

**HISTORICAL NOTICES  
OF THE OFFICE OF  
CHORISTERS, PP. 1- 75**

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Historical notices of the office of choristers, pp. 1- 75 by James Elwin Millard

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**JAMES ELWIN MILLARD**

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of the

Office of Choristers.

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of

The Office of  
CHORISTERS.

By the

REV. JAMES ELWIN MILLARD, B.A.

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Oxford.*

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TO THE RIGHT REVEREND  
SAMUEL, LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD,

*Chancellor of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,  
Lord High Almoner to the Queen, &c.*

*My Lord,*

*You will not, I am well assured, see any presumption in the dedication of this little work to you by one who received ordination from your hands, and who is indebted to you for much besides. I might still, however, hesitate to indulge my wishes in this respect, did not the interest which your Lordship is known to have displayed in the welfare of the Choir, once under your direction, as Dean of Westminster, seem to warrant my doing so with peculiar propriety.*

*And*



*And, now that you have been pleased to express "a lively interest in my attempt to call attention to the duty so plainly incumbent on the Church of making some effectual provision for the spiritual safeguard and improvement of her Choristers," my only remaining anxiety is, lest anything in the following pages should occasion me to forfeit, what I value much, your Lordship's good opinion.*

*I have the honour to be*

*Your Lordship's obedient*

*Servant and Son,*

*J. E. M.*

## P R E F A C E.



THE historical notes collected in this little work are the same, in substance, with an article which appeared in the *Ecclesiastic* for May, 1846. The matter of them has since been corrected and enlarged, and is now circulated in its present form in the hope that it may attract the notice of some who have the means of improving the condition of Choirs. The Author believes that much of the neglect to which they are subject in some places, results from a positive ignorance of the position which Choristers were intended to occupy. Those who believe that they ought

ought to be, *ex officio*, an inferior class of society, may learn a lesson from the facts here recorded ; for they will scarcely persist in attaching the idea of degradation to an order which has contributed, not sparingly, to the ranks of Bishops, Confessors, and Martyrs.

There are some who have an æsthetic appreciation of Church music, without regarding much its highest functions. Even they are interested in the objects of this publication, for it is the Author's conviction that the choral service will never be brought to perfection till means are employed to make it a blessing, instead of the reverse, to those who take part in it professionally. At present it must be feared that the abuses of the cathedral service are sufficient in many cases to constitute it a school for irreverence and unreality. Such, for instance, is the tendency of the practice which allows singing men and boys to  
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