

national song in that strange and unaccustomed place.

In September, 1889, in company with a thousand merchants of New England and their families, Congressman Elijah A. Morse visited Mount Vernon, and around the grave of George Washington, at his suggestion, the company sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." Those New England men and women made the hills and vales of Mount Vernon ring with the grand old American anthem.

A hymn akin to "America" in sentiment, stanza, and tune was written by Dr. Smith, for July 4, 1841; and in his own hymnal, "The Psalmist," 1843, was entitled a "Hymn for the Nation, Anniversary." The first stanza greets and glorifies and welcomes the auspicious day. The second and third stanzas praise God as the Sovereign of the historic events that issued in American Independence, inclusive of war and battle. The two concluding stanzas are prayers for a blessing on the nation and the day. The fourth stanza resembles in sentiment the patriotism of the whole of "America:"

Long o'er our native hills,
Long by our shaded rills,
May freedom rest;
Long may our shores have peace
Our flag grace every breeze,
Our ships the distant seas,
From east to west.

One of the best of Dr. Smith's patriotic poems, and one which ranks only second to "America" in favor, is "Harvard's Dead," which he composed March 17, 1863.

"The Morning Light is Breaking" was written in 1832, the year that produced the national hymn. Dr. Smith has no recollection of the circumstances under which it was written, but is sure that they had much to do with missionary work, about which he was reading at the time. There were originally four stanzas, but the man who wrote the music thought there was not room for all, and cut out one of them. The best verse of the whole was cut out by this man, who got up the

fashion of putting the music at the head of the verses. The hymn long ago was translated into twelve languages, including Chinese and Siamese, and in the last week of March, 1895, a missionary wrote to Dr. Smith from the South Sea Islands that it had been translated into five more. The tune was written by Mr. Wilde, an Englishman, and it is so beautiful that much of the hymn's popularity is due to it. The same is true of "America," and of many of the best hymns by the best authors.

"Softly Now the Twilight Ray" was written when he was a student in college. He had a little book entitled "Sabbath Recollections," written by an author named Edmanston. It began, "Is there a time of all below," and described the peculiar tranquillity which spreads over the earth on a pleasant evening. It was this thought that inspired him.

"Welcome Days of Solemn Meeting" is designed as an opening hymn on a Sabbath day, and was written in 1834, when the inspiration was upon him after one of the old-time revival meetings. The blessing and peace that came with those meetings no tongue can tell. Rev. S. W. Duffield, author of "English Hymns," said that the revival era of the United States gave us some admirable hymns, of which this is one.

Dr. Smith had not the slightest recollection of writing the hymn, "Today the Savior Calls," but he recalled that it had originally six stanzas.

"Oh, Not My Own, These Verdant Hills," was the author's favorite hymn of all among those that he wrote. It was written when he was editor of *The Missionary Union*. He used to select a poem for each issue, sometimes putting in one of his own compositions, and this was one, altho he does not recall the peculiar circumstances that inspired him.

The Telugu Mission of the American Baptist Missionary Union was established in 1836. Its early growth was