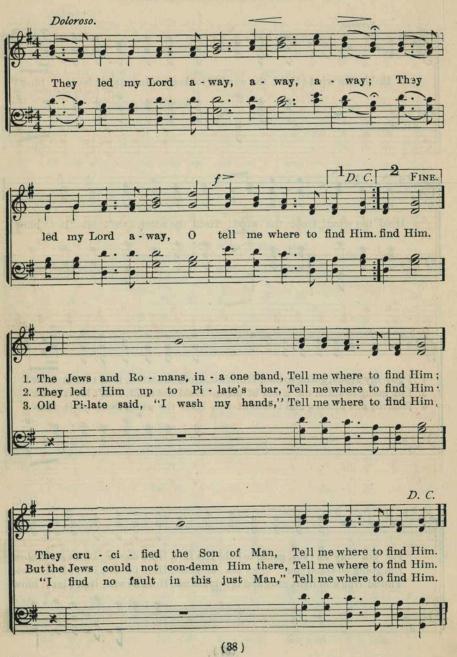
My Sins Are Taken Away.



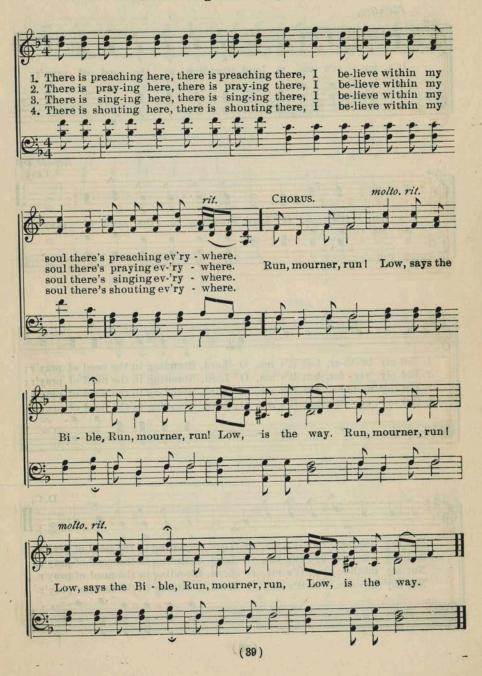
Mold the Wind.

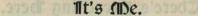


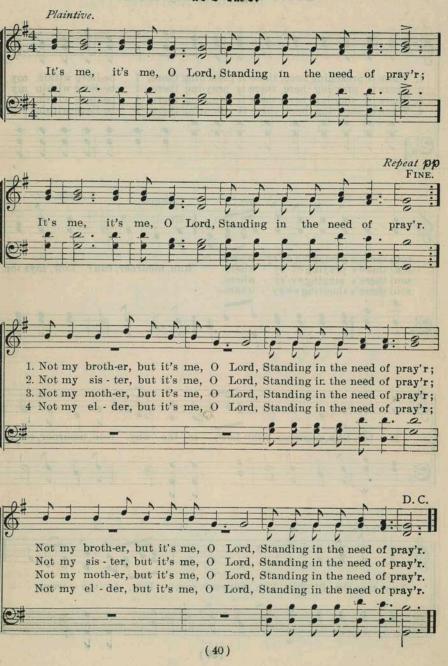
They Led My Lord Away.

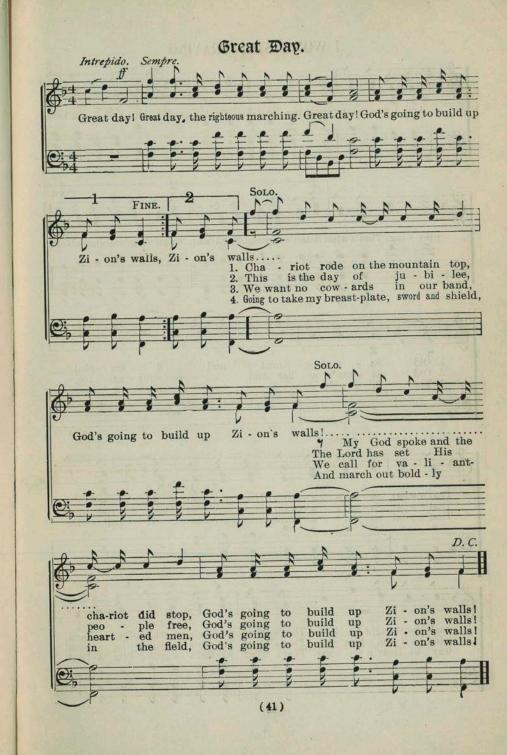


There's Preaching Here.









ray'r;

epeat pp Fine.

pray'r.

pray'r;

pray'r;

pray'r; pray'r;

2

D.C.

pray'r.

pray'r.

