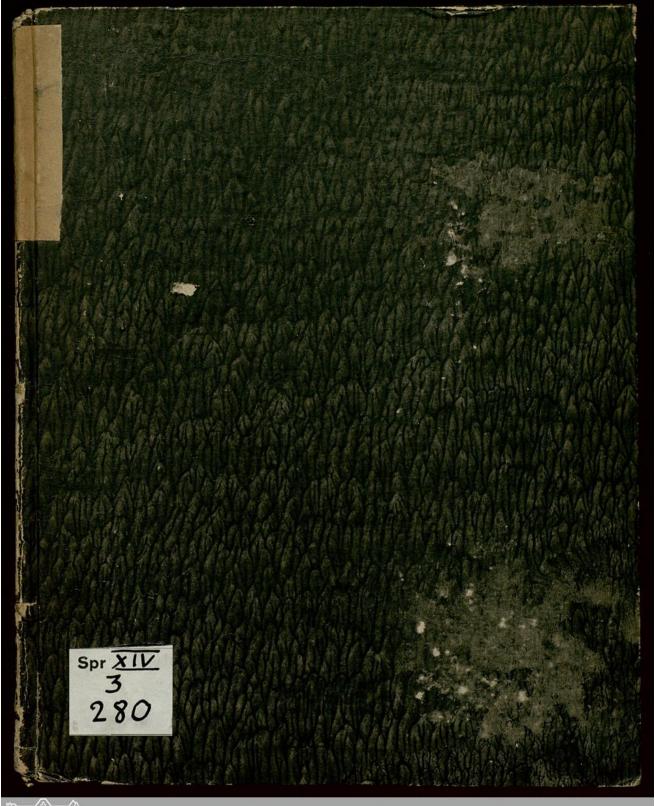
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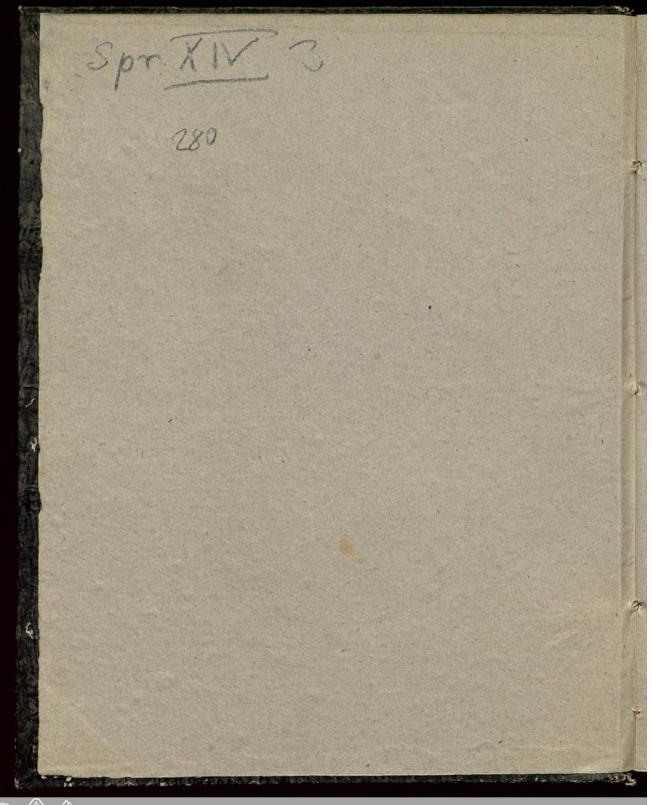
Saul, An Oratorio

