

Ephesians v. 19: Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs.

The "Psalms" and "Hymns" and "Spiritual Odes" may partake somewhat of redundancy, but as we find them repeated in the kindred Epistle to the Colossians, we may consider that they sum up the whole range of the "Service of Song," and in a measure we may be able to give them a distinctive meaning.

1. The Psalms—lit. songs sung to a stringed instrument—may refer more especially to the Psalter of David, but not exclusively so (*vid.* 1 Cor. xiv. 26). This particular inspiration may, however, have been according to the style of well-known scriptural models.

2. Hymns—lit. songs in praise of Gods and Heroes. These seem in the Christian Church to have been, for the most part, confined to songs of praise in honour of Jesus Christ, or statements of Christian dogma.

3. Songs or Odes—lit. songs of lyric poetry. These varied in metre and shape widely, and were, for the most part, used in a secular sense, hence the addition of spiritual to define them as inspired compositions for a religious purpose.

"Speaking to one another" does not mean the ordinary interchange of thought or carrying on a conversation in the usual manner, but that the oral communications at these particular gatherings

(whether for definite worship or not) took the shape indicated in the above expressions. The additional explanatory words in the like passage in Colossians, "teaching and admonishing," helps us to understand the benefit to be gained by this interchange of thought.

"Whenever," it has been well said, "a great quickening of religious life comes, a great burst of Christian song comes with it" (*vid.* "Early Mediæval Song," Luther's and C. Wesley's Hymns). We have here and in other places in St. Paul's writings, also in St. James's, clear indications of the widespread nature of this gift, bursting forth spontaneously, and requiring at times to be checked and controlled; and from the description given by Tertullian, we see that in his days it was still a recognised force in the Christian life. Speaking of what took place at the Agapæ, he says: "Then after water to wash our hands, and lights brought in, every one is moved to sing some hymn to God, either out of Scripture or, as he is able, of his own composing." But the Apostle further adds, the offering of the "Heart Song." It may be that the Christian worshipper is not moved to outward demonstration, but none the less may he share in the spiritual gladness around him, and his heart glow though it be with silent praise; and thus St. Paul shields the voiceless from any disparaging comments, and points out to them a means of joy which they might be in danger of overlooking.

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The Religious Literature of the Month.

BOOKS.

A large number of theological books have been issued in the course of the month, and some of them are of first-rate importance.

MESSRS. JAMES NISBET & Co. have sent out in handsome form an **Introduction to the Johanne Writings**, by Dr. Paton J. Gloag (8vo, 440 pp., 10s. 6d.); and a new edition of the late Dean Goode's Warburtonian Lectures, **Fulfilled Prophecy a Proof of the Truth of Revealed Religion**, edited by Dr. Bullinger (8vo, 240 pp., 7s. 6d.).

MESSRS. LONGMANS have issued a volume of sermons by the late Canon Liddon, under the title **Passion-tide Sermons**. They have been delivered for the most part on Passion Sunday in various years since 1871 (crown 8vo, 300 pp., 5s.). The same publishers send **The Battle of Belief**, a Book of Evidences for the Times, by Nevison Loraine (crown 8vo, 234 pp., 5s.).

MESSRS. T. & T. CLARK have published a new and much enlarged edition of **Riehm's Messianic Prophecies**, translated by Mr. Lewis Muirhead, with a delightful Introduction by Professor A. B. Davidson (post 8vo, 348 pp., 7s. 6d.). Also a handsome volume by Otto Funcke, under the title of **The World of Faith and the Everyday World** as Displayed in the Footsteps of

Abraham, translated by Sophia Taylor (post 8vo, 354 pp., 7s. 6d.). The same publishers have also issued **Pre-organic Philosophy and the Biblical Idea of God**, by Charles Chapman, M.A., LL.D., Principal of Western College, Plymouth (crown 8vo, 304 pp., 6s.); and two Delitzsch books, namely, **Messianic Prophecies in Historical Succession**, by Franz Delitzsch, translated by Professor Samuel Ives Curtiss (crown 8vo, 232 pp., 5s.), and **Franz Delitzsch: A Memorial Tribute**, by Professor Curtiss, with portrait (crown 8vo, 96 pp., 3s.).

MESSRS. MACMILLAN and MR. R. D. DICKINSON have simultaneously published editions of Dr. Phillips Brooks' new volume of sermons, **The Light of the World**, the former at 3s. 6d. (crown 8vo, 373 pp.) and the latter at 4s. 6d. (crown 8vo, 416 pp.). Mr. Dickinson sends also **The Romance of Religious Begging**, by Charles Leach, D.D. (crown 8vo, 152 pp., 1s.).

From the CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS there comes another volume of the **Smaller Cambridge Bible for Schools**, being 1 Kings by Professor Rawson Lumby (144 pp., 1s.).

We have also received this month **The Great Day of the Lord**, by the Rev. Alexander Brown, which is published by HAMILTON, ADAMS, & Co. (crown 8vo, 259 pp., 3s. 6d.).