

THE
HESPERIAN HARP:

A COLLECTION OF

PSALM AND HYMN TUNES, ODES AND ANTHEMS;

AND

SUNDAY-SCHOOL, INFANT, REVIVAL, TEMPERANCE, PATRIOTIC, AND MORAL PIECES:

CONTAINING ALSO A NUMBER OF

SCOTCH, GERMAN, IRISH, AND OTHER FINE COMPOSITIONS.

Much New Music never before Published.

AND AN

EXPOSITION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF MUSIC AND OF MUSICAL COMPOSITION.

BY WILLIAM HOUSER.

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P R E F A C E.

TWELVE years have sped away since I first resolved to publish a music book that should contain a larger number of the Church Tunes used in the South and West than had ever been embraced in one volume. Against poverty, adversity, and disappointment after disappointment, I have continued to struggle till God has finally given me success; and I now enjoy the great happiness of presenting my countrymen with the Hesperian Harp. The public will decide whether the book is a good one or not, and will either foster it with their patronage, or send it neglected to an early grave.

The plan of embracing Sunday-school, Infant, Revival, Missionary, and Temperance pieces in the same volume with Church Music, I deem a new, as well as a good one. And I rejoice now in hope that singers at missionary meetings, especially in the South, will henceforth be able to save persons of taste from the torment of hearing "From Greenland's icy mountains," and "nothing else." Surely the missionary hymn will be allowed to rest awhile, till time shall have renovated it and made it once more agreeable to hearts long since sated with its frequent repetition.

Many tunes in this work are entirely new, and appear before the public now for the first time.

I have consulted a great variety of music books, ancient and modern, to make a compilation both pleasing and useful, and have endeavored to give the names of the authors of tunes correctly; but I regret that in many instances I have been unable to learn the names of composers. I sincerely hope that no composer, into whose hands this work may fall, will feel aggrieved to find a tune of his without his name over it, for I would do full justice if I could. I trust therefore that the *intention* to be courteous will be kindly considered, though the ability to be so has been wanting.

Many of the airs in this book I learned in childhood from the sweet voice of my mother; others I have gathered in different parts of our great and glorious country. The parts alone of such tunes I claim as my own composition, and over them are the words, "arranged by William Houser." Over tunes *entirely original* the name of the author simply is given.

In my prospectus I promised a book of 500 pages, including the rudimental matter, for \$1 50 per copy; but it will be seen that I actually give 553 *pages of music*, besides 20 pages of preliminary matter! But large as the work is, many fine tunes are necessarily omitted.

I commend to the attention of my readers, the "Southern and Western Pocket Harmonist," by William Walker, author of the "Southern Harmony;" the works of Lowell Mason, of Boston, and of Thomas Hastings, of New York; and the "Southern Church Melodist," by George Hood.

And now at last, when I see the end of my labor, the completion of the Hesperian Harp, I dedicate it, not to man, "whose breath is in his nostrils," but to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, whose blessing upon it I humbly implore.

PHILADELPHIA, *Thursday, Oct. 26, 1848.*

WILLIAM HOUSER.*

* This name is of Germanic origin. The original spelling is Hauser, and the pronunciation How'-zer.