KALMUS VOCAL SCORES

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ORPHEUS

C. VON GLUCK.

English and Italian text

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ARGUMENT.

At the opening of the first Act the friends and companions of Orpheus are heard invoking Euridice to listen to their lamentations at her tomb, and to come to console her bereaved husband, Orpheus meanwhile calling on her name. On the entreaty of Orpheus, the lamentations cease, and Orpheus is left alone, to give full vent to his hopeless sorrow. In the very depth of his despair, the god of Love appears, to tell him that the gods, beholding his devotion and his grief, have taken pity on him, and that he has their permission to go to the under-world, and endeavour, with voice and harp and supplication, to prevail on the rulers of that world to restore Euridice to her former state of existence. The gods, however, impose one condition, namely, that if the prayer of Orpheus be granted, he shall not look on Euridice until they have returned to earth. Orpheus, not without hesitation and dread, resolves to make the venture.

The second Act is occupied with the visit of Orpheus to the under-world, his reception there, his vehement importunity, and his ultimate success in prevailing on the rulers to allow Euridice to leave the abode of the departed, and accompany him to earth again.

In the third Act, Orpheus, obedient to the command of the gods, forbears, at whatever cost to himself, to look on Euridice; but she, knowing nothing of the condition laid upon him, is filled with grief, wonder, doubt, and resentment, at his apparent coldness and indifference. Orpheus, bound to be silent, and to keep his promise to the gods, only urges her to hasten onward, telling her that as soon as earth is reached, all will be made clear. Euridice, unable to endure the suspense, returns, not unwillingly, to the kingdom of the dead, from which her loving husband has prevailed to set her free. Orpheus bewails his second, and, as he thinks, final loss, in a strain of immortal beauty. The god of Love again appears, and announces to Orpheus that the gods, in reward for his faithfulness and constancy, have decreed that Euridice shall be restored to him once more. The god of Love then calls upon Euridice to awake, and the Opera closes with a chorus of thanks to the god, and a Trio in praise of Love.

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ORPHEUS.

PIANO.









