Jennens, Charles London, 1738

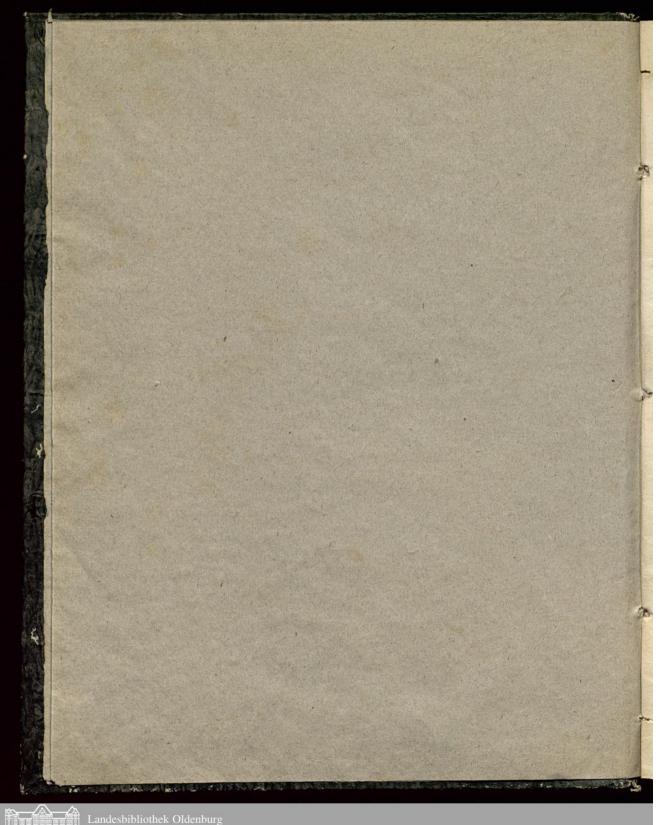
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## S A U L,

## ORATORIO;

OR,

## SACRED DRAMA.

As it is Perform'd

At the King's Theatre in the Hay-Market.

Set to Musick by George-Frederic Handel, Esq;

'Apern woien pinor osis des G. Aur. Carm.

Qui autem in virtute summum bonum ponunt, præclare illi quidem : Sed bæc ipsa virtus Amicitiam & gignit & Continet : Nec sine virtute Amicitia esse ullo pacto potest. Cic.



## no Foundation in the Sucret History

Printed for Tho. Wood, and Sold by Tho. ASTLEY, in St. Paul's Church-yard, J. Shuckburgh, at the Inner-Temple-Gate, and at the King's Theatre in the Hay-Market. 1738.

EX RIBLIOTHECA

## Dramatis Personæ.

SAUL.

JONATHAN.

DAVID.

High Prieft.

ABIATHAR.

ABNER IN STABEL TONIL SE TARE.

S.t to Mufer by Gronon Paurician or 1.3

DOEG. A . Compare to the distance of the A.

WITCH of Endor.

Apparition of SAMUEL,

Amalekite.

Chorus's.

N. B. MERAB'S Scornful Behaviour, ACT I. SCENE II. is a Hint taken from Cowley's Davideis, and has no Foundation in the Sacred History.

> EX BIBLIOTHECA SAUL OLDENBVRGENSI

SACRED

# S A U L, AN ORATORIO.

## ACT I. SCENE I.

An Epinicion, or Song of Triumph, for the Victory over Goliah and the Philistines.

I.

HOW excellent thy Name, O Lord,
In all the World is known!
Above all Heav'ns, O King ador'd,
How hast thou set thy glorious Throne!

II

When thou to quell the Rebel Host
An Infant didst ordain,
Thy Rebels to the Child oppos'd
A Giant's dreadful Rage in vain.

III.

Along the Monster Atheist strode With more than Human Pride, And Armies of the Living God Exulting in his Strength defy'd.

A 2

IV. The

IV.

The Youth inspir'd by Thee, O Lord,
With Ease the Boaster slew,
Our fainting Courage soon restor'd,
And headlong drove that impious Crew.

V.

How excellent thy Name, O Lord, In all the World is known! Above all Heav'ns, O King, ador'd, How hast thou set thy glorious Throne!

Hallelujah.

## SCENE II.

SAUL, JONATHAN, MERAB, MICHAL, &c. ABNER introducing DAVID, High Prieft.

Michal. He comes!

O God-like Youth! by all confess d,
Of Human Race the Pride!
O Virgin among Women blest,
Whom Heav'n ordains thy Bride!
But ah! how strong a Bar I see
Betwint my Happiness and me!

Abner. Behold, O King, the brave, victorious Youth, And in his Hand the haughty Giant's Head.

Saul. Young Man, whose Son art thou?

David. The Son of Jesse,

Thy faithful Servant, and a Bethlemite.

Saul. Return no more to Jesse: Stay with me.

And as an Earnest of my future Favour
Thou shalt espouse my Daughter: Small Reward
Of such Desert! since to thy Arm alone
We owe our Safety, Peace, and Liberty.

DAVID.

