# ART OF SINGING;

VIZ.

- I. THE MUSICAL PRIMER,
- II. THE CHRISTIAN HARMONY,
- III. THE MUSICAL MAGAZINE.

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### BY ANDREW LAW.

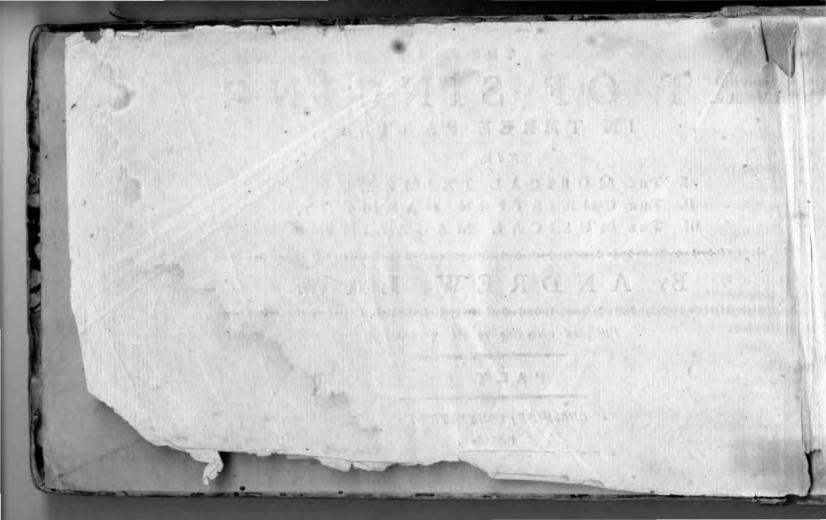
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PART I.

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# To the Ministers of the Gospel, and the Singing-Masters, Clerks and Choristers throughout the United States.

GENTLEMEN,

THE following work is addreffed to you. It claims your candid and thorough perufal. It exhibits an Introductory Treatife and an Elemetary Scale, possessing, it is believed, improvements of real and permanent worth; and it also presents specimens of that chaste and sober, that sublime and solemn Psalmody, which the friends of religion and virtue, as well as the friends of facred song, would rejoice to see more generally improved in worshipping affemblies.

It will not, perhaps, have escaped the observation of any one of you, that very much of the music in vogue is miserable indeed. Hence the man of piety and principle, of taste and discernment in music, and hence, indeed, all, who entertain a sense of decency and decorum in devotion, are oftentimes offended with that lifeless and insipid, or that frivolous and frolicksome succession and combination of sounds, so frequently introduced into churches, where all should be serious, animated and devout: and hence too, the dignity and the ever-varying vigor of Handel, of Madan, and of others, alike meritorious, are, in a great measure, supplanted by the pitiful productions of numerous composuists, whom it would be doing

too much honor to name. Let any one acquainted with the fublime and beautiful Compositions of the great Masters of Music, but look round within the circle of his own acquaintance, and he will find abundant reason for these remarks.

The evil is obvious. Much of the predominating Psalmody of this Country is more like song-singing, than like solemn praise. It rests with you, Gentlemen, to apply the remedy. The work of reformation is arduous, but not impracticable, and the more difficult the task, the more praise-worthy the accomplishment.

I will further add, that, there are no descriptions of citizens in the community, who have it in their power to do half as much, as you, towards correcting and perfecting the taste in music, and towards giving to devotional praise its due effect upon our lives and conversation.

The cause of religion and virtue has therefore a claim upon your exertions. What remains then, but that every one who is convinced of the want, begin the work? Individual exertions, rendered unexceptionable, become universal, and the business is ended.

That you may criticise with the keenness and candor of real masters of music, and correct with the courage and conduct of irresistable reformers, is all that the fondest friends of sacred music would ask or wish; and if the following Book be found but an individuals mite, towards promoting so noble an undertaking as that, of improving the religious praise of a rising Empire, it will never become a subject of regret to one, who has devoted up the greater part of his life to the cultivation of Psalmody, and who is,

With all proper Respects,

THE AUTHOR.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

THE divisions of the following work were firstly published in detached parts. They have been since collected, and, in pursuance of the original design, are, in this edition, calculated to form a consistent whole. The second part, or the Christian Harmony, has been heretofore subdivided into two Volumes; but that division, ceasing to be necessary, is discontinued. Additional numbers of the Magazine may hereafter be published as occasion may require.

A BOOK that may be obtained with little expence, and be fuitable for learners at their first setting out, is frequently called for: Such an one is the Musical Primer, the first part of the art of Singing, independent of the rest of the work. Singing-Schools and others applying, may therefore still procure it in a Pamphlet by itself. The Rules comprised in it are explained with the utmost conciseness and simplicity; and if the learner, upon perusing them and practizing upon the additional lessons and tunes, sinds, that he is like to succeed as a singer, he may safely venture to purchase other music; if not, he may relinquish his book and his undertaking together, without much loss of time or money.

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## MUSICAL PRIMER;

OR THE

FIRST PART OF THE ART OF SINGING:

CONTAINING THE RULES OF

## PSALMODY,

NEWLY REVISED AND IMPROVED;

TOGETHER

With a number of Practical LESSONS and Plain TUNES:

Designed expressly for the use of LEARNERS.

BY ANDREW LAW.

THIRD EDITION.

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P E E F A C E.

HE usual method of teaching vocal music is faulty. Learners are hurried forward too rapidly. They attempt to fing airy and difficult pieces of music, before they have learnt to sing those that are more plain. The consequences are such as might be expected. Multitudes are discouraged and give up singing entirely; and many, who persevere, acquire bad habits, and

become, at belt, but miferable performers.

