

MS Hymns for King and Queen 1780¹

Among the nineteenth-century Methodist materials in the Methodist Archive and Research Centre is the Farrar Vickers collection. Gareth Lloyd recently discovered a manuscript in this collection that contains **two original hymns by Charles Wesley, in his hand, which have never been published**. At the bottom of the last page of the manuscript is inscribed: “These Hymns were given to the Revd. George Cubitt, by the Revd. Thomas Jackson, and are in Charles Wesley’s own handwriting.” This is signed “C. Garrett, Preston, October 22, 1861.” The manuscript contains four pages, numbered 5–8, so it is missing at least four other pages.

The two hymns are (successively) petitions for God’s care for King George III and for his wife Princess Charlotte. The date “1780” is written in the margin at the beginning of the first hymn. This helps locate the events of concern that lead to the petitions, for 1780 witnessed major conflict between royalists and Whigs over both the war in the North American colonies and the Catholic Relief Act. See the closely related materials by Wesley in MS Protestant Association & MS Patriotism.

MS Hymns for King and Queen 1780 is part of the collection in the Methodist Archive and Research Centre, MA 1977/712/1/3, in the Farrar Vickers collection. The transcription below is provided with permission of the Librarian and Director, The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester.

¹This document was produced by the Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition under the editorial direction of Randy L. Maddox, with the diligent assistance of Aileen F. Maddox.
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1780

I.
Hymn.

- [1.] Jesus, who bow to thy command,
We live the Quiet in the land,
Exempt from public care;
When discord's threatenng waves run high,
We find a Sanctuary nigh,
And give ourselves to prayer.
2. But ought we, unconcern'd, to see
The best of kings ordain'd by Thee
"Abandon'd to neglect,"^[1]
Stamp't with thy sacred Character,
"Yet seen without submissive fear,
"And serv'd without respect."^[2]
3. A king whose heart thy laws approves,
His people as his children loves,
And labours all to please:
Too good for these flagitious times,
Too gentle for our heighten'd crimes
And daring wickedness.
4. Outrag'd by the audacious croud
In treason and detraction loud,
Whose wild fanatic zeal
Fiercely revives the *good old cause*
Protectors from rebellion draws,
And *Patriots* from hell.³
5. With pity, Lord, the rebels view,
For O, they know not what they do,

²Matthew Prior, *Solomon*, Bk. II: "I found the king abandon'd to neglect; seen without awe, and serv'd without respect."

³"The good old cause" was a slogan of Oliver Cromwell's new model army in its revolt against the crown, and taken up again by the Protestant Association in the late 1770s. Cf. MS Protestant Association.

Blind tools of crafty Power:
But silence the tumultuous fiend,
Rebuke the winds and seas, and end
The dark Satanic hour.

6. Thy power omnipotent exert,
To turn a factious people's heart:
They then again shall cry
"Long live our King by Heaven bestow'd,
"Long live our King, for Brittain's good,
"And let BARABBAS die!^[b]"

II. Hymn for the Queen.

- [1.] Thou Friend to Virtue in distress,
Whose bowels melt with tenderness,
Whose heart o'reflows with love;
Our gracious Queen requires thy care,
Her fears dispel, her burthens bear,
And all her griefs remove.
2. On our inhospitable shore,
She hears the storming, billows roar,
The people's madness sees,
While all the powers of hell engage
To rouse the wild rebellious rage
Of British Savages.
3. No sex or rank the ruffians spare,
With insults vile the wrath they dare
Of suffering Majesty:

But turn, great God, the storm aside
And safely in thy bosom hide
A soul belov'd by Thee.

4. Born to insure her Consort's peace,
The life of social happiness
Long may she live to prove,
And shine our bright Example here
Of faith and piety sincere,
And pure connubial love.
5. Long may our gracious Princess reign,
To sooth an anxious Monarch's pain,
To charm his sorrows down,
O'repay, the rigors of his fate,
And help him to support the weight
And anguish of a crown.
6. Their blooming progeny increase
And thro' succeeding ages bless
The long-continued line:
Thy kingdom in their hearts reveal,
In peace and joy unspeakable
And righteousness Divine.
7. The Earnest of their heaven bestow
(Which none can comprehend or know
Unreconcil'd to God);⁴

⁴Wesley omits the closing parenthesis, which almost certainly belongs here. At the bottom of the page are several draft phrases in shorthand, some of which were adopted into the hymns. All of them have been crossed through.

The joy which from Religion springs,
And rank them with the priests and kings,
Redeem'd by Jesus' blood.

8. Ev'n now the gracious token give,
Ev'n now the Royal Pair receive
In Thee supremely blest,
Their offspring in thy bosom hide,
And all thro' every tempest guide
To thine eternal Rest.