#### DAVID.

O King, your Favours with Delight
I take, but must refuse your Praise:
For ev'ry pious Israelite
To God alone that Tribute pays.
Through Him we put to slight our Foes,
And in his Name

We trod them under that against us rose.

Jonath. O early Piety! O modest Merit!

In this Embrace my Heart bestows it self.

Henceforth, thou noble Youth, accept my Friendship,

And Jonathan and David are but one.

#### MERAB.

What abject Thoughts a Prince can have, In Rank a Prince! in Mind a Slave! Yet think with whom you stoop to link your self, How poor in Fortune, and in Birth how low!

[Aside to Jonath.

## JONATHAN.

Birth and Fortune I despise!
From Virtue let my Friendship rise.
No Titles proud thy Stem adorn;
Yet born of God is nobly born:
And of his Gifts so rich thy Store,
That Ophir to thy Wealth is poor.

[To Merab.

(To David,

High Pr. Go on, illustrious Pair! your great Example Shall teach our Youth to scorn the fordid World, And set their Hearts on Things of real Worth.

I.

While yet thy Tide of Blood runs high, To God thy future Life devote: Thy early Vigour all apply His Glorious Service to promote.

II. So

II.

So shall thy Great Creator bless
And bid thy Days serenely flow:
So shall thy youthful Happiness
In Age no Diminution know.

#### III.

With sweet Reflection thou shalt taste, Declining gently to thy Tomb, The Pleasure of good Actions past, And hope with Rapture Joys to come.

Saul. Thou, Merab, first in Birth, be first in Honour: Thine be the valiant Youth, whose Arm has fav'd Thy Country from her Foes.

Merab. aside.) O mean Alliance!

My Soul rejects the Thought with Scorn,
That fuch a Boy, 'till now unknown,
Of poor, Plebeian Parents born,
Should mix with Royal Blood his own!
Tho' Saul's Commands I can't decline,
I must prevent his low Design,
And save the Honour of his Line.

#### MICHAL.

See with what a scornful Air
She the precious Gift receives!
Tho' e'er so Noble, or so Fair,
She cannot merit what he gives.
Ah! lovely Youth! wast thou design'd
With that proud Beauty to be join'd?

## SCENE III.

SAUL, MICHAL, &c. Chorus of Women.

Mich. Already fee, the Daughters of the Land, In joyful Dance, with Instruments of Musick Come to congratulate your Victory.

CHORUS of Women alternately.

T.

Welcome, welcome, mighty King! Welcome all who Conquest bring!

II

Welcome, David, warlike Boy, Author of our present Joy!

III.

Saul, who hast thy Thousands slain, Welcome to thy Friends again!

IV.

David his Ten thousands slew; Ten thousand Praises are his due!

Saul. What do I hear? Am I then funk fo low,
To have this upftart Boy preferr'd before me?
To him Ten thousands! and to me but Thousands?
What can they give him more? except the Kingdom?

With Rage I shall burst his Praises to hear!
Oh! how I both hate the Stripling, and fear!
What Mortal a Rival in Glory can bear?

[Exit.

## SCENE IV.

Jonath. Imprudent Women! your ill-tim'd Comparisons,
I sear, have injur'd him you meant to honour.

Saul's surious Look, as he departed hence,
Too plainly shew'd the Tempest of his Soul.

Mich. 'Tis but his old Disease, which thou canst cure. [To David.
O take thy Harp, and as thou oft hast done,
From the King's Breast expel the raging Fiend,
And sooth his tortur'd Soul with Sounds Divine. [Exit David.

Fell Rage and black Despair possest With horrid Sway the Monarch's Breast; When David with Celestial Fire Struck the sweet perswasive Lyre: Soft gliding down his ravish'd Ears, The healing Sounds dispel his Cares; Despair and Rage at once are gone, And Peace and Hope resume the Throne.

## SCENE V.

SAUL, DAVID, JONATHAN, MERAB, MICHAL, ABNER, High Priest, ABIATHAR.

Abiath. Rack'd with Infernal Pains ev'n now the King Comes forth, and mutters horrid Words, which Hell, No human Tongue, has taught him.

#### DAVID.

O Lord, whose Mercies numberless
O'er all thy Works prevail,
Tho' daily Man thy Law transgress,
Thy Patience cannot fail:
If yet his Sin be not too great,
The busy Fiend controul,
Yet longer for Repentance wait,
And heal his wounded Soul.