In reading, the pupil is conducted onward, step by step, from the elements of his art; from his a, b, c, until he is able to read the most complicated sentences at sight. So ought it to be in music. The learner should begin with the rules, which are the elements, the a, b, c, of his art. From these he ought to ascend gradually. From a mere melody, or succession of sounds, in their simplest state, as the eight notes, he may venture to rise a step higher; to the plainest lessons and tunes; and from thence to those that are less plain. By proceeding in this way, he will eventually rise so high in his art; as to be able to sing the most intricate pieces of music at sight. But the eminence alluded to is highly exalted; and let no one imagine, that he shall reach its fammit, without taking the necessary steps.

In compiling this First Part of the Art of Singing, I have made it my express object, to prepare a little book, that might furnish and affist Singing-Schools, and all learners during the first stages of their improvement. In the Introduction, which immediately follows, I have explained a number of the most important things, which relate to vocal music. There explanations will

therefore be ferviceable to learners; and at the same time, interesting, and not unprofitable to singers in general.

But it is the Scale of Rules with which the labor, the actual task of the learner more immediately commences. To render this task as easy as possible, neither time nor attention, have been spared. As the readiest way to effect the proposed purpose, appeal has been uniformly made to the reason and nature of my subject, as presented in theory and practice. For the scale which follows, is not the offspring of a short and solitary attention to theory alone. On the contrary, it forms the result of a long course of experience in practising and teaching sacred music; and it is here presented, as the most perfect system of rules, that such experience has been able to suggest. European gamuts in the mean while have not been overlooked. On the other hand. I have ever examined them with care and deference; but at the same time, without thinking myself implicitly obliged to be guided by them,

merely because they were already in use: For a thousand things are in use, which ought not to be copied. Hence, wherever I have discovered, that alterations might be made for the better, I have not scrupled to introduce them; and for such as are most material, have explained my reasons at large. Should the reader be inquisitive enough to examine them, I have only to ask, that he will do it thoroughly and fairly, and then judge for himself. Unless I am much deceived, he will not only find, that the reasons given are sufficient; but also, that the system of rules, here presented, are an improvement upon any one,

that has before appeared.

To the Scale, there is added an Appendix. This is done, not because the scale is in itself incomplete; but merely to accommodate it to the circumstances of the day. For it is true, that all music is not, at present, printed according to the rules of the scale; but it is equally true, that all music might be so printed and by that very means, be improved in point of simplicity. In regard to the music, it may in all cases be rendered more simple than by transcribing it into the plan of the scale. If any one should however choose to consult such music, as it stands, he will find the necessary directions in the appendix. It will then be soon enough for him to attend to the rules there contained, when he actually sinds, that he is like to want then: And his attending to them at such after period, will rather be an alleviation to him, than otherwise; for he will then, probably have sewer things to distract and divide his mind, than at his first setting out. At any rate, his attending to them, later, or by themselves, can be no additional burden to him; for the same in substance that is here contained in the appendix is knit into the body of common systems; and by adverting to the appendix in this book, he will only advert to some old rules, which, if music were printed as it might be, would be utterly useless.—As to the Tunes introduced into the Primer, they are principally of a kind, the most simple, plain and easy: Calculated, not to entertain the accomplished performer, who is delighted with nothing shorts of refined and delicate airs; but to take the bewildered learner, and conduct him along a smooth and gradual ascent in his way towards the summit of tasta and graceful performance.

## INTRODUCTION.

#### SECTION FIRST .- OF MUSIC IN GENERAL.

O administer refined and rational amusement, is only an inferior branch of the power of music. Her principal prerogative is, to rouse and animate the passions, and in that way, to influence the heart. But in order to produce this effect, music must be well performed. Ease and freedom must be studied, that stiffness and formality may be avoided, the teeth and throat freely opened, that the voice may be clear and sonorous, and above all, the words distinctly and properly spoken, that what is sung may be understood; that sound and sense, combined and reciprocally improved, may appear in their utmost force and beauty, and be

capable of producing their utmost effect.

The more nice and curious shades of melody and harmony are so subtle as to elude the grasp of rules. These must therefore be lest wholly to the regulation of the fancy and the judgment. But the more prominent seatures of the science of sounds are not only remarkable and uniform, but also definable. Hence rules are formed: and rules, as far as they are definite, are certainly worthy of attention. To point out, and illustrate such rules, as in fact are definite, forms the whole business of theory; to put those rules in practice, must be lest to the inclination of learners and the direction of instructors. But that which is now required, is to furnish a theory of rules and directions, that may be actually reducible to practice; and with this object in view, I have introduced into the following sections a number of the most important subjects relative to music, and have considered them at large. Some of them may appear difficult and perhaps unintelligible to learners; but if they should not be able to understand them with once reading, let them by no means be discouraged, for perseverance in study and practice, will render them plain and familiar. In the meantime, these sections may probably be of service to such as design themselves for instructors, for they treat upon subjects, which every instructor ought fully to understand and faithfully to inculcate.

