

# **SONGS OF YALE**

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Songs of Yale by Edward C. Porter

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**EDWARD C. PORTER**

# **SONGS OF YALE**







# SONGS OF YALE.

"And long may the song, the joyous song,  
Roll on in the hours before us,  
And grand and hale may the elms of Yale  
For many a year bend o'er us."—FRUCH.

*Edward Clark Porter.*

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## P R E F A C E .

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THE history of College Music in this country extends at farthest over only a few years, and, so far as I can learn, Yale has been foremost among American Colleges in introducing, not only some of the best Songs of the German students, but also a good degree of that enthusiastic song-spirit, which so beautifies their University-life. Yet it is not twenty years since "Gaudeamus" was first sung at Yale. Previous to the introduction of this song I can find no evidence of the existence here of any distinctively *student*-songs, either original or otherwise, with the single exception that it had long been customary, as at present, to close the exercises in Chapel on Presentation Day by the singing of a Parting Hymn or Ode, written for the occasion, by some member of the graduating class. Soon after "Gaudeamus" was brought here, however, original songs began to appear on the programmes of some of our exhibitions, and the custom, once established, has rapidly gained in popularity, until now the singing is a prominent and interesting feature in most of our festivals and exhibitions, as well as a constant source of enjoyment in our daily life.

The first collection of our songs was made in 1853, by Messrs-Root and Lombard. Their effort met with such approval that in a short time the edition was exhausted, and in 1855 a second was prepared by Mr. Root.

While in the present collection I have in the main followed the plan pursued by the former editors, it will be found that very many changes have been effected both in the matter and arrangement. The reason for these is apparent. A publication like this must necessarily assume, to some degree, at least, the character of a *Periodical*. Few of our songs are *general enough* in their nature to permit their being handed down from year to year. Every class now furnishes a complete sheet of *new* songs, for each of our great occasions. This custom, however, has been established quite recently, for I find the Alumni Song, commencing "Gather ye smiles, &c.," on three or four of the programmes for Presentation Day, and the songs "Audacia" and "When first the Fresh to College hies," were brought out year after year at the Wooden Spoon Exhibition.

It is doubtless an excellent plan thus to draw out the poetical talent of each class in song-writing ; but there is unavoidably connected with it this bad effect, that it prevents our having *many* permanent *College Songs*. Would it not be well if one or two at least of the songs for such occasions as the Biennial Jubilee and Presentation Day could be hallowed by the thought, that year after year, the same words have been, and will continue to be sung ?

In view of the fact that three or four years will make this collection quite out of date, it has been my first object in its preparation, to meet the wants of the "present generation of Yalensians." Therefore,—though I have retained such of the earlier songs as best illustrate the theory and spirit of our College life and customs,—I have given the preference, other things being equal, to those of more recent date. At the same time many pieces which have entirely fallen into disuse as songs, have been retained on account of their poetical merit, and one or two songs, which were formerly popular, have been restored with the hope that their intrinsic merit may bring them again into favor.

With my hearty thanks to those who have aided me in this undertaking, I bring the result to my fellow-students, hoping that it may not merely be valuable to us while connected with College, but that our interest in it may continue

" When for us the song is ended,  
And the singing is no more."

The work of collecting and arranging these songs has been a pleasant one, and the longer I have been employed in it the more thoroughly I have been convinced of the value which these trifles will have for us in after years. It is a pleasing thought to me that to some of our number this little pamphlet may be one of those things which

" When life's ray shall fade away  
To Evening's gentle warning,  
Shall still point back o'er manhood's track,  
To a spot where all was morning."

EDWARD C. PORTER.

*North College, March, 1858.*

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TO  
**Francis Miles Finch,**

OF THE CLASS OF 1848,

WHOSE NAME IS INDELEBLY CONNECTED WITH THE MUSEO OF HALL,

**His Collection**

OF THE SONGS OF HIS ALMA MATER,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

**PSALM LXV.**—*From the version of Sternhold and Hopkins. Sung Sept. 12; 1718, at the Commencement when "the Trustees, in commemoration of Governor Yale's great generosity, called the collegiate school after his name YALE COLLEGE."* Sung also at the third semi-centennial celebration of the College.

TUNE—*St. Martin's.*

- 1 THY praise alone, O Lord, doth reign  
in Sion thine own hill :  
Their vows to thee they do maintain,  
and their benefits fulfill.
- 2 For that thou dost their prayers hear,  
and dost thereto agree :  
The people all both far and near  
with trust shall come to thee.
- 3 Our wicked life so far exceeds,  
that we shall fall therein :  
But Lord forgive our great misdeeds,  
and purge us from our sin.
- 4 The man is blest whom thou dost choofe  
within thy courts to dwell :  
Thy house and temple he shall use,  
With pleasures that excell.
- 5 Of thy great justice hear us, God,  
our health of thee doth rise :  
The hope of all the earth abroad,  
and the sea-coasts likewise.
- 6 With strength thou art beset about,  
and compass't with thy power :  
Thou mak'st the mountain strong and stout,  
to stand in every shower.
- 7 The swelling sea thou dost asswage,  
and make their streams full still :  
Thou dost restrain the people's rage,  
and rule them at thy will.
- 8 The folk that dwell full far on earth  
shall dread thy signs to see,  
Which morn and even in great mirth  
do pass with praise to thee.