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Saul, An Oratorio

Jennens, Charles

London, 1738

Scene V.

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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.

S A U L.

*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 rouse 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.

M E R A B.

*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.*

S C E N E VI.

J O N A T H A N.

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,

B

The



The God-like *David* ! *Israel'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 sacrilegious 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..

C H O R U S.

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.

