

Secular Vocal Music.

a. English Madrigals.

WHYTHORNE, THOMAS.—Songs of three, fower, and fiue Voyces.
. . . . the which Songes be of sundry sortes, that is to say,
some long, some short, some hard, some easie to be songe,
and some betwene both, also some solemne, and some pleasant
or merry, so that according to the skill of the singers (not
being musitians) and disposition or delite of the hearers, they
may find Songes for their contentation and liking.
Now newly published. Oblong quarto.

JOHN DAYE. LONDON. 1571.
Christ Church, Oxford.

This is the earliest collection of English Madrigals that it was possible to show in the Exhibition. In 1530, forty-one years earlier, W. de Worde printed a Collection of twenty English and Latin motets, songs, and instrumental pieces for three and four voices. This is only known by the Bassus and the first leaf of the Triplex, acquired by the British Museum in 1864. Each part bears on the title-page the name of the voice for which it is intended. On the verso is the list of contents. The composers are: Cornysh, Ashwell, Taverner, Gwynneth, Fayrfax, Cowper and Jones, with four anonymous pieces. After the list of the contents is the imprint: 'Anno dñi. m.ccccc.xxx. Decimo die mensis Octobris.'

Triplex = 1 leaf.

Bassus = 45 leaves, 1 unnumbered + A—L, in fours.

BYRD, WILLIAM.—Psalmes, Sonets & songs of sadnes and pietie,
made into Musicke of fiue parts. Quarto.

THOMAS EAST. LONDON. 1588.
Mr. A. H. Littleton.

See p. 64.