Jonath.

[9]

Jonath. 'Tis all in vain, his Fury still continues:
With wild Distraction on my Friend he stares,
Stamps on the Ground, and seems intent on Mischief.

SAUL.

A Serpent in my Bosom warm'd
Would sting me to the Heart;
But of his Venom soon disarm'd,
Himself shall feel the Smart.
Ambitious Boy! now learn, what Danger
It is to rouze a Monarch's Anger!

[Throws his Javelin. Exit David.

Has he escap'd my Rage?
I charge thee, Jonathan, upon thy Duty,
And All, on your Allegiance, to destroy
This bold, aspiring Youth; for while he lives,
I am not safe. Reply not, but obey.

[Exit.

#### MERAB.

Capricious Man, in Humour lost,
By ev'ry Wind of Passion tost,
Now sets his Vassal on the Throne,
Then low as Earth he casts him down:
His Temper knows no middle State,
Extreme alike in Love or Hate.

## SCENE VI.

JONATHAN.

O Filial Piety! O Sacred Friendship!

How shall I reconcile you? —— Cruel Father!

Your just Commands I always have obey'd:

But to destroy my Friend! the Brave, the Virtuous,

The

The God-like David! Ifrael's Defender,
And Terror of her Foes! — to disobey You —
What shall I call it? — 'Tis an Act of Duty
To God — to David — nay, indeed to You.

No, cruel Father, no:
Your hard Commands I can't obey..
Shall I with facrilegious Blow
Take Pious David's Life away!
No; with my Life I must defend
Against the World my best, my dearest Friend.

## High Priest.

O Lord, whose Providence

Ever wakes for their Defence,

Who the Ways of Virtue choose;

Let not thy faithful Servant fall

A Victim to the Rage of Saul,

Who hates without a Cause,

And, in Defiance of thy Laws,

His precious Life pursues.

## CHORUS.

Preserve him for the Glory of thy Name, Thy People's Safety, and the Heathen's Shame.

The End of the First A C T.

Your just Commands I always have obey'd

But to definoy my Diend! the Burve, the Varthous

O Filial Piety! O Sacred Priced his

## [ 11 ]

## ACT II. SCENE I.

CHORUS.

ENVY! Eldest-born of Hell!

Cease in human Breasts to dwell.

Ever at all Good repining,

Still the Happy undermining!

God and Man by thee infested,

Thou by God and Man detested!

Most thy self thou dost torment,

At once the Crime and Punishment.

Hide thee in the blackest Night:

Virtue sickens at thy sight!

Hence, thou Eldest-born of Hell!

Cease in human Breasts to dwell.

## SCENE II.

JONATHAN and DAVID.

Jonath. Ah! dearest Friend, undone by too much Virtue!
Think you, an Evil Spirit was the Cause
Of all my Father's Rage? It was indeed
A Spirit of Envy, and of mortal Hate.
He has resolv'd your Death; and sternly charg'd
His whole Retinue, me especially,
To execute his Vengeance.

But sooner Jordan's Stream, I swear,
Back to his Spring shall swiftly roll,
Than I consent to hurt a Hair
Of thee, thou Darling of my Soul,

B 2

2

[ 12 ]

David. O strange Vicissitude! But Yesterday
He thought me worthy of his Daughter's Love;
To Day he seeks my Life.

Jonath. My Sister Merab, by his own Gift thy Right, He has bestow'd on Adriel.

David. O, my Prince, would that were all!

It would not grieve me much. The fcornful Maid
(Didst thou observe?) with such disdainful Pride
Receiv'd the King's Command! — but lovely Michal,
As mild as she is fair, out-strips all Praise.

Such haughty Beauties rather move Aversion, than engage our Love. They only can our Cares beguile, Who gently speak, and sweetly smile. If Virtue in that Dress appear, Who, that sees, can Love forbear?

Jonath. My Father comes. Retire, my Friend, while I With peaceful Accents try to calm his Rage.

Exit David.

#### SCENE III.

SAUL and JONATHAN.

My mortal Enemy, the Son of Jeffe?

My mortal Enemy, the Son of Jeffe?

Jonath. Alas, my Father! He your Enemy?

Say rather, he has done important Service

To you, and to the Nation; hazarded

His Life for both, and flain our Giant Foe,

Whose Presence made the boldest of us tremble.