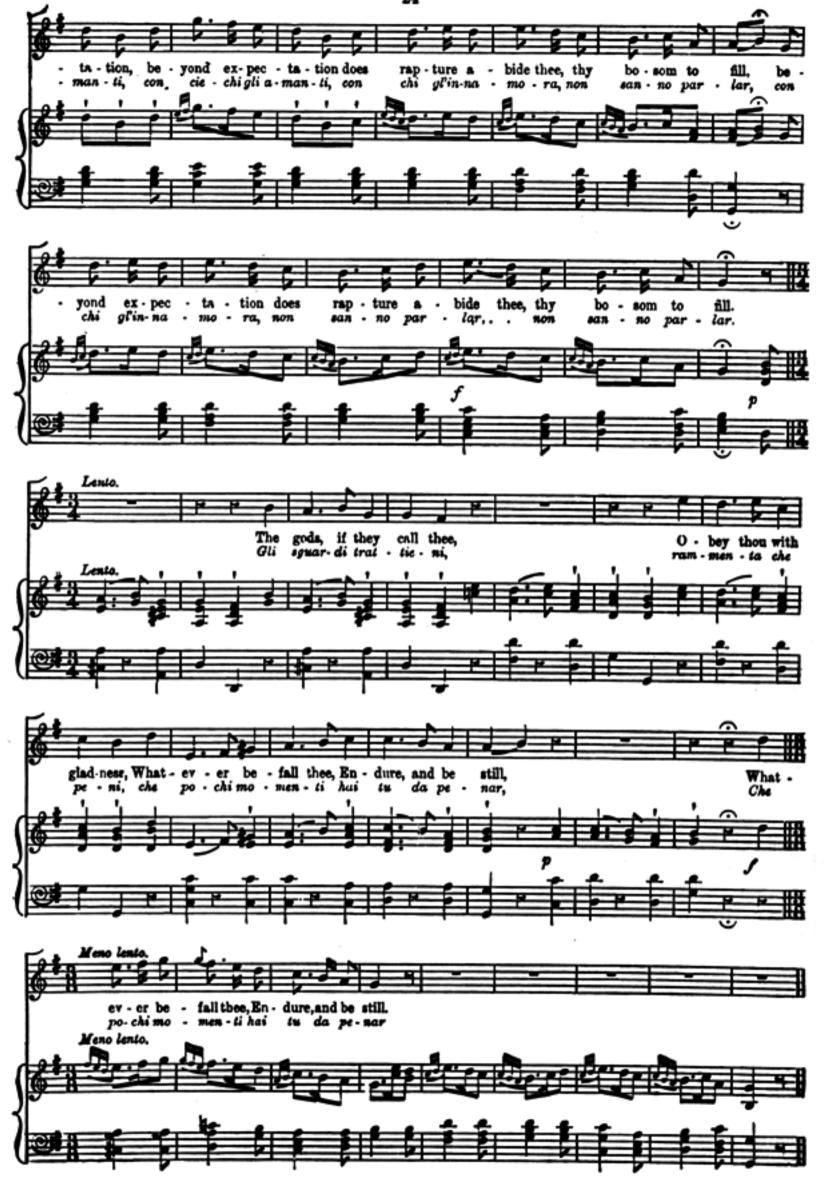


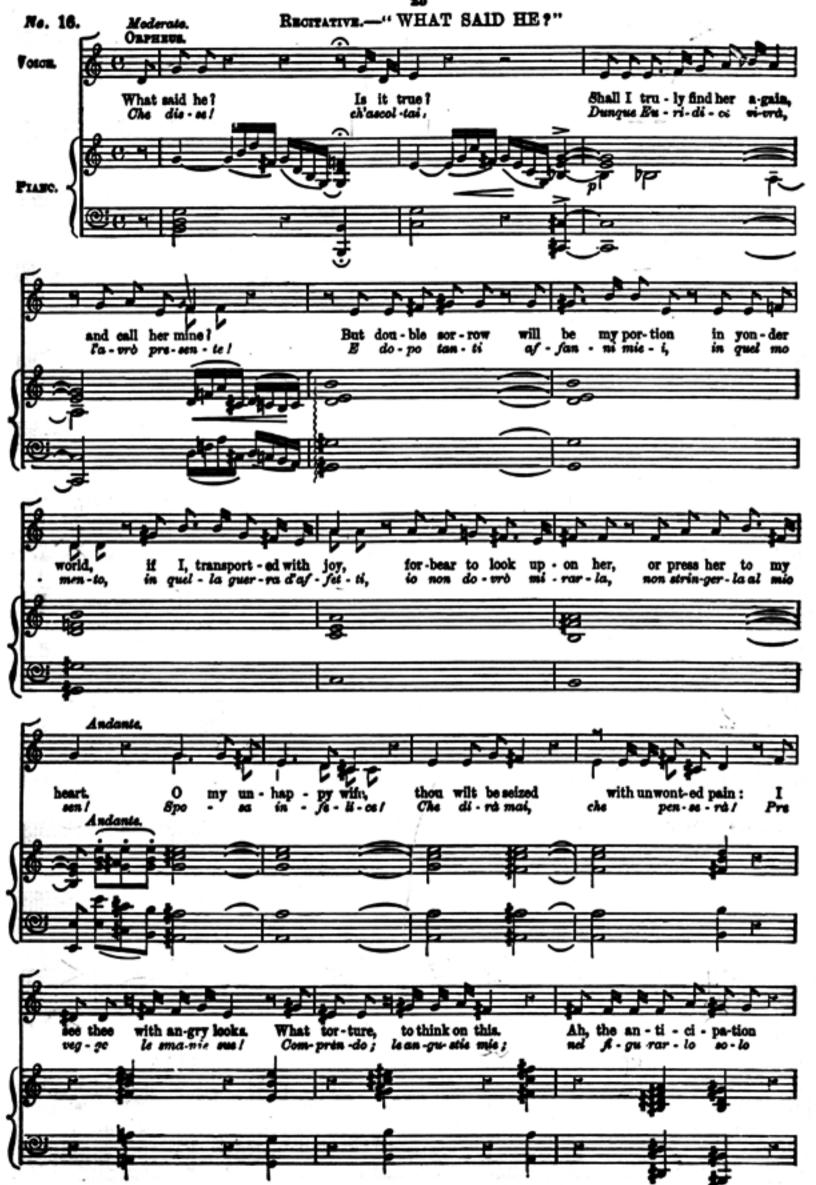








