

THE ODES OF SOLOMON

A FURTHER SELECTION RENDERED INTO ENGLISH VERSE, WITH
SUGGESTED TUNES, BY S. P. T. PRIDEAUX, D.D.

(NOTE.—It is thought by some scholars that these beautiful and rapturous odes were sung at the Baptism of Catechumens in the early Church, and it is with the same object in view that these translations have been attempted; simplicity and directness have consequently been a guiding principle rather than literary effect.

The translator wishes to express his grateful thanks to the most Rev. J. H. Bernard, D.D., Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, and the Rev. J. Rendel Harris, D.D., for their kind and courteous permission to use their translations and editions.)

XV.

JOY

JOY like the sun to the watcher for morning,
So is the Lord both my joy and my sun,
Summoning me with the light of His dawning,
Darkness dispelling, a new day begun.
Eyes hath He given me with holy revealing,
Ears became mine and His truth have I heard;
Thought hath He quickened, all knowledge unsealing,
And I have found pure delight in His Word.
Lo ! at His call have I error forsaken,
He is my path and Himself is the goal;
Bounty ungrudged from His Hand have I taken,
Richest salvation received for my soul.
Beauty excelling is mine and I die not—
Deathless is life in the land of the Lord;
All who are faithful—He saith—and I lie not—
Fully and freely shall have their reward.

Tune, E.H., Appendix, 9: Epiphany.

XXXV.

PEACE

In quietness His dew
The Lord distilled on me,
And o'er my head a cloud of peace
Kept guard continually.
The earth and heaven did shake
And smoke at His behest
In fear and judgment, yet I found
In His commandment rest.
Ah ! more than shelter He,
More than foundation stone;
His dew was as a mother's milk,
His arms a mother's own.
His bounty made me great;
Redeemed He set me right;
With hands and soul upraised I knew
Rest in His perfect height.

Tune, E.H., 236: Carlisle.

XXXVI.

REST

I rested on the Spirit of the Lord;
 He made me stand and set me up on high;
 I saw the glory of His Perfect Self:
 I made a song to praise Him worthily.
 In His Presence received I heavenly birth,
 Tho' but a man was placed among God's sons,
 Among the enlightened; praised Him with His choir;
 And great was I among His mighty ones.
 According to His greatness so He wrought,
 According to His newness made me new;
 Anointed me from His own perfect store,
 As close companion to His side I drew.
 Then like a cloud of dew my voice broke forth,
 And from my heart a stream of righteousness;
 In peace I can approach Him; all my ways
 His spirit governs and establishes.

Tune, A.M., New Ed., 1904, 533: Shiplake.

IX.

THE OPEN EAR

Open your ears and I will speak with you;
 Give me your souls and I will give you mine.
 The Lord's good pleasure 'tis to give you life,
 Perfect, eternal, in His Son divine.
 Be rich in God the Father and His Word;
 Be strong, ye saints, redeemed by His grace;
 I cry you peace, that none in war shall fall,
 And those who know Him never lose His Face.
 Blessed are they who set upon their heads
 Of Truth the everlasting diadem;
 Great is its price and men have fought for it,
 And righteousness has given it to them.
 Put on your crown in His true covenant,
 The names of those who conquer in the strife
 Shall written be within His holy Book
 Who wills you shall have victory and life.

Tune, E.H., 438: Song 22.

XXXIV.

THE SIMPLE HEART

No way is hard to those of simple heart,
 Nor can a wound assault the upright mind;
 No storm can shatter the enlightened thought;
 Where Beauty reigns all harmony I find.
 Earth and the things of earth but shadows are,
 The imaginings of those who do not know;
 All truth's above; and grace salvation brings
 That ye may live and all His praises show.

Tune, E.H., 307—The Sacred Heart; A.M., 2nd supplement, 761: St. Agnes.