Sin.

[ 13 ]

Sin not, O King, against the Youth,

Who ne'er offended you:

Think, to his Loyalty and Truth

What great Rewards are due!

Think, with what Joy this God-like Man

You saw, that glorious Day!

Think, and with Ruin, if you can,

Such Services repay.

## SAUL.

As Great Jehovah lives, I fwear,
The Youth shall not be slain:
Bid him return, and void of Fear
Adorn our Court again.

## JONATHAM,

From Cities storm'd, and Battles won,
What Glory can accrue?
By this the Hero best is known;
He can himself subdue.
Wisest and greatest of his Kind,
Who can in Reason's Fetters bind
The Madness of his angry Mind!
Appear, my Friend.

## SCENE IV.

Enter DAVID.

Saul. No more imagine Danger:

Be First in our Esteem; with wonted Valour
Repel the Insults of the Philistines:

And, as a Proof of my Sincerity,

(O Hard

[ 14 ]

(O Hardness to dissemble!) instantly
Espouse my Daughter Michal.

## DAVID.

Your Words, O King, my Loyal Heart
With double Ardor fire:
If God his ufual Aid impart,
Your Foes shall feel what you inspire.
In all the Dangers of the Field,
The Great Jehovah is my Shield.

[Exeunt Dav. and Jon.

Saul. Yes, he shall wed my Daughter! — but how long Shall he enjoy her? — He shall lead my Armies! But have the Philistines no Darts — no Swords, To pierce the Heart of David? — Yes, this once To them I leave him; they shall do me Right!

[Exit.

## SCENE V.

## DAVID and MICHAL.

Mich. A Father's Will has authoriz'd my Love:

No longer, Michal, then attempt to hide

The Secret of thy Soul. I love thee, David,

And long have lov'd. Thy Virtue was the Caufe;

And that be my Defence.

## DOET.

Mich. O Fairest of ten thousand fair, Yet for thy Virtue more admir'd! Thy Words and Actions all declare The Wisdom by thy God inspir'd.

David,

[ 15]

David. O lovely Maid! thy Form beheld,
Above all Beauty charms our Eyes:
Yet still within that Form conceal'd
Thy Mind, a greater Beauty, lies.
Both. How well in Thee does Heav'n at last
Compensate all my Sorrows past.

[Exeunt.

#### CHORUS.

Is there a Man, who all his Ways
Directs, his God alone to please?
In vain his Foes against him move:
Superior Pow'r their Hate disarms;
He makes them yield to Virtue's Charms,
And melts their Fury down to Love.

## SCENE VI.

#### DAVID and MICHAL.

David. Thy Father is as cruel, and as false,
As thou art kind and true. When I approach'd him
New from the Slaughter of his Enemies,
His Eyes with Fury flam'd; his Arm he rais'd,
With Rage grown stronger; by my guiltless Head
The Javelin whizzing flew, and in the Wall
Mock'd once again his Impotence of Malice.

At Persecution I can laugh;
No Fear my Soul can move,
In God's Protection safe,
And blest in Michal's Love.

Mich. Ah! dearest Youth! for thee I fear!

Fly! — be gone! — for Death is near!

David.

DAVID.

Fear not, lovely Fair, for me : Death, where thou art, cannot be. Smile, and Danger is no more.

MICHAL. Fly - for Death is at the Door! See, the murd'rous Band comes on! Stay no longer! Fly! - be gone!

## SCENE VII.

MICHAL and DOEG.

Mich. Whom dost thou seek? And who has sent thee hither?

Doeg. I feek for David; and am fent by Saul.

Mich. Thy Errand?

Doeg. 'Tis a Summons to the Court.

Mich. Say, he is fick.

Doeg. In Sickness, or in Health, but a I v A CI Alive, or dead, he must be brought to Saul. Shew me his Chamber.

David's Bed discover'd with an Image in it.

Do you mock the King!? The aid to brush you I drive and all This Disappointment will enrage him more: Then tremble for th' Event. [Exit.

## MICHAL of the same some by and

No; let the Guilty tremble At ev'ry thought of Danger near. Tho' Numbers, arm'd with Death, affemble, My Innocence difdains to fear. Tho' great their Power as their Spite, Undaunted fill, my Soul, remain; For greater is 'fehovah's Might, And will their lawless Force restrain.

