Clarence (7.7.7.)

Published in “Church Hymns, with Tunes”, S.P.C.K., 1874, where it was listed as being an original tune by Sullivan for that work. In subsequent editions (1875 and 1881), it is listed as an arrangement.

1 Winter reigneth o’er the land,
    Freezing with its icy breath,
    Dead and bare the tall trees stand;
    All is chill and drear as death.

2 Yet it seemeth but a day
    Since the summer flowers were here,
    Since they stacked the balmy hay,
    Since they reaped the golden ear.

3 Sunny days are past and gone:
    So the years go, speeding fast,
    Onward ever, each new one
    Swifter speeding than the last.

4 Life is waning; life is brief;
    Death, like winter, standeth nigh:
    Each one, like the falling leaf,
    Soon shall fade and fall and die.

5 But the sleeping earth shall wake,
    And the flowers shall burst in bloom,
    And all nature, rising, break
    Glorious from its wintry tomb.

6 So, Lord, after slumber blest
    Comes a bright awakening,
    And our flesh in hope shall rest
    Of a never-fading spring. Amen.

William Walsham How, 1871.