

CHORUS.

ISRAELITES.—Then shall they know that He, whose name Jehovah is, alone o'er all the earth, but One, was ever the Most High, and still the same.

RECITATIVE.

MANOAH.—For thee, my dearest son—must thou meanwhile lie, thus neglected, in this loathsome plight.

SAMSON.—It should be so. Why should I live? Soon shall these orbs to double darkness yield. My genial spirits droop, my hopes are fled; Nature in me seems weary of herself; my race of glory run, and race of shame, death, invocated oft, shall end my pains, and lay me gently down with them that rest.

CHORUS.

ISRAELITES.—Then round about the starry throne of Him who ever rules alone, your heavenly guided soul shall climb; of all this earthly grossness quit, with glory crowned for ever sit, and triumph over Death, and thee, O time!

Part the Second

SCENE.—THE SAME.

SAMSON, MICAH AND ISRAELITES.

RECITATIVE.

SAMSON.—My evils hopeless are, one pray'r remains, a speedy death to close my miseries.

MICAH.—Relieve Thy champion, image of Thy strength, and turn his labors to a peaceful end.

AIR.

Return, O God of Hosts! behold Thy servant in distress, his mighty griefs redress, nor by the heathen be they told.

CHORUS.

ISRAELITES.—To dust his glory they would tread, and number him amongst the dead.

RECITATIVE.

MICAH.—But who is this, that so bedeck'd and gay, comes this way sailing like a stately ship? 'Tis Dalila, thy wife.

SAMSON.—My wife? my traitress! let her not come near me.

DALILA.—With doubtful feet, and wav'ring resolution, I come, O Samson, dreading thy displeasure; but conjugal affection led me on, prevailing over fear and timorous doubt. Glad if in aught my help or love could serve to expiate my rash, unthought misdeed.

AIR.

My faith and truth, O Samson, prove; but hear me, hear the voice of love; with love no mortal can be cloyed, all happiness is love enjoyed.