

**ORIGINAL POETRY. CONSISTING OF
PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL
SONGS, ETC.; INCLUDING SOME
ON THE PROPHECIES RELATING TO THE
GRAND MILLENNIUM! OR REIGN OF
SAINTS UPON THE EARTH!**

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Original poetry. Consisting of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, etc.; including some on the prophecies relating to the grand millennium! or reign of saints upon the earth! by W. Wheeler

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W. WHEELER

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

It will not be denied, I presume, by persons who are the best informed, and of the most enlightened judgment, that the reading of compositions in verse on scriptural subjects may be both interesting, instructive, and profitable, as the mind of the reader is prepared to understand and receive the vital truths contained in the selected portions of "holy writ." Under such impressions, the greater proportion of the following pieces were penned and published, and which will, I believe, tend to elucidate some of the most striking and remarkable passages found in the "Book of Books."

Nor will it be denied that many of the sections of the Catholic, or universally professing Christian Church, believe singing of psalms and hymns to constitute a very important part of Christian worship; and, therefore, it may be well for us to consider the

teaching of the New Testament on this sublime and interesting subject. Here I submit that singing is spoken of more as a personal than as a general associated duty, Ephe. 5, 19. "*Speaking to yourselves* in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs : singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Col. iii. 16. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom : *teaching and admonishing one another* in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

We are assured by Jesus Christ himself that no worship is acceptable to God unless it be in spirit and in truth, John 4, 23-24 ; and such worship necessarily implies the exercise of living faith, for whatsoever is not of faith is sin, Rom. 14, 23 ; hence said the great Apostle Saint Paul, "I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also ; I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also," 1 Cor. 14, 15. Here we see a reason why singing is spoken of as a personal and not as a general associated duty, for every Christian knows best when he can utter words in devotional exercises and religious worship under a right feeling and influence. That singing was a personal and not a general observance

is plain from the Apostle's testimony of the practice of the Corinthian Christians in their religious assemblies, 1 Cor. 14, 26.

James, also speaks of singing as a personal exercise, Jam. 5, 13. Some of the compositions referred to in this book as psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, will be found suitable for devotional purposes, and may be used by believers as such in their *Christian liberty*, or they may be read, as the mind of each is spiritually disposed, for the elucidation of scriptural truth and the acquisition of religious knowledge.

I have (as a rule) given the measures of each separate composition, which may help to furnish a ready assistance to the general reader.

The pieces are arranged as far as practicable in Biblical order, so that any selected piece may be more easily found.

If any good should result from this effort to discharge a Christian duty and obligation, as all good is from God, my desire is that He may have the praise.

W. W.

THAME, 1874.



PROLOGUE IN ACROSTICS.



Praise waiteth for the Lord above,
Sion the Church waiteth the same,
And soon the spirit of grace will move
Loud hallelujahs to His name :
Moving in earth and heav'n above,
Songs of the purest praise and love.

His church in mourning will appear,
Yearning her bridegroom's voice to hear,
Maintain His truth with one accord,
Narrating too His promised word,
Sighing and fainting for her Lord.

And soon the seventh trump will sound,
Nations and peoples to confound,
Disclosing terrors all around.

Storms of dread wrath will then begin,
Punished the world will be for sin,
Irreligion be clearly shown,
Represented and fully known,
In its every dress be seen,
Tested as it never had been,
Under every form and mien,
And be exposed to ev'ry eye,
Languishing in its misery.

Songs to the righteous follow, and
On all the earth in ev'ry land,
Near or far off they are as one,
Governed by Christ, the *mystic stone*,
Serving the Lord, and Him alone !

Events of providential birth,
To produce changes on the earth :
Conclude with times of golden worth !