

Deerfield

Transcribed from *MHS Manuscript S-290*, ca. 1790.

Tr.
C.
T.
B.

1. Great God, how frail a thing is man! How swift his minutes pass! His age contracts with-in a span; He
2. A thousand gaudy col-ors flush Each odorous mountain's side: Lil-ies turn fair, and ros-es blush, And
3. Suc-ceeding cold withers the woods, While hoary winter reigns, In fetters binds the fro-zen floods, And

9
Tr.
C.
T.
B.

1. blooms and dies like grass. And must my moments thus de-cline? And must I sink to death? To
2. tu-lips spread their pride. Thus flour-i-shes the wan-ton year, In rich confusion gay, Till
3. shiv-ers o'er the plains. Je-sus, my life has died, has rose: I burn to meet his charms! Wel-

17
Tr.
C.
T.
B.

1. thee my spi-rit I re-sign, Thou sovereign of my breath.
2. autumn bids the bloom re-tire, The verdure fade a-way.
3.-come the pangs, the dy-ing throes, That give me to his arms.

The manuscript copy transcribed above was reportedly transcribed by Shepard Fish around 1790, probably from copies provided in a singing-school. The singing-school may have been led by Billings himself.

This is an earlier, slightly simplified, version of the tune published as "Thomas-Town" by Billings in 1794. Billings made a few changes in between.