

Psalm 124

Transcribed from *The Scottish Psalter*, 1635.

1. Now Is - ra - el may say, and that tru - ly, If that the Lord had not our cause main - tained,
2. Then long a - go they had de - vour'd us all, And swal - lowed quick, for ought that we could deem;
3. The ra - ging streams most proud in roa - ring noise, Had long a - go o'er - whelmed us in the deep;
4. E'en as a bird from fow - ler's gin or pen Es - capes a - way, right so it fares with us;
If that the Lord had not our right sus - tained, When all the world a - gainst us fu - rious - ly
Such was their rage, as we might well es - teem; And as the floods with migh - ty force do fall,
Prai - sed be God, which doth us safe - ly keep From bloo - dy teeth, and their most cru - el voice,
Broke are the nets, and we es - ca - ped thus: God that made heav'n and earth is our help then,
Made their up - roars, and said, we all should die.
So had they now our lives e'en brought to thrall.
Which as a pray to eat us would re - joice.
His name hath saved us from these wick - ed 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 increased 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 affrayed of this sight than anie thing that ever he had seene before in Scotland. When they came to the kirk, Mr James Lowson 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; Livingston goes on to say that the above were the words and music that they sang)