

THE FIRST BOOKE OF SONGS OR AYRES

IOHN DOWLAND

1597 [1613]

VI. Now, O now I needs must part.

Now, O now, I needs must part,
Parting though I absent mourn.
Absence can no ioy impart :
Ioy once fled cannot returne.
While I liue I needs must loue,
Loue liues not when hope is gone.
Now at last despaire doth proue,
Loue diuided loueth none.
Sad despair doth driue me hence,
This despaire vnkindnes sends.
If that parting bee offence,
It is shee which then offends.

Deare, when I from thee am gone,
Gone are all my ioyes at once.
I lovued thee and thee alone,
In whose loue I ioyed once.
And although your sight I leaue,
Sight wherein my ioyes doe lie,
Till that death doth sense bereaue,
Neuer shall affection die.

Deare, If I do not returne,
Loue and I shall die together.
For my absence neuer mourne,
Whom you might haue ioyed euer :
Part we must though now I die,
Die I do to part with you.
Him despaire doth cause to lie,
Who both liued and dieth true.