[ 17]

## SCENE VIII,

MERAB.

Mean as he was, he is my Brother now,
My Sister's Husband; and, to speak the Truth,
Has Qualities which Justice bids me love,
And pity his Distress. My Father's Cruelty
Strikes me with Horror! At th' approaching Feast
I fear some dire Event, unless my Brother,
His Friend, the faithful Jonathan, avert
Th' impending Ruine. I know, he'll do his best.

Author of Peace, who canst controll

Ev'ry Passion of the Soul;

To whose good Spirit alone we owe

Words that sweet as Honey slow:

With thy dear Instructe his Tongue be fill'd,

And cruel Wrath to soft Perswasion yield.

## SCENE IX.

SAUL at the Feaft of the New Moon.

The Time at length is come, when I shall take
My full Revenge on Jesse's Son.
No longer shall the Stripling make
His Sov'reign totter on the Throne.
He dies—this Blaster of my Fame,
Bane of my Peace, and Author of my Shame.

The End of the Second A

## SCENE X.

SAUL, JONATHAN, &c.

To grace our Feast?

Jonath. He earnestly ask'd Leave
To go to Bethlehem, where his Father's House
At solemn Rites of annual Sacrifice
Requir'd his Presence.

Saul. O Perverse! Rebellious!
Thinkst thou, I do not know, that thou hast chose
The Son of Jesse to thy own Confusion?
The World will say, thou art no Son of mine,
Who thus canst love the Man I hate; the Man,
Who, if he lives, will rob thee of thy Crown.
Send, setch him hither; for the Wretch must die.

Jonath. What has he done? And wherefore must he die?

Saul. Dar'st thou oppose my Will? Die then thy self.

[Throws his Javelin. Exit Jonathan, then Saul.

## CHORUS.

O fatal Consequence
Of Rage, by Reason uncontroll'd!
With ev'ry Law he can dispense;
No Ties the furious Monster hold:
From Crime to Crime he blindly goes,
Nor End, but with his own Destruction, knows.

The End of the Second A C T.

ACT

## ACT III. SCENE I.

SAUL disguis'd at Endor.

TRETCH that I am! of my own Ruin Author! Where are my old Supports? The valiant Youth, Whose very Name was Terror to my Foes, My Rage has drove away. Of God forfaken. In vain I ask his Counsel! He vouchfafes No Answer to the Sons of Disobedience! Ev'n my own Courage fails me! — Can it be? Is Saul become a Coward? - I'll not believe it! If Heav'n denies thee Aid, feek it from Hell! 'Tis faid, here lives a Woman, close Familiar With th' Enemy of Mankind. Her I'll confult, And know the Worst. Her Art is Death by Law; And while I minded Law, fure Death attended Such horrid Practices: Yet, O hard Fate! My felf am now reduc'd to ask the Counsel Of those I once abhorr'd!

## SCENE II.

SAUL and the Witch of Endor.

Witch. With me what would'ft thou?

Saul. I wou'd, that by thy Art thou bring me up The Man whom I shall name.

Witch. Alas! thou know'st

How Saul has cut off those who use this Art. Would'st thou infnare me?

Saul. As Jehovah lives,

On this Account no Mischief shall befal thee. Witch. Whom shall I bring up to thee?

Saul. Bring up Samuel.

C 2

Witch.

al that be I say



Witch.

Infernal Spirits, by whose Pow'r

Departed Ghosts in living Forms appear,

Add Horror to the Midnight Hour,

And chill the holdest Hearts with Fear:

To this Stranger's wond'ring Eyes

Let the Prophet Samuel rise.

## SCENE III. Od ob ob ob A OV

le vain I alk his Countel! He vouchtates

Apparition of SAMUEL, SAUE.

Sam. Why hast thou forc'd me from the Realms of Peace Back to this World of Woe? Saul. O holy Prophet! Refuse me not thy Aid in this Distress. The num'rous Foe stands ready for the Battle : God has forfaken me: No more He answers By Prophets or by Dreams: No Hope remains, Unless I learn of thee what Course to take. Sam. Hath God forfaken thee? And dost thou ask My Counsel? Did I not foretel thy Fate, When, madly disobedient, thou didst spare The curst Amalekite, and on the Spoil Didst fly rapacious? Therefore God this Day Hath verify'd my Words in thy Destruction; Hath rent the Kingdom from thee, and bestow'd it On David, whom thou hatest for his Virtue. Thou and thy Sons shall be with me To-morrow, And Ifrael by Philistine Arms shall fall. The Lord hath faid it: He will make it good.

