

AN EXCELLENT ^SONG WHICH WAS SALOMON'S

The Argument.

In this Song, Salomón by most sweet and comfortable allegories and parables describeth the perfect love of Jesus Christ, the true Salomón and King of peace, and the faithful soul or his Church, which he hath sanctified and appointed to be his spouse, holy, chaste and without reprehension. So that here is declared the singular love of the bridegroom toward the bride, and his great and excellent benefits wherewith he doeth enrich her of his pure bountie and grace without any of her deservings. Also the earnest affection of the Church which is inflamed with the love of Christ desiring to be more and more joyned to him in love, and not to be forsaken for any spot or blemish that is in her.

Chapter 1

1 The familiar talk and mystical communication of the spiritual love between Jesus Christ and his Church. 6 The domestical enemies that persecute the Church.

Let ^ahim kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine. 2 Because of the ^bsavour of thy ointments thy name *is* as an ointment powred out: therefore the ^cvirgins love thee.

3 ^dDraw me: we will run after thee: the King hath brought me into his ^echambers, we will rejoyce and be glad in thee: we will remember thy love more then wine, the righteous do love thee.

4 I am ^fblack, ô daughters of Jerusalém, but comelie, as the fruits of ^gKedár, and as the ^hcurtains of Salomón.

5 Regard ye me not because I am ⁱblack: for the ^ksun hath looked upon me. The ^lsons of my mother were angry against me: they made me the keeper of the vines: but I ^mkept not mine own vine.

6 Shewe me, ⁿo thou, whom my soul loveth, where thou fedest, where thou liest at noon: for why should I be as she that turneth aside to the flocks of ^othy companions?

7 ^pIf thou know not, ô thou the fairest among women, get thee forth by the steps of the flock, and feed thy kids by the tents of the shepherds.

8 I have compared thee, ô my love, to the troupe of horses in the ^qcharets of Pharaóh.

9 Thy cheeks are comelie with rows of stones, and thy neck with chains.

10 We will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver.

11 ^rWhiles the King was at his repast, my spikenarde gave the smell thereof.

12 My welbeloved *is* as a bundle of myrrh unto me: he shall lie between my ^sbreasts.

13 My welbeloved *is* as a cluster of camphor unto me in the vines

^a Ebr., a song of songs so called because it is the chiefest of the 1005, which Salomon made as is mentioned, 1 Kings 4.32.

1 a This is spoken in the person of the Church, or of the faithful soul, inflamed with the desire of Christ, whom she loves.

2 b The feeling of thy great benefits.

2 c They that are pure in heart and *conversation*.

3 d The faithful confess that they can not come to Christ except they be drawn.

3 e Meaning the secret joy that is not known to the world.

4 f The Church confesses her spots and sin, but has confidence in the favor of Christ.

4 g Kedár was Ishmaél's son, of whom came the Arabians that dwell in tents.

4 h Which within were all set with precious stones and jewels.

5 i Consider not the Church by the outward appearance.

5 k The corruption of nature through sin, and afflictions.

5 l My own brethren, which should have most favored me.

5 m She confesses her own negligence.

6 n The spouse feeling her faute, flees to her husband only for succor.

6 o Whom you have called to the dignity of pastors, and they set forth their own dreams instead of your doctrine.

7 p Christ speaks to his Church, bidding them that are ignorant, to go to the pastors to learn.

8 q For your spiritual beauty and excellency there was no worldly treasure to be compared unto you.

11 r The Church rejoices that she is admitted to the company of Christ.

12 s He shall be most dear unto me.

of Engédi.

14 My love, behold, thou art ^tfair: behold, thou art fair: thine eyes are *like* the doves.

15 My welbeloved, behold, thou art fair and pleasant: also our ^ubed is green: the beams of our house are cedars.

Chapter 2

3 The Church desireth to rest Under the shadow of Christ. 8 She heareth his voyce. 14 She is compared to the dove. 15 And the enemies to the foxes.

I am the rose of the field, and the lily of the valleys. 2 Like a lily among the thorns, so *is* my ^alove among the daughters.

3 ^bLike the apple tree among the trees of the forest: so *is* my welbeloved among the sons of *men*: under his shadow had I delite, and sat down: and his fruit was sweet unto my mouth.