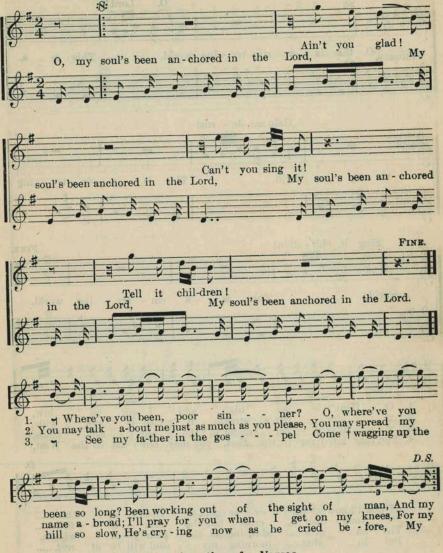
pray'r.

pray'r.

I WON'T STOP PRAYING



*MY SOUL'S BEEN ANCHORED IN THE LORD



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.

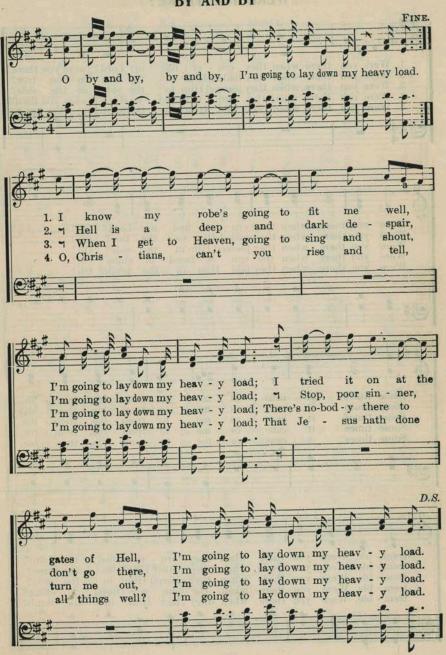
† I.e., toiling, moving slowly.

* THIS IS A SIN-TRYING WORLD

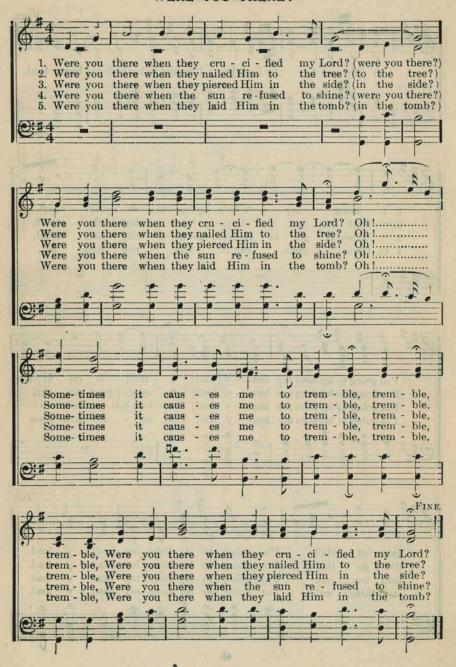


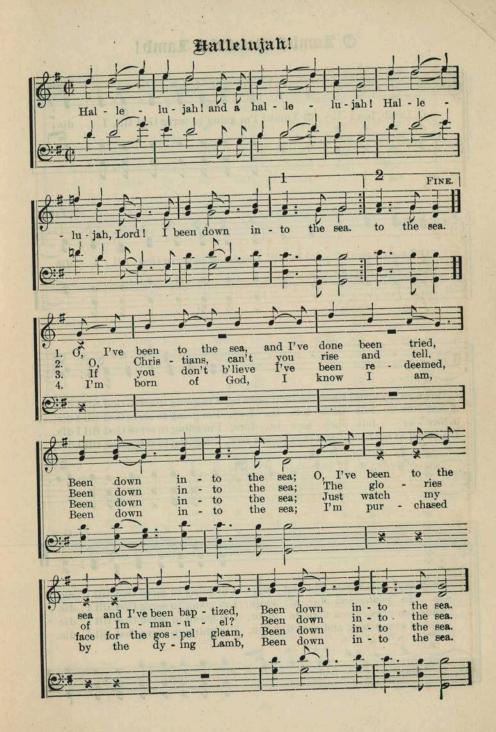
Exclamations for Verses

1. 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!