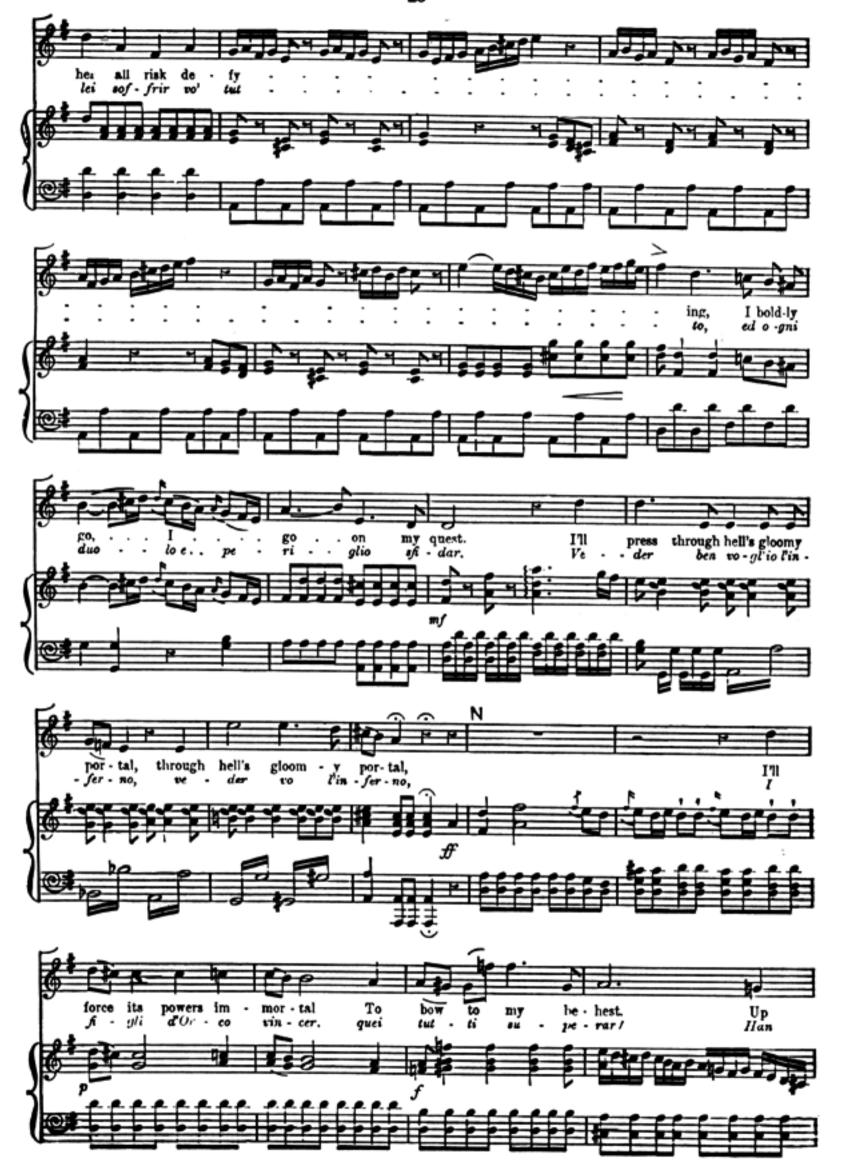




















ACT II