4 He brought me into the wine cellar, and love was his banner over me.

5 Stay me with flagons, and comfort me with apples: for I am sick of love.

6 His left hand *is* under mine head, and his right hand doeth embrace me.

7 ^cI charge you, ô daughters of Jerusalém, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor waken *my* love, until she please.

8 ^d*It is* the voice of my welbeloved, behold, he cometh leaping by the mountains, and skipping by the hills.

9 My welbeloved is like a roe, or a young heart: lo, he ^estandeth behind our wall, looking forth of the windows, shewing him self through the ^fgrates.

10 My welbeloved spake and said unto me, Arise, my love, my fair one, and come thy way.

11 For behold, ^gwinter is past: the rain is changed, and is gone away.

12 The flowers appear in the earth: the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

13 The fig tree hath brought forth her young figs, and the vines with *their* small grapes have cast a savor: arise my love, my fair one, and come away.

14 My dove, that art in the ^hholes of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, shewe my thy sight, let me hear thy voice: for thy voyce is sweet, and thy sight comelie.

14 t Christ accepts his Church and commends her beauty.

15 u That is, the heart of the faithful wherein Christ dwells by his Spirit.

Chapter 2

2 a Thus Christ prefers his Church above all other things.

3 b The spouse testifies her great desire toward her husband, but her strength fails her, and therefore she desires to be comforted, and felt it. 7 c Christ charges them which have to do in the Church, as it were by a solemn oath, that they trouble not the quietness thereof.

8 d This is spoken of Christ, who took upon him our nature to come to help his Church.

9 e For asmuch as his divinity was hid under the cloak of our flesh.

9 f So that we can not have full knowledge of him in this life.

11 g That is, sin and error is driven back by the coming of Christ which is there described by the spring time, when all things flourish.

14 h You that are ashamed of your sins, come and show yourself unto me.

15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, which destroy the vines: for our vines *have* small grapes.

16 My welbeloved *is* mine, & I am his: he fedeth among the lilies,
17 Until the day break, and the shadows flee away: return, my welbeloved, *and* be like a roe, or a young hart upon the mountains of Béther.

Chapter 3

1 *The Church desireth to be joyned inseparably to Christ her husband* 6 *Her deliverance out of the wilderness.*

In my bed by night I sought him that my soul loved: I sought him, but I found him not. 2 I will rise *therefore* now, and go about in the city, by the streets and by the open places, *and* will seek him that my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.

3 The watchmen that went about the city, found me: *to whom I said*, Have you seen him whom my soul loveth?

4 When I had past a little from them, then I found him whom my soul loved: I took hold on him and left him not, till I had brought him unto my mother's house into the chamber of her that conceived me.

5 I charge you, ô daughters of Jerusalém, by the roes and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor waken my love until she please.

6 Who is she that commeth up out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke perfumed with myrrh and incense, *and* with all the spices of the merchant?

7 Behold his bed, which is Salomón's: threescore strong men are round about it, of the valiant men of Israël.

8 They all handle the sword, *and* are expert in war, every one hath his sword upon his thigh for the fear by night.

9 King Salomón made himself a palace of the trees of Lebanón.

10 He made the pillars thereof of silver, *and* the pavement thereof of gold, the hangings thereof of purple, whose middes was paved with the love of the daughters of Jerusalém.

11 Come forth, ye daughters of Zión, and behold the King Salomón with the crown, wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his marriage, & in the day of the gladness of his heart.

Chapter 4

1 *The praises of the Church* 7 *She is without blemish in his sight*
9 *The love of Christ towards her.*

Behold, thou art fair my love: behold, thou art fair: thine eyes are like the doves, among thy locks thine hair is like the

15 i Suppress the heretics while they are young, that is, when they begin to show their malice and destroy the vine of the Lord.

17 k The Church desires Christ to be most ready to help her in all dangers.

Chapter 3

1 a The Church by night, that is in troubles seeks to Christ, but is not incontinently heard.

2 b Showing that although we be not heard at the first, yet we must still continue in prayer till we feel comfort.

3 c Which declares, that we must seek unto all, of whom we hope to have any succor.

5 d Read Chap. 2.7.

6 e This is referred to the Church of Israel, which was led by the wilderness forty years.

