

The three names of German hymnists most familiar to us by translations are Paul Gerhardt, Tersteegen and Schmolke. Gerhardt was born in 1606 and died in 1676, being a contemporary of Richard Baxter, George Herbert and Bishop Ken. His life was one of great outward trials and intense inward conflicts; and his hymns tell the story of his inner life, and how through all, he reached the deepest peace. He learned to be a consoler by being first a sufferer. The tree must be smitten ere the healing balm will flow out. His hymns are becoming increasingly popular in England as more of them are translated. John Wesley was the first to translate one of his hymns into English, and it is now a universal favourite:—

"Give to the winds thy fears;
Hope and be undismayed!
God hears thy sighs, and counts thy tears;
God shall lift up thy head.

"Through waves and clouds and storms
He gently clears thy way;
Wait thou his time, so shall this night
Soon end in joyous day.

"Thou seest our weakness, Lord,
Our hearts are known to Thee;
O lift Thou up the sinking hand,
Confirm the feeble knee.

"Let us, in life, in death,
Thy steadfast truth declare,
And publish with our latest breath.
Thy love and guardian care."

Perhaps the loveliest of all Gerhardt's hymns, as yet translated into English, is the following:—

"O Sacred Head, once wounded,
With grief and pain weighed down,
How scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown!
How pale Thou art with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish,
Which once was bright as morn.

"O Lord of life and glory,
What bliss till now was Thine!
I read the wondrous story,
I joy to call Thee mine.
Thy grief and Thy compassion
Were all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.

"What language shall I borrow
To praise Thee, Heavenly Friend
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
Lord make me Thine for ever,
Nor let me faithless prove;
O let me never, never,
Abuse such dying love.

"Be near me Lord, when dying;
O show Thy Cross to me:
And for my succour flying,
Come Lord to set me free:
These eyes, now faith receiving,
From Jesus shall not move;
For he who dies believing,
Dies safely through Thy love."

Of Tersteegen, the other great German hymnist, I can merely state that he lived during the first half of the 18th Century, and died in 1769 at the age of 76. He lived a meditative, retired life, having chosen the occupation of a ribbon-maker on account of its tranquillity. His hymns are marked by tenderness, simplicity and spirituality. The following is the most deservedly popular of his hymns, having been first translated by John Wesley:—

"Thou hidden love of God, whose height
Whose depth unfathomed, no man knows,
I see from far Thy beauteous light,
Truly I sigh for Thy repose:
My heart is pained, nor can it be
At rest till it finds rest in Thee.

"Thy secret voice invites me still
The sweetness of Thy yoke to prove;
And fain I would; but though my will
Seems fixed, yet wide my passions rove;
Yet hindrances strew all the way;
I aim at Thee, yet from Thee stray,

"Tis mercy all,—that Thou hast brought
My mind to seek her peace in Thee:
Yet while I seek, but find Thee not,
No peace my wandering soul shall see:
Oh! when shall all my wanderings end,
And all my steps to Thee-ward tend?

"O Lord, Thy sovereign aid impart,
To save me from low-thoughted care;
Chase this self-will through all my heart,
Through all its latent mazes there:
Make me Thy dutious child, that I
Ceaseless may "Abba, Father," cry.

"CHRISTIAN HYMNOLOGY."

REPLY TO MR. HARVEY.

I have read with care several papers in the *Record*, by the Rev. Moses Harvey, of St. John's, Newfoundland, on "Christian Hymnology." From his introductory remarks I am at a loss to know whether we are indebted to the Editor of the *Record* (there are two Editors) or himself for this pleasant disquisition on sacred poetry; for he says "the Editor of the *Record* kindly offered me the use of its pages;" leaving us in doubt with which of them the benevolent idea originated of enlightening the