

INTRODUCTION.

The relative duration of the notes is shewn in the following table:—

ONE SEMIBREVE

is equal to two MINIMS.

or four CROTCHETS.

or eight QUAVERS.

or sixteen SEMIQUAVERS.

or thirty-two DEMISEMIQUAVERS.

In like manner,—

One minim is equal to two crotchets, or four quavers, or eight semiquavers, or sixteen demisemiquavers.

One crotchet is equal to two quavers, or four semiquavers, or eight demisemiquavers.

One quaver is equal to two semiquavers or four demisemiquavers.

One semiquaver is equal to two demisemiquavers.

It will be observed, some of the notes are grouped together in the example; this grouping in no way affects the length of the notes.

When the figure 3 is placed over or under three notes of the same value, they are then performed in the time of two, and are called a *triplet*. Groups of sixes, played in the time of four, as well as other irregular grouping of notes, are met with chiefly in instrumental music: such, however, seldom occur in vocal ecclesiastical music.

A dot is often placed after a note or a rest, to make the note or rest before the dot, one half as long again: A dot after a semibreve will make it as long as a semibreve and a minim, &c., as is shown in the following table:

Dotted Semibreve, equal to Dotted Minim, equal to Dot. Crotchet, equal to Dot. Quaver, equal to Dot. Sem-Qua. equal to

A double dot adds one additional quarter to the note preceding the dot.