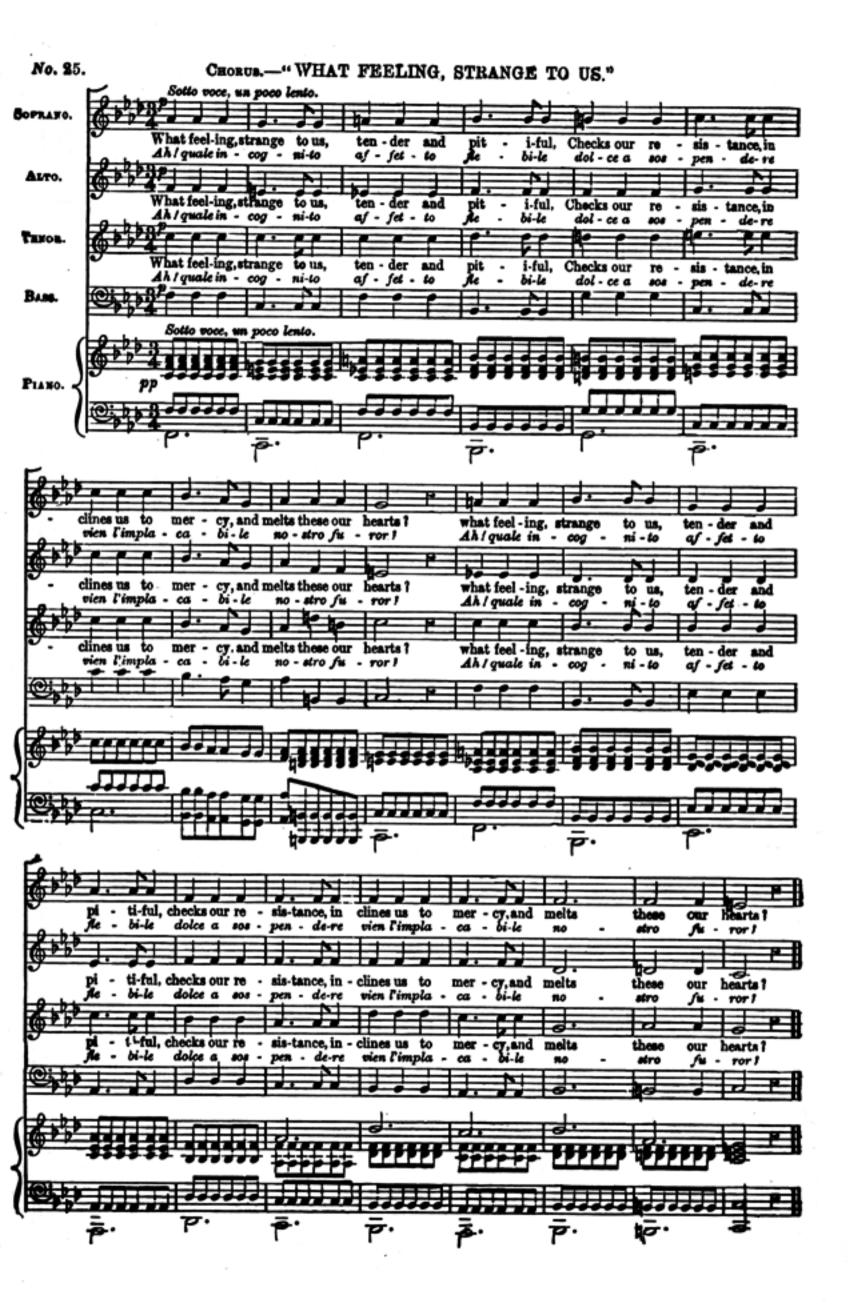






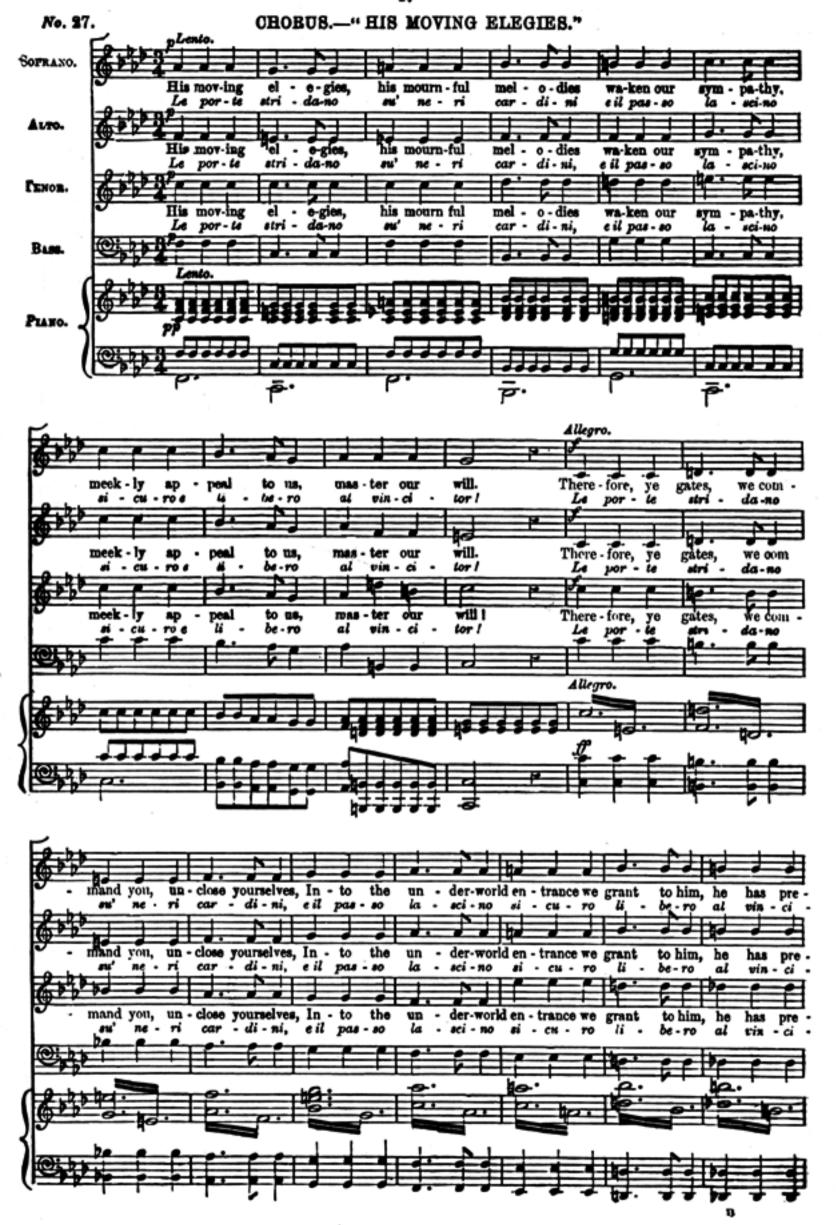






ARIA .- " MY ENTREATING, MY COMPLAINING."













DANCE OF THE FURIES.







