



## NOW THE DAY IS OVER

Have you ever listened to how still the world becomes when you are away from the city sounds, just as the sun goes down in the evening? And listen how beautifully quiet the words and music sound of *Now the Day is Over!*

Sabine Baring-Gould, the writer of this hymn, wrote over 85 books on religion, myths, history, folklore, travel, fiction, and biography. He had no secretary to help him, but said that his secret was to “stick to a task when I begin it.” What other very famous hymn do you know that Baring-Gould wrote?

Joseph Barnby’s tune *Merrial* is used more often with the text even though Baring-Gould himself wrote his own tune *Eudoxia* which appears in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* and other hymnals. The *Merrial* tune used only five pitches in the melody – and yet, the simplicity of the tune seems to fit the meaning of the text rather than being monotonous. Which note in the melody is an “Accidental?”

What difference is there between the first two measures and the last two measures?

Have you ever sung alto? Why not try it on this hymn?



Two things will help you in learning an alto part. First, never let your voice get harsh and heavy but keep it just as light and flowing as when you’re singing the melody. Second, learn to listen to the soprano as you sing alto – and practice keeping in tune and in balance with the soprano part.

Listen tonight, how very quiet the world seems to become as the sun goes down! Read Psalms 4:8 and Proverbs 3:24! Talk about the joys and sorrows and problems of your day that is now ending with God – then, fall asleep in the “calm and sweet repose” that prepares us to awaken for a fresh, new day.