#### SECTION SECOND .- OF TONING AND TUNING THE VOICE.

Good tones, in proper tune are indispensibly requisite in order to good music. One of the first and most important objects of the instructor should therefore be, to modulate the tones, or founds of each voice, so as to render them agreeable: and where different voices join together, with a design of producing harmony, they should all take the same pitch and move in perfect tune. The tones

of the human voice, in order to be agreeable, must be open, smooth and flexible; and, to be in tune, each voice must accord with the others. Tones are the ground work of music, and if these are rough, or otherwise faulty, good music is at an end .-To lead performers to fing in a smooth and flowing voice, is a principle duty of instructors. In this, I know, I have but repeated a proposition, the substance of which, I had before expressed; but I wish it to be more than repeated, to be remembered, and carried into practice; for of a truth, it contains a duty that is neglected by most American teachers. The tones of our fingers are in general, I had almost faid univerfally rough, hard and dissonant. In a word, our finging in general is extremely harsh; and this harshness produces its natural effects: It renders our plalmody less pleasing and less efficacious; but it does more; It vitiates our tafte and gives currency to bad mufic. A confiderable part of American mufic is extremely faulty. European compositions aim at variety and energy by guarding against the reiterated use of the perfect chords. Great numbers of the American composers, on the contrary, and as it were, on purpose to accommodate their music for harth singing, have introduced the smooth and perfect chords, till their tunes are all fweet, languid and lifelefs: and yet these very tunes, because they will better bear the discord of grating voices, are actually prefered, and have taken a general run, to the great prejudice of much better music, produced even, in this country, and almost to the utter exclusion of genuine European compositions. But it was the roughness of our finging that ought to have been smoothed and polished, and not the compositions of Madan and Handel. If there is ought of roughness or discord required in music, it should arise from the composition itself, and not from the voices of the singers : These should all be sweet, graceful and flowing. But fing the sweet-chorded tunes of this country make, in sweet toned voices, and they will immediately cloy, ficken and difguft.

To correct our taile, and give to our music the energy and variety it requires, we must begin at the root of the evil. The cause that gives currency to bad composition, and operates to destroy the efficacy of our plalmody must be removed. The harshness of our singing must be corrected. Our voices must be filed. Every tone must be rendered smooth, persuasive and melting: and when a number of voices are joined together, they must all have the same pitch, or in other words, must be in the most perfect tune. Then, nor till then, shall we sing well, and be able to distinguish between compositions of genuine merit, and those that are merely indifferent.

The accomplishment of these purposes must depend in a great measure upon teachers. To mould the voices of their pupils into the most smooth and graceful sounds, ought to be one of their first and principal objects; and every master who will give suitable attention to this subject, will find himself amply rewarded. The music of his school will be rendered more delightful and more powerful; and he will have the double satisfaction of pleasing and improving himself, while he gratifies and profits the public.

#### SECTION THIRD .- OF ARTICULATING AND PRONOUNCING.

Words and fyllables, as far as music will admit, ought to be articulated and pronounced according to the true standard of conversation. But in aiming at this point, care must be taken, not to injure the founds of the music. Syllables must be articulated at their beginning, or ending, or at both, according as they are begun or ended with vowels or consonants; and in dwelling upon a syllable between its beginning and end, the voice must open, swell and expand: And in this way, agreeable sounds may be preserved; whereas, without such opening of the voice, stat and disagreeable sounds will frequently ensue. To dwell for instance, upon the sound of the syllable cheer, implicitly adhering to the sound of ee, will produce an aukward and disagreeable tone. But in consulting the sounds, do not facrifice dissinctings. By all means, let each syllable be articulated distinctly, and each word spoken plainly. Distinctness, however important, is an article in which almost all singers sail. They give the sounds, but do not speak the words so, that they can be distinctly heard. Hence audiences discern the sounds, but miss of the words and their meaning, and vocal music is consequently stripped of half its beauty. Divested of the sentiment contained in the words, it is reduced to a level with instrumental performances.

In practifing vocal music by note, the syllables, mi, saw, sol, law, are used, as the vehicles of sound. These, properly pronounced, are admirably calculated for the purpose to which they are appropriated. They assist in forming the organs of speech into positions, proper for making the tones open, soft, and smooth. Their true pronunciation is easy. The i, in mi, has its short sound, as in divinity; the o, in sol, has its long sound, as sold, and the saw and law are pronounced as written.

#### SECTION FOURTH OF THE PARTS.

Melody confifts in a mere succession of sounds, and hence it may be formed by a single part, or even by a single voice; but harmony cannot be produced without a combination of sounds, and hence the expediency of introducing a number of parts to move at the same time. The Bass, is properly considered as the ground work, or soundation. Correct composers of modern date for the most part make use of Treble, as the leading part, or air; and this seems best to agree with the principles of harmony, which incline to ascribe the chief melody, or song to the Treble, while the Tenor and Counter, or second Treble, come in to sill up and perfect the harmony. When music consists of sour parts, that which is written lowest is the Bass; next above it, is the Tenor; then the Counter, or second Treble, and at top the Treble. The lowest voices of men are suitable for Bass. The Tenor is an eighth above, and is proper for the highest voices of men. An eighth above the Tenor, is the Treble, suited to the highest voices of women; and between the Treble and Tenor, is the second Treble, or the Counter, which ought to be sungly treble voices. To conceive of the manner in which the several parts take the pitch and agree together, recourse may be had to the scale that is inserted to show the pitch of the parts.

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#### SECTION FIFTH. OF THE CLIFFS.

