

Psalm 124

Transcribed from *The Scottish Psalter*, 1635.

1. Now Is-ra-el may say, and that truly, If that the Lord had not our cause maintained, If that the Lord had not our right sustained,
2. Then long ago they had devoured us all, And swallowed quick, for ought that we could deem; Such was their rage, as we might well esteem
3. The raging streams most proud in roaring noise, Had long ago o'er-whelmed us in the deep; Prai-sed be God, which doth us safe - ly keep
4. E'en as a bird from fowler's gin or pen Escapes a - way, right so it fares with us; Broke are the nets, and we es - ca - ped thus;

1. When all the world against us furiously Made their uproars, and said, we should all die.
2. And as the floods with mighty force do fall, So had they now our lives e'en brought to thrall.
3. From bloody teeth, and their most cruel voice Which as a prey to eat us would re - joice.
4. God that made heaven and earth is our help then, His name hath saved us from these wicked men.

Edited by B. C. Johnston, 2016
1. All notes half value of original.
2. First and fourth measures of *Counter* as written; the rest of *Counter* moved down an octave.

1582. The following is Calderwood's account of the return of Durie to Edinburgh after a temporary banishment: "John Durie cometh to Leith at night the 3d of September. Upon Tuesday the 4th of September, as he is coming to Edinburgh, there met him at the Gallowgreen 200, but ere he came to the Netherbow their number increased to 400; but they were no sooner entered but they encased to 600 or 700, and within short space the whole street was replenished even to Saint Geiles Kirk: the number was esteemed to 2000. At the Netherbow they took up the 124 Psalme, "Now Israel may say," &c., and sung in such a pleasant tune in four parts, known to the most part of the people, that coming up the street all bareheaded till they entered in the Kirk, with such a great sound and majestic that it moved both themselves and all the huge multitude of the beholders, looking out at the shots and over stairs, with admiration and astonishment: the Duke himself beheld, and reave his beard for anger: he was more afirayed of this sight than anie thing that ever he had seene before in Scotland. When they came to the kirk, Mr James Lowsone made a short exhortation in the Reader's place, to move the multitude to thankfulnes. Thereafter a psalm being sung, they departed with great joy." (Livingston 1864, p. 17; he goes on to say that the above were the words and music that they sang)