

versary of the Gunpowder Plot, supply hints of the coming anthem.

Probably the first occasion on which the basis of the present tune was used was in the days of King James the First. The King, Lords and Commons had been delivered from the perils of the Gunpowder Plot. The Merchant-Tailors Company of London, on July 16, 1607, gave a banquet for the King, and at it was sung a hymn of thanksgiving, the words of which no one to-day exactly knows. Presumably some of the sentiments were the same as those in the first part of our National Anthem. The music was supplied by Dr. John Bull. May I remind you, in passing, that John Bull is not a mythical character? He was a cadet of an old Somersetshire family, born in 1563; he died at Antwerp in 1628, and he was Court Musician to Queen Elizabeth and her successor, King James the First. Dr. John Bull conducted this hymn of thanksgiving to a tune either of his own composition or of his own adaptation; and the choristers of the Chapel Royal sang it, placed in a boat that was hung from the roof above the high table on this festive occasion. Some years afterwards an "ayre," or organ voluntary without words, was discovered in a manuscript book of Dr. John Bull's compositions, and it very closely resembles the music of our National Anthem both in rhythm and melody. It has, therefore, been concluded that very probably the nucleus of the music (so far as we can trace it in England) was composed or adapted by Dr. John Bull for this banquet in 1607 in the Merchant Tailors' Hall. An old folk-song may lie behind it.

On the occasion when the words of our National Anthem first come before us in something like their present form, we have an illustration of the strange irony of history. In 1688, when William of Orange was seeking to land on the south coast of England, and when Capt. John Churchill, afterwards Duke of Marlborough, was exhorting the King's Guards to desert him, there was being sung in the Chapel Royal, the private Chapel of the Roman Catholic King James II.;