

ST. THOMAS MORE AND ST. JOHN FISHER

152

REX GLORIOSE.

L.M.

'Andernach Gesangbuch,' 1608.
(A.G.M.)



WHEN Herod, for an impious bride,
His eager lust would fain fulfil,
John in that hour a martyr died,
Unschool'd to serve a tyrant's will :

2 Nor less resolved, when Norman rage
The rights of holy Church gainsaid,
That wanton fury to assuage
Thomas his glorious blood must shed.

3 So, when a tyrant fiercer yet
His wedlock and his faith forswore,
A second John his sentence met,
A second Thomas witness bore.

4 Time-serving priests their aid might lend,
Smooth courtiers tremble at his sway ;
Two loyal hearts no force could bend
Their God, their conscience to betray.

5 O love that burned when love grew cold,
O faith that shone when faith was dim,
The Cross your Master bore of old
You bore to Calvary with him.

6 Twin beacon-lights, serenely set
At God's right hand for all the earth,
Look down on England, nor forget
The thankless home that gave you birth ;

7 To freedom and to wisdom friends,
Look on a world unwisely free ;
To bear the cross our Master sends
How slow, how frail, how faint are we !

8 To God, who crowns his saints above,
Be praise henceforth as heretofore,
Who throned in perfect truth and love
Liveth and reigneth evermore.

[R..A. KNOX]