I have rifed only two Cliffs; the F, or Bass-cliff, and the G cliff, which answers alike for Treble, Counter and Tenor. The cornmon Counter cliff, I have omitted for two reasons; firstly, because, without using it, every purpose may be answered as well; fecondly, because many purposes may be answered better. Having substituted the G, in lieu of the Counter cliff, I have transposed the notes of the Counter into the octave below, where they fall as naturally within the stave, as they do when the Counter cliff is used. Thus transposed, they are to be sung in the Treble voice, by which means the same effect will be produced, as the' they remained in the octave above, and were fung in the Tenor voice. By transposing the notes in this manner, the position of the Counter upon its stave will be more convenient and natural. Women, who for the most part fing, or at least, ought to fing the Counter, have frequent occasions, particularly when the Counter rests, to shift into the Treble. Now it is well known that Counter is in fact a lower part, and requires to be performed by lower founds, than Treble; and upon this plan of using the G cliff and reducing the notes, they are at once placed, and actually meet the eye upon a lower part of the flave, so that whenever Counter-singers shift into the Treble, and there find the notes higher upon the stave, they will naturally be led to raife their voices, as is required; or whenever Treble fingers shift into the Counter, and see the notes lower upon the stave, they will naturally be led to lower their voices as is likewise required. Another advantage of this plan arises from the unity of the Cliffs in the Counter, Treble and Tenor; and the confequential eafe and facility with which each of those parts may at any time shift into each other. The Counter has the fame cliff; the mi is upon the fame little or space, and the confequent arrangement of the notes is the same as in the first and second Trebles and the Tenor. Hence, when he Counter is used, or when any other occasion requires, those who commonly sing Counter, may take one of the other parts, without the trouble and perplexity of learning a different cliff, a different place for the mi and a different arrangement of the notes thence arising.

#### SECTION SIXTH .- OF FLATS and SHARPS.

For the fake of variety it becomes necessary to shift the order of the semi-tones. This is done by means of flats and sharps. These, placed at the beginning of a tune, serve to regulate the mi, and remove the semi-tones from letter to letter into any part of the octave. Flats and sharps, that occur at the beginning of a tune, continue to operate till it closes, unless counteracted by the occurrence of other flats, sharps or naturals. Flats, at the beginning of tunes, sink all the notes upon their letters, half a tone, and sharps raise them half a tone. By this means, the keys of tunes, may be transposed from letter to letter, and the air still preserved; and thus it is, that the semi-tones are removed at pleasure, and made subservient to the purposes of convenience and variety.

N. B .- The semi-tones are between B and C and E and F.

#### SECTION SEVENTH .-- OF KEYS.

To know whether the air of music be cheerful or mournful, we must advert to the keys. Every third, sixth and seventh sound from the key-note, is greater in the sharp key, than in the state. In the scale of keys, this remark is visibly illustrated. But the air of music depends principally upon the third from the key-note. If that be a stat third, nature has affixed to the music a plaintive turn, proper for mournful psalms and hymns; but if it be a sharp third, nature has given to the music an animating, cheerful turn, proper for psalms and hymns of praise.

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#### SECTION EIGHTH --- OF ACCENT.

A greater stress of voice upon any particular part of the bar, is what is called, Accent. Singers in performing single common, and criple time, should be careful to accent only that part of the bar which is marked by the first beat; and in performing double common time, they should place a full accent upon that part of the bar which is marked by the first beat, and only a half accent upon that part which is marked by the third beat. As to the place of the accent, it never varies, but it is not so with its quantity; for if an important word falls into the accented part of the bar, the accent should be forcibly marked, and more feebly, when the accented part of the bar happens to be filled by an unimportant word. Upon the whole however, the accent in music is not very doubtful nor difficult to be acquired: Add to this, that a proper and graceful accent is one great beauty of singing, and we shall see how necessary and reasonable it is, that every instructor be thoroughly acquainted with such proper and graceful accent, and be able to inculcate it both by precept and example.

#### SECTION NINTH .--- OF THE SWELL.

The fwell is in one fense applicable to music at large. There is something of it upon every note, or syllable that is sung. In quantity, it is in degree proportioned to the length of the note, and is formed by increasing the sound to the middle of the note, and decreasing it to the close. Thus defined, the swell belongs to all music alike; but in its more appropriated acceptation, it is numbered among the most refined and delicate beauties of music: And in this sense, it is never used unless the sentiment be very emphatical, and the sound intended to express such sentiment in a manner at once striking and affecting. When the swell is used in cases of this nature, it, in quantity always exceeds the ordinary swell, which is above defined, and is sometimes different in other respects. In the general way, it resembles the common swell, except in degree, and in performing, the voice should gradually increase from soft to loud, and then decrease to soft again. Sometimes, however, the voice when swelled so the full, should break off abruptly and leave the note; and at other times, a full, loud voice should strike suddenly upon the note, and then decrease to its close.

#### SECTION TENTH OF SOFT and LOUD.

Softness and loudness are to music what light and shade are to painting. While the voice is very soft and small, the sentiments expressed, are wrapt in deep shade and seen at a distance; but when the music increases in loudness to the extent of the human voice, the sentiments are seen hastening from the shade and advancing into a glare of light; and when soft singing again succeeds, they again retire, and discover themselves beneath the dim and distant shades. To sing, sometimes bud at others soft, as the sentiments require, is indeed a principal beauty of singing. By this means, objects appear in the blaze of day, in the shade, or in the twilight, at the performer's bidding; while to the music is added, variety and richness of expression, and oftentimes a more than double effect.

