

Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America." The importance of the service of praise is admitted by all. The Synod has of late years endeavoured to foster a healthy taste for sacred music, and its efforts have to some extent been crowned with success. The admirable collection under our hand is one striking proof of the advance which has been made.

Hitherto our choirs and singers had to use a large number of music books, each containing but a few tunes suitable for our church services. This involved trouble and much expense. Now, all this is obviated, for the "Choir" contains all, or nearly all the popular favorites, besides a very many new pieces of a high order. And the price is so moderate that there can be no complaint on that score. Here we have 437 tunes and anthems, covering 213 pages, printed in a style of rare beauty, on excellent paper, for the very moderate price of 69 cents each, when purchased by the dozen.

It is hoped that the substitution of words from the Psalms, whenever practicable, for the Hymns used in all the music books previously circulated among us, will be regarded by the church as a great improvement. Thus each Psalm will become associated with suitable melodies, and the people will be prepared to join in the singing with greater skill and heart. The peculiar metre tunes, and the few carefully selected longer pieces cannot fail to increase the attractions of this Book for all who take pleasure in practising sacred vocal music.

The "Choir" is the result of much patient labour on the part of the Synod's Committee on Psalmody, and to the gentlemen who formed this Committee the grateful acknowledgments of the whole church are due. The names of Charles Robson, Esq., Halifax, and James Hepburn, Esq., Pictou, deserve special mention in connection with the preparation of this Book.

And now that we have the Book let us make the most of it. Our young people should be taught to read musical notation as they read the words of a Hymn or

Psalm. It is very rare indeed that a man or woman is found in any of our congregations that cannot sing if properly taught, and if impressed with a due sense of the importance of praising the Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful works unto the children of men. A copy of the "Choir" should be in every family and every pew. Church choirs will no doubt adopt it and use it throughout the whole extent of the Lower Provinces; but it should reach beyond the members of choirs, to everyone who sings and everyone who should sing in the congregation. In conducting family worship it will also be found of great use. We hope that Sessions and Presbyteries will in future pay greater attention to the service of Praise, that our people may be led to sing with the understanding as well as with the heart, and to sing skilfully.

Ah, who should sing if not the christian people of this glorious christian church! Our highest efforts will fall far short of the noble words to which we attune our voices. As we sing God's praises in God's own words, how careful should we be to sing not slovenly, bunglingly, lazily, discordantly, carelessly, as too often happens,—but earnestly, skilfully, harmoniously, heartily and sweetly. Singing God's praises brings us nearer to the exercises of Heaven than any other service in which we can engage on earth. How important then that due attention should be paid to this part of Divine Worship, and that our congregations should be trained intelligently to do their duty! The means are now well nigh within the reach of all. Let it not be said that these means are to be persistently and blindly rejected.

We have only to add that the *Choir* is for sale by the publishers, A. & W. MacKinlay, Granville Street, Halifax.

Madagascar.

The progress which the cause of Christ has of late made on this island is truly remarkable. At the beginning of the present year there were no less than 20,951 church members; 1,986 native teachers. The work is still moving on,