

# Hatfield

Tr. 1. Let others boast how strong they be, Nor death nor danger fear; But we'll confess O Lord to thee, What feeble things we are.

C. 2. Our life contains a thousand springs And dies if one be gone; Strange that a harp of thousand strings Should keep in tune so long!

T. 3. He spoke and straight our hearts and brains In all their motions rose; Let blood, said he, flow round the veins, And round the veins it flows.

B. 3. He spoke and straight our hearts and brains In all their motions rose; Let blood, said he, flow round the veins, And round the veins it flows.

Tr. 10. 1. Fresh as the grass our bodies stand, And flourish bright and gay; A blasting wind sweeps o'er the land, And fades the grass away.

C. 2. But 'tis our God supports our frame, The God that built us first: Sal-va-tion to th'Al-migh-ty name That reared us from the dust.

T. 3. While we have breath, or use our tongues, Our Maker we'll adore; His Spirit moves our heaving lungs, Or they would breathe no more.

B. 3. While we have breath, or use our tongues, Our Maker we'll adore; His Spirit moves our heaving lungs, Or they would breathe no more.

This tune was probably composed by William Billings before 1780, and copied into *The Waterhouse Manuscript* at (or soon after) a singing-school session; the manuscript page is dated May 30, 1780. Obviously the copyist, Susanna Heath, didn't complete copying the Treble part. The words are recondite, apparently a later stanza from a longer poem, *Here is a song, which doth belong*, but the first complete version of this poem was not published until 1812.

The tune appeared in Shumway's *American Harmony* (1793) with different words, *Naked, as from the earth we came*, then in Ingalls' *Christian Harmony* (1805) as *The True Penitent*, with yet different words. Billings had apparently considerably revised the tune in the 1780s or 1790s, but the revision didn't appear until the posthumous *Psalm-Singer's Amusement* in 1804 or thereabouts, when it was paired with Isaac Watts' words above.