In a theory, the particular directions when to fing loud, and when to fing lost, cannot be given: These depending on the music, the words, and the occasion, must be left to the judgment and discretion of teachers and therifiers. In the different stages of the same piece of music, the quantity of found should frequently be different; and as often as the composition is sung to new words, the fost and loud should be made to correspond. All the common plain tunes that are in daily use, aught in a special manner to be varied in loudness and softeness, according to the sense of the pialms and hymns in which they are sung. By this means, a single tune, at different times may be made to appear like a different tune, and that todious and disgusting sameness, so much, and so reasonably complained of in our church-music, may in a great measure be removed. Thus may psalmody be made to assume a more extensive variety; and the mind, charmed and elevated with the improvement, be more highly elevated in the sublime exercises of devotion.

#### SECTION ELEVENTH .- OF PREPARATIVE NOTES.

The Preparative, are those little notes that are sprinkled here and there among the common notes of the tune. They add nothing to the time of the bar in which they are used, but are to be sung in connection with the notes to which they belong. These preparative notes, if rightly sung, give to the sounds, a turn, that is exquisitively nice and delicate. They are used for two purposes for firstly—They are sometimes merely notes of transition; when they may be said, to form a kind of passage for the voice from a preceding to a succeeding sound: But secondly—They are most frequently to be considered as the principal notes, in which case, they are to be dwelt upon something longer, than the notes with which they are connected; the manner of passing in the sound, from the preparative to the other note, to be peculiarly expressive, and not communicable, except by example.

#### SECTION TWELFTH OF TIME.

Time in music is originally of two kinds, Common and Triple. These are distinguished from each other by the different divisions of the bar into its primary or principle parts. Whenever the bar is, in the very first instance, divided into an even number of parts, the music is in common time; but if divided into an uneven number of parts, the music is in triple time. In triple time, the bar is al-

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ways divided into three parts and marked by three beats. In common time, it is sometimes divided into four parts and marked by four beats; \* but more generally into two parts only, and marked by two beats. Hence there is one species of common time, where the bar is divided into two parts, marked by two beats; and another species, where the bar is divided into four parts marked by four beats. The former, by way of distinction, may be called common, or single common, and the latter, double common time.

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But the different ands of time must be further considered; for both Common and Triple time may be either simple or compound. Simple and compound time are distinguished not by the primary division of the bar into beats, but by the subdivisions of those beats or parts into their still selfer parts. For instance; in single common and triple time, when they are simple, each beat or parts, is represented by a main, and this is subdivided into a crochets, or 4 quavers: But if the time be compound, each of the beats, or parts, is represented by a pointed minim, which is subdivided into a crochets or 6 quavers. Compound time may be derived from simple, merely by dividing a beat into three parts instead of two. Instances of this kind are very common. The minim, in simple time is frequently divided into three crochets, and whether the figure 3 be placed over them or not, the time thus far becomes compound. In this way, one or more of the parts of the choir is often moving in compound time, while the others are moving in simple. The compound of triple and double common time are not used in psalmody; they are therefore omitted in the scale of rules.

SECTION THIRTEENTH .--- OF MODES.

Nothing can exceed the simplicity of the modes of time. They depend wholly upon the movement of the music. As long as that moves uniformly fall or flow, the mode continues the same; but if the music either quicken or slacken its movement, the mode charges. If one tune be sung fall and another slow, they belong to different modes; and even the same tune; if it be sung at one time saft, and at another slow, belongs first to one mode and then to another. For the quickness or slowness of the music is the only distinction between the modes. In the scale I have distinguished modes to the number of seven. These belong alike to each kind of time, and are known as occasion requires, by placing the name of the mode over the music where the movement begins. To mark the identical time affixed in the definition of the modes, is not so necessary as to make the proportional and proper differences between the several modes. Does it become a question what it is that regulates the quickness and slowness of music? I answer, it is the air and the words. Governed by these, the composer will not mistake in the choice of his modes and when music is sung to the words set to it, performers need only follow the given directions; but when it is extended to other words, performers ought frequently to alter the mode for the sake of accommodating it to the words. This ought especially to be done with the common plain tunes when sung in different psalms and hymns.

The finging this kind of common time, ordinary performers do not perceptably distinguish between the whole and the balf accest; and unless this be done, the time itself, might as well be resolved into the other kind of common time, by dividing each bar into two, and measuring them by two beats instead of four. But as accurate performers distinguish between the accents, I have chosen to retain this kind of time as differing from common time with a single accents, there is no common time with a single accents.

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#### ESSAY ON TIME AND MODE.

In the following system of rules, the various kinds of time and the modes in mulic are distinguished in a different manner from what is usual. A general view of the plan that I have adopted, has been given in the course of the preceding observations; and had there been nothing of novelty in it, a general view would have been sufficient; but as it differs from the common method of explaining the modes and times, I shall here bestow upon it some surther remarks. The object of these remark will be to dis-

cover, how far the proposed plan of time and mode, is an improvement upon that which is commonly received.

In order to determine this point, let us compare the two plans together; and let the contrast decide to which the preference is due. It is indeed true, that the common plan of explaining the modes and times is that which at present obtains, and I am fully aware that numerous arguments in support of a thing are apt to be drawn from that source. Whatever has been long and extensively established, frequently becomes facred and inviolable, and if nothing were made respectable in this way but truth and virtue, it certainly would afford us a most pleasing consideration; but the missortune is, that while use and time confer a fanctity upon what is right, they fail not to indulge what is wrong. Hence truth and error oftentimes acquire an equal veneration, and are sup-

ported with almost equal zeal and perseverance.