6 ^AEbr., powder.

7 f By the bed is meant the Temple, which Salomón made.

8 g He alludes to the watchmen which kept the Temple.

9 ^Or, chariot.

11 h All you, that are of the number of the faithful.

11 i Christ become man was crowned by the love of God with the glorious crown of his divinity.

Chapter 4

1 a Because Christ delights in his Church, he commends all that is in her.

1 ^{*}Chap. 6.4.

^bflock of goats, which look down from the mountain of Gileád.

2 Thy teeth are like a flock of sheep in good order, which go up from the washing: which every one bring out twins, and none is barren among them.

3 Thy lips are like a tread of scarlet and thy talk is comelie: thy temples are within thy locks as a piece of a pomegranate.

4 Thy neck is as the tower of David built for defense: a thousand shields hang therein, *and* all the targets of the strong men.

5 Thy two breasts are as two young roes that are twins, feeding among the lilies.

6 Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will go into the mountain of myrrh and to the mountain of incense.

7 Thou art all fair, my love, and there is no spot in thee.

8 Come with me from Lebanón, my spouse, *even* with me from Lebanón, *and* look from the top of Amanáh, from the top of Shenir and Hermón, from the dens of the lions *and* from the mountains of the leopards.

9 My sister, my spouse, thou hast wounded mine heart: thou hast wounded mine heart with one of thine eyes, *and* with a chain of thy neck.

10 My sister, my spouse, how fair is thy love? how much better is thy love then wine? and the savor of thine ointments then all spices?

11 Thy lips, my spouse, drop as honey combs: honey and milk are under thy tongue, and the savor of thy garments is as the savor of Lebanón.

12 My sister my spouse is as a garden inclosed, as a spring shut up, *and* a fountain sealed up.

13 Thy plants are as an orchard of pomegranates with sweet fruits, as camphor, spikenard,

14 *Even* spikenard, and saffron, calamus, and synamom with all the trees of incense, myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices.

15 O fountain of the gardens, ô well of living waters, and the springs of Lebanón.

16 Arise, ô North, and come ô South, *and* blow on my garden that the spices thereof may flow out: let my welbeloved come to his garden, and eat his pleasant fruit.

Chapter 5

1 *Christ calleth his Church to the participation of all his treasures.*
2 *She heareth his Voice.* 6 *She confesseth her nakedness.* 10 *She praiseth Christ her husband.*

I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I gathered my myrrh with my spice: I ate mine honey comb with mine honey, I drank my wine with my milk: eat, ô friends, drink, and make you merry, ô welbeloved.

2 ^bI sleep, but mine heart waketh, *it is* the voice of my welbeloved that knocketh, *saying*, Open unto me, my sister, my love, my

1 b He has respect to the multitude of the faithful, which are many in number.

5 c Wherein are knowledge, and zeal, two precious jewels.

8 d Christ promises his Church to call his faithful from all the corners of the world.

9 e Christ calls his Church sister in respect that he had taken the flesh of man.

9 f In that he made his Church beautiful, & rich, he loved his gifts in her.

11 g Because of your confession and thanksgiving.

15 h The Church confesses that all her glory, and beauty comes of Christ who is the true fountain of all grace.

16 i She desires Christ to comfort her, and to pour the graces of his Spirit upon her, which Spirit is meant by the North and South wind.

Chapter 5

1 a The garden signifies the kingdom of Christ where he prepares the banquet for his elect.

2 b The spouse says that she is troubled with the cares of worldly things, which is meant by sleeping.

dove, my undefiled: for mine head is full of dew, and my locks with the drops of the ^cnight.

3 I have put off my ^dcoat, how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet, how shall I defile them?

4 My welbeloved put in his hand by the hole of *the door*, and ^emine heart was affectioned toward him.

5 I rose up to open to my welbeloved, and mine hands did drop down myrrh, and mine ^ffingers pure myrrh upon the handles of the bar.

6 I opened to my welbeloved: but my welbeloved was gone, and past - mine heart was gone when he did speak: I sought him, but I could not find him: I called him, but he answered me not.

7 The ^gwatchmen that went about the city, found me: they smote me *and* wounded me: the watchmen of the walls took away my vail from me.

