

Then the Presidents and Elders sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the Kingdom ; but they could find no fault, for as much as he was faithful. Then said these men, We shall find no occasion against this Daniel except concerning the laws of his God.

### 3. QUARTETTE AND CHORUS.

*The People.*

King, live forever !

### 4. AIR.

*One of the Princes.*

Now, O King establish a decree and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not, that whosoever ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O King, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

### 5. CHORUS.

Why do the heathen rage so furiously together, and why do the people imagine a vain thing.

### 6. RECITATIVE.

*Narrator.*

When Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went and kneeled upon his knees and prayed.

### 7. AIR.

*Daniel.*

How dear are thy counsels unto me, O God, how great is the sum of them, they are more than the number of the sands. Try me, O God, and seek the ground of my heart, prove me and examine my thoughts, look well if there be any wickedness in my soul, and lead me in the way everlasting.

### 8. RECITATIVE.

*Narrator.*

Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. Then came they near and spake to the King concerning the King's decree.