The prefent age however affords greater exceptions to these remarks, than are to be met with in any former period. Instead of implicitly adhering to old modes and renets, Mankind begin to think it worth while to examine for themselves. And as this sentiment prevails, they will be more and more associated with new discoveries of faults and sollies, which have been fanctioned by extensive, or immemorial usage. We are not however to presume upon a period, when the people will utterly hose sight of their attachment to forms and opinions that are rendered sacred by time and numbers; for the arguments on which such forms and opinions rest, are not easily to be shaken. Indeed there is nothing that will justify turning aside from the old way, unless it be, to walk in a new one, which is decidedly better. Utility is therefore the only plea, that can justify innovations upon principles and practices of long standing, or extensive acceptation; and it is wholly upon this plea, that I have in this book presented the public with something that is different from what is commonly received upon the various kinds of time and mode.

The end to be answered in music by the different kinds of time and mode, or movement, is variety. Were it possible then, to establish a plan so contrived, as to admit the greatest variety, preserving at the same time a persect simplicity, alterations and improvements would instantly be at an end, because such a plan would be complete. Of course, that system which approaches nearest to-wards uniting variety and simplicity, must unquestionably be the best system; and I believe it will be found upon examination that the plan I have adopted for ascertaining and defining the different kinds of time and the modes, possesses greater variety, and

far greater simplicity, than the one that is now in common use.

The examining these points, I shall consider only those kinds of time that are used in psalmody; to wit, single and double common time, triple time and compound common time. In regard to other divisions of time, which are never used, except in instrumental music, it will be sufficient to remark, that they naturally fall into the same plan, and are explainable upon the same principles with those that are here considered. Upon examination it will appear, that the proposed plan is the superior in point of variety; for it distinguishes the modes or movements merely by the quickness or slowness with which the music is performed. And upon this plan of considering the modes, they may be extended to any indefinite number, without destroying simplicity in the least degree. But supposing them to be extended only to seven as is done in the scale, and allowing this number to each of the four kinds of time, and the aggregate number of distinct modes is, twenty-eight; whereas, upon the common plan of defining them, the aggregate number is only eleven; two in single, and two in double common time; in triple time, four, and in compound common time, three. And even these are distinguished in a manner much less simple and natural than in the plan proposed; for they depend, sometimes upon the quickness or slowness of the music, and sometimes upon the different measures of the bar; while upon the proposed plan, they uniformly depend upon the quickness or slowness of the music, the only natural mark of distinction between the modes.

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Such is the comparative flate of the common and proposed plans in regard to the article of variety. Let us proceed a little further and contrast them upon the article of fimplicity.

The proposed plan will be found to have the advantage in point of simplicity; firstly, because it has not so many different measures for the bar; and secondly, because it has not so many divisions of notes by the beats. For it may be observed from the following illustration, that the proposed plan reduces the different measures of the bar, from nine to four; and the different divisions of the notes by the beats from seven to two.

Upon the plan proposed, there are no more than four measures for the bat; one for single common, one for double common, one for compound common, and one for triple time. Every mode that arises from the same kind of time, always retains the same measure note. But upon the common plan, the bar has no less than nine different measures; two in common, four in triple and three in compound time. But why this introduction of different measure notes into the same kind of time? Certainly it cannot be necessary for the sake of distinguishing the modes, for these, with a single measure note, may be completely defined, merely by making them depend upon the quickness or slowness of the music. To use a plurality of measure notes on account of the modes, as is commonly done, must therefore be needless; but when contemplated in another point of light, it is not only needless, but injurious; for it must inevitably destroy the simplicity of the system, and render the business of the learner much more intricate and laborious. The intricacy arising from this source is in a great measure removed upon the plan proposed, for it gives to each kind of time only a single measure for the bar.

The superior simplicity of the proposed plan is equally remarkable in its division of the noter by the beats. All the divisions that it makes amount only to two; one for Single Common, Double Common, and Triple time, and one for Compound Common Times

In fingle common, double common, and triple time, the minim is always fung to one beat. In compound time to two thirds of a beat. But in the common way of explaining time and mode, there are feven divisions of notes by the beats. Let us make the contrast a little more familiar by a single example. Upon the plan proposed, the quaver is always sung either to a quarter or a sixth part of a beat, and the other notes in the like proportion; but upon the common plan, the quaver is so variously divided by the beat, that it must be sing, according as it is used in different places, to the time of two beats, one beat, half a beat, a quarter of a beat, two thirds of a beat, one third of a beat, or a fixth part of a beat. And in the same proportion in regard to their beats, must the rest of the notes be varied. But does not this extensive division of the notes by the beats, open to us another source of intricacy in the common plan? and may not this intricacy be principally avoided by introducing the plan that I have adopted?

I have ventured to revive and introduce the Breve as the Menfure note of Double Common Time. It may not therefore be unworthy of remark, that the fame notes will uniformly be marked by the same number of beats, in the three kinds of time principally used in psalmody; to wit, in Single Common, Double Common, and Triple Time. In all these, the breve, whenever it occurs, will be marked by four beats, the semibreve by two beats, the minim by one beat, the crochet by one half of a beat, the quaver by one quarter of a beat, &c. Hence too, the kind of time the singer is performing will all along be obvious from the slightest glance at the bar; for, if the bar, for instance, be silled by a breve, two semibreves, four minims, or their quantities, he will perceive it is in Double Common Time, and must be marked with four beats; if the bar be silled by a semibreve, two minims, or their quantities, he will know it is in single common time, and must be marked with two beats; if the bar be silled by a pointed semi-breve, three minims or their quantities, he will be reminded that it is Triple Time, and is to be marked with three beats; and if the bar be silled with two pointed minims, six crotchets or their quantities, he must see it is Compound Time.