SCENE

Witch. Whom thall I bring up to thee !

MIDOR

## [ 21 ]

## SCENE IV.

DAVID, &c. To them an Amalekite.

David. Whence comest thou? Amal. Out of the Camp of Ifrael. David. Thou canst inform me then: How went the Battle? Amal. The People, put to flight, in Numbers fell, And Saul, and Jonathan his Son, are dead. David. Alas! my Brother! — But how know'ft thou That they are dead? Amal. Upon Mount Gilboa I met with Saul, just fall'n upon his Spear. Swiftly the Foe purfu'd. He cry'd to me, Begg'd me to finish his imperfect Work, And end a Life of Pain and Ignominy. I knew he could not live, and therefore flew him; Took from his Head the Crown, and from his Arms The Bracelets, and have brought them to my Lord. David. Whence art thou?

#### DAVID.

Impious Wretch, of Race accurst!

And of all that Race the worst!

How hast thou dar'd to lift thy Sword

Against th' Anointed of the Lord?

Fall on him — smite him — let him die;

On thy own Head thy Blood will lie;

Since thy own Mouth has testify'd,

By Thee the Lord's Anointed dy'd,

[To one of his Attendants, who kills the Amalekite.

SCENE

Amal. I am an Amalekite.

## SCENE V.

ELEGY on the Death of SAUL and JONATHAN.

I.

Durid. Whence consell clone i

MOURN, Israel, mourn, thy Beauty lost,
Thy choicest Youth on Gilbon slain.

How have thy fairest Hopes been crost!

What Heaps of mighty Warriors strow the Plain!

II.

O let it not in Gath be heard,

The News in Askelon let none proclaim;

Lest we, whom once so much they fear'd,

Be by their Women now despis'd,

And lest the Daughters of th' Uncircumcis'd

Rejoice and triumph in our Shame.

## III.

From this unhappy Day,

No more, ye Gilboan Hills, on you

Descend refreshing Rain or kindly Dew,

Which erst your Heads with Plenty crown'd;

Since there the Shield of Saul, in Arms renown'd,

Was vilely cast away.

#### IV.

Brave Jonathan his Bow ne'er drew,
But wing'd with Death his Arrow flew,
And drank the Blood of flaughter'd Foes:
Nor drew Great Saul his Sword in vain;
It reek'd, where'er he dealt his Blows,
With Entrails of the mighty Slain.

V. Eagles

V.

Eagles were not so swift as they,
Nor Lions with so strong a Grasp held fast and tore the Prey.

VI.

In sweetest Harmony they liv'd,
Nor Death their Union cou'd divide:
The pious Son ne'er left his Father's Side,
But him defending bravely dy'd:
A Loss too great to be surviv'd!

VII.

For Saul, ye Maids of Israel, moan,

To whose indulgent Care

You owe the Scarlet and the Gold you wear,

And all the Pomp in which your Beauty long has shone.

#### VIII.

O fatal Day! How low the Mighty lie!
O Jonathan! how nobly didst thou die,
For thy King and Country slain!
For thee, my Brother Jonathan,
How great is my Distres!
What Language can my Grief express?
Great was the Pleasure I enjoy'd in thee!
And more than Woman's Love thy wondrous Love to me!

#### IX.

O fatal Day! How low the Mighty lie!

Where, Israel, is thy Glory fled?

Spoil d of thy Arms, and funk in Infamy,

How canst thou raise again thy drooping Head!

ABIATHAR,

#### ABIATHAR.

Ye Men of Judah, weep no more; Let Gladness reign in all our Host; For pious David will restore What Saul by Disobedience lost. The Lord of Hofts is David's Friend, And Conquest will bis Arms attend.

## CHORUS.

Gird on thy Sword, thou Man of Might, Purfue thy wonted Fame : Go on, be prosperous in Fight. Retrieve the Hebrew Name. Thy ftrong Right-Hand, with Terror arm'd, Shall thy obdurate Foes difmay; While others, by thy Virtue charm'd. Shall crowd to own thy Righteous Sway.

For thee, my Arctive Josephan,



AND THE PARTY

