

hymns are to spiritual life what patriotic songs are to national feeling—the expression of fervent enthusiasm and devotion. Hymn-singing in the eighteenth century was regarded by the Anglican church as dangerous, savouring too much of enthusiasm. Much of the phenomenal growth of the Methodist church, and later of the Salvation Army, may be attributed to the introduction and vigorous use of hymns and sacred songs which appeal strongly to the emotions of the people. The success of the Wesleyan movement may be attributed as much to Charles Wesley's wonderful gift of song as to the oratorical ability of his brother.

Isaac Watts was the man to whom English-speaking Christians were most indebted for the introduction of hymns into church services, and to him we owe several beautiful examples, including the four, "O God, our help in Ages past"; "Jesus shall reign where'er the Sun"; "There is a land of pure delight"; and "When I survey the wondrous Cross".

Within the past half-century each branch of the Protestant church in Canada has published several editions of church hymns, each, as a rule, more voluminous than its predecessor. Most of these publications have been the result of compromise in an effort to satisfy the various schools of thought in the religious life of the community. Many hymns that are not hymns have been included, and much doggerel verse and doubtful sentimentality, that will possibly be eliminated from later editions, have been kept alive. The hymn "O Paradise" is one that might well be omitted from modern editions.

The latest hymnal to be published in Canada is "The Book of Common Praise," the hymn-book of the Anglican communion, the music of which has been edited by Sir George C. Martin, Mus. Doc., organist of St. Paul's cathedral. It is an ambitious work containing no less than 795 hymns and 1113 tunes, as well as a number of chants suitable for small choirs. It is too soon to offer a careful criticism of the work, to judge of its merits or to discover its faults, if such there be,—and what human compilation is there that