

her opposition for six long years. In the thickest of their troubles the minister and his wife betook themselves to united prayer and the result, at length, was that Gertrude became even more enthusiastic than her husband in regard to the missionary enterprise. After many fruitless appeals, the King, Frederick IV, was induced to sanction an expedition with the twofold object of discovering the lost colony and of preaching the Gospel to the heathen; and Hans Egede was appointed as leader and director of the enterprise. The time came for him to embark, the spring of 1721. The ship "Hope" that was to carry him to Greenland sailed into the harbour of Bergen and the minister with his wife and four children and about forty other persons were ready to go on board. There never had been such a day in that parish. One after another came to the parsonage remonstrating against the foolhardy enterprise. Then the melancholy procession from the village to the beach began, the people giving vent to their sorrow in sobs and tears. The boat is reached, and the minister's foot is on the plank, when one of the sailors asked him if he knew where he was going. "To Greenland," said Hans. "Then let me tell you," said the sailor, "you are going to live among cannibals. You do wrong to expose your wife and children to those wild heathen." "The Lord be gracious to me; replied Egede, I cannot do that." "Right," said the people, "stay with us. Despise not the warning of God." Then falling upon his neck, weeping, they took the children by the hand to lead them back. With true nobility his wife now stepped boldly forward on the plank and exclaimed—"Hans, be a man! If God is for us, who can be against us? In the name of Jesus Christ, I call on you to follow me." So saying, she walked the plank and took her seat in the boat. Her husband followed. "Onwards in God's name!" cried Gertrude to the boatmen. The sail was spread and they were soon on board the *Hope*. After a dangerous voyage they reached their destination to encounter innumerable difficulties. The natives at first entreated them not to stay. Then they threatened them. For two years Egede bore up manfully, though both the mercantile adventure and the mission had proved a failure. At the end of that time he was cheered by the arrival of another missionary, Albert Top,

but after four years the new missionary's health utterly broke down and he was compelled to return to Norway. In 1728 four vessels were dispatched from Copenhagen, carrying two missionaries and a large party of colonists. But neither did they succeed, and in a short time Egede was again left alone. Small-pox broke out and spread rapidly, thousands perished by this fearful plague, and it seemed as though the last ray of hope, as to any good results from the mission, had vanished. But, when things were at the worst, two Moravian missionaries, Matthew and Christian Stach, came to his help, and by their tender care for the sick and their wonderful devotion they at length gained the hearts of the people and from that time till now the mission has been carried on with much encouragement and success. In 1735 Egede was deprived of his heroic wife by death, and was himself prostrated by severe sickness. After fifteen years of great hardships and trials he returned to Copenhagen where he was appointed to take charge of a missionary school in which young men were taught the language of the Greenlanders. In the meantime his son Paul had been educated as a missionary and took his father's place in Greenland and was very successful. The mission was ultimately transferred to the Moravians who are now the only missionaries in the country, about twenty-five of them altogether being employed in the work. A harder field for missionary effort cannot be imagined, yet, all things considered, few missions have been more successful. Hans Egede died on the 15th of November, 1758, in the 73rd year of his age, leaving behind him a name that will never be forgotten. He laboured with unceasing faith and patience, and although he was not permitted to see much fruit from his work, others entered into his labours, and so was fulfilled the saying—"One soweth and another reapeth."

#### THE HYMNAL

THE ASSEMBLY'S HYMNAL COMMITTEE have been endeavouring to complete arrangements for issuing a Tonic-sol-fa edition of the Hymnal. They need to obtain some definite information as to the number of copies which may be required, and therefore request those intending to use this edition to inform Rev. Dr. Gregg, of Toronto, as soon as possible what number of copies they may require.—W. GREGG, Toronto.