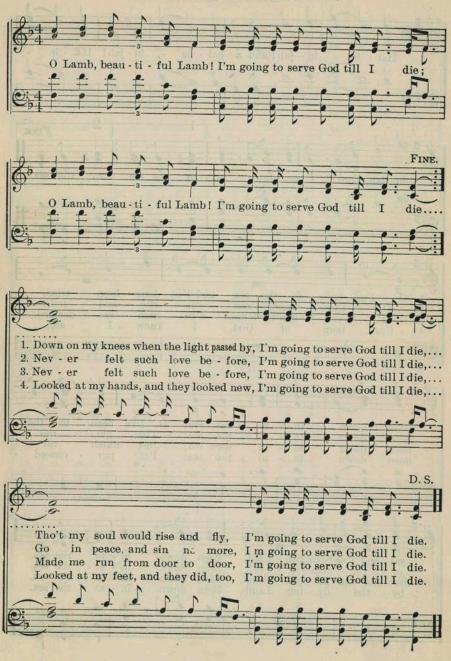


WERE YOU THERE?

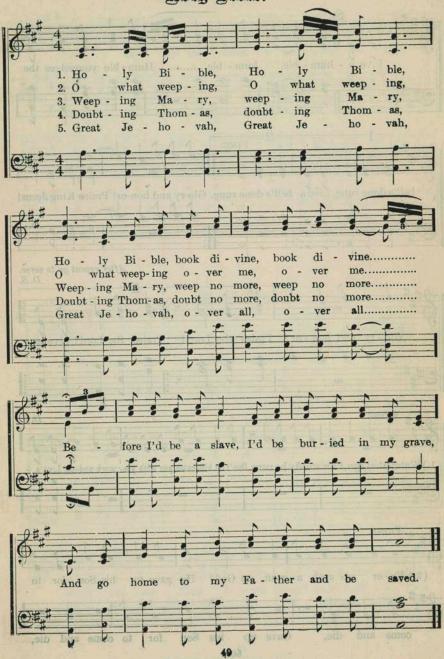




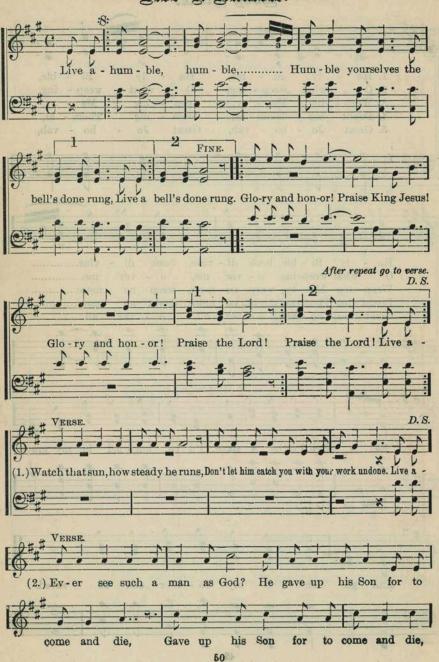
O Lamb! Beautiful Lamb!

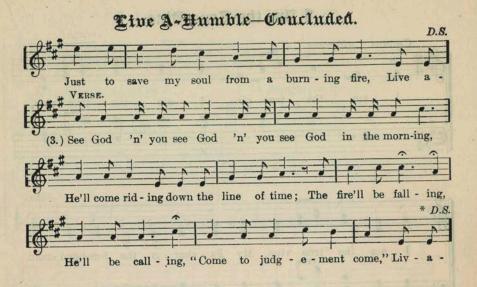


Holy Bible.



Tive A-Humble.

