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The New Hymnal.¹

A NEW Hymnal is indeed a bold intruder ! We have in the Church of England three Hymn Books which enjoy a more or less wide circulation, and there may be those who say that in these circumstances there is left no room for another venturer. There is, however, always room "at the top" (as we say), and we are not sure that this last bidder for favour does not possess qualifications even for this most coveted position. Certainly in the short time it has been before the public it has met with a most favourable reception and has already been introduced into not a few churches.

The leading characteristics of the book are clearly outlined in the Preface which is signed on behalf of the representative Committee of Clergy, through whose hands it finally passed, by the Rev. E. N. Sharpe, Rector of Holy Trinity, Marylebone. So far as the text is concerned, the utmost care has been taken to preserve the hymns "as far as possible, in the form in which they were written." The appearance of "new hymns" is announced, but of these it is said that "none have been hastily introduced." As regards the musical edition, it is very truly observed that on this the success of any compilation must to a large extent depend, and after looking through it with some care we are bound to say we think the committee fully justified in stating that they believe that "in this respect the book will not be a whit behind others." For one thing, there is almost unending variety here, some hymns being provided with four tunes.

The history of the new collection is told in brief in Lady Carbery's modest introduction, entitled "Compiler's Preface." It is in reality the third edition of an earlier collection, *The Church Psalter and Hymnal*, made by the late Prebendary Harland, and published in 1855. We gather that Lady Carbery was associated with Mr. Harland (who died in 1880) in the preparation of the second edition which appeared in 1876 and which bore the title, *The Song of Praise*. According to Julian's *Dictionary of Hymnology* Prebendary Harland, in addition to his well-known hymn "And now this Holy Day," contributed twenty-seven original hymns to the first book, but only five of these appear in the present collection, and one of

¹ *The Church Hymnal for the Christian Year*. London : Novello & Co. and Marshall Brothers. Musical Editors : Hugh Blair, Mus.Doc., Cantab., and Lister R. Pearce, B.A., F.R.C.O.

these is in the Children's Supplement, which contains ninety-five hymns and is brought out separately—a convenient arrangement which will be valued.

Not including the Invocations, Opening hymns, Vespers, Doxologies, etc. (thirty in all), which are included in an Introduction,—ten hymns selected from the Appendix (which will be published later), and the ninety-five in the Children's section,—the book contains no less than 780 hymns—altogether over 900 forms of praise.

Some 260 hymns from *A. and M.* disappear and likewise 167 from *Hymnal Companion*, but about 260 hymns which appear in both these collections are included, as well as a certain number peculiar to one or the other. There are about 370 hymns found in neither of these familiar books, and it is at these that most will probably look with interest since they to a large extent give the book its distinctive character.

Several by Lady Carbery herself naturally attract our attention. Her beautiful hymn, "Lord, light the lamp of prayer within each heart," appeared in the little red book "for use in time of war," a collection of nearly fifty hymns, the excellence of which led many of us to look forward to the complete work. She contributes one among the hymns for the burial of the dead and one, "Maidens, Christ is waiting for you," for G.F.S. meetings and services. There are only nine from her pen, and they are all of a high order of merit.

There is a wide selection of Missionary hymns, and fittingly the Jew takes the first place, though the hymns for Israel and Judah are placed under Epiphany. Among these we welcome several that will be new to many, including Bonar's "Forgotten! no, that cannot be," in two parts. Among the hymns for Missions Overseas we find (to Mauder's fine tune) the Rev. W. H. Fox's "I hear ten thousand voices" and Ainger's "God is working His purpose out." Here, too, are the Rev. W. J. L. Sheppard's Missionary hymns—"Brother calls to brother" and "He stood upon the shore." In the General section, too, will be found his charming hymn, "In the cleanséd temple." Then we have the fine American Missionary hymn—"Fling out the banner," and Bishop Bickersteth's "For My sake and the Gospel's go," together with several other favourites.

Turning to other parts of the book we find everywhere new compositions. Several, for instance, from the Canadian Hymn

Book, including the beautiful hymn "Where the light for ever shineth." Mathieson's sweet hymn "O Love that will not let me go," Tennyson's "Crossing the bar," John Oxenham's fine war hymn, "Lord God of Hosts, Whose mighty hand," Macleod's "Courage, brother, do not stumble" and "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord"—all find well-deserved places, while some few from *Hymns of Consecration and Faith* will be welcomed,— "Like a river glorious," "Loved with everlasting love" and "My heart is resting, O my God," being among the number. Everywhere there are evidences of the greatest care, and most of the hymns appear in their original form.

Two things remain to be said. First that the arrangement of the book is novel and distinctive. To give one example let us take the Communion Hymns. There is a section headed "Holy Communion," but it will be found that there are more Communion hymns than appear in this section. Take Sexagesima and following Sundays—the hymns suitable for those days are grouped together, and in each case there is at least one suitable Communion hymn. Then in the Musical edition there is a page showing at a glance *all* the Communion Hymns in the book. As a matter of fact, the writer has been making use, ever since its appearance, of the preliminary booklet which outlined the plan of the book, and he has found it most helpful in selecting, *even from another book*, the hymns suitable for Sundays and Holy Days. We have, therefore, no doubt that when the arrangement is understood it will prove acceptable. Secondly we are delighted with the general get-up of the various editions. The musical edition is worthy of the house of Novello, printed on excellent paper and well bound. The words, too, are excellent value and the Children's Supplement tastefully got up. Here then is a hasty—all too hasty—glance at the intruder! Catholic it undoubtedly is in the sense in which every Hymn Book must be, unless it be the work of a crank, and the careful and complete indices afford abundant proof of the wide outlook of the compiler and her committee.

Evangelical it is, too, in the best sense, and we have no hesitation in saying, with some little knowledge of the subject, that there is every probability of this latest intruder establishing itself in the favour of a wider circle of friends than was ever anticipated.

S. R. CAMBIE.