8 I charge you, ^hô daughters of Jerusalém, if you find my welbeloved, that you tell him that I am sick of love.

9 ⁱWho the fairest among women, what is thy welbeloved more then *other* welbeloved? what is thy welbeloved more then *another* lover, that thou doest so charge us?

10 My welbeloved is white & ruddy, the chiefest of ten thousand.

11 His ^jhead *is* as fine gold, his locks curled, & black as a raven.

12 His eyes *are* like doves upon the rivers of waters, which are washed with milk, *and* remain by the full *vessels*.

13 His cheeks *are* as a bed of spices, *and* as sweet flowers, *and* his lips *like* lilies dropping down pure myrrh.

14 His hands as rings of gold set with the ^kchrysolite his bellie like white yvorie covered with sapphires

15 His legs *are* as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance as Lebanón, excellent as the cedars.

16 His mouth *is* as sweet things, and he is wholly delectable: this is my welbeloved, and this is my lover, ^lô daughters of Jerusalém.

17 ^mWho the fairest among women, whether is thy welbeloved gone? whether is thy welbeloved turned aside, that we may seek him with thee?

Chapter 6

2 *The Church assureth her self of the love of Christ. 3 The praises of the Church. 8 She is but one and undefiled.*

My welbeloved is gone down into his ^agarden to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.

2 I am my welbeloved's, and my welbeloved is mine, who fedeth among the lilies.

3 Thou art beautiful, my love, as ^bTirzáh, comelie as Jerusalém, terrible as an army with banners.

4 ^cTurn away thine eyes from me: for they overcome me: ^d*thine

2 c Declaring the long patience of the Lord towards sinners.

3 d The spouse confesses her nakedness, and that of herself she has nothing or seeing that she is once made clean, she promises not to defile herself again.

4 ^eEbr., My bowels were moved towards him.

5 e The spouse which should be anointed of Christ, shall not find him if she think to anoint him with her good works.

7 f These are the false teachers, which wound the conscience with their traditions.

8 g She asks of them which are godly (forasmuch as the law and salvation should come out of Zion and Jerusalem) that they would direct her to Christ.

9 h Thus say they of Jerusalem.

11 i She describes Christ to be of perfect beauty, and comeliness.

14 ^jEbr., Tarshish.

17 k Hearing of the excellence of Christ, the faithful desire to know how to find him.

Chapter 6

1 a That is, is conversant here in earth among men.

3 b Which was a fair and strong city, 1 Kings 14.17.

4 c This declares the exceeding love of Christ toward his Church.

4 ^d*Chap. 4.1.

hair is like a flock of goats, which look down from Gileád.

5 Thy teeth *are* like a flock of sheep, which go up from the washing, which everyone bring out twins, and none is barren among them.

6 Thy temples *are* within thy locks as a piece of a pomegranate.

7 There are ^gthrescore Queens and fourscore concubines, and of the damsels without number.

8 *But* my dove is alone, *and* my undefiled, she is the only *daughter* of her mother, and she is dear to her that bare her: the daughters have seen her and counted her blessed: *even* the Queens and the concubines, and they have praised her.

9 ^hWho is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, pure as the sun, terrible as an army with banners!

10 I went down to the ⁱgarden of nuts, to see the fruits of the valley, to see if the vine budded, *and if* the pomegranates flourished.

11 ^jI knew nothing, my soul set me ^kas the chariots of my noble people.

12 Return, return, ^lô Shulamite, return: return that we may behold thee. What shall you see in the Shulamite, *but* as the company of an army?

Chapter 7

1 *The beauty of the Church in all her members. 10 She is assured of Christ's love toward her.*

How beautiful are thy ^agoings with shoes, ^bô prince's daughter: the joints of thy thighs *are* like jewels: the work of the hand of a cunning workman.

2 Thy navel *is* as a round cup that wanteth not lickour: thy belly *is* as an heap of wheat compassed about with lilies.

3 ^cThy two breasts *are* as two young roes that are twins.

4 Thy neck *is* like a tower of yvorie: thine eyes *are like* the fish pools in Heshbón by the gate of Bath-rabbim, thy nose *is* as the tower of Lebanón, that looketh toward Damascus.