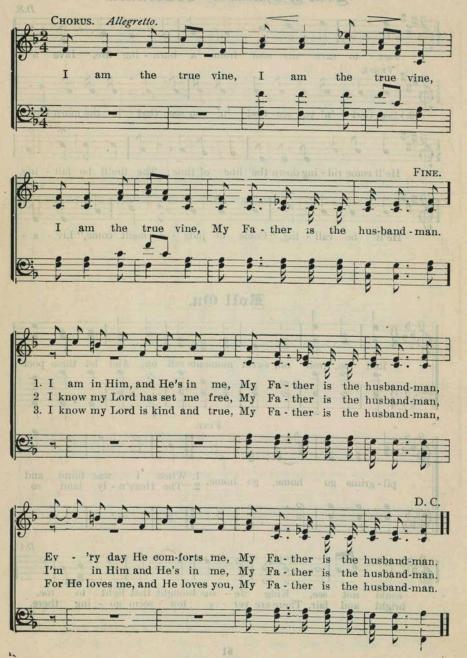






SOUTHERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY.
2825 LEXINGTON ROAD LOUISVILLE KY

I Am the True Vine.



* I'M A-GOING TO JOIN THE BAND



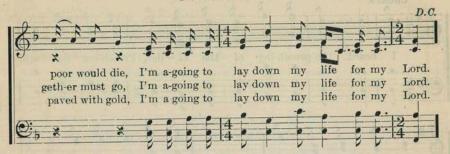
* The chorus in this song, as in "This is a Sin-trying World" and "My Soul's been Anchored in the Lord," is continuous, while the leader interjects whatever exclamations seem to him appropriate. These three songs are the only ones of this peculiar variety which are known to exist.

† 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.



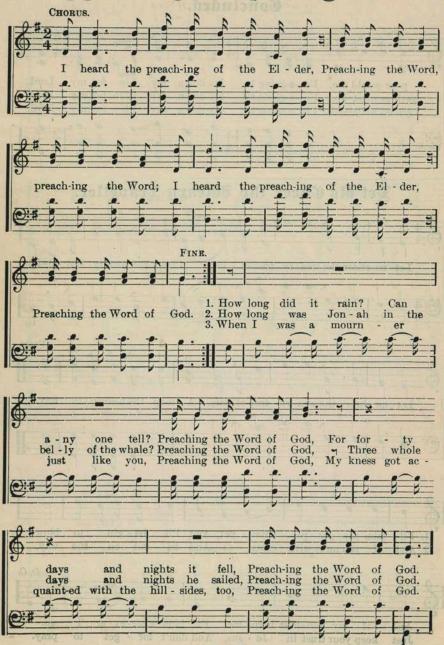
I'm Going to Lay Down My Life for My Lord— Concluded.



Let Us Cheer the Meary Traveller.

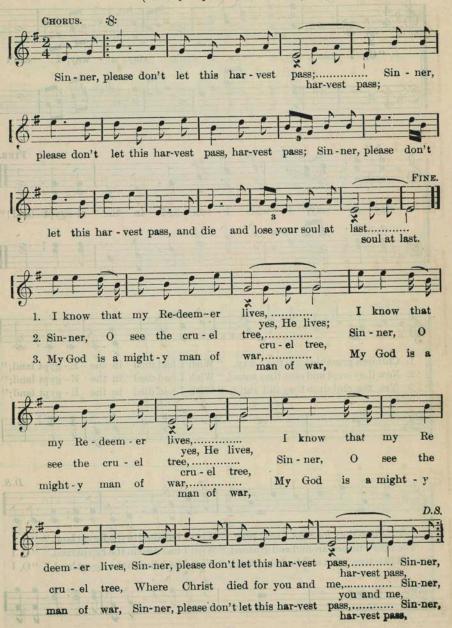


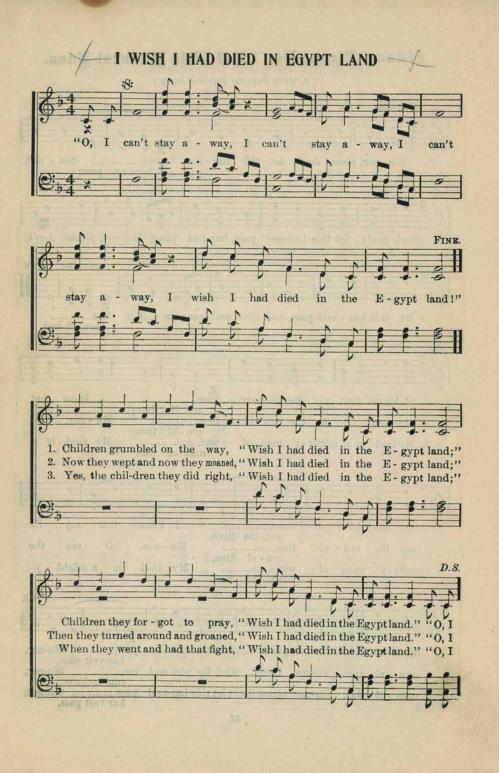
I Heard the Freaching of the Flder.



