

The Heavenly Contention

Transcribed from Ingalls' *Christian Harmony*, 1805.

Tr.  5

1. In heavenly choirs a question rose That stirred up strife will ne-ver close, What rank of all the ransomed race, Owes highest praise to
2. Tis I, said one, 'bove all my race, Am deb-tor chief to glo-rious grace, Nay, said another, hark, I trow, I'm more o-blived to

T.  8

3. I'll yield to none in this debate; I'm run so deep in gra- ce's debt, That sure I am, I boldly can Compare with all the
4. What, will no rival singer yield He has a match up - on the field? Come then, and let us all agree To praise up - on the

B. 

Tr.  10 15

1. sovereign grace? Babes thither caught from womb and breast, Claimed right to sing above the rest; Because they found the happy shore They
2. grace than you. Stay, said a third, I deepest share In owing praise beyond com-pare; The chief of sinners, you'll allow, Must

T.  8

3. heavenly clan. Quick o'er their heads a trump awoke. Your songs my very heart have spoke; But every note you here propel, Be -
4. high-est key. Then jointly all the harpers round In mind unite, with solemn sound, And strokes upon the highest string Made

B. 

Tr.  20

1. ne-ver saw or thought be-fore. Those that arrived at ri-per age Be-fore they left the dusky stage, Thought grace deserved yet
2. be the chief of sin-gers now. Hold, said a fourth, I here pro-test, My praise must out-vie the rest; For I'm of all the


T.  8

3. -longs to me be-yond you all. The listening millions round about, With sweet resentment loudly shout; What voice is this, com-
4. all the heavenly ar-ches ring. Ring loud with hal-le-lu-jahs high To him who sent his Son to die, And to the worthy


B. 

Based on an older instrumental tune (Jackson 1952, no. 118).


25 30

Tr. 


1. higher praise, That washed the blots of numerous days. A - non, the war more close be - gan, What praising harp should
2. hu - man race The high - est mi-ra-cle of grace. Stop, said a fifth, these notes for-bear, Lo, I'm the grea - test

T. 


8 3. -paring notes, That to their song chief place allots? We can't al-low of such a sound, That you a-lone have
4. Lamb of God, That loved and washed them with his blood. Free grace was sovereign empress crowned In pomp, with joy-ful

B. 

35 1. 2.

Tr. 

1. lead the van: And which of gra - ce's heavenly peers Was deepest run in her ar-rears. A - her ar-rears.
2. won-der here; For I, of all the race that fell, Deserved the low-est place in hell. Stop, place in hell.

T. 

8 3. high-est ground, To sing the ro - yal - ties of grace; We claim the same a-do-ring place. We -do-ring place.
4. sounds a - round; As-sis-ting angels clapped their wings, And sounded grace on all their strings. Free all their strings.

B. 