5 Thine head upon thee *is* as scarlet, and the bush of thine head like purple: the King *is* tied ^din the ^erafters.

6 How fair art thou, and how pleasant art thou, ^fô my love, in pleasures!

7 This thy stature is like a palm tree, & thy breasts like clusters.

8 I said, I will go up into the palm tree, I will take hold of her boughs: thy breasts shall now be like the clusters of the vine: and the savor of thy nose like apples,

9 And the roof of thy mouth like good wine, which goeth straight to my well beloved, and causeth the lips of the ancient to speak.

10 ^gI am my welbeloved's, and his desire is toward me.

11 Come, my welbeloved, let us go forth into the field: let us remain in the villages.

12 Let us get up early to the vines, let us see if the ^hvine flourish,

7 d Meaning, that the gifts are infinite which Christ gives to his Church or that his faithful are many in number.

9 e He shows that the beginning of the Church was small, but that it grew up to a great multitude.

10 f He went down into the Synagogue to see what fruits came of the Law, and the Prophets.

11 g I found nothing but rebellion.

11 h I ran as swift as the nobles of my people in their chariots.

12 i O you people of Jerusalem for Jerusalem was called Shalém, which signifies peace.

Chapter 7

1 a He describes the comely beauty of the Church in every part, which is to be understood spiritually.

3 b Read Chap. 4.5.

5 c He delights to come near you and to be in your company.

5 ^dOr, gallery.

10 d This the spouse speaks.

12 e If the people that are called to Christ, bring forth any fruit.

whether it hath budded the small grape, *or whether* the pomegranates flourish: there will I give thee my love.

13 The mandrakes have given a smell, and in our gates are all sweet things, new and old: my welbeloved, I have kept *them* for thee.

Chapter 8

2 The Church will be taught by Christ. 3 She is upholden by him. 6 The vehement love wherewith Christ loveth her. 11 She is the vine that bringeth forth fruit to the spiritual Salomón, which is Jesus Christ.

O^h that thou werest as my brother that sucked the breasts of my mother: I would find thee without, I would kiss thee, then they should not despise [^]thee.

2 I will lead thee *and* bring thee into my mother's house: *there* thou shalt teach me: *and* I will cause thee to drink spiced wine, *and* new wine of the pomegranate.

3^b His left hand *shalbe* under mine head, and his right hand shall embrace me.

4^c I charge you, ô daughters of Jerusalém, that you stir not up, nor waken *my* love, until she please.

5 (Who is this that commeth up out of the wilderness, leaning upon her welbeloved?) I raised thee up under an apple tree: there thy mother conceived thee: there she conceived that bare

1 a The Church called of the Gentiles, speaks thus to the Church of Jerusalem.

1 [^]Or, me.

3 b Read Chap. 2.6.

4 c Read Chap. 3.5.

thee.

6^e Set me as a seal on thine heart, *and* as a signet upon thine arm: for love *is* strong as death: jealousie is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof *are* fiery coals, *and* a vehement flame.

7 Much water can not quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man should give all the substance of his house for love, they would greatly contemn it.

8^e We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister when she *shalbe* spoken for?

9^f If she be a wall, we will build upon her a silver palace: and if she be a door, we will keep her in with boards of cedar.

10^g I am a wall and my breasts *are* as towers: then was I in his eyes as one that findeth peace.

11^h Salomón had a vine in Baal-hamón: he gave the vineyard unto keepers: every one bringeth forth the fruit thereof a thousand *pieces* of silver.

12 *But* my vineyard which is mine, *is* before me: to thee, ô Salomón, *apperteineth* a thousand *pieces of silver*, and two thousand to them that keep the fruit thereof.

13 O thou that dwellest in the ⁱgardens, the companions hearken unto thy voice: cause me to hear it.

14 O my welbeloved, ^kflee away, and be like unto the roe, or to the young heart upon the mountains of spices.

6 d The spouse desires Christ to be joined in perpetual love with him.

8 e The Jewish Church speaks this of the Church of the Gentiles.

9 f If she be sure and fast, she is met for the husband to dwell in.

10 g The Church promises fidelity and constancy.

11 h This is the vineyard of the Lord hired out, Mt. 21.33.

13 i Christ dwells in his Church whose voice the faithful hear.

14 k The Church desires Christ that if he depart from them, yet that he would haste to help them in their troubles.