

6 HISTORY OF NATIONAL ANTHEM

under the direction of Father Petre, a Latin hymn of two verses that are practically identical with the first two verses of our National Anthem to-day. The literal translation of those Latin words is :

Oh God, most excellent,
Make now our Sovereign safe,
May happy victory and glory accompany him.
Do Thou now make our Lord safe.
May the Lord arise,
May He scatter the Rebels and repress them.
Do Thou confound their devices,
Dispel their fraudulent schemes ;
On Thee may our hope be fixed,
Oh, save us, Lord.

We can well imagine with what fervour James and his devout satellites joined in this musical petition !

Now it is one of the ironies of history that upon the first occasion of which we have knowledge of its use this fervent hymn-prayer imploring Divine help for the reigning monarch was not answered in the terms of its petition ; and before the year had sped, William III. sat on the throne of James II. Salvation was not vouchsafed the Stuart dynasty. It has been conjectured that these Latin verses were based on some hymn composed at the restoration of Charles II. in 1660. To what music was it sung ? It would seem that Dr. Anthony Young, the organist of All Hallows Church, Barking, London, had come upon Dr. John Bull's "Ayre" and made further improvements upon it and further adaptations of it and that the hymn was sung to his music.

The words of this anthem seem now to have passed out of current use. But it apparently lingered on among the Jacobites. On a drinking cup in the old Scotch castle of Fingask the following words were inscribed—I quote part of them :

God save the King, I pray.
God bless the King, I pray,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Soon to reign over us,
God save the King.