

8 HISTORY OF NATIONAL ANTHEM

days of Jacobite activity it was not desirable to allow people to go about singing anthems to kings without a name. There must be some sort of definition, and this we presently find.

On September 28th, 1745, twelve days after the Pretender was proclaimed King in Edinburgh, "God Save the King," with specific reference to King George, was sung at Drury Lane Theatre with the harmonies and accompaniments of Dr. Arne, the musical director. This performance was received with "tumultuous applause," and the example was followed at Covent Garden Theatre, where Dr. Burney supplied the harmonies. Thus, to keep up the irony of the situation, music originally sung by zealous Protestants to celebrate the frustration of Gunpowder Plot was afterwards sung in the chapel of the Roman Catholic King, James II., wedded to words of prayer against the designs of William of Orange; and finally the self-same musical prayer, used without avail on behalf of James II., was revived to serve as the battle hymn of the Hanoverians who sat on his throne. After the song had largely disappeared it was revived, when the Pretender attempted by the aid of his faithful fellow, countrymen to regain the crown his ancestor had lost. It was not until after the suppression of the Rebellion of 1745, a Scottish insurrection supported by France, that this song became associated with national and patriotic feeling in England.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for October, 1745, the words and music were reprinted as "A Song for Two Voices—as sung at both Playhouses." The first line runs: "God save Great George, our King." This is the first known version which contains the third stanza, beginning:

"Thy choicest gifts in store,
On George be placed to pour,"

Another milestone in its progress into general favour was passed when Dr. Attwood wove the melody into the special anthem which he composed for the coronation of George IV. in 1821.