

#### 4 HISTORY OF NATIONAL ANTHEM

national anthem of Belgium dates from the struggles for independence in 1830. The stately national anthem of Russia, a prayer for the Czar and for prosperity to his people, dates from 1833. The famous German patriotic song, "Die Wacht Am Rhein," was the composition of an obscure Swabian merchant in 1840, and it was only after the unification of Germany in 1871 that this local song became the national anthem of the new German Empire. Before that time the national anthem of Prussia, "Heil dir, im Sieger-Krantz—," was sung to the tune of our own British National Anthem. All the national anthems of Europe are thus of comparatively modern origin.

What is the source of our own National Anthem? One would naturally think that the story of this anthem, its words and its music, would be written large on the page of English history; and yet the origin of both the words and the music is hidden in obscurity, and is a matter of musical and literary controversy to the present day. The Anthem was not made; it grew like a folk song. What I shall seek to lay before you are only the most probable conclusions, and the outstanding features of the history.

The words are rooted far back in English history. The phrase, "God Save the King," is found in our English Bible. This translation does not accurately represent the original Hebrew, which meant only "Let the King Live." In the Vulgate the translation is "Vivat Rex"; in the French version "Vive Le Roi." Coverdale's Bible of 1535 has "God save the new Kyng." The expression, "God Save the King," appears to occur first in the Geneva Bible of 1560. But before that time there was a foreshadowing of a national watch-word. On August 10, 1545, the fleet, under Lord Lisle in the reign of King Henry VIII., had as its watch-word "God Save King Henrye"; and the response was "And long to reign over us." Here is a beginning of some formal expression of national loyalty. A song sung at the Conduit in Cornhill in the Coronation procession of Edward VI.; the Tudor prayers for the Sovereign; and the form of prayer for the anni-