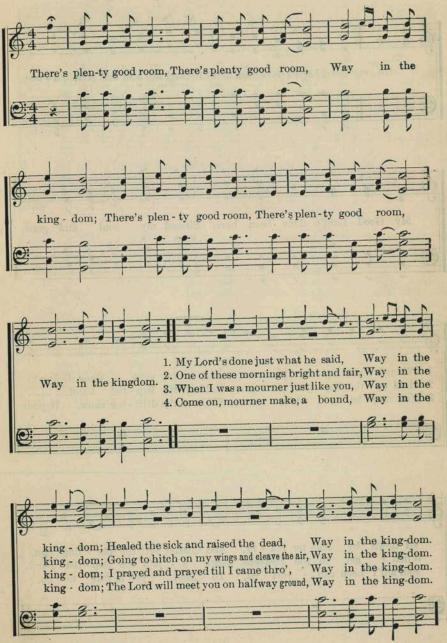
Sinner, Please Don't Let This Harvest Pass.

(A Very Popular Revival Song)

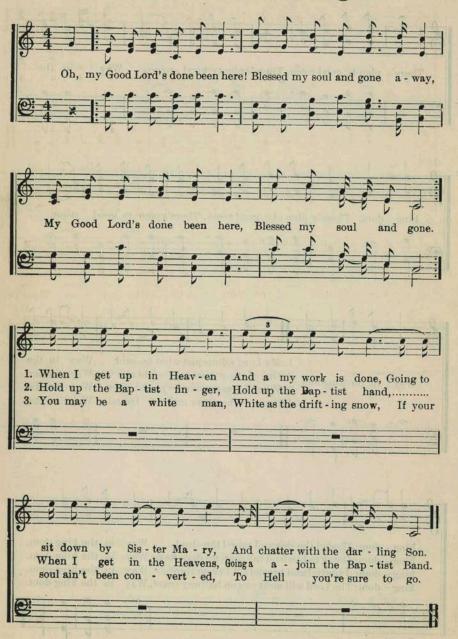


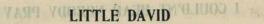


Plenty Good Boom.



My Good Lord's Jone Been Here.



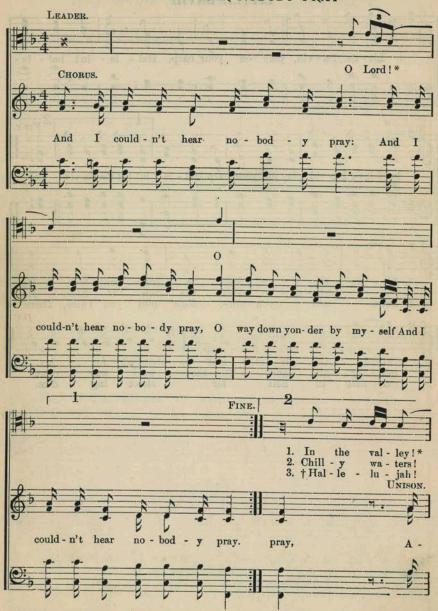




could n't bine in bod - y pray. pray.

a The latest addressed bags of and also carly ones which can be used, but may occusinged a series to be another to the backers, and the characters of the fact of interest and the control of the control

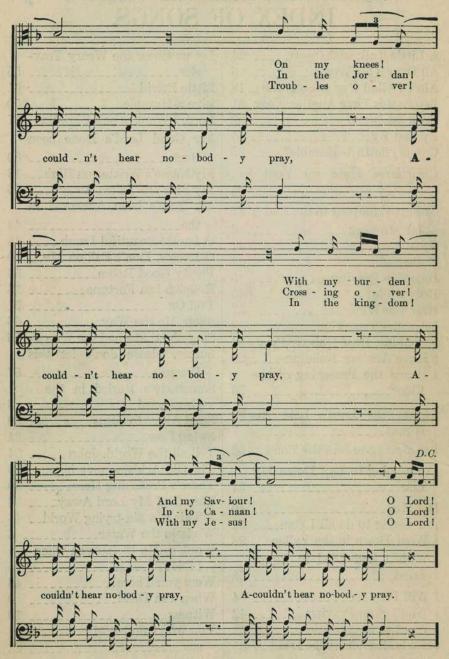
I COULD'NT HEAR NOBODY PRAY



* 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.

