

CHORUS.

VIRGINS.—Her faith and truth, O Samson, prove ; but hear her, hear the voice of love.

RECITATIVE.

SAMSON.—Ne'er think of that, I know thy warbling charms, thy trains, thy wiles, and fair enchanted cup. Their force is nulled. Where once I have been caught, I shun the snare. These chains, this prisonhouse, I count the house of liberty to thine.

DUET.

DALILA.—Traitor to love, I'll sue no more for pardon scorned, your threats give o'er.

SAMSON.—Traitor to love, I'll hear no more the charmer's voice, your arts give o'er.

[EXEUNT DALILA AND VIRGINS.]

RECITATIVE.

SAMSON.—Favour'd of heaven is he who finds one true ; how rarely found!—his way to peace is smooth.

CHORUS.

ISRAELITES.—To man God's universal law gave power to keep his wife in awe ; thus shall his life be ne'er dismay'd, by female usurpation sway'd.

RECITATIVE.

MICAH.—No words of peace, no voice enchanting fear, a rougher tongue expect,—Harapha, I know him by his stride and haughty look.

[ENTER HARAPHA AND PHILISTINES.]

HARAPHA.—I come not, Samson, to condole thy chance ; I am of Gath, men call me Harapha ; thou know'st me now ; of thy prodigious might much have I heard, incredible to me ! In this displeas'd, that never in the field we met, to try each other's deeds of strength ! I'd see if thy appearance answers loud report.

SAMSON.—The way to know, were not to see, but taste.

HARAPHA.—Ha ! dost thou then already single me ? I thought that labour and thy chains had tamed thee. Had fortune brought me to that field of death, where thou wrought'st wonders with an ass's jaw, I'd left thy carcase where the ass lay dead.

SAMSON.—Boast not of what thou would'st have done, but do.

HARAPHA.—The honour certain to have won from thee I lose, prevented by thy eyes put out ; to combat with a blind man I disdain.

AIR.

Honour and arms scorn such a foe, tho' I could end thee at a blow, poor victory to conquer thee, or glory in thy overthrow ; vanquish a slave that is half slain ! So mean a triumph I disdain.

SAMSON.—Cam'st thou for this, vain boaster ? yet take heed ; my