

that our churches are delivered out of all those things, which displeased God so sore, and filthily defiled his holy place, and his house of prayer." In Jennings's "Jewish Antiquities," we read: "It (instrumental music) is retained in the Lutheran Church, contrary to the opinion of Luther, who, as Eckard confesses, reckoned organs among the ensigns of Baal. Organs are still used in some of the Dutch churches, but against the minds of their pastors; for in the National Synod, at Middleburg, *Anno* 1581, and in that of Holland and Zealand, *Anno* 1594, it was resolved that they should endeavour to obtain of the magistrates, the laying aside of organs, and the singing with them in churches. I only add, that the voice of harpers and musicians, and of pipers and trumpeters, is mentioned among the glories of mystical Babylon, 'that mother of harlots, and abominations of the earth, whom the Lord will destroy with the sword of his mouth, and with the brightness of his coming.'"

Closely allied to the organ, either as antecedent or consequent, is the choir, of which the Rev. J. A. James says: "An organ renders the congregation independent of that most sensitive, and, in many cases, most troublesome and unmanageable of all classes of functionaries—a choir. Singing seats, as they are called, are more commonly the scenes of discord than any other part of the chapel; and indeed it is revolting to every pious feeling, to see sometimes what characters, and to hear what music, are found in these high places of the sanctuary." In equally strong terms, Dr. McMaster expresses himself: "One very general practice cannot be reprobated in terms too strong, that of an entire congregation, say of one thousand or fifteen hundred persons, resigning the *whole* of this part of worship (singing) to a dozen or two, usually of the most trifling characters: for the choir demands no qualification, but a well-tuned voice. And this *farce* is countenanced by ministers of religion; this *outrage* on devotion, and *insult* against the God of Heaven, is called religious worship."

From choir singing other evils necessarily spring: some of which are set forth in an article signed "Many Brethren," in the *Christian Observer*, Pha., from which the following sentences are copied. "It cannot be denied, that within a few years, the secularising of this part of the public services of the sanctuary, has made rapid advances, especially in this and other large cities and towns; and the evil has become so great, that not a few of the middle-aged and senior members of the churches doubt whether there is any worship in it. That opera music is played and sung in a number of *evangelical* churches, is notorious. During the past winter, large congregations assembled every Sabbath evening (chiefly young persons), for several weeks, at one of our fashionably located metropolitan churches, where the great attraction was the fine *opera music*, executed