

They indicate a contraction, and when written as above, the notes with a quaver stem should be repeated eight times, because a semibreve is equal to eight quavers; the notes with a semiquaver stem should be repeated eight times, because a minim is equal to eight semiquavers; and the note with a demisemiquaver stem should be repeated sixteen times, because a minim is equal to sixteen demisemiquavers; composers however frequently write music in a contracted form, thus:—



As there cannot be sixteen quavers in a bar of **C** time, when written as above, only the number of notes which make up the bar, must be played.