I COULDN'T HEAR NOBODY PRAY—Concluded.



4 4 mary

INDEX OF SONGS.

A Little Talk with Jesus	24	Let us Cheer the Weary Trav-	
All Over This World	6	eler	55
Ain't I Glad I've got out the	18	Little David	61
Before this Time Another Year		Live a-Humble	50
Been a-Listening	32	Lord, I Want to be a Christian	17
By and By	45	My Good Lord's Done been	3
Can't You Live Humble?	25	Here	60
Christians, Hold up Your		My Name's Written on High_	13
Heads	29	My Sins are Taken Away	36
Going to Hold out to the End	27	My Soul's been Anchored in	
Good Morning	3	the	43
Great Day		O Lamb! Beautiful Lamb	48
Hallelujah		O Rock's, Don't Fall on Me	30
Hear Me Praying	5	Plenty Good Room	59
Holy Bible	49	Religion is a Fortune	
Holy Bible Hold the Winds	37	Poll On	
I Am the True Vine	52	Show Me the Way	46
I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray	62	Sing aho that I had the Wings	16
I Have Another Building	26	Sinner, please don't let this	9
I Heard the Preaching of the		Harvest	57
Elder	56	Somebody's Buried in the	
Contract of the last of the la		Graveyard	8
I know the Lord's Laid His		Steal Away to Jesus	
Hands	7	Swing Low	
I m a-going to Join the Band	53	Tell all the World, John	
I'm a-going to Lay Down My		The Old Ark's a-movering	19
Life	54	There's Preaching Here	
It's Me	40	They Led My Lord Away	
I'm Going to do all I Can		This is a Sin-trying World	
I Went Down in the Valley		Wade in the Water	- 8
I Wish I had Died in Egypt		Want to Go to Heaven when	KI.
Land		I Die	
		Were you There?	
I Will Pray		When I'm Dead	9
I Won't Stop Praying		Witness	10
I Want to be a Soldier		You won't find a Man like Je-	2
Jesus is Risen from the Dead	35	sus	23

The Original Jubilee Music FOLK SONGS NO. 1

REVISED BY F. J. WORK

A collection of Jubilee Gems Scientifically set to music. The songs that Negro mothers and fathers sang before the war. The music given to the world through divine inspiration. A heritage unpurchasable.

PRICES

MANILA BINDING

Single copy, by mail_____\$.25 Per doz., by express, prepaid 2.50 Per hundred, not prepaid_20.00

CLOTH BINDING

Single copy by mail____\$.50 Per doz., by express, prepaid 5.00 Per hundred, not prepaid_40.00

RARE TREAT IN STORE

FOLK SONGS NO. 2

BY F. J. WORK Price Same as No. 1

FINE CHOICE SELECTIONS

"Lil' Gal" 25c 'Negro Love Song" 25
"If You Were Only Here" 25c "Lullaby Solo" 25
"Lullaby" Male Quartette 15c

ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE MONEY.

Remit by Bank Draft, Post-Office Money Order, Registered Letter or Express. Money sent in other ways will be at the risk of the person sending it. Please fill blank correctly and write name and post-office plainly.---Do not send stamps if you can avoid it.

MAKE ALL MONEY ORDERS AND DRAFTS PAYABLE TO

WORK BROTHERS

Box 61

Nashville, Tenn.

A NEW CREATION

THE PASSION

A beautiful Easter Cantata in Folk Song. This is the latest production in the musical world. A story of the Crucifixion and Resurrection told in the songs of the Negro.

15 CENTS PER COPY PRICES PER DOZEN \$1.50

ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE CASH

Remit by Bank Draft, Post-Office Money Order, Registered Letter or Express. Money sent in other ways will be at the risk of the person sending it. Please fill blank correctly and write name and post-office plainly. Do not send stamps if you can avoid it.

MAKE ALL MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO
WORK BROTHERS
BOX 61 NASHVILLE, TENN.