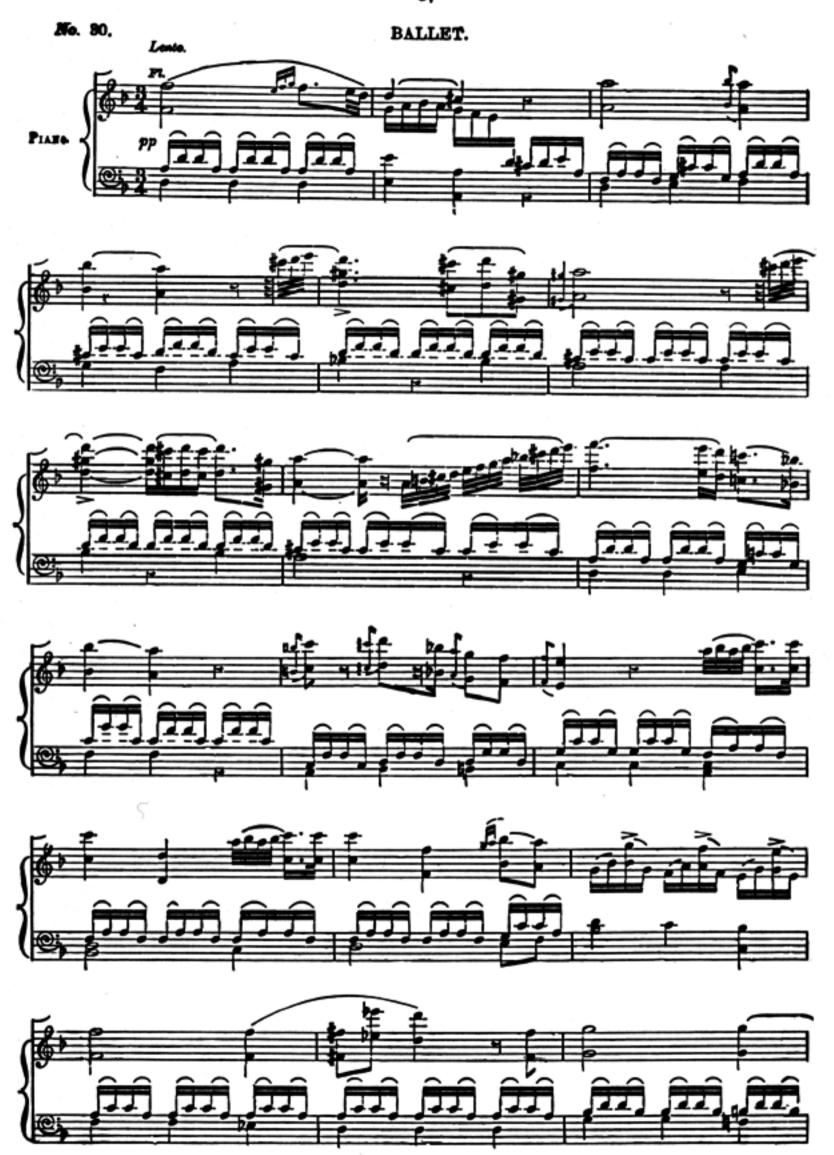
























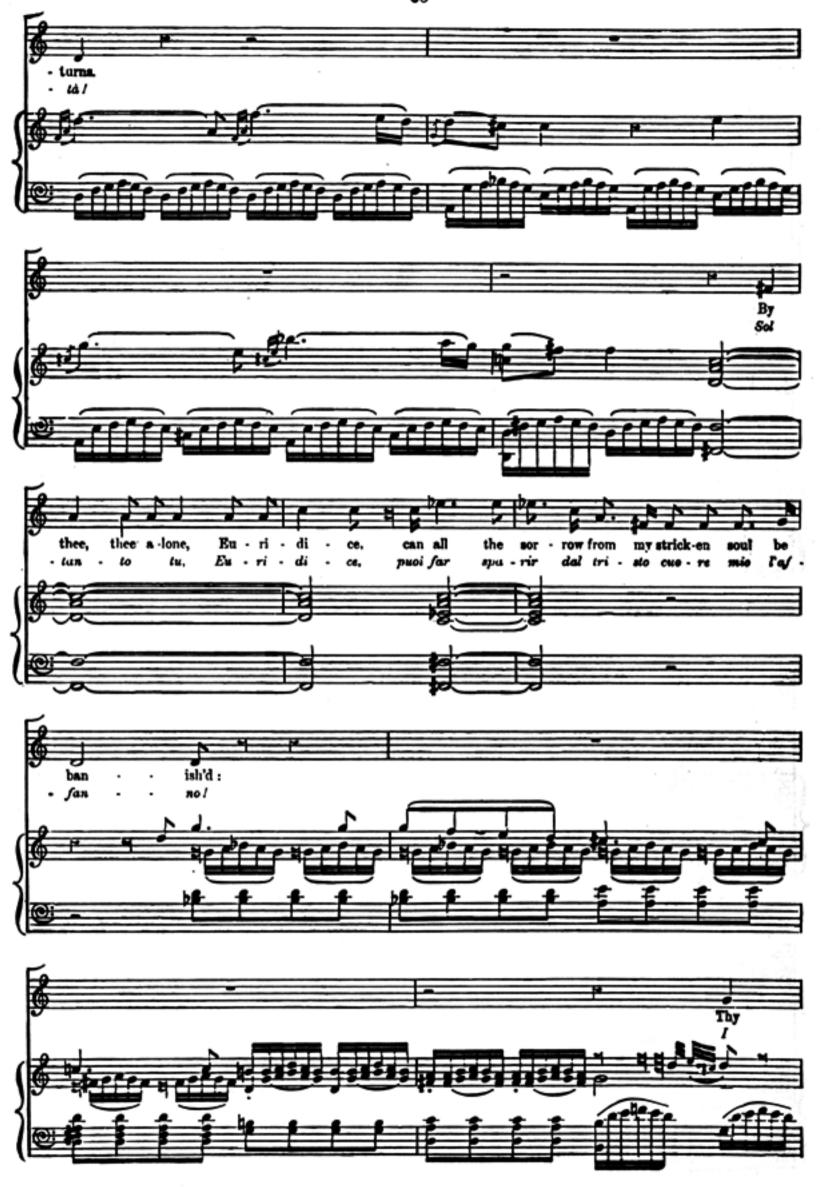
































END OF THE SECOND ACT

ACT III.



























No. 40. RECITATIVE .- "AH, HOW CAN HE PERSIST IN SUCH UNWONTED SILENCE ? "







