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Saul, An Oratorio

Jennens, Charles

London, 1738

Scene I.

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A C T II. S C E N E I.

C H O R U S.

*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.*

S C E N E 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.*