The number of musical characters need not be increased by this revival of the breve. The Demisemiquaver, may be expunged from the scale, and the shortest notes used in music, upon the proposed plan of writing it, may be as perfectly expressed by the

femiquaver, as in the ordinary way by the the Demisemiquaver.

It refults then, that there need be only four measures for the Bar, one for each of the kinds of time required, to wit, Single Common, Double Common, Triple and Compound Common Time; and no more than two divisions of the notes by the beats,

one for the three former, and one for the latter of those times.

To all these considerations, it might be added, that, upon the proposed plan, music would be more easily written and printed than at present; for it would be more generally expressed by plain and open notes, such as semibreves and minims. But enough has been said. The view that has been taken of the proposed plan is already comprehensive. In contrast with that, which at present abtains, it appears to be superior both in variety and in simplicity. In variety, for it introduces a more natural, definite and extensive division of modes. In simplicity, for it requires fewer measures for the bar, and sewer divisions of the notes by the beats. By means of its variety, additional diversity and expression may be introduced into music, without embarrassing the per-

former; while the composer may give more precise directions, how slow or fast he would have his music sung; and by means of its simplicity, much, very much, of the intricacy of the established system is removed, and the business of the learner rendered more plain and easy. The arguments then, by which the proposed plan is recommended, are its variety and simplicity. These are clear, determinate and important. As to the objections against the plan, I know of none that are weighty, unless perhaps it be this, that it is not now in use. But this objection cannot be decisive; for the same made of reasoning, that would lead us to reject one essential improvement because of its novelty, would, if pursued, extend to the exclusion of improvements of every kind, and address an establishment of error, the aggravations of despair. I would not however be understood to advocate the plan that I have adopted as a perfect one. Time may discover and correct imperfections not at present foreseen. Long restection has, however, convinced me, that, in its present state it may be introduced into practice, and become a real improvement in the Art of Mosse. But I am willing to submit it to inspection, without so much as wishing it to meet the approbation of the public, any further than it will bear a critical examination.

#### MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

WHENEVER tunes are performed only in two parts, they should be sung in the bass and the air, or principal melody; and in such cases, the air may be sung either in tenor or treble voices, or in both of them united.

The Funeral Piece is to be fung to the double bar in the three verses which are set to it, before the other part is sung. When the word everlasting, in the second verse is sung, the minim rest should be omitted, and the minim before it, sung as a semibreve.

When the tune called Doncaster is sung in the second set of words, the last line but one will require the two minims in the bar, with the semibreve rest to be sung as semibreves, and the rest to be omitted. It may also be sung in any common metre plann or hymn, by making the same alteration in the other instances, where there are semibreve rest in the middle of a line, and by adding a dot to the note following the semibreve rest in the third line, leaving out the minim rest in the same bar.

# INDEX OF TUNES.

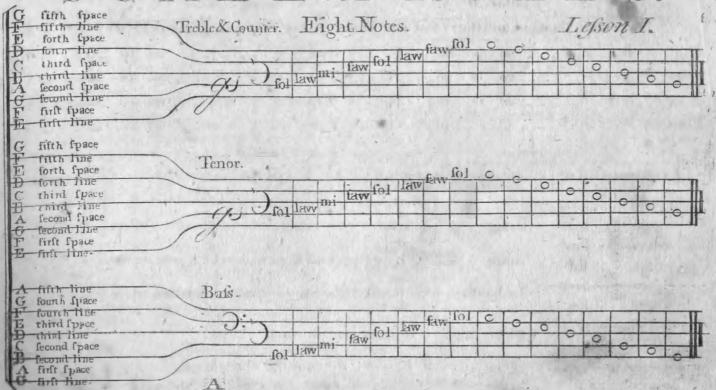
Africa.	49   Carlifle,	Enfield,	will value of 7
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Alexandria,	124 Chefter,	.45 Effex,	.5
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Archdale,	60 Danbury,	34 Franklin,	20
Ascension,	203 Dartmouth,		14
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Baltimore,	179 Denmark,	97 Germany,	7 1 1 12
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Berlin,	38 Dover,	42 Granville,	8 I handhe tour
Bethlem,	93 Doxology,	181 Greenwich,	en address on 15
Bofton,	173 Dublin,	28 Groton,	elitar della della della
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## INDEX OF METRES.

