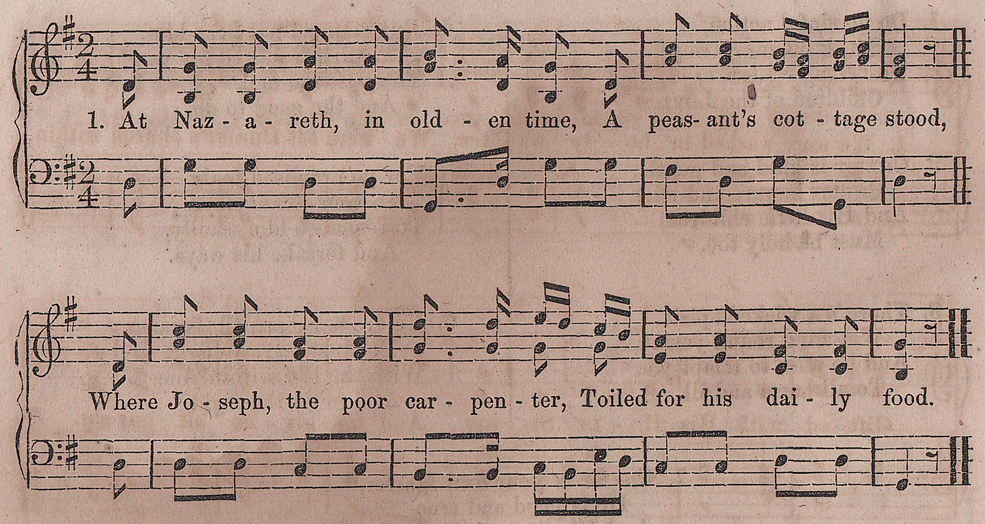
No. xlv. At Nazareth, in olden Time.



1. At Nazareth, in olden time,
A peasant's cottage stood,
Where Joseph, the poor carpenter,
Toiled for his daily food.

2. An humble Virgin lived with him,
Beneath that lowly shed,
And there her Son, our Saviour Christ,
In poverty was bred.

3. He had no glory here on earth,
No riches and no state;
His Christian children must not care
For being rich or great.

4. Fine clothes, fine houses, pretty things,
That please our longing eyes,
Would only make our hearts forget
Our treasure in the skies.

5. It would be wrong on pomp or dress
To spend our thoughts or hours;
Another lesson Christ hath taught,
Showing the simple flowers.

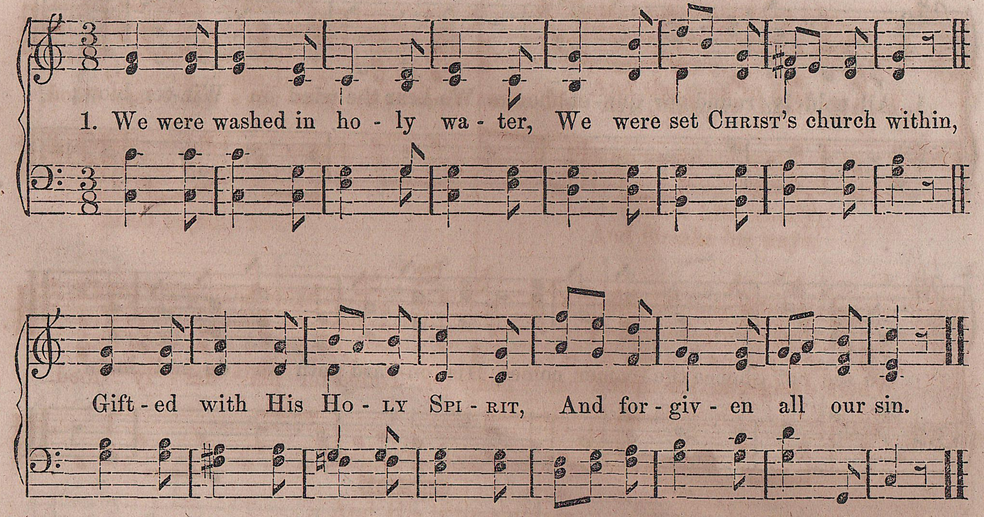
6. There 's not a yellow buttercup
Returning with the spring,
But it can boast a golden crown
As bright as any king.

7. The red rose and the lily fair,
That charm our summer's day;
There 's not a lady in the land
As finely dressed as they.

8. They feel no proud, no foolish thoughts,
Because they are so fair;
They wish for nothing, quite content
With sunshine and sweet air.

9. God gave to them their colors bright,
To us faith, hope, and love,
And bade us fear the things of earth,
And seek the things above.

No. xlvi. We were washed in Holy Water.



1. We were washed in holy water,
We were set Christ's Church within,
Gifted with His Holy Spirit,
And forgiven all our sin.

2. But though born again, and granted
Grace to pray, and strength to fight,
Still remains our sinful nature,
Weakened, not extinguished quite.

3. Sinful thoughts of pride and passion,
Greedy wishes, selfish care,
In our human hearts lie hidden,
Ready to awaken there.

4. Still the wrong way will seem pleasant,
Still the right way will seem hard;
All our life we shall be tempted,
We must ever be on guard.

5. We are soldiers doing battle,
Day by day, and hour by hour,
Each one with his own temptations
Striving in the Spirit's power;

6. Still that Spirit stronger groweth
In the hearts that hold it fast;
He will help us, teach us, crown us,
More than conqu'rors at the last.