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Guidance for the Pilgrim.

For the Revue.

Put thou thy trust in God
Lean thou upon His arm ;
Though rugged be thy road
He'll shield thee from all harm

Gave thou to Him thy love
Thy treasure let Him be ;
He left His home above
And bought thee on the tree.

Look thou to Him for power
Each duty to fulfil ;
He'll grant thee every hour,
Rich grace to do His will

Commit to Him thy grief
When sorrow fill thy heart ;
He'll send thee sure relief
And Heavenly aid impart.

Take all to Him in prayer
As past the moments fly ;
He'll to thy cry give ear
And all thy needs supply

And when thy sun goes down
And all thy days are past ;
He'll come for thee, His son,
And take thee home at last.

Pure streams of lasting joy
Shall then thy portion be,
And bliss without alloy,
Through all eternity.

The Mause, Kippam, Ont.

REV. SAMUEL ACHESON.

Atrophy of Song Cause and Cure.

A CLERGYMAN, recently writing for a religious magazine, comments upon the failure of his congregation to participate in the service of praise, and expresses the belief that the church which he serves is threatened with an *atrophy of song*.

The Protestant clergymen as a rule, have had little or no musical training, neither have they made hymnology a study. Many among them, and likewise many of the laymen, fail to realize the importance of the worship of God in holy song. In some churches the music is in the hands of a music committee. This committee may be composed of men, who, like the minister, have little, if any knowledge, either of music or hymnology. As a consequence of this state of affairs, the organist and choir are often selected, without any regard whatever to the interests and requirements of the congregation in the service of praise. Is it to be wondered at, when the hymns are selected by the minister simply because the words are in accord with his subject, that the organist and choir should appropriate this part of the service, and the congregation become indifferent.

Among those possessed of the greatest musical talents, professional and amateur, few heed the call to become leaders of congregational song, but are content to exhibit their own superior talents in the solo, duet or quartet. Even in Sabbath-schools to-day we often hear of a "children's choir." Why should not the whole school be the choir? The Birmingham, England, Sun-

day school Union is on record as follows: "What we wish is that the whole of our young people should be led forward, and not merely the selected scholars of a school choir."

God forbid that the Christian Church, with her glorious hope—a risen, reigning Christ, ever present inspiration—should neglect the heaven-endowed gift and privilege of worship in song.

"My God, my God,
My music shall find Thee.
And every string
Should have His attribute to sing"

Pure water, trickling a-down through the crevices of the moss covered rocks, fern fringed, glistening like a ribbon of gold and arrow of silver were touched by the sunlight, seeking its way to form the roadside spring—how beautiful! how attractive! To the worn and fainting traveller, however, what a mockery would be the murmuring voice of the falling water, were he denied the reviving draught by the intervention of a power he could not resist. Like such a Tantalus there is a dominant element in the church to-day, which almost universally denies, or to say the least, hinders the participation of the congregation in the service of praise, and to the children and youth, the lambs of the flock, denies a suitable channel for the expression of worship. The writer's own ideal for the children is, that the best, not of necessity the most difficult, is not too good for them and his own faith in their appreciation of and ability to do justice to the best, is unlimited.

One reason for the atrophy of song, the writer believes, may be found in the lack of attendance by the young, upon the Sabbath services and regular weekly prayer-meeting of the church. Children and youth know no proxy and would join with heart and voice in the songs of praise, if opportunity offered, and they were encouraged to do so.

The time is coming when the children and youth of the church will become the leaders in a "perfected" service of praise, and the medium will not be the "jingle" tune of the past and present, but those nobler, purer, sweeter strains that in thought, in harmony and in melody accord best with pure and happy childhood, the breath of gladness, encouragement and a higher devotion, floating like song birds above us, and rising like the lark, heavenward, away from the mean and casual things of earth.

"The last glad song will not arise until sacred song itself, poetical and musical, is advanced as a fine art and to a larger place in an improved worship at home and in the house of God."

In the redemption of the world to holy song will ultimately be accorded the lofty place now almost universally denied. Already the eye of faith discerns on the distant horizon, the ruddy glow of the dawning of a better morning.—G. F. Bushnell, *New York Observer*.