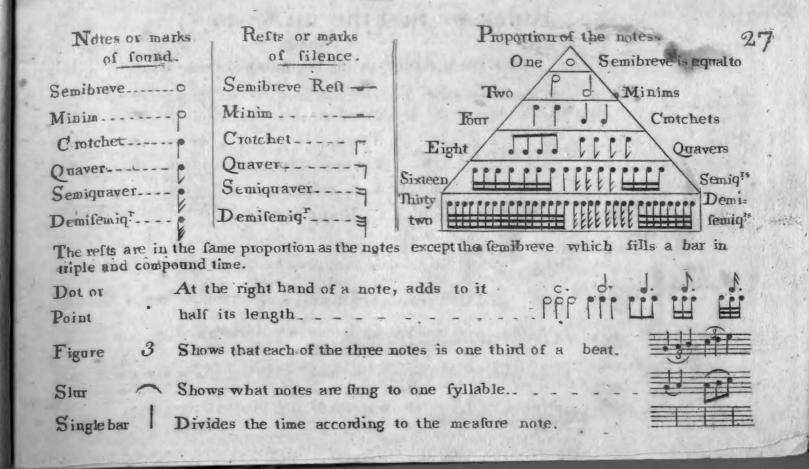
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Long.	4	8,8,8,8,	Old Hundred, Dunstand, Epping.		8 6,	6,6,6,8,8, 6,6,6,4,4,4,4,	Southbury, Pfalm 84th
Double Long	8	8,8,8,8,8,8,8,	Haverhill, Perfia.	Line Committee	6 10	0,10,10,10,10,10, 0,10,10,10,11,11, 0,10,10,10,	Newbern. Pfalm, 50th. Babylon,
Common	4	8,6,8,6,	Mear, Milan, Plymouth.	MILE	8 7	6,8,6,6,8, 6,7,6,7,7,7, <b>6</b> ,	Canton, Amsterdam.
Double Common	8	8,6,8,6,8,6,8,6,	Archdale, Enfield, Rockbridge.	Double	4 7	8,6,8,8,6, 7,7,7,	Chapel. Lancaster. (Falmouth,
Short	4	6,6,8,6,	Bethlem, Portugal, Haddam.	Particular	8 5	,7,7,7,7,7,7,7,7, ,5,5,5,6,5,6,5, ,7,8,7,4,7,	Hanover. Littleton.
Double Short	8	6, 6, 8, 6, 6, 6, 8, 6,	Africa, Pelham.	290 T	818	,7,8,7,8,7,8,7, ,6,4 6,6,6,4,	Stamford. Trinity.
Particular	6	8,8,8,8,8,8,	Carolina.		5	3,6,5,5,8,	Briftol.

## SCALE OF RULES.



## Rules to find the mi.

20	THICS M. THE	T CITC BILL.	
	Flat, b	Sharp, *.	
When then	is neither flat nor fhar	p at the beginning of a tone m	i is in - B
	mi is inE	One & mi is	in F .
	mi is inA	Two & & mi is	in C .
Two h b			
Three b b b	- mi is inD	Three & & & mi is	
Four bbbb-	mi is inG	Four & & & mi is	in 13.
Order of the Notes.	Characters.  Brace Shows h	Explanations.	Examples.
mi 💆 mi			
fol a fol		es and spaces on which mulicis will	
taw faw law	Ledgerline — Is added flave	when notes afcendor defcend beyond th	e J
-3 fol fol	Chooling notes 8 Either u	nay be fung	
g taw taw .	Close I Shows	the end of the tane	
			CONTRACT CON



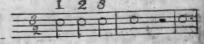
## TIMES.

### Common Time.

Marked D Contains one femibreve or its quantity in each fingle bar; and two beats, one down and one up.

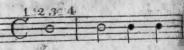
## Triple Time.

Marked 3 Contains three minims in each bar; and three beats, two down and one up.



## Double Common Time .

Marked C Contains one femibreve in each bar; and four beats,



## Compound Common Time.

Marked 6 Contains fix crotchets in each bar; and two beats, one down and one up.



N.B. The hand falls at the beginning of every bar, in all kinds of time.

Names.

Length of a Beat.

Very Slow

A fecond and a quarter;

Slow

A fecond and an eighth;

Moderate

A fecond;

Cheerful

Seven eighths;

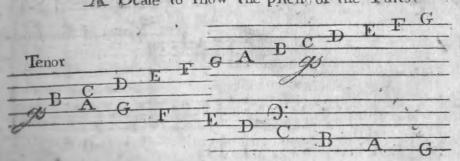
Lively

Two thirds;

A Scale to show the pitch of the Parts.

Five eighths;

Half a fecond.



The last note in the bas is the key note, which is the first note above or below the mi; if above it is a sharp key, if below a flat, key.

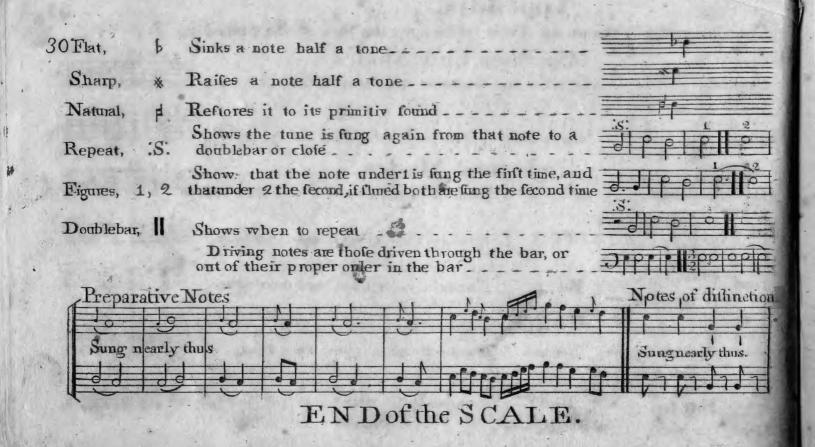
Sharpkey.	8Flat key.		
in di mi		_fol	
-6th law		THE CO.	
5 de. fol.	5th	law_	
4th faw	1.th	<u></u>	
-3 <sup>d</sup> law	gd	faw_	
2 <sup>1</sup> . fol	24	mi-	
Key faw	Key	law	

---

Onick

Very Quick

E



Containing what is thrown out of this fystem upon the plan of the preceding Scale Common time Modes Second Contains one femibreve and four beats --Contains one minim and two beats - - -Fourth Triple time Modes. Counter Cliff Second 4 Contains three crotchets, and three beats 4 I fourth space Third & Contains three quavers and three beats Tourthline D third space Fourth 3 Contains three femig! and three beats C third line Compound Common time. B secondipace Second & Contain fix quavers and two beats A secondline Cfirst space Third 16 Contains fix femiquavers and two beats





