

The Choral service being, in a good measure, confined to Cathedral and Collegiate Churches and the Chapels of some principal Colleges at the Universities, and the Cathedral Church here being used as the Parish Church, and even the surpliced choir, (a feature of many Parish Churches, as well as of all Cathedrals at home,) having been, for some years, suspended, on account of the difficulty of keeping it up without endowment,—that service is unknown to residents here who have not been in England, or have happened, when visiting England, not to become acquainted with it. It is therefore very easy for persons who have, more or less a taste for agitation, and for attack upon the Church,—(I think, although they may certainly mean well in what they are doing, a very unfortunate taste for themselves as well as for their neighbors,)—to excite a feeling of jealousy and suspicion of innovations, at the very mention of a Choral service. But you, Sir, who were born and bred in an English Cathedral town, (of which same town, I happen also to be a native, myself,) are perfectly aware that the practice in question is not the *mark* of a *party* but a *standing practice of the Church of England*; and possibly you may not be indisposed to echo, in relation to solemnities performed in this manner, twice a day through the week, in all the Cathedrals, the sentiment of Southey, *May they continue for ever!* Tastes will differ: and different minds will be affected in a different or even in an opposite manner, by the same thing; but there are thousands and thousands of true-hearted sons of the Protestant Church of England, who feel the Choral service to be something both sublimely and touchingly devotional; and it is upon record that the celebrated George Herbert, a burning and shining light in that Church, being in the habit of frequenting the Cathedral services of Salisbury, near to his own cure, was wont to say that he felt his participation in them, to be a kind of heaven upon earth.

A few years ago, the Dean of one of the English Cathedrals, took upon himself to set aside some of the prominent characteristics of the Choral service in that Church, and to substitute a performance more like the ordinary Parochial use. The congregation, however, at once and in a body, rose up against the change, and appealed to the Bishop, (resident in another